

The Martyr of Bourget.

AN INCIDENT OF THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR.

NOTE.—During the war of 1870, the Brothers of the Christian schools served in the Ambulance Corps of the French Army as litter-bearers, and converted many of their houses into hospitals for the care of the wounded soldiers. As soon as peace was restored, in recognition of the self-sacrifice and bravery of the Brothers, the Government of France conferred the Cross of the Legion of Honor upon their Superior-General, Rev. Brother Philippe. On the 24th of the present month, the holy founder of the Christian Brothers, Blessed J. B. de la Salle, will be canonized at Rome.—T. W.

From morning's dawn had fiercely raged, the battle of Bourget. On front and flank, the smoke and din declared where foes were met, The flow'r of all the army in the brave defence of France, Were falling 'neath the bullets of the Prussians' proud advance, And there amid the battle's roar, La Salle's true sons had dared, The dangers and the trials of the soldier's lot they shared, Like Mercy's black-robed angels, that around their lustre shed, By day they raised the wounded, and by night entombed the dead.

Yet of all this band of heroes, there are none to us appeal, Like Frere Nethelm who died that day, a martyr to his zeal, When the battle thundered loudest, and the strife was thick and fast, 'Twas then you'd find his litter, returning to the last, He now assists the fallen, and conveys them to the rear, Or bent above the dying, whispers loving words of cheer, And giving p'haps a promise, as their fading man'ries roam, Of a precious, blood-stained token to their dear ones at home.

Thus in the rear, on left and right, he hovers to and fro, Performing deeds of mercy in the sight of all the foe, Until at length, a flag of truce is waved along the line; And the trumpets sound "Cease Firing," before the Geneva's sign, The conflict's hushed a moment, and the smoke is cleared away, Revealing o'er the battle-ground, the victims of the fray, Entangling wide their flag of peace,—their banner and their shield,— The bearers led by Frere Nethelm, prepare to clear the field.

But as they near the Prussian ranks, a scene that's marked with blood, A cowardly volley echoes forth, from out a sheltered wood, A sudden gleam, a stifled sigh, a groan at once suppressed, And Frere Nethelm falls backward with a bullet in his breast, His comrades raise him gently, and with saddened hearts retire, Their precious burden bearing far beyond the range of fire, The strife is once again renewed, the day is won and lost; And vain is Frankish valor now, before the Prussian host.

But as the carnage still went on, in centre, flank, or front, And while his brave companions yet endured the battle's brunt, Poor Frere Nethelm was dying there beneath the starry sky; His life-blood ebbing fast away, while death bedimmed his eye, And when the trumpets called "Retire," all Heaven with accord, Beheld a martyr's soul obtain its laurels and reward, He died obeying Duty's call, pursuing Mercy's plan, And a greater deed no man can do, than give his life for man.

Montreal, P.Q., May, 1900.

—THOMAS WHELAN.

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.

BY REV JOSEPH GORDIAN DALEY.

It is perhaps characteristic of republics to be ungrateful. Such is the thought which occurs to us when we read in these latter days of the attitude of France toward the Christian Brothers. Certainly the sons of the saintly de la Salle have served their country with credit. Laying aside the measure of their work in education, the spirit of sacrifice, of patriotism, of brotherly charity, shown by them during that period of disaster which culminated in Sedan, entitles them to be held in the deepest respect. On the breaking out of hostilities, Brother Philippe, the Superior of the Order, dispatched word at once to the government and stated that every house and school, in the charge of the Christian Brothers, from St. Omer and Thionville in the north, to Marseilles and Toulouse in the south, and including the mother-house in the Rue Oudinot, Paris, were at the service of the army for ambulance and hospital needs. The Brothers themselves, although just then winding up the fatiguing labors of the school year, volunteered without delay for the hardships of the ambulance corps. Their splendid efficiency in this department was phenomenal. Brother Philippe was known universally as a man of high mind; every government since that of the July Monarchy had offered him the decoration of the Legion of Honor, but only to meet with persistent refusal. After the ambulance work of the Brothers on the fields of Gravelotte and Champigny, the government sent the red ribbon once more with the following statement which left him no scope for resistance:—"In decorating Brother Philippe as a member of the Legion of Honor, France wishes to do honor to the Christian Brothers by this expression of the nation's appreciation."

