JUNE 15, 1918

civilians, but his parish being still in the enemy's hands, it was not until the other day, after the French ad-vance, that he had leave to visit his sonality, his uprightness, his clear old home. It is no easy matter to obtain permission to return to these liberated villages, where the retreating enemy had scattered explosive bombs, and where even the unburied corpses often conceal engines of death, that have, more than once, killed the unwary French soldiers, who were told off to bury the bodies. "They are now forbidden to touch them," said a general. We must, above all, keep our men's lives safe, though those unburied corpses are unpleasant to look at." Our cure's visit to his once flourishing parish brought him face to face with scenes with one of the Americans who in of destruction that surpassed all he who did not declare him a great man, had imagined.

HAVOC OF WAR

He first stopped at a hamlet called Hautebraye that belongs to his par-ish. Out of forty houses only two were left standing. The inhabitants were left standing. The inhabitants had been removed, but an old couple, named Menard, succeeded, by hiding Columbian. in a cellar, in remaining among the ruins of their old home. There was no church at Hautebraye before the War. Since the advance of the French, two oratories have been arranged, where soldier-priests and Journal, says : military chaplains celebrate Mass. There are graves everywhere, in the gardens and in the fields, as well as in the cemeteries. Closer to Antre-ches, a calvary has escaped destruction. The big Christ with His out-stretched arms, and a statue of Mary Magdalen, are left standing among desolate surroundings. The village of Antreches is filled with barbed wire railings. There are cables everywhere, with inscriptions in German, such as "Lebensgefahr," "peril of death." Certain quarries, still unexplored, were called by the enemy "The Devil's Holes ;" hence severity of the military authorthe large number who are writing, reading, smoking and talking, etc ities now in possession, with regard walk into a trap. With much difficulty the cure would be likely to think that the

made his way to the "place" where Protestant soldier is not very careful his church once stood; a magnificent about his church duties. He might church, he pathetically tells us, re-garded as an historical monument of arded as an historical monument of camp." mportance and value. He found [Camp.] It is the Mass that matters !stones; the stone spire and columns | Truth. lay on the ground in shapeless mass Nothing was left standing but a few bits of wall. The sight of the birds flying in and out among the broken stones and preparing to build their nests among the ruins brought hope-ful thoughts. "Some day," he writes. "life will return to Antreches; homes will be rebuilt, and, maybe, God will be served here more faithfully than before the upheaval. There is something very beautiful in this clinging to hope in face of ruin and desolation unspeakable."

AT RHEIMS

At Rheims some nuns are allowed to remain, those, who, by caring for the sick and wounded, render val-uable service to the inhabitants whom circumstances detain in the stricken city. Among these relig-ious are some Sisters of the Assumption. The nursing Sisters of the Poor, who, under the shells, go to and fro between the cellar of their shattered house and other cellars where their poor clients are suffering from sickness and from fear.

conversation with a lady who has lately returned from the province held by the enemy throws a curious light upon the mental attitude of the German priests who act military chaplains to the armies. This lady has considerable property near Valenciennes. She has only just been sent back to France, and, having lived for nearly three years Gern speak of them. Personally, she suffered po grievances beyond those common to all inhabitants of these captive regions, but her conversawell educated Germans gave her the impression of a people whose discipline and whose con-science and judgment have been descience and judgment have been us his admiration. These are the words formed by militarism. She was his admiration. These are the words amused at their frankly expressed he spoke to a gathering of fellow philosophers: "There is a little book philosophers: "There is a little book amused at their irankiy expressed before the state of the state of the subscription of the state were filled with prayerful people. "We thought that the French people "We thought that the French people, which they are questioned in church no longer practiced their religion, as government has none," they My friend explained that, althe though the influence of an unbeliev. ing and persecuting government must, in the long run, have an evil influence over the masses, there still, thank God, existed steady and fervent Catholics, who, in the teeth of official opposition, faithfully prac-ticed their faith. These Catholics, charitable and zealous, patient upder suffering and heroic in sacrifice, represent the real soul of France.-Catholic Transcript.

seventeen months. • He has since son, that a man of his ecclesiastical and for others the reason of the faith been sent back to France with other way of thinking was not to be trust. he possesses. ed, but before the two had been long The catechism is a rich treasure. house of information for all. Even in the Cardinal's presence, both yieldphilosophers declare that they can add nothing to the truths it contains.

sonality, his uprightness, his clear thinking, his glowing sympathy." Catholics, therefore, should have it ever near them. They should feel no time wasted which is spent in How strange that the radical Belgian "in a conflict with the Church" should try to give the American a reading its pages. The more they read the catechism, the better they false notion - but perhaps he was shrewd (?) enough or thought he was, to think that all Americans feared will know and appreciate their re-ligion, and the more fully that re-ligion will find expression in their wily ecclesiastics "-for literature and common report recorded an ec-clesiastic and a wily person as one lives.-The Pilot. and the same person—but above all a Cardinal—he would of course be the "wiliest of the wily." This writer also adds, "I have never talked THE MOTHER'S HEART

