

The Catholic Record

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LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1916

AN ATTACK REPULSED

For some time Catholic charitable institutions of New York have been subjected to covert, insidious and persistent attack which recently culminated in Mayor Mitchell's hysterical charges of conspiracy on the part of certain priests and others. Supreme Court Justice Greenbaum dismissed the charges. Father William B. Farrell, rector of the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, of Brooklyn, one of the accused, thus comments on the judgment: "We have been dragged before Grand Juries, a legislative committee, and finally before Justice Greenbaum. The unceasing effort to see justice done has resolved itself in the splendid decision of Justice Greenbaum. There was no conspiracy in the church: no collusion among the men named in the Mayor's charges; no desire to libel any one. All that was wanted was a broad opportunity to air this case fairly. The Strong Commission is now a matter of bitter history. It is dead and its report was worthy of the scrapheap. Justice Greenbaum not only put new light on the controversy, but showed the people of this great city that their personal rights and liberties had not departed."

Dr. James J. Walsh, in an article on the "Care of the Dependent Poor," in the Catholic World, throws the light of history on what is in reality the fundamental question in issue between Catholics and their opponents in the matter of charitable institutions. For the basic reason for the New York attack on our charitable institutions is the desire to give the State a monopoly of all such work.

In this his first article the learned Doctor confines himself to the history of hospitals. So much a matter of course are evolutionary ideas that people take for granted the farther back we go in point of time the worse must be the conditions. "Any presumption that there is continuous evolution in hospital organization and in the care of the poor is like so many other chapters of evolutionary theory, entirely imaginary. On the contrary, the surprise is to find that the lowest period in the history of hospital organization and nursing came just before our time. The eighteenth century had much better hospitals than the nineteenth; and the sixteenth better than the eighteenth; and strange as it may sound to some ears some of the finest hospitals the world knows of were erected in the later Middle Ages."

Jacobsohn, the German historian, calls attention to the fact that "devotion to the well-being of the sick improvements in hospitals and institutions generally and to details of nursing had a period of complete and lasting stagnation after the middle of the seventeenth century." And Miss Nutting and Miss Dock, in "A History of Nursing," say: "It is commonly agreed that the darkest known period in the history of nursing was from the latter part of the seventeenth century to the middle of the nineteenth century. During this time the condition of the nursing art, the well-being of the patient and the status of the nurse all sank to an indescribable level of degradation." It seems incredible that the first appearance of the trained nurse on this continent was in 1872. Dr. Stephen Smith, who is still living and who introduced the trained nurse, says that women sentenced for disorderly conduct were welcomed as nurses, so great was the difficulty of obtaining any sort of suitable help in hospital work.

The authors of the "History of Nursing," before quoted, thus describe the gradual decline of nursing: "In England where the religious orders had been suppressed and no substitute organization given, it might almost be said that no nursing class at all remained during this period. . . . The drunken and untrustworthy Gamp was the only professional nurse."

This, remarks Dr. Walsh, is the crux of the matter. The suppression of the religious orders marks the starting point of the neglect of the sick poor, the decline in hospital organization and efficiency, and the beginning of those lamentable conditions that culminated in the unspeakable decadence of the middle of the nineteenth century.

"With the coming of the Reformation hospitals became government institutions. Religion was now a national affair, and hospital officials were appointed by the Government. They worked for the salary they received, and salaried employees, according to the experience of history, very soon prove inefficient in caring for the ailing and dependent. Abuses multiply, advantage is taken of the dependent poor and of dependent employees. It is not long before all semblance of charitable beneficence disappears, and neglect and disregard for the feelings and sufferings of others become the rule."

