DRAWING BOOK

EASTER WEEK 1916

Personal Recollections

by

Father Aloysius, O.F.M.Cap.

F. Aloysius
O & the Cap

Easter Week. 1916

Personal Recollections by Fr. Aloysius OF.M.Cap

Easter Monday. April 24th 1916.

Said Mass in Gloucester St.. Convent at 8.30.a.m. On way to Convent noticed some Fianna Scouts on bicycles. Passing up Gloucester Street near the Convent. P. H. Pearse and another Volunteer (I have since been told he was Willie Pearse) rode pass me on bicycles. Pearse did not see me. He seemed in a hurry to gain some objective. He wore a loose overcoat. or mackintosh. which covered baggage or provisions. He and his companion had come into Gloucester Street from Rutland Square.

MIDDAY

We were at dinner when we heard the rifle fire and soon word came that Mrs. Foster's Little boy had been shot outside the Father Matthew Hall; and shortly afterwards a man wounded in the hand was brought into the Convent and a number of Children. Crying. came for shelter. By one o'clock or one-thirty the Volunteers had barricades erected in Church Street. and were at their posts. The children engaged in the Father Matthew Feis competitions were for safety got under the stage, and sent home according as it was considered safe to send them.

From time to time volleys of firing could be heard. Reports that the Castle had been taken by the Volunteers and that the powder Magazine in the Park

had been blown up were freely circulated. The news that Sean Connolly had been shot and that the G. P. O.. had been taken by the Volunteers also reached us.

An Australian doctor who happened to be in town was passing through Church Street I was standing at the Church Gate. He spoke to me and told me he was a doctor and would render any assistance needed. He looked after the wounded man who had been brought to the Convent.

MONDAY NIGHT.

After midnight the firing became very violent and sounded as if it were at our very gates in Bow Street. The Volunteers on guard at Bow Street rang the bell & they told us that the military were in Bow Street but the echoes, I believe, deceived them; and I understand next day that the firing in the night was from an attack made by the Volunteers on a military detachment with ammunition on the Quays.

Tuesday. 25th APRIL. 1916

Firing at intervals. The help of some of the Fathers was solicited from Richmond Hospital and the Union. Fathers Jarlath, Albert & Sebastian went and remained in attendance for the rest of the week.

The Father Matthew Hall was taken over as a hospital by the Volunteers; and the wounded received First Aid from the members of Cumann na mBan. Serious Cases were at the earliest opportunity conveyed

to the Richmond Hospital. Some of the Fathers were constantly in or near the Hall, at call in case of emergency.

Wednesday. 26th April. 1916:

Visited the Richmond Hospital and the Union; and returning heard Confessions in the house in North Brunswick Street, adjoining Moore's Coach Factory. The Volunteers had possession of the houses in Church Street and had established communications between them. The windows were protected with sandbags, behind which the Volunteers were in position. The wildest rumours were in circulation; e.g., that the Germans had landed outside Dublin and were marching on the city.

Thursday. 27th APRIL. 1916:

Firing — rifle volleys and machine-gun fire at intervals. Fires at, as far as could be judged, the Post Office, Clery's, Etc., in O'Connell Street. A number of wounded were in the Main Hall (Father Matthew Hall). Some prisoners were there also, including a D.M.P., and soldiers from Linenhall Barracks. The soldiers worked at filling sandbags for the barricades.

Friday. 28th APRIL. 1916:

Machine Guns and hand grenades. The seemed to be a great deal of firing at sea. Could hear the heavy boom of cannon. Perhaps the firing was for fog signals.

Food getting scarce. Almost impossible to get milk.

All through the Volunteers did their best to facilitate the bringing up of provisions.
A sad tragedy has taken place at the Union. Young Dominic O'Donohue and a companion had gone to the top of the Clock tower to see the fires in the city, and both were killed by military snipers from Broadstone.

