

"Twenty-three again!" laughed Weston. "My lucky number, apparently. Twenty-three! For the love of St. Nick, if the Forbes' Drive on around Arlington and Beacon, and come back again," he instructed the driver.

"Wait!" he commanded, as he ran up the steps of No. 23. The door was thrown open and the butler stood in the entrance. "Good evening, Nichols," greeted Weston.

"Good evening, Mr. Weston. Are you?" "Sh! Not a word, Nichols!" hissed the visitor, drawing him mysteriously out into the vestibule. "Tell me," he said, "what is going on this evening?"

"Just a little Christmas merry-making, sir. Dinner, and the Christmas tree later, sir. Just relatives, sir," added Nichols, apologetically. "Thank you, Nichols. And don't mention my having called, will you?"

"No, indeed, sir. Though I'm sure it's delighted they'd be to have you, sir, and you a lonely bachelor, and it's Christmas."

"Drive up to Galvin's storied shop in Boylston street," ordered Weston re-entering the taxi. A dozen of Galvin's longest, loveliest American Beauties were placed tenderly in a box with John Henry Weston's card. "Address, sir?" asked the clerk.

"I'll write that myself," replied Weston, "and for safety sake I'll take them with me." In a large, legible, unmistakable hand, John Henry wrote: "Miss Molly Mistletoe, 'Care of Forbes, 23 Commonwealth Ave.'"

With a chuckle he seized the box and bore it to the cab. "Now drive back to Commonwealth avenue and stop a few doors this side of the house we have just left. Then you are to take this package and deliver it at Number Twenty-three. I shall remain in the cab. If they ask any questions, you are just a messenger."

"I get you, sir. I know nothing!" Weston seated beside the American Beauties, smiled at the way back to the historic avenue. Occasionally he glanced wistfully down at the sprig of mistletoe which bloomed understandingly from the lapel over his heart. Several times he unearthed from his card-case the wonder-card on which the mysterious laden signatur—Molly Mistletoe—had been so charmingly traced.

"Molly Mistletoe! Lovely Molly Mistletoe! Clever Molly Mistletoe! Kindly Molly Mistletoe! If I were overheard," he smiled foolishly at the giant box beside him, "it might be inferred that I am rather strong for Molly Mistletoe!"

"Here we are, sir!" announced the chauffeur. "I'm to push the box in at 23, an' mum's the word for mine." "Correct," replied Weston, handing him the box. A moment's breathless wait, during which Weston could not resist leaning out of the cab to watch the flying messenger.

"O. K., sir. Party at the door took it, sir. Party to, sir?" "Around the corner to St. Botolph Club, as fast as you can." In his room at the club John Henry Weston made a lightning change into his evening clothes while his heart thundered a hopeful rat-a-tat-tat.

friend of Molly's, I'll have him over right away. No doubt he's tearing his bachelor heart to bits at the St. Botolph." Molly's heart skipped a beat and then raced off at a frantic gallop. "Please, Jack! Please don't!" she begged.

But Jack had fled to the telephone. With cold extremities and a fast beating heart John Henry Weston responded to the telephone summons in the club. "That you, Weston, old man?" "Yes."

"This is Forbes. Say, Weston, we have a little Southern cousin here. Turns out she knows you. If you don't mind a family party just beat it over. We'll hold dinner while you're running. If you get here in time you may go in with her. I'll resign the honor reluctantly. Are you coming?"

"Am I coming? Is Christmas?" yelled Weston, as he jammed down the receiver. In four minutes and a half John Henry Weston, without the aid of a taxi, was at the Forbes' door. "Back again, Nichols," he smiled. "You haven't seen me before this evening, you know."

"Certainly not, sir." "Am I in time?" he asked breathlessly, as Jack Forbes drew him into the drawing room. "Sure," grinned Jack. "Molly, oh!" he called, "here's your John Henry!"

Molly rose. Her cheeks matched the roses. Slowly she came forward. Twinkling and dimpling, and with a charming nonchalance, she extended her hand to the palpitating John Henry. Out of a flash, yet well-trained corner of her eye, she noted Aunt Marcella seated stiffly on the sofa, her lognettes poised pitilessly upon them.

