

tary upon subsequent events and upon the situation today.

AN EDITORIAL writer in the Mail and Empire musing on "Royal Romances" terminated by the War, and moralizing on the restricted field for matrimonial alliances of the British Royal Family which the break with Germany entails, steps aside to assert with no qualification whatever that "no Roman Catholic can ever share the throne of England." Catholics, this oracle may rest assured, have no anxieties on that score. Their equality in all else before the law being assured they are not troubling themselves about the religious belief of the Sovereign. Nevertheless, it may be said that in these changing times "never can" are prodigious words which it would be well to use with reserve. "Never can" in these days must wait upon "who knows."

ON THE BATTLE LINE

GIANT OFFENSIVE
London, April 6.—As the French and British doggedly push forward through the snow and slush on St. Quentin and Cambrai, taking here a village and there a height, Von Hindenburg's imperial artillery, from Verdun to the sea, has begun to roar with a fury not equaled since last July.

Every indication foreshadows the grand offensive on the west front which the German people have been promised and for which they have been hoping.

ADVANCED STROKE

It is believed by military experts here that the march of events has advanced the date of the Kaiser's stroke and that he plans to offset the moral effect of America's intervention on the fatherland. Moreover, the French and British heavy guns are being raised up through the zone of withdrawal with much greater speed than the German leaders anticipated, and this would further speed the return blow.

RUSSIAN FRONT

A German offensive in the Riga region succeeded in penetrating the Russian lines according to an official despatch from Petrograd. In a fierce counter-attack the Russians regained their lost trenches. In the fighting at the Stokhod bridge-head reported yesterday the Germans claim to have captured nine thousand Russians, fifteen guns and one hundred and fifty machine guns. The Germans are using shells charged with poisonous chemicals.

THE UNITED STATES

President Wilson yesterday set his seal to the Act of Congress which declares that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany. Premier Lloyd George, on behalf of the British War Cabinet, issued a statement to American newspapers that voices the sentiment of all the British peoples regarding the action of the President and Congress. In this statement the British Premier welcomes the American nation into the circle of world powers, and places emphasis on the fact that it held back until fully convinced that the fight was not a sordid scuffle for power and possessions, but an unselfish struggle to overthrow a sinister conspiracy against human liberty and human rights.

The seizure of German vessels interned in American ports began yesterday morning following the action of Congress in declaring that a state of war exists. German vessels in American ports number ninety-one, with a gross tonnage of about 600,000. It is not yet known whether the vessels will be utilized by the United States. The port authorities acted on orders issued by the Secretary of the Treasury. The vessels range in size from the mammoth Vaterland of 54,000 tons to small sailing ships. Twenty-seven vessels were seized at New York. Hereafter the port of New York will be closed to all shipping after 6 p. m. every night during the War.

German submarines in Mexican waters to the number of at least twenty are, it is unofficially reported, ready to carry on a submarine campaign on this side of the Atlantic. A Washington despatch says the first intimation of their presence in the Gulf of Mexico came through from a well informed neutral source in Europe. Some of the enemy submarines, it is reported, reached Mexican waters in February. A Texas despatch says that pro-American sentiment is spreading in Mexico, and that General Carranza seems determined to clear all pro-Germans out of the Mexican army. Public opinion in Mexico does not, it appears, take kindly to German intrigue against the United States. All uncertainty on this head should soon be cleared up, as the attitude of Mexico cannot long remain in doubt. War preparations in the United States are now going forward at topmost speed in all public departments.

BRAZIL

Brazil is incensed by the sinking of the Brazilian steamer Parana and

the drowning of three of her crew, and threatens to declare war on Germany. There is great excitement at Rio Janeiro. The Brazilian Foreign Minister is quoted as saying that the situation is grave. It is expected that the interned German ships will be seized by the Brazilian Government. Austrian and German Consulates are closely guarded against attacks by the mob.—Globe, Apr. 7.

T. P. O'CONNOR'S LETTER

UNLIMITED ENTHUSIASM

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS HAILED IN ENGLAND AS THE GOSPEL OF LIBERTY

Special Cable to the Catholic Record (Copyright 1917, Central News)

London, April 7th.—It would be impossible to exaggerate the great wave of enthusiasm throughout the entire United Kingdom with which President Wilson's address to the Congress of the United States, has been received in England.