Friday Night and Saturday, 29th April, 1916:

From about ten o'clock the firing became intense; and all night, and all through Saturday until about three or four in the afternoon there was no cessation. Machine guns, bombs, hand grenades and rifles were in continuous use. Great fires blazed in O'Connell Street direction as well as at Linenhall Barracks. A great number of Wounded were attended in the Father Matthew Hall. About 4 p.m. Father Augustine returned from the Hall where he had been attending the injured and wounded, and informed us that the situation was looking serious and ugly. There were some very bad cases in the Hall and the girls of Cumann na mBan were getting nervous and excited, as it seemed certain the Hall would be shelled. The military had by this time got to North King Street and were firing on the barricades at the Father Matthew Hall.
Seeing the seriousness of the situation, Father Augustin had sent Micheal O Foghludha with a white flag to secure a doctor, but he was detained by the military. Fr. Augustine sent a second messenger (DOYLE) with a white flag and a note to the Colonel-in-Charge, stating he was a priest in charge at the Hall, that the Hall was being used as a hospital and that there were serious sick cases there. The messenger had the favour of a few minutes interview at the barrier. The reply was oral —

to the effect that the military would grant none of the amenities of war but would treat them as outlaws and rebels. We consulted as to what should be done and decided that Father Augustine and myself should go and seek an interview. Accompanied by Doule with a white flag. we both proceeded to the barrier at North King Street and asked to be taken to the Colonel. We were led between two soldiers with fixed bayonets as far as the new Corporation Cottages, where we awaited the convienience of the Colonel (Col. Taylor). while three large companies of soldiers were being marched through N. King Street. An armoured car and an ambulance stood by.

Colonel Taylor listened to our statement and then unceremoniously walked away. When we realised he was not returning. we asked again to be taken to him. A long time had elapsed. It seemed almost an hour; but probably our anxiety made the time appear longer than it actually was. We then saw Colonel Taylor near the corner of Church Street. He coolly informed us that a truce had been arranged.

Just then Micheál O Foghludha came up to complain that the soldiers had prevented him from going for the doctor, as he had been directed. and had detained him. While he spoke a few shots were fired by the Volunteers from the houses in Church Street between N. King Street and North Brunswick Street. The Colonel thereupon, speaking brutally, told Foley to stop the firing or he would shoot him, and ordered him over to the other side of the street, where he stood covered by the revolver of the Colonel.

Foley, whose voice was very hoarse and almost

exhausted. tried to shout to the Volunteers to stop the firing: that there was a truce: and that if any other shots were fired he was to be shot. Father Augustine then went forward and appealed to them to cease firing. He explained that the Colonel had informed us that there was a truce and the Pearse had advised the men to surrender.
The Volunteers refused to believe Pearse's communication was genuine. They said it was probably a ruse of the military. However, they agreed to keep a truce for the night: and we undertook to see Pearse next morning at the earliest moment, and to learn from him if the advice had been tendered by him. After chatting for some time then with the Volunteers we went to the Father Matthew Hall and informed the nursing staff that they could go home. Arrangements were made for the transfer of the patients to Richmond Hospital. Some of the medical staff from Richmond Hospital were in the Hall and saw to the arrangements.

Sunday, APRIL 30th 1916:

After Mass (said about 7 a.m.) Father Augustine and myself walked to the Castle to seek a permit to see Pearse. We saw Brig-Gen. Lowe. He received us in a very kindly and gentlemanly manner, and gave us the permit. He suggested that we should see Connolly also, as he was responsible for the Citizen Army; and he took us to the room in the Castle Hospital where Connolly was a patient. He asked Connolly in our presence if his signature to the letter advising surrender was genuine. His reply was: "Yes — to prevent needless slaughter." He added, however, that he spoke only for his own men——.

