

Liam de Roister

1914.

La Samra: Oia Doming : Sunday, November 1st. 2 p.m.
 2, Spaid Bpizoe, 1 zaiain Copcaze. : All Saints Day.

The desire to record impressions, ideas, opinions, to note facts and situations in this remarkable year has at last taken shape in this beginning. It is some five ^{years} since I ceased keeping a diary. Many a time and oft have I thought of taking up its writing again. Laziness at one time: stress of work at another time prevented me. Sometimes a sense of - is it humility? For, I imagine, recording in writing one's thoughts and ideas develops an individuality in one that at times tends to vanity. Yet, I found the practice good in the past. There is this about it too it gives a chance of reasoning with oneself at times and of trying to understand oneself. I find it my misfortune, perhaps a common one, to be generally misunderstood. Perhaps I also misunderstand myself and the practice of writing down ideas and impressions helps to clear away the misunderstandings with oneself somewhat.

There have been many things worthy of note in my life during the past five years: eventful things in

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II

Cork City and County Archives

La Samina:- the world around me of which I would have wished to make a written record. They have passed, gone to the land of oblivion to where time takes most things. Other things in which I was interested have passed into current history and some things, such as the Irish Volunteer movement, will live for years and years to come.

But this is a wonderful year: a remarkable, an exciting, a disturbing year. Sometimes inspiring events have occurred and are occurring: sometimes terrible, awful, saddening, soul crushing, mind-benumbing events. There are hopes, hopes high as the stars for those who love Ireland. But dangers too and despair. Why, there is even danger for an individual like myself in recording here some of my ideas and hopes! Men are no longer masters of themselves, ^{of their} ~~with~~ ^{mind} ~~and~~ ^{now} bodies. The huge giant-state or government claims them. It is no longer in the sphere of action men are not free. The expression of thought, of ideas, of ideals is attended with dangers.

The Great War has come: as indications go to-day we may say the Great World War. This is the year of the Great War to be memorable for all time to all men while records last. There is no doubt of this, not

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La Samina:- a shadow of doubt.

^{In} its character, in the extent of operations, in the number of men and nations engaged, in the forces displayed, on land, on sea, in the air, under the waters - it is indeed a Great War and a remarkable one. The cause was relatively small: a spark to a conflagration: the interests at stake, from some points of view are insignificant, but in all other things this War is overwhelming, beyond the ~~biggest~~ highest flights of those who imagined what the Great War was to be. For, amidst all the time of ^{comparative} peace of the last hundred years and amidst all the preachings of peace and amidst all the dreams of the peacemakers and the prophecies of the false prophets who wished to think of universal peace, when the big powers that were could enjoy without disturbance what they had plundered, there was no doubt whatever that a big struggle was inevitable. Many, many false theories have been blown sky high within the last few months: many more are in the course of being blown sky high. This essential truth should now be apparent to every false prophet and every muddled thinker and theorist - that men are to-day as they ever were, that nations are distinct entities

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La Samina:- not merely numbers of men; that race and blood relationship of races ^{are} a greater factor than economic relations or commercial ties.

All last summer, through the autumn, into the winter, the after-glow of sunset, the zodiacal light, was remarkable. Entrancing and enchanting it often was. I heard no one remark on it; but often and often I wondered had such an appearance, occurring so clearly and so frequently, any meaning. It was strange to myself that I took it to be a portent of something that was to happen, something beyond the ordinary but while such an idea was impressing itself more and more on my mind, in spite of my "commonsense", I had not the faintest notion, not the shade of a shadow of an idea, what the something extraordinary was to be.

Ópaluain, 2aó Lá De-ín na Samina. I nÓpicead na bandan Dom. 10.10 p.m. Here am I in the one time "Orange town of Bandon," near the Bandon river. It is a glorious, golden night, with a full moon high in the sky. Along the river valley is a haze that looks

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Nov. 2:- yellow in the moon's light. I can hear the sound of the river: a low, monotonous sound. This is a pretty well kept town with many decent houses and is very pleasantly situated in a very pleasant country - the valley of the Bandon. The history of the town and district is an epitome of the history of Ireland. The battle of Orange and Green here may be said to be a drawn one - the Orange is not the ascendancy it once was; the Green not so aggressive, not so defiant as formerly. The town is said to be decaying, still there are many signs of activity. Many here no doubt would contest my argument were I to assert that the decay of Bandon, as an item in the decay of Ireland, is attributable primarily to foreign rule. No country can thrive that is governed by another people, by an alien government, in the aliens' interest. The decay of Ireland industrially is primarily, I say, due to English Government, and Bandon decays because Ireland decays. "Ap yeaí a cille maean na Daoine" is an old and true saying. Primarily, I said, because there are

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Nov. 2. many, many things we could have done in Ireland ourselves, no matter what kind our Government was. But the Self Reliance idea- the ^{Fin}Sinn Féin policy- is anathema to the orthodox, abhorred, derided, scoffed at. Having died, as many of us who believed the idea good thought, Sinn Féin has lately been resurrected by its enemies to be made a cockshot of. But that is too long a story for me to embark on at this present moment. Enough to say those who are using the term do not evidently understand the idea. To me, and I may fairly claim to know, Sinn Féin is equivalent to Self Reliance and surely, surely, Self Reliance in a people is not a vain, a foolish, an idiotic, an absurd thing, a chimera, a thing to be derided, scoffed at, hit at as if it were an unclean thing, a dangerous reptile. Many good Irish people have made a bogey of Sinn Féin and duly shudder at their own bogey.

Thus far my wandering ideas. What of the World War to-day? This, it is extending. Turkey is in it now. Ominous, as the papers- those parcels of pointed lies- say. In this, however, they probably

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Nov. 2: - utter truth. Ominous, for Turkey will probably declare a Holy War of Islam. Then, out with all good Mahomedans, in India, in Egypt, in Asia Minor, in North Africa. Out and out go the circles of conflict to break on the most distant shores. This year, 1914, is the true Annus Mirabilis- the Wonderful Year. One would think we in Ireland, when, from purely domestic causes, we, last November-December, started our Irish Volunteers, had a fore-knowledge of what was to be. The usual course in Ireland in the past seems to have been that war-like movements abroad in Europe stimulated the fighting spirit at home. Such seemed to be the case in 1798, in 1830, in '48, in '64. This time, however, it looks as if Ireland were beforehand. We were speaking in war terms here months- in the North of Ireland years- before the Great War began. The world is evidently at one of the big changes in its history: how big no man can say. Or, may it be possible it will all collapse leaving no very great permanent results? Such things seem to have happened too.

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Saimin 3. 11.15 p.m. West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen. This is "a wandering sort of a life" I lead as itinerant Commercial Instructor under the Co. Cork Technical Instruction Committee. Bandon last night: Skibbereen to-night: Kinsale, Kinsale, to-morrow night. A wandering sort of life; pleasant withal; with its own temptations, dangers, inconveniences; affording excellent opportunities indeed for study of mankind in railway carriages, in hotels and such like. My moods vary: sometimes taciturn, sometimes loquacious; firm at one time, a creature of impulse at another; having a reputation of steadiness withal, I believe.

To-night is a glorious night too, pleasanter than last night, a bright moon, an eerie fog o'er the valley, white, slow-moving clouds, forming very distinct, fantastic shapes. A night for dreams and thoughts were one abroad. A night of calm, of quiet, of peace.

"On such a night as this Troilus methinks
did mount the Trojan walls
And sighed his soul towards the Grecian hills
Where Cressid lay that night"

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Nov. 3. Lines from the immortal William, or from some immortal, come naturally to one on "such a night as this." I often think of them, ^{immortals} or such a night as this, singing

"We are the music makers and we are the dreamers of dreams
Wandering by lone sea breakers or sitting by desolate streams
World losers and world forakers on whom the pale moon gleams
Yet we are the movers and shakers of the world for ever it seems."

I have wound those lines into many things I have written and spoken. They seem so true to me, so charged with meaning, expressing a great truth, I cannot forbear using them as the answer in my soul to the ignorantly worldly-wise who think this world is built on ^{alone} money, and supported by all that money stands for. I never tire of emphasising to myself that there are two natures in man and this fact - for fact it is - seems to me to explain everything men say, or do: men individually or men in groups or nations, states, or empires. The spiritual is unquestionably the greater, the better, the higher, the more glorious, the eternal: its development should be the ^{chief} desire of every soul. But, while men are men, not ~~these~~ bodied spirits, the material too; the body; needs some attention and development.

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Sarranin. 4a: - 10.35 p.m. 1 Seana Conn eSáile Dom. In old, historic Kinsale, place of disaster for the Irish nation, of whose sturdy boatman Davis sang. A queer, quaint old town: one time depending almost entirely on the fishing industry which is now decaying, if not already dead. It is now catering more for the agricultural community around than it did formerly. I hated the town when I first came here, but I have grown to like it, it is such a rambling, up-hill, down dale kind of a place, with its very steep ascents and its very narrow streets. It once had the honour of returning a member to the Irish Parliament to represent it. My friend, Seamus Breathnach, has written many stories of the place and its surroundings and publishes them too. Seamus himself is a genius of the place. A working mason, often idle, poorly paid, he is an excellent writer of stories and gifted with imagination. Had he a patron or were he pordid he would probably rise to great things. But, he is a true-hearted, patriotic Irishman of the Fenian principle. Hence he writes for love and of the old land and the old stories and gains little, either of fame or shekels. He went to jail once for the principle of

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Sarranin. 4: - having Irish names recognised on dog licences. Such a thing was, and is, I believe, "agin' the law", though I succeeded in getting mine on one year and never paid ^{for} a licence after as "the authorities" would not "recognize" my name in Irish again and were afraid I suppose to proceed against me seeing the weight of logic and argument would be so much in my favour! And, this very day, I see in that strongly pro-British organ "The Cork Examiner" that the English War Office has issued a notice to the effect that soldiers on duty may use Welsh, Gaelic (of Scotland), English, or Irish! Marvellous! Yet, an Irishman's name in Irish on a donkey cart is this very day illegal and the National Board of Education would penalize a national school teacher who "spoke Irish on duty!" We can only conclude 'tis another symptom of these topey turny times. Soldiers are needed in the battle lines of the Continent and to get soldiers - or the makings of soldiers - many queer things will have to be done if it is evident.

To-day we does not know whether Sick Man Turkey is in or out of the Great War. It looks as if Russia wants him in and England wants him out. Quite understandable this to students of history. Russia has

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Nov. 4.:- long coveted Constantinople: England does not at all wish this. nor does France. The Crimea war was fought to prevent it. Russia evidently thinks her chance has come now to realize her dream of taking the key of the Bosphorus: the key of the East and West. If she succeeds, and if Germany is beaten, Europe is in for a high old time for the next hundred years. Western European civilization and West European Christianity will have a fight it has not known since the days of Charlemagne. The Germans are evidently as marvellous in diplomacy as they are in war if it is they indeed who have thrown in this Turkish problem between the three big allies.

SEPT. 11: 5:- 11.10 p.m. Scripín. another gloriously bright moonlit night: a deep blue sky and soft, fleece-like masses of cloud moving slowly across it, lit up by the moonlight as they pass. cold: with a mist over the river Glen and along the marshes. So much for the night.

Sick Man Turkey is now definitely in the War, on the side of Germany and Austria and against the All-ies. What this will mean who can tell? The countries now definitely in the fighting are - Germany, Austria-Hungary,

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Nov. 5. Serbia, France, Russia, Belgium, Japan, Montenegro, the British Empire, German colonies and protectorates, Egypt and Turkey. On the border line Portugal, Greece and perhaps, Bulgaria, Roumania, and Italy. How many more before the end? It would not be surprising if U.S.A. were to find cause to quarrel though, commercially, it looks as if its best policy were to keep out. It will ^{keep out} ~~be~~ no doubt if England's sea policy does not provoke it. Evidently this old world is in for great changes. Is it the beginning of the end or are these only the periodic changes that mark the decay of old civilizations and the rise of new ones? One hundred years ago all Europe was in a ferment, shivering at the shadow of the great Napoleon. 1815 - he was smacked and Europe settled down again with its Holy alliances and its Concert of Powers. The French Revolution has left permanent results: Napoleon, after all his battles and his victories, his smashings of old states and settings up of new, only a great name. The individual general or commander does not count so far in this war: the individual seems lost in the Army or Navy Council. Yet, no doubt, out of it the individual great men will arise, be known and remembered.

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Nov. 5. How weak some of its upholders must believe the British Empire to be! Down in Spike Island in Cork Harbour a poor, lame shoemaker, a young man of 23 years, yesterday and to-day is being tried by court-martial because (1) He uttered some words supposed to be pro-German and (2) He handed a copy of "Irish Freedom" to a soldier stationed at Shanbally camp. The result I know not: I expect he will be convicted and get some months - probably twelve - imprisonment. The evidence is fairly enough and the chief witness confesses himself a liar "under orders". But, that's no matter. Michael Murphy, the shoemaker, 23, poor, lame, will be sacrificed "to strike terror"! Such are the ways of Empires.

