

# THE SPARK

"KEEP THE FIRES OF THE NATION BURNING"  
(C. S. PARNELL)



Edited by Ed. DALTON

VOL. II. No. 50.

DUBLIN, SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 1916.

PRICE ONE HALFPENNY

## ENGLAND'S HEROES.

Some inspired women in Ireland are seeking subscriptions to raise a memorial to the Englishwoman, Miss Cavell, in the City of Dublin Hospital, which refuses to have an Irishwoman as matron. Miss Cavell, who acted as a secret agent for the Allies, under the protection of the nurse's uniform, might be commemorated alongside of her countryman Andre in Westminster Abbey; but an Irish hospital—or an hospital of any kind—is the last place for her commemoration. By her action in using the uniform of the nurse to cover her political conspiracies, she has rendered that once universally respected uniform suspect now in every belligerent nation, and, consequently, has hampered the humane work of those women of all nations who sincerely wish to alleviate the sufferings of war. Certainly, above all classes, nurses and doctors have little reason to wish for a commemoration of Miss Cavell.

England is the only nation which glorifies its spies. In its Holy of Holies a monument stands to the memory of the agent who seduced Benedict Arnold to betray his country—happily without success. Arnold was one of Washington's most capable generals in the affair which American historians call the War of Independence, and "The Patriotic History of England" terms "the American Rebellion. He became embarrassed in his personal pecuniary affairs, and much embittered by the charges of some of his jealous countrymen. In that moment England tempted him with her gold to betray his native land, and the wretched man fell. Andre—"a British officer and a gentleman"—was the infamous agent of the infamous transaction.

The American traitor arranged with the Eng-

lish to dispose his army at West Point in such a manner that when the English attacked it, it must surrender or be annihilated. The possession of West Point and the destruction of Arnold's army would have decided the war in England's favour, for Washington, with his inferior forces, would have been cut off and could only, had he continued to resist, have died fighting. The United States would never have come into existence, and the portion of the world known by that title would to-day be an English possession, governed from Downing Street and exploited for the English merchant.

### The Saving of the United States.

On the night of September 21, 1780, Andre slipped into the American lines to make the final arrangements for the great act of treachery which was to deliver back revolted America into England's despot-grip. Arnold handed him the plans which were to guide the English, and furnished him with a passport to carry him back through the American lines. The English agent, disguised as a civilian, had almost reached safety when three young American soldiers, at a wayside hamlet, demanded to see his passport. He produced it—it satisfied their inspection, and he was passing triumphant on his way, when one of the three, on a sudden impulse, urged his companions to follow the unusual course, in the circumstances, of searching this man with the satisfactory passport for concealed papers. It was done and Arnold's treason disclosed. Andre tried to bribe his captors to let him go—he was well supplied with gold—but in vain. He was secured, and the United States of America came into being.



Arnold fled into the English lines, and England, with her sublime assurance, demanded the release of her secret service agent. The Americans replied by hanging him, and England thereupon canonised him as St. Andre the Martyr. The English Press of 1780 described him as Faithful, Honourable, Magnanimous, Intrepid and Candid—a hero—the beau-ideal of an English officer and a gentleman. As for the Americans who hanged him—it promised a day of reckoning for the shedding of the martyred hero's blood. But as America happened to win the war George Washington, instead of becoming the English felon became the head of an Independent State, and vengeance for Andre is postponed until that time looked forward to by all English statesmen, when the descendants of the American "loyalists" who fought against their country's independence, will succeed in subverting it and restore the States to England.

England buried her suborner's body in her Valhalla—Westminster Abbey—reared a monument there to his memory and appointed him an exemplar of English Honour to her youth, and an inspiration to it to seek immortality by bribing a needy and distressed wretch to betray his country, if they cannot seek it by other paths. Most countries have agents whom men of honour cannot recognise; but England is the only nation which glorifies them. The trade of a public executioner is a lawful one, but a country does not erect a monument to him dead. England builds in her pantheon a monument to one whose trade was not less repugnant—perhaps, indeed, more so—the trade of him who buys a human being to sell his native land.

