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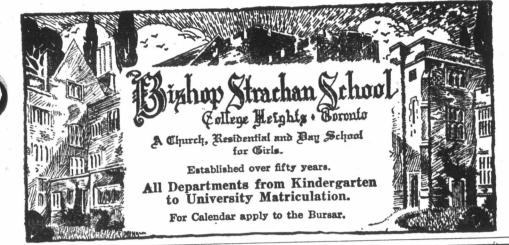
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You say there's only evil in this war-That builtes drive out Christ? If you had been

In Furnes with me that night . . . what would you say,

I wonder?

It was ruin past all words, Horror where joyous comfort used to be,

And not clean, quiet death, for all day long

The great shells tore the little that remained, Like vultures on a body that still

breathes. They storped as it grew dark. I looked about

The ghastly wilderness that once had been The village street, and saw no other

life Except a Belgian soldier, shadowy Among the shadows, and a little group Of children creeping from a cellar

school And hurrying home. One older than the rest-

So little older!-mothered them along Till all at once a stray belated shell Whined suddenly out of the gloom, and burst

Near by. The babies wailed and clung together, Helpless with fear. In vain the little

mother Encouraged them-"But, no! you mustn't cry,

That isn't brave, that isn't French!"

She led her frightened brood across the way To where there stood a roadside Cal-

vary, Bearing its sad, indomitable Christ— Strange how the shells will spare just

that! I saw So many. . . . There they knelt, poor innocents,

Hands folded and eyes closed. I stole across And stood behind them. "We must

say our prayer-"Our Father, which art in heaven,"

she began, And all the little, sobbing voices piped,

"Hallowed be Thy name." From down the road The Belgian soldier had come near.

1 felt Him standing there beside me in the dusk.

"Thy Kingdom come-"

"Thy will be done on earth As it is in heaven." The irony of it Cut me like steel. I barely kept an oath Behind my teeth. If one could name this earth

In the same breath with heavenwhat is hell?

Only a little child could pray like this. "Give us this day our daily bread-" A pause.

Urgently. Still the hush. She opened wide, Reproachful eyes at them. Now, that

prayer Had grown too hard even for little children.

"I know—I know—but we must say the prayer." She faltered. "Give us this day our

daily bread, And—and forgive—" She stopped.

"Our trespasses As we forgive them who have trespassed against us."

The children turned, amazed, to see who spoke

The words they could not. I, too, turned to him,

The soldier there beside me-and I looked Into King Albert's face. . . . I

have no words To tell you what I saw . . . only I thought

That while a man's breast held a heart like that, Christ was not, even here, so far away.

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