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LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1914

THE CAUSE OF THE WAR

I. TWO GERMANY'S

In the midst of the most stupendous struggle in the world's history many are asking what precisely is the cause of this war. And they are told of Austrian aggression on Serbia, of England's defence of Belgium, of violated neutrality and of other things which though more or less intimately connected with the occasion of the outbreak are not the real reason why we who live in any part of the British Empire are not only in a state of war but engaged in a mighty conflict which may end in the destruction of that Empire as we know it. And the destruction of the British Empire was the real if not the immediate object of Germany in provoking the war. It may be, though it is hard to believe it, that Germany expected to be allowed to dispose of Britain's continental friends first and to take on later the more formidable task of sweeping Britain from the path of her triumphant march to world dominion. If so it was the most egregious of all Germany's miscalculations which give point to G. K. Chesterton's fling at Germany's Higher Critics who, in the entire absence of evidence, dogmatize as to how people must infallibly have acted, talked and believed thousands of years ago.

Since it is evident—there is no longer room to question it—that the British Empire finds itself engaged in a struggle that involves her very existence, a large proportion of the educated and cultured among us whose views on Holy Scripture, whose philosophy, theology and the ethical standards which were fast supplanting Christian truths and principles were all "made in Germany," found themselves in a peculiar position. Self-defence as well as self-respect forced them, after a futile attempt to make the Kaiser the scapegoat, to the not very ingenious nor very ingenious course of proclaiming that there are two Germany's, the Germany of art and science and philosophy and religion and culture at whose feet they were proud to sit and humbly learn the only truths suited to our marvellous modern mind, and military Germany, whose iron heel was on the neck of our beloved German Gamaliels. We were even told that we should have the glory of freeing this Germany, which we loved and revered (and adored) from that other Germany which was a burden to our German teachers as well as a menace to us.

Unfortunately, Harnack (honored name) and Bode and Behring and Hauptmann and Humperdinck and Manzel and Litz and Eucken and Wundt and Roentgen and all the rest famous in that "other Germany" make it very plain that there is only one Germany known to them. They are not grateful for our sympathy but vigorously protest against what they term our lies.

Furthermore, there is not the slightest ground for believing that the twenty-three millions of Catholics of Southern Germany are a whit less German than their Lutheran brethren of Prussia. Neither does it appear that Cardinal Bettinger is less convinced than Dr. Harnack that German domination of Europe would be for Europe's good.

Nay more, Austria, once Germany's bitter foe, has become her inseparable ally. Only a few years ago, during an interchange of royal courtesies at Vienna, the present relationship was thus graphically described: "Our alliance has, to the weal of the world, passed into, and like an imperious element, pervaded the convictions and life of both peoples." Whether or not it be "to the weal of the world" no one will dispute that the royal pronouncement was otherwise accurate.

Nor is there much that is respectable in the railing of those who hold that the peace of nations is in the keeping of a handful of diplomats. "Foreign policy is seldom the creation of the foreign minister of the day. A minister may manoeuvre freely within certain limits. At times of crisis he may force or evade a war, but in the long run foreign policy derives its force and character from the individuality of a people. King Edward VII. commanded the universal confidence of the Empire because his attitude towards foreign powers reflected precisely the temper and ideals of the people over whom he reigned. The Emperor William, despite his indiscretions, is the idol of Germany, because he represents exactly the genius and beliefs of the great mass of the German people."

No, there is only one Germany, and a united Germany at that; and Austria is most intimately at one with her great ally.

The cause of the war is not to be found in German military caste, nor in religion, nor in diplomacy. Religion perhaps excepted in so far as the Reformation principle of the supremacy of the State over the Church arrested the normal development of European civilization and is working itself out in the "Might-Politics" of Germany.

Why Germany should consider the destruction of the British Empire essential to her progress we shall consider next week.

RECRIMINATION DANGEROUS

Canada's history might have been different. She might have chosen independence or annexation to the United States. As a matter of fact she freely elected to remain part and parcel of what is known as the British Empire. We have been told that the term is a misnomer; that it does not fit the definition of Empire at all. Well, those who are concerned with definitions will only have to make a definition to fit. For the British Empire is a fact whether it is an empire or not. Under the aegis of that great name we have grown to nationhood. There are those who hold that we must devise some means of giving every part of the Empire a share in the responsibilities and a voice in the control of the interests common to all. That is a matter that will stand more study and discussion than it has yet received. There are others who proclaim that since we have no voice in shaping the foreign policy of the Empire we have no duty when war breaks out. Logically these should be amongst the foremost ranks of imperial federalists. But no, according to them we are in the Empire but not of it.