"Allow me to present you to my aunt and uncle, with whom I live in Washington." "Charmed, Miss Molly," and John Henry Weston offered his arm. Molly led him to the dignified lady on the sofa.

"Out of a flash, yet well-trained corner of her eye, she noted Aunt Marcella seated stiffly on the sofa, her lognettes poised pitilessly upon them. Molly suffered her cousins and her uncles and her aunts to precede her to the dining-room. "In the name of all that is heavenly, tell me your name," begged Weston.

"Darling!" murmured Molly. The arm upon which Molly Mistletoe's hand rested trembled noticeably. "Angel!" retorted John Henry. "But your name—I shall have to know it, dearest lady. I will surely spill the entire situation if you don't tell me."

Molly blushed and withdrew her hand. "Molly Darling, at your service." "It was John Henry's turn to blush. "Molly Darling! Nothing, nothing in all the world could suit me better, unless it might be Molly Mistletoe!"

"And now—please hurry, they're sitting down; they'll notice we're lagging behind. But first, where, oh, where, did we meet? Aunt Marcella will ask the time, the place and the opportunity."

"Molly Darling, you may trust me to deal diplomatically with Aunt Marcella." "But where, please, where, Mr. John Henry Weston, did we really and truly meet?" persisted Molly. "Mr. John Henry Weston affectionately caressed the sprig in his buttonhole."

"Molly Mistletoe, Molly Darling, we met by the grace of God at the Sign of the Mistletoe!"—Mary M. Finn.

will be made to reach all Catholics throughout the country requesting them to pledge themselves to take part in this general Communion. It is pointed out that the effect of this message from the Bishops of the United States will be rendered so much greater by the outpouring of spiritual force consequent upon this general Communion of our Catholic people; and the event will be very impressive to the whole world as a demonstration of the one underlying unity which holds Catholics of all degrees together.

This administrative committee, which will meet at the Catholic University, is, in addition to its chairman, Archbishop Hanna, of St. Francisco, composed of the following members: Archbishop Dougherty, of Philadelphia; Archbishop Dowling, of St. Paul; Bishop Canevin, of Pittsburgh; Bishop Muldoon, of Rookford, Ill.; Bishop Russell, of Charleston, S. C.; and Bishop Schrems, of Toledo, O. It was organized for the purpose of conducting the business of the National Catholic War Council, in the interval between its meetings, which are annual. In its work every important Catholic interest of a public or general nature is provided for, and all Catholic activities are assured of the immediate guidance and assistance of the entire episcopate.

PLANS AND ACHIEVEMENTS The story of the National Catholic War Council will ever be of interest, for no sooner had the United States declared War in April, 1917, and the President appealed for the support of the country, than the Archbishops of the United States declared: "We, our priests and consecrated women, and all the flock committed to our keeping stand ready to cooperate in every way with our President and our national Government. Our people will rise as one man to serve the nation—for the preservation and triumph of our beloved country."

In August, 1917, a War convention was called by His Eminence James Cardinal Gibbons, John Cardinal Farley and William Cardinal O'Connell for the purpose of forming a national organization to handle Catholic War activities, and out of this convention came the National Catholic War Council, universally known as the N. C. W. C.

Then came the Knights of Columbus, the great Catholic fraternal society, which assumed a foremost place in the welfare work at the outset of the War, laboring in Uncle Sam's camps at home and abroad, their services "bringing measurable benefits to our boys, substantial assistance to our Government, and reflecting undying credit upon the organization, its secretaries and officers."

In the reconstruction, the keynote of the National Catholic War Council programme was the epoch-making announcement issued through the committee on special War activities by the administrative committee of Bishops. Through all its labors the motto of the council has ever been: "Where will the light of hope and love and faith once more appear? Where, if not from the saving sign of the Cross of Christ?"—Stansard and Times.

CARDINAL MERCIER SAYS RUSSIA IS THE KEY TO PEACE SITUATION London, Nov. 22.—His Eminence Cardinal Mercier, who stayed two days in London on his way home to Belgium, gave out to the press an interview which contains statements of the greatest importance. During the interview the Cardinal said: "I have been away from Belgium for two and a half months. As you know, I have been visiting America, most friendly and cordial. When I left Belgium the work of reconstruction was everywhere in progress as far as the shortage of material and labor allows. The people are most glad and anxious to resume work. Agriculture is again being taken up very thoroughly, and the generous gift by Canada of her horses has enabled the farmers to do wonders."

