

Rough
note
Bates
1922

nos

Feb - March 1922
February 3 1922 Dublin

(X)

To K S

The outrages are over in Belfast. I am
 ery greatly afraid that there was a " truce"
 between Dail Erin and the Northern Parliament.
 Those very abominable murders I told you of
 were on January II , then a few days later the
 outrages on both sides left off all at once. On
 January 25th it was announced that Craig and
 Collins had met in London, and arranged to stop
 the boycott On January 28th there was a notice
 in the paper that the state of the city was so
 much improved that curfew would cease on Monday
 Jan 30th, which as I understand has happened. I
 It is vile beyond words, If Craig and Collins
 could stop the outrages it ^{showed} ~~shoed~~ that they knew
 a very great deal more about them than they
 ought to have known. Of course I always did
 really know that about Craig, but it is rather
 horrible to have it forced like that upon one's
 attention. I hoped till the very last moment
 that he was a good man quite powerless, now I
 rank him along of Collins etc.

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February 3rd 1922 Dublin

I am sending you a hysterical publication called
the Republic of Ireland, just to show what form
the madness is taking now. I understand that as
soon as the House of Commons consents there will
be a general election over here, and de Valera
will try to get republican candidates in every
where, and likely he may succeed. It will I
suppose be the first general election contested
in Ireland in living memory. And some people
are still quite tête montée, and going on about
the glories of "our free state". It is a ~~hor~~
horrid exhibition the whole thing is

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February 10 1922
Dublin

To K S

If one did remark on public affairs now a days one would say that it was unwise to take all those soldiers out of Ireland, and to give all the strong places over to the I R A before the Free State was even set up. Why not wait at least till the House of Commons had ratified the agreement ? and till ~~the~~ someone had taken over the charge of the I R A ?

You see it calls itself by those letters which mean Irish Republican Army, and it is a matter which affords much interesting discussion over here to ask who is really in command of it. Collins is I think supposed to be at its head, but then why is it " republican " ? Also if Griffith has anything to say to it why does he not get those men released ? as he is being besought to do by the people at Westminster Also why should 600 more soldiers, King George's soldiers , be removed from Ireland yesterday while the kidnapped people are not

hob

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only not forthcoming , but are having their numbers added to ?

I think posterity will notice all this but somehow we are past noticing it. It is very odd I wonder what this apathy is which envelops us all. I think really the affairs of Ireland in particular , and of the empire in general are now entrusted to people who are far too ignorant to be able to administer them , and the effect of that is a general paralysis

We all think really that the Government is quite incapable, and that it is no use to apply to it. Petitions to Parliament etc are quite out of date , some of us resort to the methods of violence, some take to prayer, some do nothing at all. I think this is the explanation.

I am sure future ages will blame our inaction, but at this moment I do not see what we could do. Obviously and on the face of it a government which evacuates its barracks

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and its strong places, under such circumstances, is utterly unworthy of confidence, and you can not ask it for advice or for help about any thing. Also obviously decent people cannot ~~sid~~ side with those who resort to violence

n I do not see what we can do but wait till some rightminded person arises whom we can support, and in the meanwhile be so right minded ourselves that a certain amount of solidity remains in the national existence. I think if you cannot keep a real national life you may yet preserve smaller elements out of which national life will blossom some day. And ~~Now I have it~~ really it is not small elements that one preserves, it is very great elements.

Now I have it. The life of the nation can no longer express itself through the great institutions which were once national, and of which the House of Commons was for many years the chief. Therefore it is more than ever im-

lob

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portant to keep such things as the Guild of Witness in existence, because they can be kept sound, and through them the national life may express itself, and that will keep it alive ~~ti~~ till it is again possible to have real govern-
ment.

I have been carrying on an exhaustive search, and have just made it clear to myself which the six counties are which Sir James ~~Gre~~ Craig so very wrongly denominates "Ulster~~f~~" They are all the counties of Ulster except Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan, and we may remem-
ber the three excluded ones by the formula "Covenant Dont Matter," which was in practise what Carson said to them when they complained of being left outside the Six County area. Or at least when the signers of the Covenant in those counties complained of same.

No 7 from Sir 4 Rosary Gardens
Herbert Stephen 12 Feb: ~~1922~~ 1922

Dear Po

... Your letter to K received yesterday interested me prodigiously. I entirely agree with practically all of it — except that I have never attached so much importance as you to the Covenant which didnt matter. In my opinion they never do, for more than a few months, which is a good reason for not making them.