The "Opinion Nationale," a passionate and implacable adversary of religious congregations, thus speaks with reference to their intrepid heroism:—"We have indeed often in this journal combated to our best powers against religious corporations, especially when we saw the government showering favors upon them. It is a duty for us to render to-day our homage to the zeal shown by the religious toward our sick, and particularly to commend the courageous devotion with which the Freres des Ecoles Chretiennes are seen to venture out and pick up the wounded right under the very shells and bullets, rivaling thus by their stoicism, the admirable personnel of the army physicians."

Another Parisian journal (Le Soir) which had usually in those days or since those days very little to say in favor of the Church, thus comments:—"One of the main subjects of conversation among the soldiers is the behavior of the Christian Brothers. These dark-robed men, who came and unconcerned amid the falling bullets move along carrying the wounded, fill the soldiers with admiration. It must be admitted that these Brothers have given the example of genuine courage. Ten times over our generals have been obliged to tell them to wait until the fusillade is over before going out to pick up those who have fallen."

It has been our pleasure, too, to peruse the reports of many of the doctors connected with the medical bureau. Therein indeed we find rich encomiums, which were hardly to be looked for when one considered the usual antipathy shown to religious

brotherhoods by the free-thinking members of the medical profession of France. Dr. Bellier, professor of the Faculty of Medicine, was at that time chief of the ambulance corps of St. Maurice. His testimony therefore is worth quoting on this subject. In a letter to a friend he thus speaks:—"I shall all my life retain the memory of the evening of the first day of Champigny. They had just thrown open an establishment in the Rue Oudinot for hospital purposes; and I was obliged to attend 88 wounded men whom the Brothers had picked up on the skirmish ground. The gas supply had been cut off that day so that the long halls or dormitories where the wounded were set were almost without light. Those young men of the Brothers, clad in their long black robes, kept themselves busily occupied, helping us to their very best; and we, of course, had plenty to do, with our hands actually bathing in the blood so bravely but uselessly shed. And not a complaint or a murmur from the poor wounded fellows, although we could see that they were suffering most terrible anguish. And on the part of the Brothers—no silence, absence of all the bustle and stir so usual to such a place and occasion."

"What touched me most in regard to these young men was the simplicity and the good humor with which they rendered their service in a work so painful and distressing. It was the same simplicity that we observed in them that very morning when they ranged themselves in squads and marched out across the battlefield to pick up the fallen."

"Not once did I remark an indiscreet religious zeal on their part. I would not have tolerated anything of the kind. I need say but one thing on this point: whatever they did in a religious way was entirely proper and accompanied with discretion." And in this satisfied tone the letter proceeds.

Another eminent physician associated with the army of France in those days bears similar testimony to the extraordinary attention manifested by the Brothers of the ambulance service. This is no less than Dr. Horteloup, pere, who was formerly chief physician of the hospitals. In the course of his recollections on the war he thus speaks in part:—"My work with the soldiers kept me at the Mother-house of the Brothers of the Christian Doctrine. For seven months I was in contact with a personnel which often changed; but no matter who the Brothers were that came to look after my sick, I can only bestow praise on all alike. It is impossible to display more care, more devotion, more self-sacrifice;—why, even the young novice brothers who I do not suppose had ever been near a sick couch, contended for the very dangerous honor of remaining day and night in our wards."

"One should have seen those Brothers transformed into stretcher-bearers hurrying over the battlefield while shells were bursting; should have seen them picking up the poor lads who had been hit; and this, mind you, without any ostentation or bravado, just as it was, too, without any semblance of fear. They all seemed to think it a favor to be sent to that part of the work, and

even the death and the wounding of several of their own number did not seem to paralyze either their courage or their activity."

