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THE EUCHARISTIC PATH TO A WORLD PEACE

If there is one fact that the present war must have impressed upon Christian thinkers, it is that no human power can essentially change the human race.

This European war is making men think. The old shibboleths can no longer satisfy. The war forces into prominence the fact that in the human race there are vast possibilities of retrogression and ruin.

The cause of this war was selfishness and false ideas of the purpose of men's existence. An over-bearing spirit of tyranny had been mistaken for manliness.

Is there any remedy that will lift the human race to the likeness of God once more? Only one. Not a natural remedy, nor one that will cost vast sums to confer it upon a suffering world.

So in the path towards peace the Catholic Church relies upon a power that is not of earth. In the Eucharist is her certain hope and help.

to mankind. She knows that by the graces of Holy Communion vast blessings will be showered upon mankind, and that from devotion to the risen Saviour mankind will rise again from the darkness of personal selfishness and national antipathies to a new life of penance and holiness.

A REPLY CONCERNING A PROTESTANT PASTOR

A correspondent in the maritime provinces sends us a letter, written by a Presbyterian minister, in which the minister claims the title of "Catholic" and declares that the Roman Catholic Church is not really Catholic at all.

In the first place, we are certain that whatever this Presbyterian minister may mean by the word "Catholic" he does not mean what is meant by it to the Roman Catholic Church.

Now though we are animated by the most friendly sentiments towards all sincere Presbyterians, we are sure that they would not wish us to believe that their Church is "Catholic" in the points we have named.

What does the Presbyterian minister mean by Catholic? Probably, his idea of the meaning of the word is that held by certain confused thinkers in non-Catholic denominations, as also by certain representatives of modernist opinions.

The Presbyterian minister in his letter, makes a statement which may startle some students of patristic literature. "St. Augustine," he declared, "belonged to the Catholic Church before the introduction of doctrines distinctively Roman." This

is an old myth, exploded years ago, but we will deal with it briefly again: Now St. Augustine, the Bishop of Hippo, lived between the years A. D. 354 and A. D. 430. Consequently there was a Catholic Church, by the minister's admission, teaching "the pure gospel" for at least four hundred years after the Resurrection of Our Lord.

THE ANGELIC HOSTS WHO WATCH THE WAR

The story of how British soldiers were protected in the retreat from Mons by heavenly visitants to earth may seem improbable to sceptical critics, but that there is anything unlikely in the facts narrated there is no reason to declare.

Mr. Simpson does not discuss the truth of these stories, and he declares that those who tell them would probably be the last to wish them discussed in print, but he trusts that it ever the time for discussing them should come, it may be hoped that England will be found to have freed itself from the fetters of German dogmatism.

From a non Catholic writer this is an interesting statement. It shows that the present war is directing men's thought to supernatural things. As regards the origin of the story, though the evidence is not yet sifted it may be asked why should soldiers claim to have been supernaturally protected if they actually had not?

That there are angels watching the great European battlefields there can be no doubt. "It is the mind of the Church," writes St. Jerome, "that each one from his birth has an angel commissioned to guard it. In the Bible, the part played by angels in punishment or protection is clearly stated. In (Gen. xviii xix) angels not only act as the executors of God's wrath against the cities of the plain, but they delivered Lot from danger."

At a much later period, there is the story of Tobias, which might serve as a commentary on the words of (Ps. xc, ii): "For He hath given His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

Of the part played by the angels in the protection of mankind, there is a graphic description in (v King's vi, 17). A Syrian force had been sent to Dothan to capture the prophet Elisha. The prophet's servant was dismayed and said to his master: "Alas, my lord, what shall we do." But he answered: "Fear not, for there are more with us than with

them." And Elisha prayed and said: "Lord, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the servant and he saw, and behold the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."

And that many have been divinely protected in the present war, is certain. Many must have prayed to Mary, who is queen of the angels, that she would send her legions to the help and protection of their friends and to the support of a cause that they believed to be just and true.

"But how could any one see an angel," asks the doubting higher critic? Yet it is a simple matter. In our spiritual life beyond the grave, we shall see the angels beyond question. If God were to open our eyes and increase their spiritual perception, we should see them now.

A PEACE THAT IS CRUEL AS EUROPE'S WAR

While there can be no doubt as to the justice of the cause for which Great Britain and her allies are contending on the battle front, it is equally certain that the war is an infliction, permitted by God to harass the world, because of almost world-wide sin.

It is little use bemoaning such tragedies. Our energies were better expended endeavoring to render them impossible. We have a superfluity of Catholic organizations and societies. Let us utilize them to train our young men, not to be expert dancers or champion billiard players, but to be defenders of the faith that is their chief heritage.

If the above picture of life's seamy side on this continent had been drawn by a speaker of the I. W. W., the so called respectable classes might have dubbed it an anarchist's grouch. But as the words of a Catholic prelate they command attention.

The Catholic press can help this work. It has already done something along these lines, but it could, and should, do much more. And of course the pastors of souls need not be reminded of their responsibility in this regard.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

A VALUABLE relic of Mary, Queen of Scots—a necklace of gems, with the inscription "Houp feedis me,"—was sold at one of the well known auction rooms in London a few weeks ago.

