

and the other Presbyterian. Ghent had one also, with the English inscription, "St. John's Church," in large letters over the entrance; there is one in Courtrai frequented by the British flax dealers who live there. Most of the large towns have one such place of worship but in the country districts no such thing as Protestantism is known. The people are uniformly and unmistakably Catholic, notwithstanding an anti-clerical or Socialist element which has, however, simply disappeared since the German invasion. Cardinal Mercier's description of Belgium as "so faithful in the great mass of her population to God, so upright in her patriotism, so noble in her king and Government," will be recognized as authentic by those who know anything of her past history or present constitution.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

Globe, Feb. 10th.

The Carpathians still hold the centre of the stage. The Russian Army admits that the Austro-German army now advancing in great force into Bukovina and western Galicia threatens the Russian armies in Bukovina with isolation or the evacuation of the greater part of that province. While this movement is in progress the Russians keep advancing along the Carpathian front. For a hundred miles from the Beskid range to the Ussok Pass they are sweeping the Austrians before them and descending into the Hungarian plain, where if the German advance to the eastward is checked they will be in a position to fall with terrific force upon the flank of the Bukovina army of the Dual Monarchy.

The battles in the Carpathians overshadow the operations in Poland, where the Russians keep to consolidate their strength on the ground recently won along the Bzura. The Kaiser is reported to be in Poland in consultation with Von Hindenburg. His anxiety as to the situation in East Prussia may be the reason for this consultation. The probability is that the withdrawal of troops from Poland for service in East Prussia and in the Carpathians is part of the general plan of campaign which is to take the place of the unsuccessful endeavor to take Warsaw. The capture of the Polish capital has gone the way of other German dreams, such as the capture of Paris and Calais and the invasion of Great Britain.—Globe Feb. 10.

SEVERE STRUGGLE IN THE CARPATHIANS

In the Carpathians the Russians hold their own against a vigorous Austro-German offensive. In the vicinity of the Dukla Pass the Russian troops have been driven back, and the battle continues on Hungarian soil despite the most strenuous attempts of the German troops to transfer operations to the Galician slopes. Farther east, in the Wyzskow Pass, the Germans are over the summit, and trying hard to open the way to Lemberg. They have not yet succeeded, and are losing many men in their assaults on the entrenched Russian positions. Meanwhile the garrison of Przemyel, the relief of which these operations are in progress, has begun to subsist on horseflesh. The Commander, who has fought a good fight, says that when every other form of food is exhausted he will get his men to eat their boots. Army boots, well greased for a long period, may be all right used as one would a beef bone in the making of soup, but the most Slav-hating Magyar in Przemyel will not be able to make much of tenderloin of boot.—Globe, Feb. 13.

NO CHANGE FOR SOME TIME

It is worthy of note that the military correspondent of The Times, who has had excellent opportunities of seeing actual conditions at the front in Flanders and northern France, says there is little possibility of a general advance for "a long time to come." The country is a quagmire, and will be till after the winds of March have performed their offices in the processes of the seasons.—Feb. 13.

BRITISH AIR RAID

The most interesting item in this morning's war news is the report of a British air raid upon the coast cities of Flanders and upon Bruges, in which thirty-four aeroplanes and seaplanes took part. All the points at which the Germans have been constructing defensive works were visited, including Zeebrugge, the German submarine base; Ostend, Blankenberghe, and Middelkerke. The object of the raid, as stated in the official report, was to prevent the development of submarine bases and establishments. No submarines were observed, but bombs were dropped freely on railway stations—two of which, at Ostend and Blankenberghe, were damaged, and perhaps destroyed—on railway tracks, power stations and gun positions. The raid seems to have occurred at night or in the grey dawn, and, notwithstanding the fact that they were subjected to bombardment by many big guns, including anti-aircraft weapons, all the pilots returned safely. Graham-White, a famous aviator fell into the sea off Nieuport, but was rescued, and only two of the

aircraft were damaged. The distance from Dunkirk along the coast to Blankenberghe, the farthest point reached, is about 88 miles, so that the entire raid was probably carried out in less than two hours.—Globe, Feb. 13.

WAR DEMORALIZES SHIPPING

When a Canadian business man receives a letter that has taken from fifteen to seventeen days to come from Great Britain he is naturally annoyed. The wonder, however, is that mails are as regular and passenger sailings as numerous as they are. Mr. Asquith has been telling the Commons that one-fifth of all Britain's shipping—or, in other words, a tenth of all the shipping in the world—is now employed by the British Government for warlike purposes. In addition, not one German ocean-going ship is now upon the seas. The German merchant marine constitutes 14 per cent. of the world's tonnage, and the war has resulted in withdrawing 24 per cent. of the ships formerly available for marine transportation from their routes. Under the circumstances, it is a wonder that there has been so little interruption of ocean travel.