Saturday 8- 5 p.m. 2 Spáid Brúicé Naomha. Murphy, mentioned above, was acquitted. To an ordinary observer, it would have been impossible to have found him guilty on the evidence submitted. The evidence of two sergeants of the Linnet Regiment from Shanbally Camp was so clearly in his favour there was no case. The soldier who swore against him confessed himself, on oath, a liar. One result, however, of the affair, is likely to be an attempt at suppression

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Nov. 8.:- of "Irish Freedom" under plea perhaps of contempt of the court-martial court, as "Freedom" comments on the trial in its number. But His Britannic Majesty's Government is acting very carefully regarding the anti-English papers. Evidently one would say did ^{one} not know it is from motives of policy the Government is acting, not from a charitable feeling of leniency. Ireland has been represented to the world as being loyal to England. Did a hint of suppression of Irish papers go abroad it would show that Ireland ~~is~~ is not as loyal as it has been represented. This, among other things, is I fancy the cause of the leniency.

Though the daily press is, without exception, strongly pro-British, in fact, "more English than the English themselves", Ireland was never better served than at present with "Nationalist" weekly papers, all of them catering for a different clientèle. "The Leader" - always moderate and claiming to be sensible, circulates amongst priests, business men and professional men who are not absolutely hide-bound party men. "Sion Fém" has a general circulation - troubled in Cork within the past month or so. "The Irish Worker" - James Larkin's organ, edited at

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Nov. 8:- the present moment by James Connolly while Larkin is in America, is the Transport Workers paper and the paper of the city working classes generally. It stands for Socialism and Syndicalism, though not so prominently just now as formerly. "The Irish Volunteer" up to three weeks ago, when an offshoot of the "Freeman's Journal" - the "National Volunteer" - was established, was the organ of the whole Volunteer movement. "Freedom", is unfortunately only a monthly, but I believe its circulation is abnormal, though it has been steadily increasing during the four years of its existence. It is the frankly separatist paper. "An Claidream Soluis" too, though circulation is small and it has been trying valiantly up to this week's issue, to keep as true as possible to the non-political rule of Compaís na Saoilge, may be ranked as ^{macSáibéir} 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 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Nov. 8:- the weekly country-town papers are also true to the old tradition of Irish nationality, and in the reckoning also some magazines, like the "Catholic Bulletin" must be taken into account as "for Ireland alone", neither pro-Russian nor pro-English. To crown all, since last Monday, ^{small} a daily four page sheet "Eire-Ireland" is coming out of "Freedom" office. I expect it can be only temporary but it will have good work done in two or three months. The weight of numbers and bulk of paper is on the pro-English side, but there can be no question that in literary style, in vigour, in patriotism, in truth, the little fighting organs of Ireland vastly excel. Indeed there is no comparison in ability or patriotism or truth between them and the "heavy ones."

It is announced to-day that Tsing-tau, a German fortress on the coast of China has fallen at the hands of the Japanese. There is tumultuous rejoicing in Tokio. Quite justifiably so, from the Japanese point of view. The fall of Tsing-tau shows the "yellow man" that he is a match for the "Whites" of western Europe. The defeat of Russia a few years ago taught the lesson to Japan that the Asiatics could stand up to Europeans.

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Nov. 8: - They profited by the lesson. Now, they have stood up again and to a western European power and they have won. Well may they rejoice in Tokio. The ^{western} European races may look out if Germany and Austria are crushed by Russians and Japanese; particularly if the latter are successful. It is very likely however that the United States will have something to say if Japan goes well on the road of conquest.

Saturday 9. Dia Luin. Spáid Bpíste. 2.15 p.m. "It is a time to test men's souls". That is Mr. John B. Redmond's phrase. It is one of the truest things Redmond ever said and, of my own personal knowledge, he has said many untrue things lately. It is a time to test men's souls. Many a reputation in Ireland is being broken. Many a "little big man" is showing his littleness. Many a man that ~~sp~~ rang true for years to the old ideal of Irish Nationality is ringing false to-day. I met an old friend to-day. He did not exactly ring false to Irish nationalist principles so he and I understood them. But he counselled a policy of "carefulness" that I never expected of him. For, in other times, I have reason to think he often found fault with me because I have a quiet manner, not the

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Nov. 9: - straight, hit-the-head-of-your-enemy-when-ever you see it one. John Mitchel was his ideal: "principle" his cry: aggressiveness his method. To-day, his advice was for giving in, in certain directions. Another friend of the old days of the Celtic Literary Society - how far away in some respects those days seem, though in years 15 is the limit of them - has "gone wrong", as we say. He is out for "jobs" now, frankly so, and in this is honest at least. Well, well, such things are, were and will be.

Sunday 10: Oíchead na Bannóran. 11 a.m. "The History of the Irish Volunteers of 1914" is yet to be written. Whatever the future of the Volunteers, the history of them in 1914 should prove entertaining. From time to time here I intend to jot down a few records of things that happened that may help a future historian should such a one ever come across this record of mine. My personal observations were confined principally to Cork city, but I was in a position to know of things occurring at Headquarters in Dublin too; in Cork county and south of Ireland generally. My personal narrative of events in Cork city may prove of interest some time to the public - I know a written record would prove of interest to

Nov. 10:- myself, "when the days of peace return", if, in God's mercy, I am alive and well.

That it was the Ulster Volunteer movement gave the opportunity for the formation of the Irish Volunteers is beyond dispute. Under English law in Ireland to drill men was, and is, illegal and unconstitutional. "To form fives" to the order of a squad commander was a crime punishable by law. To have arms in one's house, except for shooting crows, was highly illegal. To talk in terms of physical force was, at the least, treason felony. Many a man in Ireland during the last century went to penal servitude for those "crimes". But, when the Government seemed determined to carry Home Rule for Ireland, Sir Edward Carson and the leaders of the Orangemen of Ulster began not alone to talk in terms of physical force, but to translate their words into actions by organizing the Ulster Volunteers to resist the Home Rule Act of the English Government by force of arms. To the surprise of many in England, to the surprise of none, I should think, in Ireland, as Irishmen are familiar with the peculiar ways of English Governments in Ireland, the liberal Government allowed the Ulstermen

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Nov. 10:- to go on in their "illegal" course.

Sabin 12 p.m. i.e. midnight. Seeing that the Government allowed drilling and arming in the North of Ireland to proceed and seeing that such drilling and arming apparently were having a big effect on English politicians and the English people in the way of showing the earnestness of "Ulster's" resistance to Home Rule many Irish Nationalists began to think an opportunity had occurred for Irish Nationalists to resurrect, as it were, the old idea of physical force for the achievement of Irish freedom. To men like myself who always believed that an enslaved nation is justified in endeavouring to obtain its freedom by force of arms and who believe that English Government in Ireland is maintained by force, this appeal to force in the North, in the South, or by the Government itself, was only in the natural order of things. That it would be necessary at some time to appeal to force, even to show the English Government and the English people that we were in earnest in the demand for self government, was, with some Irish Nationalists, an axiom.

1914

XXII

N
 Saman Naó:- Cionn-Saile- 10.45 p.m. The only great item of importance connects with the war in to-day's papers is the capture and destruction of the "Gorden," a German cruiser that had been doing some marvellous feats in the Indian Ocean. Notwithstanding all she had done her fate was undoubtedly to be caught. Russian, Japanese, French, English and Australian war ships were on her track.

To resume about the Volunteers - The notion that the opportunity for Ireland to form an armed force was come was in many minds; when the Ulster Volunteers, in defiance of English law and under a Liberal Government, were allowed to arm. It was not the "physical force men", however, brought the idea to a head: it was a combination of men of various parties and schools of thought. A start was made in Dublin this time twelve months by a

25th
 Nov. 1913

great public meeting in the Rotundo. It has recently been claimed, and evidently wrongly so, that the movement started in Athlone. Certainly there was a small paragraph in the papers about June or July of 1913 to the effect that a Volunteer Corps of over 1000 men

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1914

Nov. 11:- were drilling in Athlone as a counterblast to Sir Edward Carson's Volunteers. I heard all about the matter this last August at the Civic Exhibition in Dublin from a Technical teacher of Athlone. The whole affair existed in the mind of a journalist of the town after a "booze"! The thing was discussed in a public-house. It captured the imagination of the journalist. He sent a "par." to the papers and we all saw the paragraph. That was Athlone's contribution to the idea.

The country was undoubtedly ripe for the idea. Dublin had only begun when a few of us were discussing the thing seriously in Cork. I felt, and I know others felt with me, that the thing was too big to be started by a few men: that all Irish Nationalists ought combine to make the beginning and work the idea to a success. "An Irish Volunteer Army" - the very idea was appealing. "To defend the rights and liberties of Ireland" - that was the object. The Tory Party in England and the onerous of Irish freedom had appealed to force - could Ireland not reply by force? Certainly yes. Having denounced Carson's tactics as bluff and being tied to a "constitutional" and "moral force" programme we felt that Mr. Redmond and

1914.

Nov. 11. - the chief men of the Irish Parliamentary Party could not well countenance a Volunteer movement, but that such a movement, independent of them, would be of the greatest benefit to their cause: and, if they failed, owing to the machinations of the English politicians, well, the Volunteers, an armed force, would be there to see justice done to Ireland. I wrote a letter to a prominent O'Brienite Co. Councillor whom I believed to be a good nationalist and an independent-minded man and whom I thought would have influence amongst men outside his own party, asking him to take some steps to set things going in Cork. His reply, full of party bias and bitterness, astonished me. I expected better of him. J. H. Fawcitt, Secretary of the Cork Industrial Development Association and myself discussed the matter a few times. He got talking to J. J. Walsh, Chairman Cork Co. Board, G.A.A. The Gaelic Athletic Association in my mind was the very body to take up the Volunteer movement. It was a non-party association. Its members were the athletes of the country. It was founded in a sort of training ground for an Irish army. The Cork Co. Board, however, did not take up the matter. Walsh, an energetic man, did. He wrote to Goin Mac Neill.

1914.

Nov. 11. MacNeill promises to come to Cork. Fawcitt, Walsh, myself, and a few others met and arranged the day, hour, and place for a public meeting - Sunday, 14th December, 1913, City Hall, Cork, 8 p.m. I remember Sunday was chosen because I could not attend any other night, and it was arranged that Walsh, Fawcitt and myself would speak - Walsh to preside as representing the G.A.A., Fawcitt to read Manifesto; I to propose a vote of thanks to Goin MacNeill, as a member of the Gaelic League.

Sunday 12. Scriabin 11.30 p.m. To continue the narrative above - We were convinced that the Volunteers ought to be non-party and we considered ourselves as men not attached to any party in Cork - Redmondite, O'Brienite, or Unionist. Sinn Féin as a political organisation had ceased to exist for years. We knew Cork was a very difficult place to work a non-party, yet nationalist organisation, in. There were two choices open to us for emphasising the non-party character of the Volunteers - either to have a speaker from ^{each} ~~both~~ sides - O'Brienite and ~~was~~ Redmondite - or to have no party speakers. How this was decided in meeting I do not recollect, but I know this happened - Canon O'Neill of Kinsale was asked to come

1914.

Nov. 12. - and speak, as one identified in the public mind with the O'Brienites and John J. Morgan, Esq., being asked as one belonging to the Redmondites and Ancient Order of Hibernians (B.O.F.).

It was decided to call the public meeting by ticket only. The names on the ticket were - J. J. Walsh, J. H. Fawcett, Maurice O'Connor (^{Law} a student of University College, Cork - since a solicitor - whom we knew to be a Hibernian) and Brian de Roiste. Bundles of tickets were sent to every G.A.A. club, every national, political, and other society and organisation in Cork city and neighbourhood.

Saturday 19. 3.40 p.m. 2 Spinnies Bridge. Some things are developing in Ireland: slowly, not rapidly. There was a debate in the English House of Lords last night on "Sedition" in Ireland. Spies, pro-Germans, German funds and such things were mentioned. The Lord Mayor of Dublin's remark, recently made at a meeting of Dublin Corporation, ^{about} ~~1914~~ German money being in the hands of the "hiss Finns", was drawn up by the Earl of Meath. He said Earl said one very good thing - "he was convinced for some time past that no one in Ireland was responsible for any thing at all". Not very clear English that but

1914.

Nov. 19. still understandable. He means, I believe, that no Government rules in Ireland, which is partly true. The Irish people at present are really living by the law of the Ten Commandments. Dublin Castle seems in confusion. The British Government has enough on hands in Great Britain. The Naval and military authorities have their eyes on Germany. But no doubt, in a very short time, Dublin Castle will strike out, "to show ^{that} ~~it~~ still it lives". There was a general feeling among the noble lords that the "sedition" papers in Ireland ought to be suppressed. The spokesman of the Government said (I think) that the Government were considering the matter. (Evidently so, as yesterday's paper announces that Mr. Chief Secretary Bissell had arrived in Dublin). Lord Meath also stated that Irish ^{fishing} boats, or boatmen had helped the Germans to lay mines on the north coast of Ireland. Lord Greve, the Govt. spokesman, said that was "a novel theory". Hitherto the English Admiralty believed those mines were laid by "neutral" rebels. Now, I don't believe this "novel theory" for a moment, but evidently "the one bright spot" is

~~XXVIII~~1914.

Nov. 19:- becoming clouded in some English statesmen's eyes.

Saturday 24. I noticed on Barton Com. last night a torchlight procession passed the Technical School where I teach with bands playing the Dead March. It was to honour the memory of Allen, Larkin, and O'Brien who were judicially murdered by the English at Manchester on the 23rd November, 1867. Allen was a Bandon man.

His people lived on Kiebrogan Hill in this town, I believe. His memory then is still honoured in his native place. We are a very queer people, we Irish.

