

His education is in the wrong direction. He is being taught to start at the top and not at the bottom."

THESE UTTERANCES may be open to the objection from some quarters that they represent capitalistic sentiment only. Perhaps far more to the point as touching directly the question of illiteracy whether on this continent or abroad is the following description of a group of Russian peasants from Europe migrating to far Siberia. It is taken from an article on Russia in the November issue of the National Geographic Magazine:

were lost in obscurity. One altar was decorated for Christmas with the images of the stable of Bethlehem arranged about it, and here the younger Belgian soldiers gathered in reverent groups, while a priest chanted a Christmas Mass "of peace on earth, good will to men." Priests came and went, townspeople hurried to early Masses, then went on their way, while the exhausted soldiers slept on. Now and then a non-commissioned officer would arouse a few men, and they would slip quietly away with their bicycles on one of those expeditions which for daring has made the cyclist corps the most famous section of the Belgian army. As the rising sun drove the deep

Austria-Hungary and Turkey can give to the maintenance of the Germanic campaign. The Globe believes that both Austria-Hungary and Turkey will be out of action before midsummer, and that the Balkan powers and Italy and Russia will be carving up their territories before the Allies have made much of an impression upon Germany. Fighting on their own soil for the defence of their hearts, the men of Germany will be subdued only by the most strenuous effort. The Globe believes that collapse will come not so much from inability to put men into the field as from inability to provide them with munitions of war. There may be no sign of this till the unexpected silence of German guns and

demand for the execution of De Wet and other Boer rebels.

ON THE WESTERN LINE

The allies have made distinct gains in several places though some reverses have been sustained. A dispatch from Paris, Jan 1st, says:

It becomes daily more and more evident that the next important move in the war, so far as France is concerned will come here.

In this particular field the French have the fighting to themselves, the British and Belgian forces being concentrated on the left wing.

Because of this, and the desire to retake the "lost provinces" there is more anxiety felt here regarding the operations than there has been in evidence since the Germans were checked in their advance on Paris. But there is the utmost confidence expressed in Gen. Pau, who is in direct charge, and Gen. Joffre already has made arrangements to furnish him all the men he needs for the northern drive which has started.

The fighting in Flanders and Northern France has been confined largely to artillery engagements, except at Bethune, where the Germans claim they have taken a British trench. They admit, however, the loss of St. Georges, near the Belgian coast, which the official report from Berlin says it was decided not to retake owing to the high level of the water there.

AUSTRIA'S OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Vienna, Jan. 1.—An official announcement on the progress of the war was given out in the Austrian capital to-day. It refers to events of yesterday, and is as follows:

"In Bukovina and the Carpathians the Russians developed great activity. Our troops are holding their positions on the Suceava River in the Upper Carpathian territory, also farther west on the ridges of the Carpathians in the valley of the Nag, where yesterday, near Okoromese, an attack of the enemy were repulsed with heavy losses to them in the Upper Latorca district and north of the Uzok Pass. To the west of this pass all other passages over the Carpathians are occupied by our troops.

"In the district of Gorlice and to the northeast of Zakliczyn determined Russian attacks were everywhere repulsed.

"On the Nida everything is quiet. Further to the north the attacks of our allies are progressing. "The enemy's attacks, both day and night at Biala and south of Tarnow (both in Galicia) have been repulsed, our troops inflicting heavy losses and taking 2,000 prisoners and six machine guns.

"North of the Vistula fog hinders the operations, but slight progress has been made there.

"In the southern war theatre nothing has happened."

FROM PETROGRAD

London, Jan. 1.—Dispatches to-night from Petrograd say that the Germans having found it impossible to get across the Buzza and Buzka rivers and equally unsuccessful in advancing along the Pilia River and are said to be digging themselves in preparatory to remaining until the hardening of the ground by the frost, makes the movement of troops less difficult.

The Russians, according to advices are bringing up great bodies of reinforcements and the Germans, it is predicted, will find it impossible to advance. Large numbers of heavy guns are being concentrated at Warsaw.

GERMANY'S SIDE

Berlin, Jan. 1.—The following official communication was given out to-day:

"In the western theatre of war nothing of importance has happened near Neuport. The idea of retaking the hamlet of St. Georges, which had been completely demolished by the enemy's artillery fire, was abandoned in view of the high level of the water there.

"East of Bethune, to the south of the canal, we captured an English trench.

"In the Argonne our attacks made further progress. Another 400 prisoners, 6 machine guns, 4 mine throwers and numerous other arms and quantities of ammunition fell into our hands. A French camp northwest of St. Mihiel was set on fire by our artillery. Attacks at Eflery and west of Sannhelm, which were repeated yesterday, were repulsed.

