

**IRELAND AT THE CROSS
ROADS: AN ESSAY
IN EXPLANATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649616138

Ireland at the Cross Roads: An Essay in Explanation by Filson Young

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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FILSON YOUNG

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PRESS OPINIONS

The Times says:—"Full of sympathy, not devoid of insight, and instinct with freshness and individuality. . . . His book is well worth reading, if only for its high literary quality. It will attract and interest many by its vivid presentation of facts and opinions which would only repel if recorded in the arid pages of a Blue-book."

The Spectator says:—"There can be no question of the importance of Mr. Young's analysis of the effect of a too emotional religion upon the mind of the Irish race. . . . Economic questions are treated briefly but with great good sense. . . . We can commend Mr. Young's book to all who desire an acute and sympathetic study of a great experiment—the regeneration of Ireland from within. There is much, too, in the volume which has genuine literary charm, such as the account of the old life of Irish country houses, and the perfect little sketch of a visit to the Trappist Monastery at Mount Mellary. . . . Even in his imperfections Mr. Young deserves to be judged on the higher literary standard, and at his best he can write with great lucidity and charm."

The Morning Post says:—"Searching and courageous in argument, and written in a style that is pleasant, supple, and picturesque."

The Scotsman says:—"This is a thoughtful study of the present state of Ireland, not the least readable either because it studiously avoids politics or because it is written with quite an uncommon literary ability. . . . Practical remedies it does not seek to indicate; but this need be no reproach to a book so impressive; for it will serve a good object if, as it can hardly fail to do, it makes its readers realise the full nature of difficulties too often obscured or misrepresented. This book will be read with profit by every one interested in its subject."

Mr. GEORGE MOORE, in the *Daily Mail*, says:—"Ireland's case is stated lucidly as a proposition in Euclid, picturesquely as a dramatic situation in a novel by Balzac. . . . I congratulate Mr. Filson Young on having written a most remarkable book. It is by far the best book of the kind that I have read for many a long day."

The Athenaeum says:—"The author writes with ease, often with great picturesqueness, and carries along his reader through many interesting and many astounding pages. . . . We cannot speak too highly of his power of portraying, in poetic prose, his romantic but melancholy impressions."

The Westminster Gazette says:—"Mr. Filson Young's 'Ireland at the Cross Roads' has very considerable literary merits. It is vivid and interesting, it appears to reflect things really seen and felt, and it is written in a style which will please the reader of literary tastes and entice him to read on when he has once begun. . . . In particular, we should like every one to read his account of the work of Sir Horace Plunkett and his department."

The World says:—"We have read few recent pages more ably and brilliantly written than the brief but suggestive work which Mr. Filson Young entitles 'Ireland at the Cross Roads.' . . . The passage of singular beauty in which he traces the influence of the sea upon the inhabitants of the western parts of Ireland, for instance, not only stands out among the writings of Mr. Young's contemporaries, but would bear comparison with the purple patches of the great masters of English prose, being, as it is, not merely a piece of exquisite language, but the expression of a simple and profoundly true thought which has not occurred to any previous writer."

The Dublin Daily Express says:—"No one can take up this book on Ireland without being fascinated by its brilliant style and its clearness of vision. Mr. Young evidently sees plainly the problems that lie at the root of the Irish question. He does not miss the obvious by seeking after the esoteric causes that will explain why Ireland still puzzles the statesman and the social inquirer. . . . Mr. Young can look on the Catholic Church in Ireland without a trace of bigotry or intolerance. He describes its influence on the character and history of the people with a mastery insight, calmly, logically, scientifically."

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An Essay in Explanation

BY

FILSON YOUNG

LONDON

GRANT RICHARDS

48 LEICESTER SQUARE, W.C.

1904

First Edition, November 1903.
Second Edition, January 1904

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

To make no additions or alterations in the second edition of a book on a highly controversial subject would indicate that the author had nothing to learn from his critics—a claim which I am very far from making. The issue of a second edition within a very few weeks of the book's first appearance has, however, afforded so little time either for serious criticism or for its consideration by the author that in this case I have had to content myself with making only a few verbal corrections and alterations.

If I ever doubted whether this small Essay on a big subject was justified either