As a matter of fact, Canada has voice and influence in Imperial affairs. Rarely is a representative government in Canada so sensitive to public opinion as is the Imperial government to the sentiment of unrepresented Canada.

Happily now when the existence of the Empire is at stake, Canada recognizes her duty. There is practically no dissentient voice. There is no room for disagreement. No change is sought by anyone at this time in the status of Canada. But it is well to remember that that duty would be precisely the same if France and Belgium were ranged amongst the Empire's enemies. It is an inspiration and source of patriotic pride to see all differences, political, racial, and religious, sunk in the face of the grave crisis with which we are confronted. In this contest it becomes daily more evident that ultimate success will be determined by superiority at sea. It is regrettable that party squabbling leaves Canada with no direct voice in that decision. But it would be a hundred fold more regrettable if the present unanimity were to be disturbed by futile discussion and idle recrimination. Whether Canada's part could best be taken by three dreadnaughts or a fleet of cruisers is still probably a debatable question. This, however, is not the time to debate it. Canada's humiliation is that we have neither the one or the other. It is altogether likely that there were mixed motives on both sides; that neither party is free from trying to square expediency as political partisans with duty as Canadians. It is more than probable that many on both sides saw no harm in combining the two. But patriotism and good sense alike now imperatively demand that the past, none too creditable to either party, be buried and the duty of the hour be faced by a united Canada.

An election at this time would be so indefensible that we refuse to believe that the idea is seriously entertained by the Canadian Government.

PAPAL SECRETARY OF STATE

Cardinal Ferrata, Secretary of State to His Holiness Benedict XV, died the 10th inst. Though the history of the recent conclave will not be made public until the Holy Father deems it advisable it has been freely stated that the late Cardinal Ferrata received the next highest number of votes to Cardinal Della Chiesa, now reigning as Peter's successor under the name of Benedict XV.

Cardinal Ferrata was born in 1847 and created Cardinal by Leo XIII. in 1896. Under Leo he had a distinguished diplomatic career but under Pius X. was a comparatively obscure cardinal in curia. His appointment as Secretary of State to Benedict XV. was regarded by many as a significant indication of the new Pope's general policy.

Cardinal Pietro Gasparri has been selected to fill the post left vacant by the death of Cardinal Ferrata. Those who saw any significance in the fact that the present Pope had long been the close friend and trusted substitute of Cardinal Rampolla when the latter was Secretary of State to Leo XIII., will deem worthy of note that the new Papal Secretary also served under both for many years. Cardinal Gasparri was born in 1852 and created cardinal in 1907.

The office of Papal Secretary corresponds to that of foreign minister in civil government and the Cardinal Secretary of State is therefore most prominent after the Pope in the government of the Church. Cardinal Gasparri will, while God spares him, fill the great office in which during the past ten years Cardinal Merry del Val served the Church by his statesmanlike qualities, his singleness of purpose and his entire devotion to our late beloved Holy Father Pius X.

The rumor that Cardinal Merry del Val was to go to Madrid seems to be set at rest by the announcement of his appointment as Secretary of the Holy Office. Curiously enough this is the same position to which Cardinal Rampolla retired on the election of Pius X.

"THE DUTY OF THE HOUR"

At the banquet which closed the very successful initiation ceremonies of Columbus Day in London His Lordship Bishop Fallon delivered a memorable speech to the toast "The duty of the hour." We regret very much not to be able to place the full text before our readers. Nor can we attempt to summarize the masterly address that aroused such genuine enthusiasm. One point may be here usefully noted. In addition to the ordinary motives of loyalty and devotion the Bishop insisted on one that appealed with especial force to the audience of Knights of Columbus and their friends. Though the Church is persecuted or hampered in so-called Catholic countries, everywhere throughout the world where the British flag floats the Catholic Church is free to carry on her divine mission. Very effectively he described the meeting in Rome of a general chapter of the Oblates where men were gathered from the ends of the earth. However far apart their fields of labor, however diverse their racial origin, English and Irish and Dutch and German and Canadian were united in the one work to which they had given their lives—the extension of the Kingdom of God under the banner of Mary Immaculate. There was at least one other subject on which there was striking unanimity. Whether from the Transvaal, Cape Colony, Rhodesia, Ceylon or Canada, whether Irish or Dutch, English or German each bore grateful testimony to the great fact that wherever the British flag floats there the Church is free.

Moreover, all that is included in the comprehensive terms "the British Constitution," "British Institutions" and "British Liberty" is rooted deep down in the Catholic centuries of England's history. Their conservation is doubly dear to Catholics.

