

In estimating the value of those newspaper references to him with which the people are sometimes regaled, it is well to remember that the cable agencies have never been remarkable for consideration for the feelings of Irishmen. "Down under" we have often to protest against the unfair way in which matters are handled by what we call the "cable crammers." You will remember that Dr. Mannix took a prominent and successful part in opposing conscription as a blot on the fair fame of free Australia. The vast number of Volunteers would have seemed to make it unnecessary that it should be adopted in order to help to end the Great War. The reputation and existence of Australia's then Premier, Hughes, seemed staked on the issue, and Dr. Mannix's success meant Hughes's defeat. Now, the daily press of Australia has never ceased to vilify Dr. Mannix for his democratic campaign. They hold him up to obloquy as a disloyalist, and as they are well aware of the divisions that unfortunately exist in Ireland, they miss no opportunity of sending snippets and sentences taken from his speeches to fan the flame of disunion. When you read a week ago that he had proclaimed himself as loyal to the established authorities as any man in the Commonwealth, you were not told that it was to ease the minds of the numbers of non-Catholics who joined in welcoming him at a function in New South Wales, and who had read in the local rags that Dr. Mannix was disloyal. All these country papers take their cue from their big brothers in the city and join in the hue-and-cry against a man who wherever he appears commands the unstinted admiration of the Irish people and their friends and receives ovations of welcome due to the man who has suffered much in his dearest affections for his devotion to the cause of justice.

Dr. Mannix has a way of silencing his bigoted enemies that works more effectively than wasting ink in newspaper columns. When a cry was raised after the Great War that

The Irish Did Not Do Their Fair Share

in helping to win it, Dr. Mannix, leaving the statistics to those who were in the best position of refuting the charges against the Australian-Irish, selected the next St. Patrick's Day demonstration in Melbourne, which has been a fixture almost since the foundation of the city, and had ten thousand returned Irish-Australian soldiers in uniform, with a bodyguard of fully

Fourteen V.C.'s.

riding as an escort. This proceeding, if it did not silence the bigots, at least gave an object-lesson to the fair-minded people who rejoice at the triumph of truth over calumny. When the self-determination-for-Ireland movement was at its height, Dr. Mannix invited the Irish and their sympathisers from all parts of Australia and New Zealand to a Convention in Melbourne. A more representative gathering of the Irish race had never met beneath the Southern Cross. From all parts of the Australian continent they came in large numbers, and the proceedings were marked by the greatest unanimity and enthusiasm. One of the prelates who made a speech that will long be remembered was an Englishman born who, had an opportu-

ity, during a prolonged residence in Ireland, of knowing at first hand what the condition of affairs was there.

The Most Rev. Dr. Redwood, Archbishop of Wellington, in New Zealand, the prelate to whom I refer, expressed in eloquent terms his indignation at the manner in which The British Government Misruled Ireland.

Whilst yielding to none in his loyalty to the British authority he yet was compelled to protest by his love of fair play against the manner in which up to that time Ireland's claims for justice had been persistently flouted.

It will interest you to know that Dr. Redwood is the oldest prelate in the Church, and, notwithstanding his weight of years, made a visit to Ireland recently on his way to Rome. When, last February, he celebrated the golden jubilee of his episcopal consecration, he had all the archbishops and bishops and large numbers of priests from all parts of Australia and New Zealand to do him honor amidst rejoicings in which the whole city took part.

Dr. Mannix was one of the visiting prelates who had come 1300 miles to do honor to the venerable jubilarian, and was received with the most unbounded enthusiasm in every part of the Dominion.

I had the pleasure of hearing from his own lips an account of the manner in which he was arrested on the high seas by order of Lloyd George—a proceeding which made the whole world wonder at the tactlessness of the Welsh statesman. On that occasion, too, I heard from Dr. Mannix's lips a statement of his views on the situation in Ireland. He would not, he said, have signed that Treaty, but as the people of Ireland had, through their representatives, ratified the agreement it should be

The Duty of the Friends of Ireland

to do or say nothing that would prevent the authority set up in the 26 counties from functioning.

Give them a chance to see if they can make a success of the government of Ireland with the heavy handicaps that press on them. And if Ireland is satisfied their friends abroad will all follow suit.

Now, I have detained you too long—"No, no!"—to dwell upon the great Irishmen that have made good abroad, and I will conclude by saying that, having had many opportunities during the few months I have been travelling around the country visiting old friends and college mates, how hearing of the sad events through which the country has lived during recent years, I yet feel that pessimism is

Almost a Crime Against Ireland,

and that a nation that has gone through greater sorrows than those recently experienced is destined to triumph over the difficulties which the future has in store; and I join you all in the hearty wish which, I am sure, you cherish in your hearts, that in God's good time the clouds and shadows will disappear and the light of full freedom will dawn upon the land we all love: (Applause.)

Mr. W. S. Burke proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer, and in the course of his remarks said that the similarity in artistic style between Irish and Maori stone carving, mentioned by Father O'Neill, might be ac-

counted for by the fact that in ages past there may have been a tunnel through the earth between Ireland and New Zealand. (Laughter.) The speaker agreed that there was no cause for pessimism as regards the outlook in Ireland and joined in hoping that much improved times lay ahead for this country. (Applause.) He would like to be permitted to paraphrase half a dozen lines of a song written by Mr. Alfred Percival Graves about another typical soggarth aroon—Father O'Flynn—and to say to the lecturer

Here's good luck to you, Father O'Neill!
"God bless you," we say, and we say what we feel;

Yes; we say what we feel, and
We envy New Zealand,
Fair, fruitful, and free land,
Because you're its own.

Mr. J. H. Enright, in seconding the vote of thanks, said—I was very pleased when asked to second the vote of thanks as it has given me the opportunity of thanking Father O'Neill for the pleasure he has afforded this evening, and also because I have the unique privilege of having heard him on a former occasion when he delivered another beautiful address in the hall of the Catholic Literary Institute well over twenty golden years ago. Father O'Neill has shown he is possessed of all the qualifications of a lecturer. He has a well stored mind—the advantage of extensive travel—a great power of observation, a wonderful memory, and last, but not least, a good sense of humor. As Mr. Burke has dropped into poetry I might in a feeble way do likewise and say

Time has writ no wrinkle on his brow;
As he was then, so is he now.

Before tendering the vote of thanks the president expressed himself highly pleased with the lecture and he was quite sure that everyone present was as well. Father O'Neill's reference to distinguished Irishmen in Australia and New Zealand and the part they played in helping Ireland in the past was indeed a matter not likely to be forgotten by this or future generations. In referring to Cardinal Moran, the president observed that that great dignitary of the Church and patriotic Irishman gave in his day unswerving loyalty and support to the Irish Party, and when he died the late Mr. Redmond cabled to Australia that "a cedar had fallen in Lebanon." He was glad that Father O'Neill's experience during his stay in Ireland did not permit him to carry away any pessimistic views about Ireland's future, and he was pleased to think that his opinion was ours—that the day was not very remote when, after the great sacrifices that were made, Irishmen will all join in making her a free, happy, prosperous, and contented country (applause).

Father O'Neill, replying, thanked the members for their appreciation and said that, in reference to the tunnel through the earth, there may have been a spiritual one between Ireland and New Zealand, in which there were no snakes, which were found in Australia; so that, when St. Patrick drove the serpents out of Ireland his prayers may have had a similar result in New Zealand, which is exactly opposite on the other side of the earth (laughter).