Next Sunday the Martyr's celebration is to be held in Cork city. Redmond's Volunteers are to take part in it, as no doubt many of Redmond's followers took part in the celebration here last night. They honour these men - nay, in honouring the Manchester Martyrs they mean to honour the whole Fenian movement - they honour those men who believed in and worked for and died for an Irish Republic! And in the next breath they will declare themselves loyal to England and the British Empire and howl down as "factionists" the Fenians of to-day!

~~XXIX~~1914.

Nov. 24:- We are a strange people in some ways, truly. Those celebrations in honour of the Manchester martyrs are likely to be kept this year on, if anything, a larger scale than for many years past. And this at a time when all the political leaders of the Irish people are declaring loyalty to the English connection - the very opposite to what the Fenians stood for. We honour the Fenians. Yet thousands of young Irish men calling themselves Nationalists are going out to fight for England and the British Empire. How is it to be explained? It is difficult to explain. I think it arises from a sort of muddled belief that the Fenians were only working for Home Rule, that is, for Irish self-government within the Empire. There is a great deal of buziness on matters of principle over the Irish public mind. It seems to me that most Irish people are moved rather by instinct than by principle, and to a lesser degree by sentiment. We are supposed to be the sentimental race par excellence. This is a mistake. We are only sentimental consistent with other things.

1914.

Nov. 24:- I have rambled away from some of the points I intended to note when I sat down. Sunday was a day of great exertion with me: yesterday of exhaustion. I was out with the Irish Volunteers on Sunday. We made a good show, some 150 or 20 of us, all armed with rifles, a cycle corps of about 20, a green flag, and an ambulance. We marched about 20 miles, having manoeuvres on the way: attacking and defending parties; jumping ditches, running across ploughed fields, scouting and so on. It was a gloriously fine day, hard and dry with a keen north east wind.

Redmond's Volunteers had a review and presentation of colours in the University College Athletic Grounds on the Mardyke the same day. Cork city and county corps, Boy's Brigade and a nurse's corps were present.

There was, I understand, a very large crowd of spectators. One of themselves told me, while it looked well and picturesque, it was truly all a farce and a show. Mr. William Redmond, M. P. accompanied by Colonel Maurice Moore, presented the colours, which were blessed by Rev. Fr. Russell, Chaplain to the A.O.H. (B.O.B.), Cork.

XXXT

1914.

Nov. 24:- The speeches made by Mr. Redmond and others on Saturday night - at a demonstration - and on Sunday at the review were very mild compared with the usual utterances and no very great fault could be found with them. The Volunteers are probably having an effect in toning down the "oratory" of the politicians. Mr. Redmond, Col. Moore, and the "Cork Examiner" complain that the numbers of the Cork corps are not at all what they should be.

I was informed ~~the~~ Cork city and suburbs mustered half a battalion - about 240 men - and the "Examiner" report names 4 companies with their captains definitely, though it calls the corps a regiment! Some of the country contingents had wooden guns.

Good hearted fellows these beyond a doubt. What a pity to see them playacting this at such a serious time in Ireland's history.

When I develop my story of the Cork Volunteers - broken off on page XXXI - it will be seen how the two bodies of Volunteers in Cork came about.

I am not versed in church rules, but it seems to me as a Catholic a very curious thing, almost a scandal, to have the colours presented on Sunday blessed with all the

XXXII.

1914.

N Nov. 24. solemnity of a church ceremony. Redmond's Volunteers are not a regular army: are not even a national army. They are a partly armed band attached to a political party. No one denies that they are, as a body, good, honest men, with many good Catholics among them. But, is it in accordance with Church discipline and rules, to bless the colours of an armed political party? And the men of that armed party are being appealed to daily to desert those very colours and join the English army! It is to me a very topsy-turvy, bun or corn situation and I don't profess to understand it. When all the Volunteers were united there certainly was a justification, for we made a national army; but now being in two camps, neither the Irish Volunteers nor the National Volunteers can, at present, claim to be a national army in the true sense. I suppose 'tis all right - a blessing is good at any time - but I confess I am puzzled at the rights and wrongs of the matter of blessing those colours.

It may be said that our manoeuvres on Sunday were also playacting, as I termed the review playacting. They may be called so, but no man who took part in them could

XXXIII.

1914.

Nov. 24:- thick so. To march 20 miles; to jump hedges and ditches, to run across ploughed fields, to carry your rifle ready - even if unloaded as ours were - to snatch a hasty lunch of a few biscuits and cheese with an apple or two to quench your thirst, to be "out" facing a north-east wind for the most part, for six hours is rather strenuous "playacting", I have to confess and playacting that hardens our muscles and sinews, and makes one a better man physically.

Subj. 3.30 p.m. I have now a short time to take up the record of the Volunteer movement in Cork. As I mentioned on page XXVI the inaugural meeting was called by ticket. At some of the meetings of the small Committees - if Committee I can call it - I urged that there may be disturbance at the public meeting and we ought to prepare for it. Walsh waved all such warnings aside. On the Friday previously we learned that there was a likelihood of Sir Roger Casement being present as he was coming to Cork in connection with an endeavour to get German-American liners of the Hamburg-American line to call at Cove, the Cunard Co. having deserted Cork Harbour. I had known Sir Roger by repute of course, but had never met him. Saturday night I was informed the A.O.H. (B.O.C.) would have nothing to do with our meeting owing to a threepenny ad. having appeared in the "Cork

XXXIV.

1914

N

Nov. 24: "Evening Echo" from the Hibornians of the American alliance, which seemed to show that it was the latter were calling the public meeting! A letter or two ~~also~~ of a fellow setting native also appeared in the "Echo" that evening; a favourite pastime until recently with the "book examine" and "Echo" people. On Sunday, Mr. Maurice Conway and myself were at the Glanville terminus to meet Eoin MacNeill. We missed him, as he ^{had come} previously. We then journeyed to the Imperial Hotel where we found him with Casement and John J. Hogan, Solo. Hogan expressed sympathy with the Volunteers movement: on a word from MacNeill he was quite willing to speak from our platform that night: but as he was a member of the National Directory of the United Irish League and very prominently identified with the Redmondite party in Cork he thought he may in some way compromise that party or compromise us with other parties should he come to speak. He agreed with us in thinking the Volunteers ought to be an independent body strictly non party. So, he did not come. [Poor Hogan.] He is the author of a book "Great Catholic Caymen", and is in some ways, clever. But, he is easily influenced and is not fitted to take an unpopular side even for principle's

[at that time]

XXXV

1914

[Sarcasm?]

Nov. 24: sabb. Not a bad fellow, but not strong in character. Well, the hour for the meeting came. I was nervous before it as I always am before public meetings. I never get up to speak, even in the smallest assembly, that I am not nervous till well into it. I remember I jokingly took a stick with me, saying it may be useful. There was a fair audience at 8. I saw no more of it till about 8.30 when we went on the platform - MacNeill, Casement, Walsh, Farsill and myself, with one or two others. It was a surprise, a complete surprise. The hall was packed "from floor to ceiling", as it is said. It was an astonishing gathering in every way. Walsh spoke, a little long: not too well. Farsill read the Manifesto of the Dublin Provisional Committee which was enthusiastically received. Then Eoin MacNeill. First in Irish. Received all right. English then. There was one interrupter in the gallery who was quietened. Everything seemed to be going swimmingly. MacNeill touched on the Ulster Volunteers. Dangerous ground evidently. He went on and on in it; laboured it, till I felt he was making a mistake, a big mistake for a Cork audience, where there were men who hated Dom. O'Brien and his Conciliation policy and to whom anything no matter how patriotic and so

XXXVI

1914.

NOV. 24:- matter by whom put that hint was at what they thought O'Brienism, was anathema. Then the climax. He called for "cheers for Sir Edward Carson's Volunteers." The climax indeed. A signal was given we could see, to Irishmen in the Hall. Applause long and loud on the one hand: hooting, hissing, shouting on the other. The order of the meeting hung in the balance for about five minutes, MacNeill standing on the front of the platform calm and cool. The audience rose. Up near the platform came angry and excited men, one I remember, thumping the boards with a big stick. We on the platform rose too. The chairman tried to appeal for order. Then — a rush on the platform. Men, wild and angry, jumped up, waving sticks and hats in the air. A rush at MacNeill: a rush at the chairman.

NOV. 30: Dáicéad na bannúdan — 10.30 p.m. I was in the midst of the wildest: one, raising a stick, shouting loudly for John Redmond, I spoke to, to calm him. No use. He only shouted the louder. But, I saw at once I was in no danger: Walsh was the object of attack. After some time the lights of the hall were turned off. Then indeed I

XXXVII

1914.

NOV. 30:- began to fear that damage would be done, that harm would come to some of us. A number of Fionna (National Boy Scouts) were on the platform. I went near one of the side doors and kept it open till the boys passed out. Then I descended to the dressingroom: got my hat and coat in the belief that the meeting was at an end. The stick that I had brought for protection I could not find! Next I was in the midst of a crowd in one of the passages. Sir Roger Casement, MacNeill, etc. were there. I heard Walsh had been injured; struck on the head with a chair and carried away to an Infirmary. ^[Maurice Conway] A friend came to me and said there was still a big crowd in the hall; that the lights were on again; that if I got up on the platform I would be listened to. I answered in a believed right "not just yet: things should quieten down a little more." Then I knew the meeting was not going to break up in disorder. I crossed to another side passage. I met some men there — corner boys — who demanded money for drink. "Hangers on" of the Redmondite crowd I knew these to be. To get them away I, perhaps weakly, gave them some money. I remounted the stage through one of the

XXXIX1914

Nov. 30 side doors, hoping that the audience may be somewhat quietened and ready to listen. As I did so I saw Fawsitt mount a chair on the stage. He appealed for a hearing for Casement. Asked the audience to sit down, which they did. He spoke well. I felt proud of him. I felt he had saved the situation. There was a big crowd still in the hall: and on the stage some of the attackers as well as attacked. The pressmen were gone. Papers of Sir Roger Casement were littering the stage. Fawsitt was listened to quietly, and applauded. Then Casement. He caught the crowd. One could see he was a man of the world, one who had travelled, who had mixed up with varied people. Tall, supple, commanding, he looked every inch a man. There was loud applause when he concluded. Then Maurice Conway pushed me on: to thank Casement and to explain generally. Fawsitt, eager to catch a train asked me to be short. I was: but he had to go before I was finished. I concluded with a few lines from a poem of Brian Higgins, which wind up as follows "Awake! Arise! Be men

~~XXXIX~~ XL1914

Nov. 30. to-day!" As I concluded; in the burst of applause that well-chosen verse always evokes, up jumped an old Texian who was near the platform (stage I should say) and handed me the form of enrolment which he had filled. That was the opening for others. Up they came; trooping; in tens, in twenties; singly: in batches. I had my overcoat on. Into every pocket I "stuffed" the forms. It was marvellous. Old men: boys in their teens, up they came. It was thrilling. There were a few hundred. I said so amidst a thunder of applause. Then the audience went out, a small crowd was on the stage. Phil O'Neill of Kinsale mounted a chair and sang a Volunteer song he had composed for the occasion. We cheered him. Then we left. A few of us went to the hotel where MacNeill and Casement were. We had good news. We had won. The Volunteers were a living reality in Cork: the Cork corps was founded, despite the opposition. I felt naturally jubilant. What threatened to be a rout had become a victory. Casement struck me as being a splendid character. I know MacNeill of old. They, too, were jubilant,

XLI.1914.

Nov. 30. though Corkmen had met them so badly. They were bound to remember that night as we were bound to remember it. And so the night ended: the career of the Cork Corps, Irish Volunteers began. A fateful and interesting career, growing more and more interesting these very days.

That first meeting was the beginning of a series of mistakes on the part of the Redmondites in Cork and the beginning of a ~~series~~ line of good fortune for those who, rightly or wrongly, are called Sinn Féiners.

The newspaper reports of the meeting all ended at the breaking up: the reporters as I have said, left then; so it appeared as if the whole meeting ended in disorder. The "Cork Constitution" placard had wild headings. As I was going to early Mass on Monday morning I could see it. "Scenes of bloodshed" at the City Hall", etc. etc. I sent a short note to the papers giving the facts of what occurred after the reporters left. This was inserted in all the papers on Tuesday or Wednesday. Sir MacNeill also sent a letter or letters. With him, the affair led to

CLII.1914.

Nov. 30. a controversy and leading articles in the "Irish Times" and other papers. Mr. P. Hazelton, M.P., came out against the Volunteers. The three Cork papers - "Examiner", the Redmondite; "Free Press"; "Brienite"; and "Constitution", Conservative, were united for once in denunciation of the "irresponsible men" who had called Irishmen to arms in defence of their rights and liberties. So much for the past this time. Now for the present.

Yesterday, Sunday 29th, the Manchester Martyrs celebration was held in Cork. It may prove a turning point for our corps of Volunteers in Cork - Sir Fin or Fisher St. Volunteers as our opponents - or rivals - whichever they consider themselves, call us. It was a great turnout: great in numbers; great for our corps in numbers especially, great in discipline, in order, in enthusiasm. And the public meeting in the City Hall held subsequent to the procession through the streets was, to me at all events and I gather to others also, astounding in numbers, in intensity, in unanimity, in enthusiasm. The Redmondite Volunteers did not go to the meeting: they were in the procession; if one were to believe the Cork Examiner there were no others there.

1914.

