

this Solemn Mass many others were said in the church and in the chapel of the château by priests who were serving in the regiments in the neighborhood, and it is quite common to see the red military trousers under the sacerdotal vestments. There is no doubt that the war will have the result of destroying that fear of public opinion which has had such an influence on Catholic life in France of late years. Between the priest and the soldiers — comrades in arms — there has been established a bond of union which will have untold and far-reaching effects."



It has been truly said that the Kulturkampf proved a blessing in disguise for the Catholic Church in Germany, and the present great war is likely to prove even a stronger force for good, in that it is bringing not only the Catholics but the Protestants as well to a deeper realization of the claims of religion. The war, it must be understood, is universally considered by the Germans a just war, since the very existence and permanence of the Fatherland are believed to be at stake. It was open with a day of prayer and penance; the churches were filled to overflowing on that day; and the same scene is repeated day by day in the Protestant as well as in the Catholic churches. It may be safely stated, that not one Catholic soldier went to the front without, having received the Sacraments. During the first days of mobilization, priests were kept busy for whole days and nights hearing confessions and distributing Holy Communion. And the letters from the front are almost daily reporting scenes of Catholic piety enacted in the trenches and the blood-soaked battlefield.

---

*Published with the approbation of the Archbishop of Montreal.*