

Antwerp, and when the pursuit grows warm in Antwerp, the papers bobs up in Ghent, in Namur, or in Mons. The circumstance has come to be regarded as somewhat of a mystery, and it is not surprising that the German invaders should chafe under it. Perhaps they see in it a reminder of the vitality of Belgium as an independent nation.

There is something sinister in the report, voiced by the Geneva correspondent of the Paris Matin, that the Austrian Government has caused to be put into the crucible for war munitions the great bell from the Church of St. Stephen, Vienna. This bell was cast in 1711, by order of the Emperor Joseph, out of the bronze cannon taken from the Turks. That the metal should now go into other cannon to be used in defence of the same Moslem Power against Christians is surely an uncanny nemesis forecasting something of retribution to Austrian Empire.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

The centre of interest and perhaps also, the decisive field of action has shifted to the Balkans. The volte face of Greece is attributed to the action of King Constantine who is the Kaiser's brother-in-law.

The English papers recognize the gravity of the Balkan situation:

The Daily Mail says: "The powers of the quadruple entente have another great war on their hands. Bulgaria, at German instigation, has taken the wrong turn, hoodwinked by the astute German press campaign."

The Standard thinks that the Bulgarian policy is based upon blind hatred of Serbia and the determination to prevent the creation of a greater Serbia, and that "the present suicidal policy is due to the belief that the Teutonic powers are already the victors in the war."

The Morning Post says: "Europe moves darkly down to new horrors and tribulations, the extent and effect of which cannot be foretold."

THE GERMANIC DRIVE

The Germanic Drive across Serbia has begun, and the Bulgars will in all probability fulfill their part of the compact for the crushing of the Serbs by beginning the invasion of Serbia to day. There is no help in the new Greek Ministry, and while despatches which have reached Geneva state that Roumania will issue a decree of general mobilization within the next twelve hours, the Allies no longer expect that either Roumania or Greece will go to war with the Germanic powers to protect Serbia. From Athens it is reported that the new Ministry will explain its policy to the Chamber of Deputies next Monday, "avoiding all reference to the Graeco-Serbian alliance." The sole support of the Serbs, therefore, against the first onrush of 700,000 or 800,000 allied Bulgars, Germans, Austrians, and perhaps even Turks, will be the relatively small allied army now landing at Saloniki. Under the circumstances the Germanic drive, which is officially reported to have crossed the Drina, the Save and the Danube Rivers at many points yesterday, may be able to make rapid progress southward along the valley of the Morava River, through which runs the railway connecting Buda Pest with Constantinople. No matter where the initial movements of the Germans occur, it will be found that their principal offensive will be up the Morava toward Nish, the temporary Serbian capital.

Globe, Oct. 8.

IS RUSSIA PREPARED

Nothing has been permitted to transpire as to the measures taken by Russia to meet the serious situation in the Balkans, but it is inconceivable that the Government of Russia would have precipitated the crisis by its ultimatum to Bulgaria without taking adequate steps to back up its diplomacy by armed force. The Cologne Gazette states that Russian armaments are being hurriedly increased, and that the Russian army is being moved to the Bulgarian Black Sea port, and this, it is confirmed, may prove to be the first step toward a landing in force. Italy also may be depended upon to take part in the campaign in the Balkans, but the allies, in face of the default of Greece, will need to send at least half a million men to the new theatre of war, and it is doubtful if so many as a quarter of a million are immediately available. In the long run the German advance into the Balkans is likely to prove a fatal mistake, but at first it is likely to prosper. If the Germans do get to Constantinople, however, they will stand a very good chance of having their long line of communications—depending on a single line of railway—cut, and of being besieged behind them.

Globe, Oct. 8.

IN FRANCE

London, Oct. 7.—Champanne, the country over which the French made their big gains late in September, is still the main district of contention in the west. The reports are so contradictory, however, that it is difficult to ascertain what is actually happening. The Germans admit that the

French have made slight progress, but on the whole, claim to have repulsed the allied general offensive. On the other hand, the French declare that it is a German offensive which has been repulsed.