GERMAN SUCCESS

The centre of interest is still in East Prussia. The Russians admit that they have been forced to retire rapidly within their own borders from the Mazurian Lake district. They announce that very little news will be permitted to come through until their battle line is reconstituted on plans already arranged. There was no general engagement during the retreat, but the Germans evidently cut off considerable numbers of the Russian rear guard and parties on detached service, for they claim to have taken 20,000 prisoners, 20 field guns and 30 machine guns. Had the Russians not retired with unthought celerity it would have been Tannenberg over again.—Globe, Feb. 13.

SHORT ON METALS

The most important news of the day in its bearing on the larger issues of the war is a statement in the British eye-witness report that the Germans propose to day, February 10, to commandeer all stocks of copper, tin, nickel, hard lead and antimony. This is a confession that supplies are failing. It is estimated that the Germans are consuming copper in the manufacture of ammunition at the rate of 112,000 tons a year, while the German production of copper is only 40,000 tons. It does not take a military expert to see that there can be only one end to that if Britain's blockade shuts out foreign supplies.—Globe, Feb. 10.

GREAT BRITISH HOWITZERS

London, Feb. 12.—The British army in France is now using heavy howitzers, which, according to a report from the Official "Eyewitness" with the expeditionary force, have gained ascendancy over the heavy German guns. These howitzers, he states, were used in successful attacks on the German positions in the brick fields south of La Bassée Canal a week ago to night.

OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

Berlin, Feb. 12.—An official statement given out here says: "Eastern theatre: The Emperor arrived on the battlefield on the East Prussian frontier. Our operations there forced the Russians rapidly to give up their positions east of the Mazurian Lakes. At some places the fighting is continuing. So far about 20,000 prisoners have been made. More than twenty guns and thirty machine guns have been taken. The amount of war material taken cannot yet be estimated.

"In Poland, on the right bank of the Vistula, the Germans continued the offensive reported yesterday. They took Sierpec and made some hundreds of prisoners. "On the left bank of the Vistula there is no change."

BRITAIN NEEDS BIGGER FIGHTING FORCE

London, Feb. 12.—That Britain needs a stronger fighting force was made manifest to day when the military authorities called upon all those who signed the recent census expressing their willingness to enlist when asked to do so.

VIENNA (via London), Feb. 12.—

The following official communication was issued to night: "The situation in Russian Poland and Western Galicia is unchanged. The battle continues in the Carpathians, where, despite the bitter resistance of the enemy and the Russian reinforcements coming from all directions, we have progressed slowly. "The operations in Bukovina have been successful. Our columns are advancing in the valley, and the Sereth River has been reached."

SOME GERMAN GALLANTRY

"During the engagement at Givenchy one of our officers had been partially buried by a parapet or a trench which had been blown in on top of him. A German officer, who saw him, despite the fact that he himself was under a hail of bullets, stopped to dig him out and give him some brandy from his flask. To the great regret of those of our men who witnessed the deed of gallantry and self-sacrifice, and deeply appreciated it, the German officer was killed by a chance bullet."

GERMANS WELL FED

Special Cable to Globe

"It is stated that the German soldiers are not sufficiently fed out of the Government ration, but by the gifts of food sent by friends and relatives they seem to get sufficient. At any rate, the prisoners seem fit enough, and certainly they do not give the impression of being half-starved."

SIDELIGHTS ON THE GREAT WAR

LAST CONFESSIONS ON THE "FORMIDABLE."

Father W. H. Purcell, of St. Henry and St. Elizabeth, Sheerness, gives an interesting account in the Irish Catholic of his last pastoral visit to the "Formidable" a few days before she put to sea on her last cruise. The Admiral, when he "became aware that the priest wished to go on board the ship to see the Catholics, at once gave the courtesy which is one of the duties of the Navy, authorized him to go off in the "D.S.B." to any ships which might wish to visit. He notified the ships of this arrangement, and furthermore ordered that Catholics, whether on duty or not, were to be given facilities to see me, and that a boat was to be put at my disposal to take me either to another ship or ashore, at my convenience. Facilities for Confessions on board the "Formidable" were given in the casemate, an armoured room or box built into the side of the ship, in which the gun crew work.

