

Current Topics

Mephiticology

We thank several correspondents for calling our attention to the ghoulish performances of certain protagonists of the no-Popery campaign. Corpse-factories, and even cannibalism, are admirable institutions compared with burrowing among the graves of the dead, and by cowardly, low innuendo attacking the departed souls for whom even the most barbarous pagans retained respect. We have never read of such a contemptible proceeding in the annals of the greatest monsters of history. An Evolutionist observing such activities would be forced to dethrone the monkey in favor of the skunk.

Equality

Messrs. Nosworthy, North, and Elliott have been making much pother about equality of treatment for Catholics and others, which according to them means that teachers who are not recognised when there is a question of payment for services rendered should be recognised when there is question of onus to be borne. Now occurs an opportunity for them to manifest their zeal for fair play all round. When Protestants in the Second Division go to the front their children will be educated by the State and their allowance will go intact to their wives; but in the case of Catholic reservists of the Second Division unless the State pays for the education of the children the wives will have to do so, and a small income will become smaller still. Surely such fair-minded Christian gentlemen as we have mentioned will raise their voices on behalf of children whose fathers are fighting for freedom. The State pays for the education of Protestant children in the schools acceptable to their parents; will it say to Catholic reservists, "Go and fight for us but we will not educate your children unless they act against their consciences."

Ireland at the Point of the Bayonet

The words are not ours. They are used by *Current Opinion* to express the state of things in Ireland while Britain is fighting for the freedom of small nations. This American periodical calls attention to the fact that Americans are now allowed no reliable news about Irish affairs, and that letters to America are opened in the British post offices. But that is not all. It has become an offence against the law for an Irishman to quote the words uttered by Carson before the war. It is treason to say what Carson said; and Carson is in the inner sanctuary of the Government. Even in hell there must be roars of laughter at the spectacle John Bull is making of himself. Here is what Carson said what time he was trafficking with the Kaiser: "I advise my fellow-countrymen to resist to the end. . . . I advise my fellow-countrymen—even tho' it may not be necessary to use them—to use arms to beat back anyone who might try to filch from them the elementary rights of citizenship." As the *London News* observes, Sinn Feiners cannot quote these words which Carson was not prosecuted for uttering. The *London Post* says that at present the army engaged in keeping this small nation under the heel of her tyrants is 150,000 men. Recruiting has been killed by the cruelties of Maxwell, and all Nationalist Ireland has been in the words of the *News* stirred to "a passion of indignation." Why do the people of Great Britain allow a gang of hybrid autocrats to do all in their power to prevent the Allies from winning the war by this contradiction of the professed policy of all the Entente Powers? We note also that the organs of the Die-Hards are furious in their resentment at American interference in the Irish question. These people fortunately do not represent British justice and fair play though they manage to subvert them. The attitude they assume reminds us forcibly of the tone of our friend "Civis" and kindred fossils of the old ascendancy school of

wrong-headed bigots. All that they ask is to be allowed to sit in judgment on themselves; and it is a modest enough request for men of their way of hating—thinking is beyond them when Irish affairs are in question. All the world sees that a settlement of the Irish question in time would have meant another half a million of men on the side of the Allies. But after all Carson was a friend of the Kaiser's and Milner is a German by birth, so perhaps they have things as they want them to be.

The Bishop of Ross on Ireland

Interviewed by an American pressman Dr. Kelly said that all Ireland demands is justice. There would be no Irish question to-day if justice had not been originally violated by the English invasion of Ireland. The hundreds of years that have passed since have witnessed acts of oppression, and inhumanity that have made English rule in Ireland a byword throughout the world. The time has passed for patchwork. A generation ago it might have been effective; now Ireland will have none of it. The Bishop of Ross expresses the sentiment of all Irish Nationalists to-day. Ireland wants justice. The English position in Ireland is as unwarranted as that of the Germans in Belgium. Time has not cured the evil: it has added to it a hundredfold by unspeakable persecution. Ireland asks no more from England than Belgium and Poland ask from their tyrants. In the Bishop's words she says, "Leave us alone to work out our own salvation in our own way. We want simple justice and nothing else. Our people can take care of themselves if they are allowed to lead their own lives." The solution is a simple one, but as it supposes justice on the part of England Ireland has asked for it in vain for centuries. "Can you not comprehend," says the Bishop, "that the Irish people are Celts? They are not Saxons. By nature they are poetical, not materialistic. The question here is not one of dollars and cents as all your questions seem to be; it is a question of racial rights. We are a race apart from England and we want to maintain our own identity. For hundreds of years we have fought and struggled against domination by outsiders—people that have nothing in common with us—and we shall not be happy until we are left to our own career." In the light of the Bishop's statement read these words from the Russian organ of the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates—they are addressed to England:—"What about the historic injustices committed by yourselves, and your violent oppression of Ireland? . . . If you are so anxious for justice, then, gentlemen, begin with yourselves." And recently we read in a French paper sentiments almost equivalent to the reminder of the Russians that John Bull had better set his house in order forthwith.

Views on the War

The military expert of the *Temps*, one of the greatest in Europe, disregards the British theory that Hindenburg will resume an offensive in the West. He argues that the aim of the German general at present is to fill his granaries before aught else. The question then is where he will turn to look for these provisions. Hunger, says the expert in question, will inspire the German strategy to fresh conquests. In this view he is supported by the best Italian opinion. Granting so much it follows that countries in which the harvest can be gathered after an invasion will be the objective of Hindenburg's plans. Kieff and Odessa would from this point of view be much more likely to be aimed at than Petrograd. But Russia is not the only country threatened if the theory of the *Temps* critic be sound. Two victories over Italy would bring the Germans to the banks of the Po and give them a line covering the fields of Mantua, Venetia, and Milan. Italy lies nearer, but Russia is an easier victim, as Cadorna is on his guard while the Russian armies are disorganised. In London the experts seem agreed that Hindenburg has suffered a great loss of prestige already. The *H'est-minster Gazette*, which at one time held a high opinion of the German staff, now thinks that the retreat of the