The General then put his motor and chauffeur at our disposal. to take us to Arbour Hill to see Pearse. and suggested that after seeing him and arranging with the Church Street Volunteers we should return and convey the message to Jacob's factory. where the Volunteers were still holding out and to which he had been unable to convey Pearse's message. He said that it would be a great charity to do this as otherwise great loss of life would ensue.
Father Augustine occupied the interior of the motor. I sat with the chauffeur outside. as protection for him through the Volunteer districts.
When we reached Arbour Hill. Pearse informed us that the signature was genuine and given to prevent needless bloodshed. The following was the text of the letter:

"In order to prevent the further slaughter of Dublin citizens. and in the hope of saving the lives of our followers. now surrounded and hopelessly outnumbered. the members of the Provisional Government present at Headquarters have agreed to an unconditional surrender. and the Commandants of the various districts in the City and County will order their commands to lay down arms.

P. H. Pearse.
29th. April. 1916."

This was also signed by James Connolly but with the proviso that he signed only for the men under his own command.
When we reached Church Street we Learned that Father Columbus had already obtained a copy of Pearse's letter and had brought it under the notice of the Volunteers in Church Street. who had surrendered.
The motor Car then Proceeded in the direction of Jacob's.

We left the car near the last military barrier a little above Whitefriar's Street and Father Augustine and myself walked to the factory. We were admitted through a door in Peter Street. and brought through the factory to Commandant MacDonagh. He took us to a room where we met Major McBride. Miss O'Farrell had already arrived with a copy of Pearse's letter similar to the one we bore.
Major McBride said that if any attempt were made to counsel surrender. he would oppose it with all the strength he could command. Thomas MacDonagh said that the letter of Pearse could have no weight as he was in custody and not a free man when he wrote it. As Pearse and Connolly both were under arrest the chief command devolved on him. and no one else had any right to issue commands or enter into negotiations. Although he was exceedingly courteous and agreeable with us he said he could not enter into negotiations with anyone except with the General Officer commanding the military. He was prepared to meet him for Parley in the factory or anywhere he might wish. MacDonagh also expressed the view that they could hold out for some weeks. They had ample provisions and ammunition and were well protected. He believed that a peace Conference was being held or on the eve of being held and that Rumania had come in on the side of Germany; that the news was being kept from us: and that the fact of their continuing for a week or two to hold out would necessitate their case going before the peace Conference.

We undertook to convey his message to General Lowe, and returned in the car to the Castle. When we informed General Lowe of the result of our interview with Commdt. MacDonagh: he asked us if we would accompany him to Headquarters. Accordingly we drove to the Infirmary Road Headquarters of General Maxwell. General Lowe, Father Augustine and I think, another officer occupied

the interior. I sat outside with the chauffeur.
After consultation at Headquarters. General Lowe said he was prepared to meet MacDonagh. and gave us a letter expressing his readiness to meet MR. MacDonagh at the North East corner of St. Patricks' Park at 12.noon or 1.p.m. (I am not certain which hour). and further undertaking to give MacDonagh safe conduct back to where he came from if he so desired.
With this message we returned in the General's car to Jacobs. MacDonagh read the document and said he would meet the General. We accompanied MacDonagh and a Volunteer. General Lowe approached at the appointed hour. leaving his car in Bride Street. He stood with MacDonagh at the corner of the Park. on the path outside the railing. Father Augustine stood with the Volunteer who had accompanied us. Crowds were moving up the square and I appealed to them to withdraw. They did so and the square was cleared.
After parleying for some time General Lowe and Commandant MacDonagh withdrew to the car and held further parleys seated in it. After a while they left the car. MacDonagh told us he had decided to advise his men to surrender; that an armistice was arranged until 3.p.m. Meanwhile he was to see his men at Jacobs. South Dublin Union and Marrowbone Lane and to let the General know the decision at 3.p.m. We then thought to return to Church Street. But General Lowe appealed to us to see the thing out, that we might and probably would be the means of preventing a great deal of bloodshed. The motor was placed at our disposal and a permit given to MacDonagh to pass to the various centres of Volunteers.
We proceeded to Jacobs. where MacDonagh held a Council of Officers in command. From there we went to the South Dublin Union. Father Augustine sat in the car with MacDonagh. I sat in front with a white flag

