

FOREIGN MISSIONS

LETTER OF MGR. GUILLEME, VICAR APOSTOLIC OF NYASSA, AFRICA

TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SOLIDALITY OF ST. PETER CLAVER

I am to thank you very heartily for the generous help you have deigned to give us and to assure you that all the Christians of Nyassa are praying every day for you, more especially today, on the feast of the Patronage of your blessed Society.

Thanks to you we have been able to help our devoted catechists by furnishing them at least with the means to procure the necessities of life. They have asked me to tell you that this morning they have all offered up holy Communion for your intentions.

During the thirty-three years of my sojourn in Central Africa I have been together with some of my brethren-in-religion in very difficult and painful situations. We have been witnessing all the horrors of slavery from which, by means of the arms of charitable souls, I have been able to deliver 1,200 children which are now actually fathers and mothers of Christian families.

We have been spectators of the heartrending slaughters of cannibals who, after having rendered us powerless, pillaged and reduced to captivity the inhabitants of the neighborhood of our missions by three repeated attacks.

Twice we have been attacked by slave-hunters whom we prevented from retaining children whom we had liberated and whom the barbarians wanted to sell again as slaves on the public markets.

Once we were made prisoners by a number of slave-hunters because we had been witnessing their inhuman deeds. For two years we have been forced to live on the few things we were able to find and to fabricate our wooden sata's in order not to be obliged to go barefoot.

We had to transform iron cases into plates and other vessels and a hatchet had to replace the fork for roasting the meat which the missionaries were providing by chasing wild beasts.

We were obliged to pass one night on a tree in order not to fall a prey to the wild beasts. Twice we have suffered shipwreck on Lake Tanganyika; in one I came off with a broken arm . . . but I can assure you never have I gone through moments so full of anguish as in this awful time of war.

As we were yet young, comparatively free from care, and since little else but our own lives were at stake we got fairly over it. I had yet none of the responsibility which I have now, since I have to watch over a large region where I have seen Christianity spring up and grow, but the development of which is now being hampered by the immense calamity which has fallen on the world.

Meanwhile, considering that, in spite of all the demands which Catholic charity makes upon generous souls, your dear Solidarity thinks yet of coming efficaciously to our aid and I feel quite confident that God will not permit His work to perish, works which had been undertaken for His greater glory in a country where some ten years ago Holy Church had not a single faithful soul.—ECHO FROM AFRICA.

Who can read this account and not be moved to help the venerable Bishop? Send your aims to Solidarity of St. Peter Claver for the African Missions, Fullerton Bldg., St. Louis, Mo., to keep flourishing those promising missions which have been so sorely tried by this War.

LETTER FROM FATHER FRASER Catholic Mission, Canton, April 24, 1918. Dear Mr. Burns,—Enclosed a Postal Note for my fund which can be cashed only in Canada.

Please say in the RECORD I received with gratitude \$50 from "Overseas friend" and \$1 from "A Reader of the RECORD, Woodstock, N. B." and that I will certainly pray for the intention they mention and remember them in the Holy Sacrifice.

Its two principal centres are Yeong Kong and Loting. A few hundred Catholics are already in some portion of this territory, the fruit of earlier evangelization conducted by French priests of the Canton Vicariate who, for lack of numbers, were obliged to withdraw some years ago. The field, therefore, is practically a new one.

Four Maryknoll priests will leave this country in September for Hong Kong and Canton, from which points they will reach their new field. The priests will be directed at first by the Bishop of Canton who has designated one of his experienced missionaries as their guide, but as soon as they are in a position to take it over, a new vicariate, the first to be assigned in pagan lands to the American Catholics, will be formed.

This step is a most important one in the life of the Maryknoll Seminary, and of the Catholic Church in America. It marks a new era, the Mission of American Catholics to the pagan world.



The late Father James A. McCarthy, S. J., twenty-nine years a Jesuit. Since his ordination as priest he had been President of Loyola Academy, Chicago, pastor of Gesu Church, Milwaukee, pastor of St. Xavier's church, Cincinnati, and for the past three years he had been assistant pastor of Holy Family Church, Chicago.

A TRAITOROUS BOOK For years after the Civil war, the Johnstown flood and the San Francisco disaster enterprising vagabonds eked out a good living by playing on the facile sympathies of the public. Only the other day Manhattan was thoroughly victimized by a "war-charity" that was planned to benefit only its promoters.