It was amid such surroundings that I sat down, my stole over my great-coat, to hear Confessions. I had dismissed the men, and they returned one by one for Confession. Some came from the stokehold dressed only in flannel trousers and undershirt, so black with coal-dust that it was quite impossible to recognize their features. Others came from the engine room covered with oil and dirt, often without boots and socks, clutching in each hand pieces of oily cotton waste. Contrast sharply with them were the machine, in their smart navy blue uniforms and bright brass buttons. Others, who had not been on duty, had obviously rushed off as soon as I had dismissed them to have a hurried wash and to clean themselves as much as they could in their working clothes. For, it must be remembered, Jack ashore in his loose yet well-fitting No. 1 suit is quite different in appearance from Jack on board. Little did I think, when I left the ship, that my visit was destined to be the last of a priest's life on board.

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AT A LOUVAIN CONVENT

The Belgian Relief Commission has received a piteous account of the sufferings of a Community of nuns at Louvain written on January 3:

"The sixty-five nuns at the Convent of the Sacred Oblates, about five miles from here, for weeks have been sheltered and fed 400 homeless children, whose parents are either lost or dead. So long as the Sisters could buy food from the surrounding farms things went well, but last week the Sisters sorrowfully told the burgomaster of Louvain that food was falling at the convent, and that they and the children were facing starvation. The burgomaster sent an urgent message to the Commission for Relief, and the delegate for the Province of Brabant went immediately to the convent to see what could be done. When the delegate entered the cloistered court of the convent some 150 of the children and all the nuns welcomed the American flag with tears in their eyes. The Mother Superior said: 'Our food is almost gone. We have salt and flour for only two days. We should have sent for help earlier, but until last week there has been flour that we could buy in the country here. Now we can get no more. The peasants go at night to sell anything they can lay hands on in the towns. We can only give them notes payable after the war, and this does them no good, as they are now in great need, too.' Many of the larger children, with their pale, gaunt faces and large-eyed indifference to strangers, showed plainly the terrible experiences through which they have passed. The devoted nuns are doing all they can to help these little victims of the war, but circumstances render them helpless unless supplies of food and money are brought them from somewhere. As the delegate was leaving, the Mother Superior said: 'Thank God that one country at least has sympathy for those that are at war.' To-day, from the mill at Louvain, which flies the American flag and which is entirely under the control of the Commission, the last of the loaves carrying the flour left for the convent."

KULTUR AT HASTIERE PAR DELA

In an article in the Dublin Review on the conduct of the German soldier, Mr. Wilfrid Ward gives the following from the story told him by a priest whom he calls Father X, who left England early in August with lay nurses to do ambulance work at Hastiere-par-delà, near Dinant, where, after the coming of the Germans (Saxons) on August 23, all arms were given up to the municipal authorities, and there was no evidence of any firing on them by civilians:

The Germans on entering the village went to the house of the Catholic doctor (Dr. Halloy), who had taken refuge in his cellar. They brought him to the ground floor and shot him. In several cases the widows of other men similarly shot came to the village. The whole village was pillaged and much of it burnt. When Father X returned to his own house he found that the Germans had taken away his chairs and all his mother's plate and furniture which was there. On Aug. 25 he went with nurses in search of a doctor. German soldiers met them, and threatened them with revolvers. Father X was carrying the Blessed Sacrament, and some of them wanted to profane it, but one of the soldiers prevented this. The church at Hastiere-par-delà is a beautiful one. The Germans profaned it in every possible way. Horses were brought inside it, and soldiers, half-drunken, put the sacred vestments to various filthy uses. The reliquaries were broken open and relics dispersed, including the relics of the Virgins of Cologne, which had escaped the Huguenots of the sixteenth century and the destructive campaign of the French Revolution. The skulls of these virgins were battered in. The Germans also tried to break the tabernacle. Two of four altars were broken, the relics taken out and stamped upon. The tabernacle at Hastiere Laveaux was blown open with gunpowder.

THE INVOLUBLE CROSS

In that strikingly interesting weekly record of the course and incidents of the war, T. P.'s Journal of Great Deeds, published by the Daily Telegraph, we have the following testimony to the way in which the crucifix has in many instances escaped destruction from bombardment. Says the writer:

In this war of desecration and sacrilege, of pillaged churches, not one, but many, stories centre round holy things. One tells of a band of Uhlan forgers who came upon a church and decided to loot it. While at their work, one trooper wagged another that he would destroy the state ly crucifix that stood upon the altar. The bet was accepted, and the Uhlan sprang quickly upon the altar and wrenched at the sacred emblem. He could not move it, and he exerted more and more strength, but fruitlessly. Then, in a final burst of sagacity, he swung a blow at the crucifix, and missed; to fall from the altar a second after, with his ankle badly fractured. It is curious, indeed, how not only a crucifix, but a multitude of crucifixes have escaped injury in the fighting, though the churches in which they stand have fallen about them in ruin. A Catholic church had suffered somewhat from artillery fire, and the wretched roof had been completely demolished, but the notable feature was that the altar, and the floral decorations and candles, was quite intact. That is contained in a letter from Private Walsh, of the Irish Rifles. It is a passage that occurs in many letters. Private D. Singleton, of the East Lancs, found this singular immunity almost startling. "The most wonderful thing to me is that let into two of the walls are images of Christ, and they are the only walls standing (he writes). It is simply marvellous how some of these images have escaped injury when the remainder of the building has been wrecked."