"In the eastern theatre, the situation on the East Prussian frontier and in Poland remains unchanged. A heavy mist is preventing all operations."

GREAT INVENTOR WAS LOVER OF CHURCH MUSIC

In the person of Paul Mauser there passed away recently one of the best known inventors of modern times. Mauser was a noble and modest person, a self-made man, who rose from simple conditions to a high rung on the ladder of fame.

In spite of many disappointments and reverses, he patiently improved his gun inventions until success crowned his efforts and the Mauser rifle was introduced in most armies of the world. For over sixty years he belonged to the choir in his native parish, contributing in various ways to the progress of Church music after the heart of Pope Pius X.—Providence Visitor.

THE FIGHTING KING OF THE BELGIANS

"I believe I am not claiming too much to say that our army saved Dunkirk and Calais at the battle of the Yser."

Grand Headquarters of the King of the Belgians in West Flanders, Belgium, Dec. 20. (via London, Dec. 23, 8.10 p. m.)—In the Council chamber of an ancient Flemish Town Hall, from which he is directing the operations of his war-worn little army blocking the road to Dunkirk and Calais, King Albert of the Belgians to-day told the Associated Press of the stand his soldiers are making against the German invaders. The King's headquarters is located on one of the remaining dry areas of that small corner of Belgium left under his rule.

In manner he is decidedly shy, and he apologized for his English, which, however, was very fluent.

PRAISES HIS SOLDIERS

Modestly he praised the courage of his soldiers, speaking of them with great kindness—as though he were talking about his own children. "I believe," he said, "my army is courageous. My people, however, are too democratic for the same discipline that prevails in the conscript European armies. You will see something of the bravery of my people when perhaps you shall have the chance to witness the peasants working in their fields under shell fire, concerned only for the losses of their homes, the destruction of which causes them great grief."

GRATEFUL FOR UNITED STATES AID

King Albert also requested the Associated Press to convey to the people of the United States his deep gratitude for their efforts to feed his subjects now under German military rule.

GENEROSITY TOUCHES KING

He then wrote in English the following message:

"The magnificent generosity of the American people in forwarding immense quantities of gifts of food stuffs to my suffering people affords me intense satisfaction and touches me very deeply.

"In this, my country's hour of trial, nothing has supported me more than the sympathy and the superb generosity of those who have assisted in materially lessening the same, and I desire to offer my deepest thanks and at same time to convey a message of good will for the New Year.

(Signed) Albert, King of the Belgians."

SEVEN HUNDRED KILLED IN ONE DAY

King Albert also was anxious to have the American people know, as he put it, the facts of the story of how his troops, demoralized and disorganized by their disheartening retreat almost across the entire limits of their own country, turned at bay along the Yser and held back the Germans there at frightful costs in killed and wounded to their army and of the almost incalculable loss suffered in the deliberate destruction by its owners of the most valuable agricultural part of the country.

A TERRIBLE DAY

"In one of those terrible days in the trenches along the Yser," the

shall ride into Brussels at the head of the Belgian army." Bidding the correspondent good night with a warm handshake, the king ended the interview.

THE COUNTRY'S LEADER

King Albert is the commander of his army in fact as well as in name. Its reorganization into a compact fighting force of less than half of its former size, but infinitely superior in sheer efficiency, is due principally to the king's work and inspiration. He has surrounded himself with young and enthusiastic officers, who already are veterans in experience; and this new personnel works with the utmost harmony.

The king's chief support is Queen Elizabeth, who lives only a few miles away at a place also on Belgian soil, where she has complete charge of one of the military hospitals. No other women except trained nurses are permitted to approach the Belgian lines. Even the wives of the highest officers are not allowed to pay brief visits to their husbands.

King Albert is living as simply as any subaltern of his staff. In the entrance of the town hall a rickety army cot, on which he seeks short naps when occasionally the Germans relax their efforts against the thin Belgian line. When a few leisure hours permit, the king and queen meet, but they are living virtually under campaign conditions. The queen is the patron saint of the Belgian wounded, who prefer her hospitals located on safer beds. The queen occasionally goes to England to see her children, but lately she has devoted virtually her every waking moment to her hospital.

Neither the king nor the queen has their usual personnel with them. King Albert's aides are working staff officers who serve 24 hour watches, while the queen's ladies-in-waiting are trained nurses serving on her hospital staff.

The correspondent dined to-night with a Belgian army surgeon, who said: "Before the war I was an ardent republican. I still dislike the ordinary type of kings, but I am with King Albert to the end. Even if Belgium should become a republic he is the man for president."

