

*The War Viaticum.*

The special correspondent of the Catholic Times of Liverpool writes as follows from Paris.

From a religious point of view, the attitude of our officers is excellent. A young lieutenant writes from near Verdun: "On October 7th, four thousand of us were camped in a village, where fifteen of our soldier priests said Mass in the village church from early dawn. The Confessional was full all the morning. I had the happiness of going to Holy Communion. My men did the same. I wanted to serve Mass, but all the places were bespoken beforehand. When, at the 5 o'clock Mass, I saw officers, non-commissioned officers and men in serried ranks go up to the altar I own that tears came into my eyes." I may here remind my readers that all soldiers engaged in the present war are considered as being in danger of death. Pope Pius X authorized them, in consequence, to receive Holy Communion "in Viaticum" without fasting. It is thus that on the evening of August 14th, in Belgium, some French Cuirassiers who had been to Confession, intending to communicate the next morning, were suddenly told that at midnight they were to move on. Great was the disappointment of officers and men, but a Redemptorist Father who had been busy hearing their Confessions solved the difficulty. It was impossible, he said, for the men to hear Mass, but it was possible to make use of the Pope's permission to communicate without fasting. At eight o'clock that evening the church bells rang and officers and men received Holy Communion as a Viaticum. To many among them it proved to be, in reality, their last Communion.