Nov. 30: - but they with their bands and their Boy's Brigade left the procession before the City Hall was reached. It was so well perhaps for the unanimity of the great meeting and, in fact, the Hall was as filled in every part as it well could be. The actual number of our Volunteers who marched was 195: the actual number of the R. Volunteers was 130. The numbers seem small, but knowing the history of the Cork Corps they are not so small. They seem, and on the street, marching in fours, divided into companies and sections, 100 men look for a bigger number than the same number close together. The Redmond men have always claimed a majority and beyond doubt they had a majority two months ago: I would say not of the trained men but counting heads. But we knew and felt that, in yesterday's display, we had the majority as well as having the better trained. We are better trained because longer training by months. They carried rifles, however: we did not, though our rifles are new: ~~these~~ are old and, I believe, useless. But, the story of the rifles is a story in itself. On an order from Headquarters, Dublin, our Executive on Saturday night decided rifles were not to be carried. One reason now is

1914.

Nov. 30: - sufficient to hint at - the police are watching us and watching our rifles. In the morning, to the number of about 100 we attended 9 o'clock Mass at the Cathedral, which Mass was offered for the souls of Allen, Harbin, and O'Brien. The "Cork Examiner" dismisses us as an "etc." in a short paragraph about the attendance at the Mass.

Major John MacBride was the principal speaker at the City Hall meeting: Mr. John Good of the Cork United Trades and Labour Council being the second. Both spoke "rank sedition". "Live Ireland: perish England; perish the Empire" - that was the note. And the vast audience cheered to the echo. Considering the flood of so-called "loyalty" to England that has been rushing over Ireland for months past, seemingly rising higher and higher; considering that all the leaders of all the great political parties - Unionist, Redmondite, O'Brienite or whatever they dub themselves or each other - have been preaching "loyalty"; considering that practically the whole daily press of Ireland - the one exception little "Ere Ireland" - and the weekly editions of that daily press have been harping on the same note; considering all the influences open and secret that have been at work to terrorise these

1914

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Nov. 30:- who adhere to the old principles of Irish Nationality; considering the big circulation of English papers in Ireland and their frantic appeals to Irishmen to defend the Empire; considering the number of Irishmen in the English army and the English Navy and the number of their relatives in Ireland who may be expected to sympathise with them; considering the number of policemen, ex-policemen, placemen, ex-placemen, hangers-on of Dublin Castle, of buckeys, of flunkies, of spiritless public men and the wives and children and dependents of all these, a meeting like that of yesterday in Cork is really astounding, astonishing, overwhelming.

Dis Dornais. Mi na Doolag Sad. Spaid Gúise. 2 p.m.

Some most interesting developments have taken place during the past week. At the end of last week, before the British Parliament adjourned some additions were made to the "Defence of the Realm Act, 1914." The Act seemed already drastic enough in all conscience, giving very full powers to the English military authorities. But a clause now added is of a still more sweeping character and gives almost plenary powers to those authorities. A man may now be tried by courtmartial or

XLVI

1914

Dec. 6th:- suspicion of being a "seditious" character, almost.

If found guilty by the courtmartial he may be shot without a public trial and without anyone being the wiser till "the authorities" wish to make the matter public. The clause deals very effectively with what is called sedition in Ireland.

Irish Nationalists are now face to face with the military men, with military orders and tribunals: they have no longer to deal with the civil courts. How hypocritical the English are! "Prussian militarism" is anathema to them map 'o' ead and here they exalt militarism, and the worst form of militarism, in the Defence of the Realm Act. Of course the excuse can be made that these are war times. But, if militarism is a foul, vile thing in itself — in Prussia; a thing that every right minded man should fight against and endeavour to overthrow; the thing that the good Allies are fighting against the bad, bold Germans to overthrow, how can it become a right and just and proper thing — in Ireland. If militarism is morally wrong, as we are assured it is, in Prussia, worth

XLVII.

1914.

1 Dec. 6th:- the sacrifice of a million lives to crush under foot, how can it be morally right - in Ireland? There are only two conclusions to be drawn. Either the good English Government are hypocritical in denouncing militarism in Prussia or they wilfully commit a wrong in order to crush "sedition" in Ireland. The only opinions a man dare, with safety to his life and liberty, utter now, "by word of mouth ^{or by writing} in newspaper, journal, book, or pamphlet", or by letter through the post, are ~~are~~ the opinions which our "rulers" hold themselves. So this is English Liberal "law" in the year of Grace 1914. I do not blame the Government. From their point of view, I expect the members of that Government feel justified. But, I abhor the hypocrisy that holds up its hands in holy horror at "Prussian militarism" while doing itself that which it blames in "Prussia".

Having made its arrangements to strike, through the military authorities, the English Government has lost no time in striking - in Ireland.

"Irish Freedom", "Sinn Féin", "The Irish Worker", "Ireland", "Fianna Fail", "The Cork Celt" have been struck at. So

XLVIII

1914

Dec. 6th:- has the "Irish Volunteer", but here the authorities have been a bit put out. The Volunteer changed hands this week. Formerly it was printed in Wexford; edited by a certain Harry de Lacy (I only know of him by hearsay and some letters I had from him). It was poorly printed, but its articles and poems were "breezy". This week the paper is out in a new form; edited by Con mac Néill, printed - and neatly printed - in Dublin. The paper was seized by police here in Cork, but subsequently returned, with apologies, to the news-agents. Its tone has changed. It is cool, calm, tranquil; typical of Mac Néill. Earnest and sure in tone: anything but fiery and revolutionary. So, the authorities were foiled by it. "Irish Freedom" was printed and partly distributed before the copies were seized at the newsagents. No copies have come to Cork. It is likely all of those were captured at the railway. In the case of "Sinn Féin", "Worker", "Ireland", "Fianna Fail", "Celt", it was through the printers they were struck. "The Worker", however, has been pretty well distributed, in Cork and elsewhere. The leading article is missing: a

1914.

XLIX.

Dec. 6th:- note regarding the suppression being in its place. It was announced in the papers yesterday that, after this week's issue had been printed, police and soldiers took away type, documents, etc., from the printer, who, I was told, is an Englishman, a Socialist. There is really very little in this week's issue to warrant this drastic action and the fact that the printer did not print James Connolly's leading article seems to show he was willing to accept the conditions laid down by the authorities. Arthur Griffith announces that, in the place of "Sinn Féin", he is bringing out a paper to be called "Nationality".

Some of the English papers that have called for the suppression of the Irish papers, and the English Lords that have spoken on the matter, believe, or affect to believe, that those Irish papers are financed by "Germans". Mr. John Dillon, M. P., Lord Mayor Sherlock of Dublin, "The Freeman's Journal" and others also hint or allege that the papers are supported by "German Gold". For "Ireland", "Sinn Féin", "Freedom", "Fianna Fáil" and "Cork Celt" I, personally, know this to be an absolute untruth. I ~~cannot~~ cannot say for the "Worker" as I have not the same means of knowing. Nevertheless I am morally

L.

1914.

Dec. 6th:- certain, the statement is also false with regard to that. Knowing this, what am I to think of such men as Mr. John Dillon and the Lord Mayor of Dublin and other Irishmen in public positions who make those dastardly statements? "The Reader" printer too, it is announced, has been warned. Moran, Editor of the "Header" however, is clever. Judging by his attitude this week, he will tack, so as not to be caught. So far no arrests have been made and there is no announcement regarding other Irish papers and journals that are anti-English.

Jennings - my co-treasurer of the Cork Corps, Irish Volunteers - and myself have been engaged in a newspaper controversy with the Redmondite Volunteers and Mr. John J. Horgan, Solr., particularly, during the week. The controversy has afforded me some interest and much amusement. For Mr. Horgan and the R. Volunteers it is no doubt serious. It is in a way part of the general controversy between the two Volunteer bodies. I cannot enter into all the particulars now. It was announced last week that a meeting would be held on Thursday last, Dec. 3rd.

LI.

1914.

Dec. 6 :- to start a Fund for the purpose of equipping the R. Volunteers in Cork. Lord Mayor Henry O Shea called the meeting. On Monday night last, our Executive Committee considered whether they should take any action regarding the meeting in view of probable charges that may be made regarding funds collected when we were all united. It was decided to ~~let~~ let the matter in the hands of Jennings and myself. (I was not present). The general feeling was to take no action unless and until any public charges were made. When I came to town on Wednesday Jennings showed me the circular which had been issued for the Lord Mayor's meeting. The circular contained a number of false charges and false statements. It was signed by, amongst others, Mr. John J. Morgan. Jennings and myself decided -

1. To publish the Balance Sheet of our Corps, which had been audited early last October by one of the leading firms of auditors in the city, but which so far had only been published to our own men. We considered its general publication now would be the best preventative of slanders and libels and false

LII.

1914.

Dec. 6th :- charges at Thursday's meeting. It was a chinking and crushing answer to any possible questions put for the purpose of innuendo. So the Balance Sheet was published in the "Evening Echo" on Wednesday.

2. We decided to write an answer to the lies and misstatements in the circular. I wrote out the reply, got copies typed and sent to the "Examiner", "Free Press", "Constitution" and three Dublin papers. It was published in the "Examiner" and "Press" on Thursday and in the "Constitution" on Friday. It has not appeared in the Dublin papers. The reply was direct and to the point: not vague; not literary. Many things, good arguments that I might have used, I omitted, confining myself entirely to the circular and contradicting its lies.

I am perfectly convinced that "our side" has the overwhelming weight of right, reason, justice, argument: that our "opponents" have made grievous mistakes, and have put themselves in the wrong. They are not alone wrong, as I think, from an Irish Nationalist point of view but are wrong in splitting up the Volunteers in Cork and in the method they adopted to

LIII.

1914.

Dec. 6th:- split us. Whatever the rights and wrongs of the split-or separation- in other places, in Cork city at all events there can be no question but that the body I am connected with is in the right and that our consciences are right. This is our strength and the thinking men who are opposed to us recognise it. At Thursday's meeting, which, by the way, was a very small one, no harsh word was uttered except by J. J. Horgan, and no convincing argument was advanced. In fact, both George William Murphy, President of the partially defunct United Irish League, and Mr. George Coakley, proprietor of the "Cork Examiner", were eminently reasonable. The publication of the Balance Sheet had its effect. Horgan was slightly bitter. He has some cause, I believe, as his own men having been blaming him over certain matters and he probably desires to retrieve his position by appearing "strong" now. On Friday, in the "Examiner" he published certain correspondence which ~~was passed~~ passed between himself and Tomás Curtin, our Hon. Sec., and myself. One letter of his I hold, which he did

LIV.

1914.

Dec. 6th:- not publish, damages his whole case and I have been considering whether it is worth while continuing the controversy and ultimately publishing this.

17/12 ns 1904az 7ad. Dpociao ns Banndan. 11.20p.m.

After much cogitation, and a talk with Jennings, I decided to publish Horgan's letter. accordingly sent it this evening, per J. to the "Cork Examiner". I say nothing harsh or uncharitable in a letter of my own in which it is embodied. Unless something very grave calls for it the controversy will not be pursued further. I have no desire to push it, as our case can stand on its merits and needs no laboursing by newspaper controversy and the wish of the Executive of our corps is to drop it. The times are too serious for this kind of entertainment.

The chief war news just now is - Lodz, in Poland, has been taken by the Germans: Belgrade occupied by the Austrians: Christiaan De Wet captured by the forces of General Botha in South Africa. Poor De Wet! I have been reading his book of the "Three Years War" lately and his character as there *

1914

LV.

Dec. 7th. unfolded is undoubtedly striking. Poor De Wet, to be "caught" at last.

Dec. 8th. *Spiceao na Donnán* 11.40 a.m. To continue the narrative of the Volunteers in Cork. At the public meeting I specifically asked ^{that} the organisers of the meeting be given authority to form a Provisional Committee to go on with the organisation of the Volunteer corps in Cork. This was given with acclamation. We had arranged to have a Committee definitely named, the appointment of which was to be submitted to the meeting. Owing to the "row" this had to be abandoned, as it was quite likely some of the men named would not act. But I did not forget that it was necessary to get public authority to go on with the work and we got it. The matter is of some little importance even yet, as Mr. George Brookie complained at the Redmondite meeting last Thursday that one of the faults he had with the men who were working the Volunteer movement in Cork was that they ~~on~~ were not representative men. (The same complaint has been made again and again and by Mr. John Co.

LVI.

1914

Dec. 8th:- Redmond himself, about the Dublin Provisional Committee - the Dublin men were dubbed "Nobodies." Eoin MacNeill has taken up the title and, with a fine scorn, has shown how the "Nobodies" founded the Volunteers and made them a success when the "Somebodies" shook their heads or spat their venom at the "Nobodies").

Whatever may have been the circumstances surrounding the formation of the Provisional Committee in Dublin, it was inevitable in Cork that the movement was worked by "Nobodies", seeing the belligerent attitude of the "Somebodies" at the inauguration. As a matter of fact, on the Committee we had arranged to submit to the public meeting there were names of several "public men" of the Redmondite persuasion. Two such that I had asked to go on and that at first consented, withdrew. But the "Nobodies" in Cork had public authority to go on: authority from a free assembly of the citizens.

So, we got a Provisional Committee of 15 or 16 together; a Committee composed of men belonging to the various political ways of thought (Unionist excepted) but all united in believing in the Volunteer movement. Names I remember are:- Maurice Conway, an O'Brienite by popular repute;

1914.

LVII.