One more witness from the medical fraternity may be quoted in regard to the good work of the Brothers during that struggle. It is Dr. Demarquay, who in a public address to the dignitaries of the Hospital Department, said:—"The devotion evinced by the Christian Brothers during the war ought to linger in the memory of the generations present and future. Yes, gentlemen, I dare repeat it, for I was associated with them, I saw what they did as simple but brave stretcher-bearers, exciting the admiration of the army. Their courage, their discipline, their prompt action on the field of carnage, have been glorious. Thanks to them, more than 5,000 wounded have been attended, and had their wounds dressed in my department alone. Thanks to them, during the war 1,000 poor sick soldiers, whom the army arrangements could with difficulty have provided for, were gathered in, protected from the cold of those wintry days, and treated with the kindest hospitality."

All through the battles which reddened the fields of Champigny, the Brothers remained devotedly with the decimated battalions of France, performing prodigies of charity. They not only attended the wounded, but at Champigny and Buzenval in the bitterly cold days of that hard December and January, the Brothers went out and buried the dead. On several occasions many of their own number were hit by Prussian bullets; and at Le Bourget on the 21st of December, Frere Nethelm, one of the favorite professors of the school of St. Nicholas at Paris, was among the mortally wounded of the Army of the Loire. When his funeral took place in the church of St. Sulpice, the Provisional Government sent its official representatives, the loss of Brother Nethelm being looked upon as an event of national significance. Jules Ferry took care also to have the world notice how little he regarded the Prussian generals were inclined to show for the rules of international law.—Donahoe's Magazine.

Under the caption "A New Idea," the Providence "Visitors" says:—"One year ago last February, certain Catholic ladies of Cincinnati started, with the sanction of Archbishop Elder, an organization called 'The Catholic Visitation Society.' Its aims and work are so admirable that we earnestly invite the attention of the good Catholic ladies of Providence to the following facts which we have gleaned from the first annual report of the association. The society consists of 248 members, all of whom are actively interested. Its object is to provide for the comfort and relief of the sick poor, especially by supplying trained nurses—and only Catholic nurses are employed—who are charged to teach them how to live cleanly, how to cook nourishing food and how to prepare their souls for reception of the Sacraments. It makes and distributes clothing, bed linen and all that sort of thing. The funds of the association are derived from the annual dues of the members, from donations, legacies and entertainments, and are expended in paying the salaries of the nurses. A committee of 'Friendly Visitors' for each parish is appointed to serve for one year. This committee's business is to investigate all cases referred to it by the clergy or local physicians. A great deal of good has been already accomplished by the association. 'Many stray sheep have been brought back to the fold,' and more than one conversion has been wrought through the prayers and kindly offices of nurses and visitors. Surely the idea is one that ought to commend itself to a rosy number of pious Catholic maids and matrons hereabouts who would like to do something for God and God's suffering ones."

SPIRITUAL INTERESTS OF EMIGRANTS.

It was only last week that we made special reference to the splendid work being done here by our Catholic Sailors' Club; some weeks before we had occasion to draw attention to a worthy movement in New York city, for the protection of Irish emigrant girls. All these societies are in accord with the spirit and the requirements of the times. The "Utica Catholic" speaks of measures being taken in Italy for the protection of the spiritual interests of Italian emigrants to the United States. In the course of its remarks upon the numbers of Catholic children that had, in the past, drifted away from the Church on reaching America, it tells a very interesting story of President McKinley's family. It says:—"Two months ago Captain Arthur S. McKinley, a first cousin of the President of the United States, was received into the Catholic Church at the Cathedral, Denver, Colorado, and in the course of a conversation which took place afterwards at St. Mary's Academy in that city, one of the Sisters of Loreto inquired if Captain McKinley's conversion was not a return to the faith of his forefathers. The Captain's answer was in the affirmative. His father and the President's, who were brothers, were the sons of staunch Belfast Catholics, but they went to America when very young, and being out of touch with Catholic associations lapsed from the Church. Later they set up their residence at the homestead in Canton, Ohio, where the President and the old Belfast man was dying he asked his sons to send for a priest. The request was complied with, though the nearest Catholic Church was a hundred miles distant; the sacred minister, however, did not arrive before his death. His wife, who died subsequently, was more fortunate, for she received the last Sacraments on her death-bed. But the sons, living in a non-Catholic atmosphere, were lost to the Church. Cases such as theirs were not uncommon at the time."

