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# The Dundalk Democrat

And People's Journal.

Dundalk,

Nov 10 1917

Dear Mr Dolan

Are you right in assuming that there is no danger  
of another rebellion? I am not at all so sure. You remem-  
ber how the thunderbolt fell from the clear air at Easter  
1916. You read the speeches of de Valera & did not believe.  
You don't see the things the Press is not allowed to print.  
For example an enclosed fragment of de Valera's speech  
at Carrick forbidden publication by the Press Censor.

Nothing is to be gained by concealing what the  
Church, through the Bishops, teach regarding rebellion  
or the attitude of the Church towards rebellion. The young  
men in the Sinn Féin movement are told a different  
tale openly as well as privately. Did you see MacSwiney's  
speech at Waterford describing amidst cheers how his  
young heroes died in Dublin shouting "If we die for  
Ireland we go straight to Heaven!" That smacks very  
strongly of de Valera - doesn't it. Yet the lady is  
declared to be a convert to the Catholic faith!

A thing I will never forget is our own expe-  
rience of "rebellion". The lads who left Dundalk on



they are skating. Do you know that in many districts of Donaghlin Fin Tein has been preached from the altar of God? Do you know that in two chapels there to me the people coming to Mass have been presented with Fin Tein literature - inside the church itself? Does this scandal not call for the mildest corrective furnished by the Bishop's pronouncement? Do you know, Mr. O'Brien, can Fin Tein be fought with sultristics? Yours sincerely, J. J. O'Brien

Easter Sunday morning & heat day (1) shot an unarmed & defenceless policeman dead (2) left an unarmed military prisoner for dead (3) shot & wounded two unoffending civilians who refused to stop on the road at Dunfermlyn - these lads & their friends bonded that before leaving on that Easter morning they received Holy Communion as a preparation for what followed. That one of them has ever expressed regret for the double murder - except O'Brien when on trial for his life. Two of the local leaders of Fin Tein attempted to defend that dreadful act in controversy with me not many months ago. Do there no need for clear definitions of Catholic doctrine?

The foolish country lads who imagine themselves heroes & patriots require I think some protection against advisers of the type of O'Donoghue who, after stealing the Ardee Volunteers' guns, looped about Ardee while the dupes were putting their necks in the noose & then had the effrontery to talk at Drogheda about "shedding their blood as they did in Easter week."

As for the possibility of turning youthful enthusiasts against the Church - surely the Church's teaching must be defined & upheld in a vital matter, & it must be left to Catholics to obey or refuse obedience. We can't adjust Catholic doctrine to individual whims or the changes of popular fancy. Besides there are plenty of priests in or close to the movement. It is for the benefit of certain of the latter - notorious factionists, in Clonlara diocese especially, - that I rub in the question of constitutionalism. It is they that harp on it, knowing the thin ice on which