The towns mentioned in two official communications show that the French have approached very close to the Challenger Bazancourt Railway, which is their objective. St. Marie, to which the Germans say the French penetrated but were driven out by immediate counter attacks, is on that railway.

The artillery duel continues with unabated violence, and has spread to the Belgian coast again. A fierce artillery bombardment by both sides took place yesterday in the environs of Neuport and farther inland along the Yser. The Germans, fearing a British descent on the coast at Ostend or Zeebrugge, seem to be bringing up more guns to their coast positions.—Globe, Oct. 8.

THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

On Tuesday, Oct. 8th, the Eucharistic League carried out at Sandwich the program already published in the columns of the RECORD.

The Right Rev. M. F. Fallon, D. D., officiated at the High Mass, with the Very Rev. Dean McGee of Stratford and the Rev. F. A. Houck of Toledo as deacons of honor; Rev. E. L. Tierney, deacon of the Mass and Rev. J. A. Rooney, sub-deacon; the Rev. J. Purcell, C. S. B., and Rev. R. H. Dignan were masters of ceremonies.

After the Mass His Lordship Bishop Fallon, preached in French an eloquent and impressive sermon on the text: "He that eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood hath everlasting life and I will raise him up on the last day."

Following the Bishop the Rev. P. J. Howard, C. S. B., preached the sermon in English.

Immediately after the sermons a procession, in which Bishop Fallon carried the Sacred Host, proceeded from the Church through the beautifully decorated grounds where from two Repositories Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given to the kneeling multitude.

The congregation was the largest that ever attended a Eucharistic Congress in the diocese of London. Throughout the services it was evident that all were actuated by the deepest spirit of reverence and devotion.

Besides the names of the clergy already mentioned there were present: Very Rev. D. O'Connor, V. G., Very Rev. Dean Downey, Rev. Fathers Brady, Langlois, McKee, Baudouin, Tobin, Semadeni, C. S. B., Lelless, James, O. F. M., J. J. Gnam, McCabe, Dantzer, J. Forster, O'Neill, Coté, C. S. B., Kennedy, C. S. B., Gleason, Dean, Lallibert, West, Goodwin, Brisson, Pitre, Blair, Fuarth, Neville, Quigley, Robert and Ford, Fathers Forster, Murphy, Collins, Burns, Plourde and Murray, of Assumption College, C. A. Parent, Costello, Sharpe, C. S. B., Amherstburg; Sharpe, C. S. B., Sandwich College, were also in attendance together with about two hundred college students.

At the close of the congress proceedings the Right Reverend Bishop proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. Father Valentini, the zealous and capable Director of the League, to whose unremitting devotion to the duties and privileges of his office the great success of the congress was largely due.

An interesting item not on the programme was a helpful and suggestive talk to the priests assembled by the Rev. Father Houck, Diocesan Director of the League in Toledo.

SIDELIGHTS ON THE GREAT WAR

"ILLUMINATION" FOR REFUGEES

The following is taken from a message sent by the Rome correspondent of the Morning Post:

Refugees who have arrived at Verona from Roncesgno state that that city has been evacuated by the Austrians. Before the evacuation the officer in command called the inhabitants together and told them that if they wished to cross the border into Italy they could do so, and that he would provide illumination for them on the way. During the night the Austrians left, but to their surprise the Austrian batteries had opened fire on them with shrapnel. The Austrians then set fire to the city.

AN AMERICAN EDITOR AND GREAT BRITAIN

In the course of the proceedings in the Manchester City Police Court against Theodore Stington, a journalist, for sending articles to the American Textile World Record which were calculated to prejudice His Majesty's relations with foreign Powers, the following letter from Mr. Dale, the editor of the paper was read:

You have an entirely erroneous view of American public opinion on England's regulation of ocean traffic. So far as I can judge, the people here are not seriously disturbed by what he British Government has done to interfere with our trade. Personally I think the British authorities have in very moderate in the course they have adopted. I consider that the entire ocean traffic is a contemptible bagatelle compared with the priceless possession of human free-

dom which the Allies are fighting to maintain for you and me and the world. I have nothing but pity and contempt for the supporters of a policy that involves the balancing of dollars and cents, pounds, shillings and pence. Better that every dollar's worth of property in every English speaking country should be destroyed as Mr. Asquith stated, and that the English speaking race should be annihilated, than that we should become subject to Prussian militarism.

