

The Living Gaelic

W. H. Kent is as famous for his learning as the British Premier is for his lying. Lloyd George, who made it a criminal offence to speak Gaelic in Ireland, once in his caddish way taunted the Irish for not speaking the language that he had made it criminal to speak. The English scholar (who is a kinsman of the Wexford rebel, Edmond Kyan) scores and scathes the Welsh trafficker ruthlessly in the *Catholic World* for June. Respect for the truth is as foreign to Lloyd George as scholarship or even geography, but one can thank his ignorance inasmuch as it brought us the article in question from the pen of "W.H.K." Pausing to dispose of the Marconi schemer's argument that there was no separate nationality without a separate language, "W.H.K." asks what of the United States, what of Switzerland, what of the many new nations formed after the war. He then goes on to show that the Gaelic never died in Ireland and that it is flourishing to-day. He quotes Hyde: "When the great Milesian and Norman families began to lose their power in the seventeenth century, a distinctly new school of poetry arose in Ireland, which discarded the learning and the metres of the old bards, and instead of carefully counting the syllables, as used to be the case, counted only the accented syllables—and lo! with a turn of the hand, Irish poetry changed its form and complexion, and from being an old man so bound up and swathed about with rules and fetters that it could scarcely breathe or see, it burst out into a blooming young maiden dressed in all the colors of the rainbow. Then, indeed, poetry became the handmaid of the many, not the mistress of the few. Then, indeed, through every nook and corner of the island the populace, neglecting all bardic training, burst out into passionate song." This, on the evidence of one of the greatest living authorities is what happened after Gaelic was supposed to have died! Of the new Gaelic, Hyde goes on to say: "This is to my mind the rich glory of the modern Irish nation; this is the sweetest creation of Gaelic literature: this is the truest note of the enchanting Gaelic syren, and he who has once heard it and remains deaf to its charm has neither heart for song nor soul for music. The Gaelic poetry of the last two centuries is the most sensuous attempt to convey music in words ever made by man. It is absolutely impossible to convey the lusciousness of sound, the richness of rhythm and perfection of harmony in another language." One example of this modern song is the song:

*Ba bhrónach an la ud ar sgaras om cheud gradh
's a mhuirnin dílis Eibhlín ag!
Do phogas a deora, 's mo chroidhe 'stig dh' a gheur-
chradh,
's a mhuirnin dílis Eibhlín ag.*

Having reviewed all the living and vigorous signs of modern Gaelic, "W.H.K." mentions some of the very latest masterpieces written in the old tongue in our own day, dwelling especially on "*An t-Athair Peadar's*" *Seadna*, and on the Gaelic writings of Padraic Pearse, concerning the latter of which he says: "For a moment the reader's delight in these writings may be dimmed with sorrow, as he thinks how this bright young life was cut short by the hands of ruthless foemen, and the world was robbed of a genius who had so much more to give us. But the blow missed its mark. Pearse is not dead. His writings still live, and will continue to live, among the brightest jewels in our living Irish literature."

"DOMINICAN STAR"

The Past Pupils and Friends of the Dominican Nuns will be pleased to learn that the JUBILEE NUMBER OF THE "DOMINICAN STAR" is now available, and may be obtained either at the Priory, Dunedin, or at the *Tablet* Office.

PRICE :: 3/-; POSTED 3/6.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from the eleven o'clock Mass on last Sunday, followed, after Compline in the evening, by procession and Solemn Benediction.

The Rev. Brother Director of the Christian Brothers' School gratefully acknowledges a donation of coal and other fuel from "More Heat" for the school.

SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATIONS

The undermentioned examinations will be held on or about the dates specified in each case:—

Junior National Scholarship (candidates must not have attained their 14th birthday by December 1, 1921): November 29 and 30, 1921. Senior National Scholarship (candidates must not have attained their 16th birthday by December 1, 1921): November 21, 1921.

Entries close with the secretary of the Education Board, Dunedin or Invercargill on September 8 next.

The Diocesan Catholic Federation guarantees to make good any scholarships won by Catholic children of either Catholic or Government schools, paying to successful candidates the same allowance as was paid by the Education Department before the right to hold scholarships was taken away from the Catholic schools. Such payment will be made by the Diocesan Catholic Federation to the successful candidates on condition that they take their scholarships out at a Catholic Secondary School.

All entries must be made on the proper forms, which are obtainable at the Education Office.

JAMES COFFEY, President.

A. TARLETON, Secretary.

Dunedin, August 1, 1921.

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

DUNEDIN DIOCESAN SCHOLARSHIPS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—I respectfully call the attention of the priests and teachers of our schools to the notice appearing in this issue of your paper, under the heading "Scholarships in Catholic Schools." It will be remembered that last year our Government, in accordance with the answer the members had given to the P.P.A.'s question, "Are you in favor of maintaining the national system of free, compulsory, and undenominational education without endowment, concession, or privilege in any form to any sectarian or private school?" decided to deprive our Catholic boys and girls of the right they had under the Education Act of 1914, of taking out the scholarships, won by them in open competition, in our Catholic secondary schools. When, in last year's Amendment of the Education Act, this proviso was given effect to, I promised that our Catholic children should not be allowed to suffer on account of the excessive meanness and bigotry on the part of the Government. I repeated that promise publicly at the opening of the residence for the Christian Brothers in Dunedin. I am pleased to say that now through the Catholic Federation and the generosity of the teachers and private friends this promise will be fulfilled.

It is the intention of the Federation to give the same concession in regard to scholarships as the pupil who wins them would get from the Government provided the scholarship is taken out in any one (boys' or girls') of our secondary schools in the diocese. This will include fees and even board on the same conditions as the Government's, and it will include Catholic children who may gain a scholarship from Government primary schools where there is no Catholic primary school, provided the scholarship is taken out in any case in a Catholic registered secondary school in the diocese.

I therefore call the attention of our clergy and teachers to the dates of entrance for the scholarship examination printed above, and urge them to send up for these examinations any child likely to gain a scholarship and com-

Jack Metcalfe

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