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PRICE ONE HALFPENNY

GOLD ! GOLD ! GOLD !

ON that night in the year of grace 1910, on which the English Prime Minister Asquith made the speech in the Albert Hall, London, in which he promised a full measure of Home Rule for Ireland, there were two or three persons beside Editor Brayden in his room at the "Freeman's Journal," and as the words of Mr. Asquith's speech were recorded and read, Editor Brayden could not contain himself sitting at his desk, but had to rise and rush about the room exclaiming as he rushed "Gold, gold, bright shining gold." It was ever thus with the Sham Squire's journal, gold and jobs are its only real objects now, and have been almost ever since its birth.

At the time of Mr. Asquith's speech the journal was "down on its uppers," and right well Editor Brayden knew that the promise of a full measure of Home Rule, when properly handled by the journal, meant gold. The full measure of Home Rule has not yet been filled. The promise has been written up and written about so often that it has ceased a long time back to be of use as a decoy to draw the golden sovereigns from the pockets of the duped followers and supporters of the journal, and matters were very serious about the time the war began. This awful calamity has proved another opportunity for the Editor to sing his tune "Gold, gold, bright shining gold." And the gold has come, and the journal has become more abased than the worst jingo paper published in England. It has since the war gone down to depths that not even the gutter journals of England touched, and so it has earned its gold, and like unto all the vulgar newly-rich now swanks a motor car.

The "Freeman's Journal" has always regarded

itself as the official organ of Catholic opinion in Ireland. It always makes great display of meetings and proceedings of the Irish Hierarchy and clergy. Now and again there have been leading articles written in a truly pious spirit, and when any great event occurs in the Catholic world the journal always takes special precautions to have as full and complete account of it as was possible, and the leader-writers on these occasions were never bashful in placing the truly Catholic tone and enterprise of the journal before its readers in fervent characters.

An event of importance in the Catholic world occurred in the year 1908. It was the celebration of the golden jubilee of the Emperor of Austria, who had completed his fiftieth year as Emperor. Naturally there were great rejoicings in Austria, and so the "Freeman" saw gold in these and published glowing accounts of them, and as well done itself proud in a leading article, in which the following laudatory statements of the Emperor occur—Writing under date of May 23rd, 1908, it says :—

"FRANCIS JOSEPH'S JUBILEE."

"There was something pleasantly symbolic in the Children's Fete reported from Vienna. Eighty-two thousand small citizens of Vienna were gathered in the Imperial Park at Schoenbrun to sing a loyal chorus and dance ceremonial dances of joy for the old man sixty years an Emperor. And the Kaiser Franz Josef the First, with all his faults and errors, is in the core a good old man, gentle and kindly, and very peculiarly a lover of children. That is one of the first traits the Viennese tell of him, and many of the tellers point their praise with the record of the great day, perhaps long ago, when they them-

selves lifted suddenly in strong arms and patted and petted and told to be good by a fine soldierly man, the simple Kaiser, taking his afternoon stroll about the streets and gardens of his capital. When the Ring Theatre was burned down and the city plunged into mourning, the Kaiser himself bought the charred ground that had been the funeral pyre, built handsome apartment houses upon it, and made of the handsome rents they returned a fund for the bringing up of children who had lost a parent in the flames. All his long life through, Franz Josef has been a man of ready tenderness, and many who even yet cannot forgive him for some of his acts of royalty are very deeply touched by the memory of his countless acts of charity. Where other kings have been mainly men of pleasure, or men of swaggering princedom, he has been in his private doings a man of gentle pity and mercy. . . . Perhaps there is in all history no equal case. Never probably did one man's mere personal charm and sweet persuasiveness hold together, amid disaster, downfall, and decay, so great a gathering of clashing and jealous nationalities under the one bond—a bond that to most amounts to a foreign and not always a gentle yoke. . . . It has been said that much of the loyalty the Kaiser has held from the subject or associated nationalities has been due to his lifelong habit of hearing his people twice a week in private audiences, absolutely alone with the Sovereign, the plainest person, Viennese shoe-black, Croatian peasant, or Bosnian street-hawker, can tell a grievance, each in the native tongue, be heard patiently, and go away, if not with gain of cause, at least comforted and paternally charmed. Such divinity still doth hedge the rare, kindly king."

Such was the journal's opinion of the aged Emperor, when it paid, now it pays to have quite a different one, and so here it is. In the journal's evening sheet of May 26th of this year, the following sentiments are expressed :—

"The wretched Emperor Francis Joseph has his foul hands full of trouble that will stick to him, as the infamy of his whole life has pursued him till he is finally crushed, and a blemished career is wiped out of the human kin."