Dec. 8th. but, as I knew, having views independent of O'Brien;
 John Jennings, a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians,
 but a staunch and true Socialist and an Irish speaker;
 Diarmuid O'Donoghue, ditto; O'Connor, I have already
 mentioned; Bright, a student of University College, Cork,
 since a doctor of medicine; certainly an irresponsible
 young man, much influenced by Casement; Denis
 O'Mahony, ^(since January) associated with us in the Celtic Literary
 Society; with Fenian and Parnellite traditions, but now
 associated with the Hibernians and Redmondites;
 Sean Hegarty, Sinn Féinist and Fenian; Tormasbair mac
 Suinte (J. J. MacSwiney, B.A.) Fenian; literary man;
 playwright. (As he will probably "make a name for
 himself some day" I need not particularise him further);
 Sean O'Neill, Sinn Féinist, Socialist; Liam Mac Conn (Wm.
 Owens) of Younghal, student University College, Cork;
 Sean O'Sullivan, Patrick Corkery, true-hearted young
 men, ready to do and dare for Ireland; Tomás
 Curtin; whom I asked to be Hon. Sec. and who is
 in that position yet; though never connected with
 any political party, of Sinn Féin tendencies and a
 Gaelic Leaguer; J. L. Fawcett, Sec. of the Industrial

LVIII.

1914.

Dec. 8th:- Development association; Walsh, whom, without election
 formally, we recognised as chairman; whose wound sustained
 at the City Hall was not very serious; and myself, who,
 also without formal election, took the job of Hon. Treasurer,
 which I still hold. So there we were, "nobodies"
 with public authority to organise a Volunteer Corps in
 Cork. Differing much in temperament many of us.
 Differing often as to ways and means of doing things.
 But all held together by one desire - to serve Ireland;
 with one idea - to make our Volunteer corps a success.
 I am perfectly convinced that, while one or two were
 ambitious, the overwhelming majority of us were actuated by
 perfectly unselfish motives; as perfectly unselfish motives as
 ever actuated any body of men who desired to do good,
 according to their lights and their opportunities, for our
 native land.

Dec. 9th. 4 p.m. By chance I have just picked up a
 copy of the city edition of the "Cork Examiner". My letter is
 published in it. It is not in the country edition.
 This is quite fair, as Horgan was not in the country edition
 either. For peace sake I hope the matter will go no
 further now; though I am quite ready and prepared for anything.

1914.

LIX.

Dec. 8th: Subscription 7.30 p.m. Volunteer story continued.

On Dec. 1913 a meeting was held in the headquarters of the Gaelic League in Cork - *Tún na nGaedeal*, 19 Queen St. To the meeting were invited those who had handed in names at public meeting. There were, I think, about 150 present. Walsh, Fawcett, P.S. O'Gara, Curtin and myself spoke. The meeting was a very enthusiastic one and gave us a little money to go on with. The *Tún* was taken for two or three nights a week for drill. By good luck we secured the services of a good man named Goodwin, an ex-artillery Sergeant major, as drill instructor, who would not take payment for his services. Goodwin, however, was not always able to attend regularly and, by another stroke of good luck, we secured another man for payment, ex-Sergeant Donovan, of the Dublin Fusiliers, who was even a better instructor than Goodwin. He was, in fact, one of the best teachers I know. He was in every way excellent as an instructor. Though he is now with the *Redmondite* men we attach no blame to him. He would probably lose his pension and his position did he come with the terrible "nobodies."

1914.

LX.

Dec. 8th:- Drill was gone through regularly - ordinary squad and section drill. The numbers attending were small but growing gradually. Finances were sound. I insisted on cutting the cloth according to measure. The *Tún* became too small for us to progress in any extended drill movements and the halls not being ground floor ones were not too suitable for our purposes. So a change became imperative. After much searching and many negotiations we secured a store in a back street - Fisher St., or Thomas St. where we still have Headquarters. Not a very suitable place but useful enough. To get the place it was necessary to pay half-year's rent £20 in advance. How to get that sum? We were not "rich" men and our income was not great. A Bill at the Munster and Leinster Bank for £25 on the promise of four of us was obtained without trouble. So far good.

In January Walsh stood as a candidate for Councillorship in Cork Corporation as an independent Nationalist and was elected. The Volunteers of course took no part in the election, but it was satisfactory that he got elected, seeing the

1914.

LXI.

Dec. 8th:- treatment meted out to him at the inaugural meeting. Denis Mahony was also elected Councillor as a Redmondite. The whole endeavours of the Provisional Committee in Cork was aimed at keeping the corps strictly non-party and becoming efficient in drill, training, discipline. Dates are now a bit hazy with me so I shall stop the Cork narrative here till I have an opportunity of looking up documents or minutes.

By St. Patrick's Day the movement was well under weigh throughout the country. It was actively and passively opposed by the political leaders. But it caught the imagination of the people and thousands flocked to the standard. It was hardly started when, in December, the Government - nominally His Majesty King George - issued a Proclamation prohibiting the importation of arms into Ireland. Nominally also, this was map déad directed at the Ulster Volunteers. But they had been training for about two years and had, according to common reports, got considerable quantities of arms. So, "all Ireland" believed,

1914.

LXII

Dec. 8th:- no doubt rightly, that the Proclamation was directed at the Irish Volunteers. That Proclamation, as we shall see, was blown sky-high by the Northern and Southern Volunteers. It was defied; became a dead letter for effectiveness; was withdrawn in August. Its terms are now in operation by the military authorities. This very day there is a paragraph in the papers to the effect that gun merchants in Dublin are prohibited from manufacturing or selling arms and, since the week before last or so, none are allowed into Ireland. Nominally again the Great War can be assigned the cause: actually, without a doubt, the fear which the English Government has of an armed Ireland is the cause.

M. na Doolag 10th:- Subj'n 11 p.m. Horgan had another letter in the "Examiner" yesterday: country as well as city edition this time. What a bother! I have to reply again. I am taking my time over it as I mean this reply to be final and conclusive. It will have to be somewhat long I fear. I am sure we afford some entertainment for the public. Heard to-day there is some special Government

LXIII

1914.

Dec. 10th! - Order out - or to be out - that all who have rifles are to report to the police. What I heard was vague, so I am not clear what the matter is. I have no doubt there is some foundation for some rumour to the effect stated.

Result of an election for M.P. in North King's Co. is announced to-day. Election may have effect on Redmondite political machine. Candidates named Graham and Adams. The usual U. I. League Convention was held. Adams the selected of Convention, consequently backed by Mr. Redmond and Party. Graham impugned Convention as "rigged" and "bogus". He stood, in spite of appeals by Redmond. Constituency flooded with M.Ps. working for Adams. Redmond last Sunday at Tullamagh made a public appeal to electors to crush "faction". Priests divided. Graham won. He proclaims loyalty to Mr. Redmond and Party, but situation seems peculiar and may have consequences.

"Great British Naval Victory" announced to day. Three German cruisers sunk off Falkland Islands. Two or three weeks ago there was a great British

LXIV.

1914.

Dec. 10th! - naval disaster off the coast of Ireland but no information regarding it has been allowed to be published after the jubiliations over the victory announced to day, the authorities may allow details of the disaster of three weeks ago to be published.

A week last night I had a strange dream. I thought I stood in the hall of an old mansion - seemingly Avondale, the home of Charles Stewart Parnell. At the foot of the broad stairway I saw the figure of Parnell himself, tall, majestic, handsome. I knew it was his spirit, not himself in the flesh. None saw him but me. He stood near a large gilt-framed picture of himself. Mrs. "Kitty O'Shea" was in the hall - a giddy, silly old woman. He took no notice whatever of her; was absolutely and pointedly indifferent, as I thought. He spoke to me, I thought. All I remember ~~now~~ are those remarkable words: "Nothing in life matters, except dying well"!

I may say that I am reading ^{Long} his life by Barry O'Brien, and this evidently accounts for my dream, if there is any accounting for dreams or for thought.

1914.

Mí na Nodlag 13th. Da Domnaig. Spaid b'úide 2.45 p.m.

Sent reply to Horgan's letter, per J., to "Seamner" on Friday. Not published yesterday. This reply finishes my part in the controversy, no matter what Horgan may say further.

Though neither depressed nor pessimistic, I am not at all in an optimistic frame of mind these days about our Volunteers. This frame of mind has come about as a result of much thought during the past three weeks or so, since I had a letter from my friend S. MacSé. Bidaí. He meant the letter to be encouraging. He meant it to be optimistic. But, he laid bare the situation very clearly from several points of view. He showed the difficulties plainly. And quite rightly so. I always believe in facing the difficulties. I find the general custom is to try and minimise difficulties, to belittle them. That is all right, sometimes. Usually, however, I think the better plan is to get a clear idea of the size of the difficulties; then face them; and overcome them. The difficulties my friend S. spoke of are not insuperable. But I find, as he finds, very

1914.

Dec. 13th:- few who will consider them, discuss them, plan ways of overcoming them. Mí an gceat éim dona i mbailé Bidaí y tá i gcóir y air to dona go leor ann. Iy beaz Dúine i n-áiríaz, deir mo capaí, a deirnean maicneam ap cad y ceap a déanam má Buarlean an Ríagatop. Iy lúga a Binean maicneam i gcóir. I believed when the Cozad Mór broke out that great deeds would be done in Ireland y ap ap nóir féin. I imagined that our nation would rise to the occasion for the doing of great deeds. The break up of the Volunteers into two camps was a big misfortune. A misfortune, but not disaster. No doubt it showed that we are now no ever we were - a divided people in regard to the attitude to be adopted towards English Government in Ireland. But, what seems near disaster is the fact that there is so little thought of the immediate future; no adequate preparation for disappointments or situations that are so likely to arise; no appreciation of the great opportunities there are for us to speak and act as a self-reliant nation. Since the "Normans" landed in Ireland there has hardly been such a golden chance of achieving Irish liberty and asserting Irish nationality - the

1914

LXVII

Dec. 13:- liberty as understood by Wolfe Tone: nationality as preached by Thomas Davis - as there is at present. Were the whole body of Irish Volunteers united under one great, determined leader - a soldier and statesman; all animated with the one desire to strike for Irish liberty; backed up, as they were, say last July, by the whole ^{body of} Irish nationalists; even with their present efficiency and equipment they would be, to my mind, almost irresistible. But pop! pop! the ranks are broken: the nation is divided; split up into four or five sections: the soldier leader is wanting; the great statesman to speak for a self-reliant Ireland is not in evidence; and so - we are the same happy-go-lucky people we ever were. In ways the situation is not unlike what it was about the period 1779-1800. But, we seem not to have benefited by the lessons of that period or indeed of any other period of Ireland's history. Our nation seems drifting on to disaster as great as '98. There is the Carson party - "England's old faithful Garrison" - ever true to the English interest, ever opposed to any "concession" to the "Papish Irish"; fighting, or prepared to fight, for ascendancy

1914

LXVIII

Dec. 13. now as ever: intractable, illiberal, uncompromising. A sturdy, stern breed indeed, glorying in being a Garrison; in reviling their own nation; with the cry of "No Surrender"; more conservative than any other country's Conservatives; more Tory than England's Tories. They are, as far as possible, using the situation caused by the Great War, to their own political advantage. When the war is over, and, as they profess to believe, when England comes out of it with victory, they declare, through the mouth of one of their commanders, General Richardson, they will "relegate Home Rule to the Devil". The Ulster Volunteers, the fighting force of Carson, have had two or three years training now, are well organised and fairly well equipped. They have joined the "Ulster Division" of Kitchener's new English army in fairly large numbers. This for two or three reasons - they are loyal to England and the British Empire; they wish for the military training so that when Home Rule comes to be discussed again, if their profession and demonstration of loyalty does not get them what they want, they will be better able to fight. Their

1914.

LXIX

Dec. 13.:- talk of fighting against Home Rule has been called "bluff" and "bunkum" but my opinion is they are quite as sincere as most Irish nationalists are in the determination to fight against English laws they dislike. As sincere, perhaps more; certainly not less. If there were to be "trouble" in Ireland, or, if there yet should be, I am convinced the English Government would use those Ulstermen to keep ^{the} Ireland quiet. The Government has expressed abhorrence of "Civil War" in Ireland; but should "the South" rise, there would be no compunction about Civil War; not having a very great force of the regular army, the men of the North would be utilised to hold Ireland in the English interest, as they have ever been utilised. Many efforts have been made within the last few years to win those men to Ireland; to get them to join fraternally with the rest of Irishmen for the good of our common country. Mr. William O'Brien with his policy of Conciliation, has been, ^{and is} frankly out for a union with them on a basis of concessions to them. Mr. Redmond has also been, and is, out for this union too, but his party and his followers, are not

1914

LXX

Dec. 13. quite decided as to concessions to them. The Gaelic League and the Industrial Associations have been preaching a Union too of all Irishmen on the basis of a common interest and a common country. The Volunteers were founded on a basis to enable all Irishmen to join. But the Orangemen have never shown the slightest inclination to unite with the rest of Ireland politically, except on their own conditions. Speaking generally, the one great condition is - that the rest of Ireland abjures ^{Irish} ~~the~~ nationality and Ireland's claim to an Irish government. All Ireland has been wooing them: they have made no advance, except on the condition I have stated. The whole attitude of Sir Edward Carson during the Home Rule discussions and negotiations has, publicly at all events, been one of defiance and contempt. And he no doubt, is an embodiment of the attitude of "Ulster." He has gained by this attitude as an irreconcilable man is always bound to gain over men who do not wish to go to extremes against him. The Prime Minister, asquith, has said "The coercion of Ulster is unthinkable." So, the English Garrison in Ireland is sure of the support of the Tories and of the neutrality, if I may call it so, of the Liberals. They are thus at the present time, and under the circumstances of Ireland to-day, in as strong a

1914.

