

to the lord justice. A desperate engagement ensued at Connoyre, on the banks of the river Bann, near Ballymena. The great Norman army was defeated; the haughty Earl Richard was obliged to seek personal safety in flight; his brother, William, with quite a number of other Norman knights and nobles, being taken prisoners by that same soldier-chief whom he had arrogantly undertaken to capture and present, dead or alive, within a few days, at Dublin Castle gate! The shattered forces of the lord justice retreated southward as best they could. The Red Earl fled into Connacht, where, for a year, he was fain to seek safety in comparative obscurity, shorn of all power, pomp, and possessions. Of these, what he had not lost on the battle field at Connoyre, he found wrested from him by the Prince of Tyrconnell, who, by way of giving the Red Earl something to do near home, had burst down upon the Anglo-Norman possessions in the west, and levelled every castle that flew the red flag of England! The Irish army now marched southward once more, capturing all the great towns and Norman castles on the way. At Loughsweedy, in Westmeath, Bruce and O'Neill went into winter quarters, and spent their Christmas "in the midst of the most considerable chiefs of Ulster, Meath, and Connacht."

Thus closed the first campaign in this, the first really national war undertaken against the English power in Ireland. "The termination of his first campaign on Irish soil," says a historian, "might be considered highly favorable to Bruce. More than half the clans had risen, and others were certain to follow their example: the clergy were almost wholly with him, and his heroic brother had promised to lead an army to his aid in the ensuing spring."

In the early spring of the succeeding year (1316) he opened the next campaign by a march southwards. The Anglo-Norman armies made several ineffectual efforts to bar his progress. At Kells, in King's Co. of the present day, Sir Roger Mortimer at the head of 15,000 men made the most determined stand. A great battle ensued, the Irish utterly routing this the last army of any proportions now opposed to them. Soon after this decisive victory, Bruce and O'Neill returned northwards in proud exaltation. Already it seemed that the liberation of Ireland was complete. Having arrived at Dundalk, the national army halted, and preparations were commenced for the great ceremonial that was to consummate and commemorate the national deliverance. At a solemn council of the native princes and chiefs, Edward Bruce was elected King of Ireland; Donald O'Neill, the heart and head of the entire movement, formally resigning by letters patent in favor of Bruce such rights as belonged to him as son of the last acknowledged native sovereign. After the election, the ceremonial of inauguration was carried out in the native Irish forms, with a pomp and splendor such as had not been witnessed since the reign of Brian the First. This imposing ceremony took place on the hill of Knocknemelan, within a mile of Dundalk; and the formal election and inauguration being over, the king and the assembled princes and chiefs marched in procession into the town, where the solemn consecration took place in one of the churches. King Edward now established his court in the castle of Northburg, possessing and exercising all the prerogatives, powers, and privileges of royalty, holding courts of justice, and enforcing such regulations as were necessary for the welfare and good order of the country.

(To be continued.)

Though our Saviour's Passion is over, His compassion is not. That never fails His humble, sincere disciples. In Him they find more than all that they lose in the world.—William Penn.

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THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN 1918

(Concluded from last week.)

It is impossible as yet to say how it may fare with the Church in France, Germany, and Italy as the result of the war. If there is but little sign in any of these countries of a great religious revival, neither is there any convincing indication of renewed hostility to religion. The French Government, mindful of the fact that General Foch and nearly all his prominent assistants were good practical Catholics, and that Catholics, both clergy and laity, offered the most convincing proofs of their patriotism in the dark days, when so many of the Freemason clique were traitors or weaklings, can hardly begin to signalise the well-deserved triumph of their country by another campaign against religion. There is one other consideration that must be kept carefully in mind by the French Government. Alsace-Lorraine is likely to be restored to France. Whatever may be the views of the people of these two provinces about union with France or with Germany, there can be no room for doubt with regard to their attachment to religion. They are convinced and militant Catholics, who are not likely to submit to godless schools or the proscription of their clergy, even for the honor of becoming a department of France. It will be necessary, therefore, for the French Government to adopt a conciliatory attitude and to refrain, at least for a time, from religious persecution. As regards the course of affairs in Germany, sufficient information has not been allowed to come through to make it possible to arrive at an accurate conclusion, either as to what took place before or since the armistice or what is likely to take place in the future. That the position of affairs is exceedingly grave can hardly be denied, but in the circumstances it can hardly be wondered at that serious disturbance should have taken place. However gloomy the outlook may be at present, we may feel fairly certain that the good sense and natural conservatism of the Germans will make impossible a repetition of the scenes that disgraced the Russian revolution, and that the strong, well-organised Centre Party, which for years has championed the cause of religion and freedom, will once again rally its supporters to do battle against the forces of disorder. In such a crisis as Germany is passing through at present it is always the worst elements which come on top during the early stages of the revolution. We remember that when Belgium rose in revolt against Holland in 1830, though the country was then predominantly Catholic, Catholics were practically without representation in the first provisional government, but once the people had time to consider the situation during the interval necessary to prepare for the elections, the true spirit of the nation manifested itself, and when the votes were counted it was found that the National Assembly reflected the feelings of the majority of the Belgians. It may be that something similar will take place in Germany, if only the Ebert Government can preserve order until the National Assembly can be constituted.

After being held in bondage for more than four years, Belgium has once again recovered its freedom. Whatever differences of opinion there may be on other points connected with the war, few men, Catholic or Protestant, could fail to admire the heroic stand made by the Belgian soldiers in defence of the liberty of their country, and few could fail to rejoice with the Belgians on the triumphant return of their victorious army and king. Belgium has suffered terribly during four years of war and foreign domination, but the damage, though great, is not irreparable. She has suffered, too, from the skilful accentuation of the longstanding animosity between the Flemish-speaking portion of her population and the Walloons, some going so far as to advocate union with Germany, others, equally extreme, supporting union with France. Time, it is hoped, and a spirit of mutual forbearance and toleration, will heal these divisions and will serve to draw all parties together to restore Belgium to the proud position which she occupied in Europe for more

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