Though the years have whitened the hairs of the aged Emperor of Austria, and deepened the furrows on his brow, they have not broken his spirit or transformed him into the monster which Prince's Street now chooses to depict him. But now, as ever, the question with the "Freeman" is not to write truth, but to write and publish what pays.

From some source, but not from Irish pockets, payment comes for "Freeman's Journal" scurrility.

Decent Irish Catholics, no matter what their views may be of this dreadful European war, cannot but regard with disgust the latter day sentiments of this journal that has posed so long as Catholic. Even those who may regard Austria's action, after the foul assassination of the Heir to the Throne and his truly Catholic and devoted wife ; as the cause of the war, would not express themselves in such a manner under any circumstances ; but when we remember that the Austrian Empire is the only great Catholic power in the world—that the Austrians have always remained true to the faith, and that such associations as existed between Austria and Ireland before the war were honourable alike to both countries and peoples, the least that could be expected from a Catholic journal on the side of the Allies, no matter how hostile it may be, is that no language should be used that would convey that we Irish Catholics had lost all sense of self respect ; but no matter what the "Freeman's Journal" claims to be it only represents the type of Catholic who regard gold and office as the great ends for which they are created, and not the men and women in whose veins flow the blood of those who successfully resisted persecution, outrage, and plunder, who kept the faith despite all the powers of darkness which were united to deprive them of it.

◆◆◆ "TRAITORS AND INFORMERS?"

According to the "Independent" the Rev. Fr. T. Ryan, of Dublin, said at Maynooth that the men of '67 were mainly traitors and informers. I am quite certain that Fr. Ryan, if he is any way normal at all, had very little appetite for further reckless misstatements of this character when his clerical colleagues had finished with him at Maynooth. Many of the priests who listened to the amazing and grotesque charge, were themselves sons of '67 men, and they know in their hearts, and only a man whose political vision has been distorted by the subtle and corrupt patronage of the foreign garrison could deny it—that it is to men of the '67 faith and ideals the Church in Ireland shall look for defenders, when the foul and faithless foreign brood seek to undermine her influence on the lives of our people. The saintly O'Neil Crowley, shot by English soldiery in Kilclooney Wood, was a typical '67 man ; John Boyle O'Reilly was another. Some '67 men were what is called "anti-clerical," but we would all be anti-clerical if "Fr. T. Ryan, of Dublin" was typical of the Irish Priesthood, which, thank Heaven, he emphatically is *not*.

A RECRUITER'S COME-ALL-YE! THE BALANCE OF POWER, or The War for the Small Nationalities.

Now listen here, me hearties, just take a hint in time,
Your king and country need you, so you'd better toe the line.

Then dress yourselves in kakhi, on your shoulders place a gun,
And ramble off to Flanders and exterminate the Hun.

For if the Hun, by any chance, should think it worth his while,

To land a big invading force upon our own green Isle,

He'd burn down your churches, and he'd blow up every school,

And you'd never, never, never, never, never get Home Rule.

The "Houses" every week-nigh, he'd shut at half-past nine or ten,

And on Sundays, you won't get a drink until the Lord knows when,

An extra tax upon your beer you'd surely have to pay,

And whiskey would be dearer, and you couldn't buy the tay.

A cow he wouldn't leave you, nor you couldn't keep a calf,

And he'd slaughter every member of the "Freeman's Journal" staff.

He'd abolish the "Department" and the C.D.B. as well,

And re-organise the branches of the dwindling U.I.L.

He'd rob us of our food stuffs, and he'd lay the country bare,

And he'd make a Major-General of the member for East Clare.

Then Lieutenant Thomas Kettle would receive an Iron Cross.

And "Johnny" would resign the chair, and Joe become the boss.

So now, I think, I'm finished, I've got nothing more to say.

If you're seeking more enlightenment, I'll refer you to Tay Pay.

Or if, my friend, the Lord Mayor, or J. D. you meet by chance,

They'll tell you all about the Hun, for they're not long back from France.

A Tale in Eighteen Chapters and an Epilogue

CHAPTER I.—1901.

"Calchas" in the "Fortnightly Review" urges that Germany must be crushed or England is doomed. He advocates an Anglo-Franco-Russian alliance for that purpose: Russia to be bought by a present of Persia, whose independence is to be subverted.

CHAPTER II.—1907-9.

Anglo-Franco-Russian alliance concluded. Persian independence subverted and Persian Nationalist leaders hanged. Russian troops occupy Persian territory.

CHAPTER III.—1911.

Treaty of Algieras violated and the integrity of Morocco assailed. Germany intervenes on behalf of Morocco, and sends a war-vessel to Agadir.

CHAPTER IV.—1906-14.

During this period many novels—by Le Quex, Oppenheim, Tracy, &c.—are published by London firms demonstrating the destruction of Germany as a Great Power. Several plays with the same purpose are produced in the same period. British army remodelled and British navy enormously increased.