The duty of the hour is to realize that in the state of war in which we find ourselves each is called upon to bear his part whether on the firing line or in the ordinary duties of life, each is called upon at this time to make some sacrifice for the common weal. It was noted that though His Lordship did not mince matters when dealing with the situation created by Germany, Brother Zinger and his contingent of German-Canadians from Berlin applauded as heartily as their brother-Canadians of other descent.

THE OFFICIAL ATHRISM OF FRANCE

The frankly atheistic attitude of the French Government was once more illustrated when it refused to grant the petition that a day be appointed when the people of unhappy France might come together in the churches to implore the mercy, forgiveness and assistance of God.

On the other hand, without arousing a breath of protest, the President of the United States appoints a day of general prayer that God might vouchsafe to bring peace to war-stricken Europe.

One cannot help recalling that this same government or others of the same type waged successful war on the inoffending men and helpless women of the religious communities in France. In those piping times of peace there were "atrocities" which robbed men and women of their property and compelled thousands of "refugees" to seek asylum in foreign lands. And there was no protest from the nations.

The government, which now protests against the destruction of cathedrals, openly and systematically endeavored to destroy the faith of which the magnificent old cathedrals are only one form of expression. The rod of God's anger has fallen on France which elected and re-elected these governments and thereby acquiesced in their anti-Christian policy.

It is consoling to learn that throughout the whole country the people are turning to God, that the churches are filled, and that the soldiers in the field eagerly seek the ministrations of priests whether fellow-soldiers or chaplains. It is not to the atheistic degenerates but to the God-fearing Catholics from Joffre down to the uncorrupted peasant that France must now look for salvation. It is not too much to hope and it is right to pray that God may use this dreadful visitation to rid Catholic France of the dominance of the atheists who have long disgraced her government, to inspire her people with a more intense religious spirit and a deeper sense of responsibility as Catholics and as citizens.

A TIMELY WARNING

Elsewhere in this issue we publish Colonel Mason's stirring appeal to Canadians as to their duty in the present great world conflict. Wide publicity and general appreciation has been accorded Senator Mason's pronouncement. The Montreal Daily Mail in the course of an extended editorial reference says:

"Timely and to the point is the spirited appeal addressed to Canadians by Colonel the Honorable James Mason, of Toronto, which is given in the Mail to-day. No man in Canada is better fitted by experience and environment to sound the clarion call than the man who writes. President and General Manager of the Home Bank of Canada, he is one of the best-known and most creditably reputed of Canadian business men; a militia officer in positions of responsibility and trust, and also a veteran of the Northwest Rebellion, he knows the military aspects of the situation as well as any man in America; he is also an honored member of the Senate of Canada. An appeal of this kind from such a man is well worth heeding."

LOOKING INTO THE MIRROR

We of this essentially selfish and material age marvel not a little as we read of the wonderful lives of God's saints. We compare their self-denial and self-immolation with our utter lack of mortification, and are frightened at the awful contrast the while we puzzle for a reason. And yet the reason is not hard to find or far to seek. It is simply that the saints loved God.

But surely we, too, love God. Yes, with our lips, but God is served not by word but by deed. Round about us we see daily examples of the wonders wrought by love. The father toils long hours to provide the comforts of home for wife and child. The mother buries herself in the seclusion of her home, working patiently, often long hours into the night, for no other recompense than the knowledge that the love of husband and children is hers. And to come down to a love which, properly understood, is no less sacred, the love of a good man for the girl of his choice. What miracles it works? Under the golden glory of its radiance the world takes on a new face. Then, indeed, every cloud has a silver lining, and hardships, privations, nothing counts, but separation from the beloved.

"From the fig-tree learn a lesson." Here is the explanation of the wonderful lives of God's saints. They wrought such miracles because they

loved God with a love that was warm and pulsing, that was as unlike our poor pretence of love as sunlight is unlike moonlight. All that the father does for his family, the wife for her husband and children, all this and more the saints did for God because they loved Him with a love that was living and personal. A father or mother never counts the cost. Neither did the saints of God. If we find the yoke bitter and the burden heavy it is because we are lacking in love.

Do we really love God at all? To be sure we say that we love Him with our whole heart and soul and above all things. But let us be honest with ourselves. We hunger for the presence of a loved one—for the touch of a hand, for the sound of a voice. The time spent with our friends is sweet and pleasant, and by contrast, the time spent away from them is long and tedious. Do you feel like this about God? What when sin separates us from Him? Do we miss His company? How we love to visit our dear ones? How we hate to visit the Church where Jesus lives? What long hours we spend in conversation with our friends, and how short a time we spend at our prayers which is our conversation with God? When we say good-bye to our friends our hearts are heavy with grief, but when, through sin, we say good-bye to God, how little we think of it? The heaviest tasks done for our loved ones are light. The smallest thing done for God is an intolerable burden. And why? Because we have no real love for God. When we learn to love God as we love our friends, with a love that is real, then, and not till then, will we do something for Him.