The great German physician Virchow pays a high tribute to the Church's relation to the magnificent organization of hospitals in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. There was scarcely a town in Europe of five thousand inhabitants or more that did not have its hospital. "It may be recognized and admitted," said Virchow, "that it was reserved for the Roman Catholic Church, and above all for Innocent III, not only to open the bourse of Christian charity and mercy in all its fulness, but also to guide the life-giving stream into every branch of human life in an ordered manner." When Virchow—who was not a Catholic—was given charge of the reorganization of the growing city of Berlin he hesitated to place the hospitals under secular care. "The general hospital," he wrote, "is the real purpose of our time and anyone who takes up service in it must give himself up to it from the purest humanitarian motives. The hospital attendant must, at least morally and spiritually, see in the patient only the helpless and suffering man, his brother and his neighbor; and in order to be able to do this he must have a warm heart, an earnest devotion, and a true sense of duty."

"From day to day, from week to week, from year to year, always the same work, over and over again, only always for new patients. This tires out the hospital attendant. Then the custom of seeing suffering weakens the enthusiasm and lessens the sense of duty. There is need of a special stimulus in order to reawaken the old sympathy. Whence shall this be obtained—from religion or from some temporal reward? In trying to solve this problem, we are standing before the most difficult problem of modern hospital management. We may say at once that the proper solution has not yet been found."

the news from home during and since the tragic events of last Easter week. Few and callous must be even the anti-Irish Englishmen who can fail to appreciate the bitterness of the cup that this gallant young professor must have drained to the dregs.

In the Catholic Who's Who is the following sketch of Thomas Michael Kettle: b. 1880, s. of Andrew J. Kettle, tenant farmer and pioneer of the Land Movement, and Margaret, daughter of Lawrence McCourt, of St. Margaret's, Co. Dublin; educated at Christian Brothers' School, Dublin, at Clongowes, and at University College, Stephen's Green; B. A. (honors in Mental and Moral Science) of the Royal University, Ireland; called to the Irish Bar, 1906 (Victoria Prizeman); edited The Nationist 1906-8; M. P. (Nat.) for East Tyrone, 1906-10; Prof. of the National Economics of Ireland at Univ. Coll., Dublin, since 1909; on governing body Univ. Coll. (period 1913-16); member of Provisional Committee which organized the Irish National Volunteers, 1914; Lieut. 7 Batt., Leinster Regt. 1914; m. (1909) Mary E., dau. of David Sheehy, M. P., Contributor to various journals and reviews. Translator of Contemporary Ireland, from the French of Paul Dubois; editor of Father Kneller's Christianity and the Leaders of Modern Science. Author of The Day's Burden (essays 1910)—Home Rule Finance (1911)—The Open Secret of Ireland (preface by John Redmond, 1912).

ONE REASON A secular newspaper, wondering at the many brands of religion and seeking to account for them, comes to the conclusion that the old creed fails to satisfy the needs of the man of this century. As a matter of fact the old creed is as amply sufficient for the millions who are at this moment on the planet as it was for the millions of former generations. The modern man, confronted with the many proofs of his mastery of earth and sky, is apt to resort to vague generalities which contribute to self-conceit. Essentially, however, he is like unto his fellows who lived in tents and did not take patent medicines. His fundamental needs are the same. He wishes to love, to be consoled and strengthened, to know whence he came and whither he is going. He seeks a key to life's riddle. He strives to learn what there is on the other side of the grave for himself, for the poverty-stricken, and the toiler, and miserable, and to have a satisfactory answer to the questions which arise concerning this life and the life to come. In a word he needs God. Hence, he takes up this and that sect in search of Him. He tries to slake his thirst in broken cisterns. Just as the man of other days peered into nature, into his own heart to find the God Who seemed to be eternally alienated from him, so modern men, and for the same purpose, pursue phantoms and clasp to their hearts theories labelled "up-to-date" which are bred and fashioned in studies and laboratories. Boasting of their independence they are led by the nose by self-constituted teachers, whose chief qualification is self-assurance. If honest, the modern man should examine the Church which has satisfied generations and claims to be the sole dispenser of enduring peace and the ministering angel to the needs of humanity.

