

NOT GOD'S, BUT MAN'S WAR, SAYS ANTON

Oberammergau, Bavaria, Dec. 26. "This is not God's war; it is a armies and so long as nations pre-pare, there will be war."

So spoke Anton Lang, "Christus" in Oberammergau's world-famous Passion Play, today, on the saddest Yuletide the little Bavarian village has ever known. Of her 1,800 population, Oberammergau has given 350 to the army, including Alfred Bier-ling, the "Saint John" of the play, who is now an artilleryman in the to meet this great increase. German army.

Lang desired that greetings be sent to his friends in America and that

"I have never been to the front," said this bearded man whose face most nearly resembles the features of the Saviour. "I am still alive. Please tell my many American friends that for me.

And then Lang showed his visitors' book, with the names of thousands of his friends signed therein. One signature was that of the King of He said :

"Fifty of our people have fallen. How shall it end? I see no end. I see another spring of fighting, bloodier than ever. And if neither side is defeated, then more fighting, with millions being killed and millions of others working so other millions shall be killed, with some of those millions becoming rich in the

WAR CONTRARY TO GOSPEL

"I recall Christ's words, 'Who takes the sword shall perish by the sword.' That doesn't mean Europe shall perish by the sword, but I interpret the phrase to mean that he who starts war shall perish.

"I would be glad if there were no militarism in any land. Shall poison always be used to destroy poison? Isn't there another method? Cannot all militarism be destroyed by international agreements? Cannot America take the first step?" Lang was told how some of

Rumania's soldiers said they did not believe in God any more because God would not permit such murder as the great war has brought about.

Lang replied slowly:
"Yes, I know. I receive similar letters from the front. But I reply, this is not God's war; it is man's Nowhere in the Bible are nations told to murder; on the con-trary, the Bible says, 'Thou shalt not kill, but I know how the feeling is growing among soldiers and I fear

the war's bad effect on them.
"Sometimes I think the war is a necessary evil. The world seems to learn by experience.

"I hope America is never threatened by such a war. As long as there are armies and as long as nations prepare, there will be war. Until all unite and agree to limit their armies and navies to mere police forces, wars will continue. Fifty or sixty years after this war ends there may be another.

"That is the saddest thought today. Why has England the largest navy? Why has Germany the largest army? Because of world trade.

"How sad it is to see Christmasand no end to war.

is my fervent hope that she will do something to bring about permanent peace. I hope and pray that peace of which Christ preached—peace on earth, good will to men—will be brought to Europe through America. "It would be the finest Christmas gift to the world.

'As long as people are selfish and

uniform and had just returned when interviewed from a cemetery, where he had buried an officer. The face of the famous "Christus" was placid —a picture of patience—but his words revealed his own suffering."

CATHOLICITY IS INCREASING AT FAST RATE IN SWITZERLAND

National Protestant church, The Semeur, a Monsignor Fournedord has been writing a series of articles on the present situation. He feels anxious, for he sees all around him therevival of "Romanism." Hethinks this is partly due to the faults of the Protestant system, which takes from

that it becomes confounded with the He finds Protestant churches in that stronghold of Lutheranism, Lausanne, imitating "Romanism," having "mystic hours," during which the service is a mixture of ac cism and imitations of Catholic devo-So long as there are tion and the pastor by his attitude and gesture seeks to copy the Catholic priest. Then, too, there has been such a flood of immigration from Catholic countries that the parishes have multiplied enormously. example, the parish of St. Valentine, which numbered four thousand Catholics, is now divided into four parishes comprising 20,000 Catholics, and many priests have to be provided

The writer also finds a wave of conversions sweeping over Lausanne and talks about young men denial be made that he had joined a machine gun company.

"I have never been to the front,"

He admits that quits about young include and girls attracted by the pomp and mysticism of the Roman Church."

He admits that the Catholic Hierarchy is perfect, but says a "religious imperialism" is incompatible with liberty, truth and justice, and asserts that Protestantism is the guardian of "religious liberty."— -Providence Visitor.

THE SHEPHERD OF THE NORTH

book almost ready for publication there are a great number of Catholic readers, who so far, have not availed themselves of the opportunity and pleasure of reading "Shepherd of the North." In this book Mr. Maher demonstrates his ability to create tense situations and his work was pronounced one of the literary finds

The hero of the book is Bishop Alden, a big-brained, broad-minded, generous man, a splendid and wholly satisfying character who will appeal to the readerimmediately on account of the lovable qualities of his nature. His ministrations among the people of the Aderondack country whose esteem and confidence he has won and particularly of the war that he wages successfully against an en-croaching railroad enables the author to write with much charm. The climax is reached in a forest fire of gigantic proportion which is set by the railroad as a means of accomplishing its purpose. Forest fires have figured in literature before but one who has seen a forest fire will realize how true and how vivid Father Maher's description is.