messages from the men for their people. Father Monahan and myself were conversing when we heard a loud crash and sounds that seemed like bombs exploding. One of the Volunteers came and told us that a crowd of looters were breaking into the office at Bishop Street. Father Monahan and myself went through the factory — with difficulty. owing to the fact that a water main had burst or been broken and was flooding the offices. We found a window had been broken and the looters were getting out to the street again. We mounted the window and addressed the people. pointing out the scandalous conduct of those who were responsible for the looting. We asked the people to withdraw to their homes and allow the work of peace to go on. They listened to our appeal and withdrew. Before doing so. several gave up the articles they had pilfered — which included rounds of ammunition, revolvers. and articles of clothing. We returned to where the Volunteers had assembled. Father Augustine and myself said good-bye to them and departed. When we reached St. Patrick Park We saw Eamonn Ceannt's contingent arrived from the South Dublin Union and ground their arms under his command. It included girls. some of them armed. Eamon de Valera's contingent arrived also from Boland's Mill.

We returned to Church Street wearied and weak. Nothing had crossed our lips since morning and we were glad to get a cup of tea at 7. P.M.

Monday. May. 1st. 1916.

Early in the morning the son of Superintendent Dunne (D. M.P.) a sub-deacon. called to me and said that Father Murphy. the military Chaplin. had sent him to ask if I could call to the Castle during the afternoon. James Connolly. who was a prisoner and a patient there.

consisting of an apron of one of Jacob's workers, tied to a brush-handle. Near Basin Lane a barricade was erected across the main street. We were obliged to leave the car and proceed on foot to South Dublin Union. There we were admitted and saw Eamonn Ceannt. After a consultation between Thomas MacDonagh and the officers, it was agreed that surrender was the wisest plan. We returned to Jacob's.

As we were returning to the barricade for the car, one of the soldiers at the barricade fired, but fortunately missed us. Some of the officers hastened to offer apologies and explain the matter, and informed us that the soldier had been put under arrest.

At 3.p.m. we again arrived at St. Patrick's Park. Commdt. MacDonagh informed Lowe of the decision to surrender. He took off his belt and revolver and handed them over to the military. It was then agreed that MacDonagh should return to arrange the surrender at Jacob's, Marrowbone Lane and South Dublin Union. We were asked to accompany him, and General Lowe's son (an officer of the Staff) and another officer accompanied us.

At Marrowbone Lane a great number of people, particularly women and children, had gathered while MacDonagh and Father Augustine were in the works with the Volunteers. I had remained outside with the chauffeur. After what seemed a long time they returned to the car. I understood there had some difficulty in persuading the Volunteers there to surrender. They were well fortified and had provisions for some time.

When we returned to the South Dublin Union, Eamonn Ceannt, speaking to the officer at the door of the Union, remarked that it would surprise him to see the small number who had held the place.

We returned to Jacobs. There the poor fellows were standing in the basement preparing to leave. Father Monahan of Francis Street arrived too and offered his assistance. Father Augustine was taking