There is an angle of the present war feeling that will repay investigation; it is high time the public used some sense and discrimination in the selection of what is popularly called "war literature." Apart from any consideration of historical value or literary style, some of these loudly touted publications are not merely accomplishing no good; they are working harm.

Let "Le Feu," ("Under Fire") by Henri Barbusse stand as a sample. This story of trench life and fighting was written in French and given much acclaim by a Parisian society of critics who are strongly suspected of pro-German sympathies. Translated into English and advertised far and wide by a well known American publishing house as a classic of the war, it has been read with avidity by thousands who have absorbed its poison unconsciously.

There is no doubt that the writer is a man of ability, but it is the same sort of ability displayed by German agents now working in this country. Not one reader in ten would be likely to perceive the evil doctrine this volume preaches, but this fact only makes the danger greater.

In the first place the book is an apotheosis of filth; material, mental and moral, with the base "realism" of Zola. Everything sordid and disgusting is deliberately played up. Any man of sense, though he may never have fired a gun or entered a military trench, knows that inevitable conditions are horrible, but he would never think of gloating over them.

Again, the story is a detail study of a small body of French soldiers in a small trench area. Every outbreak of anger, blasphemy, discontent and tortured nerves is described as if it were typical, not merely of these soldiers, but of the entire French army. This is the impression the reader gets and it is evidently the one the writer wished to convey.

Though the action of the story shows that the soldiers depicted are under the most rigid discipline, the impression is conveyed that they are undisciplined louts thrown to death regardlessly. No real soldier, officer or private, would ever tell a story so false and misleading. This fact alone proves that the writer has no creditable motive.

There is hardly a page that witnesses to the honest declaration of German war methods that has died too often even in this country from a certain class; and Bertrand's solitary hero is no French leader or commander, but the German Socialist, Liebknecht!

The logical effect of the talk that Barbusse puts into the mouths of his trench marionettes is to spread Socialism, anarchy and class hate. It is all too plainly and consistently a propaganda that he is carrying on under the guise of realistic fiction.

Lastly, the book smoothes with anticlericalism, that blind and bitter hate of Catholicism (the only religion a Frenchman ever takes seriously,) of priests and believers. Naturally the writer does not dare to speak out his mind, but he never mentions a priest or prayer without a demonic sneer. He introduces "a Marxist Brother, a huge simpleton in spectacles," of whom Martheroux remarks: "When he gets up early to go to Mass, he says 'I've got to be early for the morning and take a turn round the altar and no mistake.'" Again: "For you know, parsons (protres) with knapsacks on, I haven't seen a devil of a lot of 'em, have you?" This ribald lie in the face of the twenty thousand French priests who have fought in the French armies these past four years.

The evil intent of this book is plain. Under the guise of depicting Gallie valor, it preaches everything against which the Allies are fighting and strives to vilify and calumniate those who believe in God and are giving their lives for Christian civilization.—Boston Pilot.

ENGLISH CATHOLIC VIEW OF IRISH SITUATION (C. P. A. Service)

London, England.—The situation in Ireland at the present time is one that journalists with an anti-Catholic leaning will be only too prone to use for party ends, and it may well be that some of the cables might be accepted with a certain measure of reservation. Briefly, the situation is this: The British Parliament by a majority vote— from the Nationalist members and some others dissented— has decided to extend compulsory military service to Ireland, on the same conditions with which it is enforced in other parts of the United Kingdom. The Irish have determined not to accept compulsory service, for reasons which have been given, and have organized themselves to resist the measure. A part of this organization has been that the Catholic hierarchy, at a meeting of a National Council, under the presidency of Cardinal Logue, have given their approval to the policy of opposition, and in addition have organized the Irish people in their resistance.

As might have been expected, the action of the British Parliament has called forth charges of ecclesiastical interference in political matters. At the present moment an acute feeling has arisen which involves not only the Catholics of Ireland, but those of Great Britain as well. But what are the actual facts?