THE BRITISH OFF DUTY

An officer tells of his first experience in billets in France:

Mine was a farmhouse. After some wrestling with the local patois I succeeded in putting my fifty men into a barn, which would seem to a civilian big enough for five, and there they instantly fell asleep. I supped off cheese and an Oxo cube, and turned in for my soundest sleep for years. The next day we rested. The men instantly took over the business of the farm, being themselves mostly country hands, and when required to "fall in" were usually discovered milking cows, hoeing potato patches, or weeding the garden. The farm girls superintended them by squads, and worked out an elaborate system of reliefs.

If things come to the worst the French farm girls will evidently make very good sergeants! What can be said to an absentee from parade who is discovered aiding a distressed country by churning the butter?

A BEHAVED MOTHER'S APPEAL

Mr. George Robey made an effective appeal a few nights ago:

Speaking in Trafalgar Square, under the shadow of the Nelson Monument, he told how once again England expects every man to do his duty. It was a fine, manly speech, and it rang true, striking home to those below in the crowd, many of whom came forward in response to the appeal. None the less stirring was the appeal of Mrs. Pye, one of the survivors of the "Lusitania." The baby in her arms was swept from her as the waters closed over her, and she rose again to find herself drifting among the bodies of those with whom, only a few moments before, she had been laughing and talking. She told her moving story to a breathless throng. And at the end of it, between her sobs, she appealed to young men to come forward and to end these crimes. "I'll go back again!" shouted an inviolable man down in the centre of the crowd, "I'll go back!" and he climbed up among the lions and subscribed his name for the second time. Others followed, gladly and eagerly, and when the national anthem burst out to mark the end of the hour's work a good harvest had been reaped.

A LONELY SOLDIER AND HIS STAR

A French soldier whose letters are given in the RECORD, and who in a postscript tells his parents that he has had to cut off part of the leg of his trousers in order to supply himself with his corporal's stripes, gives the following description of the friend he has found during his long watches in the trenches:

Then in the same clear blue sky I have a wonderful friend. Unfortunately I do not know her name, but I go to sleep every morning at the same time as she does. I whisper my confidences to her, for I have no other friend here, and I have charged her with all my love for you. You will easily find my wonderful friend. I see her to the left of the Little Bear, and I like to think that she is alone, that she does not form part of the great constellation and that she has only me for confidant. To complete her portrait, I may add this little detail: she is blue, just a little blue; a tear of the Virgin, one might say, shed for the little soldiers who are waging war.

MINISTER ASKS PROOF

The good feeling existing between Catholics and Protestants at Fremont, Neb., was threatened recently. An anti-Catholic lecturer's attempt to stir up religious hatred was frustrated by the prompt and generous action of a Baptist minister and representatives from the local Masonic lodge. The facts as stated are as follows:

At the First Baptist Church when H. George Buss, who called a meeting to organize an American Liberty Party, read what purported to be the Knights of Columbus card, Luke Mundy, clerk of the district court, combated the statement of the speaker. "As a member of the Knights of Columbus," said Mr. Mundy, "I know that no such oath as that is taken by members of the lodge."

Rev. J. George Batzle, pastor of the First Baptist Church, who had sanctioned the meeting, demanded that Mr. Buss furnish proof of his statements, adding that the speaker had devoted his remarks to aspersions upon the Catholic Church without proof supporting them. Mr. Buss replied that the proof was the conduct of the Catholics. Rev. Mr. Batzle regarded this as unsatisfactory, and arose to announce his repudiation of the meeting and the speaker. The meeting then adjourned in some excitement.

Rev. Mr. Batzle declared after the meeting that its purpose had been misrepresented to him and that he would not tolerate a denunciation of the Catholic Church or Catholic societies in a church of which he was pastor.—Chicago New World.

