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MISS BRENNAN begs to intimate to her numerous friends that she has again taken over her premises known as 'FENTON HOUSE,' and will be pleased to see old friends. Every attention given to guests. Five minutes from Railway Station, one minute from Post Office and Government Baths. Electric light throughout. TERMS: 6/- per day or 35/- per week.

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MISS BRENNAN PROPRIETRESS.

DEATHS

DOHERTY. —On July 1, 1915, at his residence, Lincoln, James Doherty, beloved husband of Margaret Doherty; aged 68 years.—R.I.P.

O'CONNELL. —On June 14, 1915, at his residence, 17 Bowen street, Musselburgh, Thomas Michael, beloved husband of Maude O'Connell, and youngest son of the late Daniel O'Connell, Seacliff; aged 35 years; deeply regretted. —R.I.P.

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MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiae causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.

Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., Pope.



THURSDAY, JULY 8, 1915.

AN HISTORIC NOTE



HE cabled summary of the American Note to Germany on the sinking of the Lusitania, which was published some time ago in our dailies, was very far from doing the document justice; and the full text of the Note, which is now available in our English exchanges, goes to show that for once in the present international crisis President Wilson has really risen to the occasion.

Courteous to the point of over-politeness, and scrupulously considerate in form, it states the case against Germany in her high-handed and lawless action in respect to the Lusitania with a skill and conclusiveness which admit of no possible valid reply. Discarding for the

nonce the diplomatic flummery, rhetorical flourishes, and pious platitudes which have hitherto served as President Wilson's chief stock-in-trade, the Note states the issues simply, plainly, and straightforwardly, in words which the humblest can understand, and in a way which leaves absolutely no loophole for quibbling or evasion. The American case is based throughout on the solid rock of simple justice and right. As the New York Times aptly says: 'Every American citizen would be willing to affix his signature in approval of its firm but temperate tone and the indisputable justice of its representations and demands.' It is the one utterance of President Wilson, since the outbreak of the great world conflict, that will have some claim to rank as historic.

The main contention of the Note is in the form of an exceedingly clever *argumentum ad hominem*. It employs against Germany, with great adroitness and in cogent and telling phrase, the very arguments which Germany herself has again and again advanced in public and international discussions on the principles which should be accepted as just and proper for the regulation of naval warfare and for the protection of the maritime rights of neutral nations. Again and again has Germany proclaimed that, as regards naval questions, she stands for the rights of neutrals and the 'freedom of the seas.' As far back as the middle of the nineteenth century this was her cry, when the maritime Powers met in Paris in 1856 and adopted the famous Declaration of Paris. Fifty years later, at the Hague Conference of 1907, she again stood shoulder to shoulder with America on the same platform, in a demand for the protection of neutrals and 'a free sea.' Ever since the outbreak of the present struggle she has announced that this was the great and sacred principle for which she fought—against a domineering 'navalism,' and for the 'freedom of the seas.' Thus von Bernhardt, in *Germany and the Next War*, proclaims: 'This victory will not be gained merely in the exclusive interests of Germany. We shall in this struggle, as so often before, represent the common interests of the world, for it will be fought not only to win recognition for ourselves, but for the freedom of the seas.' This was the great aim of Russia under the Empress Catherine II., of France under Napoleon I., and spasmodically down to 1904 in the last pages of her history; and the great Republic of the United States of North America strives for it with intense energy. It is the development of the right of nations for which every people craves.' To the same effect writes Dr. Edmund von Mach, author of *What Germany Wants*, in a very recent article on 'The Free Sea': 'The sea is God's gift to humanity and no nation shall have the right to close it. It represents "the lungs," as Dr. Dernburg said in his splendid Portland letter, "from which humanity draws the fresh breath of enterprise, and that must not be stopped." It is of special interest for America that Germany considers the free sea the condition without which a permanent peace will be impossible, for the greatest of the American statesmen have contended for a free sea from the very beginning of the nation. This contention, in fact, may, and has been called the "American idea." . . . The "English idea" recognises the rights of the belligerents as paramount; the "American idea" recognises the rights of neutrals and of mankind as of greater importance. It is, therefore, natural that all the early American statesmen, with their intense patriotism and independence, should have espoused the idea of the free sea; and that all those who to-day see no harm in America's social, commercial, and financial dependence on England, should prefer to abide by the "English idea."

President Wilson now takes Germany at her word, and asks the Imperial Government to stand true to its loud and lavish professions. And first he defines precisely and plainly what America understands by the principle of the 'freedom of the seas.' 'American citizens act within their indisputable rights in taking their ships and in travelling wherever their legitimate business calls them upon the high seas, and exercise