There is a secondary plot in the itself.' which is as dramatic as that centering around the forest fire. It involves a question of honor, the solution of which requires not a little ingenuity on the part of the writer. The problems which Father Maher raises in this connection and which have to do with the confessional are splendidly treated and lead to one of the most powerful situations of recent fiction.

As an illustration of how the Shepherd of the North was received it is but necessary to say that a second edition was required within book that should be in every Catholic library and Catholic family; and broad as such a distribution would be then it would still be rather "My Christmas message to America limited, for while it is a novel of Catholic appeal, it is so stirring a story of adventure that the general reading public irrespective of religi-ous affiliations, can find much enjoy-RECORD READER. ment in it.

THE LITTLE IRISH

told him, in substance, that an eccentric little Irishman had been bothering him with requests to come out to his "studio" and look at a model of a bust of the great physician and benefactor of humanity.
Dr. Keefe laughed over the de-

scription of the little stranger. Pass him to me," he said.

A day or two later Dr. Keefe began

his departed friend—a heroic likeness, bearing so lifelike a resemblance that it is said Dr. Keefe wept. A photograph was taken of the work. It was exhibited to Dr. Golden and other friends of Dr. Murphy, including, it is said, Mrs. Potter Palmer. And all were struck with wonder at the perfection of the

The plans for the Murphy Memorial building have not yet been com-pleted. But it is hinted that M. Thomas Murphy's bust of the surgeon probably will grace it .- The Catholic Sun.

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Ottawa, Dec. 30.-His Excellency the Governor-General as president of the Canadian Patriotic Fund has issued the following New Year's appeal on behalf of the Fund:

Twice his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught appealed to the people of Canada in support of the Canadian Patriotic Fund. The prompt and generous response on each occasion proves how truly Canada appreciates the debt which she owes to her sons who are fighting for the Empire. Heavy as the sacrifices have already been, the Dominion is as determined as ever to carry the war to a successful conclusion and, however onerous the burden may be, she is equally determined to help the families of those who are serving in the army and in The administration of the fund has been most successful and economic and subscribers can be fully assured that their contributions are being expended to the best advantage.

Fifty-five thousand families, comrequired to meet the requirements of childhood. the next twelve months.

In spite of the fact that Richard Aumerle Maher, author of the "Shepherd of the North" has another book almost ready for publication there are a great number of Catholic continue its partial amount necessary for the fund to continue its partial amount necessary fo continue its patriotic and beneficent

(Signed) DEVONSHIRE

HEROIC BISHOP OF ARRAS

Emile Lobbedey, Bishop of Arras, who was recently decorated by President Poincare with the Legion of Honor for remaining in the city during the bombardment and aiding of a little child. dent Poincare with the Legion of the soldiers and the civilian popula-

tion, has died at Boulogne-sur-Mer. When honored by the French Government, Bishop Lobbedey offered his Cross of the Legion of Honor to His Holiness Pope Benedict XV., but the Pontiff told him to keep it in his his friends to "look for him in the name. Writing to the Bishop on that occasion, Cardinal Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State, said : tinguished honor which Your Lordship has received from the highest authority of your country has brought keen joy to the heart of His Holiness, who sees in the recognition of your merits that of those of the Church

CHRISTMAS

Vincent McNabb, O. P., in Am like writing about Christmas after the feast is over more than I do before. Resides all of us who had money and child friends or child kindred were busy making gifts for children before Christmas. I think that we would give to children with generosity or grace if we a week of its appearance. It is a book that should be in every Catholic mas is a lesson with full liturgical accompaniment, in our essential duty of childhood; for childhooddis not a swift season of life that passes away, but is an attitude of mind or soul that should abide. All the year long our masters, the children, are teaching their heavenly, peripatetic philosophy as they romp in the nurs-ery, or rescue fire victims up and down the stairs, or fly kites high into the clouds, or play football, or leap with a bound at nightfall from the deepest energy to the deepest sleep. example, then there will be war.

"I see another spring of fighting with blood flowing like a swollen mountain stream."

