

St. Dunstan's Red and White

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VOL. XIV.

JUNE, 1923

No. 3.

Editorial

Vale—

We feel glad and yet sorry, that the time has come for us to sever our connection with the editing staff of Red and White—glad to be able to shift our responsibilities to other shoulders, sorry to lose the companionship of our associates, to whose hearty support we are indebted for the publishing of our XIVth Volume. We have found our work difficult, but never irksome, and now, on completing it, feel great satisfaction in that we have contributed to some extent towards keeping alive the traditions of this Institution. Before vacating the editorial sanctum, we sincerely wish that next year's staff will meet with every success in its work.

The Irish Question

The most painful task that falls to the lot of the Government of a new state is the necessity of upholding the law against former friends who may refuse to accept the new order of things. This must be done in order that peace may be restored after war,—even after a war for liberty. This is

what the Irish Government has been forced to do; although its patience and longsuffering in dealing with the rebels has no parallel in history, still when the government did strike, it was made the target for accusations of terrible cruelty.

The truth of the matter is shown clearly in the action of the Governemnt after the opponents of the Free State had tried every possible measure to excite the populace against the existing Government, and to provoke civil war. The patience of the Government and of Michael Collins' army was regarded by the great majority as a sign of weakness. At length the Government was forced to act; a few were executed, but, under the circumstances, never was more leniency shown to prisoners—never more mercy shown towards treacherous and treasonable rebels—than the Irish Government showed at this period.

The reason of its action is not hard to find; the Irish Government had been trusted with the life of the new democracy; it must save or betray that life. Nothing else remained. Ireland was on the verge of Bolshevism. The revoltors had at first looked upon the irregular war as an execting adventure, a war with a minimum risk; of private greed rather than public need, loot rather than levy, soon became its object; Ireland was fast becoming another Russia.

The principal justification for drastic punishment of crime is that it is preventative. The Irish Government used drastic measures—the execution of some of the most notorious rebels. The measures were effective. They shortened the conflict, saved many lives, and vindicated for the Irish Government a name for humaneness as well as for patience.



Ed. Note—We sincerely thank our advertisers, contributors, subscribers, and all who have in any way been of assistance to us; we earnestly hope that they will show the same courtesy and consideration to our successors as they have to us.

