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# Beautiful Bruges Greets Pilgrims

Great English Body Headed by Bishop Clifton Sees Quaint Flemish City.

Wonderful Pageant Through Historic Streets Witnessed By Devout

(From our Correspondent.)
London, May 6.—This letter should more properly be headed Bruges, were it not for the exigencies of the mails, for though we are now back in the capital, the English pilgrimage to Bruges is too large and picturesque a subject to allow any lesser and more mundane matters to intrude upon it, and therefore for this week we will lay aside the tangled skein of London subjects and interests and devote ourselves to some shadow-like portrayal of one of the grandest and most beautiful survivals of the granious past—the annual procession of the Precious Blood, which brings wayfarers and pilgrims from all parts of the world to "the quaint old Flemish city."

### A CONTRAST.

Perhaps no contrast could be greater than that which our little grader than that which our little band of modern pilgrims presented as they gathered in Charing Cross station, to the pilgrims whom Chauser knew. We were very prosaic in outward appearance, but let us hope there was some affinity between us and the thousands who tramped the long Romar roads of old England in the days when Thomas A'Becket's shrine at Canterbury was world-famous—for we had the self-same faith. Our journey was uneventful enough snrine at control of the self-same faith. Our journey was uneventful enough and devoid of physical fatigue, for we are not cast in the heroic mold of our ancestors, and at nine o'clock that same Saturday evening we were driving through the moonlit streets of Bruges to our hotel, catching a dim silhouette of the graceful belfry in the uncertain light as we rattled across the Grande Place, and listening antranced to the matchless music of the bells.

### VENERATING THE RELIC.

The early morn saw all the pil-grims assembled in the quaint 'old crypt of the Chapelle de Saint Sang, where, by special permission, the Bishop of Clifton celebrated Mass, and afterwards we proceeded to the upper chapel to venerate the cious relic. It is a wonderful and afterwards we proceeded to the upper chapel to venerate the precious relic. It is a wonderfully impressive scene which presents itself on entering the beautiful old building, a gem of mediaeval architecture. Opposite to the entrance half a dozen steps lead up to a raised platform upon which is a chair of state with crimson draperies. Within it, and holding before him on a brocade cushion the crystal reliquary, sits an holding before him on a brocade cushion the crystal reliquary, sits an old priest. The people who desire to venerate the sacred relic kneel for a few minutes in contemplation upon the many prie dieux about the chapel, and then ascend the steps, drop and kiss pel, and then ascend the steps, drop upon one knee as they pass, and kiss the long phial, like a scroll of crystal, within which is plainly visible the precious drops staining the soft linen which was wrapped about the body of our Blessed Lord when preparing it, after the tortures He had suffered for the careful tomb. suffered, for the garden tomb.

### A RARE TREASURE.

A feeling of awe possesses one at the sight of this most unspeakably precious treasure. It speaks of Him whose sacrifice it testifies to, and it speaks with the intimacy the sight of this most unspeakably precious treasure. It speaks of the great event of Monday. Hotel de Ville saint and monarch to, and it speaks with the intimacy of that which has belonged in a most personal sense to that One most personal sense to that One whom we have not seen with the eyes of our flesh. How dear such a relic must be, how infinitely holy and precious when we remember the circumstances of its possession. It rests in the same reliquary now as even in the same reliquary now as even in the same reliquary now as even in the same reliquary now as the same reliquary now and precious when we remember the circumstances of its possession. It rests in the same reliquary now as rests in the same reliquary now as when the Count of Alsace brought it to the city from the Holy Land nearly eight hundred years ago, and it is guarded by the members of the noble Confrerie de Saint Sang, which has existed since 1504. How many great ones of the earth have preceded us in the act of homage which we shall offer on Monday when the sacred Blood is carried in magnificent procession through the magnificent procession through the streets of the old world city that has guarded her precious trust well and so worthily.

### INSPIRATION UNCHANGED.

Kings and Emperors, saints and sages, mighty warriors and stately merchants, all had swelled the ranks of the "innumerable caravans" which had moved into the shadows. Our own Margaret of York, Thomas of Canterbury, and another Thomas, likewise a martyr to the selfish ambitions of an English King, had knelt and followed where we, their unworthy descendants and the possessors of that spiritual heritage which they died to preserve, were kneeling now. All the noble and graceful throngs of the centuries that are gone had passed away, but that which inspired their devotion endured unchanged.

