

The Catholic Record

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THE BRIGHER SIDE OF THE GREAT WAR

While on the fields of Europe the world's greatest empires struggle for first place in the sun, there are features that relieve the darkness of the vast war-shadow and show the finger of God.

And then the war broke out, and upon the spirit of the world a great change fell. The call to Canada did not fall upon deaf ears.

"Those whom the gods love die young." So wrote the Greek poet. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord," says the apostle.

present war in the face of hardship, without a word of complaint? Letters from Great Britain seem all to breathe the same spirit of courage, self-sacrifice and dauntless purpose.

One soul won for Heaven is worth more than all the wealth this world contains. The war has brought many souls to Christ.

THE CHURCH'S WORK FOR FINAL PEACE

Though the divided state of Christendom renders it impossible for the Church to exercise upon warring nations that measure of influence which her Founder wished her to wield, she is still able, like the leaven of our Lord's parable, to permeate the world with forces that produce vast results.

For more than nineteen hundred years, the Church has preached this message of love, and countless souls have made this the mainspring of their lives, and have passed to their reward among the blessed.

What is Germany fighting for? Will the German working man be a cent better off whatever be the outcome? It will be asked whether the war is not largely a means of enabling the war lords to draw dividends from companies that make weapons of slaughter.

and motives is important. It is a time for warring peoples to inquire whether they are fighting for the truth or merely in blind obedience to militaristic grafters who make a fat living upon war.

RELIGIOUS ORDERS AND THE WORLD-SPIRIT

If ever there was a time to thank God for the existence of religious orders, it is to day. There have been times in the history of the world when practical persons, with a genius for reforming everything known or unknown, questioned the wisdom of retiring to a cloister and asked whether it was not far better to remain in the world and work for its improvement.

Indulgences are divided into personal, real and local. Personal indulgences are those granted to a person, whether physical or moral, for pious works. "Real indulgences" are attached to a portable article, such as a rosary or medal.

Our world is passed away. In wantonness o'erthrown, There's nothing left today But steel and fire and stone.

The Patriotic Fund should be kept at the high water-mark. And we are of the opinion that the heart of Canada will respond to the appeal for contributions as readily and as generously as it did to the appeal for recruits.

WHAT IS MEANT BY INDULGENCES

Among the features of the Catholic Church that puzzle an outsider are indulgences. Strange misconceptions prevail as to what they actually are. When once, however, their true character is learned, few things in the spiritual life are more attractive and inspiring.

Indulgences do not remit the guilt of sin nor the eternal punishment. These are remitted in the sacrament of penance. After the guilt of mortal sin and its eternal punishment have been forgiven, the obligation of satisfying Divine Justice by some temporal punishment, to be undergone in this life or in the next, generally remains.

IRELAND AND CONSCRIPTION

Much misapprehension exists over the fact that Ireland is excluded from the operation of the Conscription Bill recently enacted by the British Parliament.

Indulgences may be gained and applied to the relief of the holy souls in purgatory, for among Catholic doctrines is the communion of saints. "We being many," says St. Paul, (Rom. x. 4-5) "are one body in Christ and every one members one of another."

Some indulgences are plenary, and remit the whole of the temporal penalty, others are partial, and remit merely a certain part of the penalty.

It would take many pages to describe the character and benefits and great variety of indulgences. Those who desire to learn more about them and at the same time to acquire a really beautiful book of devotion, should consult the "Raccolta."

SACRED AND PRESSING

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Duty bids us reflect that upon us, who are not at the firing line, rests the responsibility of safeguarding from want the dependants of those who are somewhere at the front, enduring and battling that we may live.

And what are we asked to do? We are asked to give of our means. And why? That the sisters and mothers of soldiers of the boys from the farms and counting-houses and professions may not feel the touch of want.

response given by the men at the front. To allow a dependent to suffer through our fault would be an intolerable disgrace. Hence we who stay at home must see to it that no wife or mother shall be permitted to think for a moment that her reward for the patriotic service of her soldier is dire poverty.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE PROBLEM that confronts the statesmen of Great Britain in enlisting a sufficient number of men for the prosecution of the War to a successful issue, and, at the same time, in not unduly sapping the supply of skilled workmen for the maintenance of the industries of the country, ordinary or extraordinary, is not adequately appreciated by the generality of people either there or in this country.

A WELL informed writer in a recent number of the Ironmonger has, for example, summarized the conditions of the Iron trade in Sheffield. This, it is scarcely necessary to say, is one of the great industrial interests of Great Britain at any time, but during the present crisis its degree of importance is magnified many times.

That Ireland is not shirking her duty has been amply demonstrated by not only Mr. Redmond and Chief Secretary Birrell, but by such enemies of nationalist aspirations as Bonar Law and Mr. Balfour.

THE BOOM in high-speed and other tool steel which has been in operation during the greater part of the year, says the Ironmonger, "has lately developed in a sensational fashion. Orders of unprecedented magnitude are literally being flung at the Sheffield makers, and the amount of business rejected by them every week represents a fortune.

To sum up, it must be admitted that considering everything, Ireland has done remarkably well in the recruiting line. We must not forget that the past history of Ireland was not calculated to inspire enthusiasm for the cause of Britain. It is also unfortunately true that for a considerable time the War Office did not by any means facilitate the work of Irish recruiting.

ENGLAND'S EXPORT trade in iron and steel has for over a century been of enormous proportions, but under present grave conditions licenses for export are granted only in respect of material the use of which will assist the Allies in maintaining the War.

achievements of these Irish soldiers, would sink deep into the national heart. Don't let them, for the sake of a dangerous uniformity, run any risk of destroying the feeling of unity which happily now existed.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

A GREAT ZEPPELIN LOST

One of Germany's great Zeppelins has been lost in the North Sea with all hands. A Berlin official despatch states that Zeppelin L 19 has not returned from a reconnoitering flight, and that inquiries concerning the airship have been without result.

The German War Office did not get into touch with the right people. Captain Martin of the British trawler King Stephen knows where L-19 lies. On Wednesday morning, attracted by the signals from what looked like ships' lamps, he and his men saw the L-19, partly submerged. All her machinery was under water, and only part of the balloon was visible, with seven or eight Germans standing up on the platform on top.

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favor as regards the War seems undoubted.

SIDE BY SIDE with this industrial activity in England comes the story of reviving industry in Ireland. War's crimson spur, to borrow the simile of an American journalist, are stirring the dormant manufacturing ginger of Irishmen, and the country is responding to the impulse in encouraging fashion.

IN DUBLIN and Belfast, we are told, new factories are turning out clothing supplies for the Army. Toy making and cigar factories have sprung up in many cities, and are actively competing for outside trade hitherto controlled on the Continent.

FATHER O'FARRELL of Montrose, Colorado, visited Victoria, B. C., last summer, and at the hotel breakfast table, Friday morning, ordered bacon and eggs. Recollecting presently that it was Friday, he called the waiter and telling him the reason why, changed his order to eggs only. "Meat never sent anybody to hell," was the rather officious rejoinder.

THE CANADIAN Churchman condemns Pope Benedict for his vigorous and heartfelt denunciation of the campaign of falsehood, calumny and underhand proselytism carried on by Protestant sects, especially the Methodists, in Rome—a campaign which offers free education to children, and material help to aged and indigent parents as the price of apostasy. It is the "superism" of the last century in Ireland over again, and it is rather ominous for the future of Protestantism to find a paper like the Churchman characterizing all this as "Evangelical." If our Anglican contemporary can thus condone the dishonesty and indecency of Methodist tactics in the capital of Christendom, it would be interesting to have its own moral code defined.

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