BE PATIENT

Be patient with these awkward stumbling feet That walk beside you. Ah, could you but know, Uncouth they be, how thankfully they'd go On loving errands for you; counting sweet Fatigue itself, if only it might meet The smile that costs so little, means so much.

Be patient, too, with hands that blunder so, Yet rest upon your own with lingering touch. And ache for your warm clasp: all, could you know.

Be patient, still, with hungry lips that make Mistakes so soft, and give the heart the lie, Though often times discordant notes they take: The silences will claim them by and by.

Beyond your tardy praise, at last awake. —MABEL BOURQUIN, FOSTORIA, OHIO.

morbid side of your mind. It speaks to your reason and to your soul. It stands pointing the way to the Church where what the press talks about in the marketplace becomes the living reality by which your soul—you, the immortal part of you, feeds its hunger for real joy, real life, real peace and happiness. And as you read it, and awaken a real interest in your press, you will think of ways and means by which it can be helped and improved."

FATHER FRASER'S CHINESE MISSION

Taichowfu, China, June 7, 1914. Dear Mr. Coffey,—When I came here two years ago I only had five catechists, now I have twenty-one. I owe this rapid progress principally to my dear friends of the CATHOLIC RECORD. God bless them and your worthy paper!

It takes about \$50 a year to support a catechist and for every such sum I receive I will place a man in a new district to open it up to the Faith. During the past few months I have opened up quite a number of new places and the neophytes are very pious and eager for baptism. You will appreciate the value of my catechists when I tell that I baptized eighty-five adults since the beginning of the year as a result of their work. I have even brighter hopes for the future if only my friends abroad will continue to back me up financially. J. M. FRASER.

Previously acknowledged... \$4,702 98 D. J. Murphy, Marysville... 3 00 Subscriber, Vancouver... 1 00 Mrs. J. McNeil, Glace Bay... 1 00 May McGarvey, Orangeville... 50 K. A. F... 1 00 Thos. Heffernan, Charleston... 1 00 J. F. White, Ottawa... 5 00 Mrs. Joe Quinlan, City View... 1 00 Subscriber, Kenilworth... 2 00 J. O'Halloran, Bloomfield Sta... 2 00

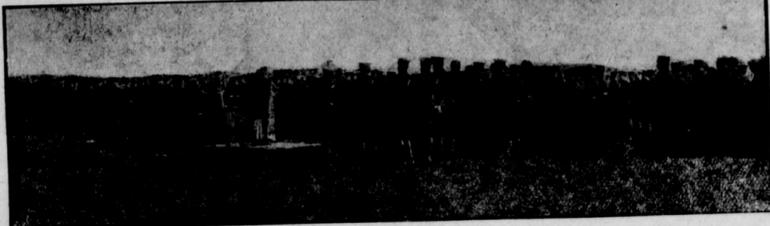
PROTESTANT'S TRIBUTE TO BELGIAN PRIESTS

In a letter which has appeared in a Nottingham, (Eng.) paper Mr. E. C. Price, a member of a well known Nonconformist family, who has just returned from Belgium, says:

"If it had not been for the very great number of priests, who have indeed been God's good messengers far beyond what will ever be known in this world, the misery would have been much intenser than it has been, and though, as many of your readers will know, my early days were spent in Nonconformist circles, when I return to Belgium I shall never, to my dying day, pass a priest without the very humble lifting of my hat."

CANNOT BE SHIRKED

Here is a challenge to the issue of truth coming from a source which cannot be lightly regarded or disregarded. The words are from the address a few weeks ago by Cardinal O'Connell at a meeting of the Federation of Catholic Societies in Boston: "When the truth is known, then all the world will realize that for the sake of our public honor as a nation we must put an end to the Masonic conspiracy which has for two years deluged Mexico with blood, drained the material resources of that coun-



Open Air Mass, Pond Farm Camp, Salisbury Plains, England, Sunday, Nov. 8, 1914. Captain, the Rev. Father E. G. Doe, preaching at the Gospel to the Catholic men of the 4th Brigade. Photograph sent to the Right Reverend Bishop Fulton J. Sheen. Rev. Father Doe says: "I preached on the Seven Sacraments, especially Penance, Eucharist and Extreme Unction."