Industries of all kinds are seeking the fullest activity, but the shortage of iron, steel and brass—the Germans stripped us of it all—and the scarcity of machinery is a serious handicap. We are, however, being generously helped by England and by the United States in this respect. My belief is that Belgium workmen are most willing and ready to work, and if they are not working it is only because the means are lacking. Of course the conditions of life are hard and food prices high. The working people thought that as soon as peace was restored normal life would be resumed, and food would again be good and plentiful. In this they have suffered disappointment, and it is only natural, perhaps, that some of the Socialists and extremists are talking in terms of Bolshevism and thereby causing a certain amount of unrest.

THE RUSSIAN SITUATION This leads me to mention a matter of great and far-reaching importance. It concerns Russia. I do not wish to be thought to be interfering in the political policy of the Allies, or of any one country, but I feel it is my duty to say that I have read with pain of the decision to leave Russia. "These appear to be certain elements—a group of men—who are reasoning thus: 'We have done what we can for Russia. We have spent some millions of money and lost many valuable lives. But the time

has now come when Russia must take care of herself!' Or, in other words, 'We have paid off our debt of honor! that is enough!' " "I must say that I take another point of view. If it was a debt of honor to endeavor to restore peace and order in Russia, when is a debt of honor satisfied—when does it terminate?"

"If we in Belgium had said: 'We have made enormous sacrifices for one year and have suffered grievous losses—now we must make a separate peace,' what would have been the position of the Allies? Surely the situation would have been materially altered. Surely people would have said, Belgium has failed in her duty!"

In my humble judgment we shall not and cannot have peace in the world until we have peace in Russia. The unrest and disturbances in Belgium, Italy, France and other countries are traceable to the upheaval in Russia. All the world over there is unrest and murmuring. So long as this great Empire of Russia is in the throes of revolution the disease will continue to be contracted by the whole world. It is a constant danger and menace to the peace of Europe and to the efforts of reconstruction.

"In my humble opinion the Allies are in duty bound to continue to support Kolchak and Denikin, or any other approved friends or order. All the Allies should help in this direction. If they do not do so, then as surely Russia will fall under the dominion of Germany. It is to Russia that Germany looks for her recuperation. All the wrongs which Germany has done to Russia will be forgotten if Germany is left free to restore order according to her own ideas and Germany will reap the reward."

"As you know, America has generously taken upon herself to restore Louvain University, and a committee representing all the universities of the world, among whom Oxford and Cambridge notably represented, have undertaken to raise the new Louvain with books, as far as our lost treasures can be replaced. Upon what lines the new Louvain and its reading room will be built I cannot yet say, but we are considering the plans and architecture of all the great libraries of Europe and America. Particularly do we want help in starting technical schools of the first order. Only place in the training of our workers in the technical schools and of our scholars at colleges and universities can we combat the evils of Bolshevism. Meanwhile I shall at all times be glad to welcome distinguished scholars and some day—perhaps next spring or it may be later next year—I may have an opportunity which I covet of visiting the great universities of Oxford and Cambridge and Edinburgh and Dublin, which have conferred degrees upon me. I cannot tell. Man proposes; God disposes."

The Cardinal mentioned an amusing outcome of the flight of the Belgian refugees to the British Isles. "My clergy in Belgium," his Eminence said, "tell me that one of the consequences of this sanctuary which your country affords us is that many of our small boys have returned home to Belgium speaking English fluently. Indeed some of them have forgotten their Flemish, I am afraid, and greet their pastor on the street in this way: 'Hey, Canon, I want to speak to you!' But this is all for the good of the Entente."

THE CHURCH AND RECONSTRUCTION Under the above heading the Rev. Father Cuthbert, O. S. F. of Oxford, has a very able article in the November number of The Ecclesiastical Review. The War has torn down many idols, and now is the time to gain allegiance for the true God. So far, indeed, the result of destruction has been rather chaotic than order. We are reminded of the days when, previous to the six days of creation, all the earth was a shapeless mass of confusion. But as then the spirit was moving over the waters, so now the workings of the same Spirit are in evidence. "The situation today," says Father Cuthbert, "is radically changed from what it was but a few years past. The change is not so much on the surface of men's conscious thought, where still the old prejudices and suspicions linger and will only be gradually abated; the change is beneath the surface in the passionate discontent with the fruits of a philosophy of life and its social and political systems, which were essentially anti-Catholic; and in the new constructive idealism yet vague and unformed, which is arising out of discontent."

