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THE WAR.

LETTER FROM CARDINAL VAUGHAN.

His Eminence Cardinal Vaughan has issued the following circular to his clergy:

Archbishop's House, Westminster, Dec. 20th, 1899.

Rev. Dear Father,—The fortune of war in South Africa fills the public mind with justifiable anxiety.

While the negotiations were proceeding, public prayers pro pace were offered throughout the diocese in every Mass when the rubric permitted. Since the declaration of war, prayers have been offered in like manner pro tempore belli. These prayers continue.

A solemn Requiem was sung last month at the Pro-Cathedral for the souls of those who had fallen in battle. A second public requiem will be sung at the Oratory on the first day available. Functions in other Churches will be duly announced.

In addition to prayers for the dead, we should now offer public and united supplications for our army, officers and men, and for speedy success to the British arms.

Whatever doubt was entertained as to the lawfulness of enforcing the British demands by recourse to the sword, there can be no doubt now that we have been forced into war, and that justice is on our side.

It has been clearly ascertained that Boer leaders in both Republics had long since determined to strike for the establishment of a Boer supremacy throughout Africa; that military preparations on a large scale had been secretly carried out for that purpose. It is also clear that the negotiations for a peaceable solution of the difficulties that had arisen were suddenly broken off by the ultimatum declaring war within a few hours, unless England at once withdrew her soldiers from her own colony, and forbade her troopships to enter her own African ports. There can be no mistake as to the intention; the invasion of British territory has been accompanied by a formal and repeated declaration of the annexation of the invaded territory to the Boer Republic. It is always lawful, and sometimes necessary, to resist invasion and annexation "vi et armis."

It is now a question of something more than of what is lawful. The question is, shall the British Empire be allowed to fall to pieces by supineness and by want of determination and self-denial? The answer is, No.

This Empire has been raised up by the same Providence that called the Roman Empire into existence, and as God used the one towards the attainment of His own Divine purposes of mercy, so does He seem to be using the other.

In spite of the blunders and crimes committed by many of her sons in building up the Empire, the Empire has made for peace, for liberty, for law and order. An Empire that has power to establish these conditions, which are preliminary to the spread of Christianity, is

possessed of a great and sacred trust, not to be surrendered until God Himself shall demand the surrender. At the present moment countless millions in the Dark Continent depend for their temporal and eternal salvation upon the establishment of that reign of law which usually follows British supremacy.

Let us remember that we are "as a drop of a bucket," that we are His instruments to be used or cast aside at His Good pleasure. Let us not provoke Him to reject us by pride, self-righteousness, and contempt of others. Rather let us humble ourselves as a nation before Him, confess our sins, and repent.

While we realize with grateful confidence the most honorable mission with which God seems to have entrusted us, we must endeavor not to be altogether unworthy of it, and must determine to make God, both in national and private life, the first object of our love and service. And then, we must be ready personally and collectively to make every sacrifice necessary or useful for the fulfilment of His trust.

For these purposes, you will please to recite on Sundays, until further orders, after the principal Mass or at Benediction, the Prayers to be found in the Manual among the "Occasional Prayers," and headed "In Times of Calamity."

Believe me, Rev. dear Father, to be your faithful and devoted servant,

HERBERT CARDINAL VAUGHAN.

CATHOLICS IN ENGLAND.

Catholic Record.

It is very noticeable that in no other country of the world do Catholics show a more intense, sustained and studied sympathy with the Government than they do in England. Perhaps the reason of it is that in no other country are Catholics so fairly treated by the Government in the matter of official representation. Not only are the offices of Postmaster General and Chief-Justice held by Catholics, but the highest official in the naval administration of England is also a Catholic. This gentleman is Vice Admiral Lord Walter Kerr, K.C.B. When Lord Kerr was only eight years old, his mother—a remarkable woman—was borne into the Church on the tide of the Oxford Movement. She had the faith of a saint and the courage of a heroine, and it required both to prevail over the influences which aimed at withholding her children from following her. We quote from a sketch in the New Era:

"To enable the youngest then a child of ten, to carry out his earnest desire to be a Catholic, Lady Lothian had to steal out of the house (Newbattle Abbey) early one winter morning, before the household was astir, and take him to Edinburgh, where he was received by Dr. Gillies, the Vicar-Apostolic. As they stealthily crossed the park, they heard the sound of hurried footsteps behind them, and were sure that they were being pursued. But to Lady Lothian's great joy, the pursuer turned out to be her third son, Lord Ralph, who, having heard of his mother's intention and yielding to an impulse of grace, had determined on joining his little brother in being received into the Church."

As first Lord of the Admiralty, it is the duty of Lord Walter to direct all the important movements of every ship in the British navy; and, though his official duties prevent him from taking prominent part in the great work which English laymen are doing, he has always spoken out vigorously when the rights of the Church or of Catholics were to be vindicated. It is worthy of remark that he has never found this manly frankness a bar to official advancement. In 1873 he married Lady Amabel Cowper, a convert and the wielder of a vigorous and industrious pen.

A RULING FROM ROME.

Bishop James A. McFaul of Trenton, N. J., received a copy of a cable message from Rome which had been sent to Archbishop Corrigan on the 11th inst. It holds that none of the powers to grant special dispensations heretofore enjoyed by Bishops of the Catholic Church is suspended during the holy or Jubilee year of 1900. The Pope's encyclical with reference to the holy year was interpreted by some of the hierarchy to mean that during the year 1900 certain special dispensations could only be granted in Rome. In order to set at rest all questions in the matter, a correspondence was opened with the Vatican and the cabled interpretation which the Bishop received a copy of was sent to Archbishop Corrigan on the 10th inst. Among the privileges supposed to have been suspended were those of mixed marriages and marriages with distant relatives.—Providence Visitor.

