Benediction with her, at the little church some mile and a half distant. Di would gladly have refused; but, thinking that perhaps Helen did not like the dark walk home alone, she consented, urged thereto by her in-

The church was restful, and the singing of the children from a neigh-boring convent not at all bad, though she entirely failed to follow the Latin psalms. At the end of the Compline the priest went into the pulpit. He gave out his text:

"It is, therefore, a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins.'

Helen's heart gave a little leap. She had hoped for this. Some instinct, combined with the fact that the month was November, had told her it would be so.

It was quite an ordinary sermon, one that Catholics are well accus-tomed to hear. Lady Mitchell, however presently found herself listening intently. Certain sentences, certain passages, printed themselves vividly

"No one who is not entirely pure can enter heaven," she heard the priest say, "yet there are many who die, who are not yet fit to enter heaven, nor, we may safely aver, bad enough for hell. Logic and justice therefore, demand some other place where such souls may be purified from those stains of sin still clinging to them. This place we Catholics know to exist, and it is called purga-

In a few sentences he put before his hearers the Catholic doctrine of purgatory. Lady Mitchell listened to

every word.

Presently he said:
"Now, we know this doctrine to be true. Therefore it is our duty to aid the souls who are imprisoned. Dur-ing the recent bombardment of a Belgian town, one of the houses was partly demolished and set on fire. The occupants had taken refuge in the cellars; and, by the falling of some beams, the door was barricaded, so that it was impossible for them to escape from the burning building. They beat upon the doors, endeavor ing to attract the attention of the by-passers to their position of peril. Do you suppose that anyone passing, who heard those cries, would have remained deaf to the rppeal? Would not common humanity have urged them to go to the help of those imprisoned within the burning build-My brethren, there are in purgatory imploring our aid. The husbands, the sons, the friends of many of you have fallen in this War. They have given their lives that you may live. Can you turn a deaf ear to their appeal for aid? You would do all in your power to help them while living, will you not help them now they are dead? Remember, they want your aid. They need it more than they have ever needed it in life, for they are powerless to help themselves. You, who mourn the loss of your loved ones, you mothers especially who weep for your sone who have given your life, you thoughts, your prayers to them while living, give them your help now they And if there are among you, as God grant there may be, many who have not known the anguish of loss, give your prayers to those lonely souls who have none to mray for them, who must endure their term of expiatory suffering to the end since there is none to pray for a commutation of their sent-

Lady Mitchell's eyes were fixed upon the priest; her heart was throb-

She knew little, of Benediction,

bing wildly.

which followed. Her hands were pressed to her eyes, her brain was fire. Only when the silver notes of the sanctuary bell rang out, as the priest raised the golden mon-strance and That which it contained shove the kneeling people, a strange deep sense of peace descended on

She walked home with Helen in silence, making no reference to the influence of Catholic chaplains the service.

Father Martin was in his study the following morning, when he was told that a lady wanted to see him. He went down at once to his dining A tall woman in black rose After they were seated, she began

suddenly and without preface : I heard your sermon last

Yes," said the priest courte-

I am not a Catholic," said Lady Mitchell, "I den't believe anything in particular" She stopped. No ?" queried Father Martin. There was a little pause. Then

she speke abrupily.
"Are you certain of the truth of what you said last night-what you said about purgatory

Absolutely certain." replied Father Martin, smiling.
Again Lady Mitchell was silent. Then she began to speak rather

' My friend, with whom I am stay ing, brought me to your church. is a Catholic. I didn't ask her if she believed all you said. I thought," she hesitated a moment, "I thought she might say she did to comfort me. People are sometimes apt to think they believe cartain theories because

those things are true."
You are certain?"