In dealing with examples of Irish emigrants that had fallen away from the faith through lack of being carefully looked after in the new world, the article says:—"Many of the Irish poor who were then cast upon the shores of America drifted away from Catholic surroundings and into such a state of indifference that their children easily fell under the influence of Protestant proselytisers, with the result that McCarty's and Murphys and O'Learys are now to be found at Methodist meeting-houses, whilst in Ireland the names are almost invariably borne by Catholics. So far as the Irish Catholics are concerned, this leakage is a thing of the past, and it is well known that a large share of the undoubted progress which the Church is making in the United States is due to the fidelity and energy of the children of St. Patrick."

An English Catholic paper comments upon the Italian movement for the better caring for the spiritual interests of the children of the sunny South who drift across the Atlantic and expresses an opinion concerning the attachment to the Church which, at home, characterizes those people. In view of the fact that we are often led to believe that nearly all Italy—Government included—is infidel and anti-papal, the closing paragraph of this article presents Italy in a light—in regard to religion—which cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed. It reads thus:—"That every step which will tend to the improvement of Italian emigrants morally and socially will also be of benefit to the Church may be taken for granted. It is unnecessary to dwell upon the part which reli-

gion plays in the lives of Italians at home. It enters into nearly every act they perform. The soil upon which they stand and the air which they breathe may be said to be consecrated by Catholic traditions. Their public buildings—churches, art galleries, museums, and the like—speak to them of religion, and they are not called upon to make serious sacrifices for it. If they are only properly prepared for what lies before them they will, we are sure, be ready to show in strange lands that they are animated by that devotion to the Church which inspired their forefathers in making it such a fertile source of blessings for Italy."

CATHOLIC CHARITABLE WORK.

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MILLIONS IN TIPS.

Mr. Vance Thompson, in his letters from Paris, has warned Americans against any ambition of visiting the Exposition at small expense. Prices of living for strangers in Paris have been increased from twenty-five to forty per cent., and that is a condition which all visitors must uncomplainingly face. But before they arrive they must also dismiss the idea that they can get across the Atlantic pleasantly without paying well for it. It has been calculated that the American travellers this year will spend over five million dollars in tips alone. Most of them will do it grudgingly, because of all the petty blackmail of our advanced civilization these gratuities are the meanest and most provoking. At the same time, if one is travelling and wishes to get along comfortably he must deal out the tidbits on every hand. If you should want to know the depth of human misery simply decline to give any fee at all while taking a trip across the Atlantic Ocean. Then you may envy Jonah in his solitude within the whale's interior. On the other side, of course, if you do not pay the tips, you will simply be asked for them just as you would for your street-car fare or railroad ticket. It is pretty hard, but there is no escape from it, and this year the people who get tips are exacting in their demands."

LINCOLN AND THE HAIR RESTORER.

Here is a story of President Lincoln from the late Judge Carter, who was a member of congress from Cleveland during the war, and one of Mr. Lincoln's most intimate friends. It relates to a Quaker philanthropist from Philadelphia who did not have a hair on his head, but took a great interest in public affairs and was constantly calling at the White House in behalf of somebody or other who happened to be in trouble and took up a great deal of Mr. Lincoln's time. The President treated him with the greatest courtesy, although his patience was frequently tried. One day when the philanthropist was particularly verbose and persistent and refused to depart, although he knew that important delegations were waiting. Mr. Lincoln suddenly rose, walked over to a wardrobe in the corner of the cabinet chamber and took a bottle from a shelf. Handing it to his visitor, he remarked:—"Did you ever use this stuff on your head?" "No, sir, I never did." "Well," remarked Mr. Lincoln, "I advise you to try it, and then if at first you don't succeed, keep it up. They say it's a good thing to make the hair grow. Take this bottle with you and come back in six months and tell me how it works." The astonished philanthropist covered his polished pate with his broad-brimmed hat and left the room, while Judge Carter, coming in with the next delegation, found the president over in the corner doubled up with laughter at the success of his strategy, and before he could proceed with business the story had to be told.

