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Editorial

Easter

"Gloria in excelsis! Alleluia to the risen Saviour!"

The Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, is the great central fact of Christianity. Deny that Christ is truly risen from the dead, and you can deny everything else which has been said about Him. But the fact cannot be denied. There is too much historical and traditional evidence supporting it. Exactly nineteen hundred Easters have passed since that great first Easter, and each of them has proclaimed, as it were, in triumph, "He is risen; He who said that he would destroy the temple of God and in three days rebuild it, has indeed fulfilled His word."

Truly the life of Christ is the greatest tragedy, the greatest drama, time has shown. And the triumphant climax of that drama is the scene where He who had on

several occasions raised others from the dead, reassumes the glory of His divinity, thereby conquering Death and Hell.

Easter is a time of gladness. We rejoice to behold the glory of God; we rejoice in the promise of a personal and glorious resurrection on the last day for those who die in Christ, the Redeemer.

Easter is also the time when Nature, in obedience to her great Master's commands, begins to cast aside the dead garments of winter and to dress herself anew in the bright raiment of spring. Birds are returning from the south, boys are playing marbles, crocuses are peeping forth. Soon the ice will be gone from the harbors, and the trees will be bursting into leaf. Life in its various forms will be everywhere abundant—newly-hatched chickens in the farmyards, new-born lambs in the pastures, butterflies and bees and birds and beasts happy just because they're living, possessed of LIFE.

Man too rejoices in life, not only in the natural life but particularly in the spiritual life which the Easter time has given him. The long period of Lent is over, and the fulfillment of that period is with us. All nature echoes the divine words, "I am the resurrection and the life."

The Irish Elections

All over the world great interest has been taken in the recent Irish elections which resulted in victory for the Republicans, led by Mr. DeValera. Final results show that the Republicans together with their labor allies have a majority of eleven seats over the combined forces of the government party, headed by former President, William T. Cosgrave, and the Independents. On the surface it would appear as if Ireland had made a mistake in turning down Mr. Cosgrave's bid for re-election. In other countries the result of the elections was received, we believe, with a certain apprehension as to what would be the result or outcome of the assumption of political power by the Republicans, who are regarded as more or less radicals or extremists.

The history of Ireland has been a very dark one. Previous to 1922 the country was in a very unsettled condition, the government a muddled one. Poverty was quite common and affairs very unsettled, in fact there was a continuous friction bordering on anarchy, with a

prevalence of murders, assassinations and other forms of terrorism.

When, just ten years ago, the Free State was formed an almost immediate improvement took place. At first, however, strong opposition was met with and attempts were made to plunge Ireland once more into disorder. Two of the foremost government leaders, Michael Collins and Kevin O'Higgins, were shot down in a most cowardly manner by gunmen. Naturally a great deal of the odium of these assassinations has been imputed to the Republicans, who are not unaccustomed to resorting to methods of violence. In spite, however, of all the efforts to destroy her, the Free State Government persisted, waxed stronger every day, and finally became firmly established.

Since then many measures have been adopted for the betterment of the people. Under the three Housing Acts of 1924, 1925, and 1926 an aggregate sum of 900,000 pounds was made available for the construction of new housing. Of this amount, 590,000 pounds was expended within that period; much assistance has also been given to enable tenants to become property owners. In December, 1927, Mr. Cosgrave declared, without hesitation, that 'a greater improvement had been effected in the roads of Ireland during the past four or five years than in any other country in the world.' But it is in the sphere of Education, perhaps, that the greatest beneficent changes have been made. Previously there had been much confusion. Under the Free State Government, however, sweeping reforms were adopted which resulted in greatly improved Agricultural and Technical Education.

And now as a result of the recent elections, Ireland is to be ruled by the Republicans whose general policy, according to one of Mr. Cosgrave's supporters, would seem to be "whatever is, is wrong." One of the platform pledges of Mr. DeValera calls for the abolition of the Oath of Allegiance to King George. Just what the result of this act will be, if and when Mr. DeValera carries it into effect, we are not prepared to conjecture. When one thinks of Limerick and Drogheda and Wexford one can readily sympathize with the Irish people in their efforts to obtain independence from England. But, after all, is the long-sought national independence at the present time and under present circumstances really worth while? The Oath of Allegiance to the King of England has not to-day the particular significance that it had centuries

ago before the great British Empire was firmly established; it is more of a formality, more of a pledge of fidelity to the Empire of which England is only a part—true, an *important* part, but still only a part—and of which the King is simply an official sceptre, as it were. Would the abolition of the Oath of Allegiance mean the complete separation of Ireland from the British Empire? We fail to see how it could mean less than that. And do the people of Ireland wish to dissociate themselves from the millions of Irish descent in Canada, in Australia, in India, in Africa, in all parts of the Empire? Are the ties of affection between Ireland (Mother Ireland, we here in Canada call her) and Empire-Irishmen to be broken? God forbid.

The recent Irish election has brought other perplexing thoughts to our minds. What will the effect of it be upon the pending Imperial Conference to be held in Ottawa? Would the breaking away of Ireland be the first step in the disintegration of our Empire? Again, God forbid!

An answer to all of these questions Time alone will give. The world is praying to-day for Ireland, praying that there will be no relapse into the former state of internal strife, hoping that there is a future of peace and plenty in store for her, and that, at last, "a new heaven" has dawned over "a new earth" for Innisfail, the Isle of Destiny.

God Save Ireland!

The Destruction of Prince of Wales College

The destruction caused by fire in the province during the past few months shows that monster to be no respecter of persons nor of property. Private and public institutions, personal property, human lives, all have gone down before its wasting breath. Of special interest and regret to us was the destruction on the morning of February 13th of our sister College, Prince of Wales. It formed an integral part of the educational system of the province; and few are those Island students going beyond grade ten who did not know its fostering care. Long were imparted within its walls the elements of true education; and far-flung over the world are those who feel a kindly debt of gratitude, and hold a warm place in their hearts for Old Prince of Wales. A new and larger College will

arise, more suitable to the needs, perhaps; but for the older generation the sentiment and memories attached to the former classrooms will have vanished. We extend our sympathy to the faculty and student body in the difficulties they have encountered as a result of their severe loss.



Against criticism a man can neither protect nor defend himself. He must act in spite of it, and then criticism will gradually give in to him.—*Goethe*.

There is no death! What seems so is transition;
This life of mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life elysian,
Whose portal we call Death.

—*Longfellow*

Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar:
The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried
Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel.

—*Shakespeare*