There has been a little doubt in this country for weeks past that America would ultimately enter the War but the blank fog of silence which spread in Washington for many days, gave rise here to much misgivings, and there came the expectation, not of the refusal on the part of President Wilson to enter the War, but rather of the spirit in which he would call upon Congress to finally act in this matter.

There were suggestions too from the German press, that another last desperate effort was going to be made by the German Empire, to offer some manner of compromise to America that might entice the President into a last attempt to keep his country out of the horrors of War.

Then out of all this dense fog of silence down came this tremendous thundering address on this slight fabric of anxiety; and the manner in which the United States will really enter the War produces a more profound impression upon the people of Great Britain than the actual entrance of America into the War itself.

President Wilson's address is the greatest pronouncement against Germany and her malicious plans, against the liberty of the world, says everybody here, since the War began. The most striking feature of the speech is the mastery, the relentless, and yet without, nude presentation of the fundamental issues that divide the belligerents, namely that there are those already involved in the War who maintain that it is not a War for aggression nor yet for new territory. Nor still is the War being conducted at least upon the part of the Entente Allies, for the purpose of killing trade rivalry, which Germany has long maintained, through the limitation, was the real cause of Great Britain's entrance into the conflict.

The people of Great Britain are delighted to find the cause of the United Kingdom proclaimed to the whole world by President Wilson, as a fight between Liberty and Militarism; between democracies and despotisms.

One of the other things in President Wilson's address, most approved here, is the strong distinction which the eminent chief executive of the United States drew between declaring war on the Hohenollerns and the Junkers, and declaring War against the German people.

It is even hoped here that such a declaration may open the eyes of the millions of people who come under the rule of the German Kaiser and encourage them to imitate the example set by Russia, by breaking the bonds of servitude which have brought them into this abyss of blood and disaster.

It is even suggested by one of the most prominent London papers that our Wiltors should drop copies of President Wilson's speech in the German trenches. However, nobody even supposes that the German militarists will allow their people the opportunity of reading in full an indictment so scathing of their oppressors, and their unjust but hopeless cause.

Finally the speech puts an end to another form of misgiving, namely that America would, though going to war with Germany, adopt an attitude of detachment, of limited liability, in short, of going into the War on her own initiative and not allying herself with the allied governments.

The speech, however, involves full cooperation by the United States both on the sea and on the battlefields in France; and from this hour it is expected that Doctor Page, the American Ambassador, and our Ministers will be in hourly consultation. It is also expected that America will be marching with mathematical accuracy, step by step, with the allied armies, fleets and policies, and everything appears now as if a new perspective has really dawned on the War.

Nobody here now doubts how the War will end or that the collapse of Germany will come sooner than was contemplated by even the most optimistic of Great Britain's Ministers and leaders. The submarine menace to the shipping of Great Britain and the threatened starvation of our people has been the most formidable of all the German instruments. This, however, has been exercised by the voice of President Wilson and is still further nullified by the swell of the swish of the American Navy through the German infested ocean,

and the thunder of the hammers in American ship-yards which are replacing our lost tonnage.

In fact, the difference between us since that period before, and that which came after, the message of President Wilson to Congress, is the difference between a fierce snow-storm, which came a few days ago and which reminded us that the long winter still had us in its grasp and the blazing sunshine which today heralds the coming Spring.

In fact the lofty dignity in which President Wilson voiced his appeal to the American people and their representatives has caused the wisest of our men to realize that the ultimate effect upon both the Eastern and the Western world will be felt for years afterwards for the betterment of all mankind.

Coming as it does as a most tremendous sequel to the Russian revolution it forms an evangel of transformation which plainly predicts what must come to all the countries of Central Europe before the universe can again breathe the air of peace. The War has been placed on a new level by the statesmanlike pronouncement of President Wilson and plainly indicates that a new era has dawned not only upon Europe but upon the whole world.

In fact, the speech has echoed through the hearts of every true Briton like another utterance of the Gospel. It offers not hate or revenge but the routing out of falsities which have caused a cancer on the face of Europe.

