#### POPE BENEDICT TO WORKING GIRLS

WARNS AGAINST BAD BOOKS, WANTONNESS OF FASHIONS AND OTHER SNARES SET FOR THEM

On a recent Sunday the Holy Father received in solemn audience the Organization for Retreats for Working Girls, established in the convent of the Sisters of the Cena colo at Monte Mario. The girls who made recreats during these late months were accompanied by the Sisters and by Monsignor Vincenzo Sardi, Titular Archbishop Caesarea in Palestine, who in a brief address presented them to the Holy Father. To Monsignor Sardi's address His Holiness replied as follows :

"This is not the first time that We have had the pleasure of admitting to Our presence girls who had just gone through the spiritual exercises given in the convent of the Sisters of the Canacolo. But as a few flowers. how beautiful and ocorous soever, do not enable one to appraise the extent of the garden in which they have been cultivated, so We, from the small number of girls led hitherto by the Sisters of the Cenacolo, have not been able to realize the full import ance of the Organization for Retreats for Working Girls. To day, however, We have been, as it were, unexpect edly conducted into the midst of a flower pot. We now behold a large number of girls who took part in seven retreate given in the convent of the Sisters of the Cenacolo at Monte Mario during the past three mooths; We greet with pleasure the distinguished president of the organ ization, the zealous religious who assists him, and also the deserving ladies who are patronesses of the organization itself, and what is more important, from the elequent address of the President. We hear of the many and good results obtained this year from the retreats given to work ing girls.

Oh! truly We must no longer rejoice for some flowers only; We now know all the vastness and all the beauty of a new gerden. To God, best and greatest, We send up the homage of Our gratitude for having deigned to embellish our Rome with this new garden: We applaud him who has dedicated to its cultivation intelligent zeal and loving care, but, above all, We congratulate you, for with you, and you will gain advantage of Christian vigilance. tunate girls, who are the tender plants cultivated in this mystical garden and destined to gladden with flowers and fruit the working classes to which you belong. Indeed, Wa would wish to express the desire that the number of girls admitted to the spiritual exercises in the convent of the Sisters of the Cenacolo should constantly increase the more. We believe, girls that your example must contribute much to the attainment of an end so desirable, because all the parents to whom it may be given to admire the progress you have made in the way of virtue through the spiritual exercises ought to be inflamed with the desire to procure for their daughters the means of imitating you, and thus it is that the growth of the Organiza tion for Retreats for Working Girls is destined to contribute to the betterment of your class. But to our aid opportunely comes the recollection of the teaching contained in the Gos pel lesson which exactly on this Sunday the Church proposes to Us; to Us it seems that this teaching is calculated ever the better to recom mend the necessity of the spiritual exercises for working girls. For Word. But the Redeemer added that whilst the men told off to watch the field slent, an enemy of the owner of the field came and sowed cockle amongst the wheat.'

THE POISON OF FALSE TEACHINGS AND NEFARIOUS INCITEMENTS

TO VICE "Wboscever reflects on the misfortune that befell the poor owner of membership. By aggressiveness we that field cannot fail to recognize do not mean a truculent, domineer which the men told off to watch the field allowed themselves to be over come, 'cum autem dormirent come, 'cum autem dormirent should be under homines' ('but whilst the men were ted by others. sleeping.') From this is clearly deduced the lesson which teaches the the demon levels his shafts especially at the working class, nor indeed is it to be wondered at that his emissaries the studied work disciple. Have we been aggressive in our apostleship?

If every member of the Church to be wondered at that his emissaries labor to instil into the heart of the working girls the poison of false teachings and the most nefarious incitements to vice. He would not be ing class, of bad books and of jour-nals of the worst description, the nals of the worst description, the Many are under the impression wantonness of the fashions in dress that the deeply religious Catholic is amongst women of the lower classes,

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for years what they think of it. If you don't know such a person, write us and we will tell you the names of Churches where this great organ has been giving satisfaction for

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but who can prevent it better than by making the spiritual exercises fairly often? These revive the teachings of faith, these recall for every Christian his own obligations these set before the eyes the dangers to which spiritual slumbers exposes distracted youth, these in fine territy by the threat of the divine chastise ments. Oh! who is there who does not see that the spiritual exercises are the best means of preventing the demon from casting the cockle into our heart? To succeed in casting it the more effectively he watches the moment of our spiritual slumber. Let us ever keep ourselves awake: he will not succeed in his wicked intent.

