

thinkers—a work that will enlighten and illuminate the intellects of future ages.

On the 21st of February, 1906, Cardinal Mercier was called to the Archbishopric of Malines, an immense diocese in which there are no fewer than 2,500,000 souls. The motto he chose, "Apostolus Jesu Christi," has indeed been truly realized, for no one more truly deserves the title of apostle as the venerable Mercier. But like the numerous great prelates of the Church, he for nine years went about his all-important work unnoticed by the din and bustle of the world and now when dissension and hatred have buried most all humanity in a bloody struggle—in an abyss of horror, Cardinal Mercier's name has become a household word in many lands. But the reason is not far to seek. The suppression of his famous Christmas pastoral has long since traveled to the four corners of the globe. The Cardinal himself tells us of the sufferings he had to endure at the hands of the invading Germans,—his cancelling of engagements and his confinement in his archiepiscopal palace. The document itself, though undoubtedly one of the greatest of the present year, is none other than a clear and limpid exposition of the Catholic doctrine on patriotism. And could there be anything more natural when the very existence of his nation is threatened than that he who has charge of the spiritual welfare of his children, should advise them in the all-momentous role they are playing in the tragedy that is unfolding before our eyes. "But time will unfold what plighted cunning hides." Already the Germans themselves have blushed and made endeavours to minimize the shameful treatment meted out to him who was just doing his duty.

Aside from his German enemies under the present régime, Cardinal Mercier has had many opponents to contend with in the world and it is worthy of note that his adversaries have always credited him with an unusual degree of fairness.

In the administration of his diocese he has given many evidences of those qualities—providential indeed in the ordeal through which himself and his people are passing. Without being revolutionary and changeable, he has effected many healthy reforms in keeping with modern progress. When once he has set his mind on a certain line of action his energy seems to be without limit. His charity and zeal for the things of God are all-consuming. Indeed