

## ANTI-HOME RULE FICTION

## LIBELLING IRISH CATHOLICS

Mr. James H. Campbell, Town Clerk of Queenstown, sent the following letter, under date September 9, to the *Dundee Courier*, on behalf of the Queenstown Urban District Council. It explains the cause of the action brought by the Bishop of Cloyne and clergy against the *Courier*, as reported in a cable message received last Friday:—

Dear Sir,—I have been requested by the Queenstown Urban District Council to inform you that at the last meeting of that body, Sir James Long, J.P., a member of the Council, directed the attention of the members to an article headed 'Sinister Side-lights on Home Rule,' which was published in your issue of the 15th ultimo, in which statements are made considered to be slanderous, and therefore seriously affecting the Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Catholic Bishop of Cloyne (who resides at Queenstown), together with the entire Catholic clergy of Queenstown.

The reading of the allegations in the article created a most painful impression, amongst the members of the Council, Catholic and Protestant alike, who were filled with feelings of indignation, at the grossly untrue and cruel accusations made, and a resolution was passed

## Unanimously Protesting

against the wanton insult offered to the bishop and clergy, who are falsely charged in the article in question, not only with religious intolerance, but with the crime—as crime it would be were the accusation true—of being the authors of a propaganda to have Protestant shop assistants in Catholic establishments in Queenstown deprived of employment. In seconding the resolution Mr. M. Ambrose, J.P., a Protestant member of the Council—who, in passing, I may observe, has been several times placed at the head of the poll by his

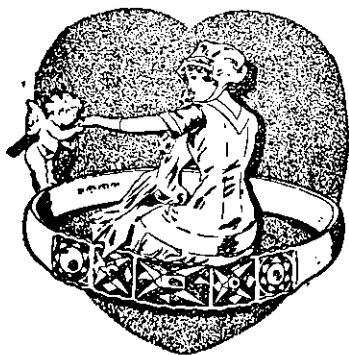
Catholic townsmen, and made Chairman of the Council—said that he deplored and deprecated such allegations being made, as he was proud to acknowledge that his success in life was due to the generous support accorded to him in business by his Catholic fellow-townsmen of Queenstown.

Astonishment, too, was expressed by the Council that a responsible and widely-read journal like the *Dundee Courier* should publish such statements, without in some way first testing their credibility.

Now, Sir, you may put forward the plea that no charge of religious intolerance was made against the Bishop and priests of Queenstown, but to do so would be a mere quibble, inasmuch as your anonymous scribe distinctly states 'that instructions were issued by the Roman Catholic Religious Authorities that all Protestant Shop Assistants were to be discharged. One shopkeeper, a Roman Catholic, refused to discharge an assistant he had had for a number of years. The consequence was that his shop was proclaimed, and in three months he had to close and sell out, his stock being sold for next to nothing.' The italics in the quotation are mine.

Surely to a person of ordinary intelligence it must be clear beyond all cavil that when 'the Roman Catholic Religious Authorities' are referred to, the writer who penned the words meant the Bishop and clergy of the Catholic Church in Queenstown, and it is equally clear that the stigma and odium which he endeavoured to cast upon 'the Roman Catholic Religious Authorities' of being guilty of persecuting the Protestant shop assistants in Queenstown, was mud flung at

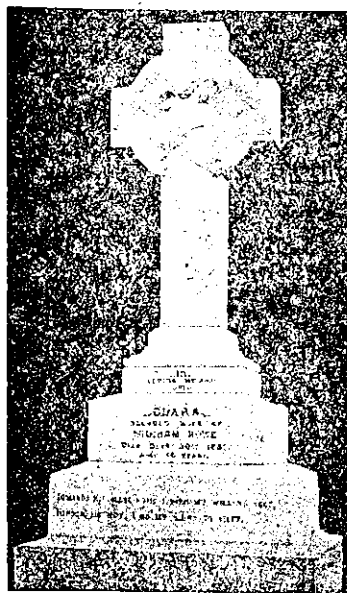
The Catholic Bishop and Clergy of Queenstown, which was intended to stick. The political party that hopes to profit by the manufacture of slanderous stories clumsily put together such as you published, and which bear the very impress of incredulity, of wanton invention and of malice, cannot be congratulated on the unscrupulous methods employed by its agents and advo-

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