

A CAMPAIGN OF REBELLION

The following able leader appeared in the *Dunedin Evening Star* of June 12:—There was a time in the history of England when much less than what Sir E. Carson, K.C., has recently said and caused to be done, in and out of Parliament, would have led its author and inciter to Tower Hill. It says much for the restraint and good temper of the British Government and people, and is a healthy indication of the better times in which we now live, that Sir E. Carson's treasonable talk and acts have, so far, been treated as rhetorical fustian and bluff. We think the Government and Mr. John Dillon are wrong in so regarding these threats of armed resistance to the law, but their attitude has the negative virtue of giving their bellicose author plenty of rope. The Ulster revolt, of which Sir E. Carson is the head and the British Unionist Party the pliant tools, is the most reprehensible and treasonable domestic movement of the century. What, briefly, are the facts? Three-fourths of the people of Ireland, and one-half of those in the province of Ulster, have for a generation, consistently and without change, demanded the abolition of Dublin Castle rule, and the right to conduct their domestic concerns in their own way. To-day the House of Commons, more than once, by majorities of 100 odd, has said that this demand is just and shall be granted. The decision has been endorsed by every public man of note in every Oversea Dominion of the Empire, and in some of them by a formal but unanimous resolution of Parliament. Of no other question now before the Empire as a whole can the same be said. Tariff Reform, of which British Unionists are continually and quite wrongly saying that it has been asked for by the Dominions, pales into comparative insignificance in contrast with the overseas support that stands solidly behind the Irish Home Rule Bill. And yet Home Rule for Ireland is to be fought even unto the shedding of blood. Sir E. Carson and Lord Charles Beresford, in the House of Commons, to a ringing accompaniment of Unionist cheers, declared that they were ready to be shot down, and 18 Unionists (mostly Ulstermen) met with an ovation at Euston square station on the eve of their departure to appeal—was ever impudence so magnificently exalted?—to the British Democracy on behalf of the Irish Democracy. On what grounds do these worthies base their action? On nothing, absolutely nothing, but religious bigotry of the most bitter and most odious kind. The one half of Ulster that Sir E. Carson represents will not lose under Home Rule a single right or liberty which is now theirs. Its people will continue members and citizens of the Empire; the Imperial Parliament will still receive their representatives, and they will have perfect liberty to send whom they will to the Dublin Parliament. But these safeguards are swept aside. Everything must give way to the insistent clamors of religious fanaticism. Protestants have oppressed Catholics in the past—ergo, if Catholics get the upper hand through a local Parliament they will oppress Protestants in the future. The suggestion, or assertion, is beneath contempt, for the all-sufficient reason that the great bulk of the Irish Catholic laity to-day are neither fools nor rogues. It is, however, on behalf of the bigots of Ulster, and how bigoted and stupid they are the utterances of their supporters the world over have made known, that Sir E. Carson and Lord C. Beresford are to raise the flag of rebellion. The part of peacemaker and rational adviser and law-abiding citizen is not for them. They demand swords and rifles and guns and blood! Was there ever a rebellion based on so pitiful and pitiable a cause? Whether Home Rule for Ireland will accomplish all that Mr. Redmond says it will, whether it be good or bad policy, and whether Mr. Asquith ought again to appeal to the country first (until the Unionists get a majority) are not germane to the issue. The supreme issue is whether a few men, or a political party, are justified in organising an armed revolt in opposition to the law of the land? If they are, and the supposition that such resistance under certain conditions is justifiable is not an incon-

ceivable one, are these conceivable conditions present in the proposal to grant Home Rule to Ireland? There is only one answer to this question. To advocate a resort to armed resistance on behalf of Ulster bigotry in the Ireland of to-day is a crime against civilisation, and the Empire Overseas and the Republic of the United States will look to the Mother Land to free herself from the reproach of so dire a disgrace.

NEWMAN SOCIETY, AUCKLAND

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The annual general meeting of the Auckland branch of the Newman Society was held on Sunday, May 25, in St. Patrick's Schoolroom. There was a fairly large attendance of members. The report and balance sheet for the year were read and adopted. A scholarly and interesting paper, entitled 'New Light on the Secession of the American Colonies,' by Rev. Father Bartley, of Wellington, was read by Rev. Brother Fergus. The election of officers then took place, and the following is the personnel of the executive for the current year:—Patron, his Lordship the Bishop of Auckland; president, Rev. Brother George, B.A.; vice-presidents—the Director of the Sacred Heart College, Miss F. V. J. Jacobsen, M.A., Hon. J. A. Tole, K.C., LL.B., Mr. Denis O'Donohue, B.A., and Mr. F. H. Levien, M.A.; spiritual director, Rev. Father Edge; secretary and treasurer, Mr. Cyril A. Snedden; executive—Messrs. G. Browne, B. Com., N. C. Snedden, and Miss Nolan.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to last year's office-bearers. A good deal of business was discussed and arranged at the meeting. Amongst other things it was decided to hold a social gathering very shortly. The members also decided that the time had arrived for every endeavour being made to promote the aims of the society. It seems scarcely necessary to remind the Auckland readers of the *Tablet* of the many advantages to be gained from membership in the Newman Society—the promotion of Catholic higher education, the assistance and encouragement of Catholic students, the effectual dissemination of Catholic truth in every possible way. Surely these are objects that should appeal to every thoughtful Catholic. Here in Auckland there is an important and ever-growing body of Catholic young men, who claim as their *alma mater* one or other of the New Zealand or Australian Catholic Colleges. To them, especially, the Newman Society desires to urge its claims. The annual subscription is only two shillings and sixpence, membership is open to every Catholic, only the right to vote and to hold office being withheld from those who have not passed matriculation or some co-ordinate public examination.

THE HOME RULE BILL

SECOND READING CARRIED

The debate on the Second Reading of the Home Rule Bill in the House of Commons came off last week. An amendment by Mr. Balfour to reject the Bill was defeated by 368 to 270. The Bill was then read a second time and referred to the committee of the whole House.

Sir E. Carson, K.C., said that personally he hoped never again to discuss Irish Home Rule in the House of Commons. Mr. J. E. Redmond had rightly said that the present discussion was automatic. He and his friends declined to be automata. The people of Ulster were rightly preparing to resist. He would take all responsibility. The Government might seize their arms and send troops but it would never settle the Irish question by its Bills.

Sir E. Carson was warmly cheered on re-opening the debate.

There was a dramatic episode when he turned to Mr. Balfour and Mr. A. Bonar Law and said that Ulster's cause was never stronger, because in the event of armed resistance, which God forbid, Ulster now

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