The great tragedy of life is the denial of love. Picture a mother eating out her heart in the loneliness of her home, craving for the love of a child that has forgotten her. The boy or the girl has gone out into the big world, and day after day she sits waiting for the letter that never comes. And all the time her heart is breaking. How we despise the child that forgets the tender love of a mother. But a mother's love is small and worthless set side by side with the love of Jesus for us. A mother never forgets, but He tells us that even though she should forget yet He will not forget us. And yet we forget His tender love for us. Alone and lonely He waits for us in the tabernacle. And the days pass and we still refuse to come. And all the time the Heart of Jesus is breaking.

We pride ourselves upon our fidelity towards our friends. We detest the false friend. Why, then, do we not detest ourselves for breaking our word with Jesus? England is at war because she would not break her word. Rather than prove false to it she is to-day pouring out blood and treasure upon the battlefields of Europe. We made a treaty with Jesus, first at our baptism, and as often as we have knelt in the tribunal of Penance. How have we observed it?

We pretend to love God above everything else. Suppose we made up our minds to love Him as we love our friends? It is not a very high degree of perfection to aim at. But at least we would then do something for Him. And, anyway, there is little use in playing at make-believe with God.

COLUMBA.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

FROM FATHER FRASER'S letter to his father (Mr. William Fraser of Toronto) extracts from which, by the kindness of the latter, appear in another column, it may be seen how far-reaching are the effects of the disastrous European War. Father Fraser tells how the Catholic missionaries of China are depleted through the liability of every Frenchman to military service in time of war. This is true not only of China, but of every country in the world where Catholic missionaries are spending themselves for the propagation of the Faith.

A LARGE PERCENTAGE of these missionaries are either French or Belgian, and now that their native lands are engaged in a death struggle with the ruthless might of Germany, and have need of the service of their every son, the missionary priest, responsive always to the call of duty, steps silently into his place in the ranks of his countrymen, and each one becomes a missionary on the field of battle. It is, after all, but a transference from one mission to another, for nowhere now is the need for their priestly services so great as

on the blood stained soil of the mother countries.

NOT ONLY are the agonizing cries of dying soldiers appealing for spiritual succor, but the widows and the orphans, aged men and women, mothers of families and young children, fleeing before organized murder, rapine and destruction, turn instinctively to the man of God for that consolation in the dread hour which he alone, as the minister of the Most High, can impart. While the priest, therefore, by the exigency of the hour, becomes a soldier of an earthly ruler, he does not thereby cease to be a soldier of the King of Kings. Rather does he, by going down as a comrade into the very shadow of death, embrace incalculable opportunities of discharging his sacred functions, and it will never be known until the last great day just how rich a spiritual harvest he has thereby garnered, or how many souls, who otherwise would have perished, have by his timely aid, in the very midst of carnage, been enrolled amongst the friends of God.

THESE REFLECTIONS have come to us, not for the first time, on reading Father Fraser's letter. They have, we are safe in saying, been the thoughts of many Catholics in these perilous and trying times. At first thought it may seem unfitting that a priest should be called upon to do military service, and in true perspective so it is. But since the civil law in some countries has not exempted even ecclesiastics from the common decree, they have, on their part, not shirked the burden laid upon them. So that, in the present War, we have the spectacle of some twenty-five thousand ecclesiastics, as it is estimated—seminarians, priests, and even Bishops—in the ranks of the Allied Armies. This as a spectacle is without precedent in the world's history, and it lends a character to this War which marks it out from all the historic conflicts of the past. That its accompaniment should be, as we are assured it is, a marked revival of religion in France, and its development, a new spirit of seriousness and humanity in her army, is in every way consistent and harmonious. As for Belgium, her character as a Catholic nation has been long established: this War proves that she is also a valiant one.

IN KEEPING with the foregoing, reference to the King of the Belgians is timely. Since the beginning of hostilities King Albert has been much in the world's eye. His prompt and complete identification with the cause of his people and his repudiation with them of Germany's infamous proposals in regard to their treaties with other Powers, has elevated him into the position of one of the world's heroes. Father Bernard Vaughan's characterization of him on occasion of his accession to the throne as "a thorough gentleman, a thorough soldier, a thorough scholar and a thorough Catholic" is recalled, and the further attributes of simplicity and eminent sanity which contemporary history accords him have been amply vindicated by the War. His life prior to his kingship, we are told, was one of goodness and simplicity, devoted to study and to public service, while his generous nature, devoutness and blameless record made him the most popular of heirs-apparent and the most promising of future kings.