FACES DIVISION

DIFFERENCES OVER RESERVATION MAY SPLIT ANGLICANS

London, March 9, 1917.—Will the Anglican quarrel on the question of the Reservation of the Sacrament end, as so many other Anglican disputes have ended, merely in the use of hard words on one side and the other, is a general question in religious circles of England today. Whatever the issue may be, it can be safely said that at present the indications point to a development of the disagreement. Anglican bishops of the southern province, Dr. Gore leading, have taken a firm stand against the demand of the memorial from one thousand clergymen for "the right of access to the Reserved Sacrament for the purpose of devotion." Practically the meaning of the pronouncements of the bishop of Oxford is that in his opinion the High Churchmen have gone far enough in the direction of Rome and that they must now stop. But they differ widely from his view. Some of them in contributions which appear in the Anglican press do not disguise their belief that their duty is to adopt the Roman doctrine and practice, especially regarding devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. They long to be able to do in their churches as is done by Catholics who pay visits to the Blessed Sacrament and derive from them comfort and strength. But in imitating Catholics, they should remember that the Holy See has condemned Anglican orders. Their proper place is not in the Church of England but in the Catholic Church.

CARDINAL MERCIER EXTOLS BELGIANS

"THE MORAL GRANDEUR OF THE NATION"

A glowing tribute to the courage and devotion of the Belgian people in their fight for liberty is paid by Cardinal Mercier, the Primate of Belgium, in his Lenten pastoral letter. Under the heading "The moral grandeur of the Nation," Cardinal Mercier says: "My beloved brethren, it is indeed necessary to preach courage to you. And when I say 'you' I am thinking more immediately of the faithful companions of our misfortunes, but my thoughts go out also beyond our occupied provinces to our refugees, our prisoners, our deported fellow-countrymen and our soldiers.

BISHOP GORE AND THE HIGH CHURCHMEN

Many of the High Churchmen who are disappointed at the bishop of Oxford's decision respecting the position of the thousand Anglican ministers are asking why he should be so hostile to them. He warns the clergy of his diocese who have signed the memorial that he intends to act in conformity with the intention expressed by the bishops and that general permission will not be given for Reservation. He cannot, he says, understand how anyone could speak, as the petitioners do, of disobedience to the present requirements of the bishops about Reservation as if it were natural and inevitable. But if obedience has been observed by the heads of the Anglican Church there would have been no breach with the Holy See. How can they, occupying the positions of men who gave the example of disobedience, consistently insist on obedience as a necessity? Dr. Gore says that what he calls "the extra-liturgical cultus of the Blessed Sacrament" was "unknown to the ancient and undivided Church" and therefore "cannot be called a Catholic practice." It is true that centuries elapsed before the Blessed Sacrament was publicly exposed for the veneration of the faithful, but ever since the great Sacrament was instituted the Church has adored Christ in the Eucharist. In stating that "The Eucharist is not the less to be adored because Christ instituted it in order that it might be received, for we believe that the same God is present in it of whom the Eternal Father, bringing Him into the world, said 'Let all the angels of God adore Him.'" the Council of Trent expresses what has always been the Catholic doctrine and practice.

RELIGION AND EDUCATION

In his report of the Ecclesiastical Education Fund of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, stress is laid by the Most Rev. Archbishop Whitehead, on one great lesson of the War, namely, that disaster and ruin sooner or later are bound to overtake the nation which allows the pursuit of material success to oust spiritual aims from the minds and hearts of the people. That is what has happened in Germany and France. Among the Catholic minority religious education and ideals were held in due esteem, but in the eyes of the major-

ity of the population they were of little value. Religion exercised but little influence upon their lives. They are paying severely for their excessive confidence in the power of mere material weapons. Whether in peace or war faith in God is the best safeguard of citizenship and the surest support in trials. As the Archbishop of Liverpool remarks, ample proofs of the value of religion amidst the perils of warfare have been afforded by Catholics who have been well trained in the principles and practices of their religion. They have faced danger and death coolly, trusting to God's protection, and their devotion to duty under the most exacting circumstances has been so thorough that it has often been a cause of surprise as well as of admiration to their non-Catholic comrades.

