

the letter arrived in Derry the no garrison of soldiers as they were dispatched to Dublin to those sent to England to assist. The troops enlisted to cover regulars were Highlanders and Catholics, the scum of the town. They were armed with bayoneted rifles and discipline was nil, so it was that this regiment in December reached Newtownmaddy on its way to the city. A detachment from Comber with the letter and a dispatch from Phillips of Newtownlimavady joining the Red Shanks now and there reached Derry almost and the people panicked. There could only be one answer, this threatened massacre.



the city magistrates were told what to do part of the city's men took matters into their own hands. Eight or nine young apprentices ran to the gates, threw their stones, raised the drawbridge, seized the keys and locked the gates against the Shanks, who were only sixty yards from the spot.

My grandpa stood outside Ferry gate unsure what was happening or how to help. James Morrison, one of the men who had been in the city, shouted loud enough for them to hear: "Bring about the big gun!" On the whole party scampered up the hill and into the Waterside. The tidings of this reached Dublin. Deputy sent Lord Mountjoy and General Lundy to bring the citizens of Derry. Mountjoy being one of the few military officers not yet dismissed from the city. After some negotiations it was finally agreed that if the Shanks could extract from the city a free pardon for all who had been in the city, then he and two members of his regiment, being allowed to enter the city.

It was then that Mountjoy arrived in Derry and left a Scottish Loyalist from Dunbarton as governor of Derry City. That same day was — Lieut. Colonel

THE FUTILITY OF VIOLENCE

Surely Ulster has seen enough of its manhood and womanhood (even childhood) dying for Causes. Is it not time that we started to live 'or a Cause? Is it not time that Ulstermen (Loyalists and Republicans) considered talking about life and prosperity instead of conspiring to wreak havoc and destruction one upon the other? It is up to every one of us who claim to be patriots — whether we be Ulster patriots or Irish patriots — to seek lasting peace through dialogue. We are involved deeply in our Province's problems. We are not mere onlookers, therefore we can do as we will. We are riveted here more firmly than Prometheus to his rock and we must stay in our bleak Golgotha until, with reason and logic, we can disperse the 'furies' that beset us.

We who are pledged to fight "For God and Ulster" and those who are pledged to fight for Ireland must realise that every bomb we hurl at each other is destroying that for which we are both striving. If, as we claim, we seek a just and democratic society for all, surely we cannot escape from the stark reality that our continued violence is destroying that society. No longer can we hide our faces from the fact that our violence is a curse upon the land we love so well. There is no place now for Rodin's woman with her arms wrapped round her in abject abdication and withdrawal, shutting out sight and sound. There is no place left to hide from the reality facing us.

We cannot afford to stand silent in the despair of fatalistic apathy — the silent generation. Rabbi Joachim Prinz once said, "When I was the Rabbi of the Jewish community in Berlin under the Hitler regime, I learned many things. The most important thing I learnt under those tragic circumstances is that bigotry and hatred are not the most urgent problems. The most urgent, the most disgraceful, the most shameful, and the most tragic problem is silence." How right he was. Silence and apathy in the midst of political hatred and violence is a reprehensible evil which all true patriots just shun.

It must be evident to all that warfare, especially the civilian warfare being waged in Ulster, is not the answer to our problems. Bombing, arson and murder cannot be the answer to human

problems. Nor for that matter can 'A' Squads, Emergency Powers, Incarceration and Rings of Steel. Violence and repression cannot decide, it can only destroy. There must be a better way. It would be an awful insult to the intelligence that God has given us for us to concede that we can find no better answer than continual violence and bloodshed.

In seeking to conduct our political and religious battles primarily by violent means we have been defeating ourselves internally. Political and sectarian violence (and, for that matter, institutionalised violence) is wholly inconsistent with the goals of freedom in society, the value of human life and the dignity of the individual. In seeking to make our Province safe for democracy, we are, at the same time, surrendering those things which make democracy worthwhile. As Albert Einstein once said, "I am convinced that degeneracy follows every autocratic system of violence, for violence inevitably attracts moral inferiors." How true this statement is today in Ulster. Violence is an ugly mob madness that crucifies the truth-tellers, chokes the artistes and sidetracks reforms.

In the midst of the pounding clatter of bombs and firearms, can we not take time to consider that violence is not the midwife of freedom — but its assassin. Surely the time has come for all patriots to make a declaration of intent to forsake the gun (at least for a spell) in favour of dialogue.



SINCERE GOOD WISHES TO
LOYALIST PRISONERS & THEIR
FAMILIES EVERYWHERE.

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