GOD'S CHRISTMAS GIFT

LOSCOBLEM

or The whole world had gone astray. and in our great misery God gave us His Son for our comforting. Only God could have known the possibility of the Incarnation; only God could have encompassed it; only God could have brought it to pass with its mes-sage of sweetness, and its ineffably touching humility. For He was given to us as one of ourselves, as one to whom we might look as our Eldar Brother, our intercessor with Elder Brother, our intercessor with our common Father in heaven. Mary and Joseph could find no home for His birthplace, but only a stable. He did not come to us like a child of the poor, for even the poor have homes, but like a little Outcast.

No candle is there and no fire in that rude hut, and her little One shivers in the cold. But Mary wraps Him in swaddling clothes and, before she lays Him in the manger, holds Him to her loving breast. For if He Him to her loving breast. For if is God, is she not His Mother ? He falls asleep, soothed to rest by the sound of her voice, comforted by the caress of her gentle hands. With unconcerned eyes the beasts near the manger look on. Soon our forefathers in faith will kneel before the sleeping Child, to adore Him as their God, their Saviour. Soon the song of the Angels, with its glorious promise of peace to men of good will, will announce the coming of the King. But now all is silence, darkness. Masterful Rome, ruling from sea to sea, with Greece, fallen yet regnant through her philosophy and art, the sensuous Orient, rich in the luxury of gold and perfumes, the dark stern countries of the North, even His own people, knew nothing of the stable at Bethlehem. Few were thinking of this Gift of God fewer would have sought It in a stable on a bleak hillside. But God gave His Gift to a heedless world

and in the giving a new epoch began. By His coming Jesus Christ trans-formed the face of the earth. He forged, first of all, an unbreakable bond, uniting all men as brethren. He is truly of our race and nation ; He has taken to Himself our frame, our flesh, our nature ; He has become like to us in all things, save only sin. Made the first born of many brethren in the Incarnation, He elevated the natural kinship of all in Adam to a relation that is sacred. As brothers, we are equals; as brothers we ought, in St. Paul's words, to prevent one another in charity; and because the Christ Child, God's Christmas Gift to the world, is our true Brother, we are all, in His intention, children of God and heirs of Heaven.

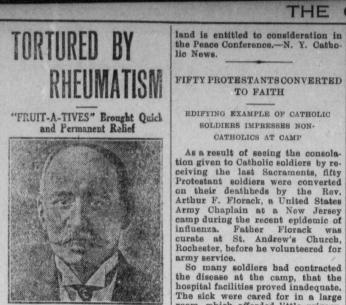
For four years, the world was in arms, nation against nation, brother against brother, and the Prince of Peace seemed forgotten, with all that He came to teach. Now that the cannons are silent, after those years

of carnage, men are weary and hearts are softened. Today, the whole world is at peace, as it was when the Christ Child was born in Bethlehem. May Christmas 1918, mark the beginning of a new era in which the peace and love borne to the world by the baby hands of the Child of Bethle-hem, shall be firmly established in the hearts of all men.-America.

HOW DISASTER WAS AVERTED

Catholics the world over have every reason to be justly proud of the illustrious General Foch. The

stories which continue to appear of his deep piety and absolute reliance



MR. P. H. MCHUGH 108 Church Street, Montreal. December 10th, 1917

cast aside all pride, making their confessions bravely and concealing "I was a great sufferer from Rheum nothing. atism for over 16 years, I consulted specialists, took medicines, used The effect on the Protestants near by was astonishing. One after the other, realizing that he was near