had expressed a wish to see me. I called and saw Father Murphy. He told me he had arranged for the necessary permission with Captain Stanley, R.A.M.C., I went to the ward. At the door the sentry challenged Captain Stanley and informed him that he had orders to allow no one to see the prisoner without special instructions. Captain Stanley was obliged to return for his permit. The sentry asked me if I were Father Aloysius and, on my replying in the affirmative, said: "You can go in." However, as the nurses were engaged with Connolly, I delayed outside until they had finished and Captain Stanley had returned. I entered with Captain Stanley, but I remarked that two soldiers were on guard and showed no signs of leaving. I pointed this out to Capt Stanley, but he said it was necessary that they should remain: that he had no power to remove them. Then I said: If that is so I cannot do my work as a priest. I have never before, to my knowledge, spoken to James Connolly. I cannot say if he may not be hard of hearing. Confession is an important and sacred duty that demands privacy and I cannot go on with it in the presence of these men." I had given my word that I would not utilise the opportunity for carrying political information or a cover for political designs, and if my word was not sufficient or reliable they had better get some other priest. But I felt quite confident I would have my way. I suggested that we go to seek Father Murphy. On the way we met General Lowe. He greeted us warmly and said he had spoken to General (Sir John) Maxwell of the work we had done on the previous day for peace and the prevention of bloodshed, and that he had expressed a wish to see us and would be pleased if we could call to Headquarters the following day. Hoping it might afford an opportunity for speaking a word on behalf of the prisoners and securing fair and lenient treatment for them, I consented. Then General Lowe,

after some discussion acceded to my demand for privacy for the purpose of attending the prisoner Connolly.
I returned to the ward or room where Connollu lay. The soldiers left and I was alone with Connolly. I told him I had given my word I would act only as a priest and not in any politieal capacity. "I Know that. Father" he said. "You would not get this privilage otherwise. and it is as a priest I want to see you. I have seen and heard of the brave conduct of the Priests and Nuns during the week and I believe they are the best friends of the workers." I then heard Connolly's confession.
Captain Stanley met me again after I had left the ward, and said it would be a consolation if one of the priests would drop into the "Sinn Fein" ward in which the other prisoner-patients were. and say a word to those in it. and let their friends Know they were alive. I said I would do so with pleasure and I was permitted to go round to each bed and speak to the patients. Some of them said they would be grateful if I would send them prayer books. Captain Stanley said he would distribute them with pleasure if I sent them: and he did very kindly distribute the books which were sent. I cannot refrain from saying here that Captain Stanley showed himself. all through. a Christian and a humane man. and James Connollu spoke to me of his very great kindness to him, although Stanley was politically and in religion at variance with the prisoners. . . .
Called to the Castle for permit to visit prisoners and others needing my services. The permit "to pass through the streets of Dublin by day or night." was signed by Lord Powerscourt. Referring to my presence to the events of the preceding days Lord Powerscourt and some officers paid tribute to the bravery of the Volunteers, one of the officers remarking that "they were the cleanest and bravest lot of boys he had ever met"
Lord Powerscourt who was I understand, Asst. Provost Marshal, proved courteous and anxious to relieve the sufferings and

anxieties of the prisoners. He asked me if I could get one of the Fathers to visit the wife of one of the prisoners. The poor fellow, he said, had been taken down from a chimney in an exhausted state and was worrying about his wife who was in a delicate condition of health when he left home. He would be glad if I could reassure him. I undertook to visit the women, and Lord Powerscourt said I could see the prisoner afterwards, or at any time I wished.

Tuesday, May 2nd, 1916:

In the morning I gave Holy Communion to James Connolly. Later in the day I went with Father Augustine to Headquarters, Infirmary Road and met General (Sir John) Maxwell. At night a military car came to the gates of the Friary and a letter was handed in:

Kilmainham Detention Barracks.
2-5-16

Sir,
The prisoner H.T. Pearse desires to see you and you have permission to visit him. Failing you he would be glad to see any of the Capucines (sic)

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
W.S. Kinsman
(Major)
Commandant.

Rev. Father Aloysius.

The name of the Major and the initials before "Pearse" were not very legible.

Accompanied by another Father I went with the soldiers. We drove through the city in the direction of Charlemont Bridge. We were told that the soldiers had a couple of calls to make. The shelling from the roofs however, was so bad that when we got as far as Charlemont Bridge we were obliged to turn back. Later I heard the calls the military proposed making were to Mrs. Pearse and Mrs. MacDonagh, in order to bring them to the prison before the executions.

When I reached Kilmainham Gaol I was informed that Thomas MacDonagh also wished for my ministrations.

