

I have had friends who have worn, and who still wear, the colors of all parties in the Church of England, and many of them, I am glad to say, are still my friends. I may well be glad to say so. For who knows better than I what is their loyalty, their humility, their honesty, their unselfishness, their zeal, who knows as well as I what is their kindness? A man may indeed be grateful for such friends, as he must also regret any such that he may have 'lost awhile.' And if at times I find memorable those melancholy verses of Matthew Arnold about 'parts of a single continent,' I often, too, have occasion to perceive the full significance of the title which Cardinal Newman gave to 'The Story of a Convert,' the story, I mean, which he called 'Loss and Gain.' That last word prompts me, before I make an end of this slight sketch of secondary cause, to make some allusion, however inadequate, to those of the Catholic Church who have been kind friends to me. I would, as I remember their not unremembered acts, that my tongue could utter the thoughts that arise in me. But when the heart grows full, the voice grows faint. And I must content, or discontent, myself with the too-niggard remark that it is the remembrance of their much kindness, which has added force to the quotation which since last February has so frequently risen in my heart, and gathered on my lips: 'Hæc requies mea in saeculum saeculi: his habitabo quoniam elegi eam.'

GORDON TIDY.

ULSTER AND HOME RULE

Under the heading 'Will Ulster Make Civil War?' Mr. William Redmond, M.P., contributes an article to the London *Sunday Chronicle* in the course of which he says:—Of all the questions surrounding the Home Rule problem there is not one which is more constantly referred to than the question of 'Ulster.' What will Ulster do, and what will Ulster say?

We hear these queries uttered upon every side, and it is not too much to say that, in all the debates as to Home Rule, both within and without Parliament, the Ulster argument is the most frequently used. Indeed, there are many people, to my own knowledge, who base

their objection to Home Rule entirely upon the fact that they fear what the result of granting self-government to Ireland might be in the Northern province. Even those who have come to see that it is sheer absurdity to expect that an Irish Parliament would use its powers to injure England or to promote a scheme of separation between the two countries, even those who have come to recognise the hollowness of nearly all the common objections to Home Rule, even these people cling very often with the most surprising tenacity to the notion that Ulster 'will not have' Home Rule, and that, therefore, it cannot, and should not, be granted.

Divided Ulster.

The fact is that in England there is quite as much ignorance of Ulster as there is about the rest of Ireland in the other three provinces. Some people hug the delusion that all Ulster is to 'a man' against Home Rule. Those who take this for granted never trouble to study election returns. If they did, they would discover, of course, that Ulster returns just seventeen anti-Home Rulers and just sixteen Home Rulers as strong in their opinions as those who are elected for any other portions of the country. Over 44 per cent. of Ulster is Catholic in religion, but this does not, of course, indicate the percentage of Home Rulers, for it is a very well-known and fortunate thing that religious belief does not always indicate political opinion in Ulster. It is beyond all doubt, and was abundantly proved in the West Belfast election, that many Protestants are sound Home Rulers. At the very least, then, half Ulster, judged by any test, is in favour of self-government for Ireland, and hence it is really absurd for men to talk of Ulster as though the whole province were united against the national demand for a free form of government.

Could Ulster Arm?

As to the talk we hear of Ulster 'arming,' it is sheer nonsense. It is no more easy for Ulster to arm than for any other part of the country to arm, and everybody knows that such a thing could not be done without the full knowledge of the Government, and no Government would permit it. There will be no 'civil war' in Ulster, because there will be no need for it.



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