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THE BISHOPS' JOKES

The mass meeting of Anglicans at Massey Hall last Thursday was kept in more than good humour by the Bishop's yarns from the front. Speaking regarding the splendid service of the American negro troops in France, Bishop McCormick told of one negro soldier who asked for leave to go to visit "Africa," as he said, meaning the negroes from North Africa with the French. On meeting one of his African brothers with a good-natured grin, he hailed him in English. The African replied in French. After repeated attempts to make themselves understood, they relapsed into gestures and grimaces. Finally, the American negro, becoming excited, shook his fist in the African's face, saying, "You is black, but you no nigger."

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Another negro soldier from the United States, being asked why he was fighting overseas when it was not his country or his race that was being oppressed, replied that he was fighting for his race. "What is your race?" was the question. He replied, "The angry Saxons."

An American soldier who had been nursed back to health through a tedious illness, desiring to express his profound gratitude to his nurses when he went away, said to them in a voice husky with emotion, "If ever there were fallen angels on earth, you are them."

Illustrative of the anxiety of American soldiers to get into the fight, the story was told of an American who was orderly to one of the colonels at the front. After one week he had enough of it, for one morning the colonel found this note pinned to the flap of his tent: "Dear colonel, keep this blamed work for somebody else. I have gone to fight."

Bishop Richardson spoke of two elements of success in the Canadian soldiers as "possession" and "self-possession." The first element, he said he realized one morning in the refreshment room at Creuse. There was no diner on the train and there was no food to be obtained at any of the stations. On arriving at Creuse, a goodsized town, he left the carriage before the train stopped and reached the refreshment room before anyone else. There was a plate of sandwiches at one end of the counter and a plate of rolls at the other. He chose the sandwiches. While he was waiting for the attendant to come to give him a sandwich a khaki-clad arm reached over from behind him and lifted the plate. He turned to see a Canadian soldier dumping the sandwiches into a kit-bag.

The second point, "self-possession," he illustrated by the actions of a Canadian soldier who made himself comfortable in a first-class carriage. Although it was not a smoking compartment, he asked and obtained permission to smoke from two ladies who were in the compartment. Later, an irascible old gentleman entered the carriage. He stumbled at the door and dropped his ticket, which the Canadian picked up for him. The old gentleman called the soldier to order for smoking. But he only bowed and smiled and smoked. Further remonstrances were of no avail. At last the old gentleman called the guard and complained. The guard ordered the soldier to stop smoking or leave the compartment. Before leaving the soldier asked the guard to examine the old gentleman's ticket. With great reluctance he produced his ticket. It was for "third class."

After the old gentleman had left the compartment in humiliation, one of the ladies asked the Canadian how he knew that the ticket was "third class." He replied, "When I picked it up I saw that it was the same colour as my own."

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