A METHODIST TRIBUTE TO OUR SISTERS The Rev. Dr. R. L. Warner, Principal of Alma College, St. Thomas, in a recent sermon, is thus reported in the London Free Press: "Dr. Warner told of the work being done in his institution and paid a high tribute to the similar work being done in Catholic institutions all over the Dominion. "The preacher claimed for the college the pioneer place in the teaching of the subjects of domestic science, music and business training for young women. "In speaking of the wonderful work being done by the Catholic Church, which, he said, had been the first to recognize the needs for such institutions, he expressed the hope that the deaconesses of the Methodist church would in the future found some teaching order similar to that of the Catholic Sisters."

The reverend gentleman says no more than the simple truth when he recognizes the wonderful work done by our sisterhoods; but in an age when prejudice denies or distorts even outstanding facts the simple truth is rare enough to be welcomed. The hope he cherishes of emulation of the work of our sisterhoods by the Methodist deaconesses is natural and we could wish that it might be realized. The Anglican sisterhoods show that it is not impossible for Protestants to imitate Catholic example in this respect. Nevertheless the very limited success attained even by these indicates pretty clearly that there is something essential to the vitality of religious life that is lacking in Protestantism.

However, we do not desire just now to discuss the limitations of Protestantism, but rather to direct attention to the beauty and utility of Catholic religious life. There is no field of Christian work left uncovered by the noble army of gentle women who forsake all that this world holds dear to devote their lives to the service of the poor, the aged, the sick, and the suffering; or to the not less arduous and exacting duties of training the little ones for whom Christ left the undying example of His special love.

Talk of social service and altruism sounds empty to the Catholic who knows the sweet selflessness of those whose single-hearted love of Jesus leads them to give themselves entirely and unreservedly to the service of others; who believe unquestioningly that in serving the least of these His brethren they are ministering to our loving Lord Himself. Here more than anywhere else on earth is seen the truth of Christ's promise that he who loses his life shall find it. For in religion these gentle and energetic souls find life and the fulness thereof. Their lives are filled with absorbing interests, and they draw the strength and the courage of perseverance to the end from Him Who is the way, the truth and the life. No convent however modest but has its chapel; and there the presence of the Sacramental Lord encourages, consoles, strengthens; speaks to their souls as really as to Mary reclining at His feet—"One thing is necessary—you have chosen the better part."

PROFESSOR KETTLE KILLED IN ACTION Last week we spoke of the tragedy peculiar to Ireland in this war. In the death since then of Lieutenant Thomas Michael Kettle that tragedy finds a bitter personal exemplification. The late Lieut. Kettle was a gifted young Irishman whose brilliant performance gave promise of a yet more distinguished career of unlimited usefulness. Barely thirty-six years old, he was a deep student, a prolific writer, and Professor in the National University of Ireland. Wholesouled and thorough-going, he distinguished himself by his able and courageous advocacy of recruiting in Ireland. And he did not say so, but come, having secured a commission in the seventh battalion of the Leinsters. He was married in 1909 to the daughter of David Sheehy, M. P., and was therefore a brother-in-law of Sheehy-Skeffington who was murdered in cold blood by Captain Bowen-Colthurst during the ill-fated Dublin rebellion. How the heart of the ardent young Irish patriot must have been torn by

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To the young girls who may feel the grace of the Holy Spirit of God impelling them toward the religious life may come also the counter-attraction of the allurements of this world's pleasures. It is well that they should be reminded that the highest and noblest type of Christian life is also, even in this world, the happiest and most soul satisfying.

NOTES AND COMMENTS HAVING in previous issues dealt with the clothing, housing and equipment of the new British Army, now after three years of strenuous endeavor an accomplished fact, we conclude our remarks under this head for the present.

ONE OF THE most important departments in the outfitting and maintaining of an army in the field is that which has to do with the health of the soldier, with sanitation and with the treatment of the wounded. Sanitation and surgery have made great advances in recent years, and the means for combating disease and death have in this War undergone extraordinary developments. This larger subject cannot be gone into here, neither for that matter, and for obvious reasons, can the simpler and more restricted question of drug supplies. That undoubtedly will all be revealed to the world in good time, but while the contest rages, it is not in accordance with sound strategy that the secrets of the War Office should become public property. The "man in the street" recognizes that fact and is content to wait.