"JOHN AYSOUGH" AS CHAPLAIN

Private Keating, of the R.A.M.C., now invalided home after entering a piteous account of the work of Mr. Bickerstaffe-Drew during the time that he was with the troops: He accomplished great work amongst the wounded, and speaking French fluently obtained gifts of coffee, wine, and food &c. from the French civilians, and distributed them amongst the wounded, making no distinction of creed, coming round the wards at all hours and when he had been round the English wounded he would visit the French wounded and cheer them up. He also always had a few words of sympathy with the refugees on the roadsides, and was very kind to the personnel of our Ambulance, giving out parcels of clothing to those who needed them. He showed an amazing amount of energy for an elderly man, and several times I have seen him sitting with the driver of one of the ambulances nodding his head, absolutely worn out for want of sleep, owing to his labours amongst the wounded. He also held services for the personnel of the ambulance of the Catholic Faith in the various villages where the churches were left undamaged.

HOLY IMAGES SCATTERED

Private E. O'Flaherty (of the Black Watch), writing from the front, after describing the ruined houses in the locality, says:

Three nights ago I was lying in one of these houses, on the top of all the broken debris, and just above my head was the picture of the Sacred Heart untouched. That has happened in other places—little altars of the Lady left untouched, and crucifixes just above the big gaps which were made by the German shells. Everything ruined but these holy images. It is of little spiritual profit to study the Scripture merely for the purpose of knowledge. He that would fully and with relief understand the words of Christ must study to conform his whole life to Him. That is the whole matter in one word. All our Scripture study must make us more like to Him about Whom we read.

LETTER FROM FATHER DOE

We are privileged to publish some extracts from a letter written by Captain the Reverend Father Doe to the Bishop of London.

1 Ashdown Terrace, Tidworth, England, Jan. 27, 1915.

My Lord Bishop,—As you may see by my new address, we have moved our goods and chattels once more.

I can assure Your Lordship that there was not the least regret, not the faintest tugging at our heart-strings, when we bade adieu to Sling Plantation, Salisbury Plains, and very literally, shook its mud off our boots, mounted our Lozier No. 23, and "skidded" to Tidworth.

For Tidworth is a real town—paved streets, sidewalks, electric lights, railroad station, and three churches, Catholic, Anglican and Presbyterian. Tidworth is a bar-rack town; population 20,000 soldiers, 100 civilians. The barracks are well built of brick and stone. Each group of buildings is named after some city in India made famous in the military history of that country. Thus we have Kandahar, Delhi, Benares, Lucknow, Jellalabad, Cawnpore, etc. Our present residence is furnished with all modern conveniences. I fear, however, that I will not long enjoy these luxuries, for I expect any moment to receive an order to accompany the 2nd Brigade Infantry to France as their chaplain. It is rumored that we go on Monday, the 1st of February.

If all goes well, I shall not be detained at hospital work, but shall accompany the men to the front, at least as far as the Field Dressing Station if not to the trenches. May it be soon!

The church at Tidworth—dedicated to St. George and St. Patrick—if you are English to St. Patrick, and St. George if you are Irish—was built by Mr. Bickerstaffe-Drew (John Aysough). It seats 600 and is a jewel. I celebrated Mass at 9 and 10 o'clock last Sunday, preached at both Masses and officiated at Benediction at 6.30 p. m. I cannot commend too highly the conduct of our Catholic soldiers. Here at Tidworth, where we have a Catholic Church, they are as exemplary as most Catholics at home. But in the other camps where I have been—at West Down North, at Pond Farm and especially at Sling Plantation—I am sure that their practical attention to their religious duties would put to shame many of our self-satisfied Catholics at home.

Perhaps it is the realization of the serious side of war, the nearer and nearer approach of the danger of death, but whatever is the reason, it is most consoling to their chaplain to see them—in spite of distance, mud up to the knees, rain soaked clothing, slipping, slithering, losing their way in the darkness, yet coming so regularly to confession on Saturday afternoons and nights and on the eve of Feast-days—always a long line of penitents.