THE FAILURE OF UNDENOMINATIONALISM
For many years before the War certain educationists were loud in praise of undenominational education. The terrible conflict has tested religious teaching and if there is one thing it has brought out more clearly than another this is that undenominational religion is a failure. The Most Rev. Dr. Whitehead in his Report of the Ecclesiastical Education Fund of the Archdiocese of Liverpool gives a number of extracts containing the opinions of non-Catholic observers who have had opportunities of forming a judgment on the religious views and habits of officers and men in the army. In these extracts a contrast is drawn between the religious attitude of the Catholic and that of the non-Catholic. The Catholic soldier is described as a man who knows the Gospel of Christ, and understands about repentance, grace and the presence of the unseen army of saints and angels. The non-Catholic is, for the most part, in almost entire ignorance of the elements of religion. A non-Catholic layman writes: "Officers and men alike, with some—all too few—exceptions, know nothing whatever of the fundamentals of the Christian faith. To them religion means morality and morality religion—and whatsoever is more than these cometh of superstition." This absence of religious knowledge is, in a large measure, one of the consequences of undenominational teaching.—New World.

unexpected aspect of national heroism. After this can it be necessary to preach courage to you? "In our young days our professors of history rightly held up to our admiration Leonidas and his 300 Spartans, who, instead of seeking safety in easy flight allowed themselves to be crushed by the Persian army at the Battle of Thermopylae. The teachers of the Belgian generation of tomorrow will have yet other instances of military heroism and patriotism to evoke.

And may we not hope that our generation too will preserve the memory of the union it has now fashioned, and that in the future there will be among us all a deeper wish for national union, less personal acrimony in the conflict of ideas, less grudging respect for civil and religious authority, more general fidelity both before public opinion and in the secret recesses of the soul to our motto 'union is strength,' and echo of the words of Christ 'that they may be one?'—Catholic Transcript.

CARDINAL O'CONNELL'S ADVICE

WARNS PEOPLE AGAINST BEING MISLED BY FALSE REPORTS OF SENSATIONAL NATURE

Boston, Mass., March 14.—In the midst of the War crisis which is creating such a furore throughout New England, particularly in the daily press, the voice of Cardinal O'Connell has been raised counselling all Americans to "keep cool, weigh the facts and pray for light instead of indulging in hysterical flag waving." Talking to the St. Vincent de Paul society His Eminence warned his hearers not to permit their minds to be inflamed by false and malicious newspaper reports. "Unless we Americans keep our heads cool now," he said, "there is danger that the whole world will be in flames."

"I purposely abstain from saying anything about this country," said Cardinal O'Connell. "This is not the time for me to talk about that, except to say that it is our solemn duty to keep our heads perfectly cool, not to rush into a paroxysm of false patriotism.

"That is just emotion and does not do any good. It only makes the fire burn brighter. It doesn't settle anything. All the waving of flags and shouting and screaming of America is very often apt to be hysterical. It does not mean anything. The very people who do it today are the people who tomorrow might turn around and tear the flag to pieces. The one thing that we have to do is to keep cool, keep calm, and analyze everything that we read or is shouted at us from the house-tops.

"I have been watching it from that fateful day when I was caught in Europe when the spark was lighted. I was there, and without knowing anything, simply guided by the hand of God, took steps which brought me back to America just in time to escape the conflagration going on over there. From that day to this I have watched it and studied it, but I have not allowed myself to be embroiled. I have not allowed my ears to be used by everybody, and I have kept my mind calm and clear. That is my solemn duty.

ARE THE PAPERS TELLING THE TRUTH?

"These are moments which are going to try the leaders of men. It is easy enough to lead men when there is nothing at stake, but when the world is full of trouble, now we will see who the real leaders are. We have to use our own minds all the time. The papers. Let me say it like, it is inevitable, the papers form the public judgment of men. It is all easy enough to say we form our own judgment, but they have to go back to some document in order to pass judgment.

"The every day food of the American mind is the daily paper. The people at large cannot escape its influence. I do not want to make any accusations at all. I do not want to say that any editor or any paper, any journalist, or any journal, is guilty of wanting to misrepresent anything, but I know that there have been accusations without number, and I think there must be some ground for them, and it is very natural. It would be very unnatural were it not so. In a world crisis like this each one tries to influence the other his way. That they are subjected to this influence I think they will not ask us to doubt.