IT MAY BE SAID, however, that while precise figures are not available, Great Britain is now making better progress in the production of drugs than is generally realized, and this especially in regard to synthetic compounds for which formerly she was almost altogether dependent upon Germany. This, it is stated, is notably the case in regard to salicylates, as salicylic acid, salicylate of sodium, salol, methyl salicylate, and aspirin, which are all now being manufactured in England upon an extensive scale. The leading universities and schools of science have also taken up the production of such local anesthetics as novocaine and cocaine, and there is now no difficulty in obtaining them in sufficient quantities for the nation's purpose. Even salvarsan, hitherto exclusively imported, is now produced in England. In this we see but one phase of the passing of commercial supremacy along certain lines from Germany.

BETTER ORGANIZATION, also, we are told, has come into the supply of crude vegetable substances used in medicine. Canada, Australia, and other overseas dominions have rendered great support to all the Allies in this respect, and the increased culture and growth of herbs and medicinal plants both in Great Britain and abroad is one of the tangible results of the War. In Britain especially, the movement has started under one or two associations for encouraging the growth of medicinal plants, and with the system of collection and drying which is being propagated, there is certain to be great and continued advance along this line in the future. Dependence upon Germany in this as in many other lucrative fields of industry may now safely be reckoned as among the things of the past.

THAT THE HORSE is still very far from being superseded by the motor

has in this great crisis been clearly demonstrated. The number of horses put into commission for the War has not been stated, but we may form some idea from the figures at hand regarding saddlery and harness. It is frankly admitted that great difficulty was experienced in Britain in the early months of the War in obtaining from home resources any thing like an adequate supply of these commodities, and that dependence had, accordingly, largely to be placed upon the United States. These difficulties have now been largely overcome, and in this as in many other respects, the nation is independent of outside help.

FOR EXAMPLE: whereas in 1907 the entire output of saddlery and harness in Great Britain was of a value of about £1,800,000, for the period of the War up to March last it approximated £10,000,000, an exceedingly striking and significant figure when it is remembered that the raw material is almost entirely imported. From the great plains of America, Australia and South Africa come the hides that must be converted into the finished article. This industry, therefore, in the twenty months under review has amounted to something like five times the entire output of the trade during the last period for which reliable information is forthcoming. But a better standard of comparison becomes possible when it is realized that in the last financial year of peace (1913-14) the amount under the harness and saddlery vote was only £61,000, whereas for twelve months of War the figures already cited would give an expenditure of £6,000,000, or an increase in the ratio of little less than 100 to 1. Up to December 1st, it is stated, contracts in saddlery to the value of £1,000,000, had been placed in England by the Allies.

AS EVIDENCE that while the motor has played a great part in this War and is likely to play a still greater, man's old and faithful friend the horse has still to be reckoned with; some figures regarding horse shoes and nails may be quoted. In 1914 the production of these articles had sunk to a very low ebb in Great Britain, and for immediate needs very large orders had to be placed in the United States. But, we are assured, the lost ground has been very largely recovered and that whereas in March last the home production had been increased tenfold fifteenfold is now in sight. When it is stated that something like 1,000,000 horseshoes and frost nails were produced up to March it becomes evident that the horse is still an important factor in War, and that British resourcefulness has suffered no diminution in time.

WE HAVE CITED these facts and figures as helping us to realize the magnitude of the task upon which all the participating nations had entered in this War. What is true of Great Britain is true also, in varying degrees, of France, of Russia of Italy and the smaller nations. Of them all, however, Britain, with what the Kaiser is said to have dubbed her "miserable little army" of 100,000 men, was the least prepared. Upon this fact Germany reckoned and for her own sake it is a pity she did not also reckon upon Britain's vast resources. How the needs have been met as they have arisen would be of surpassing interest could they be told in detail. Enough has, however, been said to prove that Britain has not passed the zenith of her power, but is still, with her far-flung Dominions, in the very flush of her splendid manhood. And, to quote once more from the London Times, "this miracle of her expansion has been achieved in the quietest and most efficient manner possible, and is not the least wonderful aspect of the new spirit that the war has brought into the nation and the Empire."