METHODS IN MODERN WAR.

In modern war the importance of accurate and reliable reconnaissance has increased an hundredfold, owing to the fact that the forces engaged in the decisive battles have become far greater in number, and the distances to be covered, both in concentrating the troops for battle and in disposing them on the battlefield itself, greatly exceed those of the past. This increase in numbers to be moved and in distances to be covered has naturally increased the difficulties of efficient reconnaissance and timely report, and at the same time has raised the importance of the latter. All this has led to the efforts of all nations to find new aids to reconnaissance and the transmission of reports and orders in the field.

The following is a brief summary of the principal means which have been made use of recently for facilitating this important military work, says a writer in the New York "Sun."

Specialized Trained Scouts and Orderlies.—Gen. Sheridan was the first on the Northern side in the Civil War, to object to having his cavalry frittered away and worn out in outpost duty, and Gen. Grant had the good sense to uphold him. To free the cavalry of the smaller elements of its reconnaissance work, and economize its fighting power as much as possible, most of the great nations are now training a kind of mounted infantry in this work. In Germany each army corps has a squadron of "mounted orderlies" of this kind, and they have proved invaluable; in Russia a number of the best men in each company are mounted and trained in patrol and reconnaissance duty, instructed in riding horses and bicycles, and exercised by affording them opportunities to engage in bear and tiger hunts; in England each brigade of the cavalry division sent to South Africa received a battalion of mounted infantry with a Maxim gun; in Austria mounted scouts assist the cavalry in their reconnoitring. As an incentive to training for this work the various nations have instituted distance rides and walks. The latter have developed some remarkable results. In Switzerland a number of officers taking part in these exercises walked (on an average) at a rate of 5.3 miles an hour for three consecutive hours; but this record was beaten by a First Sergeant from Berne, who walked from Berne to Thun (17 miles) in 2 hours and 20 minutes, or an average of nearly 7 miles an hour. The native messengers in the Transvaal have also accomplished wonders in this direction. In Germany longer distances have been covered by marching patrols in remarkably short times, as from Trier to Metz (64 miles) in 20 hours and 25 minutes, including rests.

Field and Wireless Telegraph.—The improvements in field telegraph apparatus have permitted the use of this valuable accessory in the very front of the outposts, and the introduction of the buzzer has so far increased its efficiency that with even the poorest insulation it works well enough for all practical purposes. Our Signal Corps in the Philippines has surpassed all previous records in this field.

Wireless telegraphy is still in the experimental stage, although it is now being tested practically in the field in the Transvaal. Improvements are being constantly made, and its future cannot yet be predicted. One of the latest applications is to balloons, but the difficulty of carrying the apparatus properly in the basket has led to a modification, consisting in leaving the latter on a table on the ground below, the balloon merely carrying up a copper wire, which hung down several yards below the basket to send the waves received by the apparatus on through space. In this way it was found possible to send messages from a balloon in Schoneberg to a church steeple in Friednau, Switzerland. In Austria an anchored balloon, 160 yards high, signalled successfully to a free balloon at a height of 1,800 yards and a distance of 25 miles.

Optical Telegraphy.—The heliograph has been specially developed in sunny climates; by the British in Afghanistan and in Africa, by the French in Tonkin, by the Americans in the United States, and by the Greeks in Crete. It has been used successfully over single stretches of over 65 miles. In France the acetylene lamp has greatly increased the use of the apparatus by making it independent of sunlight, and signals have been read as far as 87 miles by day and 56 miles by night. In Italy the acetylene lamp flash has been read at a distance of 72 miles. The navy searchlights landed in Cape Colony have been used for flash signaling and have greatly extended the range. At coast forts and in the navy the Ardois signal light (a combination of red and white electric lamps hung in the rigging or on a mast) are extensively used for short distances, either between ships, or between forts and ships.

