

North of the Aisne, in Champagne and in the Argonne forest heavy fighting between the French and German armies is in progress.

It was a quiet day on the British front. The guns alone broke the calm that has succeeded the battle of Arras.

The food problem in Britain yesterday reached another stage in the State control of supplies.

The strikes in Germany are still in progress, and appear to be a growing danger to the Government.

Desertions from the German ranks are increasing in volume, the cumulative effect of which must be of grave importance to Hindenburg.

T. P. O'CONNOR'S LETTER

ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE IN ISSUE OF THE WAR

A GENERAL ELECTION AMONGST THE POSSIBILITIES

Special Cable to the CATHOLIC RECORD (Copyright 1917, Central News)

London, April 21.—The reassembling of Parliament, after the Easter vacation, foreshadows many possibilities that are not as yet quite visible on the surface.

There is only an infinitesimal group of members who are not whole heartedly and unyieldingly determined to prosecute the War to successful conclusion.

This feeling of confidence has been enormously heightened by the cooperation of the United States. We hear all sorts of statements from German sources and even from American sources that the United States cannot effectively participate in the War for at least another year.

We all hope, and Germany most of all, that the War will be over by that time. Without minimizing the importance of the moral support America's action has given us, I am not so sure that our energetic young Ally is going to be content to wait a whole year before joining in the defeat of the enemy.

The long expected statement regarding the Irish situation has been postponed until next week, when serious difficulties may possibly arise.

While the government has not tackled the whole situation, either wisely or firmly, all members are confident and optimistic over the final outcome, especially in view of the fact that many other members besides the Irish Nationalists, are quite determined that more consideration shall be given to matters of national interest.

can look after itself, everyone feels that a more critical attitude will be justified and helpful, rather than otherwise.

The Irish members of Parliament feel that the Irish question is so intimately bound up with the aims consequent upon the ending of the War that they will, if necessary, oppose the government at every turn, even at the risk of a general election.

Indeed, there is a growing feeling that a general election would not interfere with the successful progress of the War and would on the other hand serve many good and useful purposes.

The ban the War office has placed upon copies of the Nation, circulating abroad, resulted in a fierce altercation in the House of Commons on Tuesday and the opinion of the members is probably best expressed by the fact that a large majority stood up in support of the request to move the motion on the adjournment of the House.

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So long as they could get plenty of money to spend on their savage self indulgence, the reactionaries and the officials did not care whence the money came.

EDDYSTONE DISASTER

LAST RITES ADMINISTERED AMID CRIES OF AGONY IN RUINS OF EDDYSTONE PLANT

Buffalo Echo, April 19

Right Rev. John J. McCort, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, and a score of priests of the Archdiocese were among the first to appear at the scene of the Eddystone munition disaster last Tuesday, seeking to bring comfort and consolation to the wounded and dying victims of the terrible explosion.

Amid the appalling din caused by the heartrending cries of the burned women and girls and men and boys, confessions were heard and in some cases the Holy Viaticum administered.

It was an hour after the explosion before any one was allowed to enter the plant on account of the danger from bursting shrapnel and shells.

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Bishop McCort was officiating at the reception of novices at the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph, when he learned of the tragedy.

power to console the suffering of all. He remained until after 6 o'clock.

Among the priests who gave valuable aid to the injured, many of whom were Catholics was Father Joseph A. Nelson, D. D., professor in St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, N. Y., who was in Philadelphia at N. Y., who was in Philadelphia at N. Y., who was in Philadelphia at N. Y.

A GENEROUS CATHOLIC GIFT

MR. AND MRS. MACKAY PRESENT COMPLETE HOSPITAL UNIT TO THE GOVERNMENT

The first important contribution to the United States government from a private source to be devoted to the furtherance of wartime efficiency, was learned when it was announced at Roosevelt Hospital, New York, that Clarence H. Mackay and his mother, Mrs. John W. Mackay, both Catholics, have just made a joint gift of a completely equipped hospital base unit of 500 beds or service either in this country or abroad.