I was taken to the prisoners' cells and spent some hours between the two. "You will be glad to know that I gave Holy Communion to James Connolly this morning," I said to Pearse when I met him. "Thank God," he replied. "It is the one thing I was anxious about".
Pearse assured me he was not in the least worried or afraid: and that he did not know how he deserved the privilege of dying for his country. He was anxious that his mother should get a letter he had just written. He knew that I could not take anything out, and he would not wish it, but he would be glad if I would speak to the officer in charge and make the request to him. The officer assured me that the papers would be given to Mrs. Pearse.
Then I heard the confessions and gave Holy Communion to Pearse and MacDonagh; and I cannot easily forget the devotion with which they received the Most Blessed Sacrament. They assured me they were happy. They spent the time at their disposal in prayer. I told them I should be very near at the last moments although they would be probably be blindfolded and unable to see me and I exhorted them to make aspirations and acts of contrition and love. I left them in a most edifying disposition sometime between 2.a.m and 3.a.m.
To my astonishment I heard that orders were given that all the friends were to leave the prison and that the orders referred to me, too. I protested that I was present not merely as a friend but in the capacity of a priest, and held that I should be permitted to remain with the prisoners to the end. The officer in charge said that he had to carry out his instructions. I asked him to communicate with the Provost-Marshal and put my views before him. He 'phoned and then told me he was instructed I could not remain. I had no option. Leaving the jail I saw a little company of soldiers approach Afterwards I was told they were bringing Willie Pearse.
I returned to Church Street and said Holy Mass for their souls.

In the morning about 9.30 I called back to Kilmainham to ask the officer for a rosary beads which Sister M. Francesca had left with her brother (Thomas MacDonagh) the previous night. I availed myself of the occasion to make a protest. I said that in every civilised community the clergy were permitted to remain with the prisoner and administer the last rites of the Church. I had not been permitted to remain to administer Extreme Unction, as I was not permitted to be present at the executions. I requested him to convey my protest officially to the authorities. I am glad to say that at the later executions the priest was allowed to remain to the end and that when I attended James Connolly in the Castle a week later, I was taken with him in the ambulance to Kilmainham and was present at the execution.

Wednesday, May, 3rd, 1916:

I went to Mrs MacDonagh and Mrs. Pearse to break the sad news to them. I told Mrs. Pearse that I believed Willie would be spared: that I could not conceive them executing her second son. "No!" she said "I believe they will put him to death too. I can't imagine Willie living without Pat. They were inseparable. It was lovely to see the way they bade good-night to each other every night. Willie would never be happy without Pat" Indeed she had a strong conviction from the day when they said good-bye and walked out of St. Enda's that she would never see them again.....

Wednesday Night:

Message to say that some of the Fathers were wanted to attend executions ——— Plunkett, Daly, O'Hanrahan, and Willie Pearse executed in early hours of Thursday ——Fathers Albert, Augustine and, I think Sebastian attended ——.

Friday Morning, May, 5th 1916:

John Mc Bride executed, attended by one of the Fathers.

Sunday, May, 7th, 1916:

to put stop to executions. Nugent undertook to visit John Dillon immediately. Later Nugent called to Church Street to say that John Dillon would like very much if I could see him. Consultations with John Dillon at North Great George's Street. Dillon said that although he disagreed entirely with the policy of the men and believed that they had put back the Home Rule Movement, still he admired their courage and respected their convictions. He said that he had always had an admiration for Patrick Pearse. He would do everything in his power to put an end to the executions. He took my car and went to Castle to send telegraphic message to John Redmond. Returning he called to Church Street to inform me that he had succeeded in sending the telegram.

Monday. May. 8th. 1916:

To Drumcondra with Message from General Maxwell to His Grace the Most Rev. DR. Walsh. Archbishop.

Monday. Evening:

Message that four or five executions were to take place and that the services of some of the Fathers would be required.
Went to John Dillon to tell him and to urge him to cross to London and raise the matter in Parliment. Dillon regretted he could not cross in morning but would go at the earliest moment.