Arnold and His Imitators.

Certainly there is precedent for a memorial to Miss Cavell—in Westminster Abbey—England's Valhalla. And we shall add that, from the standpoint of common honour, she did not act so badly as the illustrious Englishman whose dust now mingles with that of England's statesmen, kings, poets and sages. As I have mentioned the miserable Benedict Arnold whom Andre was the agent in suborning, let me add that he anticipated some distinguished persons of our own time. When he had gone over to the English he issued a manifesto to his countrymen assuring them that he was the True Patriot, and Washington and his faction were the enemies of American liberty. He had fought England, he wrote, while England inflicted injuries on his country, but England now gave America no further just cause for complaint—"with the open arms of a parent she offers to embrace us as children and grant all needful redress"—the American Home Rule Bill was on the Statute Book, as it were. It was the duty of all patriotic Americans, wrote the traitor, to show their

loyalty to the English Connection, and not to depend upon the promises of that tyrannical Power with which England was at war—(it was France then)—for that Power would destroy their churches—it was an enemy to their religion—crush their liberties—for it was a military despotism—and betray those dupes of Americans who credited its promises.

"I wish," the miscreant wrote, "to lead a chosen band of Americans to the attainment of Peace, Liberty and Safety, and with them to share in the glory of rescuing our native country from the grasping hand of France, as well as from the ambitious and interested views of a desperate party among ourselves, who have already brought this land to the very brink of destruction . . . Its security depends upon the exertions of England for its protection."

However, the Americans refused to see that France was their enemy and England their protector. With the aid of France they drove England out, and the American traitor, pensioned and sheltered in London, lived to see the country he sought to betray to England become free. He died a remorseful and despairing man. So may die all those chosen by a people as their leaders against foreign tyrants who sell themselves to the tyranny, and seek to dupe the nation which trusted them into submitting to the tyrant's wiles. Benedict Arnold is a name for ever infamous in the history of mankind. But he has had, like many infamous men, disciples in other lands, including our own.

## NO IRISH CONSCRIPTS.

"The Bill is confined, as I have said, to the redemption of the promise given, and given, be it observed, exclusively to those who were concerned or affected by Lord Derby's scheme. It is therefore limited in area to Great Britain—to which and which alone Lord Derby's scheme applies."

Mr. Asquith introducing Conscription Bill in British House of Commons, 6-1-16.

## BECAUSE.

"To include Ireland under a Conscription Bill would be sheer madness. . . . Those who know Ireland have no illusions with regard to the fatal consequences which would flow from any attempt to coerce Irishmen. The history of coercion in Ireland is plain."

"Daily News" (London), 4-1-16.

Green, White, and Orange Celluloid Badges—One Penny each.—WHELAN & SON, 17 Upper Ormond Quay, Dublin.



## BELGIUM AND GREECE.

Suppose that the Germans had not entered Belgium, and that their lines in France extended from the Belgian to the Swiss frontier. Look at a coloured map taking in France, England, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland and Western Germany. Judge what would be the position of the German lines in the West if they extended, say, from Montmedy to Mulhouse. Would the French and the English have kept out of Belgium, well knowing that a swift advance through that country would have not alone the effect of turning the whole right wing of the German forces, but also of opening a way across the Rhine in the Cologne district? Our hypocrites say the Allies would never, under any circumstances, have violated Belgian neutrality. They lie, and they know that they lie. Look at Greece, and then try and picture what England and France would have done if between them and invasion of Germany there only stood—Belgium.