THE SUFFERINGS OF POLAND

LETTER OF THE POLISH BISHOPS TO THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS OF THE CATHOLIC WORLD

London (Eng) Tablet

This appeal from the Polish Bishops, and Cardinal Gaspari's letter to the Bishop of Cracow, have been communicated by the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster at the request of the Comité Général de Secours, Vevy.

Venerable Brethren—Stirred and encouraged by the fervent and truly Apostolic words of the Sovereign Pontiff Benedict XV., now happily reigning, whose letter, filled with charity, we herewith send you, we hasten to put into execution the admirable and noble suggestion of him, whom we all hold so dear, the Father of all Catholics throughout the world, who "trusts that all his children at the call of the Polish Episcopate will, following that voice, prepare by united prayers and united offerings to alleviate the misfortunes of our people; and we earnestly beg you, therefore, to give us your valuable aid."

Poland, that great Catholic country, in consequence of the present war, passing through unexampled sufferings, and is for the greater part completely devastated, sunk in a destitution so terrible that the world perhaps has never seen its like. Not only have millions of soldiers since a year been fighting on her territory against one another; not only have the cruel exigencies of modern warfare brought about the complete ruin of hundreds of towns, thousands of villages, and over 1,000 churches; not only are all food stores utterly exhausted throughout a vast region, but over and above all, the unhappy Poles are forced to fight against themselves in three hostile armies, so that many a time—brother against brother, son against father, kinsman against kinsman, friend against friend—they mercilessly take each other's lives.

The Holy Father thoroughly realizes the exceptionally terrible situation of the Polish nation when he says that it, "more than any other nation, has suffered and still suffers from the cruel consequences of war."

That Poland which for centuries was the bulwark of Christendom, and which in the hardest moments never ceased to be the most faithful and true daughter of the Church, in spite of the immense calamity which by inscrutable designs of Providence has been visited upon her, has even today not wavered in her faith. She is, however, in extreme need of moral support in order that she may bear with unshaken faith and firm hope the sufferings still in store for her, and of material aid in order that she may save hundreds of thousands of her children from the disease, misery, and starvation now calling upon countless victims.

Since, however, in the Holy Father's words, "the sufferings of Poland can now only be alleviated by the Universal succour of all peoples," we, the undersigned Archbishops and Bishops of Poland, turn to you, Venerable Brethren, in full confidence and tears, begging you, and imploring you, in the name of those great saints whom Poland gave to the Universal Church, to bid the faithful of your dioceses unite their prayers to "the ardent prayers of the Holy Father for the intentions of the whole Polish nation," adding also their offerings to that which "the Vicar of Jesus Christ, in his august poverty, marked them over in this terrible hour," has lovingly destined for Poland.

The briefest prayer and the most modest offering will give edifying proof of the charity of Catholics of all nations towards a sister-nation in distress, and will not fail to receive from the merciful God a liberal reward.

Our Divine Saviour assured us of the power of prayer offered up in common when He said:—"Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. xviii, 20). Relying on these sacred words, we request of you that, for the prayers and offerings in favor of Poland, you will prescribe special prayers such as your charity shall suggest, and appoint a certain day, as we propose to you, in order that the whole world be united in common prayer for an unfortunate nation, and may obtain by our prayers the Divine mercy upon it.

Design, therefore, to give order in your dioceses that, on Sunday 14th of November, 1918, the clergy shall announce in all churches that the following Sunday—that is, the 21st of November—has been set apart for those prayers and collections by which all who give in them may become "merciful benefactors of the whole of Poland," earning the special Apostolic Benediction which the Holy Father "imparts with all his heart."

May God in His goodness design to bless our common effort for the moral and material good of the faithful entrusted to our pastoral care, and heal the wounds of so many sufferers, soon granting to the world, now bathed in blood, a lasting peace and rest after this cruel war.

The peace of our Lord be with you always, Venerable Brethren.

Your Brethren in Christ: Edmundus Dalbor, Electus Archiepiscopus Gnesensis et Poseniensis. Josephus Bilczewski, Archiepiscopus Leopoliensis (Rit. Lat.)