Do you think the "general election" will ever occur? I mean the one in the 26 counties which the Ld Chancellor and all the sanguine Englishmen expect to be held "in a few weeks" (why not this week I don't know) and to give Collins-Griffith a "sweeping majority" over de Valera - Childers which will finally settle the hash of the latter. I can

not remember any historical instance of Kerensky beating Lenin unless it was Oliver Cromwell - who must have been Lenin to several Kerenskys before he began Kerensking himself, if he ever did. I see no reason at present to suppose that Collins is an O. C. When I do I shall begin to consider whether he does not deserve such moral support as I can conveniently give him. Meanwhile the seizure and retention of what we call the "Ulster hostages" look to me as much like the beginning of open and avowed civil war as anything could. If so I think under present conditions what-ought-to-be-our-Government will have to help "Ulster." The

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12 Feb. 1922

question appears to be "Is our civilization a failure?" or "Is the Caucasian played out"? If yea it is more the latter than the former. According to Flinders Petri, whose short account of the 7 successive civilizations lasting 1450 years a piece is seldom for long out of my head mind, or the fact that he dates this one from about 450 A D, there will be no recovery till after a period of complete barbarism, and the coming into existence of a new race by means of our inter-breeding with a Conquering Horde (? Chinese or Siberian or Jap) Being partly sanguine myself I incline to your belief (written at Xmas) that for this time we shall outstay

and defeat the foreign anarchists
who find the money. In fact I
am betting 6-4 on it. But
surely no one can deny that
L. G. and his companions are
mad — and madder than
Hamlet ever thought the English.
And even with the modest hope
that I in fact share with you
I may reasonably as a matter
of today's Irish politics subscribe
myself

y. a. v.

Mr Mac Mahan.

Note by R. S. made Sept. 1933

~~P.S.~~ Mr Mac Mahan was a solicitor who on
being consulted by a friend of ours on the
state of her affairs said "There is nothing
before you Madam but ruin, the
blackest ruin." His name became a joke
with my brother.

hog

February 24 1922

To K S

The classes go raging on. The Archbishop told Mr Quigley to give all the lessons he could and to consider it a very important part of his work for about a year. They all wish very much that the Church should have plenty of Church teachers in Irish Otherwise all the learners must go to the Gaelic League. I said " I am sure the Archbishop is right to take that line, but I myself do not think the classes ~~wi~~ will go on for a year. I think it will be civil war before that " " It looks very like it " said Mr. Q without turning a hair. I am glad people speak a little about civil war It has come so near now I do not feel as I did a ~~litt~~ little while ago that it is wrong to put one's expectations in in words. I feel there is no power anywhere that can keep order, and that ~~q~~ can only end/ in an outburst of fighting.

From a general riot all over the country I feel there might be evolved some force which could keep order, but I do not see how it is going t

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February 24 1922 Dublin

to come otherwise, as we have been mad enough to throw away all the institutions out of which better ones might have evolved in peace.

I see that in Belfast there have been two or three " outbursts of firing " in the streets, though the town is ~~is~~ on the whole quieter. If Sir James Craig cannot stop " outbursts of firing " apparently for no reason , he is not governing at all, and it is the same everywhere.

The R I C are being disbanded, but ~~of~~ one sees them about the streets. ~~A~~

A member of Mr Quigley's class told me that in many places Irish is becoming " a ~~code~~ code language " " for a certain section " and he is very anxious that all parties should take it up with enthusiasm, because then it will not be code language for anyone in particular.

That is reasonable, and it is quite reason enough to justify the classes.

no9

March 3 1922
Dublin

To K S

There has this morning since the papers came out been a fresh murder in Stephen's Green. There was a policeman murdered on the north side yesterday, and reported in today's papers, but this Stephen's Green affair was since. X thinks she heard the shooting. I did not get ^a ~~the~~ ^x papers~~x~~ but from what I am told in the streets someone was robbed, and the thieves ran off firing as they went, and then a passer by was accidentally killed by the shots.

I have been making enquiries about the Dublin Metropolitan Police. It seems they are not to be disbanded for the present. They seem to have made friends at some point with the Sinn Feiners. I am told that on some occasions they refused to fire. The R I C fought like tigers to the very last. It all works in and out so queerly. The R I C are being disbanded but getting good pensions, The D M P are going on under the Provisional Government, and one consequence of that is that ~~in~~ Dublin alone of

Lesson
The Irish
Language

709

March 3 1922

all Ireland has an experienced police force. X

No doubt the man shot yesterday was transferred from the R I C to the D M P

Lessons in the Irish language

The chief event since I wrote last has been the lessons They go on like wild fire. I have a feeling that people like the city clergy are glad to have something in which they can follow the suggestions of the Provisional Government without injury to their consciences. It is rather horrible to realize, but I very greatly fear it is the fact that the reprisals last year have left King George as it were without a friend in Ireland. I look with wonder at middle aged clergymen who are talking quite cheerfully about their teachers passing one standard and another, and being qualified to teach Irish in this class and in that, and I ask them do they really think that the Provisional Government will lead on to a Free State that can be worked by sensible people? And they say " Well it is our only chance "

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March 3rd 1922
Dublin

I think they feel that to go back under the present House of Commons, I mean under the ~~Hon.~~ House of Commons as it is now, is out of the question. Since last year they do not wish to do so. They are very silent you know, they put as little into words as they can, but I utterly miss that feeling that was so strong formerly that there is in London a government which one can stand by. London and Parliament and the King have all faded away into the past as it were. "The cabinet" now only suggests ~~B~~Black and Tans "drunk and raising Cain". It is very horrid, but I fear that so it is, and the Irish makes a sort of gleam of pleasure for some people.

