
Young Soldier Hearts of France

chivalrous France of early Christian centuries—the cradle of primitive faith and culture, of Philip the Crusader, St. Louis and Anselm, Bernard of Clairvaux, and Fénelon,—had suffered an eclipse of faith, which seemed to have developed into a pronounced scepticism. The spirit which had raised and decorated her ancient cathedrals seemed to have passed away; and by many people in Britain, at any rate, the nation was deemed shallow and frivolous; and even its art seemed to have degenerated into a growing love of sensation and novelty.

But things are not always what they seem; and in France, as in other lands, there has always been a “saving remnant.” A warmer and more vital faith had grown up under the shadow of its old, historic Church, which largely counteracted its tendency towards scepticism. A generation of young men was growing up, learning—at its schools, lyceums and universities—larger thoughts and ideals than had in many cases been those of their fathers. And when, after