"I am certain." Lady Mitchell leant a little for ward, putting her hands on the table.
"Then," she said slowly, "can you

help me to believe it, too? You see," she went on, speaking quickly now, "if it is true, since you're sure it's true, there is still something left for me to do to help Jack. It would be awful to think he wanted my help, and I was failing him. He would be one of those lonely souls for whom others by chance prayed, while I-his mother-did nothing. All last night I thought and thought. thought perhaps that was why I w brought to this church-to hear the way to help him. And yet I don't know that I really believe. I can't help him unless I do, can I? Can't you make me believe? It doesn't seem quite the right reason for wanting to become a Catholic, does it? But can you understand? Wouldn't your mother be doing all in her power to help you if you were suffering? Don't you see how I want to help Jack ?"

The cloak of society convention bad dropped from her. She spoke with the direct simplicity of a child. Father Martin turned quickly.

"Of course, I understand. You say this may not be the right reason for your wanting to become a Catholic. But how do you know it is not God's way of bringing you to a knowledge of the truth?"

She looked at him, a glimmer of hope struggling through the sorrow

in her eyes.
"You think so?" she asked. "I do," he replied.

Then you will help me?" she asked, simply. "As much as lies in my power," he replied.

Some six months later Di Mitchell knelt at the altar rails of the little

church. When she returned to her seat. pearing for the first time within her thankfulness.

And through the adoration of her God, through the tbankfulness for that p the stupendous blessing vouchsafed unity to her, ran a note of unutterable joy in the knowledge that here in the offering of this Mass, of this her first

In the past she had done a lot for Jack. In the future she would do

CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS

STRIKING TESTIMONIES TO THEIR WORK

Describing the effects of the War on the religion of our soldiers, Naboth Hedin writes to the Brocklyn Daily Eagle of his interview with a Brooklyn National Army officer at the front, who at home had been a Protestant Episcopal Sunday school superintendent. "From a military point of view," the officer commented, "the Catholic chaplaincy works very well." His experience has been that at time of Mass you could always tell where to find the Catholic boys. "Oa one occasion a very serious situation was met because the men could be reached quickly through the chaplain. He read the emergency order at Mass, the men responded and the danger was averted." It is surprising, he added, how many officers and men become converts to the Catholic Faith. The war correspondent thus summarizes his own conclusions:

'The officer's observations about parfectly with what I had previously heard from Protestant boys, who had learned to respect, admire, and love Catholic clergymen, working among the soldiers under fire. It is well known that several such chaplains have been decorated for bravery and heroic exploits. Such things appeal to the fighting men. But even those who have not been decorated have won, by self-sacrifice and dayotion everlasting distinction in the minds of the men in the trenches. I

clergyman." It is interesting to note that the Christ, to the tabernale on the same effect is produced by the pres- Catholic altar. Every morning saw ence of the Catholic clergyman in Guynemer at Mass, at the Holy Com-the British armies. William T. munion Table; and this, whether in the British armies. William T. munion Table; and this, whether in Ellis thus concludes an article on religion and the War contributed to fields or in the trenches. Every

ain, seide from Christian Science. which has made definite progress desional. Guynemer lived the faith during the War is the Roman Cath. that was in him; he never entered

merely to comfort me. Do you it is also winning hundreds of con-understand?" verts from the non-Catholic popula-tion. Especially among military officers have the recruits come to understand perfectly. But the Catholic Church. The priest who has had most conspicuous suc-cess as a missionary to non Catholies tells me that these men want to be spiritually right before they go to the front—or, in a significant num-ber of cases, before they return to the front. They covet the sure word of the Church.

Of the salutary influence of the French soldiers and chaplains and soldier priests enough has already been said, and doubtless the same testimony can be given to the Catho lic priest in all the armies of the

REMINDERS OF TWO PONTIFFS

For a century or more Supreme Pontiffs have been issuing special admonitions to the faithful on the grave importance of sustaining the Catholic press. Astonishingly strange, however, as it may appear, the faithful in their various spheres seem to regard the solemn reminders as undeserving of grave considera-

And yet for instance, in its application to present world conditions how supremely meaningful that reminder of the illustrious Leo XIII. who defined the Catholic paper as a perpetual mission in every parish. And how pertinent to the times too. the words of the saintly Pius X. who said: "In vain will you build churches, give missions, found schools—all your works, all your efforts will be destroyed if you are not able to wield the defensive and offensive weapon of a loyal and sincere Catholic press.