The hospital, which will be known as the Mackay Unit, has already been accepted through the National Red Cross. Through the patriotic generosity of Mr. Mackay and his mother provision has been made for a staff of 22 surgeons, 75 nurses, 150 orderlies and others necessary to operate such a unit.—St. Paul Bulletin.

NOT POLITICS: SOULS

"The Catholic Church and her priesthood are constantly meddling in politics: their one end is to control the State." Of all the objections brought against us by our enemies, this, perhaps, is the most commonly heard.

The principles of any Church can be easily found in the authorized doctrines of its ministers, preached from the pulpit. The pulpit and its utterances are the authoritative, natural and popular means of reaching the multitude.

Therefore to learn the ideals and purpose of the Church, its enemies have but to spend a few moments in a Catholic Church on a Sunday morning, listening to those priests who are so unjustly accused of political ambition.

During my two weeks' stay in Sandiuiding I was much edified with the catechist. He is a regular saint, and was pleasant, kind, and hospitable to every one I witnessed! Every word and action of his breathed love of his neighbor.

At the approach of Lent, the Holy Father always receives in audience the little army of priests who are to preach to the Faithful in the various churches in Rome.

A whirlwind of cheers greeted Archbishop Edward J. Hanna at the meeting of the American League of California when President Ray Lyman Wilbur of Stanford asked the members to stand "in recognition of the bold stand taken by Archbishop Hanna in this crisis."

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practice of those virtues which they preached. That was the Pope's command to the priests before him.

LETTER FROM FATHER FRASER

Sandiuiding, Feb. 11, 1917.

Dear Friends,—I wish to relate to you the consolation I felt this morning in saying Mass for the first time in the new church of the Sacred Heart in this town.

In his invocation, Archbishop Hanna termed the present war "the greatest battle for liberty that the earth has ever known."

"We come to Thee for light and for strength. Give us light that we may know Thy way upon earth and Thy salvation among nations; give us strength to feel the light, wherever it may lead."

But it is not enough to build a home for the Lord. His priest must have a house also; so relying on your well-tested generosity I am buying bricks and timber for a rectory.

I was assisting the workmen in laying the foundation of this rectory when a man came rushing up.

Major General Thomas H. Barry, who commands the Central Department of the United States Army, with headquarters at Chicago, was born in New York in 1856, of Irish parents, and has had a brilliant army career.

Admiral Benson, a convert, is successor to the late Admiral Dewey and Chief of Operations in the Navy Department.—The Monitor.

THE ROSARY

ITS MEANING, HISTORY AND USES—WHY CATHOLICS "COUNT THEIR BEADS"

(By "M. C. L." in Catholic Herald)

"What is the meaning of the Rosary, and what is the meaning of counting the beads?" enquires a correspondent. Well, the beads are not there simply to be counted, nor are we just "counting beads" when we recite the Rosary.

Wales the people do carry their beads openly, and make such clappings with them that a man can hardly hear the minister, alleging that they can read their beads as others their books."

Yours most gratefully in the Sacred Heart. J. M. FRASER Taichowfu, China.

ARCHBISHOP HANNA

STANDS WITH UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

A whirlwind of cheers greeted Archbishop Edward J. Hanna at the meeting of the American League of California when President Ray Lyman Wilbur of Stanford asked the members to stand "in recognition of the bold stand taken by Archbishop Hanna in this crisis."

Still more bravos broke in on the end of the patriotic utterance that followed from the Archbishop, and at the end of the meeting hundreds shook his hand.

"That a country whose men have been nourished on liberty from the cradle should eventually be brought into this conflict was unquestioned. The great organization that I, though wholly unworthy, represent sees all orders coming from God, and when our President and our Legislature call we have naught to do but to obey."

to man and their duty to humanity, cannot be patriotic. Standing here as a humble representative of that mighty organization and as the last of the citizens of the United States I can only consecrate and dedicate myself to the service of my country.

