

The Pope and the War

BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF TORONTO.

The Bark of Peter is passing over troubled seas these war times. We should not be surprised that she is buffeted by heavy waves. The Catholic Church is the only international power remaining unbroken by the conflict of nations and empires. International Socialism, Masonry, commercial and scientific organizations, all the bonds which connected men of one nation socially with those of the other nations, are powerless now, excepting one, the Catholic Church. Even the men who assail the Church on account of local issues, if they are thoughtful men, would not willingly see disappear this last organic expression of the brotherhood of man. The accusations which have been circulated in Canada against the Catholic Church have reference chiefly to the position and the attitude of His Holiness the Pope.

THE POSITION OF THE POPE.

The Pope is necessarily neutral in this war. He is in justice obliged to be impartial. Catholics are patriotic in their respective countries. The war has made this clear. Whether right or wrong in judgment, they are convinced of the justice of their respective countries' cause, whether French or German. If the Pope publicly condemned either group of belligerents at the outbreak of war or at any stage of it, he would thereby place many millions of Catholics in the agonizing necessity of choosing between their Church and their Country, and he would favor one section of the Church at the expense of another. The war would go on in any case. Civil war would add to its horrors, for all countries are divided in religion, and the remedy would only increase the disease. Besides, a