Can we not trace the elevation of infidelity in France and the miseries of Mexico religiously in those omi nous words? And is it not true that vitality and militancy wane in the parish where the Catholic paper is not popularized? But where the re-

sponsibility?
With seeming certainty the two great Pontiffs when uttering these admonitions had in mind the spiritbreast the Lord Who had shed His Blood that men might live together the flocks themselves. Wherefore, in harmony, she bowed her head upon then, not a greater appreciation of her hands in utter adoration and and a livelier interest in the introduction of the perpetual mission in the parish? Wherefore surprise that parish interest wanes and parish unity is wanting. Wherefore sur prise that pastoral effort is often unresponsive and pastoral admoni

offering of this Mass. of this ner mass. Communion, she had done the greatest thing that lay in her power to Vicar are such conditions not clearly. asequences pointed to in his warn ing appeal for the Catholic press? In vain are all your works and all yours efforts," etc.

Catholicity today means more than essentials, more than duties of conscience, more than church-going and church-giving. It means an intelligent faith, that is, a faith in touch with the current phases of the Church over the world, capable of defining or defending Catholic doctrine, and of detecting and denouncing error in the religious, moral social, economical and industrial

theories of the times.
But is such a Catholicity possible today as a common assest of the Catholic laity? Yes and no. Yes, if the Catholic laity generally becomes a careful and persistent reader of the Catholic paper. And no, if it does not. Upon the choice de pends the character of the perpetual mission in every parish, the char-acter of weapon—not only loyal and sincers but sturdy and effective the Church will have for its work and its defense. Where necessary action lies to attain these purposes ought to be quite evident. cease and for necessary action to begin.-Church Progress.

"THE BRIGHT SWORD OF FRANCE"

Attention is called in New Orleans Morning Star to a glowing tribute paid by the Times Picayuae to

hand the splendid character of the Catholic regimental chaplain. Those bays had never before been personally acquainted with a Catholic bays had never before been personally acquainted with a Catholic bays had never before been personally acquainted with a Catholic bays of the Cross of deeds, he pointed to the Cross of religion and the War contributed to fields or in the trenches. Every the New York Tribune: week saw him kneeling an humble

flowers after him, the young ladies showered him with bouquets, men showered him with bouquets, men cheered him as he passed; he was the honored guest in the most exclusive homes. He had destroyed singly and alone seventy-five airplanes of the enemy. He had every medal that his country could award; he was decorated by every Allied King. Yet when he lost his life in that has fatal flight and fell to the ground dead, it was the medal of the ground dead, it was the medal of the Blessed Virgin that was found pinned closest above his manly heart, whose boyhood allegiance to his Heavenly Queen and Mother had never changed."

Such was the faith of Guynemer, most brilliant and best beloved of all the heroes of the air. And Guynemer's faith is the faith "of Foch, of Petain, of Pau, of Mangin and others of the important leaders in this tremendous struggle." Such too is the faith of countless of our men .- America.

CARDINAL MERCIER

The Catholic Church has been the glory of the ages. Time, the gravedigger of human greatness, cannot bury her spotless fame. Founded upon a rock of truth and purity, which age-long storms and volcanic attack have failed to shatter, she has been the crystal font, ever dis-pensing the sweet waters of peace and content. Wearing for a shield the divine promise, "The gates of the divine promise, "The gates hell shall not prevail against thee: for a sword, the dazzling torch flaming with the enlightening principles of true Christianity: for a helmet the hope of salvation; she conquered Rome. Ancient Greece saw the mystic powers of delusion put to flight, and casting off the toga of false philosophy, put on the virgin robe of Catholicity. Pursuant to divine command to "terc's all nations," Holy Mother Church dis-patched her legates preaching 'Christ and Him crucified." Bartions," barous Europe bowed before her sublime doctrine. Under her soothing influence right superceded might. shares, turning from despair to hope. from ignorance to learning. She gave to art her Angelo, to letters her Dante, to theology her Thomas, to philosophy her Catherine, to science her Pasteur, to oratory her O'Con-nell, to social reform her Leo, to America her Columbus, to the twentieth century world her Mercier.