Josephus Teodorowicz, Archiepiscopus Leopoliensis (Rit. Arm.) Alexander Kakowski, Archiepiscopus Varsoviensis.

Franciscus Albinus Symon, Archiepiscopus Tit. Albaniensis.

Carolus Hryniewicki, Archiepiscopus Tit. Pergensis.

Adamus Stephanus Sapieha, Princeps Episcopus Caracivensis.

Augustinus Losinski, Episcopus Kielecensis.

Stanislaus Castimir Zdzitowiecki, Episcopus Cujavienensis seu Calisien-sis.

Antonius Julianus Nowowiejski, Episcopus Ploensis.

Josephus Sebastianus Pelczar, Episcopus Premisliensis.

Marianus Ryz, Episcopus Sandomiriensis.

Leo Walega, Episcopus Tarnoviensis.

Casimirus Ruszkiewicz, Episcopus Tit. Berolinensis, Suffraganeus Varsoviensis.

Ladislau Bandurski, Episcopus Tit. Cydoniatisensis, Auxiliarius Leopoliensis.

Antonius Nowak, Episcopus Tit. Irenopolitanae, Auxiliarius Cracovien-sis.

Paulus Jedsink, Electus Episcopus Tit. Themoniensis, Vicarius Capitularis Poseniensis.

Gulielmus Klosek, Episcopus Tit. Theodosiopolitanae, Vicarius Capitularis Gnesensis.

Datum Posnaniae, Leopoli, Varsoviae, Cracoviae, die 15 Augusti, anno Domini 1918.

P. S.—Will you be good enough, Venerable Brethren, to send the amount of the donations collected in your dioceses to the National Swiss Bank (Banque Nationale Suisse) at Lausanne (Switzerland) to be placed to the account of the General Committee for the Relief of the Victims of the War in Poland ("Comité Général de Secours pour les Victimes de la Guerre en Pologne.") Vevey, this Committee being the only one that has free access to all the Provinces of Poland without distinction.

The list of donations will be published in the Osservatore Romano.

CARDINAL GASPARI'S LETTER

Secretariate of State of His Holiness.

9 April, 1918.

The Right Rev. Adam Sapieha, Bishop of Cracow.

My Lord,—The misery in which languish all the people of Poland, who more than others have had to suffer, and are suffering, the sad consequences of the war, has long since filled with immense sorrow the fatherly heart of the august Pontiff, and moved him to show by a personal offering and an autograph letter all the grief of his soul and all his fatherly predilection. But the later information that continues to arrive is so painfully grave that the Holy Father cannot but hasten again to the aid of the unhappy Poles, with the utmost desire to mitigate in some way their immense sufferings. Hence His Holiness, while he never ceases to offer up prayers to the Most High that the beneficent beams of peace may again shine on the world, at the same time turns his most ardent hopes and his fervent prayers for the special benefit of the whole Polish people, that generous people who by ancient tradition are so devoted to the Holy See, and who are now being so sorely tried by the greatest misfortunes. Hence, together with his good wishes and prayers, His Holiness is eager to send a new and tangible proof of his interest in all Poland, belonging to the Austrian, German, and Russian Empires. And in view of the urgency of the need, His Holiness, intending to address himself to all the Polish Episcopate, has charged me to send Your Lordship, with whom the Holy See can most easily communicate, the enclosed sum of twenty-five thousand crowns, an amount which is of course altogether disproportionate to the grave necessities of Poland, but which is a clear proof of the most special solicitude which the Vicar of Jesus Christ, in his august poverty, more accentuated than ever at this terrible hour, cherishes for the whole of Poland. In communicating to you this lordship, and through you to the other Bishops of Poland, the comforting assurance of the special prayers of the Holy Father, and in sending you at the same time this offering of his charity, which on and the other Bishops of all Poland will kindly distribute, together with words of comfort and hope, where the need is most urgent, I am glad to add that His Holiness would see with satisfaction all the Bishops of Austrian, German and Russian Poland address a brotherly invitation to all Catholics to have them as co-operators and imitators of the common Father of the Faithful in his prayers and in his offering.