Tuesday. 9th May 1916:

Papers report that previous night John Redmond asked the Prime Minister to put a stop to the executions.

Thursday morning. 11th. May. 1916:

Papers report that John Dillon had crossed and moved adjournment of House to discuss continuance of the executions in Ireland. Asquith undertook to give opportunity for debate on 11th. and on the understanding that no further executions would take place meantime. MR. Dillon withdrew his motion.

Thursday Afternoon:

Called to Castle to see Connolly. Connolly had not slept and seemed feverish. I said that I would let him rest and would call in morning to give him Holy Communion. Uneasy about him I tried to get contact with Captain Stanley, but he could not be found. Reached Castle gates, and still uneasy, decided to return and make another attempt to see Stanley. Saw him and was assured that there was no danger of any steps being taken: he reminded me that Asquith had given to understand that no executions would take place pending debate which was on that night. Got back to Church-Street sometime near 7. P.M. About 4 p.m. Captain Stanley called and told me that my services would be required about 2. a.m. He was not at liberty to say more but I could understand.

FRIDAY MORNING, 12th. MAY, 1916:

About 1. a.m. car called and Father Sebastian accompanied me to Castle. Heard Connolly's confession and gave him Holy Communion. Waited in Castle Yard while he was being given a meal. He was brought down and laid on stretcher in ambulance. Father Sebastian and myself drove with him to Kilmainham. Stood behind firing party during the execution. Father Eugene McCarthy, who had attended Sean MacDermott before we arrived, remained and anointed Connolly immediately after the shooting.

FRIDAY:

Morning papers reported sensational speech by Dillon in Commons with a stinging attack on Government. Mr. Asquith's reply was that he was crossing to Ireland that night to see the situation for himself.

Later in DAY:

Visited Richmond Barracks to see prisoners — amongst them Sean. T. O'Kelly, Alderman Tom Kelly and Laurence O'Neill (Lord Mayor). Got an account of Asquith's visit to the prison.

11th MAY, 1950

'Connolly's Name Is Exploited'

"I CONSIDER it my duty to warn you against the interpretation designing men would fasten on James Connolly's words and actions, to lead you to a course of life abhorrent to everyone who sincerely wishes your welfare," said Rev. Father Aloysius, O.F.M.Cap., in a lecture on "Memories of Easter Week and James Connolly," delivered in Liberty Hall last night, under the auspices of the Dublin Council of Irish Unions.

Misled by the declared aims of Communist propagandists, who, while skilfully concealing their unchristian and materialist theories from those not fully initiated, loudly voice sentiments and claims that are in accord with Christian and Catholic teaching, many good men have for a time been induced to believe that Communism was reconcilable with the Catholic religion and with genuine patriotism.

Whether Connolly held that view at one time or not, the lecturer was not in a position to say. But views that were opposite and contradictory could not be reconciled.

Connolly loved Ireland intensely and he professed the Catholic faith even with his dying breath.

James Connolly's aspirations were a free and happy Ireland—bulit up on the model of the family, which he accepted as the true type of human society.

He may have thought, perhaps, at one time that such were the aims of Communist agitators.

"But of this I have no doubt," said Fr. Aloysius, "that if he were alive to-day, he would indignantly resent the dishonest activities of men who are trying to exploit his name to support their deceitful propaganda among workers, especially young Irish workers in England and to enlist their sympathy and co-operation in a line of action entirely at variance with the mind and outlook of one whom they regard as a heroic leader."

No one would protest more vehemently than James Connolly against the horrible and inhuman tyranny masquerading to-day under the sacred name of liberty in countries dominated from behind the Iron Curtain by the agents of alien dictators, and holding in cruel bondage helpless millions.

Connlly's conception of freedom certainly was not what we witnessed in the travesty of freedom of thought and action in nations ruled from Moscow to-day.