

Current Topics

Anonymous Letters

We wish we could impress on all Catholics the folly of reading, and, still more, of replying to, anonymous attacks in the daily papers. The man who writes an offensive letter from behind the hedge of an anonymous name deserves no notice; we have no hesitation in adding that the editor who publishes anonymous attacks on creeds or races has no conception of what he owes to his office. In the old days of duelling a man of self-respect would feel disgraced if he crossed swords with a blackguard. He was ready to fight, but only with gentlemen. We might with advantage borrow somewhat of that code of honor, and, conscious that only a blackguard would write or publish such cowardly attacks, despise them as they deserve. We should not wonder that the day-lies find room for such. Consider how one of them protects a forger, protects even the hired calumniator of a dead nun, and publishes headlines that attribute to Sinn Fein the murders committed by Orangemen. Nowadays one can hardly touch the day-lies without being defiled. Wherefore, treat them and their anonymous weekly or casual correspondents with the contempt they merit.

Coals to Newcastle

Moreover, it is futile to waste time refuting or correcting the statements made by hired calumny-mongers. "Civis," for instance, has been exposed as a dishonest forger, and a rabid sectarian bigot. No decent man wants to know anything more of him; no intelligent man will pay the least attention to what he has to say; the brand of the liar is on him for ever and that is enough. He has had his reward: he has made for the *Otago Daily Times* a name that stinks in the nostrils of honest men. Leave him at that, and take no more notice of his ravings than you would of the barking of a whipped mongrel. As for the horsewhipped parson and his supporters, much the same is to be said. If there be any who will stand by such a person after the terrible exposure in Auckland and in Parliament, it is only because such persons have lost the use of reason or have no self-respect. He will say exactly the sort of things he is paid to say. No educated person could possibly attach the least importance to his falsehoods. He deserves exactly as much consideration as a man who makes his living by putting all the resources of a foul tongue and a corrupt heart at the disposal of certain people who, for their own ends, want dirty work done that only such a tool will do. Messrs. Fraser, Bishop, and Isitt told the public what sort that tool was, and no decent person has forgotten it. So, we advise all Catholics to leave the defamer of the dead, the hero of the war on women, the man who ran away from the Auckland Court, to the tender consideration of his friends the day-liars, to the forger, "Civis," and to the political mugwumps who find him useful at election times.

The Ulster Elections

Reports are now coming to hand to show how the Orangemen secured their seats in the so-called Ulster Parliament. Having begun by driving out Catholic voters and by burning down Catholic homes they were determined to leave nothing undone to secure a large majority. They sent men to the polls to vote for the dead, voting, we are told, for whole graveyards. In some instances one man voted as many as twenty times. Several Sinn Feiners who went to the polls found that Orangemen had voted in their names early in the day. In spite of terror and fraud such as would have rendered the elections void under any but the Lloyd George Government, the total number of votes recorded against Partition was almost a third of the entire poll for the six counties. The *Irish World*, June 4, says: "The unofficial count of the votes cast in Tuesday's elections in the six counties of Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, and Tyrone shows that the

Unionists received 341,289 votes, the Sinn Feiners 103,516, the Nationalists 60,762, and Independent Labor 5000. According to these figures the Nationalist-Sinn Fein combination ought, in view of the proportion of their supporters, have about 20 members in the new Parliament to the Unionists' 32. . . . This is a remarkable showing for the anti-Partitionists considering the terror existing, and especially when we consider that the Partitionist strength in the other 26 counties is practically nil." Thus, British fair play, which boasts of its protection of minorities, attempts to put in the power of the people who burned down the homes of Catholics and sacked presbyteries and convents a whole third of the population of the six counties. No wonder the Labor Party said that the things done under the Union Jack in Ireland made the name of England stink in the nostrils of humanity.

Archbishop Mannix

Archbishop Mannix will land in Australia this week, and in a few days he will receive in his own city such a welcome as no Australian ever yet received. Lloyd George (acting, we are told, on the advice of "London Catholics," whose identity recent history enables us to guess at) sent a part of the British fleet to arrest a prelate whose offence was that he spoke the truth and loved justice—great crimes in the sight of the British Government. Lloyd George was not long before he learned the folly of this outrage. Englishmen and Scotsmen rallied round the Archbishop and proved to him that they were disgusted at the Prussian conduct of their Government. He was received with enthusiasm in many parts of Great Britain, and wherever he went he told the truth about Ireland and exposed the duplicity of the Government. His presence in England was worth a host of warriors for the cause of Sinn Fein, and when he came to leave it he was surrounded by English bishops and priests who came to testify their admiration for him and their reprobation of the insane Government that had put such an outrage upon him. More than that, in Rome he completely foiled the machinations of the British agents who had striven hard to prejudice the Vatican against Ireland. He told the Pope the truth about Ireland; told him that Ireland was winning, and that those who said she was losing lied; and the result of his visit was a papal pronouncement which recognised Ireland as a whole and undivided nation with which England must treat for peace—a pronouncement very different from that for which the Bourne and the Gasquets and the Howards had labored so long and so vainly. We speak with knowledge of the facts when we say that his visit to Rome completely foiled the foes of Ireland and made an adverse pronouncement impossible, and knowing that we do not wonder that the English "Black-and-Tan" cardinal gave the Archbishop a wide berth in England. Melbourne will rejoice to have its Archbishop home again, and every lover of truth and justice will unite in spirit in its welcome to the champion of democracy and liberty.

Secular Schools

Mr. Cutten, the Auckland magistrate, has more than once deplored the fact that a blind Government is ruining the country through schools that undermine the religion of the people. He recently returned to the charge and told his hearers that things had gone so far now that it was only whatever of tone was left in the teachers that had any moral influence on the youth of the Dominion. A period of half a century of secularism has destroyed religious principles in the parents of to-day. The old homes of other years, which might be relied upon to provide a religious atmosphere, are gone, and the moral tone of the young depends on the chance of finding decent teachers in whatever school they are sent to. That, in substance, was Mr. Cutten's indictment. Other magistrates have declared from the bench that the sole hope of saving the young people from ruin and degeneration is religion. However, the Parrs and the Bells and the Nosworthys and the Andersons and the Limavaddys hold their jobs and care

FOR UP-TO-DATE FOOTWEAR GO TO

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