But space does not allow of too

many reflections, for it is short, like to the days we snatched from the burning furnace of modern industry, to enter this "miserere stall" as Longfellow beautifully calls as recommendation of the day of the day in the day of the d pause in the dull routine

### THE SPELL REMAINS.

The day that had begun with such The day that had begun with such hallowed associations was spent in exploring Bruges by those pilgrims who were unfamiliar with her, and by renewing old acquaintanceships with quaint waterways and silent grass grown places by thase who like the writer had felt the spell of her fescingtion hefore. The great like the writer had felt the spell of her fascination before. The great painters Memling and Van Eycke, looked down as plaxidly as ever upon the old streets where they had once lived and moved. The cafe where Reubens used to sit in the well worn leather chair which is still preserved, and where for six hundred served, and where for six nundred years the artists of Bruges have held their weekly meetings was just the same, the usual artist or two in its exquisite little piece of un-expected garden.

The belfry was still musing over The belfry was still musing over the memories it treasures in its fastnesses, and the lovely tender notes of its recollections fell slowly one by one as the beads of a saint's Rosary might drop through unheeding fingers, while the eyes were fixed on fairer visions 'than we can imagine. The old palace of the Counts of Flanders still stood solumn and stately under the shadow Counts of Flanders still stood solemn and stately under the shadow of Notre Dame, and within that noble fane Michael Angelo's Madonna, rescued from Napoleon, still smiled her gracious smile from the sombre marble setting of the Ladye Chapel, and Charles the Bold and Mary of Bungundy still slept in peace in their chapel behind the high alter. The old Beguinage with its tall elms and poplars, its quiet red tiled houses and its suggestion of ancient peace is still as reminiscent of Hobbema's canvases, and Sophiefic (to be quite correctly Flemish) the oldest lace maker in Bruges, still plies her trade as deftly as ever though she is ninety years of age.

### THE LAKE OF LOVE.

Close by shimmers the Lac d'Amour, where maidens come by moonlight to watch among the water lilies for the face of him whom they will love, and whose cool glassy depths mirror so perfectly the roofs and turrets of the old city. And so we pass on to the ramparts and back through one of the old grey gateways, past St. Anne's, famous for its wonderfully carved confessionals, and towards the Jerusalem Church, and great domed roof

evening was over

### THE REALIZATION.

a church pageant, whose sumptuous coloring, rich materials and gorgeous wealth of description would have delighted the old Flemish painters could they have looked down upon it from one of those ancient houses which lean across the quiet streets, like a watcher on a lonely road waiting the return of some beloved traveller. Wonderfully beautiful are the hues of the long clinging robes in which Bruges garbs her angels, with their great quivering wings of a marvellous reality and gracefulness, young girls taking the parts, their long hair lying loosely on their shoulders, or bound by a gold or silver fillet.

### THE VIRGIN'S BODYGUARD.

They carry scrolls bearing the lines of the Gloria, and form a body guard for the car of Bethlehem upon which is seated the Virgin Mother, holding in her lap the Divine Infant, while St. Joseph and the shepherds all in correct costume of deep herds, all in correct costume of deep monotones, adore Him on bended knee. The Doctors are there and in knee. The Doctors are there and in their midst walks a curly haired boy, straight and tall though very young in years, but supporting the dignity of the young Christ with perfect calm, so on through the incidents of the human life, we see Mary and Joseph pass on their way to return thanks at the Temple, Joseph he right the offering of the poor. seph bearing the offering of the poor, and again we watch the eager throng who with palm branches in their hands surround the Saviour in His lowly pomp as he rides into His

### VIA CRUCIS.

Then our eyes follow the group Then our eyes follow the group of mournful figures who are making the via Crucis, or, as someone has bequitifully said, are treading the Royal Road, and again we see our Lord's figure moving slowly by, bearing the Cross, the contrast of His forlorn and mournful aspect being rendered all the greater by the erect figures and brilliant accountrements of the Roman soldiers who surround Him. and brilliant accountrements of the Roman soldiers who surround Him. A car drawn by several horses shows us the descent from the Cross, and here again the bright sunshine serves only to throw into stronger relief the sombre forms about the empty cross and grouped at its foot, while the reality of the whole is so great that the impression is almost too painfully intense. painfully intense.

### THE CHILDREN.

Before these tableaux come groups of children from the churches of Bruges, surrounding their titular saint, some carrying long lily staves, others bunches of roses, and dressed to represent the three hues of the Rosary mysteries portrayed; while yet others are garbed in the graceful peasant dress of different countries and states, typifying the many nationalities who join in this act of homage and thanksgiving. The Contionalities who join in this act of homage and thanksgiving. The Confraternity, too, in their ancient robes of office, form a splendid foil for the rich and varied tints of the many groups which surround them, all of which, however, are as perfectly blended and as unexpectedly city. an of which, nowever, are as per-fectly blended and as unexpectedly beautiful as are the wealth of rich coloring in an autumn sunset, seen from the ocean, or across the misty moorland hills: It is the last scene that stands out most clearly and most perfectly in my recollection. We de fessionals, and towards the Jerusalem Church, and great domed roof of the English convert, beyond which rises a typical windwill.