NOTES FROM STE. ROSE.

The new year is raving around the church, all so still within, he comes this night with a powdering of white on his wings that should be heavily snow-laden; but we welcome him heartily, being the Holy Year A. D. 1900. We welcome him kneeling in speechless adoration before the Sacred Host this one night vouchsafed to us. During long hours the faithful people come in crowds in populous cities, or perhaps only a solitary watcher in lonely country places, adores his Lord. So still and holy within and the raving wind without, like the Church in the midst of the world. Our beautiful new altar gleaming white and gold in the dimness makes us think of the great white Throne spoken of by St. John.

We are on the threshold of another century, but when the last priest shall have consecrated the last Host, then the centuries shall be no more, but what a terrible reckoning will then take place!

A propos of the New Year and speedy completion of another century, we are reminded in today's sermon of a pathetic incident in the life of Our Lord. He approached one day the gates of a certain city, his heart yearning over those who dwelt within, but they, when they saw Him coming, sent messengers to Him saying: "Master, go farther, abide not with us, we fear thy preaching." So it is now; Our Lord knocks at the gates of the world, and with ineffable longings He offers His love, His par-

don, His consolations, and the world says: "Master, pass on, abide not with us, we fear thy preaching." As of old, He would press the little children to His bosom, who would find joy and comfort there, but they drag them from His arms, the so-called Christian nations. This is why during the Holy Year now begun, we beseech of Heaven with fervent prayers and tears, pardon and mercy for the world hurrying to destruction.

There is a story told of St. Philip Néri that he endeavored to convert a young man of the world, the wicked world of other times, not ours, oh, no! from the error of his ways, but in vain. To all his admonitions the pleasure-seeker returned a mocking laugh. "I see," said the saint gravely, "that I must deal with you in earnest. Kneel down and lay your head on my knee." The young nobleman still laughing did so. St. Philip laid both his hands on the bent head before him and prayed for some moments in silence. When he had ended he said: "Now get up and go your way." The young man arose, his countenance fixed in horror, and departed without saying a word. But from that day he was a changed being, and those who knew him intimately whispered that while he bent his head upon the saint's knee, he beheld the underworld opened beneath him with its vision of fire and hopeless torments.

A SIGNIFICANT EVENT.

Signor Mohring, the editor of a comic paper in Berlin called the Ulk, has been sentenced by the Court to six months imprisonment for grossly insulting the Catholic Church in a mock heroic poem entitled "The Cowardly Act at Rennes." The subject of the poem is, of course, the Dreyfus trial, and the whole Catholic hierarchy from the Pope down are described in this disgraceful composition as being engaged in a plot to find the innocent guilty. There is, of course, no basis in fact for this representation of the Dreyfus case, but the wonder is that the German court has undertaken the vindication of the Catholic Church.

There is certainly a great change within a few years from the time of the Bismarckian kulturkampf when Catholics suffered under severe persecution. This change in Germany is to be attributed to the energy and determination of the Catholic or Centre party in the Reichstag. That party has kept constantly in view the purpose for which it was established, the attainment of justice for Catholics, and it has had remarkable success in gaining its object.

We would be glad to see equal determination exhibited by the Catholics of Canada to gain the just demands of the Catholics of Manitoba in regard to freedom of education.—Catholic Record.

Rev. Father Poulin, of St. Maurice, Assa, is here and will go east to-morrow for purposes of colonization.

The Japs did it.—They supplied us with the menthol contained in that wonderful D. & L. Menthol Plaster, which relieves instantly headache, neuralgia, rheumatism and scitica. Manufactured by the Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd.,

THE SICK SOLDIER AND THE SISTER.

Preaching in St. Paul's Church, Washington, the other day His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons said:

"Many a narrative and thrilling story of the sublime charity of our devoted Sisters has been cited. Let me record one here that has recently been published. Shortly before the Spanish American war two Sisters of Charity were walking in a street of Boston, and while passing a corner of the street one was insulted by a young man, who assailed her with vile language. She simply and silently pursued her journey. Some time after, when the war broke out, the youth enlisted in the army. He was wounded and taken to a hospital. The Sisters nursed and attended him with motherly care. He was deeply impressed with their attention, and one day said to the Sister in charge: "I love the religion which inspires such sentiments as you exhibit and will embrace that religion. But I have committed a sin which weighs upon my conscience. I once insulted one of your companions, and would peacefully die if I knew she forgave me."

"Let your mind be at rest," replied the Sister. "It was I whom you insulted. I recognized you when you entered the hospital. I heartily forgive you."

"The man died in the faith which could inspire such divine forgiveness and charity. Deeply beloved; let us, like that sweet Sister of Charity, forgive those who have injured us, no matter how great or small the offense, and Christ will receive us in the hour of death. If we love, we can forgive, and love is His greatest commandment."

A NEW NEWSPAPER DIRECTORY FOR 1900.

We have received from the publishers, The Central Press Agency, of Toronto, a copy of their Directory of Canadian Newspapers for 1900. This is the first issue of such a directory by the Company referred to, and it is very creditable to their diligence and enterprise. The obtaining of information for such a work means a lot of energy and patience, and the book, carefully compiled as it appears to be, cannot fail to be a most useful work of reference to advertisers and all who wish to obtain information respecting the publications of Canada and Newfoundland. In addition to detailed descriptions of all periodicals and the places where issued, there are lists by counties, classified lists under all heads, etc., besides summary of the postage law, customs rates on printers' material and other useful information. The book is well arranged and printed and does credit to the publishers.

Sides Sore from a hacking cough.—Take Pyny-Pectoral, it will cure you quickly, no matter how bad the cold. Endorsed by thousands of Canadians Sold throughout the land. Manufactured by the proprietors of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer.