

ferent position are Great Britain and her allies. The soldiers of France and Belgium, fully confident in the justice of our cause, are burning to clear the soil of their native countries of the hated invaders. Russia, whose troops have throughout fought with indomitable courage, is preparing herself for further great efforts. At sea the British navy is supreme and has recently inflicted a severe defeat upon the German navy. Aided by our gallant Japanese allies, most of the German colonies have already been captured. The power of Great Britain and her allies increases daily in strength, whereas the power of their enemies is distinctly on the wane. The existing situation has been brought about without the vast resources of the British Empire having yet been called into play.

The splendid contingents from our overseas dominions, from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Newfoundland, etc.,—in fact from every quarter of the globe—have not yet with the exception of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, been engaged.

The above with the new armies now perfecting their training in England should exercise a preponderating influence on the ultimate decision.

(Signed) Harcourt.

It is only just in connection with that to pay a tribute to the valour of the British army in France and to that of all the allied forces. I had the opportunity of reading a very intimate account of the retreat from Mons, and I venture to say that no successful retreat was ever conducted under greater difficulties or in the face of more overwhelming odds. The greatest victory ever won shed no more splendid lustre on the British army than the valour, the heroism and the endurance displayed during that retreat.

The Princess Patricia regiment now at the front has acquitted itself with credit, and we remember that one who is very dear to a member of this House is serving in that regiment. We hope and pray that our colleague (Mr. Michael Clark) will always have good news of his son. The first Canadian Expeditionary force will soon be at the front. We believe, indeed we are sure that they will so bear themselves that Canada will have just cause to be proud. Some have already given their lives, as Mr. Harcourt has said, for the cause of freedom and justice, and I am reminded of some lines that were written by an Englishman, who for many years has lived in Canada, during the South African war, when news came that some of our men had fallen.

Half mast your flags? Nay, hoist them to the head,

You reap the harvest where you sowed the corn.

See, from the far graves of your gallant dead,
An Empire born.

[Sir Robert Borden.]

As has been said, there are vacant seats in this House—seats of those who have gone forth to fight for the Dominion and Empire. The absence of these men in that cause speaks more eloquently than any words I could utter. God grant that we may see them once more with us when victory has been attained. I have had occasion during the last three or four months to write letters to my good friend, Dr. Beland—I hope they have reached him, although I do not know—congratulating him on the service which he has given in Belgium; and I have had some communications which I had the pleasure of transferring to my right hon. friend the leader of the Opposition and which sets forth the hope that he may be released and may have his freedom at no distant date.

A great Belgian prelate has spoken in eloquent terms of the ordeal through which his country has passed and of the spirit of patriotism which thereupon swept over that country in strong tide. The words are so splendid and eloquent that I think it not amiss to give them to the House. I am alluding to the pastoral letter of Cardinal Mercier which has been published already in part in this country:

"God will save Belgium, my brethren, you cannot doubt it; nay, rather, He is saving her. Across the smoke of conflagration, across the stream of blood, have you not glimpses, do you not perceive signs, of His love for us? Is there a patriot among us who does not know that Belgium has grown great? Nay, which of us would have the heart to cancel this last page shattered nation? When in her throes she exult in the brightness of the glory of this shattered nation? When in her throes she brings forth heroes, our Mother Country gives her own energy to the blood of those sons of hers. Let us acknowledge that we needed a lesson in patriotism. There were Belgians, and many such, who wasted their time and their talents in futile quarrels of class with class, of race with race, of passion with personal passion.

Yet when, on the second of August, a mighty foreign power, confident in its own strength and defiant of the faith of treaties, dared to threaten us in our independence, then did all Belgians, without difference of party, or of condition, or of origin, rise up as one man, close-ranged about their own king, and their own government, and cry to the invader: 'Thou shalt not go through!'

At once, instantly, we were conscious of our own patriotism. For down within us all is something deeper than personal interests, than personal kinships, than party feeling, and this is the need and the will to devote ourselves to that more general interest which Rome termed the public thing, 'Res publica.' And this profound will within us is patriotism."

When the spirit of Canada was searched by the thrill of the first great call to de-