LXXI.

Dec. 13th:- position as ever they were.

Minanoolag 15. West Cork Hotel, Seaburn. 3.45 p.m.

My reply to Hargan was published yesterday. I have not seen the "Examiner" to-day, so I do not know if he has said anything further.

Last night was a "great night" here, I hear. A Picture Hall, which is also to be used as a drill hall for the Volunteers, was opened. After the formal opening, a dinner was given in this hotel and, I learn, the affair lasted till the small hours of morning. The picture hall has been built by a certain Dr. Gerald Macaura, who has won some notoriety it and much money, by a certain remedy for rheumatism and such like diseases. His remedy is some kind of machine: the name is "Pulsorion." Macaura is a native of this town: emigrated to America; returned a few years ago. Dr. is only a country title, I believe: the man is really a quack; clever, no doubt and with some genius for advertising. He has presented the picture hall to the local corps of Redoubt Volunteers (there is practically no other corp here and the corps are but poorly trained and organised). He has also organised a band for the corps.

LXXII.

1914.

Dec. 15:- presenting them with instruments and getting a band-master direct from London. Last week, he gave £100 to the Cork Corps of Redoubt Volunteers and was made "an honorary Colonel" in return. So, last night, he had some of the leading men of the Cork Corps, George Crobie of the "Cork Examiner", Lord Mayor Henry O'Shea, and others, here at dinner. It is all very amusing, showing how lightly heartily we take things in Ireland. I don't suppose we are any worse than other peoples in dancing to the tune of a "man with money, even if he be a quack!" "Honorary colonels"; "Country Doctors"; "Honorary Captains": I fear me much many, very many, of our Volunteers, Redoubt and other, are only honorary too! We lack continued seriousness. Well, perhaps, gaiety even over serious things is no harm ultimately. There is enough seriousness in the world. It is well to have at least one race and native humourous.

Until the advent of the Volunteers I was getting into a somewhat humourous - perhaps finical - frame of mind myself. Very serious in my youth, too much so, I had latterly got into the same attitude almost as many around me, an almost cynical attitude. The Volunteers appealed to me. This at all events to me was quite serious, deadly earnestness. Here at

1914

LXXIII

Dec. 15th:- last was the opportunity of doing that for Ireland for which my whole life had been a preparation. It seemed the crowning glory of all the work I had been engaged in - language movement, industrial association, Sinn Féin, temperance, self-reliance, education. All had been leading up to this. The opportunity for free and full self-expression had at last come. I could now at last without fear and with effect to the burning thoughts, the ideas, ideals and aspirations for Éire that were mine. Such was my belief. And now? Alas! Alas! it seems once more a shattering of ideals. Back again, as it appears, to cynicism. It looks as if necessary to draw again the cloak of levity over the spirit of earnestness; to conceal the jewel of ideal by the tinsel wrapping of mockery. Which does not show frankness indeed but looks like the wisdom of serpents in a world that is false; and merciless in crushing those that glide not hither and thither with the mob. To take the popular path is easy: to keep strictly to one's true self, to ideals, to principles, is hard. All of which shows the bend of my mind at present: hoping for the best as ever, preparing for the worst.

The Sinn Féin men ^{A.B.} in Dublin must have got into the humour strain too. Saturday last a new paper to

1914

LXXIV

Dec. 15th:- replace "Ireland" and "Sinn Féin" was published. A 2d paper, to be published twice weekly I believe. Its name is "Scissors and Paste"! It consists of cuttings from other papers or from books. Perhaps this too is well. Surely, "the authorities" are not so devoid of humour as to suppress "Scissors and Paste"!

Dec. 16th:- On the train to Kinsale. By mere chance glanced at an "Evening Echo" poster at the railway station. "Sensational News"! Sensational indeed for old England. Hartlepool and Scarborough were bombarded this morning by German cruisers - two or three it is said. The towns were shelled. Some damage done: a few people killed. Thus the news. If there is a naval fight going we have not got it information yet. But what is reported is sufficiently startling.

Mí na Nodlag 22. Spaid Bpáide. 5.30 p.m. Having some weeks' holidays I am busy with the work of boláide na múnán and little literary work. I may have more to record of the latter later.

That affair mentioned above of the "raid" on the east coast of England has taken up much newspaper space during the past week. The list of casualties has been growing.

1914.

LXXXI.

Dec. 22. The German ships engaged escaped unharmed. How they got to the coast, despite the British navy and the mines laid in the North Sea is a mystery to the ordinary man. Those Germans seem a marvellous people.

John J. Hogan did not reply to my last. So that controversy, I hope, is ended.

I think I have indicated already a change of mind, consequent upon outer circumstances, regarding the Volunteers, which has taken place within me. At present - to use a vulgarianism - there is "nothing doing" in the Irish Volunteer movement. Mr. Redmond's Volunteers are parading in large numbers and being reviewed.

He addressed a big muster in Limerick last Sunday - 10,000 Volunteers were there say the Redmondite press. Mr. Redmond is promising them arms and equipment: funds are being raised for the purpose: but where the arms and equipment are to come from, unless those Volunteers take service under the English War Office, is a puzzle. The Irish Volunteers are quiescent - of necessity so, I believe.

Their position indeed is difficult. They are not a political party: cannot consequently engage in political controversy: as a body cannot be anti-Redmondite, pro-sinn Féin or anything else. Ireland, though theoretically

LXXXI.

1914.

Dec. 22:- under common law, is in reality under martial law: hence, they cannot properly carry out the military work which is their *raison d'être*.

The truth seems to be that the quinnseam in some way has gone out of the Volunteers. The reason may be the want of a definite and decided lead. It is a time of waiting.

Things may go on a normal course. We may be patiently standing on an earthquake.

If the British Government continues its present policy the Irish Volunteers, and, likely, Redmond's Volunteers too, will continue as a somewhat picturesque, half-trained, half-disciplined, half-armed, force: no great danger certainly to England from a military point of view.

If the British Government is wise for itself it will continue its present attitude. If it strikes at Irishmen in any large number: or if it strikes at some of the prominent men of the Irish Volunteers it will arouse trouble for itself. Mr.

Redmond's whole speech on Sunday last was on the assumption that things in Ireland are normal and will continue normal. Perhaps he is right. I cannot say. I am not aware if anyone can say.

Min na Nollag 23d: Spaid Bpíde 9 p.m. It was announced in last night's "Echo" and in to-day's "Examiner" that the National Volunteers (i.e. Redmond's) are to take up "guard duties" from the 1st Jan.

1914.

LXXXVII

Dec. 23. There has been a rumour of this for a week or so. It refers only so far to the Cork Corps. It is evident the leading men of the Corps, or some of them, are responsible. "Guard duties" means, I believe, guarding the bridges for the English Government. Hitherto the police have been engaged in those duties. It is likely those "leading men" I referred to offered the services of the Corps to the War office. I hear - be it true or not - that Lord Kitchener told Mr. Wm. O'Brien he could have nothing to do with the Volunteers unless they took the Oath of Allegiance. So, it is natural to assume that the men who are to take up "guard duties" will have to take the Oath, and will also, no doubt, be paid by the War office. Some of our boys think the business will cause a bit of ^{of} split amongst the Redmond Volunteers, as many of the latter will not favour coming under the War office or taking the Oath. The action of the War Office in accepting the services of these Volunteers is clever from the English standpoint. If there be a German landing in Ireland - a not unlikely contingency since the Scarborough raid - it will immediately place the Redmond Volunteers in opposition to the Germans and, so no doubt, the War office thinks, the Irish people will be at the back of the R. Volunteers. Thus, they probably hope, a German

1914.

LXXXVIII

Dec. 23:- force will be up against the national sentiment of the Irish people. Thus by giving a minimum of responsibility - for "guard duties" are not exceedingly responsible in Cork city - the War office and the Government may hope to get a maximum of result in Ireland. How far the scheme will work remains to be seen.

Mí na Noolaz 24th. 11:45 a.m. Stopped above last night at the advent of Bibblín ní Chroína of Ballynagar, one of the teachers in Coláiste na Múnaigh during the summer: on her way home from Killeeney where she teaches Irish. The pro-British in Killeeney are more numerous than the men Irish. There is, however, a strong Sinn Féin element and strong children's Irish classes.

I want to continue my diagnosis of the present Irish situation. I have treated of the Unionist or Conservative element - the Orange or Carson Party. The extreme Unionist men are in as strong a position as ever. That is my summary of their position. There are many moderate Unionists or Conservatives however, who are prepared to accept the inevitable if Home Rule be carried. There has been a bit of a shaking up of parties in Ireland during the last eight or nine years and, though still separated in name, the "moderate" Nationalists and moderate Unionists were

1914.

LXXIX

Dec. 24:- practically touching, coming together, drawing closer. The all-for-Ireland people of O'Brien were frankly out for joining them. This seemed too blunt for the majority. Hence there was, theoretically, a reaction. Theoretically, because Redmond at times was preaching the same doctrine as Wm. O'Brien and many of his followers carrying out O'Brien's policy while declaring against O'Brien and his policy. At the present moment O'Brien and his party are lost. But that he has a paper - the "Cork Free Press" - there would be no more heard of his all-for-Ireland League. His only strength was in Cork-county and city. With the prospect of Home Rule being carried; the fact that he had said it could not be carried; that he and his men voted against the Third Reading in the English House of Commons as a protest against the finances of the measure; that the Redmondites through the United Irish League and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Board of Boys, had for years been perfecting the voting machine against him; that the lessons of Unity at any cost were being taught so strenuously by the priests; that the Redmondites had control of nearly all "jobs"; William and his party

1914

LXXX

Dec. 24 were being defeated. Then the War, and Redmond's pronouncements that Ireland would be loyal to England, that the Volunteers would guard Ireland and Britishmen enlist. Wm. O'Brien evidently thought the whole country would rise to the occasion. He tried to forestall Redmond by holding the first recruiting meeting here in Cork. Which he did. Lord Bandon, Lord Barrymore, Maurice Healy, M.P., and Wm. himself joined in appealing to the young men of this city and county to join the British Army. It has finished Wm. His own men - the all-for-Irelanders - have not joined in any numbers in response to his appeal. Wm., like Redmond, mistook the country. This mistake was natural. Up to the advent of the Volunteers - December 1913 - it seemed as if Redmond and his Parliamentary Party could do anything they liked with the bulk of the Irish people and that William's command over the all-for-Irelanders was supreme. But a new Ireland seemed to have arisen unknown to any one: a spirit of independence appeared. The Volunteers grew and flourished in despite of Redmond and the Irish Party, in despite of O'Brien and his men. Redmond has succeeded in splitting the Volunteers but he has not so far

LXXXI

1914

Dec. 24:- succeeded to English satisfaction in getting Irishmen to join the British army. By juggling with figures he tries to make it appear he has succeeded: the plain fact is the country is very divided on the question of recruiting. Redmond's own followers are very divided: Irish America is practically solid against it and this fact has been strongly influencing Redmond himself and his party.

la nódag = Christmas Day. Spaidé. 12.15 p.m.

Coir na ceme. A day of thoughts. A day of joy, yet a day of sad memories too. Recollections crowd. Many are pleasant: some joyous: some sorrowful.

There is so much to be grateful to God for, that thankfulness to Him wells up from the heart.

This day 1913 my mother lived. God has taken her since March. Can we say who will live for Christmas Day 1915? But He knows best. Life and Death are His to give or take. The body only can die. The soul is indestructible. What a

truth this is! The body is of small account.

The soul is eternal. Once created it cannot be destroyed.

For it is of the very nature of God Himself - the Ever living, the Eternal.

1914.

LXXXII

Christmas Day:- I take to myself and make my own those lines of Ellen O'Shea's:-

"I Love my GOD above all things

And then I love my land

And next I love my "Baby" dear

Who pledged me her fair hand

To all, to each I'm ever true

To GOD, to Ireland, and to you", my Baby wife.

I have been leading up to a general review of the Irish National and political situation. I have not had time to cover as much ground as I wished. Neither can I cover all the ground now: write all I think and feel and know. Just a general summary - On the whole the country is fairly prosperous, the people fairly well off. Since the Land Act of 1903 the majority of the farmers are, in theory at all events, owners of the soil. The land is not as well or as extensively cultivated as it might be or should be. The wheat area has been increased since the war started. Food, so far, is abundant and not too dear. There has been an increase in prices generally for years past, but this is not confined to Ireland. There is a dearth of agricultural

1914.

LXXXIII.

W. Doolan:- labourers. In consequence, the country working classes, commanding fair wages and possessing cheap cottages, are pretty well off - as "well off" is reckoned by them. The working classes of the towns and cities are not at all so well off. Wages have not increased in proportion to cost of living. Employment fluctuates. In some ways the Great War has helped them materially: in other ways it has naturally led to unemployment. Most of the soldiers in the English army are drawn from the casual labourers of the towns and cities. These - Militia and Reserves - have been sent to the fighting line in France. Taxation is high - was abnormally high before the War and of course has been increased since by the English Chancellor. Likely to be still higher. In this connection there is the usual humbug regarding Ireland's finances. The great reason put forward is justification for the financial arrangements of the Home Rule Bill was that "Ireland could not pay its way."

Mí na nDolán ar 24th. On Dominica. Spaid BpizDe. 2 p.m.

The interruptions in my records are many, I fear. My narrative is somewhat disconnected in consequence. It is difficult sometimes to take up the thread of one's writing and still keep abreast of the times.

