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Fighting Parsons and Artists

THOUGH this is not regarded as a holy war, at least outside of France, and to some extent in Russia, there are more parsons either actually engaged in the field or upholding the cause than was ever before known in any war which had not religion for its prime cause. Of course, the Germans consider it a holy war, because the Kaiser has so blandly appropriated the services of the Almighty, and has from time to time commended the Creator for doing so well by German arms—according to his way of looking at it. But in England, where no war is considered holy, and never wholly justifiable unless for defence or for honour, there has been a tremendous upheaval of the clergy. The Bishop of

"the dukes." As long as the church militant is a prelude to the church triumphant, the fighting parson may be expected to continue. He has been known in almost every country, and especially among the ranks of the Catholic clergy in Europe.

Painters and Fighting

IF clergymen can shoulder arms why not artists? The answer was given not long ago in London when Sir Alfred Turner reviewed a large corps of British artists who were ready to go to the front; not to make pictures, but as far as possible to make dead men among the Germans. There has been very little chance for the artists to paint this war, owing to



WARDING OFF THE NOCTURNAL ZEPPELINS.

Search-light projectors which, under military control, sweep the cloud-roof of London every night spying for hostile aircraft.

London has gone to the front in khaki as chaplain to a regiment. In Scotland a number of clergy under forty have proposed forming a battalion. One of the most thrilling episodes of British arms at the front some time ago was the action of a Devonshire chaplain who, when he was wounded grabbed a rifle and shouted to his flock, "Come on boys! Give them hell!"

The Church Times of London publishes a letter from the English chaplain of St. George's in Paris, who says:

"I have read with interest the correspondence on the subject of the clergy serving in the army as combatants. It may interest your readers to know that the Service Militaire has drawn into the ranks of the French army no fewer than 22,000 French priests. I was talking to a group of English soldiers in the Caserne des Invalides when two French Tommies came up and spoke to me, having recognized that I was an Anglican priest. One explained to me that he was a Jesuit priest, a missionary from China, and introduced his friend as a Dominican prior. The Jesuit told me that two of his friends had been killed in action."

Fighting parsons have been famous in history for many centuries. We have had a good many of these belligerent clericals in Canada, from the lumber camp days until now. They were usually of the pugilistic variety, but no doubt if necessary could handle a rifle or a bayonet just as well as

the censorship. So the painters fling down their palettes and take up the rifles.

At the same time, as everyone must admit, this has so far been a pretty hard war on art, even more than upon the artist. The Germans have destroyed a great number of fine pictures; none of them German works, of course. The Kaiser is a connoisseur. He does not mind destroying what pictures he does not like. In Berlin he is the arch patron of art. He is supposed to know more about pictures than most artists do. Probably he thinks that the best way to help art along after the war is to put out of business as many pictures as possible and thereby increase the demand by lessening the visible supply.

There are some, however, who predict that art will thrive as never it did after the war is over. It is remembered that the fortunes of the greatest art firm in the British Empire were laid just after the Franco-Prussian war during a tremendous revival of interest in pictures that crowded the auction rooms. The Duveens are known in Canada as well as in London and New York. About ten years ago one of the Duveens was in the backwoods of Ontario, along with Mr. Allom, decorator of Marlborough House, in order to help find some great deposits of sodalite, a decorative bluestone much fancied by the present Queen who, while Princess of Wales, got a specimen given to her during her visit to Canada in 1901.