"Such people as these undoubtedly will prove to be the progenitors of a race that will compare with our own sturdy farmers of the Northwest. A group of Russian peasants emigrated to Siberia with nothing but the clothes on their backs, a little flour, some home-tanned leather, and a few tools for carpentry and blacksmithing. The first day they made two sets of ovens out of brick they prepared from a clay bed near by, and the men burned charcoal while the women made bread. Within two days after their arrival, they had six blacksmith's forges going, and inside of ten days they had built themselves rude houses, made wagons, manufactured spades by the dozen, and reshod their horses, all the iron used being forged on the ground; yet none of them could read or write."

Would it be an act of wisdom, it may well be asked, to shut out such men from citizenship on this continent? They do not belong to the class that fills either our jails or our almshouses.

THE CABLE despatch in the daily papers a week or more ago, describing a bivouac of Belgian soldiers in one of their churches and the impressive mixture of war and religion illustrated by the bearing of some of the troops during the celebration of the Divine Mysteries, will have been read with deep and pathetic interest by earnest-minded people. The despatch referred to the long row of bicycles stacked down the centre of the church; to the process of repairing many of the machines which went on despite the Masses which were in progress; to the eating by others of their frugal breakfast of black bread, oblivious of their surroundings; and to the large number of soldiers who slept, lying upon the stone flagging of the floor, undisturbed by the sonorous notes of the great organ as it pealed forth the solemn strains of a funeral Mass. Some people, unable to put themselves in thought outside their own environment of ease, comfort and decorum, may have thought such attitudes incongruous (we have heard expressions to that effect) and irreverent. Deeper penetration would testify rather to the practical character of the Catholic religion and to the very real sense in which its adherents regard the house of God as in very truth their home.

NEWSPAPER correspondents are not often either well-informed or equitably-minded in their comments upon Catholic faith and practice. They seem too often disposed to make them the butt of their misdirected ridicule or to insinuate into the Church's administrative activities sinister designs which exist only in the correspondents' own brains. The writer of the following paragraphs is evidently not of this class, and we reproduce his words both for the benefit of those who may not already have seen them, and as bearing out what we have just written regarding our religious reality and the impression its offices, in the incident in question, made upon a seriously-minded beholder.

"The scene was almost overpoweringly impressive in its mixture of war and religion, and yet their existence side by side in this region where religion in the historic past has been so intimately connected with war did not seem incongruous. The great tapers at the altars provided the only light beyond the grey streaks of dawn which filtered through the oaken doors, and the ancient gargoyles on the open beams

shadows from the church the roar of German guns beginning an attack on Neuport awoke the sleepers, and the great church became an animated scene of military activity. The religious services, however, went on as before."

THIS DESCRIPTION recalls a well-known passage in one of Cardinal Newman's lectures on "Anglican difficulties." He is speaking of the religious state of some Catholic countries and of the intimate bearing towards holy things which has sometimes been the occasion of scandal to Protestant travellers, bound irrevocably to traditions which, to speak mildly, have cut the ground from beneath the supernatural. The passage from Newman referred to does not deal with so impressive a sight as the correspondent describes but rather with the habit of religion and the reality of faith common to Catholic countries, even in the case of individuals whose lives, lacking love, are not conformable to their belief, from the like of which no country and no creed unfortunately is, in man's fallen state, wholly free.

"You go forward," writes Newman of the Protestant traveller in a Catholic country, and you find preparations, in progress for a great pageant or mystery; it is a high festival, and the incorporated trades have each undertaken their special religious celebration. The plumbers and glaziers are to play the Creation; the barbers, the call of Abraham; and at night is to be the grandest performance of all, the Resurrection and Last Judgment, played by the carpenters, masons and blacksmiths. Heaven and Hell are represented,—saints, devils and living men; and the chef d'oeuvre of the exhibition is the display of fireworks to be let off as the finale. 'How unutterably profane!' again you cry. 'Yet, profane to you, my dear brother—profane to a population which only half believes; not profane to those who, however coarse minded, however sinful, believe wholly, who, one and all, have a vision within, which corresponds with what they see, which resolves itself into, or rather takes up into itself, the external pageant, whatever be the moral condition of each individual composing the mass. They gaze, and, in drinking in the exhibition with their eyes, they are making one continuous and intense act of faith.'"