1914.

LXXXIV.

Dec. 24th:- The interesting incidents of the War - so far as our newspaper accounts go - within the past few days, are the dropping of a bomb on Dover from a German airship on Christmas eve and the sighting of German airships over Chatham, Gillingham, and the mouth of the Thames, on Christmas Day. I term them airships as I am not acquainted with the technical differences between aeroplanes, volplanes, airships, Taubos, Zeppelins. My eldest brother, with his wife and family live at Gillingham. I hold no communication with them: otherwise I may have an account from him. The fact that I have two brothers connected with the British army has, so I heard, recently been used to disparage me! If those who use such an argument only knew the relations existing between my brothers and myself because of this very circumstance! But such are men. If it were not that it would be something else. I bear no hate against any man living but I do not disguise from myself the fact that there are men who dislike me: not in private life, but because of public actions.

1914

LXXXV.

Dec. 24th: Well, well, the less one thinks of disagreeable things the better. I always remember my friend Father Augustine, O.S.F.B., saying that the man who never made an enemy never did anything great or noble or worthy. Do b'fiop yam dó ir Toic yom.

To continue my general survey of the Irish situation. "Ireland cannot pay its way" - that was the general maxim. Even Irishmen were convinced of it. Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, Bp. of Ross, who was a member of a Committee to inquire into the financial arrangements between Ireland and England under Home Rule was convinced of it. Yet now, under the War taxation, the same Ireland that "cannot pay its way" in peace time, will have to pay some three or four millions more than it formerly paid towards the war taxes. This through the medium of porter, tea, and income tax. The "bankrupt and beggar"-nation can pay for war what it could not - absolutely could not, according to "experts," pay for peace. The burden of taxation is heavy upon Ireland.

The reserves in Banks; deposits, etc. are very high

1914

LXXXVI.

Dec. 24th: in proportion to the population. They have been increasing year after year. The figures regarding external trade - imports and exports - have also been mounting up. If one were to judge by those things, Ireland is one of the most prosperous of countries. And to judge by the records at law sessions and assizes it is one of the most contented of countries. The drink bill is high - some £14,000,000 per annum and most of the crime of Ireland - not a very heavy record - is due directly or indirectly to drink. Up to the passing of the war legislation there was very full personal liberty and pretty fair social and political liberty, with a prospect of a certain measure of national liberty. No wonder many Irishmen, looking at the material advantages Ireland now possesses compared with twenty or thirty years ago, are satisfied with English rule and loyal to the English connection.

On the other hand, emigration is still abnormal, manufactures are declining, the old, very young, infirm and weak form an overwhelming proportion of the population; the spirit of nationality, strong in

1914

LXXXVII.

Dec. 24:- outward form was weakening in substance, English ideas, following the great flow of English newspapers and "literature" into the country, were dominant - are dominant: the struggle for the Irish language was becoming harder and our political parties were hardly distinguishable from English parties. There are more opportunities of education now than formerly, as is the case I suppose in all countries, but the education is far from being Irish education. On the whole, the material side of the life of the Irish nation seems to be progressing: but the spiritual side is weak. The danger of absorption by English civilization was great and urgent. Our social problems are no worse and in some respects are better than those of other countries. Our national soul was in danger of being lost, I say was, because I believe there is somehow a change since the advent of the Volunteers and the breaking out of war. True, there are many, many men calling themselves Irish nationalists who were not pro-English before the war; not openly so, at any rate: now loudly proclaiming themselves on the

1914

LXXXVIII.

Dec. 24:- side of England and the British Empire. Anyone judging Ireland of to-day by its daily newspapers would see no difference between Ireland and England. But the observant man going round the country and hearing the countrymen discuss matters would surely discern a vast difference. There can be no question but that Ireland is divided on the attitude to adopt towards England or that, generally, the Irish people are viewing the Great Conflict from a very different point of view to that from which the English people view it.

Now, as to our political parties.

MT na Doonag 30th:- Spaid bridge. 1 p.m. Interrupted again above.

Record latest was news. Great activity evidently about Christmas, principally in the air. English air ships, with cruisers and submarines attacked Germans at Cuxhaven. English say damage done: Germans deny any damage. German airships in Poland: Frach over Metz. So it goes on. Weather in England, and presumably on the continent, very inclement - storms, snow, fog, frost. Telegraphic communication interrupted in consequence and war.

1914.

LXXXIX

Dec. 30:- news delays.

Slight interruption here again by a small circumstance which is of a little interest.

Rev. Dr. O'Daly - Head master of Coláiste na Múmhao - asked me on Monday if I knew anyone who could speak Spanish. He wishes to hear Confession of a Spanish lady who is in Cork and wants "to brush up" his conversational Spanish. I thought of a friend - a Miss Welch - who was a lady's companion and lives in Spain for a few years. She called to me awhile ago. Gave her Dr. O'Daly's address. Though she has been in Cork for some time, her manners are noticeably foreign tinged.

I am back now to my survey of the political parties at present in Ireland. I have already indicated the position of the Orange Party, and touched on the Redmondite and O'Brien parties. The Redmond party is the largest of our parties. The overwhelming majority of the Irish people belonged to that party. The prospect of Home Rule in recent years gave it strength and increased numbers. Had the War not broken out the placing of the Home Rule Act on the Statute Book would have been received with much jubilation by the Irish people and

1914

LXXXIX. (Xc)

Dec. 30 would have strengthened Mr. Redmond enormously, notwithstanding the amending Bill - providing for the exclusion of some counties in Ulster from the administration of an Irish Parliament. The War having upset so many calculations, making so many things uncertain, leaving so much unsettled, the passing of Home Rule was received very quietly. The prospect of the amending Bill also acted as a cold shower bath on the ardour of the people. Home Rule is carried - as "The Leader" put it - "it is an act but not a Fact". Redmond's declaration to the English Commons last ^{July} August that England could take all her soldiers from Ireland and that the Irish Volunteers - a united body then - would defend the shores of Ireland was received with rapture by the English people. His words could bear a double meaning to Irishmen. To Englishmen they appeared to bear only one. Then followed an attempted influx of Irish Unionists - ex-army men, etc. into the Irish Volunteers. But things did not plan out quite as Redmond, by his declaration, wished. Redmond called for "an Irish Brigade" to keep the English on the Continent against the Germans. Again his plan did not work quite as he seemed to wish, chiefly I

1914.

Dec. 30:- believe owing to the attitude of Lord Kitchener and the English War office and also owing to what I call the Irish National spirit, which notwithstanding all Redmond's declarations and the seeming good faith of the English Government in passing Home Rule, still mistrusts the English. The Irish papers - "Sinn Féin", "Freedom", etc. and the so-called "Pro-Germans" were blamed for thwarting Mr. Redmond. The truth, however, seems to me to be, his own men, in Ireland and particularly in the United States ^{are} ~~were~~ the men who ^{on the Irish side,} are really preventing his plans developing; Kitchener and the War office on the English side. Nominally, Mr. Redmond and the Irish Parliamentary Party are as strong in Ireland as ever they were; actually, unless I mistake the situation, their hold on the people is far less than it was. The thing is rather subtle as it is not apparent. His own men do not wish to throw over Redmond and the Party openly; but they are very divided indeed over what is called "the recruiting question." I have heard some very strong supporters of his declare most strongly against him. Their attitude is negative certainly: only time and opportunities can

1914.

Dec. 30:- show if it is likely to become positive. No doubt things are generally upset. The whole future of Ireland, from the Redmondite point of view, depends upon. 1. England winning in the Great War. 2. Ireland being loyal to England during the War and helping England. 3. England being grateful for such help. To my mind the strongest argument Mr. Redmond has for Ireland being loyal to England now is that, as he says, he promised for years, on behalf of the Irish people, that, if Home Rule were granted, the Irish people would be loyal to England and would be a source of strength to England and the British Empire in a time of war. He certainly promised this and can claim as he does that his promise was a big factor in the Home Rule struggle as it convinced Englishmen that it would be safe to give Home Rule to Ireland. I remember that the year before last (I think) I sent a Whitmanesque piece of prose-poetry to "Sinn Féin" which I regarded as my own individual answer to some such promise Mr. Redmond made at some meeting or other in England. I always regarded it as my own poor way of saying "Don't promise for me, John." Undoubtedly, Mr. Redmond promised

1914.

XCIII.

Dec. 30! - but, as in so many other things, his supporters, when challenged on those matters, would say "Oh! that is only for English consumption; he is only 'playing the game.'" Were Home Rule carried there was no reason why Irishmen should not work on for greater National liberty. That was the argument. I remember no later than last September, in connection with the discussion on the Volunteer secession, Mr. George Coobie of the "Gleaner", saying to the "Advanced" young men - "Why not Home Rule be a jumping-off ground?" for greater liberty. Beyond question, the Parliamentary people had two voices; one for England and another for Ireland and Irish America. It was called diplomacy and "playing the game," beating Englishmen with their own weapons, and so forth. Now the time of testing has come: Mr. Redmond is seeking to prove he promises England true; evidently Englishmen are not altogether convinced he did so.

If England win in the war, Mr. Redmond I consider will have a strong case, as there should be no denying many thousands, hundreds of thousands of Irishmen are loyal to England. He will have a case for getting anything in reason he asks from the English Government. But what

1914.

XCIV.

Dec. 30! - about Sir Edward Carson's claims on that same Government?

Carson and his men are also loyal to England; are also proving their loyalty; will the English Government not owe some gratitude to them also? How can the two opposing claims be reconciled?

Evidently only by the amending Bill becoming an act; cutting off four or five of the Ulster counties from the rest of Ireland.

If England lose? Ah! well, we must not contemplate that. Though indeed at present after five months of war the prospect of victory on any side is very clouded indeed.

Apart from that, if England win can Ireland really count on gratitude? The experience of all our history teaches no; it may be that, as Mr. Redmond states, England to-day is an entirely different England from the England of the past. "Hope springs eternal" in the Irish heart.

It may be, but if the Liberals go out of office and the Tories come in - a not unlikely contingency - where will the Ireland of Mr. Redmond be? It is not at all likely; it is extremely unlikely: that gratitude for Ireland's being loyal to England during the war will weigh with them as their contention is Ireland should be loyal anyhow - Home Rule or no Home Rule. And with England victorious the Irish Volunteers of all shades, all combines, could hardly hope to

1914.

XCV

Dec. 30:- prevail against the victorious British army. Mr.

Redmond and his party are certainly staking all on England winning in the war: on Ireland being loyal: and on English gratitude.

Mr. Wm. O'Brien is really in the same boat, but more openly so. He is leaving the way open for Tory gratitude as well as Liberal gratitude. His appeal for Ireland is to the moderate men of all English and Irish parties. Like Mr. Redmond he has suffered some disappointment, perhaps more disappointment, on the recruiting question. His followers generally have not followed his lead on the road of loyalty to England. His only role at present is as a critic of Mr. Redmond and "the mollies". He taunts Redmond with not being a success as "England's recruiting sergeant". (These are his own words!). He taunts "the mollies" and the "Molly Volunteers" with not being loyal! I consider his attitude most amusing.

Sinn Féin — there is no Sinn Féin political party at present. The National Council of Sinn Féin in Dublin still meets occasionally, I believe, for lectures, debates, etc. There is no organized party. Yet, Sinn Féin is much in the mouths of the Parliamentarians. Every man who

1914.

XCVI

Dec. 30:- Irish nationalist who is not of Redmond's party or O'Brien's party is dubbed a "Sinn Féiner" or a "Pro-German." That is really how its opponents have resurrected Sinn Féin as a political party. There are tens of thousands, probably hundreds of thousands; perhaps half a million of men and women in Ireland who place Ireland's interests before England's; who are loyal only to Ireland and feel no loyalty towards England; who are, as is understood just at present, "For Ireland only". They include various schools of thought on Ireland's position as a Nation from Fenian Republicans and Irish Socialists to Home Rulers who mistrust England. They are all dubbed, as I say, Sinn Féiners or pro-Germans. Some six hundred years ago King Richard II of England writing from Ireland to his son, stated "There are three classes of Irish people - Irish savages or enemies: Irish loyalists who are now in rebellion: and English subjects." I consider that a remarkable summing up. It describes the Irish situation all the time. English subjects - the Orange Party and Conservative fringes of to-day: Irish loyalists - Redmond and O'Brien parties (not now in rebellion: not since Land League days): Irish "savages"

1914.XCvii.

Dec. 30! - or enemies - Fenians, Sinn Féinists, Nationalists, etc.

Through the centuries now one, now another of those classes has been numerically in the ascendant or has led the country: but the three parties have always been there and seem likely to remain while England remains strong.

The Gaelic League and the Industrial associations, like many other associations, include men of all parties. There is an effort being made to have the former come out on the anti-English side. Dr. Douglas Hyde and others are opposed to this. "much might be said on both sides" of such a matter.

Dec. 31. Spáirín Búide. 12.15 p.m. 1914 is dying: dying during a fine, cold day in Cork. An eventful year: a year that will be memorable in the world's history for the next few thousand years, if the world last so long. There is an Irish tradition that a change - a great change - takes place in the world about every two thousand years. Perhaps the events of 1914 are the beginning of one of the great changes. Who knows? The French Revolution brought about great changes in Europe. Napoleon made great changes in Europe. His changes were temporary. The change in men's outlook caused by the former have had more permanent

1914XCviii.