Lang was dressed in his Red Cross uniform and had just not a selected another the deepest energy to the deepest sleep. But at Christmas their daily lesson gives place, as the old medieval writers say, to a "solemnis lectio," a solemn ritual lesson, with all the romantic accompaniments of cattled and place the selection of the late Dr. James Keefe, another the deepest energy to the

Once I heard deep words of wisdom from a school inspector, in a speech he made when retiring in old age from his life's work. As a father might speak to his sons, he warned us younger men not to look on childhood, with its morning color and sweetness, as a mere rehearsal for years that may never come, or may come with less sweetness and color.

In childhood as a span of years there is something beautiful that

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truth, truth, goodness, beauty that Plato held to be the heart of all our think-ing, the heart of childhood should be eternal. Once a child always a child. A man who had seen many golden visions, and had spoken them in many golden words, has left on record that when he was a child he spoke as a child, he understood as a child, he thought as a child. Then when he became a man he put away the things of a child. But he never put away the heart of a child. Bauli, cor pueri. The heart of Paul was the heart of a child.

But a greater than Paul was once child and therefore a child forever. Christmas is the feast not of a child, but of The Child. The very essence of Christianity is that For though he trample hordes of Jesus Christ is the eternal Child. We have gone far into wisdom when we have recognized that the Babe of Bethlehem is God's attempt to express some of His Divine attributes through childhood. But perhaps we thousand individuals, are to-day dependent upon the fund and it is estimated that \$12,500,000 will be

For this reason philosophers who are still floundering in the mire of the Kantian or Hegelian Absolute should keep Christmastide by going hand in hand with some children to a church where there is a Crib. There, if they have the seeing eye, and the hearing ear-the Lord hath made them both !- they will see and hear more than may be learned of a hundred universities or encyclopedias. Their pale dream of a finite absolute God essentially limited by the thought Paris, December 26.—Monsignor of His mind and the work of His hand, mile Lobbedey, Bishop of Arras, will give place to an infinite God Who had strained His attributes of power,

Our enduring childhood is not as His. From the beginning this eternal Son had reached the crest of perfect childhood. A poet who wrote authentic words on childhood made at least nurseries of Heaven:" for there are no nurseries apart for heaven's children, where all are children and the whole City is a nursery. "Of such is the Kingdom.'

Our childhood, then, once lost must be again recovered; if recovered, it must be made to grow. Childhood has been called the time of vision. But Augustine of Hippo has taught us that the blessed have a morning and an evening vision. Assuredly as one draws deeper into the evening shadows of old age new WHISPERINGS ABOUT ETERNAL visions visit the soul. Of these the most welcome is that which assures the soul of its power of being again child, and even of growing in childhood until death. But a poet on her deathbed sang:

Make me grow young again, Grow young enough to die, That in a joy unseared of pain I may my Lover, loved, attain With that fresh sigh

Gives to the young to breath about the heart Until their trust and youth-time shall depart.

Let me come to Thee young When thou dost challenge With all my marveling dreams

unsung Let me rush to Thee when I pass Keen as a child across the grass

FRENCH WAR PRISONERS' GIFT TO POPE

The French prisoners in Switzer land, the majority of whom are Catholics, and who, like all the other prisoners interned in that hospitable country, owe the amelioration of their condition to the intervention of the Holy Father, are offering a beau tiful tribute of gratitude to their august benefactor. It is the work of the hands of brave men incapacitated for stronger tasks, and will be presented to the Pope next week. It consists of a tryptieh in gilded wood, the style being that of Louis ADVANCING BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS.

PROTESTANT CHURCH IMITATING
CATHOLICISM

The faith is advancing by leaps and bounds in Switzerland, even in the Vaudois. In the organ of the National Protestant church, The Semeur, a Monsignor Fournedord has been writing a series of articles.

getting telephone calls; then visits to his office. Finally, he gave the caller an audience. He found him a little immigrant from Cork, fifty-four years old, named M. Thomas and bounds in Switzerland, even in the Vaudois. In the organ of the National Protestant church, The sements of the Semeur, a Monsignor Fournedord has been writing a series of articles.

XIV. In the central panel is painted should endure, and something almost should endure, and something almost should endure, and something almost one beautiful that must pass. Keats sang his "Ode to a Nightingale" when racked with pain on a bed of death. We warrant that it to go out with him to view the model.

Murphy gleefully led him through as a span of years of the caller an audience. He found him a benutiful that must pass. Keats sang his "Ode to a Nightingale" when racked with pain on a bed of death. We warrant that it to go out with him to view the model.

