

America to go on supplying the sinews of war to Sinn Fein until the fight is ended and until Ireland secures from England precisely what Lloyd George's Government pledged her during the war—the freedom of a small nation oppressed by a strong power and exploited for selfish interests.

Answers to Correspondents

A. W. SEDCOTE.—No doubt everything you say is right but your letter is most difficult to read, and the writing extremely faint in patches. Consequently it was unfortunate that it came at a time when we are by no means looking for opportunities to strain our eyes.

TO SEVERAL SPRING POETS.—Nothing doing at present, or as Theophrastes hath it: *Non in hisce pantaloonibus.*

SUBSCRIBER.—An anonymous writer may be either the forger, some idiotic fidget, or even a Timaru murderer. Or worse still he may be a day-lie editor. So why should a decent man notice the rabble that sign themselves "Anzac," "Farmer," "Catholic," etc.

E.M.F.—As far as we know you are right. Certain young medical students whose brains are in inverse ratio to their conceit imagine that when they first hear the theories of a Materialist they have become so up-to-date that they can dispense with religion. Hence some of them do not even go to Mass. They do not always tell their parents the truth. Imagine Pasteur and the illustrious biologist, Sir Bertram Windle, finding in their deep knowledge of medical and biological science confirmation of their faith, while Bill Stubbs and Ozzie Hotsocks, who can hardly write English, much less translate Latin, have "discovered" their superiority to religion! It would be a farce were it not a tragedy.

H.C.—The Catholic doctrine is that every valid marriage between baptised persons is a sacrament. Marriage between Catholics being a sacred thing, the Church asserts her right to legislate thereon and to determine under what circumstances the contract may be lawful and valid. Of course a sacrament may be valid and yet be received unlawfully. The fulminations of Francis Bell, Lord Limaraddy, and the horsewhipped cad worry us no more than a fly on her horn worries a Taranaki cow. The Church has during the past two thousand years survived the attacks of more important foes than these midgets. By the way, the classical allusion to small nuisances describes them as "gnats and flies." Some of the parsonical pests might be called "midgets and—fidgets."

READER.—Yes, we saw the ill-mannered reference made by the cultured British gentleman who writes the editorials for *Granny Times* to a letter sent him by Mr. J. Robinson. But why wonder? Is not the forger another of the British gentlemen on that organ of sweetness and light, and is not the scourged parson sure of a two-column welcome whenever he comes to Dunedin to calumniate Catholics? We are not aware that any person in Dunedin considers the opinion of these British gentlemen worth two straws no matter what the subject be. When you consider how often Mr. Robinson has exposed the poor man's ignorance it is not astonishing to find genuine British reprisals in the editorial columns. What a wonderful authority on geography *Granny* is! Spike Island is in Dublin now and Millstreet is a Dublin thoroughfare! One of these days we may read in it that Shakspeare has been nominated for the position of starter by the Canterbury Jockey Club.

Give us not years but souls.—St. Francis of Assisi.

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BOOK NOTICES

The Government of Ireland, by Mrs. J. R. Green, with foreword by George Russell (A.E.). Price 6d. Labor Publishing Co., London.

The names of Mrs. Green and George Russell are a sufficient guarantee for any book falling into a reader's hands. And in this timely pamphlet those who are au courant with Irish affairs will find as much delight as the profanum vulgus that lies have so long deceived will find truth.

Thoughts for British Co-Operators, by George Russell (A.E.) Irish Homestead Ltd., Dublin.

This publication by the man best qualified to deal with the subject contains details of the sixty or more creameries deliberately destroyed by the Brithuns who tried to starve the women and children of Ireland exactly as they struck at the womb of South Africa some twenty years ago.

A Shorter Bible History, by Rev. Charles Hart, B.A. Burns and Oates, London. Price 3s 6d net.

In this well-bound manual of 350 pages teachers will find an excellent text book for higher classes in our Catholic schools. It deals with the Old and New Testaments, and each chapter presents a complete picture in itself. The introduction gives a brief and clear account of the text of the Bible. There are several useful maps included in the volume. It is a book that can be recommended to all Catholics, particularly to teachers.

A Parochial Course of Doctrinal Instructions for Sundays and Holydays, prepared and arranged by Rev. Charles Callan, O.P., and Rev. J. A. McHugh, O.P., Professors of the Theological Faculty of Maryknoll, with an introduction by Archbishop Hayes. Vol. II., Price 21s. Linehan, Melbourne.

We had the satisfaction of introducing to readers of the *Tablet* some time ago the first volume of this important work. The present volume completes the course of dogmatic instruction, and is to be followed by two more volumes of moral discourses. The same plan is adhered to by the authors. On every topic we have the doctrine of the Council of Trent Catechism, a clear division of the subject, and set sermons by leading pulpit orators. It is needless to say that the embodiment of the Trent teaching in the work gives it a special value and distinction. The sound catechist knows that there is no better basis for a homily than the text of the Catechism of the Council of Trent, which in authority and dignity stands far above the words of even the individual Fathers or Doctors of the Church. The clear order and the well arranged divisions of the matter will be useful to missionary priests, while the splendid collection of good sermons is instructive and inspiring. No more important work on the same subject has appeared for many years, and the priest who acquires it will have material for a lifetime at hand in the complete series. In a letter to the Archbishop of New York the Cardinal Secretary of State, on behalf of the Pope, expresses his admiration for the first volume and his unqualified approval of the manner in which the work has been done. In an age when dogmatic discourses are more opportune than ever the solid doctrine supplied in this course of instructions cannot be too highly praised, and a wide use of it is sure to be blessed with great results. We venture to predict that no priest will ever regret adding to his library this sound and scholarly set of volumes, for which we augur a cordial welcome among the hard-worked clergy.

Affection cannot survive indifference. It is a plant of too tender growth to be treated lightly, and a cold breath is its sure death.

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