Dec. 31! - effects. The Great War has been a stirring up for old Europe. I do not know very much about Germany, Austria, or Russia. But I conceive that civilization in France and England was, if I may put it so, running to seed: that decay had begun to set in. And I conceive that such was not the case in Germany: that the civilization of Germany was comparatively young, was strong and vigorous. I am doubtful about the Austrian Empire: it is difficult to treat it as a homogenous empire. I do not think Russia was on the decaying side. The great signs of decay in France were contempt for religion and race suicide. The great signs of decay in England - over prosperity, luxury, a reversion of religion. Luther's course seems ours: the Balkan states on the up-grade. There is a great outcry against "Prussian militarism". The cry is of course mostly hypocrisy. All the Empires of the world: all the conquering nations of the world have been built up on militarism or force. And, if I am correct in regarding the German Empire as a young, strong, vigorous power out for conquest, that Empire, judged by the history of the past, is bound to prevail. I do not know if ever in the history

1914

Dec. 31:- of the world, a people, having reached the position of strength Germany occupies to-day, was crushed flatly, checked as in its development that its further growth was rendered impossible. I do not think there ever has been such a case. I think there can be no doubt as to the patriotism of the Germans; no doubt as to their preparedness for war: no doubt as to their excellent education: can such a people be crushed? 1915 will probably tell during its development. Of course Germany's growth is not agreeable to other peoples. It was inevitable there should be a conflict. Atrocities stories, torrents of lies, acrimonious discussions, military laws, killing of non-combatants, suffering, demolition of churches, heavy taxation, pillage and plunder, much hunting and hypocrisy, are the natural accompaniments of such a conflict. There are also glorious deeds: deeds of daring, courage, self-sacrifice, charity, religion in the record. These as well as those are to be seen on all sides of the field of conflict. This Great War, may, in the designs of God, be a means to humble the pride of men and nations which was rising so high, storming heaven itself, as of old at the tower of Babel, by the

C.

1914.

Dec. 31:- achievements of men in the 19th century.

I was waiting somehow for this news — the revival of the South African rising. A few weeks ago the "rebellion" there was completely crushed: Do Wet a prisoner: Beyer dead: the "rebels" scattered: all was over. So ran the newspaper accounts. To-day there is a short report of victory of the "rebel" forces, 800 strong, led by "the traitor Maitz", over "the Union forces", 400 or so strong. Not a very great affair as the reports grow: significant simply as showing there is more going on than we are allowed to know of.

Notwithstanding the press censorship all news cannot be suppressed. Things have a way of becoming known. The German newspapers evidently are devoting considerable attention to the state of affairs in Ireland. So the American papers state: and some of the leading English papers are perturbed. Within the past few days it has been reported that Professor Huns Meyer informed a meeting of Clan na Gael men in New York that a force, formed of Irish soldiers who were taken prisoners in the fighting line in Belgium and France, is being raised by the German Government, with a view to an invasion of Ireland.

1914.

Dec. 31:- to smash the English Government here! Kuno Meyer stated he saw them himself at a railway station in Germany which he named. Kuno Meyer is well-known in Irish circles here. He received the freedom of Dublin and Cork with an *arab padar o laojaino* a few years ago. I remember seeing him in the Council Chamber here in Cork. An old, infirm man: a most unlikely man one would think to make rash statements: so, if he is reported correctly - and there seems no reason to doubt it now - I would attach importance to his words. An alderman Lucius of the Dublin Corporation is moving to have his name struck off the roll of freemen of that city on account of his New York utterance, in order to prove that Dublin and Ireland are loyal to England! I doubt that will be done without trouble. Wonders will Cork Corporation move too?

Sir Roger Casement seems to be the man who has stirred Germany on "the Irish question." It is stated that a pamphlet of his - fairly well-known here - "Ireland, Germany, and the next War" - has been officially issued by the Government in Germany. The German Government has also issued a Proclamation of goodwill towards Ireland - a "Scrap of Paper"! What all these signs and tokens mean it is difficult at present to say. Is '98 to be repeated? The signs are

1914.

Dec. 31:- remarkably like the signs of those times, except that the Germans are better prepared to cross the seas than the French were. The *Reconciliation* Act was passed 1783: the Irish Parliament was free: Grattan and his supporters were loyal to England; depended on the goodwill of England. Home Rule is an act to-day: Redmond and his supporters are in the position of Henry Grattan and his supporters. The *United* and Redmondite Volunteers are in the position of the *Ypsos* and the militia of '98. The "Lion Fivers" and "Pro-Germans" occupy the position of the *United* Irishmen - excepting in organization - and the "Pro-French" of that period. To complete the likeness Lord Aberdeen has resigned: there are to be meetings all over the ^{resignation} country asking him to reconsider his resignation: ^{this} ^{is} due, I imagine, to intrigues of the Orange Party - the Earl Fitzwilliam incident is paralleled. Ireland was awaiting a French invasion: to-day we know not the day or the hour when Germans may land. It is not '98 in full yet: only the signs leading up to it. What will be the outcome? Home Rule thrown over - to parallel the Union, with an *Emmet* rising and coercion, famine, etc. Or, ——— what?

1915.103.

Siombúip 3:- Oia Dominaiz. Spáid Éiríge. 11.45 a.m.

A new year has begun. 1914 is gone. 1915 is born.
 Death and life: life and death. A year of destiny for this
 old world of ours? To judge by the portents, yes. We
 are alive in stirring times. In the days of peace, reading of
 times gone by, imagination as to war circumstances may have
 been vivid. But realization of such circumstances brings
 understanding. Now, we can understand the past better.
 We know not what the morrow may bring forth. Anything
 seems possible. It is impossible to judge adequately,
 even if one were competent to judge, of the present war
 situation. News is suppressed. And when not suppressed
 is coloured. Another British war ship - "The
 Formidable" is gone, with some 600 lives lost: sunk in
 the English channel by mine or submarine. The news of
 this is out at once: it could not have been suppressed
 evidently. How many are gone that we know not of
 none can say. There are rumours; and rumours of
 rumours. To speak publicly of such rumours is a
 "crime" at present, punishable by courtmartial. Still,
 the rumours persist. There are fairly outspoken
 articles in some of the better class English magazines and

1915104.

Jan. 3:- reviews; protests against the "suppression" of news.

I mark it "suppression", for, though officially suppressed,
 everyone has news. One article in the "British
 Review" by a major someone or other, extracts from which I
 have seen, seems to speak the truth. Certainly one
 part, describing life in the trenches in France and Belgium
 I have reason to know to be true. I have met soldiers
 who have been in the trenches. They tell the same story
 this Major tells: how an unofficial truce is come to between
 the German and British soldiers every morning, to allow
 each other to get out of the trenches, to wash, to eat, and so
 on: how they fraternise for a short time and exchange
 food, tobacco, etc. The real fighting, according to
 the methods of old campaigns, seems to be in Poland between
 the German and Austrians against the Russians. The story
 so far seems to be victory here, defeat there, result yet
 inconclusive. There are pro-Germans, or
 Germanophiles, in Russia evidently. So at least
 one can gather from an address by an English ambassador
 in Petrograd, extracts of which are given in the paper.

At the moment there is a likelihood - not great perhaps
 but still present - of the United States being brought into the

1915105.

Jan. 3:- conflict. It has addressed a Note to England protesting against the searching and detaining of American ships. The old business; the same which caused the English-American war of 1812-14. If the States come in - who! such a War never was seen, embracing the New and Old Worlds at a time when, probably, the population of the world is greater than it ever has been. It is impossible for any man's mind to grasp it all. So begins 1915.

Jan. 4. 2, Spáid Bhríde. 5 p.m. Nothing particularly new or startling appears to-day, while there are many things of passing interest. We are to have a new Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Lord Wimborne, a young man, who was once a Tory and whose wife is related to an extreme Tory. He comes to Ireland with the good wishes of the "Daily Mail" as well as with the wishes of the Liberals. Mr. Wm. O'Brien says he is a friend of Mr. Joseph Devlin, President of the "Molly" Hibernians; Wm. consequently does not welcome him.

I have been refreshing my memory a little, by looking up some published reports, on the history of the Volunteers in Cork. In March - to be precise about March 20 - what has been called the "Curragh Affair"

1061915.

Jan. 4:- occurred. This undoubtedly had considerable influence on the mind of the Irish people towards the Volunteers - in both as elsewhere. The "Affair", which attracted wide attention may be summarised as follows:- Some cavalry officers at the Curragh of Kildare stated they would refuse to obey orders if sent to enforce Home Rule on "Ulster" and they were supposed to have received an assurance from high War Office authorities that they would not be asked to enforce the Act of Parliament - Home Rule - on "Ulster". A furor was consequently created. The meaning was clear:- the English Army versus the English Parliament was the issue. Ireland was to be deprived of a right because of the attitude of certain cavalry officers. Mutiny in the Army was threatened. "The people's" liberties were to be infringed upon. And so on and so on, in England. The upshot was swift, the Premier, became Chief War Lord: certain resignations took place at the War office. The "misunderstandings" were explained away. But, the effect on Irishmen's minds was that force was becoming the deciding factor even to gain Home Rule. And then

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Jan. 4! - the wisdom of the Irish Volunteer movement became apparent. Of course, the Parliamentary Party leaders did not quite like this issue of force - this resurrection as it were of a "physical force movement" in Ireland. But, the Irish people's instinct was true: the people took the matter in their own hands: the Volunteers received a tremendous accession of strength. I find that on April 3rd, the Cork Corps received the use of the Cork Corn market for parades. There was a little opposition by one of the A. O. H. men, but it did not prevail. On April 5th, we paraded in the Market for a route march to Blarney. I remember that well. It was a fearfully wet day: the roads were sodden: the march out was real work. We had about 100 men, perhaps. Photographs of us were taken in the market: published on postcards; and in the "Cork Examiner" next day. (The beginning of "Examiner" friendliness). A huge crowd awaited us outside the Cornmarket gates and cheered us as we came out. Our reception, through the city, was splendid: we were then the men of the hour. The evening cleared up. We gave a start to Blarney corps: a few of us speaking off a table and returned "by the rising of the moon".

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Jan. 4! - hugely pleased with ourselves, having lived to justify our existence thus far, despite all opposition.

Monday 5! - Spent byzō - 12.20 p.m. Strange things may happen in war-time but as incident reported in last evening's paper is more than passing strange if we accept the "boeing echo" report of it as true. It was known of around the city during the evening but I did not know of it till about 6.30. The "echo" puts it that the inhabitants of Crosshaven and district were disturbed on Sunday night by practice firing of big guns from Fort Carlisle at the entrance to the harbour. Shells struck near the Coastguard Station, Crosshaven, near the Convent, on the Myrtleville road, in Hoddesfield, Fountainstown (my native spot) was Coolmore, but did not explode; did no damage: yesterday morning soldiers came, took them up and threw them into the sea! As we say, "that be hanged for a story." To me it is apparent hunting. The "Cork Constitution" notice board of late information states, I heard, that the shells ricocheted from the water! Ricocheted five or six miles inland indeed! The whole story so far seems utterly absurd. (I have just got this day's "Examiner"). In big headings I see "Harbour sensation: Suspected submarine; Torts in action: Shells in Crosshaven." Farther down it is stated "On Sunday night at the entrance of Cork Harbour, Torts Bandon and Carlisle opened fire on a suspicious object in the water, believed to have been a German submarine. During the firing two of the shells

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Jan. 5' - ricocheted off the water, passing to the mainland in the neighbourhood of Broomhaven. One shell burst, but the other did not. No harm was done. Nothing is known of the fate of the submarine." What is one to think of it? I gave that very theory last night: I believed there was, there could have been no other explanation but that German ships or submarines were off the Harbour. Well, how lovely the "Cork Examiner" people look to-day as purveyors of news with their "Gun Practising from Fort Carlisle"! So, truth will out. But, how much of the truth we have got it is hard to say. I have, naturally, many friends, relations and acquaintances around Broomhaven. I wish I could get the true story. But - no strangers are allowed into Broomhaven or neighbourhood. Alas! I am a stranger in my native district now.

Now, on Sunday night, I had a feeling^{that} something sensational was happening! I said so to my little wife and asked her to note it, as the news was bound to come to us during the week. So this it was probably. My "feeling" was true: I knew it to be true myself, but did not know what the happening was likely to be. Well, well - here we are now with no soapbombs at our gates. What next? None knows what next. But, we are all I believe on the tiptoe of expectation.

Then. To come to Cork Harbour is one of the most daring things yet. Cork Harbour is so fortified as to be almost

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Jan. 5' - impregnable. But those Germans are daring. In about three minutes I have read all there is to be read of all news in the "Cork Examiner". If all else is as covered as the Harbour affair, and I have no doubt it is, so I predict Old Appanra for the "news" we are getting in that journal.

Monday 9. Spaid Bridge 6.30 p.m. The end of my space in this book is near and my time is limited. There is no further light on the Broomhaven "affair". Many rumours were ~~of~~ rife, but nothing exact is forthcoming. The thing, amidst so many other great happenings is only a three days wonder: not even the proverbial nine days.

The Lords of England devoted some time yesterday to again discussing "sedition" and other things in Ireland. Poor Ireland!

Mr. Redmond's Volunteers in Cork are "guarding the bridges", providing newspaper copy for Wm. O'Brien and some amusement for the citizens.

Kuno Meyer's name was struck off the roll of "freemen" of our city yesterday on the motion of a Redmondite Councillor, Wm. Hart, supported by a Unionist. Voting was 24 for, 3 against: there are 55 or 56 men in the Corporation.

— Done on leabaysgeo. —

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