lotions; but nothing did me good. death, called for a priest. Then, I began to use "Fruit-a-What can I do for you?" Father tives"; and in 15 days, the pain was Florack asked. easier and the Rheumatism was better. Gradually, "Fruit-a-tives" Anything at all to prepare me fcr death," answered the boys. Those who had not been baptized overcame my Rheumatism; and now, for five years, I have had no return received the Sacrament of Baptism, while those who had been, made a general confession—a new experiof the trouble. Also, I had severe Eczema and Constipation, and ence to them, but one gladly under-taken. The soldiers eagerly sought "Fruit-a-tives" relieved me of these complaints ; and gave me a good appetite ; and in every way restored the consolation of the Church and thus prepared themselves for a happy me to health". P. H. McHUGH. death 50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25c. Father Florack himself finally At dealers or sent post paid on receipt of price by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa, Ont. ontracted influenza, as a result of his constant work. He is now in the West to regain his strength.—Buffalo

tions of the war, the deep voice of HOW A CONVERT WAS MADE the general alternated with the sweet prayer of the priest and the vibrant answer of the children. Their prayer ascended to the very wound in the Sacred Heart. When it was finished, I heard an expression of thought a few days ago of an incident that happened at one of our camps in rethe general dismissed his recruits, and ordered the French cavalry into lation to one of the chaplains there -a Knights of Columbus chaplain the breech. The infantry followed. Soon that fatal opening is closed and Foch, who was victorious in stem There was a quarantine declared for some reason, but there were a great many soldiers reporting in and the many soldiers reporting in and prise wanted to have permission for all to attend Mass the next day. He most to the colonel, who said, "No, ming the onward tide of the enemy by prayer, prepares with prayer rather than with his genius for the decisive victory, of which we have it is impossible. been informed."-Catholic Tran

DIED

script.

McGowan-Killed in action, on Sept. 27, 1918, Pie. Jas. A. McGowan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan McGowan, couple of days afterwards the priest of Trochu, Alta. Deceased was born at Perth, Ont., twenty four years ago I don't think you did the right and was a member of the Knights of thing going over my head ; I am not and was a member of the Ruigues of Columbus, Edmonton. May his soul rest in peace. The priest told him, "Well, I did only my duty. I appealed to you. You have your

MAHON.-At Barry's Bay, Ont., December 11, 1918, Catherine Mcduties; I was attending to my Dougall, dearly beloved wife of John duties. Mahon, aged seventy-eight years. May her soul rest in peace. What do you think happened ? About three or four days after, the same week, a knock comes to the

door and a big, burly colonel appears -the same man-and says:" Father, I have been thinking over that little THE CASE OF IRELAND trouble between you and me a few days ago. I think there must be

Americans of Irish blood are not something in that religion of yours the only persons in this country who want to see justice done in Ireland at this time, when the rights of on the prayers of his little compa-triots will deepen, it possible, the estimation in which his brethren in small nationalities are about to come quell, a Canadian chaplain from the for some days last spring in General a mass meeting called in Troy, N. Y., Foch's residence, and had the happi- on Dec. 17, to advocate the freedom the General and his wife, relates the of the seas Ireland could never be following incident: "During the dark hours of spring the English line was completely broken. This was a insist upon this, the second of his veloped into a disaster. Foch betook



make the story short, the colonel went under instructions and I am informed is a Catholic.-Rev. Luke room, which afforded little privacy. This did not deter the Catholics from making their confessions. They McCabe in Philadelphia Standard and Times.

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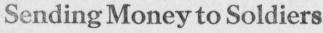
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extent of the danger. He asked for the Cure of the little village, and begged him tog ather the children of his parish in the public square.

that was likewise unique in the history of military commands. "To history of military commands. "To your knees," he said, "and let us pray." During a silence, that con-trasted with the thousand detona-

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dom. "'Self determination' must in-Self-determination must in-clude Ireland. Are the Slavs of cen-tral Europe, and the Tartar hordes of Russia, and the swarthy tribes of Syria to be included in 'self deter-mination' and the Irish excluded ? Are the Czechs and Slavs, the Lapps and Finns and the Magyars and Poles to have liberty and the Irish to endure oppression ?

Did we Americans fight, and did the Irish fight, to 'make the world safe for democracy' everywhere—ex. cept in Ireland? Are the brave, proud, intrepid, high spirited, talent ed, civilized inhabitants of the Emer-ald Isle to be singled out as a subject

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