The banquet at the Hotel du Commerce, which was honored by the presence of the Bishops of Bruges and Clifton besides Rev. Count van den Steen de Jehay, the President of the Confraternity to whom we owe the courteous invitation which makes us participators, not merely sights.

monsignori in purple and the offici-ating prelates. Radiating from this central point in studied lines kneel central point in studied lines kneel the various groups of the procession, their banners held high above them and the statues they carry placed upon stands at the head of each

But Monday brought the realization of our purpose in coming; the sight which is acknowledged by Protestants as well as Catholics to be without a parallel for magnificance and beauty in Europe at the present day. It was of course a general holiday, the shops were closed, the market was deserted, the bells were ringing from Bruges' hundred churches, the people were out in their best, even the black velvet dress, snowy linen and lace, and quaint cap with long golden ornaments of a Hollander who had come over the border down the canal from charming little Sluice, were discentible amongst the gayer attire of the townsfolk and the fashionable finery of visitors from Ostend and strangers from other countries.

THE GREAT PAGEANT.

The procession took over an hour to pass any given spot from which fact something of its magnitude may be gathered. Tableaux illustrating the life of our Divine Lord and the story of the bringing of the relic to Bruges formed a most important part of it. Every parish in Bruges sent its contingent, it was indeed

## British Budget Hits Ireland.

Meal, Tea, Sugar and Tobacco of Poor People Heavily Taxed.

Ireland Has No Need of Dreadnoughts, Avers Mr. Redmond—Has No Commerce to Protect.

An analysis of the Budget figuresis given below:

£15.762.000

THE BUDGET FIGURES.

3d. per gallon on petrol ... £
3s. 9d. per gallon on spirits
8d. per lb on tobacco
Increased License duties ...
Motor Licences ...
Estate Duties
Stamps
Income Tax

ESTIMATED REVENUE FOR THE YEAR.

EXPENDITURE.

 
 Estimated
 £164,152,000

 Improvement of Roads
 600,000

 New Development Fund
 200,000
 Land Tax Administration ..... Balance of Expenditure over Revenue
Deducting £3,000,000 Fixed Debt charge leaves as margin
for contingencies

All budgets make serious matter, an eccessary. This discrimination the British one most of all. From the scant cabled reports not much was to be learned of the budget recently presented to the House of Commons by the Charcellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Lloyd George, Content with such scant outlines as the news associations sent from London in the interim awaiting the arrival of the mail, it is now possible to satisfy the larger curiosity which, Ireland, and allow England, as far

In Canada the budget is of large interest, as it must be in a Dominion now stirred by questions as to the settlement of military and naval relations between it and the Empire at large. Increased demands for the navy is a budget necessity, and the needs of the navy form an interesting topic in all British Colonies.

### A SOCIALISTIC ASPECT.

There is a tinge of socialism in the budget. The small income taxpayer There is a tinge of socialism in the budget. The small income taxpayer escapes easily; indeed he can secure relief from his burden if there are family demands, the budget making provision for an abatement of taxable income to the extent of £10 per head of each member of his family under sixteen years of age. But there is a super-tax for the people of large wealth. Provision is made for the removal of the imperfections of the Old Age Pension scheme, the problem of the unemployed, industrial development and the improvement of waste lands and afforestation.

Ireland is hit hard in the budget; so sharp was the criticism on the part of the Irish members that the closure was used to end the debate. The motion was carried by a majority of 107 votes, some Liberal members voting against the Government as a protest to this means of closing general discussion. Ireland is struck at because of the sharp increase on spirits and tobacco, yet in answer to Mr. John Redmond, Mr. Lloyd George contended that Ireland's proportion; of taxation was being reduced from 6.5 to 4.2. But while Ireland's proportion of contribution to the new budget may be less, it is considered by Irish critics that Irish industries are being too heavily taxed. How this comes too heavily taxed by the Weekly about is explained by the weekly about is the weekly about is the weekly about is proportion of the vindicate of the collation. Yet a

news associations sent from London in the interim awaiting the arrival of the mail, it is now possible to satisfy the larger curiosity which, naturally, demanded a more full report of the budget, so voluminous, and so exhausting in the mere physical demands of its presentation. that its author was fairly prostrated in the House.

