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## Cardinal Mercier

**A**FTER allowing all due credit to the leaders of the belligerent armies, to the ministers and diplomats of the many elements in combat and to the other many notable intellects connected either directly or indirectly with the warring nations, we can truly say one of the foremost figures in the public eye at the present moment is the Cardinal Primate of Belgium.

Cardinal Mercier was born on the 22nd of November, 1851, at Braine l'Alleud, a small town situated within a few miles of Waterloo. After a brilliant course in the Arts, Philosophy and Theology he was ordained to the priesthood. Within a very few years he was professor of philosophy in the Petit Seminaire of Malines, which position he filled till 1882 when he was called to the chair of Thomistic Philosophy in the then flourishing but now demolished University of Louvain. His profound knowledge of all intricate subjects was soon revealed. No difficulty was too great, no obstacle so perplexing that his penetrating brain could not unfold. His esteem for the philosophy and theology of St. Thomas led him into a deep and scientific research of the ways and means whereby a conciliation of Thomism and modernism could be achieved,—a harmonizing of the results of modern science with the unchanging dogmas of Christian metaphysics. His course of philosophy in five large volumes was the outcome—a monument of ideas that has won him the admiration of the world and a place in the front rank of contemporary