The woes of Poland can now be alleviated only by the universal succour of the peoples, and the Holy Father trusts that all his children, responding to the invitation of the Polish Episcopate, will vie with one another in hearkening to the appeal and in alleviating by their united prayers and their united offerings the calamities of that noble people. And in this hope the august Pontiff, Vicar of that merciful God who has been pleased to count as done to himself what is done for those in affliction and misery, in invoking upon all beloved Poland an abundance of heavenly comfort and of fraternal charitable offerings, imparts with all the affection of his heart a special Apostolic Blessing to all who by their prayers and their offerings show themselves as pitiful benefactors.

With great and sincere esteem, I am, Your Lordship's servant,

P. CARD. GASPARI.

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CHRISTIAN OR PAGAN?

"It was absolutely the most beautiful ceremony I have ever witnessed." And then after a pause, "Your Church certainly knows how to put on the manacles." The speaker was an eminent surgeon who assisted a week ago at the wedding of one of the younger members of his staff. He had seen the bride, one of the many September brides, meet the man of her choice at the entrance to the sanctuary, and go with him through the palms and flowers to the foot of the altar, and there in the presence of many priests, pledge herself to love, honor and obey him until death. He had knelt like the others during the nuptial Mass, and wondered to see the wife, within the sanctuary, the only time in a woman's life, when the Church invites her to come so close to the altar. He had felt the beauty of it, as she reverently laid in hand with her husband, went up close to the holy of holies, where ordinarily only the priest may stand, twice to receive a special blessing, and once to receive the Body of her Lord. And he had been keenly alive to the poetry of it all, but what had struck him most was its grim reality. Catholics had said, "What a pretty wedding." But to him a non-Catholic, the most striking thing about the ceremony was its character of indissolubility. It was not the mere making of a contract in a hour of orange blossom, a contract to be rescinded at will, but the forging of a religious bond, in the presence of the God of Gods, a bond that would hold fast for ever. There was an intangible something that seemed to give permanence to the marriage he had witnessed, which consisted although he knew it not, in the Sacrament.

No wonder he was struck by the power of the Church to unite her children in enduring wedlock. The contrast between Catholic and non-Catholic marriage grows more marked every day. Indeed marriage outside the Church is reverting more and more to the pagan type, and the term "Christian" as applied to it, is fast becoming a misnomer. All the marks that distinguish it from the pagan conception are disappearing. And yet with that distinction in face conditions as they are, we Catholics and non-Catholics alike go on calling such marriages Christian marriages. They are not Christian marriages. In them there is no sacrament; they put a premium on the commission of a heinous crime, by holding out a means of getting free from the irksome bond; they are contracted under the express understanding and

resolution that they shall not interfere with the social pleasures of the wife, nor all the house with children's laughter nor God's heavenly home with pure and untainted souls. What could be further from the Christian ideal than unions such as these? Why then do we not call them by their proper names? They are pagan pure and simple, pagan in conception, pagan in obligation, pagan in duration, pagan in their disregard of the sanctity of the home and the pious pleading of little ones that shall never see God's sunshine. Christian marriage is marriage according to the ideals held up by Jesus Christ. Are we not dishonoring Him by giving His name to a ceremony and a state that are in direct opposition to all He taught?—America.

FATHER FRASER'S CHINESE MISSION

Telchewta, March 22, 1918.

Dear Readers of CATHOLIC RECORD: Yesterday (Passion Sunday) I laid the corner-stone of the church in Telchewta. The former church was too small for the crowds who are being converted in the city and neighboring towns. Even with the new addition of forty-eight feet and a gallery it will be too small on the big feasts. May God be praised Who designs to open months to His praise in the Far East to replace those still in death in Europe. And may He shower down His choicest blessings on my benefactors of the CATHOLIC RECORD, who are enabling me to hire catechists, open up new places to the Faith, and to build and enlarge churches and schools. Rest assured, dear Readers, that every cent that comes my way will be immediately put into circulation for the Glory of God.

Yours gratefully in Jesus and Mary, J. M. FRASER.

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