

## REMEMBER EASTER 1916!

In Ireland, no less than in other Christian countries, Easter is a time of great joy. Indeed, it may be said that, just as wearying toil makes rest pleasurable, the Irish people, having sorrowed much, are capable of feeling the purest joy. While the everlasting memory of the Resurrection marks a period of supreme rejoicing among the sons and daughters of Erin, there is the memory of another event, or of a series of events, that will remain as an unforgettable passage in the tragic history of the dear old Motherland. Who of even those of us who know and love Ireland from afar as the land of our fathers and mothers, can fail to remember Easter Week of 1916? And with us, as it is in Ireland, it should be a memory of gladness. The men who suffered martyrdom gloried in their sacrifice. "They took," as a biographer finely expresses it, "the boldest course. . . . They rose, 'the young, the gifted, the gallant, and the daring,' with pure hearts and clean hands, to kindle anew the sacred fire that shall flare high in such hearts until the end of time. With faith and joy unspeakable, they went to the sacrifice. . . . They had 'bent low and low, and kissed the quiet feet of Kathleen, the daughter of Houlihan'; and when they kissed them last, the feet of their love were red, for she was treading the path that leads to freedom. But, in her glory which is to come, she will remember for ever and ever the noble ones who rose at Resurrection time and fought to save her honor, and died to save her soul."

The spiritual triumph of those high-souled patriots is reflected in the last written words of the few who were able to communicate with their dear ones. These letters form a story of ineffable nobility—a story as touching as a heroic epic. Let me indicate, by short extracts, the grandeur of the theme.

It is fitting that the first to be mentioned should be

PADRAIC H. PEARSE, who wrote to his mother:—"Dearest Mother,—I have just received Holy Communion. I am happy, except for the great grief of parting from you. This is the death I should have asked for if God had given me the choice of all deaths—to die a soldier's death for Ireland and for freedom. We have done right. People may say hard things of us now, but later will praise us. Do not grieve, but think of it as a sacrifice which God asked of me and of you."

Then THOMAS MACDONAGH to his wife:—"For myself, I have no regret. The one bitterness this death has for me is the separation it brings from you and our beloved children. It breaks my heart to think that I shall never see my children in this world again; but I have not wept or murmured. I counted the cost of this, and I am ready to pay it. My enemies have treated me in an unworthy manner; but let it pass. It is a great and glorious thing to die for Ireland, and I will forget all petty annoyances in the splendor of this. My love—till we meet in Heaven."

MICHAEL O'HOURAHAN to his sister:—"I am ready to give my life for God and my country. In a few hours I shall be with my God, where I shall plead the cause of my beloved Ireland, and will ask God to bless mother and you."

MICHAEL MALLEN to his children and wife:—"Una, my little one, be a nun; Joseph, my little man, be a priest if you can; James and John, to you the care of your mother. Make yourselves good, strong men for her sake, and—remember Ireland. Good-bye, my wife, my darling, I must now prepare; these last few hours must be spent with God alone."

G. G. HEUSTON:—"Whatever I have done, I have done as a soldier of Ireland, in what I believe to be my country's true interests. I have, thank God, no vain regrets. After all, it is better to be a corpse than a coward."

SEAN MACDERMOTT to his brothers and sisters:—"Surely, when you know my state of mind, none of you will worry or lament my fate. No; you ought to envy me. The cause for which I die has been re-

baptised during the past week by the blood of as good men as ever trod God's earth, and should I not feel justly proud to be numbered among them? Before God, let me assure you again of how proud and happy I feel. Good-bye, dear brothers and sisters. Pray for my soul, and feel a lasting pride in my death."

JAMES CONNOLLY, in a statement at the court-martial, said:—"I personally thank God that I have lived to see the day when thousands of Irish men and boys and hundreds of Irish women and girls were ready to affirm the truth of Ireland's cause and to assist it with their lives, if need be."

To an American friend, Nora Connolly supplied the following details of her father's execution:—"They took him on a stretcher from Dublin Castle, because he could not walk, on account of his wounds, and carried him to Kilmainham Gaol, four miles away. They propped him in a chair, because he could not stand, and then—shot him dead. Then they took his body to the Arbor Hill Barracks, threw it into a common trench with the other dead patriots, and covered it with quick-lime. They refused to give up the body. They would not even permit us to provide a coffin. That was my father's end."

Such, in the barest outline, brings home to us the last phase of the great rebellion. It is doubtful if, in the whole range of the world's annals, there is a parallel to the inspiring courage of these great and good men. Peace be to their souls, and may we see, ere long, a vindication of their valor in a recognition of the principle for which they offered up their lives.

Australians, in possession of complete self-government, have frequently given practical proof of their sympathy with the democracy of Ireland. And there must be no cessation of help until England, yielding to the world-wide demands for justice, gives to Ireland what she has for so many years determinedly sought.

... J.F.B., in an Exchange.

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On MONDAY, 2nd June, Express Train leaves Christchurch at 8.45 a.m., arriving Dunedin 4.58 p.m.

On SATURDAY, 7th June, Late Train leaves Dunedin for Christchurch at 9.5 p.m.

On MONDAY, 9th June, Express Train for Christchurch leaves Dunedin at 11.15 a.m.

##### INVERCARGILL-GORE-DUNEDIN.

On SATURDAY and MONDAY, 7th and 9th June, the Down Mail Train leaving Dunedin at 8.30 a.m. runs to Gore only. Express Train for Invercargill leaves Dunedin at 8.45 a.m., taking passengers for Milton, Stirling, Balclutha, and stations on Lawrence and Catlins River Branches, also for Maitara and stations south thereof only.

MOSGIEL-MILTON.—The Goods Train with Car attached usually leaving Mosgiel for Milton at 7.25 a.m. leaves Mosgiel at 6.25 a.m.

TUESDAY, 3rd JUNE, TO SATURDAY, 7th JUNE (INCLUSIVE.)

DUNEDIN-PALMERSTON.—The Train usually leaving Dunedin for Palmerston at 4.30 p.m. leaves at 5.27 p.m.

OUTRAM BRANCH.—The Train usually leaving Mosgiel for Outram at 4.47 p.m. leaves at 5.50 p.m., after arrival of the 5.15 p.m. Train from Dunedin.

DUNEDIN-MILTON.—Train, stopping where required for passengers, leaves Milton for Dunedin at 8.0 a.m.

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