

They tell me a young fellow of Dargan's is the most fashionable figure in Grafton Street of an afternoon. Ralph, my old friend, that grandfather of mine made a pretty mess of it when he sold Clonakilty to Castlereagh. We, who had this country as our Garden of Paradise, are jostled out of it by the Dargans, if worse still does not happen us—if we're not content to remain and take their pay. Well, it's something if we can remind this man that there is still some savor of prerogative left in us. I confess I was beginning to forget myself that there was anything wanting to the title of gentleman which a fee paid at the office of Ulster King of Arms could not purchase."

They had chatted together in a confidential corner: it was years since the Admiral's grave sweet face of courtesy had been so disturbed by the old wild blood of Navarino, and a moment afterwards he cast his eyes timidly around to see if anyone was looking;—but the fact that Lord Drumshaughlin had come to pill Humphrey Dargan could not long remain a secret. The rooms were by this time unusually full of bustle and animation. The Dargan faction was triumphant. Little Flibbert was an Iron Duke on the Field of Waterloo. He discussed the prospects of a rising with the sangfroid of an experienced statesman who created apprehensions in order to allay them with a wave of his hands. He was so knowing on the subject of Quish's murderers that it would have seemed a pity to spoil so exquisitely deep a game by catching them.

"Upon my soul, that little man takes the British Empire under his patronage more gracefully than the lady with the trident on the penny pieces," remarked a plethoric old Major who had smelt gunpowder.

"My dear fellow, why not?" said the Admiral, with a smile. "We've set up the policeman as a god over the people, and it's only even-handed justice that he should end by ordering us to our knees ourselves. Here's Mr. Hans Harman, who wants us to add Mr. Flibbert's father-in-law to our family circle, and yet we are surprised that in a country where the magistrates take their law from Head-Constable Muldudden society should begin to revolve around the Sub-Inspector."

"After all, Admiral," said Hans Harman, pleasantly, "so high-born and good-natured a man as you ought to be above objecting to a man's making his money in trade."

"What I object to is his making his character of gentleman in money," rejoined the Admiral. "If there is to be equality—by all means; but why not try the plan of making all our neighbors—the whole people—our friends and equals, instead of honoring the sordid vulgarians who have successfully plundered them?"

"Suppose we begin by balloting for the two interesting peasants who shot my bailiff the other night, and who are possibly lying inside the hedge to-night for myself?" said Hans Harman, with that growing mixture of boldness with his bonhomie which had already perplexed Lord Drumshaughlin. "But I am not sure that you will get the Club to agree with you, Admiral. Hullo, Deverell! Didn't let the sciatica frighten you, eh?" he said, gaily, turning to a dry cheese-paring of a man, who seemed to have invested all the vivacity of his life in a large family of daughters, and who had invested a considerable loan from Humphrey Dargan in the same quarter.

(To be continued.)

St. Patrick's Church, Raetihi Ireland's Crisis

Ireland's delegates in London to decide Ireland's future. Who with Irish blood and faith is not in breathless anxiety? Who does not hope that Ireland's rights will be fully recognised, and who does not fondly hope and pray that Ireland's women (the bravest of the brave) who stood on Ireland's Calvary, will witness the glory of Ireland's resurrection?

Send an offering to-day to Ireland's Patron, St. Patrick. Ask him to intercede in this crisis and secure freedom for Ireland. Send an offering for St. Patrick's Church, Raetihi.

Donations acknowledged in the *Tablet*.

Address donations to—

FATHER GUINANE,
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THE AMERICAN COMMISSION ON CONDITIONS IN IRELAND

INTERIM REPORT

(Concluded.)

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

The Religious Issue in Ireland

No examination of the Irish situation can ignore the religious issue. The Commission has, however, not included and detailed discussion of it in the main body of its report; first, because evidence of religious controversy bulks much smaller in the testimony presented to it than in popular opinion; and secondly, because it seemed peculiarly appropriate that the Protestant members should deal with the subject in view of the overwhelming predominance of Roman Catholics in Ireland and the charge sometimes heard in Protestant circles that Republican sentiment has its chief origin in ecclesiastical agitation.

Ulster Pogroms.—The only evidence before the Commission concerning serious religious controversy resulting in the destruction of life and property dealt with the Ulster riots of the summer of 1920. Unfortunately our efforts to secure testimony on these occurrences from eye-witnesses proved unavailing; neither did we have direct testimony from any member of the Orange lodges—societies devoted to the cause of Protestant ascendancy in Ulster. We did, however, have testimony from Mr. Francis Hackett, Miss Singe Toksvig, and Mrs. Annot Robinson, who visited Ulster soon after the riots. None of these is Catholic in religion; the first two are American citizens, the third is a British citizen of Scotch Presbyterian stock; only Mr. Hackett is of Irish blood.

Londonderry.—The first of the riots occurred in Londonderry. This famous old Protestant stronghold is divided about evenly between Unionists and Republicans; the council is evenly divided and the Mayor is a Sinn Féiner. Concerning the riots here the Commission received little testimony. It was alleged that although the Orangemen were the aggressors the Imperial British forces were benevolently neutral toward them and that order was restored by the Republican Government which sent in Irish Volunteers.

Belfast.—More serious rioting occurred in Belfast beginning July 21. Mr. Hackett and Miss Toksvig testified that by the end of August in recurring riots at least fifty-six people were killed. These riots between Protestants and Catholics in which Protestants were the aggressors partook of the character of Russian pogroms against the Jews. In October, 1920, Mrs. Robinson visited Ulster and found that "more than 20,000 expelled workers and their families" were existing on relief. Some of them were expelled not only from their jobs, but from their homes. The victims were predominantly Catholic though among them were Protestants suspected of "labor, socialist, or Sinn Féin sympathies." It was testified that the occasion for the outbreak of rioting was the killing of District Commissioner Smyth in Cork. Mrs. Robinson believed that a more fundamental cause for the resurgence of bigotry was the election of twenty-five men who "were not Orangemen" to the Belfast City Council whose total membership is sixty. After the election "open threats of retaliation were made by Orange leaders. . . . On July 21 inflammatory speeches were made at the gates of the shipyards and immediately after that the Orange workers turned upon their nationalist fellow-workers and expelled something like 4000 of them from the yards. Some of the men tried to swim the channel [Belfast Lough] but were met by stones on the other side so that they could not land and had to come back. Some of them spent hours in the water, some of them, of course, were killed." Orange workers refused to work with their nationalist comrades. They had the sympathy of the employers. The result was general expulsion of Catholic and Republican workers from the shipyards and linen mills which were then approaching a period of depression.

*The terms are, of course, not synonymous.

E. S. Robson

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