CHAPTER V.—1912.

England proposes to Germany a limitation of armaments. Germany offers to agree provided that England will guarantee that France and Russia, her allies, will also limit their armaments. German Press describes the English proposal as a plan to tie Germany's hands while France and Russia increase their fleets sufficiently to—with the aid of the British navy—render Germany impotent on the seas.

CHAPTER VI.—March, 1914

The First Lord of the Admiralty announces the abandonment of the usual British annual naval manoeuvres and the substitution of a British naval mobilisation for July.

CHAPTER VII.—April, 1914

Russia proceeds to put an army of a million men on a war footing—for manoeuvres.

May, 1914

France, which has increased her army by the operation of "The NEW Law", discusses "military manoeuvres".

CHAPTER VIII.—June, 1914

Assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand (heir to the crowns of Austria and Hungary) and

his wife at Sarajevo by Serbians supplied with the implements of assassination from the Royal Arsenal at Belgrade. A London paper publishes in facsimile a document purporting to come from the Serbian Legation in London arranging for the murder of the Archduke and fixing the amounts to be paid the assassins.

CHAPTER IX—July, 1914

British Fleet mobilised at Spithead, where it passes in review before King George. Austria demands reparation from Serbia, and guarantees that Serbia shall no longer connive at or permit assassination to be associated with its foreign policy. Russia intervenes "to protect Serbia".

CHAPTER X—July, 1914

Germany warns Russia that if she attacks Austro-Hungary Germany will go to Austro-Hungary's assistance.

Serbia refusing to comply with all Austria's demands, Austria declares war. Russia prepares to attack Austria. Germany prepares to go to Austria's assistance.

CHAPTER XI—July, 1914

Attempt to disarm the Irish Volunteers by the British soldiery.

Sir Edward Grey informs the German Ambassador in London (official Correspondence No. 89) that while England is not concerned as to Austria's war with Serbia, yet if "British interests required it," England will "rapidly intervene."

CHAPTER XII—July 1914

Germany offers not to acquire French territory, or to interfere with Belgian integrity if England remains neutral. England replies she will not "bind herself to neutrality on such terms." (Official Correspondence Nos. 88 and 101.)

CHAPTER XIII—Last day of July, 1914

French Ambassador in Berlin telegraphs to his Government saying that England's uncertain attitude is the source of danger. If England declares unequivocally that she will join France and Russia in the event of war it will decide the attitude of Germany in favour of peace.

CHAPTER XIV—Last day of July, 1914

French Ambassador in London visits Sir Edward Grey and urges him to speak as the French Ambassador in Berlin requests. Grey replies that England will not give any pledge "at the present time".

"M. Cambon repeated his question whether we would help France if Germany made an attack on her.

"I said that I could only adhere to the answer that as far as things had gone at present we could

not make any engagement" (official correspondence No. 119).

CHAPTER XV—First day of August, 1914 = 11

German Ambassador inquires whether if Germany undertakes not to violate Belgian neutrality, England will remain neutral. Sir Edward Grey replies that England must refuse definitely to make any promise. She must keep her hands free (official correspondence 123).

General mobilisation of the French army. 11 AUGUST

CHAPTER XVI—Second day of August

General mobilisation of the German army.

Sir Edward Grey declines a second time to state England's attitude in the event of war between France and Germany.

CHAPTER XVII—Third day of August

British Admiralty announces British Fleet ready for war.

Germany at war with France, Russia, Serbia, Montenegro and Belgium.

CHAPTER XVIII—Fourth day of August, 1914

England declares war on Germany to vindicate "the neutrality of Belgium".

EPILOGUE.

(From the London "Times", Dec. 4, 1914.)

"We are not concerned to deny the charge. The Balance of Power is to-day as it has been since the days of the Tudors the main factor of our policy. . . We undoubtedly supported the Entente to preserve that balance and to prevent the hegemony of any single Power in Europe. . . The maintenance of our supremacy at sea and of the balance of power were amongst the foundations of our traditional policy. We have always fought for the balance of power. We are fighting for it to-day."

AERIDHEACHT.

A great Aeridheacht and Volunteer Display will be held to-day (Sunday), July 4th, at Larkfield, Kimmage Road, beside Mount Argus. The admission charge will be 3d. The entertainment is promoted by the 4th Battalion Irish Volunteers, and the resourceful organising committee have arranged, should the weather be inclement, to carry through the programme in their Hall, adjoining the field. This fixture should obtain support from all SPARK readers who can conveniently attend. The programme opens at 3.30.

REGISTRATION MEANS CONSCRIPTION

A public meeting to protest against the extension to Ireland of the proposed Act for Compulsory Registration of the population, will be held in Beresford Place on to-day (Sunday), at 12 noon.

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