ARCHBISHOP IRELAND'S ADDRESS ON PATRIOTISM

Speaking in the St. Paul Cathedral several weeks before the declaration of War, Archbishop Ireland, in a discourse on "Patriotism" said that while hope was strong that the crisis facing the United States might go no farther, the people were ready for any sacrifice.

"When America sounds its bugle call we are all of us Americans—Americans by birth or Americans by the sacred oath we one day pronounced," said the Archbishop.

"The President of the United States believes that the honor of the nation has been challenged. That the crisis we now witness may go no farther, we hope and pray. We cover no holocaust of human lives, we vain would repel the advancing shades of War. But, if the worst does come, if the leaders of the nations decide that it must come, then we are ready for every sacrifice."

"Apart from the dictates of solemn duty, should we not cherish America, live for America, and die for America? America is the guardian of our well and of our life. The words of St. Paul, 'Let everyone be subject to the higher powers,' tell us of our duties to the country. The individual requires for his life and welfare the protecting hand of civil society; to civil society, therefore, we must be subject, for its life, integrity and honor we must be ready to make sacrifices, even of life. Our social family, our country, is the United States of America. America is speaking, we listen as to the voice of God; we obey, we follow, gladly, and 'for conscience sake.'"

"Among the Catholics of America, many there are, who if not themselves born in other countries, trace back their lineage to a not remote foreign ancestry. I am not of those who deem it a crime to revert in pleasing memory to scenes of childhood, to cherish the ground that covers the graves of our fathers. But when it is a question of civil allegiance, of civil loyalty, for all there is but one country, and that is America, but one flag, and that is the Star Spangled Banner. When America sounds its bugle call we are, all of us, Americans."

In concluding the Archbishop said: "In your Cathedral each Sunday at the close of Mass, you chant in impressive tones the prayer for the Republic. The prayer is the sincere voice of the official Church. Today, when there is commotion in the land, when the President of the United States speaks an act amid grave happenings, and calls upon us to believe in him, with more than usual fervor we should intone the anthem."

"Here and there in America, in darksome corners, some few, have dared to say that Catholics are not loyal to America, that America cannot afford to give itself in trust to them. The calamity has been again and again put to shame by the quick and ready sacrifices made by Catholics on the altar of America. Today we defy the men who belie us, and challenge them to equal us in sacrifice, to be as quick as we are to rally to the voice of the President of the United States."—The Monitor.

FATHER FRASER'S CHINESE MISSION Taichowfu, China, Nov. 26, 1916

FATHER FRASER'S CHINESE MISSION

Taichowfu, China, Nov. 26, 1916

Dear Readers of CATHOLIC RECORD: That your charity towards my mission is approved by the highest ecclesiastical authorities of Canada let me quote from a letter from His Excellency, The Most Rev. Peregrine F. Stagni, O. S. M., D. D., Apostolic Delegate, Ottawa: "I have been watching with much interest the contributions to the Fund opened on behalf of your missions by the CATHOLIC RECORD. The success has been very gratifying and shows the deep interest which our Catholic people take in the work of the missionary in foreign lands."

I bless you most cordially and all your labors, as a pledge my earnest wishes for your greatest success in all your undertakings. I entreat you to continue the support of my struggling mission, assuring you a remembrance in my prayers and Masses.

Yours faithfully in Jesus and Mary, J. M. FRASER

PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED

Table listing donors and amounts: P. F. Windsor, Ont. 1 00; Patrick Hennessy, Newcastle, N. B. 5 00; Request to St. Anthony, J. C. 5 00; Lenten Savings of Children, Apple Hill, 10 00; J. C. and Edwin, Ottawa 5 00; M. J. C., Toronto 1 00; A Friend, Pembroke 5 00; Rev. T. P. Hussey, Sebringville, 5 00; Friends, Dundas, 5 00; Children, per Rev. F. M. Lantaigne, Shives Athol 10 00; In memory of Pe. Thos. Morrison, Markdale, 25 00; Mrs. James Morrison, Markdale, 10 00; M. T. F., 1 00; Mrs. J. R., Ottawa, 3 00; A. C. M., 5 00