THE UNSEEN AND UNSUNG

HEROINES OF THE WAR the Belgian work met the Cardinal Whilst we are paying the tribute of a very great man, and one called him our admiration to the glorious young 'the greatest man that he had ever conceived.'" Evidently the true Gospal spirit is here and needs no American soldiers who are from day to day going over the top, let us not forget the silent self-sacrificing band of heroines, who, all unseen, have gone over the top and paid the penalty of their love of country—the mothers of the land who have exploiting by American Evangelical churches. — Gleaner in Catholic yielded up their boys to the army A MINISTER'S TRIBUTE

and navy. Almost every boy who is now Rev. Frederick K. Stamm, pastor of the First Reformed church, Day-"somewhere in France" has left behind a sorrowing mother. Like Mary at the foot of the Cross, she has made a willing sacrifice; but the sword of grief is piercing her heart. ton, Ohio, writing in the Davton "If one should drop into Mass at the K. of C. hall in Camp Sherman Her boy is always before her mind's

at 8 o'clock of a Sunday morning and see how crowded the hall is by Cath-olic soldiers, he would say that the In these bright Spring days, the mother's heart is holding again the little infant of yore; she is guiding Catholic soldier does not forget his devotions on Sunday. He is just as toddling footsteps ; she is gazing in pride at the budding boy on his way faithful in camp in his attendance at Mass as he is at home. If one should to school ; she is admiring the full young manhood, which yesterday she nestled to her heart the infant drop into a religious service at one. of the Y. M. C. A. huts and see there she bore. And the brightness of the Spring is dulled by the cloud which from thirty to one hundred and fifty in attendance, and then walk on over into the social hall or reading overbears her as she pictures her sturdy son grappling unto death mayhap with an implacable enemy. room in the same building and see But through the cloud and through the raindrops of her grief the glorious

sun is piercing as she offers up the boy on the altar of his country. The American mother has made the supreme sacrifice. She has gone over the top. She has sent the also think that the Y. M. C. A. is boy of her heart across the seething waters and into the hell of battle. Long before his turn comes to go failing in its religious work in over the top, the heart of the moth has gone again and again. Long before he is wounded she has bathed his fevered brow and bandaged his wounds; long before his death-and

may God avert it !--she has bent over his bleeding, lifeless body, whilst the hot tears fell upon his dear face. For who can still the fears of the mother ? Who can stay One of the most valuable books a Catholic can possess is the little Catechism. With the one exception Catechism. With the one exception of the Bible there is no book richer in precious information than the the ant manual of Christian doctrine white heart? the anticipations of a mother's is used as a text book in the Sunday School. It contains the message of Christ to mankind. It embraces the All honor to the mothers of America ! Brave and true, they are the first to go over the top. How could

truths which man must know. It is a summary of all that the Church the sons of such mothers be other than loyal and brave ?-Newark teaches and of all that her children Monitor. must believe. Within its few pages are simply and clearly expressed the

JOAN OF ARC AND articles of the Catholic's creed and the principles that should direct the FRANCE Catholic's conduct. This is priceless

knowledge. The value of the little book that contains it cannot be over-There are so many facets to the glory of Joan of Arc that one is bewildered in making choice of them for a short Every Catholic should know this catechism. He should be thoroughly acquainted with the truths it teaches. article. Her sex makes a wonder of her martial mission and her youth Those truths are the very funda-mentals of his religion; they form another. She was not yet twenty when her virginal body was given to the flames. Her perfect singleness as it were, the constitution of the Church. Those truths he should know that he may have a reason for of purpose was another wonder. "For this was I born— to drive the English out of France," said the girl the religious practices he performs and that he may be able to answer Joan to her uncle when she prevailed on him to take her from her home in the objections of those outside the Church. Most of the difficulties men find with Catholicism are due to a misunderstanding or misinterpreta. tion of the articles of the Catholic The man who knows his

THE CATHOLIC RECORD

stronghold on two main sides of the stronghold on two main sides of the city. On the west, on the way to Blois and Tours and Chinon, outside the Regnart Gate were encamped in

the Regnart Gate were encamped in greater number but not so forthfied, the main English army under Lord Talbot. They could not get to the aid of the Tourelles even if they had had get themselves together for such a reinforcement. The descent of Joan of Arc and the army on the bridge fortresses had been swift and too overwhelming in its result.