Greece is an independent country. It has the right to go to war or to remain neutral, just as it pleases. Yet, what is the plight of this "small nationality" at the present day? For all intents and purposes, England and France are using it as if it were a vassal state. They have commandeered its railways. They have taken over its rolling stock. English and French soldiers armed with rifles are on every mile of the railways. English and French soldiers—alien troops—are billeted on its citizens. Its ships have been prevented from sailing. Its provisions are being eaten up by an army of occupation. Furthermore, England and France insist not only that Greece must put up with all this, but that she must go to war to suit them.

Yet this monstrous treatment of a small and independent nation finds abundant support from a venal Irish Press that almost went into hysterics over Belgium. Now the most the Germans ever asked of the Belgians was to march through their country. They were willing to pay for all damage incurred in that march. They never asked Belgians at any time to fight for them.

Yet look at Greece. Not alone have England and France marched through that country, despite the protest of its King and Parliament, but they insist on the Greeks fighting for them as well.

Read this choice threat from the wonderful supporter of small nations, the "Irish Times":

"At a moment when imports by land are unattainable, Greece is less than ever self-supporting, and a very short period of stoppage of food supplies would leave her utterly helpless. Partial though the Allies' coercive

measures at present may be, they represent, nevertheless, a sufficiently constricting grip to a country situated as Greece is situated. Her King is well aware that this is only a small foretaste of the ruin which the sea power of the Allies ruthlessly applied can at any moment inflict upon his country."—Leading article of the Irish Times, Tuesday, Nov. 23rd, 1915.

Beautiful language that addressed to a small nationality. If the "Irish Times" was writing about Ireland in such a strain it would be understandable, because this organ of the superior class has always regarded the mere Irish as savages; but when applied to a small nation on the Continent—one of those small nations about which the English newspapers have gushed so much—it is passing strange to find the change of tone. Perhaps it is only when small nations are found fighting for the Empire that they have any rights at all. It is curious, too, to find that other new-found lover of small nations—Russia—is to make a request to Rumania to be allowed permission to march through so that Bulgaria may be attacked. Russia, whom the Poles love, is anxious to make the Bulgarians love her in the same way—she has to be cruel to be kind—but in order to convince Rumania of her power, as well as her will, to chastise the Bulgarians, she thinks it right to assemble a huge army on the Rumanian frontier. Another way of making a small nationality "toe the line," for which the English Press is loud in its praise.

Frankly, is not all this loathsome hypocrisy of the English and the Russians absolutely disgusting. The violation of Greek neutrality by the English was glossed over by the defenders of Belgian neutrality on the ground that the Greeks wanted the English in their country. It is a lie. Even Venezelos protested against their coming. Would England have dared to act thus to America or Japan? But I forgot—these are not small nationalities.

This brings me back to Belgium and the first paragraph of this article. Let me suppose that the Germans had not entered Belgium, and that they lay exposed on that side. Let me try and deduce in a few words from the example of what has happened with Greece what would inevitably have happened in the case of Belgium.

In the first place, England for a time would have concealed her real intentions in the way that we are familiar with in Ireland. But English gold would soon be at work. It would not be difficult to get a rigged note in the Belgian Parliament regarding the "German menace" on the frontier. If the King of Belgium (like the King of Greece) wished to preserve his country's neutrality, he would first, probably, be stabbed by an assassin, just as the Greek King was last April; and if that did not succeed, it would be



recalled that his wife was married to a German Princess. In any event, English troops, with the aid of English gold, would find a pretext for landing on Belgian soil, just as they found a pretext for landing at Salonica, despite the opposition of the Greek King and Government.

In this connection it is significant that absolutely no fortifications were erected by the Belgian Government against a landing of English troops on the coast line. Holland was more far-seeing, and she knew England better. Her coast is well guarded, and, as a result, the suggestion made in the English Press early in the war that Germany would be attacked through Holland has not been carried out.

Greece, like Belgium, was not allowed by England to erect sea fortifications on its coast line. The moral is obvious.