The first thing after the ancient chaos of creation was the "Eratosthenes"—let there be light. And this is the very thing that is first wanted in the re-making of a shattered world. "A reconstruction," continues our writer, "of social, political and intellectual life on the recognition of the human soul and its spiritual values is what the more sincere searchers are clamoring for. They may have but a hazy and indefinite idea of what the spiritual values of the soul are; but of this both the industrial worker and the philosophic thinker are becoming more and more conscious, that man has a soul and that it is not to be bread alone that a man lives. A new spiritual sense has thus emerged into the battle of the world's life, and it is in revolt against the old materialism and rationalism

of the centuries which lie immediately behind us; and this to this new spiritual sense, as every Catholic believes, the Catholic Faith alone can give the right interpretation and an enduring satisfaction."

The Church, however, to be a guide to the modern world must read the problems of the modern life with a sympathetic spirit. There is to be, of course, no re-valuation of her essential teachings, because being divine, they are fit to fill the wants of all times; but there must be an accommodation to the temper of the modern world as far as the latter is good, and this in the spirit of St. Paul, who became all things unto all men that he might gain all for Christ. As the Church has from the beginning consistently fought for the abolition of slavery, so she will favor the emancipation of man from every yoke that is unbefitting to his human dignity. And she will insist that of all liberties, "the liberty of the children of God" is both the noblest and the most fruitful of blessings.

Is there anything practical in all this for the ordinary Catholic layman? There is! The policy of the Church to be pursued in this reconstruction period here, of course, to be defined by the leaders in the Church, but the rank and file of Catholics have an important share in giving momentum to the policy of the Church. "Take any period," says Father Cuthbert, "in which the Church has actively and directly influenced the world's reconstructive civilization and it will be found that side by side with her secular achievements there has been a renewal and intensifying of Catholic piety, a keener ardor for the Faith and more vitally energizing devotion to the Person of our Lord and to the Church as His mystical body." Thus at the present time every Catholic man and woman has a means of enhancing the saving influence of the Church by renewing and intensifying his or her Catholic piety. —S. in The Guardian.

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM O Star above the looming clouds, O little star so clear and pale, Your light is shining on the crowds That longed for you in Sorrow's vale!

Your light's reflected in their eyes, And in their eyes there is new youth; Your light on many a sad heart lies, And warms its core with love and truth.

O Star of Hope, you speak in light Across the space and through the dark; Your light is music. In the night There comes your message sweetly—hark! "Peace be to you—to all whose will Is bent before the Babe new-born, Who, working, wait and love until Their night is changed into His morn."

Christ knows your weight of woe and sin, He sees the burden that you bear; Full joy you can not enter in, For strange miseries darken earthly air.

Great happiness you may not know, Or only for a moment brief, For 'tis the law for you to bow That joy is shadowed close by grief.

But peace you promise, lovely Star; And peace the angels sing to us, In pain your light will shine afar, Through turmoil peace-bells ring to us!

On earth a blessed trinity, —MAURICE FRANCIS EGAN TOUCHING INCIDENT CARDINAL MERCIER GIVEN INVALUABLE BOOKS AT CHICAGO Chicago, Oct. 30.—The University of Chicago called a special Convention, the first in its history, to honor Cardinal Mercier with the degree of Doctor of Laws. As the program was being carried out, President Judson asked for a momentary interruption. Then President Gonsaulus of Armour Institute stepped forward and in eloquence that brought tears to the eyes of the audience related the bereavement that came to the heart of the Cardinal at the loss of the Library of Louvain, and in attestation of abiding love that the University of Chicago and Armour Institute would ever have for the cherished Alma Mater of the Cardinal, Dr. Gonsaulus produced two priceless volumes, the proud possession of Chicago. From the University he gave to His Eminence the "Catholicism of Balbus," printed in 1542. Only six of these copies are in existence. From Armour he gave a first edition of "Euclid." The gift and the manner of the giving stirred the Cardinal deeply, and among the things which His Eminence will bring to Belgium none will be more welcome than these two precious books from Chicago.