KING ALBERT is thirty-nine years of age, and the son of the Count of Flanders, and nephew, therefore, to the late King Leopold. His mother was a Hohenzollern (Princess Marie) of the non-reigning line, and by her direction he was given a semi-German education. Allied thus by ties of blood to the Kaiser, and by training to the German people he has, nevertheless, nothing in common with them in the present War, and it is to his everlasting honor that his sense of rectitude as regards international obligations rose entirely superior to the call of kindred. King Albert with his people has chosen rather to wade to the very neck in blood, and to suffer every indignity and deprivation of a cruel war rather than to betray their trust or to sacrifice the national honor. That in the outcome it will be to their lasting glory as a nation goes without saying.

AS PREPARATION for his kingship, Prince Albert entered upon a long course of diplomatic and scientific training. With his father he visited every court in Europe, and assisted

at the negotiations of important international affairs concerning Belgium. He took a practical part in the work of national development, and from his seat in the Senate inspired a number of reforms, and not a few national schemes of commercial progress. He was a fervent advocate of strengthening by State aid the commercial fleet which has been so significant a factor in that amazing industrial development of Belgium which has been the envy of other and more powerful nations. He is also a keen student of sociology and political economy, and has distinguished himself as a lecturer on these and on other subjects connected with his travels and scientific observations abroad. All of which goes to show that King Albert is part and parcel of the Belgian nation and that his people have every reason to be proud of him. That he may survive this war and live to add new laurels to his house is a hope that will be shared by all those of whatever nation, who love and honor virtue, integrity, valor and true modesty.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

SUBMARINES AGAIN

The sinking of the Russian Cruiser Pallada and the British Cruiser Hawke gives ground for further serious misgiving as to the part that may be played by submarines now that the enemy has bases at Antwerp and Ostend, and the foggy fall weather makes more favorable condition for such attacks.

SOUTH AFRICA

The treason of the Boer Colonel Maritz in going over with a small command to the Germans is perhaps a fortunate thing. It brings out the magnificent loyalty of General Botha and the Boer population in general, while at the same time it puts an end to the possibility of the propagation of secret sedition.

THE GLOBE'S WAR SUMMARY

SATURDAY, OCT. 17

From Berlin comes the official announcement that the German army occupied Bruges on Wednesday and Ostend on Thursday. This practically completes the conquest of Belgium. The only portion of the country still remaining under the government of King Albert is the small strip between Ypres and the coast with an area of perhaps 400 square miles. The Belgians show little disposition to return to the smoking ruins of their homes on the invitation of the conquerors. No steamers carrying refugees are now leaving Belgian ports, but thousands of Belgians are still taking passage to Dunkirk and Calais for England. There seems to be little hope of the clearing of the Germans out of Belgium before the spring, and it will cost enormous sums to maintain the Belgian refugees in Holland, Britain and France till their homes can be restored to them with their own flag flying above them.

The most significant feature of recent reports from the front is the frequent statement that German prisoners are usually starving. There seems no reason to doubt this testimony. The French cavalry have recently cut off two food convoys, and if these raids are continued with success the position of the Germans in France will become untenable. This is especially true on the eastern frontier, where the French advancing from Nancy are now perilously near the railway and trunk road between Metz and Verdun, upon which the large German force operating in the Woerthe district between the Meuse and Moselle depends for subsistence. The autumn rains are now coming down steadily all over the western theatre of war, and the increasing difficulty of securing food and ammunition may force the Germans to retire and reform their lines. The French meanwhile are in possession of a fine railway system just behind the front all the way round from Clermont, in the Argonne, to Arras. Good transportation counts for much when men in millions have to be fed.

In the East there is still contradiction and confusion, but one fact emerges clearly, which indicates that the Russians are holding their own in the battle of the Vistula. The American Consul at Warsaw cabled his government on Tuesday that Warsaw was about to be evacuated. Now it is announced that the people who fled from the Polish capital early in the week in the belief that the Germans would soon be in possession are returning to their homes and their occupations. "Business as usual" in Warsaw seems to confirm the Russian reports that the Germans were defeated and driven back.

The loss of the Cruiser Hawke is in itself not a serious blow to the British Navy. The real loss is that of the greater part of her crew. It takes years to make a competent naval gunner or engineer or navigating officer. Men in thousands will volunteer to fill the gaps left by the tragedy of the Hawke, but many months must elapse before they learn even the elementary duties of