No 16

March 7. 1922.

from the Archbishop of Dublin

The Palace, St Stephen's Green.

Dear Mr Stephen

Thanks for your letter.

Mr Duigley is a great asset, as a native Irish speaking clergyman of our Church, and he is so enthusiastic and good tempered that I can well believe all you say about the happy impression he produces on his otherwise unwilling pupils.

I am trying to get his services made use of in such connections as the one you mention, as I should be very sorry that the Ch. of Ireland should seem to show any reluctance in a matter which whether rightly or wrongly the Gov^t set so much store on.

Yours sincerely

John Dublin

April 7. 1922.

My dear Kate

This is really almost
too suitable. Whatever day did
that miserable Free State take over
its powers

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March 10 1922
Dublin

To K S

For so far the post is quite safe , and I have no more reason than usual to think that the ~~le~~ letters are opened

It is perfectly awful about Belfast. There is a certain amount of party shooting going on, ~~and~~ men are rushing about looting shops and robbing people in the streets . Now and then martial law is threatened, but it does not come to pass. Evidently there is some strong reason against it . It seems that either government can impose martial~~l~~ law, or a Lord Mayor can ask for it if he cannot keep order himself. Again we think of last year. The martial law in the South was so absolutely hor-
rible that I believe the Lord Mayor of Belfast is afraid to ask for it. I think it was under martial law that all those lawful reprisals ~~to~~ took place, when soldiers came and burnt ~~peopl~~ people's houses and furniture by order of their commanding officers. And of course there was the burning of Cork. That was not publicly ordered

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10 March 3rd 1922
Dublin

but it was certainly condoned by the people who
who might have punished it. I think people in
Belfast are afraid of that.

The business men keep on holding meetings
and telling the Government (i e Sir James
Craig) to act. And the Government keeps beg-
ging law abiding citizens to exert their in-
fluence, and the robbers snap their fingers at
everybody and go on robbing.

no 11.

March 17 1922

To K S

Vile murders are again in the papers I think if I do go to Belfast--- and about that I am taking advice --- but if I do go it will only be for a fortnight I cannot stay away very long with all this work on hand . Perhaps I will go at Easter when the Irish classes may ^{slack} ~~slak~~ off a little . They run three times a week from 4 to 10 30 , and he just bolts out at six to the dining room, drinks a cup of tea standing and back again He is a good man.

Do you realize that now this house is one of the chief centres for Irish teaching ? Mr Quigley charges half a crown a lesson and he is considered very expensive He has round and about 100 pupils now I believe The enthusiasm with which the subject is being taken up is very queer. Of course a great many people who formerly cared ~~ve~~ very little about Irish now loathe and detest it, being forced to learn against their minds. But especially amongst those who are not teachers I

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March 17 1922 Dublin

I think a certain measure of real interest is being awakened. Mr Quigley is so very non-party, that he gives solid interest a chance to show itself. I quite agree that the general interest will die down. but I now have a hope that a real solid remnant may be left who will study Irish in a reasonable spirit. At first I thought the malcontents were so numerous and so very angry that they would swallow up all interest, but now I think that they will run away screaming as fast and as soon as they can, but that some will be left.

no 12

March 25 1922
Dublin

To K S

You will have read about this murder of all ~~th~~
the men of a family on Antrim Road at I 20
a m on Friday morning (Antrim Road Belfast)
It is always R Cs who are killed in curfew hours
The police in this instance seem to have acted
kindly enough, but this ~~is~~ ceaseless murdering
of R Cs while the Crown forces are in charge
of the streets is a very bad thing.

I do not at all approve of all these
violent threats, flogging and hanging if people
are found in possession of arms ~~or~~ if they
throw bombs. I do quite approve of making the
throwing of bombs a capital offence. I would
have that part of the permanent law all over
the country. But what is wanted is to stop
the outrages, not to threaten all the awful
things you will do if you catch someone, and
then never catch anybody.

I think Sir James Craig is afraid to
disarm his own side, and very much afraid of

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March 25 1922
Dublin

what might come out about his own side if too many enquiries were made.

Did you see that the other day Mr Churchill said that there were "considerably more murders and outrages committed in Belfast on Romans than on Protestants? I am sure the Northern Parliament does not mean to act fairly. Partly it wants to shelter Protestant criminals partly it is afraid to face them. I daresay Sir James Craig is afraid. I believe he is a man who has no sympathy with murder. Of course ~~yes~~ really it is just the same whether you kill a Protestant or an R C. But in Belfast there is far more notice taken of Protestants who are killed than of the others. Don't you know there has never been any inquest at all or any military enquiry held about Malachy? About those people murdered in Hooker Street, the Andersons, there was a proper inquiry held at once, and a message of condolence from Sir Jam

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March 25 1922
Dublin

James , and provision from some fund for the children. That was all right but why was not ~~it~~ the same done when Malachy was killed ? I ~~thin~~, think the thing really wanting is an honest ~~me~~ man.