of Arc and the army on the bridge fortresses had been swift and too overwhelming in its result. The French returned "by the bridge" that Saturday night and after the fervent thanksgivings in the churches, and the inevitable shouting and exultation over the had not vanished nor been rescued. With one last loud cry of "Jesus," her sufferings were at last ended and victory, they had dropped from sheer exhaustion into a few hours of as deep and peaceful sleep as few Frenchmen had known in that Saints in Paradise.—St. Paul Bul-

deep and peaceful sleep as few Frenchmen had known in that neighborhood for nearly a year. letin. Not many hours of sleep, though, for at the first streak of dawn the

the river, turning their oyes west-ward where the enemy's camp whit-"Imitation of Christ," says Brother Pius, F. S. C. This little volume ened the plain, saw unusual signs of should be given a thorough and ap-preciative study by every student of activity for so early an hour. The English had left their tents and literature. Possibly, the best methwere drawn up in line of battle. Quickly the Maid and the French captains and garrison and tired solod of mastering its contents is the daily reading of a few passages that will serve the pupil as a motive of action. In later life, especially, he diers were up and marshaled. Out of the Regnant Gate Joan led them will realize the advantages of an intimate acquaintance with the sub-ject-matter of this sacred production; and soon they were in shape for work facing the English troops and be-tween them and the city walls. for what will it avail him to possess Thus the two armies stood a brief space. Both apparently ready, neither anxious to begin. all kinds of profane learning in an eminent degree if he increase not in the knowledge and love of our Lord Jesus Christ? For once Joan was not calling: Forward, French hearts!" She sur-

veyed the field quietly for a few moments and then saying, "This is Sunday morning," gave orders for a table to be brought, and a temporary altar erected right there on the field, between the two armies.	B HEART OF JESUS, ALL FOR
	, God bids us love His ever loving

between the two armies. Her confessor then offered up the Son:

Holy Sacrifice and immediately after him another priest did so, both armies attending as reverently as side; There only may your hearts and minds abide. circumstances permitted. When the second Mass was finished, Joan, who Through all the years to come, be

this your one Perpetual work, in tenderest years

altar, asked those near her how were the English facing. "Their backs are towards us. begun-To nourish love for Jesus Crucified. Father and mother shall your foot-They are facing Meung," was the an-

steps guide, And teach how sweetly God's sweet "They are going. In God's name

will is done. Ah! what more blessed refuge in the we will let them go. We shall catch them another time," she said. A strife May wearied spirit find, than Jesus'

detachment of the French army followed them some distance to be Heart ? That Fountain springing up to endsure they were not planning some

less life, And scattering dewy balsam on each As it proved later the English re-

tired to Meung, a town about ten miles down the Loire from Orleans, smart; That pledge of peace, where stormy

which has been a long time in posses-sion of the English. war is rife, Making the very earth heaven's After following them a few leagues counterpart!

-Pope Leo XIII, the French army turned back to Or-leans and the day was given up to in THE VIRGIN OF THE

> BATTLEFIELD Ah! In that turmoil of revengeful

them fall! I see their startled 6768

Go wandering to the blue, unshaken skies,

And hear their quivering lips repeat -a Name : Mother!" in every mortal tongue

tary parades and maneuvers in the afternoon—it is Joan of Arc day— May 8.

last to rise From their parched throats. They

yearn in childish wise For sheltering arms, remembering

-EDWARD F. GARESCHE.

Would you

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

I know, wistfully, who mother art to

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following a young giri through me average following a young giri through the second se

thankegiving; and later in the day to civic and military parades and music and illuminations. In the evening the populace spread itself freely and happily outside the gates over the open fields from which they had been so long shut off, and enjoyed the spring freshness of meadow and forest to the full.

had dismounted and knelt near the

swer.

detour.

'Twas a happy day to Orleans and to this day it is sacred to religious processions in the morning and mili-

processions to the churches

May 8. BURNED AT THE STAKE

The siege of Orleans, the beginning of the end of the English in France, was raised May 8, 1429. At Their mothers are afar. But Thou,

the close of May, just two years later, the deliverer of France was Most at the stake all. The trial of the Holy Maid, one of the most appalling dramas in all hisdost go tory, began on February 21, and stretched its tortuous length over two months and a half. Of it our To soothe thy piteous sons where'er they fall. When their poor plaintive tones for author writes

A NOBLE WORK watchers on the towers after feast. ing their eyes on the still smoking remains of the English forts across A book of inestimable worth is the

veyed the field quietly for a few moments and then saying, "This is

Hasten, O children, to the Saviour's

THE SPIRIT OF CARDINAL MERCIER

What of the spirit of Cardinal Mercler? He has some of it, apparently. that flows with clearness and of A writer in the current number of itselffrom Christianity. This is what A writer in the current number of itself from Unristianty. This is want the Red Cross Magazine proves that I call a grand religion. I recognize very conclusively by stating that a it by this sign, that it does not leave very conclusively by stating that a it by this sign, that it does not leave unanswered any of the questions France. They had to go and as the said, The first time he went into his presence his instinctive comment Catholic men are apt t was—'Here is a saint,' but when he grasped his hand and looked into his only by Catholic children. This be-

catechism knows his religion and has a ready reply for all who misrepresent his religious beliefs.

