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DR. MILLER AND PEACE IN IRELAND.

TERMS OF CO-OPERATION.

RECENT MURDERS CONDEMNED.

The annual Synod of the Waterford Diocese was held at Waterford yesterday.

The Right Reverend Robert Miller, D.D., Bishop of Cashel and Emly, in his opening address, said:—

It is pleasant to be able to record that there have not been any changes amongst our clergy during the past year. Amongst the laity we deeply regret that Mr. Alexander Nelson has, owing to advancing years, retired from membership of our Diocesan Synod, and consequently relinquishes the offices which he has held for many years. We shall greatly miss his wise counsel, and his keen interest in everything relating to Church affairs. We earnestly trust that the blessing of peace may rest upon him.

The Diocesan Council during the past year has been actively engaged in the financial affairs of the diocese. A complete scheme has been drawn up for the augmentation of clerical incomes and presented to the Commissioners appointed by the General Synod. We have reason to believe that the recommendations of the Diocesan Council will be confirmed except in a very few cases, which are left open for final decision after the various parochial representatives have been heard by the Commissioners. It is impossible that there should be perfect unanimity as regards all those intricate matters, but it is only just to our Council to say that they have given the most careful attention to the wishes of each parish, and, as far as possible, acceded to the requests made to them. The success of the scheme is largely owing to the Archdeacon of Lismore, whose patience, ability, and mastery of detail are worthy of the highest recognition.

The improvement in the financial position of the clergy is most helpful from every point of view. We may accept it as an evidence of the interest which our people feel in the work of the Church, and of the value which they attach to the ministry. When it is also remembered that this financial work, sound, wholesome and permanent, was brought to completion in a year of extreme unrest, and even of grave anxiety, we may accept it as a welcome indication of trust in Divine leading.

IRELAND'S FUTURE.

Speaking of political unrest leads on to the consideration of our position in this country in the future. We are Irishmen, lovers of our country, and with a keen desire to further its highest and best interests. It is no exaggeration to say that we are willing to make great sacrifices in the interests of peace and progress, and that we are most anxious to work with our fellow-countrymen of all classes and creeds towards that end. The memories of the past, however, have been a blight upon the country's progress, and have kept in existence feelings of suspicion and distrust which have hitherto rendered it impossible for the country to become united or to deserve in any way the application of the name "national."

It cannot be denied that this accurately represents the present and past condition of Ireland. To answer the question, who is to blame, would only tend to increase the antagonism which already exists; therefore, it is better for Irishmen to ask the question: What are we to do in order that harmony may be established in the country and the principles of Christianity become active amongst all the parties in Ireland?

It is, unhappily, true that there is no history in Ireland. All the events of the past three centuries are living vital facts. So far as the people of the present day are concerned, all these events are happening to-day. The time has come when leaders of public opinion, and those responsible for the instruction of the youth of the country, must realise, first, the folly of trying to unite a country by dividing the people into opposite camps; and, second, the wickedness of attempting to bring about national progress by instilling hate.

PRINCIPLES OF PEACE.

We are looking towards the dawn to-day of brighter days; therefore it is essential that there should be a clear understanding of the principles upon which we are prepared to try and assist our brethren in Ireland to build up a united and peaceful country. First, we must learn to know each other. The children of this country must no longer become a prey to faction, but must be taught in their daily intercourse, one with the other, mutual toleration, the want of which is so marked a feature of Irish life to-day. We, who represent the minority in the South and West, have, therefore, a perfect right to say to those who claim the control of our destinies—Will you join us in our efforts to destroy faction by bringing our young people together and inspiring them with united zeal for the progress of their country?

The second point which ought to be emphasized is our demand for justice, pure and undefiled, without regard to position or creed; and here let me say that I have no wish to go back upon the past, or to stir up memories which would militate against peace; but within the past three days we have been informed of an event so shocking, so utterly brutal, so opposed to the first principles of justice, that I cannot pass it by.

THE MURDER OF MRS. LINDSAY.

I refer to the murder of Mrs. Lindsay, a personal friend of my own and a near relative of a member of my flock. The whole Christian world was shocked when during the last war the news came that Nurse Cavell had been shot by the Germans after a trial at which she was represented by counsel and found guilty. During her last moments she was attended by her clergymen. To-day we hear for the first time of a lady of 60 years of age, kind, charitable to the highest degree, taken from her house at one o'clock in the morning, tried and executed, without defence, without a friend, without the consolations of religion.

I know nothing about the charge against her, but, knowing Mrs. Lindsay, I can say that if the charge alleged against her—that of giving information to the police of an ambush in preparation for them—is well founded, her only object can have been to save life and not to destroy it; further, that the acts in which these poor men were engaged when they were arrested were these for which one of their most prominent bishops had pronounced a sentence of excommunication, because, as he declared, they were acts of murder.

There is one redeeming feature about this hideous awfulness, and that is that the man who wrote the defence evidently knew nothing about the act, and is evidently bitterly ashamed of it. He speaks of a "stern necessity" in order to preserve the lives of others—a stern necessity which was kept an absolute secret until it had to be dragged into the light five months after.

EARNEST DESIRE FOR CO-OPERATION.

We ask, therefore, to-day for a full repudiation from those in authority of this bestial action. If it is defended, we can only say that there is a fundamental difference of opinion between people as to what justice consists of, but we are persuaded of better things, for it would be impossible to associate those of the leaders we know with foulness of this kind.

As to the perpetrators of it, we turn from them with loathing, disgust, and abhorrence, and in leaving them we remind them of another trial at which their presence will be a "stern necessity," and when the Judge of all the earth will pronounce the sentence: "Depart, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his angels."

We ask again, therefore: Will you be prepared to treat us with justice without regard to position or creed? Further, will you allow us to work with you for the furtherance of the good of the country?

In the past there may have been reasons for our exclusion from public life, which those who excluded us thought sufficient; but with a new Government, to which we are quite willing to render loyal support, we would have a right to claim a full share in the Government's responsibilities.

It is possible that out of all this welter of blood and tears there may arise a new Ireland founded upon the eternal principles of truth and righteousness. We who love our Motherland will continue to pray earnestly that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established amongst us.