"Are they all telling the truth? Are they telling the facts as they are really known to them? Even when they publish everything they know don't they know also that there is a whole host of things that are not told on both sides? I am not taking sides. The life of and the only reason diplomacy exists is to influence opinions of others who are opposed. Don't they know that the diplomacy of today is a very clever thing on all sides, that they have means now of influencing the minds of the public one way or another which formerly were not so free? Now, in all this, who is getting the truth?

LIES ABOUT HOW THE WAR STARTED

"Is there any truth possible to get? What were the conditions upon which these things were started? Have you been told? I have not been. I have guessed. There have been solutions offered to me.

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POOR IRISH YOUTH'S INVENTION ENDS FEAR

Mary Boyle O'Reilly, writing from London, says: England's fear of Zeppelins has subsided and the secret of England's success lies in a discovery by a \$6-a-week drug clerk. As a result British gunnery was able to bring down three invading airships in flames in a recent raid. The discovery by the drug clerk resulted in a new form of rifle shell which sets a Zeppelin afire. Alec Carr, the young Irish drug clerk, has been appointed to a \$10,000 a year commission with the government. Carr was a poor Belfast boy, graduate of an Irish school and apprenticed to a pharmacist. His hobby was practical chemistry and his room was a laboratory.—St. Paul Bulletin.

TWO CONGREGATIONS FUSED

Addressing a private Consistory on March 22, the Holy Father said that he wished to hold the Consistory in order to keep up the traditions of the Church and to make announcements for the filling of the vacant sees. He also announced a reform which he thought it proper to introduce. He recalled the reform effected by Pius X. in 1908, adding that Pope Pius intended to make a further change when the opportunity offered. This reform related to the Roman Congregations. The present circumstances, said Benedict XV., permitted of the change contemplated by Pope Pius. This consisted in the abolition of the Congregation of the Index as a separate Congregation and its amalgamation with the Congregation of the Holy Office, the purpose and aims of which were similar. For the same reason and to lessen the work of the Holy Office, the Pontiff had decided to transfer that section of the Congregation concerned with indulgences to the Apostolic Tribunal of the Penitentiaria.—America.

VERDUN

"They shall not pass!" one said, and so the word Through trench and dugout went: The backward-driven army, halting, heard, When hope was almost spent.

As at Thermopylae, a strength of Now gripped their hearts entire: "They shall not pass!" Each Frenchman's soul could feel The words were forged in fire! And now the Breaking Strain was reached at last— Their faith must stand or fall. They swayed—but held—while all because it means a great deal more. That you can easily understand. Many a man has gone down to his grave just with the consciousness of his complete innocence. He has been hunted, vilified and lied about until all the world believes it, and he is absolutely innocent. And after his death the world finds it out and begins to weep when it is too late. Will the world ever realize this prospect?

To sum it all up, let us keep our heads clear, our minds straight, our hearts upright. Let us stand fast to the holiest principles of our faith and our citizenship. Let us work with love for all those about us who are in need, and by the example of our own faith bring faith to those who are without it.—Catholic Sun.

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PROTESTANT MINISTER IS A CONVERT

DR. FOY, AT ONE TIME LEADING CHRISTIAN MINISTER OF ST. LOUIS, EMBRACES THE OLD RELIGION

That Dr. Joseph H. Foy, former Christian minister and educator, died in the faith of the Catholic Church became known recently when it was announced that the funeral would be held in strict privacy at the Cathedral in St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. Foy was pastor of Old Central Christian Church about 1885. Dr. Foy was a profound theologian long before he became principal of old Shields school, now Patrick Henry school. He once wrote a handbook for Christian preachers, which still enjoys a wide sale. He often humorously remarked that he feared he was considered a "heretic" in those early days.

About thirty years ago he left the Christian church and became a clergyman in the Protestant Episcopal church, having charge of a parish at Columbia, Mo. However, in a few years he abandoned his ministry and re-entered the educational field, becoming principal of Shields school. In the Jewish quarters for eighteen years, until 1911, when he retired, he was looked upon by thousands as a sort of venerable saint and family advisor.

When the Italians first began to crowd out the Jews and swarm into old Shields school, then on Seventh, between Biddle and Carr streets, Dr. Foy, though past sixty years of age, took up the study of Italian and learned to speak the language in less than three months. He knew a

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FATHER FRASSER'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. FRASSER.

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