If EVER a human being fed on Hope it was Scotland's ill-fated but

victims are human souls and bodies by their thousands in great cities. What war does on the battlefield, he does more slowly and cruelly in the sweatshop, the factory and the counting-house in time of peace.

So this war in Europe is no illogical phenomenon. It merely expresses by violent methods the greed, cruelty and dishonesty that flourish in the business world under most respectable garbs. It is God's lesson for the human race, to emphasize the need of new principles in the world of business and politics.

THE PERIL OF SOCIALISM

In the case of the untrained and inexperienced Catholic young man of whom we have already spoken, the great danger is that he will strive, in good faith, to reconcile Socialism and Catholicity. Even his own limited observation will be sufficient to show him that there is something rotten in the state of Denmark, in other words that the present social and economic fabric is built upon the wrong foundations.

It is worthy of remark that as with so many good works, the initiative in this matter lies with a layman, Mr. Lister Drummond, K. S. G., the well-known London Police Magistrate, and co-founder, with Father Philip Fletcher, of the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom.

Other countries have blazed the way. The Catholics of England and Ireland have their Guilds of Social Study. The Knights of Columbus across the border maintain two anti-Socialist lecturers constantly on circuit.

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THE DAILY papers of a few weeks ago narrated that the Works Commissioner of Toronto had reported the finding of the remains of more than two hundred prematurely born babies in the Sewage-disposal plant of that city, and that this was only a fraction of the number which must have passed through and disappeared in the past two years.

FRENCH SHELLS BUSY

The French expenditure of projectiles begins to pay. The French midnight official report states that "on a great many points of the front our artillery has concentrated on the German positions a very efficacious fire. To the north of Arras German trenches have been upset and a munition depot destroyed. Between the Somme and the Oise German encampments have been shelled." The blasting process has been begun.

ITALIAN ADVANCE PROCEEDS

The correspondents of the London daily Telegraph at Rome and at Milan send cables indicating that the Italian advance in the Trentino proceeds rapidly, especially in the

heroic Queen. Hope sustained her amidst the network of cruel falsehood and slander by which she was encompassed as reigning Sovereign; Hope was her guiding star in the long years of her imprisonment; and when all but the faithful few had abandoned her, Hope still was true in the very shadow of the scaffold, and went with her down into the dark valley itself—hope in God and in the infinite merits of that loving Saviour in whose cause she laid down her life.

THE GREAT WAR has given a stimulus to many things Catholic, and, to an unbelieving world, has been the dissolver of many illusions. The Rosary especially, bids fair to come into its own. In the Archdiocese of Westminster, which, in such a matter means the Church in England, has been inaugurated a "Rosary Crusade" the purpose of which is to bring about a general recitation of five decades of the beads daily, for the following intentions: (a) the blessing of Almighty God, through the prayers of His Immaculate Mother, upon the arms of the British and Irish sailors and soldiers and their allies; (b) an honorable and lasting peace; (c) the sick and the wounded; (d) the prisoners of war and (e) the repose of the souls of all those who have died in or through the war.

From Petrograd comes the announcement that a new army of 2,000,000 men is being prepared and that the main Russian army is falling to a new general position, which apparently runs southeast from near Grodno to a point on the east of the Priepet Marshes. Of the relation of Grodno to the new lines nothing is said, and it would seem that there is no intention to defend either that city or Vilna.

THE WESTERN CAMPAIGN

The struggle in the west is one of big guns, bombs and mines. From beneath and above and all around death in horrible form leaps upon the men in the trenches, and upon women and little children in cities and towns far removed from the scene of hostilities. The French continue their aerial raids into territory held by the Germans, and even to points across the Rhine Muelheim, in Baden, where Charles V. gained a great victory, was visited yesterday, the electric power station and railway being the objects of attack. At Dornach the factory in which the Germans made poison gas was attacked by an aviator. Other raids were made in the Argonne. The Germans have not so many aeroplanes to spare for offensive warfare, but they sent seven shells into the city of Compiègne yesterday at long range, killing one nurse and seriously wounding another. Compiègne is only 45 miles from Paris, and the shelling of the city is a reminder of how near the Germans still are to the French capital.

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civilization which practices or tolerates it is the merest platitude to say, doomed to perish. Is there any heathen country upon which Protestantism lavishes treasure so abundantly, that could duplicate this Toronto revelation? It may well be doubted.

IF THERE is any one country more than another which is looked upon by Protestantism it is Catholic Spain. That country, according to certain scribes and oracles, is sunk in superstition and degradation. Yet, thoroughly digested statistics (not the statistics of the Bible Society) show that notwithstanding the heavy drain of emigration, the population of Spain at the present rate of expansion, will double in one hundred and forty years. It is not mere fecundity of race which thus sets Spain in such striking contrast to other countries, it is religion. In Spain still, are practised the maxims of the Gospel, and God rules in His own Household. Spain can well afford to bear the reproach of "decadence," if growth means what it surely does mean in other countries at the present day. But Spain if she continues true to herself has that within her which will exalt her among the nations when the Great Powers have ceased to be.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

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