

Wilderspin, and then made a movement as if shaking himself awake, shocked at coming suddenly upon so strange a thought.

"There is a bewitchment over this place," he said to himself, "which is beginning to tell upon me also. It is time Lord Wilderspin should come home. What? this girl out of a cabin, with her pagan gipsy song, and the Christian superstition of her 'Virgin's Hymn'? What a likely bride for the heir of all the Wilderspains!"

Again Fan was seen still farther away, wandering on the upland, in the blue ether of what seemed another and more delicately and deeply-colored world.

"Fool!" thought Captain Rupert, watching her, "to be so jealous of a dignity which could add nothing to her grace. My coronet would, perhaps, be of as little value to her as was the jewel to the bird in the fable."

(To be continued.)

THE STORY OF IRELAND

(By A. M. SULLIVAN.)

XXIV. HOW THE IRISH NATION AWOKE FROM ITS TRANCE, AND FLUNG OFF ITS CHAINS. THE CAREER OF KING EDWARD BRUCE.

Early in the second century of the Norman settlement we find the Irish for the first time apparently realising their true position in relation to England. They begin to appreciate the fact that it is England and not the Anglo-Norman colony they have to combat, and that recognition of the English power means loss of liberty, loss of honor, loss of property, alienation of the soil! Had the Irish awakened sooner to these facts, it is just possible they might have exerted themselves and combined in a national struggle against the fate thus presaged. But they awoke to them too late--

The fatal chain was o'er them cast,
And they were men no more!

As if to quicken within them the stings of self-reproach, they saw their Gaelic kinsmen of Caledonia bravely battling in compact national array against this same English power that had for a time conquered them also. When King Edward marched northward to measure swords with the Scottish "rebel" Robert Bruce, he summoned his Norman lieges and all other true and loyal subjects in Ireland to send him aid. The Anglo-Norman lords of Ireland did accordingly equip considerable bodies, and with them joined the king in Scotland. The native Irish, on the other hand, sent aid to Bruce; and on the field of Bannockburn old foes on Irish soil met once more in deadly combat on new ground--the Norman lords and the Irish chieftains. "Twenty-one clans, Highlanders and Islesmen, and many Ulstermen fought on the side of Bruce on the field of Bannockburn. The grant of 'Kincardine-O'Neill,' made by the victor-king to his Irish followers, remains a striking evidence of their fidelity to his person and their sacrifices in his cause. The result of that glorious day was, by the testimony of all historians, English as well as Scottish, received with enthusiasm on the Irish side of the channel."

Fired by the glorious example of their Scottish kinsmen, the native Irish princes for the first time took up the design of a really national and united effort to expel the English invaders root and branch. Utterly unused to union or combination as they had been for hundreds of years, it is really wonderful how readily and successfully they carried out their design. The northern Irish princes with few exceptions entered into it; and it was agreed that as well to secure the prestige of Bruce's name and the alliance of Scotland, as also to avoid native Irish jealousies in submitting to a national leader or king, Edward Bruce, the brother of King Robert, should be invited to land in Ire-

land with an auxiliary liberating army, and should be recognised as king. The Ulster princes, with Donald O'Neill at their head, sent off a memorial to the Pope (John the Twelfth), a document which is still extant, and is, as may be supposed, of singular interest and importance. In this memorable letter the Irish princes acquaint his Holiness with their national design; and having reference to the bulls or letters of Popes Adrian and Alexander, they proceed to justify their resolution of destroying the hated English power in their country, and point out the fraud and false pretence upon which those documents were obtained by King Henry from the Pontiffs named. The Sovereign Pontiff appears to have been profoundly moved by the recital of facts in this remonstrance or memorial. Not long after he addressed to the English king (Edward the Third) a letter forcibly reproaching the English sovereigns who had obtained those bulls from Popes Adrian and Alexander, with the crimes of deceit and violation of their specific conditions and covenants. To the objects of those bulls, his Holiness says, "neither King Henry nor his successors paid any regard; but, passing the bounds that had been prescribed for them, they had heaped upon the Irish the most unheard-of miseries and persecutions, and had, during a long period, imposed on them a yoke of slavery which could not be borne."

The Irish themselves were now, however, about to make a brave effort to break that unbearable yoke, to terminate those miseries and persecutions, and to establish a national throne once more in the land. On May 25, 1315, Edward Bruce, the invited deliverer, landed near Glenarm in Antrim, with a force of six thousand men. He was instantly joined by Donald O'Neill, Prince of Ulster, and throughout all the northern half of the island the most intense excitement spread. The native Irish flocked to Bruce's standard: the Anglo-Normans, in dismay, hurried from all parts to encounter this truly formidable danger, and succeeded in compelling, or inducing, the Connaught prince, O'Connor, to join them.

(To be continued.)

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN 1918

(By VERY REV. JAMES CANON MACCAFFREY, S.T.L.,
D.Ph., in the *Irish Ecclesiastical Record*.)

At last the terrible struggle that has devastated Europe for years, and that at one time threatened to end only with the mutual destruction of the belligerents, has been brought to a close almost as unexpectedly as it began. After a prolonged contest, during which their victorious forces over-ran a great portion of Europe, the Central Powers have been forced to hoist the white flag and to surrender almost at discretion. Last April, it looked as if victory were within their grasp. Russia and Rumania had been counted out; the huge forces on the Eastern frontier were being diverted towards the West; the Allied armies in France were falling back before the new offensive, and it seemed as if Paris and the whole French coast-line, from Havre to Dunkirk, were to pass into the hands of the German.

But, as subsequent events proved, the terrific onslaught of last March was but a last desperate bid for victory that had been so often denied them. The German High Command, realising the exhaustion of their raw materials, the depletion of their man-power, and the imminent danger of famine and revolution, resolved to stake the fortunes of the Empire on one gigantic effort to secure a decision before the army of America could be ready to take the field. It was their final and only hope, in view of the fact that the submarine campaign could not render the American intervention ineffectual; and once that hope failed nothing remained for them but retreat and surrender. Torn by convulsions at home and deserted by her allies in the field, Germany was obliged to accept the humiliating terms