A THOUGHTFUL writer in the Presbyterian thus moralizes: "If any one will accept only what he can understand, he might as well stop at once. For there is not one doctrine of our Christian faith which we can understand fully. We cannot understand God, we cannot understand creation, nor the fall and its fatal effects, nor the Trinity, nor the dual nature of Christ, nor the virgin birth, nor the atonement, nor the resurrection of Christ, nor the general resurrection, nor the dual existence in the life to come, heaven and hell."

Had this maxim been kept in view in the sixteenth century there would have been no "Reformation," no

world-wide apostasy, no Presbyterian church. The true reformation was in the Council of Trent, which built upon the old foundation and not upon the shifting sands of human inconstancy.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

ON THE WESTERN FRONT

The Somme offensive of the Allies, it was announced in the French official report last night, has already cost the Germans, besides their killed and wounded, 55,800 men taken prisoners by the Allies, of whom 34,050 were captured by the French army. These figures relate to the period between July 1 and September 18, and indicate why, before the great counter-attack of Wednesday, the German leaders found it necessary to recall a division en route to the Russian front and bring up an entire army corps from the Aisne. These measures were required to obtain a striking force without too seriously weakening other parts of the Somme front. The troops gathered together were very badly cut up, and the German losses are placed at many thousands.

The attack, which had for its object the relieving of the pressure on Combes, utterly failed, for the midnight Paris report says that yesterday "at the outskirts of Combes one of our companies captured in a brilliant surprise an isolated building strongly defended by the enemy, taking 100 prisoners, including three officers." Farther to the east some small trenches were captured, together with forty prisoners. The British troops north of the Somme continue their advance steadily toward Bapaume.

On this part of the front the Canadians, New Zealanders and Australians took part in the last big advance. It is probable that they have now been withdrawn for reorganization. Lists coming in to Ottawa indicate Canadian losses of about 4,000 men, of whom 900 were killed. The number of bayonets in a complete division would be somewhat less than 18,000, and apparently two divisions were engaged in the battle. It would appear that almost one in six of the Canadians who took Courcette and the Mouquet Farm was hit, and a most one in 30 killed. These are heavy losses, and give some indication of the fearful drain on both the Allies and Germany resulting from the Somme offensive.

IN ROUMANIA

The situation in the Danubian sphere of operations is still obscure. The Roumanian claim of victory, resulting in the retreat of von Mackensen's army, was followed by a bulletin from Berlin in which it was stated that the famous German leader had inflicted a serious defeat on the Russ-Roumanian front, and apparently two divisions were engaged in the battle. It is possible that the retirement of the Germans, Bulgars and Turks, reported from Bucharest, may have been with the object of securing a position favorable to the encircling movement which is one of Mackensen's favorite evolutions. The battle referred to took place fourteen miles southwest of Constantza, so that even if the Roumanians suffered a repulse there they could fall back again on their strongly-fortified line immediately to the south of the railway from Comstana to the Danube. The reports make it quite clear that Mackensen dare not attempt to cross the Danube into Central Roumania, leaving a strong and vigilant enemy within striking distance on his right flank. The Roumanian strategists are apparently convinced that Mackensen can be held in check in the swampy country south of the Danube, while their own armies continue to overrun Transylvania.

GERMAN OFFENSIVE IN THE EAST

From various points reports begin to filter in of a coming German offensive on the eastern front, to be directed against Riga in the north and Lutsk in the south. The Germans believe that Russia is still very poorly armed, and that she makes up for this by equipping reserves kept in waiting behind the battle front with the rifles of men who have been wounded in action. In Britain it was openly stated some time ago that the task of fully equipping the millions of Russians in training was a colossal one, and could not be fully accomplished till the spring of 1917. In their artillery the Russians have been greatly strengthened, and with the Somme campaign of the Allies going as it is Germany can have no guns to spare for an offensive on a great scale along the Dvina and the Stokhod. Brusiloff keeps pecking away on the Halez and Brody fronts in Galicia, but is not now making the progress obtained before the Germans undertook control of the Austrian troops there and sent in a large body of reinforcements. Berlin admitted yesterday the capture of further heights in the Carpathians by General Letchitzky's army. The Russians must now be well over the crest of the range.—Globe, Sept. 23.