The facts are that although all Ireland is in opposition to a governmental measure, there is no rioting, no rioting, no outbreaks of any kind. The nation-wide cessation from work on April 23 throughout Ireland, except in Belfast, passed off without a single untoward event of any kind. The whole country was peaceful, and there were no disturbances. However one may regard the motive of the Bishops, it is clear that they have taken the opposition movement to conscription in hand; they are on the side of law and order; they have set their faces against any assaults on the police, and they have warned the people to give no occasion for offense to the military. The fact that there has been no bloodshed and no outbreak of violence may be set down to the moderate consensus of the Bishops, who are holding the people well in hand. That there would be resistance was inevitable; that it should be kept in control by the strong hand of the hierarchy means that there will be no repetition of Easter week.

The part the Bishops have taken is liable to be overlooked in the heat of the moment, and both anti-clericals and anti-Catholics are more inclined to blame them for treachery towards the cause of the Allies than to give them any sort of credit for their foresight in taking in hand a movement of opposition that was bound to come. This much, however, is clear: If the Bishops had not acted with a restraining hand the situation in Ireland would have been appalling. As it is, some sort of order will come out of the chaos.

NATIONAL "PEACE NOVENA" IN IRELAND All Ireland is on her knees in prayer during these days to Our Lady of Lourdes in the great novena for internal and external peace. Extraordinary scenes have been witnessed in both town and country at the opening of the devotions. In the southern cities many of the shops and business establishments were closed to enable the employees to participate in the opening of the novena. The churches have been crowded to their doors and where- over there was a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes special decorations have adorned it. At Mount Argus, near Dublin, there was a great procession and Fr. Columbian, C. P., urged the people to have recourse to Mary in these days of the world's grief. The Archbishop of Cashel, preaching at Thurles on Tuesday, denied that the Irish Episcopate had been influenced by the Vatican in its opposition to conscription; that was only the idea of a lot of Protestant bigots. As to

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the titled members of the English Catholic Union who threatened to appeal to the Pope, it was not the Irish Bishops who would suffer in any such appeal; the appellants were repudiated by Catholics in their own land. The Irish hierarchy considered that it is a work of Christian charity to defend the oppressed and that moral and religious questions enter into the matter of conscription, which was an inhuman law.

Wit is the god of moments, but genius is the god of ages.

DIED McNAUGHTEN.—Suddenly, at St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph, of pneumonia, on Monday, May 20, 1918, Mr. Peter McNaughten, in his seventy-sixth year, having received all the rites of Holy Church. May his soul rest in peace.

CATHEDRAL BUYS NEW ORGAN-BLOWING MACHINE The latest of Canada's churches to purchase a Spence all-steel electric "Orgoblo" for supplying wind-power to the organ is St. Peter's Cathedral, London, Ont. The new installation will replace the old-style water motor hitherto used and will reduce the cost of organ-blowing considerably, while greatly improving the tone of the instrument. The machine, which is made by Mr. Leonard Downey, of London, Ont., has long had the sole Canadian agency for this leading make of organ-blowing machinery.

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RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS BOYS AND YOUNG MEN WHO HAVE A religious vocation and who are desirous to devote themselves to the service of God and the education of youth in the Presentation Brothers' Order, can now be admitted, for further particulars apply to the Rev. Brother Provincial, Presentation Brothers Novitiate, Longueuil, P. Q. 2068-9.

AGENTS WANTED WE ARE IN NEED OF AN INTELLIGENT lady (Roman Catholic) in every parish in Canada and Newfoundland, to introduce our beautiful line of religious pictures, size of 10x12 inches. Sepia (Gelatine Print) and Carbon Brown Tints. We have over 60 different subjects, and this class of pictures are of a quality that would be placed in the most particular homes, as they retain all the details and high lights of the original paintings. We sell in quantities from one dozen to one hundred at wholesale prices to prospective agents. No experience is required to handle this line as these pictures sell at sight. For particulars address: Catholic Supply Co., Publishers of Religious Pictures, 46 St. Alexander Street, Montreal, Que. 2067-4.

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Andrie, The Story of a Catholic College Boy African Fabrics, The; translated by Right Rev. Mgr. Joseph O'Connell, D. D. The story of the life of St. Perpetua, who suffered martyrdom together with her slave, Felicitas, at Carthage in the year 203. One of the most moving in the annals of the Church.

Alchemist's Secret, The; by Isabel Cecilia Williams This collection of short stories is not of the sort to be read simply for amusement; they have their simple direct teaching, and they lead us to think of the lives of our fathers and of the trials of others rather than of our own.

Alibi, by Fanny Warner. A tale of the adventures of a young woman who is accused of a crime. The story is well written, and a romance cleverly told.

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