

sang before Prussianism in its present form lorded it in Ireland, while letting off a publican who had murdered his barmaid with a shorter sentence and *without hard labor*. The worst of these things is that the republican section tends to grow stronger every day. It is well known, however, that government on Colonial lines would satisfy the responsible leaders, and private letters received from persons in authority, leave no doubt in this matter; but every delay makes this attitude more difficult.

As there is a good deal of innocent ignorance about the Sinn Fein movement, let me quote from its National Council the fundamental article of the Constitution. I extract it from *New Ireland* of June 24, 1916 (as passed by the censor):—

"The aim of the Sinn Fein policy is to unite Ireland on this broad national platform: First, that we are a distinct nation; second, that we will not make any voluntary agreement with Great Britain until Great Britain keeps her own compact which she made by the Renunciation Act of 1783, which enacted 'that the right claimed by the people of Ireland to be bound only by the laws enacted by his Majesty and the Parliament of that kingdom is hereby declared to be established and ascertained for ever, and shall at no time hereafter be questioned or questionable'; third, that we are determined to make use of any powers we have, or may have at any time in the future, to work for our own advancement, and for the creation of a prosperous, virile, and independent nation."

This shows Sinn Fein to be a strictly constitutional movement, a movement identical with that of Daniel O'Connell. The rebellion of the Irish Volunteers in Dublin, commonly called the "Sinn Fein Rebellion," was only connected with the Sinn Fein movement in so far as many of its members were Sinn Feiners. It might, with equal truth, be called the "Gaelic League Rebellion," as many of its members were Gaelic Leaguers, or the "Trades Union Rebellion," as many of its supporters were Trades Unionists. "Sinn Fein" as applied to the revolutionary movement was the result partly of accident and partly of the habit of the Irish Party dubbing all its critics "Sinn Feiners." I use it for convenience.

Before I close this letter, I should like to call attention to the fact that owing to a recent speech in Christchurch, some New Zealand newspapers are bracketing Bolshevism, Spartacism, and Sinn Feinism as if they were the same thing. Whether this is done through ignorance or whether it is anti-Irish propaganda, I do not know, but it should be resented, as far as possible, by decent Irishmen, no matter where their sympathies may lie. Whatever may be the faults of Sinn Fein it has no sympathy (and never had any) with anarchical or revolutionary Socialism. Indeed, the movement was never even tinged with the Socialist idea. Trying to lead people to believe that Sinn Fein has any sympathy with recent events in Russia and Germany is a very despicable proceeding. Even during the Insurrection in Dublin nothing disgraceful could be laid to the charge of the Sinn Fein Party. The murders, alas! were all committed by the other side. The mills, factories, and other buildings occupied by the insurgents were not wantonly injured—indeed, they were, as far as possible, carefully preserved, the *Carsonite* organ, the *Irish Times*, admitted. As to how they fought, I will quote a few extracts from the London papers of the time:—

"The Sinn Feiners treated their prisoners with every courtesy and respect, but commandeered their rifles and some of their equipment."—*Daily News*.

"Undoubtedly they were brave if they were rebels."—*Morning Post*.

"They [the rebels] mixed freely with the soldiers and, I am told, picked up and attended the wounded impartially. . . . Like soldiers they respected the Red Cross."—*Evening News*.

"Civilians were not molested by the rebels. . . . It was as safe to walk about as in the streets of London."—*Times* (London).

But the crowning testimony to the courage and

humanity of these men came from Mr. H. A. Asquith, Prime Minister of England, who, in the House of Commons, on May 10, said: "They fought very bravely. They conducted themselves as far as our knowledge goes with humanity; indeed, their conduct contrasts—and contrasts very much to their advantage—with that of some of the so-called civilised enemies with whom we are fighting in the field. That tribute I gladly make, and I am sure the House will gladly make it."

These Irishmen are the men who are compared by juxtaposition with the scum of Russia and Germany—these men who fought according to the testimony of their enemies with clean hands, and who paid the last forfeit with high hearts. It is shameful to use such methods in dealing with brave men.

Just a word and I am done. I am an old reader of the *Tablet*. I read it because it was a Catholic paper even when I disagreed with its support of the Irish Party. For two years past, so far as information and insight concerning Irish affairs are concerned, it has been approached by no paper in any of the Australasian colonies. People who put no trust in its views two years ago must feel silly to-day. These views were always right, as the event proves, and for their expression in the *Tablet* all Irishmen who are not *shoncuens* are grateful.—I am, etc.,

CH. O'LEARY.

March 10, 1919.

CHRISTCHURCH CELTIC CLUB.

That the Catholic people of Christchurch appreciate the efforts of the Celtic Amateur Dramatic Club was fully evidenced by the audiences that filled the Hibernian Hall on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, February 26 and 27 (writes our own correspondent), when the Irish comedy, "Nabocklish," was staged. Amongst those present were the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M. (Wellington, Father Roche, S.M. (St. Mary's) and Father Fogarty (chaplain to the club). The little comedy under notice depicts in two acts how a gullible English Tory is made the victim of Irish sport, and how the extravagant stories of lawlessness and alleged startling events become the current and accepted beliefs of the enemies of the Irish nation. The various characters in the play were sustained by Miss Eily Cronin, Messrs. J. Curry, T. P. O'Rourke, P. Greenlees, E. Fitzgerald, D. McCormick, and J. Flannelly. The various situations—stirring and humorous—were well brought out, the acting on the whole being excellent. Mr. P. J. Smyth (instructor) deserves to be complimented on the results of his painstaking efforts in the training of the members of the club's dramatic section. The stage effects and other arrangements, carried out by Mr. P. Pearce and Mr. A. F. Jarman (secretary) gave general satisfaction. In connection with the play, a musical programme was contributed to by Misses M. G. O'Connor, Dolly Quinn, and E. Rodgers, Messrs. H. E. Edwards and Phil Jones (songs), and Mr. W. H. Jones (character recitation). Miss K. O'Connor and Mr. Harry Hiscocks played the accompaniments, and each contributed a piano solo as overtures. Mr. Phil Jones was an efficient stage manager.

Thank God for love, the love of friends,
That golden thread which binds
Us each to each, and links us on
To kindred human minds.
But thank God most for His great love
That living source Divine,
Which reacheth down to earth, and cares
For your life and for mine.

LADIES!

A new style of dressing the hair is quite in order, but the purchase of a delicious appetiser, like MILITARY PICKLE is sound judgment. Sold by all grocers. Buy it now.