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Murphy gleefully led him through as a span of years of the should endure, and something almost should endure, and something almost should endure, and something almost when the caller an audience. He found him a bed of death. We warrant that it was a song he had once heard in childhood, and never again. Only its echoes murmured in his song. Its was a song he had once heard in childhood, and never again. Only its ech XIV. In the central panel is painted shutter represents the Sacred Heart Protestant system, which takes from the Church its universal importance with its character of Catholicism, so which takes from the Church its universal importance with its character of Catholicism, so which takes from the center of the noor.

Dr. Keefe took one look and gasped. Before him stood an unfinished but marvelously true bust of ished but marvelously true bust of the can never on this side of the grave.

But the better part of childhood is not a frail beauty that swiftly falls window of the Abbey at St. Maurice.

SEALED PACKETS ONLY. from its brow. Like the ideas of On the left shutter above, the stone represents Our Lady of Victories with the words, attributed to St. Bernard, "Regnum Gallia Regnum Mariae," while the last bloodstone represents St. Bernard, Abbot of

THE LION OF FLANDERS

Clairvaux preaching the second cru-

sade.—True Voice.

After reading Cardinal Mercier's first and second Pastorals.—A. J. O'R. Great Mercier of Belgium, In solemn words and true, message sends the sons of men That tyrants long shall rue; And one, upon a gilded throne,

Is ill at ease to-day;

The Truth he cannot slay! Brave Mercier of Belgium Where'er the mailed hand Doth hold in stern subjection's bonds

The genius of the land, There may thy glowing words be A scroll of deathless light, There urge the patriot mother arm

Her son in Freedom's fight!

Live! Mercier of Belgium, God's priest and prelate bold, Who reprimanding speaks to kings As prophets spake of old; Oh, may thy bleeding Belgium Soon pass her dolorous way; And may her seed possess the land The tyrant wastes to-day !

SOME "INSIDE" FACTS

ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (By Rev. Thomas F. Coakley, D. D., in Our Sunday Visitor)

Open your Bible. No other docunent or book or argument is necessary to prove which is the only, true, genuine Church of Jesus Christ. Christ commanded us to fast. He ave us rules for fasting. "When gave us rules for fasting. thou fastest anoint thy head and

wash thy face, that thou appear not to men to fast." (Matt. 6: 17.) The Apostles themselves fasted before engaging in their sacred functions. "They ministered to the Lord and fasted," (Acts 13:2) "And when they ordained priests in every

city they fasted." (Acts 14: 22.) The Catholic Church, obeying these commands of Christ and the Apostles, prescribed fasting at stated times. particularly during Lent. A Catholic priest is always fasting when he officiates at the altar. He breaks his fast only after he says Mass. Catholic people must be fasting when they receive Holy Communion. When Bishops ordain priests they are always fasting, as also the candidates

to be ordained. No non - Catholic denomination nds its adherents to fast. Indeed many members of such denom inations cast ridicule on fasting. Neither do their candidates for the ministry, nor the ordaining ministers, fast on such occasions

The Catholic Church has never deviated a hair's breadth from the sacred words of Christ and His Apostles regarding the holy sacrament of matrimony. Christ and His Apostles taught the utter impossibility of divorce.

Speaking of marriage, our Saviour said: "Whoever shall put away his

adultery against her. And if the wife shall put away her husband and

MELBOURNE

them that are married the Lord com-mandeth that the wife depart not from her husband and if she depart that she remain unmarried. And let not the husband put away his wife.' 1 Cor. 7: 10, 11.)

lute fidelity, these solemn words of Christ and His great Apostle, the Catholic Church forbids the husband

No non-Catholic denominations obey these awful words of Christ they have relaxed this rigorous law of the Gospel of Christ, they freely allow divorce for various and even trifling causes.

The inspired Apostle, St. James, tells us in his epistle: "Is any man sick among you, let him call in the priests of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. (James

a Catholic priest is to obey this inspired command of the Holy Ghost, speaking through the great Apostle, St. James. Catholics when they fall the priest, that he may anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. This explains why Catholic priests

are always found attending the sick and dying, and they must risk their lives to carry out the command of God Himself, in the text of St. James quoted above.

the injunction contained in the

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married to another she commit-

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teth adultery." (Mark 10: 11, 12.) St. Paul is no less emphatic, "7 ' To Following literally, and with abso-

and wife to separate from one another; or, if they do separateneither of them can marry again during the life of the other. "What God hath joined together let no man put asunder." (Matt. 19:6.)

One of the most ordinary duties of

seriously sick are careful to send for

But no such ceremony as that of anointing the sick is practised by any non-Catholic denomination, in spite

The wise are silent when fools ventilate their notions.

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