PICTURE SHOWS

Sir Robert Wallace, a London, England, judge, says a contemporary, in passing sentence on two youths recently convicted of felony, said: "Your downfall is to be attributed almost entirely to the pernicious influence of picture shows which are the curse of London life to day. In many of these places persons are represented in the act of committing crime, suggesting to the youthful mind how crime may be committed."

Bishop Nilan of Hartford diocese, sounds a note of warning against the dangers of the moving picture shows and cautions parents that the movie fever has become a menace and that the offspring of Catholic fathers are imperilled by the unrestrained liberty granted the young to frequent theatres where outrageous spectacles are portrayed. The Bishop tells his subjects that they are responsible for the character of the subjects thrown on the screen. It is not the official censor who must bring relief, it is the conscience trained according to Cath-

olic sensitiveness that detects at once what may violate the delicate sense of Christian virtue. Our esteemed contemporary, The Casket, has taken the censor of Halifax, N. S., to task with great earnestness. The moving-picture censor is, it seems to us, like some of the book critics—an individual who has no standards of worthiness or dignity. For instance, we happened to see a short time ago a moving-picture drama passed by the censors. It was a very tawdry, sordid story of night-life, seduction, murder and marriage. There were many children at the theatre, some with their dotting parents, others alone, and we suppose wondering just what it meant. They will know later on and perhaps come to the conclusion that these pictures of "poignant heart-interest" to their elders are condemned only by narrow-minded critics.

If Catholics declined to patronize theatres where temptation lurked, the managers would see to it that offensive features would be removed from the bill of attractions. It is useless for them to shelter themselves behind the censor. He is a guide officially sane and safe, but as his taste in pictures is so comprehensive he may lead his followers into corruption. Catholics, however, should not allow any scenic production to befool themselves or their children.

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BETTER ORGANIZATION, also, we are told, has come into the supply of crude vegetable substances used in medicine. Canada, Australia, and other overseas dominions have rendered great support to all the Allies in this respect, and the increased culture and growth of herbs and medicinal plants both in Great Britain and abroad is one of the tangible results of the War. In Britain especially, the movement has started under one or two associations for encouraging the growth of medicinal plants, and with the system of collection and drying which is being propagated, there is certain to be great and continued advance along this line in the future. Dependence upon Germany in this as in many other lucrative fields of industry may now safely be reckoned as among the things of the past.

THAT THE HORSE is still very far from being superseded by the motor

has in this great crisis been clearly demonstrated. The number of horses put into commission for the War has not been stated, but we may form some idea from the figures at hand regarding saddlery and harness. It is frankly admitted that great difficulty was experienced in Britain in the early months of the War in obtaining from home resources any thing like an adequate supply of these commodities, and that dependence had, accordingly, largely to be placed upon the United States. These difficulties have now been largely overcome, and in this as in many other respects, the nation is independent of outside help.

FOR EXAMPLE: whereas in 1907 the entire output of saddlery and harness in Great Britain was of a value of about £1,800,000, for the period of the War up to March last it approximated £10,000,000, an exceedingly striking and significant figure when it is remembered that the raw material is almost entirely imported. From the great plains of America, Australia and South Africa come the hides that must be converted into the finished article. This industry, therefore, in the twenty months under review has amounted to something like five times the entire output of the trade during the last period for which reliable information is forthcoming. But a better standard of comparison becomes possible when it is realized that in the last financial year of peace (1913-14) the amount under the harness and saddlery vote was only £61,000, whereas for twelve months of War the figures already cited would give an expenditure of £6,000,000, or an increase in the ratio of little less than 100 to 1. Up to December 1st, it is stated, contracts in saddlery to the value of £1,000,000, had been placed in England by the Allies.