Cardinal Mercier-" the Voice of Belgium." To be the voice of a nation, a nation so faithful in the great mass of her population to God, so upright in her patriotism, so loyal in her allegiance to the Catholic Church, so noble in her king and government-is an honor. offer up to the entire world of this age and of future ages such an example of heroism, of patriotism, of Catholicity, of unselfishness, of self-sacrifice, of unyielding resistance to tyranny, as Cardinal Mercier has done, is indeed an honor which is not within the compass of man to paint, picture or pen.

Cardinal Mercier was a man of peace up until that terrible August 4 of 1914. He was a man of tremendous intellect, eloquence and spirituality, as those who have read his works on "Retreats" can testify. He was quiet, humble, gentle; he asked no better then to be let alone. But as the mildest and tend when she sees her children mis-treated, so the gentle Archbishop of And stricken Belgium, rallied, con-soled, encouraged by this great leader, has won the sympathy, the landits and the essistance of the plaudits and the assistance of the

to tear up sacred treaties; they were able to overrun a nation that desired nothing but peace; they were able to carry desolation and de-Guynemer. Praising the eloquent entire Belgian nation in jail, but one editor analyzes with skillful unflinchingly.

of the men in the trenches. It of the men in the courage, his wonderful heroism, intense patriotism, love of country, and faithful devotion to duty. But the editor did not tell what was the inspiration of all this; he did not say, what Guynemer himself was and John of England were withstood say, what Guynemer himself was and the men in the trenches. It courage, his wonderful heroism, intense patriotism, love of country, and faithful devotion to duty. But the editor did not tell what was the inspiration of all this; he did not say, what Guynemer himself was and John of England were withstood say, what Guynemer himself was and faithful devotion to duty. But the editor did not tell, that was the inspiration of all this; he did not say, what Guynemer himself was and faithful devotion to duty. But the editor did not tell, that was the inspiration of all this; he did not say, what Guynemer himself was and faithful devotion to duty. But the editor did not tell, that was the inspiration of all this; he did not say, what Guynemer himself was and faithful devotion to duty. But the editor did not tell, that was the inspiration of all this; he did not say, what Guynemer himself was a courage. Henry II. The Cardinal is not the first Cathsiasm for the manly qualities and the general good fellowship of the Latholic regimental chaplain. Those bays had never before been personpreached the subservience of earthly power to God and His law. never vet was a tyrant in high station who did not see in the Church or one of her champions his most formidable opponent. Who had a grudge against the Church, whether it be a nation or an individ "The one religious body in Rritin, aside from Christian Science,
high has made definite progress
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Cardinal Mercier offers an example of the spirit of the old Church even

of Belgium, to the credit of the Cath olic Church. His life has been an inspiration to his own country, to the forces of justice everywhere. His words and deeds are enlightening to the mothers of every country the mothers of every country. Could any words of hope and re-signation to the mothers of sol-diers over there be more consol-ing or sustaining than those that he addressed to the mothers of Bel-

"To the mothers of Belgium, you who have lost your sons, husbands, brothers, fathers, daughters, homes and possessions, I say weep not. Cast your eyes upon the cross of the crucified Saviour and picture the anguish of His Mother Mary. She bore her sorrows for love of Him; do you the same for love of Him."

