



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The Aftermath Of Drumcree



Following the sad debacle of the stand-off at Drumcree Parish church in mid-July, the Orange Order sought to rebuild morale amongst its members by holding a parade in the Protestant heartland of Ballymena. An impressive parade of some five thousand Orangemen marched to the Ballymena Showgrounds where they were addressed, amongst others, by the former Grand Master, Rev. Martin Smyth MP. The prominent presence of Mr. Smyth highlights the weakness of the Orange Order. While it professes to be a Protestant

organisation, dedicated to the maintenance of the Protestant faith, it is led by men like Smyth who are actively involved in the ecumenical movement. Martin Smyth has twice taken part in "prayer breakfast" services with Roman Catholic priests, including Cardinal Daly.

Unitarian



The present Grand Master, Robert Saulters, is of Unitarian background. Unitarianism denies the deity of Christ and is rightly deemed a heresy. Yet, Unitarian ministers are amongst those to whom the position of chaplain is open within the Order. It has to be said that the rules of the Order officially deny this position to certain separatist denominations though the rule is ignored by some lodges. This mixture of "iron and clay" is what renders it so weak.

The whole issue of Drumcree likewise brings into focus the attempt by the Order to face both ways. The Orange Order seeks to take a stand for civil and religious liberty and the right of Protestants to assemble freely, by marching to a church which is a major part of the ecumenical movement in Ulster. There is no denomination more deeply involved in the sell-out to Popery than the Church of Ireland of which Drumcree Parish Church is a part.

Addressing the Orangemen in Ballymena, Mr. Smyth is reported to have quoted from Psalm 133 and Luke 11. Both portions refer to unity and division. Mr. Smyth called for unity within the Orange Institution. If the members of the Orange Order unite with Martin Smyth, then they are united with an ecumenist and their organisation must depart from its first principles. If there are those opposed to Martin Smyth, and a minority are, then the organisation is fatally flawed because of that division. God has said that we cannot successfully oppose that of which we are a part. *Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth*, Luke 11:17. The number of true evangelicals who are loyal to the truths of God's Word within the Orange Order are very much in the minority. While the Order may make noises that may be mistaken for a true declaration of loyalty to the gospel, its actions deny its annual July 12th anti-ecumenical, pro-Reformation resolutions. Most of its chaplains belong to ecumenical denominations and most of its services are conducted in ecumenical churches where the preachers are often men who reject the doctrines of grace.



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Any professedly Protestant organisation which clutches to itself that which is utterly destructive of its being must decline and die, if not as an organisation, certainly as a force for good in society.