ON THE BATTLE LINE

HOW LONG WILL IT LAST

On this first morning of the New Year the writer of the (Globe) War Summary wishes to say a word in answer to many inquiries regarding the probable length of the war. No one can speak with assurance of a matter so complex. Lord Kitchener, upon taking office in August, said he had agreed to serve for three years as War Secretary. Denial has recently been made of a report that he expected the war to last for three years. He is raising, training and arming a British military force totalling over two and three quarter million men, and has given an assurance to Parliament that this number will suffice, in co-operation with the armies of France and Russia, to destroy Germany's power of resistance. There is on record no statement by Lord Kitchener as to the probable length of time it will take to do this. Much will depend on the help

the increasing use of the bayonet tell the story. That at the earliest was a possibility till a year of war has been experienced. Which we are sorry to say we regard as unduly optimistic. It may be interesting just here to insert a Russian military opinion. The Russians have had a better opportunity of judging the value of the Austrians as a fighting force: Under the caption "Austrian army a surprise," the Army Messenger discusses the Galician campaign at some length. The stubborn defence of our Austrian opponents in Western Galicia has been the greatest surprise of the war," it says. Beginning with the battle of Dukla Pass, it has shown resourcefulness and strength wholly unexpected in view of the early events of the war. "Though we won at Dukla, taking several ammunition wagons and more than 2,000 prisoners, the Austrians inflicted severe losses upon us. They contest bitterly every foot of ground."

THE DEADLY SUBMARINE

Germany has done much since this war began to place Sir Percy Scott among the prophets. Her daring and death-dealing submarines never give us time to regain our old confidence in great battleships and many of them. Of course it is not officially admitted yet that the Audacious or the Bulwark were torpedoed. Neither is the last disaster known definitely to be due to a submarine.

THE FORMIDABLE SUNK

The sinking of the pre-dreadnought battleship Formidable in the English Channel yesterday morning was a serious loss to British naval strength, because the Formidable carried with her to the bottom almost 700 brave, hardy and highly-trained men, who cannot be replaced readily. Britain's loss of seamen since war began has been relatively much more serious than her loss of soldiers. The great bulk of the losses recorded in land operations are men wounded or captured. The killed in action, or the fatalities from wounds received in action, have probably not totalled more than 20,000 for the entire British army. The few engagements at sea and the explosions which destroyed the Bulwark, the Formidable and other vessels sunk by mines or torpedoes have cost at least 7,000 lives. The result of a fleet action in loss of life to both Britain and Germany is almost too horrible to contemplate. In a combat it would seem entirely possible that 40,000 or 50,000 lives might be lost in a few hours. Germany has lost more heavily in men relatively to her naval strength than Great Britain. At least 5,000 German seamen have gone down with their ships since the war began.—Globe Jan. 2.

SERIOUS IN SOUTH AFRICA

A bit of far from pleasant news is the official announcement from Pretoria that the Government of South Africa intends to commandeer men for service within the Union and in German Southwest Africa, "as the situation cannot be adequately met by depending upon the voluntary recruits." General Botha has stamped out rebellion, but he is disliked by the labor men of British birth because of the arrest and deportation of their leaders a year ago, and the loyal Boers do not seem keen to take part in the invasion of German territory. It is regrettable that in any part of the Empire there should be need to call out men rather than depend on those who come forward of their own free will.—Globe Jan. 1st.

If British South African labor men are to be excused at a time like this because "they do not like Botha," we should refrain from bloodthirsty



Fourth Brigade, Canadian Overseas Force. Headquarters Staff at Pond Farm Camp, Salisbury Plains, England. To the right of picture, standing, Captain, the Rev. E. G. Doe, of the Diocese of London, Chaplain.

king said, I know that seven hundred of our brave Belgian soldiers were killed outright."

With the modesty and shyness which marks his whole manner of address King Albert continued: "I believe I am not claiming too much to say that our army saved Dunkirk and Calais at the battle of the Yser."

The king spoke with the warm affection of his soldiers now in the trenches, praising their good spirits. "Your majesty, it has been predicted that you will re-enter your capital within three months," the correspondent said.

The king shook his head sadly, saying: "Not so soon; but some day I

THE MISSION OF THE CATHOLIC PRESS

"You can work for it (the Catholic Press) best of all by reading it," says the Monitor. "Turn some of your time and interest away from the press which caters to the world, the flesh and the devil. Remember that the mission of the Catholic Press is to deal with the things that matter to the minds, and the souls, of those to whom God is a reality and not a vague word veiling nothingness. The Catholic press can not shock you into momentary attention with violent words about deeds of violence, lust, crime, baseball, pugilism and politics. It does not appeal to the

try and spread atheism and anarchy over a land once happy and industrious. Let us tolerate no further even a suspicion of what has been more than once openly asserted, that the leaders of this anarchy are receiving under hand support from this country; but let our Catholic men continue to investigate the truth of conditions and then stand for that truth in all their might until every word and sentence of its revelation is heard at Washington."

The question thus put cannot be shirked. First make certain about the truth. It will be "heard at Washington," if presented there by the right men and in the right spirit. —N. Y. Freeman's Journal.