When, therefore, the next hypocrite asks you about Belgium, ask him—what of Greece? He may try to cloud the issue, but he cannot get over the fact that English troops entered Greek territory, in spite of the protest of the Greek Government. What they have done in the case of Greece, they would, beyond the shadow of a doubt, have done also in the case of Belgium.

—♦♦— CANICE.

## “JOLLY BRITONS.”

The “Jolly Britons” have been having quite an innings latterly. George Shaw, I suppose I had better identify him as “G.B.S.,” or you won’t pay due respect to his opinion, has somewhere expressed the view that the English are a very hysterical and sentimental people; at least in a comparative sense. He has lived in their midst longer than have I, and, perhaps, knows them better.

Just a few instances of “British” “liveliness” have come under my notice throughout the holidays. One of them will interest His Grace the Bishop of Kerry, who has complained of the vigilance of the British Censors in mutilating his ecclesiastical correspondence. One of the “Censors” of the British Government was prosecuted by a girl for summary dismissal. He kept a flat and tired of the girl. The magistrate expressed astonishment that such persons were in the Press Bureau.

A “Canadian” officer, you know what those “Canadians are,” derelict Britons mainly who can’t get a job, or whose jobs can’t hold them. Well, the Canadian officer said to a colleague “Do you want to earn a fiver.” And the British colleague said “sure!” “Well,” said the Lieutenant, “I am going to kill a man on Tuesday night at 9, and I want you to remove the evidence.” ‘Twas done. The Lieutenant killed

“Spark,” “Nationality,” “Republic,” “Hibernian,” “Honesty,” “Volunteer”—6d. weekly, post free, J. J. WALSH, 26 Blessington Street, 19 Berkeley Street, Dublin.

his man with a hatchet, and is awaiting trial. Jolly Britons are we.

You cannot have missed *all* the cases of Khaki curs who impose themselves on women as their husbands. There have been numbers of such cases. It is quite a joke, quite a British joke. Oh! we British are devils, you know.



## THE DUBLIN MAYORALTY.

Who is to be Dublin’s Lord Mayor for 1916? Mrs. Gallagher’s husband seeks a second year of office, and Johnnie Ronayne hopes he gets it. It’s a paying job, thinks Johnnie. Alderman James Kelly, of whom it is said he cannot blush, is also rumoured as a candidate. That two such persons as Gallagher and Kelly should divide chances for Dublin’s Mayoralty is a damning reproach to the Dublin Corporation. Is there no man of brains and manly virtue in the Corporation who can be trusted with the office?



## THE BRAY PAY.

In a recent issue of the “Spark,” I had occasion to refer to an after-dinner speech delivered at Bray by the Rev. Dr. Doherty, of the Pro-Cathedral. It was a vile speech, and could only be explained by examining into the Rev. gentleman’s antecedents. That the Rev. Dr. Doherty’s services are appreciated in the Castle is evidenced in the following paragraph, which appeared last week in the “Irish Times,” in an article dealing with the new Munition Factory in Dublin:

With such a large number of girl and women workers employed day and night, arrangements are in progress to secure their comfort and protection. Every girl worker will be supplied with a khaki outfit, and will be under the supervision of a matron. Miss Doherty, sister of the Rev. Dr. Doherty, of the Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, has been appointed to the office of matron, and has already entered upon her duties in one of the preparation centres.

I commend this paragraph to the earnest attention of the mothers of eligible young men in the Bray district, who were at a loss to account for Rev. Dr. Doherty’s extraordinary utterances.

**ROUND ROOM,  
Mansion House  
Monday, Jan 17**

Comrad na Saebitge.  
**Great Protest Meeting**  
against WITHDRAWAL  
OF GRANTS for IRISH  
by the Department of  
Agriculture. EGIN MAC  
NEIL to preside.

Printed for the Proprietor by the Gaelic Press, 30 Upper Liffey Street, and published at 4 Findlater Place Dublin. Trade Union Labour. Irish Paper and Ink.