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The Complete Prose of T. S. Eliot: The Critical Edition

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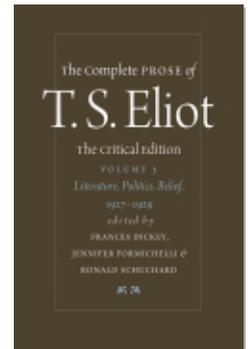
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Censorship¹

To the Editor of *Time and Tide*

Time and Tide, 9 (23 Nov 1928) 1131

Sir, – I have read with great interest Mr. Bernard Shaw's article on the Irish Censorship in your issue of November 16th.² After this article and that of Mr. W. B. Yeats in *The Spectator*, it seems that there is little more to be said.³ Yet I am tempted to write, both because it is a rare pleasure for me to find myself in almost complete agreement with anyone so eminent as Mr. Shaw, and because I feel that this is a subject upon which every man who writes or thinks (or both) ought to speak his mind.

It pleases me to find that opinions which I have expressed elsewhere coincide with those of Mr. Shaw. It is important to recognise that this outburst of Puritanism in Southern Ireland will injure the Catholic Church in the opinion of Englishmen. It may not be important, but it is interesting to me personally, to find myself agreed with Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Yeats, against the powers of Ulster, and of Dublin, and against the author of a book entitled *The Prayer Book Crisis*.⁴

Yours, etc.,

THE MONTHLY CRITERION,
21, RUSSELL SQUARE, W .C.1.

T. S. ELIOT

NOTES

1. Written on 17 Nov at the request of the editor, novelist, and feminist Winifred Holtby, who was appointed a director of the journal in 1926.

2. In "Bernard Shaw Fulminates against the Irish Censorship," *Time and Tide*, 9 (16 Nov 1928), 1099-1100, Shaw states that under the new Free State Censorship Bill "Ireland is now in a position of special and extreme peril. . . . If she holds her own in the front of European culture, so much the better for her and for Europe. But if, having broken England's grip on her, she slops back into the Atlantic as a little grass patch in which a few million moral cowards are not allowed to call their souls their own, by a handful of morbid Catholics, mad with heresy-phobia, unnaturally combining with a handful of Calvinists mad with sexphobia . . . then the world will let 'these Irish' go their own way into insignificance without the smallest concern. It will no longer even tell funny stories about them" (1100).

3. See TSE's discussion of Yeats's article, "The Irish Censorship," in his "Commentary" for Dec 1928 (3.534).

4. William Joynson-Hicks, called by Shaw "the most resolute No Popery man in England," published his *The Prayer Book Crisis* (1928) in an appeal to remove all elements from the new Prayer Book that smacked of conventions of the Roman Catholic Church.