THE CATECHISM

estimated.

Jouffroy was one of the represen tatives of infidel philosophy, but the simplicity and the wealth of truth contained in the catechism excited his admiration. These are the words which is the catechism, and you will find therein the solution of all the questions that I have treated-of all without exception. Ask the Chris-tian whence comes the human race, the he knows; whither it goes, he knows. Ask this little child why it is here below, what will happen to it after death, he will give you a truly sub-lime answer, which he does not fully understand but which is none the less admirable. The origin of the world, the origin of species, ques-tion of these may's dorities in this

tions of race, man's destiny in this life and in the next, man's relation to God, man's duty to his fellow man, man's rights over creation, he is ignorant of none of these things, to Paris, where he was adays later and when he grows older he will not hesitate about natural law or politi-

Catholic men are apt to think that the order of their going, but went

eye, he said, 'here is a man.' This lief is in a great degree responsible to the siege of Orleans not often writer also remarks that:

a man in conflict with the Church. He warned the American to be care-the difference of the great radicals of the care-the difference of the great radicals of the care-the difference of the difference o a man in conflict with the Church. He warned the American to be care-ful, that the Cardinal was a wily per-

danger of death itself could no make her deviate a hair's breadth from her mission. Not till the English were driven out of France did the humble, lonely girl beg to be allowed to go home.

The fearlessness of the warrior maid who yet wept when the enemy went usshivered to their death; the swift and complete success of her mission are still other sides of the brilliance of her glory. We shall not choose amongst these

but take only the point of time and review two notable Mays in the Bless. ed Maid's short life. Joan of Arc day, May 8, celebrates

the raising of the siege of Orleans. From the life of Bles-sed Joan, written by E. A. Ford, we take this chapter recounting the last day of the siege last day of the siege. "THE STROKE OF GOD "

"The stroke of God," the English Duke of Bedford called the demol-ition of the English fortresses that begged for a cross.

to Paris, where he was ensconced securely, as he thought, for all time

hesitate about natural law or politi-cal law, or international law, for all the time of the siege of Orleans," he wrote to the young king of England. But those four days' work around and outside the walls of Orleans deher knees. Friar

sequel proved they did not stand on

There was quite a dramatic finale

An American interested in the Bel-In Relief Fund tells of going with hood have been forgotten or only im-The four days' fighting had been

The illegal trial was to end in mother cry, Thou hear'st — and swift their illegal execution. heavenly Mother's nigh.

But no one was there to protest. The fear of the English was more than the fear of God, and the Eng lish were in a hurry.

It was drawing toward noon time The Dominicans, Isambard and Lad-veanu, drew near to Joan and spoke

They do not ask the faith or creed Of him that comes into their hut; True knighthood's door is never words of courage. Joan kneeled down between them shut

and in loud clear tones prayed for. France, for her king. She begged the prayers and forgiveness of all Against a pilgrim warrior's need. They question only: rest

those around her, her enemies as well as those who wept with her. The cries of the women beyond the And are you weary and oppressed? Then, brother, lay aside your care, cordon of soldiers came to her ears and almost unnerved her. She And come, this sheltering roof to share."

An English soldier took a fagot from the pile prepared for her burn-The days of bigotry are passed Now creeds are standing side by side

ing, broke it in two and fastened it in the shape of a cross. She thank-To stem war's devastating tide. All Christians as one race fully kissed it, and placed it in her massed.

And Jew and Gentile work and pray All this time the executioners were As fellows of a common clay. Throughout war's black and dreary placing her in position and fastening her body with chains to the stake, in blight

several places, from her shoulders to In deeds of mercy men unite.

Isambard was speaking Perhaps some one you love or know May seek the door that's never shut words of comfort and courage and holding the crucifix to her lips. But And enter knighthood's cheery hut her enemies were in a hurry.

are enemies were in a hurry. Joan begged Isambard to keep the rross before her eyes till the last. And hear the songs of long ago, And live once more an hour or two The joys of home that once he knew, he not feel your presence In her head was placed a paper cap Shall "Heretic, Relapsed, Apostate, Idol- Regardless of the garb you wear?

ator," and out of reach of the fire was -EDGAR A. GUEST.

a large placard bearing her record according to these judges, that she

The kindness of youth is angelic : the kindness of age is divine.--Carmen Sylvia.

15

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