

## ONE MAN'S OPINIONS

BY N. D. COCHRAN.

**The Irish Situation.**—Most of us have been helping Ireland get home rule for many, many years. Now it looks as if home rule meant pick your partners for a fight.

The funny thing about it is that mighty few of the papers are touching the real trouble editorially. It is a ticklish subject, for it is religious. And if there's a civil war in Ireland, religion will be at the bottom of it—as religion has been at the bottom of most of the world's wars.

Ulster in the north of Ireland is largely Protestant. The remainder of Ireland is largely Catholic. The Protestants, or the Orangemen, don't want to be ruled by the Catholics; and they think home rule for Ireland means that Protestant Irishmen will be ruled by Catholic Irishmen.

Yet they used to send Irish emissaries to this country in pairs to enlist our support for home rule. As against a common foe they were all Irish. With nothing to fear from the outside and home rule in sight, they split on religion and want to gouge one another's eyes out.

Human nature is human nature. While our country is at peace with all the world we fight among ourselves. If we can't start something on politics we scrap about religion.

As the two old parties began to disintegrate and Republicans and Democrats cooled off their party passions, religious prejudice came to the front; and we are well on our way to a religious war in this country.

Fortunately, however, it is a battle of ballots with us, and the principal harm done is to keep some people out of office because of their religion. If Japan attacked our Pacific coast we would all rush together again as Americans and forget the religion of our neighbors.

Mexicans are fighting among themselves like cats and dogs, and religion has nothing to do with it. Let Uncle

Sam butt in and you'll find all Mexicans rallying around one Mexican flag and fighting like brothers to drive off the invaders.

All religions profess to believe in the brotherhood of man and the rule of brotherly love. Yet nothing will stir up more hard-boiled hatred than a war of opinions between two armies of Christians.

There is something in the old saying that more fighting means more cats. In a religious war all concerned become more religious. The row in Ireland will fan the Catholic fervor of Catholics and the Protestant fervor of Protestants; and attendance will doubtless be better in both churches.

It's the same with us. Every twenty years we save this country from the Catholics. Attendance picks up in the Protestant churches when the feeling runs high; and the Catholics get closer to their religion than they had been for twenty years of peace.

It takes a very few years for all of us to get the hate out of our fevered systems, and then we all get together again as friends and brothers and feel ashamed of our bitterness.

Somehow or other religion appears to be stimulated by war and hate rather than by peace and love.

Yet Christ moved the multitude by love.

There is more hatred among the folks who call themselves Christians than there has been for twenty years. And there is more interest in churches.

There's a screw loose somewhere.

**Miss Starr's Service.**—At some considerable personal sacrifice Ellen Gates Starr has rendered a valuable public service—particularly valuable because it was rendered to women workers.

Organized Big Business, fighting the organization of waitresses because it might lead to organization of clerks in the big stores, was solidly back of Henri's restaurant and the