ADVANTAGES OF CHRISTIAN VIGILANCE We said a moment ago that the great lesson of Christian vigilance brought to Our recollection by today's Gospel should be the best argument to recommend the necessity of the Organization for Retreats for Working Girls. It is for you, girls, to prove that our words have not been mieplaced : return often, return willingly to the spiritual exercises; make many of your friends come with you, and you will gain the

" Fortunate are the working girls of Rome! They constitute a most select field in which the Heavenly Father has scattered the good seed, and they, more fortunate than the field of which this day's Gospel speaks, need not fear that those charged to watch over them will be surprised by slumber, for the good Sisters of the Cenacolo keep watch and the zealous president of the Organization for Retreats is ever prepared to prevent their enemy from sowing cockle. Vigilance, how ever must also be your individual work; therefore We exhort you to confirm yourselves at every moment the more in the purpose of this necessary vigilance, and to the end that in you such a purpose be truly efficacious, for you and for all your companions, for the religious who direct and for the lady patronesses who support the organization to the exercises, and for its worthy president We invoke the abundant bless ing of heaven. Oh! may the blessing of the Lord keep far away the hand of the enemy who would scatter the cockle of error and of vice in the heart of the worsing girls, and may it be a prelude to that Divine Word whereby the Supreme Judge will bid when Jesus compared the kingdom the angels gather into the granaries of heaven to a man who sowed good of the Heavenly Father the wheat seed in his field, He thus alluded to of the good works which, by means the work of good fathers of families of the stimulus of the spiritual expensions. ercises, the working girls of Rome well as to the individual work of will have performed in abundance each one who received into his own triticum auticum autem congregate heart the good seed of divine grace, in horreum meum " ( but the wheat especially of the Divine gather ye into my barn." -Rome.

#### AGGRESSIVE CATHOLICS

No society, religious, social, educa tional or political, ever achieved real success without an aggressive that the cause of it was the sleep by ing attitude, but rather a positive stand upon our principles; an eager desire that our teachings and ideals should be understood and apprecia-

As Catholics we are members of a society whose aim it is to show the necessity of not yielding to spiritual sumber, so as not to give an opportunity to the enemy of the soul to sow in us the cockle of error and of the sublime work that has

mistaken who would say that for this than it is to day. The missionary purpose is designed the increased power of the Church is greatly weak-circulation even amongst the work. ened by the lassitude and indifference of its members.

which to-day has penetrated even a mock meak, nonresistant, harmless creature. Nothing could be further and the multiplied bad example from the truth. Truly religious men which from above and below is set before the poor people. Now, the blooded aggressiveness that stands outcome of these diabolical devices for dominance and achievement. depends on the state of spiritual lan. This fact is fully demonstrated in the guor in which are unfortunately found the working girls for whom these snares are set.

history of Christianity. The apostles, martyrs, confessors and virgins of the Church have ever been loyally "Nothing is therefore so necessary aggressive. The modern champions as to prevent languor of the soul, of Catholicity have been possessed of

this same militant characteristic, as we are reminded when we recall the names of Ludwig Windthorst, the hero of the German center party ; of Archbishop Hugbes, the apostle of the Catholic parochial schools, and of Mother Drexel, the angel of the Indian missions. They loved their faith and their best efforts were given to its advancement.

To-day, more than ever before, the world needs aggressive Catholic men and women to hold aloft the ideals of Christianity and elevate every phase of human living. This aggressiveness is needed in our parish life to strengthen our religious societies; it is needed in our social life to break down the barriers of bigotry rampant around us; and it is needed in our political life in taking a way the prejudice which holds Casholics under a disability in seeking public

Every Catholic should ask himself Am I aggressive in the big mission that has been entrusted to me ? What am I doing to win my separ ated brethren to the standard of the Cross of Christ?"-The Missionary.