"Why all this sorrow, my God Lord, Lord, hast Thou forsaken us? I look upon the Crucifix, I look apon Jesus, most gentle and humble Lamb of God, crushed, clothed in His blood as in a garment, and I think I hear from His own mouth the words which the Psalmist uttered in His name: 'O, God, my God, look work was now when the the the control of God, look upon me; why hast Thou forsaken me? O my God, I shall cry, and Thou wilt not hear.' And orthwith the murmur dies upon my lips: and I remember what our Divine Saviour said in His gospel; The disciple is not above the master nor the servant above his lord.' The Christian is the servant of a God who became man in order to suffer and to die. To rebel against pain, to revolt against Providence, because it permits grief and bereavement, is to forget whence we came, the school in which we have been taught, the example that each of us carries graven in the name of a Christian which each of us honors at his hearth, contemplates at the altar of his prayers, and of which he desires that his tomb, the place of his last sleep, shall bear the sign. Across the smoke of conflagration, across 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? cancel this last page of our national history? Which of us does not exult in the brightness of the glory of this shattered nation?

Man, woman, child, nation, people will ever remember Cardinal Mercier. His four years of service to bleeding Belgium and to Christianity have made him immortal.-Brooklyn Tab

GOD WITH US

about in regard to the desired union of Christendom. Much of the talk gets nowhere, for the simple reason that it has no certain foundation are allowed to take the place of stubborn facts. Yet at that it is good to hear the talk, because it shows that there is a growing dissatisfaction with heresy. erest mother becomes a living fury say how the union will be accom plished. To the Catholic there can be no other way than by recognizing Malines became in the past four years | the authoritative Catholic Church a combatant that has not only And it is very plain that even while aroused the entire civilized world, they would be loath to admit it, many but whose voice and pen have shaken outside the Church are coming to the Prussian rulers on their throne. see the "reasonableness" of the

bafore the eyes of the defenders of the traditional Protestant position. The German war lords were able to tear up sacred treaties; they fight of Curistianity must be against priestcraft. There is no religion but that of the spirit, they continued and sacraments and forms are but struction to every eity, to on and the superstitions of outworn creeds. home: they were able to mistreat But today they are beginning to women and bind men in elavery; in a word, they were able to place the ginning to see, if not the necessity, entire Belgian nation in jail, but one at least the desirability of the priest words of the editorial writer the charge the could not do—they could hood that has the power to bring Catholic weekly offers this further not prevent Cardinal Mercier from down God with His people as in the denouncing their crimes openly and unflinchingly.

The Cardinel is not the first Cath.

The Cardinel is not the first Cath. What is it that the Roman Catholic priest conceives himself to be doing when he offers the sacrifice of the " He considers that Mass?" he asks. he is securing the attendance of God among his people. The living Ged is believed to actually enthrone Himself upon the altar to fill the sacred place where His people meet with His presence, and to bestow through Christ His pardening grace and His renewing strength. The people talk with God face to face. New if you were a devent Catholic and actually believed all this, can you not see how glorious and wonderful it would be? The point which I urge is that when you get to the bottom of it, both of these claims have a thorough Christian

After all it is the Mass which matters. It is the Catholic Church alone which has kept its priesthood invio during the War is the Roman Caththey are accusioned to a cartain
trend of thought, and they bring up
those beliafs to comfort others without being at heart, absolutely sure
of them. I shought my friend might
do that. I have lost a son in the
War, and she knows what his loss
means to me. You don't know; so
you wouldn't put forth theories

during the War is the Roman Cathclic Church. Interviews with its
lisa aeroplane for a flight without
first making the Sign of the Cross,
and commending his soul to God.
His companions say that in purity
and uprightness his life was like that
by the War, so that Masses' and speclal prayer services for the soldiers
are unusually well attended, but that

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The Church is the poet of her children: full of music to soothe the sad and control the wayward; won-derful in story for the imagination of the romantic; rich in symbol and imagery, so that gentle and delicate feelings, which will not bear words, may in silence intimate their presence or commune with themselves. Her very being is poetry. Every psalm, every petition, every collect, every versicle, the cross, the mitre, the thurible, is a fulfilment of some dream of childhood or aspiration of youth.—Newman.

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