

the Servant of God, whose prudence, fortitude, and gentleness surmounted victoriously obstacles raised by the envy and malice of men. She strove with all her strength to provide for the necessities of the Sisters and the houses and to secure their temporal and spiritual rights and welfare, and to this end she dealt either personally or by letter with civil authorities, ecclesiastical prelates, and her own companions who had been appointed Superioresses of houses. In the year 1831 she was attacked by a serious chronic malady, and from that time on was forced for the most part to keep to her room, or her bed, or her chair, but she never ceased as far as she could, with heart and hand, to keep in touch with her daughters, and their duties, and their progress in virtue. In the midst of these anxieties and sufferings she was pleased and consoled by the receipt of the joyful and encouraging Decrees by which the Supreme Pontiff Gregory XVI., of happy memory, definitely approved the rules of the Institute in the year 1833, and in the year 1836 graciously granted and ordered that the simple vows of the Sisters should have perpetual force. When at last her malady became worse, she was strengthened by all the Church's sacraments of the dying, and renowned for virtue and full of fervent love of Jesus Christ crucified and His Virgin Mother Mary, died most piously, surrounded by the Sisters and daughters she loved so well, on the 22nd day of July of the year 1858, in the 72nd year of her age, the 46th of her religious life, and the 43rd of her Superiorship. On the following day the body of the Servant of God was carried from the House of the Sisters to the Church in Donnybrook, and after the solemn funeral service it was borne to its resting-place and buried in a crypt in the cemetery, and a marble monument was placed on the grave, inscribed to the memory and praise of the deceased. The sacred obsequies of Mary Aikenhead were, for their solemnity and the concourse of people, compared by eye-witnesses to the famous funeral of Daniel O'Connell: both of them were so well loved, because they were children, friends, and benefactors of Ireland. Meanwhile the fame of her holiness of life and of her virtues and miracles in general, spread, both during her life and after her death, throughout Ireland, England, Australia, and other countries, and as it kept growing stronger day by day up to the present, the Informative Processes concerning it were completed and forwarded to Rome to the Sacred Congregation of Rites. And now that all the legal requirements have been fulfilled, and the writings also of the Servant of God have been examined, since there is nothing to prevent further progress and everything is ready at the instance of the Very Rev. Hugo Descuffi, one of the Chaplains of the Pontifical Chapel, Postulator of the Cause, lately appointed to that office, in succession to the Rev. Father Alphonso Carinci, Canon of the Patriarchal Liberian Basilica and Apostolic Protonotary of the Holy Roman Church, one of the participants, and after the consideration of the Postulatory Letters of certain Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, and several Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland, England, Northern and Central America, Asia, and Africa, and other ecclesiastical and civil dignitaries, the undersigned Cardinal Antonio Vico, Bishop of Ostia and Santa Rufina, the Ponent or Relator of this Cause, proposed at the ordinary meeting of the Congregation of Sacred Rites, on the day mentioned below, the following doubt for discussion: *Should the Commission of the Introduction of the Cause be signed in the case and to the effect in question?* And upon the Report of the same Cardinal Ponent the Most Eminent and Most Reverend Fathers, after hearing the Rev. Father Angelo Mariani, the General Promoter of the Faith, and after discussing and considering everything carefully, decided, on the 15th day of March, 1921, that the answer should be that *The Commission of the Cause should be signed, if it pleased His Holiness.*

A Report of this was then made to our Holy Lord Pope Benedict XV. by the undersigned Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, and His Holiness confirmed the answer of the same Sacred Council, and signed with his own hand the Commission of the Introduction of the Cause of the Servant of God, Mary Aikenhead, Foundress

of the Institute of the Sisters of Charity in Ireland, on the 20th day of the same month and year.

† ANTONIO CARDINAL VICO,
Bishop of Ostia and Santa Rufina,
Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.
ALEXANDER VERDE,
Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

PLACE
OF THE
SEAL.

IRISH NEWS

SOUTH AFRICA AND SEPARATION.

General Hertzog, leader of the Nationalists, replying in the South African House of Assembly on May 24, to the speech of General Smuts, declared that the Nationalists maintained that there should be separation from the Empire on the part of the Dominions. Their defence system was daily being linked to the European military chain in order that in future wars South Africa should go hand-in-hand with Britain.

CASTLE LIAR CROCKED: BASIL CLARKE SHOWS SIGNS OF OVERTRAINING.

On May 19, 1921, Mr. Basil Clarke, Publicity Director at Dublin Castle, surpassed his own considerable record as a live press agent. On that date he issued from his department the following official communiqué, which the *Irish Times* (the unofficial organ of Dublin Castle) published under the heading: "Collapse of I.R.A. Battalions."

"A Sinn Féin document recently captured in Dublin shows the disorganisation among the bands of armed civilians in Co. Tipperary, caused by the arrest of their leaders by the Crown forces. The document is from John Treacy, an important official of the Sinn Féin organisation, and addressed to Michael Collins, the 'Chief of Staff.' It states:

"... Our intention was to call a meeting of all battalion and brigade officers for Sunday, March 20 (1921) ... to get matters in order somewhat, an important item being, to see that recent order re evacuated barracks is properly executed. ..."

THIS LETTER WOULD HAVE A GREATER PROPAGANDIST VALUE IF DUBLIN CASTLE HAD NOT ITSELF ANNOUNCED, IN THE PRESS OF OCTOBER 15, 1920, THAT SEAN (JOHN) TREACY HAD BEEN SHOT DEAD BY BRITISH TROOPS THE PREVIOUS AFTERNOON IN TALBOT STREET, DUBLIN—THAT IS, SIX MONTHS BEFORE HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE WRITTEN THE LETTER.

Try again, Clarke!

GENERAL SMUTS'S VIEWS.

A cable dated London, August 14, says:—

General Smuts, before sailing for home, wrote to Mr. de Valera as follows:—

"I have done my best to arrange a meeting between you and Sir James Craig, but while he is willing to meet you in conference with Mr. Lloyd George he still remains unwilling to meet you in his absence. Nothing I was able to do or say moved him from that attitude. If you request a meeting he will reply saying that Ulster will not be moved from the constitutional position which she now occupies under the existing legislation. She is satisfied with her present status and will not agree to any change. On the other hand, in your letter you insist on Ulster coming into the United Ireland Constitution, and that until that is done no further progress can be made. There is, therefore, an impasse which I do not know how to get over. Both you and Sir James Craig are equally immovable. Force as a solution of the problem is out of the question both on your and his premises, and the process of arriving at an agreement will therefore take time.

"My conviction is that for the present no solution based on Ulster's entering the Irish State can succeed. Any solution on those lines will be foredoomed to failure.

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