AS EVIDENCE that while the motor has played a great part in this War and is likely to play a still greater, man's old and faithful friend the horse has still to be reckoned with; some figures regarding horse shoes and nails may be quoted. In 1914 the production of these articles had sunk to a very low ebb in Great Britain, and for immediate needs very large orders had to be placed in the United States. But, we are assured, the lost ground has been very largely recovered and that whereas in March last the home production had been increased tenfold fifteenfold is now in sight. When it is stated that something like 1,000,000 horseshoes and frost nails were produced up to March it becomes evident that the horse is still an important factor in War, and that British resourcefulness has suffered no diminution in time.

WE HAVE CITED these facts and figures as helping us to realize the magnitude of the task upon which all the participating nations had entered in this War. What is true of Great Britain is true also, in varying degrees, of France, of Russia of Italy and the smaller nations. Of them all, however, Britain, with what the Kaiser is said to have dubbed her "miserable little army" of 100,000 men, was the least prepared. Upon this fact Germany reckoned and for her own sake it is a pity she did not also reckon upon Britain's vast resources. How the needs have been met as they have arisen would be of surpassing interest could they be told in detail. Enough has, however, been said to prove that Britain has not passed the zenith of her power, but is still, with her far-flung Dominions, in the very flush of her splendid manhood. And, to quote once more from the London Times, "this miracle of her expansion has been achieved in the quietest and most efficient manner possible, and is not the least wonderful aspect of the new spirit that the war has brought into the nation and the Empire."

A THOUGHTFUL writer in the Presbyterian thus moralizes: "If any one will accept only what he can understand, he might as well stop at once. For there is not one doctrine of our Christian faith which we can understand fully. We cannot understand God, we cannot understand creation, nor the fall and its fatal effects, nor the Trinity, nor the dual nature of Christ, nor the virgin birth, nor the atonement, nor the resurrection of Christ, nor the general resurrection, nor the dual existence in the life to come, heaven and hell."

Had this maxim been kept in view in the sixteenth century there would have been no "Reformation," no

world-wide apostasy, no Presbyterian church. The true reformation was in the Council of Trent, which built upon the old foundation and not upon the shifting sands of human inconstancy.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

ON THE WESTERN FRONT

The Somme offensive of the Allies, it was announced in the French official report last night, has already cost the Germans, besides their killed and wounded, 55,800 men taken prisoners by the Allies, of whom 34,050 were captured by the French army. These figures relate to the period between July 1 and September 18, and indicate why, before the great counter-attack of Wednesday, the German leaders found it necessary to recall a division en route to the Russian front and bring up an entire army corps from the Aisne. These measures were required to obtain a striking force without too seriously weakening other parts of the Somme front. The troops gathered together were very badly cut up, and the German losses are placed at many thousands.

The attack, which had for its object the relieving of the pressure on Combes, utterly failed, for the midnight Paris report says that yesterday "at the outskirts of Combes one of our companies captured in a brilliant surprise an isolated building strongly defended by the enemy, taking 100 prisoners, including three officers." Farther to the east some small trenches were captured, together with forty prisoners. The British troops north of the Somme continue their advance steadily toward Bapaume.

On this part of the front the Canadians, New Zealanders and Australians took part in the last big advance. It is probable that they have now been withdrawn for reorganization. Lists coming in to Ottawa indicate Canadian losses of about 4,000 men, of whom 900 were killed. The number of bayonets in a complete division would be somewhat less than 18,000, and apparently two divisions were engaged in the battle. It would appear that almost one in six of the Canadians who took Courcette and the Mouquet Farm was hit, and a most one in 30 killed. These are heavy losses, and give some indication of the fearful drain on both the Allies and Germany resulting from the Somme offensive.

IN ROUMANIA

The situation in the Danubian sphere of operations is still obscure. The Roumanian claim of victory, resulting in the retreat of von Mackensen's army, was followed by a bulletin from Berlin in which it was stated that the famous German leader had inflicted a serious defeat on the Russ-Roumanian front, and apparently two divisions were engaged in the battle. It is possible that the retirement of the Germans, Bulgars and Turks, reported from Bucharest, may have