**NYPL Maloney IHP 10 - original**

**Alice Stopford Green to Casement**

**26 September 1914, with separate P.S. of 27 September**

**Casement note:** R at Bklyn

10 Oct 1914

5 Sandford Terrace,

Dublin,

Aug 16

My dear friend,

Your very long letter reached me today. How well I understand your sorrow! How much we miss you here. I have not written because each day made the rush of events cancel all one wd. have said the day before.

I thought the best I could do was to go to the Volunteer War Office, & try to help. Mr. Childers, on going to the Kiel canal, left his cousin & best friend Mr. Barton to carry on his work of organising the place. Mrs. Childers came over also to work. A brother & cousin of Mr. Barton's helped. All were devoted to Eoin MacNeill. We decided to take a room for him in the same office, so that he cd. see every officer who came in from the country, have all statistics & information & be a ??? in guiding the counsels, with a whole staff ready to do or find out anything he wanted. In this way we hoped to counteract the hopeless "mush" of the Prov. Com. and make MacNeill an effective power. It all broke down. In a fortnight I got him twice to the place by going to his house and dragging him down for half an hour. The most important things went on without his knowing or caring to know. At critical times no one could then find him. He sits up all night & sleeps till 12 or 1 - He is solitary & suspicious wd. trust no one. He refused a secretary. I offered any one he chose, any one of us, or B. Hobson. He refused everything. The finance of his Committee went to pieces, till they are now - is it bankrupt - or defaulting or nothing at all? ??Listuawalt sent them up £60 & dc. get no acknowledgement for weeks. After furious letters & calling in Col. Moore they got at last a receipt on an unstamped paper in an unstamped envelope. I asked personally for a cheque due from MacNeill every day for five weeks before I got it. Col. Moore's experiences are scarcely believable, and a week ago they told him, after weeks of silence to his letters, that they had no memory, & left him £40 to the bad. The disorder, neglect & chaos has been indescribable. I can't tell you all the dreadful items. All of a piece with the scandalous waste of Howth guns not yet collected & never will be. The whole thing wasted. I don't wonder now that the Gaelic League failed - alas, alas. I have been watching all this very closely in a practical way. MacNeill sees a few people from the country in his own house. He had no regard for his own party on the Committee, & told me not one of them gave him any help as showed ability. He kept away from all of us. A very solitary suspicious man. You can't think how we tried to help. I gave him from subscription money £50 he wanted to help in motoring about centres of Volunteers in Ulster. It is all lost. Nothing was done. Mr. Childers offered him a week of motor car to visit necessary centres which he wished to do. When I went to make the final arrangements he was sleeping till one - and nothing could be settled. So he never went.

Meanwhile Volunteers all over the country were falling away, disheartened, with no leader, no letters answered, worn down by sheer dreariness. We all raged and wept.

Then suddenly came the pronouncement of the 25th which you have seen by now. No one knew it was preparing. It was secretly done. The signatories declaimed they feared a raid of the others to seize their papers, put a ridiculous network of barbed wire over the kitchen area of their new place in Kildare St. On their side there was a threat to raid the military office, so all the documents were taken from that. Both parties claim to be the Prov. Co. Are there accounts? or funds? Who can use them?

What a catastrophe! A real lead against "Liberals" & politicians, a real expression of the national soul - there wd. have been a following. But what lead was there? What inspiring principle to lift our hearts & steady our judgments? And the leaders incapable of "leading" half a company of boy scouts!

Their manifesto the day before Redmond's speech - a tactical mistake anyhow. And had they any right to use your name? I don't believe you, knowing all the circumstances here, would have ??? that particular manifesto. Why should they claim you? You see how MacNeill in his solitude and chagrin had ruminated over the Redmond quarrel, till in the great crisis that is made the central point, its dreary episodes recounted and the opportunity lost of giving a rallying cry of principle - No large & plain call to the people to uplift their souls and set a national duty before them. And a summons to a convention which these men will never be able to carry out. I fancy that everywhere there will be the deep disheartenment I have seen in O'Neill, librarian of the Royal Academy, a half company commander, and of the advanced nationalists. He is thrown into amazement & gloom - paralysed with the sense that there is no leader for them. If, he says, Redmond gives any sort of lead he will have to flow him.

Then came the speeches of Asquith & Redmond = And MacNeill has spent his last shot. There is no one to answer - mavrone - A pronouncement from me now would be refused in every paper, English or Irish, except the Independent. For the moment at least - I feel too stunned by all these calamities, and by the noise of the rushing tide of lies & hypocrisies to see any way clearly. There is no use in joining these last dissuetients - they sit and talk, but they don't work, & won't work. I tried to see B. Hobson yesterday, but no one is allowed into their barricaded office. Colonel Moore could have been used for good. He has a real national sense. He liked and greatly felt for the MacNeill group. He has both affection & regard for B. Hobson. He wd. I think go any length in Nationalism and only played the Whig in a sense to keep the Prov. Com. together, and to get some work done. He was not a Redmondite, nor was a single one of his staff or workers. We were all out for a dashing policy - Mr. Childers perhaps the least understanding of the Irish position, but a sound practical worker - But MacNeill would scarcely see Col. Moore. Col. Moore on his side infuriated Redmond & Devlin by his defence of MacNeill & Hobson, and has done his very best on their behalf. Now a decision has to be faced. I think the amazing inefficiency of the advanced men has destroyed their power. It will have to be for some one else to gather up the lost souls again.

To my mind Asquith's speech was an outrage on the country - and Redmond's a diplomatic hypocrisy. I am in a sadness like yours.

"The Volunteer" shd. have been used. I wish I had written in it every week. But they gave it no help, & when it fell into scurrilous vulgarity, repudiated it. Col. Moore wanted them to use me on it, but MacNeill said he wd. take it up himself, and never did - I offered any of us to serve under him, but he only talked, delayed everything, & nothing could be done. What reconstruction could be worked up I don't know. The mists are black & thick.

All my thanks for the papers, etc. you sent me - I have not time to write more today & I have not quite read through yet the pamphlet. It will interest me very much. The Cadburys are always asking for you. This is no letter of consolation. We live and watch now from day to day. Perhaps the clouds will lift. At all times I wish you all good.

A.S. Green

**[Casement note:]** 1914 Red at Bklyn 10 Oct 1914

Sep 27

P.S. I have had news of the talk to day with Eoin MacNeill and Bulmer Hobson. It is all too tragic. They found that Redmond intended to throw them out this week, & thought it better to be first to leave. So the address was hurried. They intend to answer no attacks, & to make none, & to increase no difficulties, but to go on organizing quietly & silently. But Bulmer sees the difficulties - no able administration, no funds, no press, no means of propaganda. I give the £20 to MacNeill & asked him for it to employ Bulmer for a time to help him. I think this will be done.

Lord MacDonnell tells me Redmond has been straight. Asquith & Grey have been the awful trouble. Asquith wanted to exclude six counties for a time - But to reinstate them on otherwise. Redmond flatly refused. He will have no exclusions except by vote. That forms another method of amending. But Asquith's delays gave Carson the chance of beating Redmond by his enlistments. So the evil game goes on.

Eoin MacNeill is quite prostrate today. He needs a fortnight's silence. I will see if it can be got. Bulmer is intelligent, sagacious, ??? & good to do with.

Since Redmond is forced to take this line, by those English governors & their stupidities & indifferences, we are all plunged in difficulties. I feel those of MacNeill. In all his character comes out fine, but also his inefficiency in dealing with men. Please never think that in him I criticise more than that. It is a sorry trial to us all - we know the end - God help us but the means are hard to get at. But they are good men in this country.

ASG.