

The Allies were more right than they realized. Nay, they hardly had a right to be so right as they were. The modern Babylon of capitalistic states was hardly worthy to go on such a crusade against the heathen; as perhaps decadent Byzantium was hardly worthy to defend the Cross against the Crescent.

There is too much separatism in Ireland. I do not speak of separation from England; which happened long ago in the only serious sense, and is a condition to be assumed, not a conclusion to be avoided. Nor do I mean separation from a federation of free states unfortunately known as the British Empire; for that is a conclusion that could still be avoided with a little common sense and common honesty in our own politics. I mean separation from Europe, from the common Christian civilization. . . . This is the deep and real reason why their alienation from the Allied cause was a disaster for their own national cause.

Irish Impressions, by Gilbert K. Chesterton.
John Lane Co.



Wide World

G. K. Chesterton since his recent illness has been traveling in Palestine

Chesterton, Meet Ireland

Mr. Gilbert Keith Chesterton, who has often in the past written enthusiastically about John Bull's other island, visited that country in the later days of the Great War and has given us his *Irish Impressions* as the fruit of his sojourn. Altho the most patriotic of Englishmen, Chesterton found Ireland nearer to his social ideal than England, for in Ireland there was an agricultural civilization based on religion, family and peasant proprietorship. These are the things he loves as much as he detests their opposites in England—agnosticism, Socialism, industrialism and the landed aristocracy. He supports Home Rule, tho not Sinn Fein, and has little use for Protestant Ulster. At this point the reviewer steps aside to let Mr. Chesterton speak for himself:

Property, when properly distributed, is the poetry of the average man.

Half the case for Home Rule was that Ireland could not be trusted to the English Home Rulers.

It is where property is well distributed that it will be well defended.

In Ireland a man carries the family mansion about with him like a snail; and his father's ghost follows him like a shadow.