#### "MY LIFE FOR OLD IRELAND'

CHAPLAIN'S STORY OF SOLDIER'S DYING WORDS RECALLED

AN ESTIMATE OF THE IRISH SOLDIER The "New Statesman" has a long article in the current issue on the Irish soldier, recalling the Wild Geese, Cremona, Fontency, and remarking on "the amazing fact that this is the first War in history in which the Irish soldier has fought as an Icish. man on the same side as England.' The article proceeds: "So far as the present War is concerned, Irish soldiers are fighting as Irish patriots n a way in which they never fought They do not echo Sarafield's before. cry. 'Oh, that this were for Ireland! Apparently, they take the view that in defeating the Germans as at Cremona, they actually are fighting for Ireland. The chaplain of an Irish regiment, writing after the first battle of Ypres, described a dying soldier whom he attended. 'His side was torn with shrapnel, and he lay in a pool of blood.' After being attended to spiritually, he raised his hand and exclaimed, 'My life for old Ireland!'" " GOD SAVE IRELAND " ON THE

BATTLEFIELD "Nor is this an isolated example of conscious Irish patrictism-patriotism which is always so much more self-conscious in tragic than in success-Redmond passed the barracks in Birdong - a song celebrating the three Fenians who were hanged at Man chester in 1867 -as they charged the Germans at Mons. No doubt, they varied their music with 'Early doors, this way,' and the other comic audacities of the battlefield. But the Irish troops in crisis after crisis of INDIFFERENCE TO DANGER

Of the courage of the Irish troops both in Gallipoli and in Flanders, though Mr. Redmond has complained that it has been insufficiently recognized at headquarters, it is almost superfluous to speak. Not that it is more wonderful than English or French or Scottish or German courage. But the courage of the various nations is probably different in kind. Mr. Valentins Williams, in his new 'With the Army in Flanders,' writes: 'The British soldier's indifference to danger, while it is one of his finest qualities, is often the despair of his officers. The Irieh regiments are the worst. Their reckleseness is proverbial.' And the daring of the Irish (10th) Division at Gallipoli has been as notable. Captain Thornbill of the New Zelond. tain Thornhill, of the New Z aland orces, has borne witness to it in a etter to an Irishman:

NEW ZEALAND OFFICER'S TRIBUTE "Your Irish fellows are the talk of the whole army. To me the last few weeks have been one long nightmare

But I must makeyou wise in regard to the doings of the Irish. Most of them, I believe, are 'freshies.' The Empire can do with a heap more 'freshies,' of the Irish more brand. Their landing at Suvla Bay was the greatest thing that you will ever read of in books by highbrows. Those who witnessed the advance will never forget it. Builets and shrapnel rained on 'em, yet they never wavered. Officers got it here there, everywhere but the men never wavered. . . God! the men were splendid. The way they took the hill now called Dublin Hill) was the kind of thing that would make you pinch yourself to prove it wasn't a cheap wine aftermath. How they got there heaven only knows. As the land lay, climbirg into hell on an aeroplane seemed an easier proposi-tion than taking that hill.- Edinburgh Catholic Herald.

#### PRIVATE JUDGMENT

Whittier, the poet, in a defense of the Quakers, once said :

" If the light given immediately by the Holy Spirit is dim, what must that be which comes to us through the medium of human writers in an obsolete tongue? Is the B b'e more and better then the spirit which in spired it? Shall the stream dany the fountain?"

This certainly is a fair argument as against our Protestant friends. If they believe that a private inspiration, private jadgment, gives them ful countries. It was not many weeks the true meaning of God's word, we before the outbreak of the War that see no reason why they should in the true meaning of God's word, we the Irish Guards were reprimanted terpose the types between them and for singing 'God Save Ireland' as Mr. a direct inspiration revealing them a correct rule of life. We Catholice cage Walk. But they sang the same | believe the Bible because the Church. which is infallible, hands it to us as inspired and explains its hidden meanings. We, under God, believe in the Church because we see it confronting us as any other human-existing institution; and, reasoning on its existence—its conquest of time, evidence of the national spirit of the space and man-we recognize that only the hand of God could have the present War, in addition to their created so wise, so powerful, so gloriga'ety, fidelity, and daring is over-whelming.

ous, so perfect and indestructible s system.—Truth.

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