We must cast away the gifts of the world before we can receive those of the Holy Ghost. The spirit of this world has its gifts—these must be abandoned, as they are incompatible with those of the Holy Ghost. We must surrender our whole heart to Him; beseeching Him to bestow His precious gifts upon us, and to preserve them in our souls even at the cost of all our affections. —St. Francis of Sales.

Oh, may once more the happy age appear When words were artless and the thoughts sincere!

Book Bargains 15c. Postpaid 60c. Each Postpaid

Halt! Who Goes There? Wilfred Meynell. Every reader of "Aunt Sarah and the War" will want to read this book. Paper Cover. The Honor of the House. By Mrs. Hugh Fraser and J. L. Stahlmann. In the ancient and grim Palazzo Boridolacchia with its wonderful Roman gardens, is laid the scene of a story of treachery and loyalty, duplicity and upright fortitude, cruelty and wonderful devotion that is thoroughly Italian in the heights and depths of human nature that it discloses. Pioneers of the Cross in Canada. By Dean Harris. The author deals with the early tribes of Canada, their mode of living, their habits, manners and customs; the coming of the missionary fathers, their labours, trials and sacrifices, and the martyrdom in the wilderness of the heroic Brebeuf, Jogues, Lalemant and Garnier. This is a historical work, having all the attraction of an epic story.

ORDER NOW Our Stock is Limited The Catholic Record LONDON, CANADA RAW FURS Best Market Price Paid for Beccoon, Sable, Mink, Weasel and Fox. ROSS' LIMITED LONDON, ONT. 1891-12



A New Boy's Story HELD IN THE EVERGLADES

BY Rev. H. S. SPALDING, S. J. Author of "The Cave by the Beech Fork," etc. 12mo., cloth, with frontispiece, \$1.25 postpaid

The story of an American lad, who, unconsciously in his own little way, contributes his bit towards helping Uncle Sam win the war.

The Catholic Record LONDON, CANADA

Toronto-Vancouver (Both Ways) Commencing SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5th, leaving TORONTO (UNION STATION) 9.15 P.M. DAILY

A New Story, just ready, by the foremost living Catholic novelist ISABEL C. CLARKE The Deep Heart

"The Deep Heart" tells a delightful, replete story, invested with real charm of character-analysis, and an almost pathetic affection for skys and life-Italian. It is a love-story, pure and simple, of the choice made by Axel Warring between Justin Melior and Peter Clutton, and of Melior's renunciation, which will appeal, as indeed will the whole volume, to the true Catholic heart. 8vo., net, \$1.75; postpaid \$1.90

The Catholic Record LONDON, CANADA ATLANTIC CITY, N. J. ALAMAC HOTEL

G. A. McMahon 517 YONGE ST. TORONTO Fast Dye Sport Wools Pattern Books Knitting Needles, etc. Stamped Linens Centers, Rumors, Pillow Cases Towels, COYS., etc.

Boil Proof Crochet and Embroidery Threads Embroidery Silks Special Attention Given to Mail Orders

CATHOLIC Home Annual 1920 Every Catholic Home Should Have It

Contains a complete list of the Fast and Feast Days, Moveable Feasts, Holy Days of Obligation. A sketch of the lives of many Saints; also a Saint for every day of the year, and the Gospel for each Sunday.

Blessed Joan of Arc, Saint Elizabeth by Right Rev. Mgr. John Walsh. The Judgment of Solomon, by Mary T. Waggaman. The Feasts of Our Holy Mother Church, by Rev. Edward F. Garesche, S. J. In the Hills, by Isabel J. Roberts. The Rosary, by Rev. Thomas M. Schwertner, O. P. The Port of Peace, by Will W. Whalen. Subiaco, the Cradle of the Benedictine Order, by Rev. Michael Ott, O. S. B. The Saint Smiles, by Jerome Harte Bosman. The Catholic Heritage.

PRICE 25c. POSTAGE PAID Catholic Record London, Canada

Every Day in the Week

Toronto-Vancouver (Both Ways) Commencing SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5th, leaving TORONTO (UNION STATION) 9.15 P.M. DAILY