Searchlights.—The use of searchlights by ships and by coast and other forts is well known, but recently they have also been applied on battlefields for hunting up the wounded. Acetylene gas is used where electricity is not available.

Carrier Pigeons.—The use of carrier pigeons from fixed stations like cities and forts has long been known, but lately they have been used successfully in the French field manoeuvres, their houses being carried along by the troops. In Russia in 1808 cavalry patrols carried along the carrier pigeons of the forts, and it was found that in returning to their homes they travelled at the rate of five-eighths of a mile a minute. A number of pigeons have been sent from the besieged city of Ladysmith with despatches to Durban, a distance of 200 miles. The great advantage of carrier pigeons to the navy lies in the fact that the scouting vessels of a fleet can send back information from long distances without themselves returning. War Dogs.—Pigeons merely re-

turn to their homes or to their feeding places, but dogs act much more intelligently, and are therefore useful in a greater variety of ways. In the first place, they have been used in reconnaissance duty, in carrying messages, and in connecting outposts and sentinels. In the second place, they have proved invaluable in hunting up the wounded after the battle. The collie has been found best for all purposes. The English used dogs to great advantage, in Matabeleland, for example, for giving warning of the approach of the enemy's scouts in the dark, and in advance of the head of column to scent the enemy. Germany, Austria, Sweden, Norway and Italy are now training dogs for use in war.

Balloons.—Most of the great nations have balloon parks for the field, and they are so light that they are easily carried even in the train of the advance guard. The old spherical balloon is so unsteady, even in a wind of 20 feet a second, that it is impossible to observe from it, but the new cylindrical (dragon) balloon can be used in wind of twice this velocity. A new use of the balloon is on torpedo boats going at 18 knots an hour, and by ascending some 1,700 yards it was possible in this way to see from Kiel (Germany) to beyond Rugen and Copenhagen, thus connecting the North Sea and the Baltic. The first British Army Corps that was sent to South Africa carried with it two balloon sections, which have been actively in use since their arrival.

What is pronounced the largest steam-dredger in the world has recently been completed and tested at Antwerp and St. Petersburg. This boat has been built for the Russian Government at a cost of over half a million of dollars, and is to be used on the Volga River. The designs for the dredger were made by L. W. Dates, of Chicago. A number of such vessels have been operating successfully on the Mississippi River, and in the trials at Antwerp an average capacity of 7,000 cubic yards an hour, with a maximum of 10,350, was attained. So successful has the new boat been that the authorities of Queenstown and Calcutta are contemplating building similar dredges for their harbors.



The real rough rider is the man who rides the river with a twisting, squirming log for a saddle, on which he stands, balancing himself to its every motion. If his coolness fails or his nerve gives way, disaster and death reach out for him. It's the giving way of the "nerve" which proves fatal to so many a man. Perhaps he is simply crossing the street, as he has done ten thousand times. He hears a shout, stops, hesitates, gets "rattled" and is run over. When a man finds that his memory plays him false often, when he starts off to get something and forgets what he went for, when he knows he has locked the front door and yet an irritating uncertainty compels him to get up and verify his knowledge, then that man is in danger at any minute when confronted by a trifling danger. He is unerved.

This condition can be perfectly cured by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It strengthens the stomach, nourishes the nerves, and purifies the blood. It contains no alcohol, whiskey or other intoxicant.

"The reason I delayed writing was because I wanted to wait one year after I had taken the medicine before giving my statement, as you know I can send a good, conscientious testimonial," writes Chas. H. Sergeant, Esq., of Plain City, Madison Co., Ohio. "During the summer and fall of 1896 I became all 'run down,' my nerves were out of order and stomach out of order. I wrote to Dr. Pierce for advice. He said I had general debility, and advised Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and thanks to you for your advice, I used six bottles; and since I stopped taking it, about one year ago, I have not taken any medicine of any kind, and have been able to work every day. My appetite is good, I eat three square meals a day, I do not feel that miserable burning in the stomach after eating, and my blood and nerves are in good shape." Dr. Pierce's Pellets cure biliousness.

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