Then Sunday morning, at the sound of reveille, out of their blankets into wet clothing and shrunken shoes, a hut, cold, dismal and wet. Sometimes the tent was too small and many of them had to stand outside. I often wondered whether many of our Catholics at home would not have considered these conditions sufficient reason for not going to Mass and for neglecting the Sacraments.

Just received two packages of the CATHOLIC RECORD. Thank Mr. Burns. I wish he would send me a bundle of the men would appreciate such a journal of piety and instruction.

Fathers O'Leary and Jolicoeur have gone back to Canada. Father Arts is none too well; we are consequently very short handed as to Catholic chaplains.

I appreciate very much your good wishes and benediction. I remain, my Lord Bishop, Yours sincerely in J. C., EDWARD GORDON DOE, Chaplain.

Since the above letter was written the Reverend Father Doe has gone with the Canadian Contingent to France.

MICHIGAN MINISTERS MEETING

Referring to the secret meeting of Michigan ministers held at Detroit, on Jan. 14, the Michigan Catholic of that city says:

The secret meeting of Protestant ministers in this city last week to listen to the arguments of Bishop Burt of the Methodist Church, and others, in favor of a secret anti-Catholic organization, must not be taken too seriously by our people. We are not inclined, even, to feel unkindly toward the ministers, who innocently participated, by their attendance, in the meeting, and who did not join in the argument. Motives of curiosity, of personal respect for the individuals issuing the invitation, or even of downright reception very frequently led to apparent participation in movements for which the participants have little sympathy. As a class the present day Protestant ministers, educated in the modern schools, and recognizing the problems which present themselves to their churches as well as to the Catholic Church, are not given to urging any division of the efforts which we are all capable of expending in the direction of doing good. Moreover,

education almost invariably leads to gentility and good manners, and the very fact that the individual is well educated opens his eyes to the uselessness of prejudice and the absolutely misdirecting influence of bigotry.

Entertaining as we do this view of the rank and file of the Protestant ministry, we are not blind to the fact that anti-Catholic bigotry has been commercialized into a sort of profession, that it is a well managed industry, and that the people who seek to make a living out of it use all manner of means to make their cause appear respectable and have their profits become thereby more secure. The commercialization of bigotry has long been going on, and however irritating to us as Catholics the vulgar and indecent attacks of such publications as the Menace and of such expounders as Bishop Burt and Walter Sims may be, there is an economic compensation for them in the fact that they eventually defeat themselves. Anyone who will dis-

movement of the early 90's will discover that it went through several distinct cycles. The first of these was marked by the presence of a few propagandists who were most bitter and mendacious in their denunciations of the Catholic Church. While they were few, the anxiety to hear them on the part of narrow minded and ill educated people kept them all very busy, their services being in great demand and the recompense for their services being in proportion to the size. In the words of the world ly, "the pickings were good" at this stage of the game. But eventually it became evident that it didn't take any great amount of genius to be a Catholic-baiter and that almost any kind of a lout, whose lungs were good, whose tongue was hung in the middle and whose intelligence could compass a few vituperative phrases, was almost as good an agent in the anti-Catholic performances as were the only and original Catholic-baiters themselves. As a result, the profession became over-crowded with anti-Catholic orators, the monetary returns became less and less, and the movement fell of its own weight because there wasn't profit enough in it to support all the people who had come to use it as a source of livelihood.

That was why such men as Walter Sims of Bay City, and Editor Traynor of the Patriotic American, fell by the wayside. While Sims had the field of the only and original Catholic-baiters, the denunciation to himself and was the only simon-pure high priest of bigotry, the contributions of his faithful were very great and the graft was good. But immediately that it became apparent that self-ordained apostles of religious intolerance could do just as well oratorically as Sims, it also became apparent that they could do almost as well financially. As a result, Sims' occupation died of too much competition. The same was true of Traynor. This lumbering old hypocrite who never had an honest sympathy with any cause in his life, elected the newspaper graft of bigotry as his "bit," and he put out a red hot anti-Catholic scandal sheet whose circulation soon mounted into the tens of thousands. Incidentally, that circulation, like that of the present day Menace, was considerably increased by the demands of thousands of curious Catholics, who wanted to see what the bigots were saying about them, so that they could get mad have the satisfaction of getting mad over it. But once Traynor developed that there was money to be made at publishing anti-Catholic scandal off the press, there were a dozen journalistic competitors who jumped into the field and who, between themselves, defeated the purposes of their own propaganda.

We look for much the same result to come from the present wave of anti-Catholic bigotry. Already the Menace has had its field invaded by the Peril and several other similar publications, and the profits of antagonism to Catholicism are becoming divided. When they are up between too many and the business fails to provide big money for everybody.

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