In Canada the budget is of large interest, as it must be in a Doufnion of the spirit duties is over £16,000,000. If the consumption were not ooo. If the consumption were not checked and the taxation had not checked and the taxation had not been anticipated the new duty would yield over £5,500,000. To assume the yield at £1,600,000, therefore, is to suppose that less than a third, or only a little over a fourth of the amount of whiskey on which was paid in 1907-8, will pay duty in 1909-10. The Chancellor's pill for Scatched and Ludend is conted. was paid in 1907-8, will pay duty in 1909-10. The Chancellor's pill for Scotland and Ireland is coated, but the coating is too thin. Redmond promptly protested, the Irish Party voted against the mew duty. It is a device for getting back Ireland's share of the Old Age Pensions. Tobacco is to pay an additional 8d in the pound, or a halfpency an ounce. Here, again, Ireland will be hit through its payers of indirect taxation, and disaproportiomately hit, £2,600,000 is added to the license duties, so that £4,500,000 confessedly, and, probably, nearer to £6,000,000 actually, is to be levied off the licensed trade and the consumers."

MR. REDMOND'S CONTENTION.

manage her own affairs in the smalest degree, with no need for four breadnoughts. They are no use to her, and here she has to pay through the nose towards every extravagance you go to in connection with the nose towards every extravagance you go to in connection with the nose towards every extravagance you go to in connection with the nose towards every extravagance you go to in connection with the nose towards every extravagance you go to in connection with the nose towards every extravagance you go to in connection with the nose towards every extravagance you go to in connection with the nose towards every extravagance you go to in connection with the nose towards every extravagance you go to in connection with the nose towards every extravagance you go to in connection with the nose towards every extravagance you go to in connection with the nose towards every extravagance you go to in connection with the nose towards every extravagance you go to in connection with the nose towards every extravagance you go to in connection with the nose towards every extravagance you go to in connection with the nose towards every extravagance of the nose towards every extravagance

the age qualification right, every man and woman in the neighborhood would be entitled to a pension. All these wretched people on uneconomic holdings—on little patches of bog or on the mountain side in the congested districts, extending, not over small areas, but over several counties—everyone of these people would be entitled, so far as income is concerned, to old age pensions. You have nothing like it in England or in Scotland, even among the crofters, or in Wales, and that is one reason why the proportion of old age pensions is larger in Ireland tham in this country. Or the other side of the age question it is easy to answer. One of the most horrible things wer. One of the most horrible things connected with Ireland has been the steady emigration from the country.

### AN UNJUST BURDEN.

Year by year young men and young women leave the country. I am happy to say that this year and last year there was less emigration from Ireland than in any year since the great famine. That is satisfactory; great famine. That is satisfactory; but still they are going, and for many decades past they have gone in thousands, and hundreds of thou-sands. Only the young people, are going, and you have the extraordin-ary fact, that, undoubtedly, there are more old people and more young children to be found in Ireland than ary fact, that, undoubtedly, there are more old people and more young children to be found in Ireland than in any country in Europe (Irish cheers). These are some of the explanations of the large proportion of old age pensions in Ireland, and the fact that we have got a larger proportion from old age pensions, as judged by population, in Ireland than in Great Britain, may be said to have gone, to some extent at any rate, to diminish the unjust burden of taxation to which, according, to the Financial Relations Commission report, we are suffering from. Again Mr. Redmond:

"I really ask the House of Commons, do they not feel somewhat ashamed when they have to spend these untold millions upon breadnoughts, to have to go to such sources to get the money for them? (cheers). What does Ireland wart with Dreadnoughts? (cheers). Dreadnoughts are to protect the world-wide commerce of England. You have taken very good care, by your rule in our country for the last hundred years, to destroy our commerce and our industries.

### NO IRISH COMMERCE AFLOAT

We have no commerce to be protected by your Dreadnoughts. (cheers). The case of the colonies is entirely different. You were delighted when the colonies offered to pay for some Dreadnoughts. Why shouldn't they? (cheers). The colonies have got absolute self-government. They manage their own affairs. Their very existence depends upon a strong navy and the defence given them. They do not pay a single halfpenny towards the expenses of this country (cheers). Here is Ireland, not permitted to manage her own affairs in the small We have no commerce to be manage her own affairs in the smal-lest degree, with no need for four

Chancellor "adds no less chancellor "add no per gallon. or over 30 per cent., to many the day of the Cross of gentle laughter or showers of weary tears, to many a passer-by when our feet are for a passer-by when our feet are for a manuscript he desires, to collate, by the simple device of correcting the print like an ordinary proof sheet, is able to reproduce every important feature of the manuscript. The work is now in full swing, and fifteen collaborators are shall have departed, and Bruges will red her touch with a clinging return to the quiet tranquility of her shall have departed, and Bruges will if we may we shall return again, for she is indeed a City of Heart's Testire.

PILGRIM.