Replying to a question as to the

condition of Catholicity among the

French population who are not dir-

parishes in Paris with a population

163,000 holy Communions every year.

In 1916 there were 273,0 0, although

Father Flynn's own experience

had been of a similar kind, about

£6,000 having been given to him

with which to purchase gifts, which he had taken to the front himself

for distribution among the soldiers. There were 3,200 Sisters of St. Vin-

cent de Paul, Sisters of Charity, and

Little Sisters of the Poor nursing

six years following the separation

of the Church and State, 1905 to

1912, forty-nine new places of wor-

and anywhere a chapel was opened

ship had been one in Paris alone

it was filled immediately.
Father Flynn mentioned a circum

stance which indicated the present

relations between the authorities of

the Catholic Church in France and

the French government. He said

that the government appealed to the

Bishops, who appealed through the

priests, to the people, to send in the

gold to the bank in order to increase

the credit of France. Through their agency 49,000,000 of francs had been

collected by the priests; and in Paris alone nearly 9,000,000 of francs

VALUE OF FRIENDS

As surely as the air we breathe

poison, so surely and so certainly

an influence on our lives, says the

Pittsburg Observer. That is the

had been collected in this way .-

Catholic Transcript.

the wounded in France. During the

117 Yonge St.

CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

PRAISE

We're eager for money, we hunger

for fame, We battle for things to possess; The houses we build we want to have filled

With the treasures that stand for success. But when it's all over and peace

settles down, In the glow of the low sinking sun, We want to recall, be it ever so

Some unselfish service we've done.

The top of the ladder we struggle to reach,
We scramble and fight for a place; We are slaves to our pride, and we're unsatisfied

Unless we are up in the race. But deep in the breasts of us all there's the wish As we journey through life to be

As the big hearted men who took time now and then
To serve some one, not of their own.

We may boast as we will of the work that we do

And may glory in prizes we gain; We may draw some conceit from our jousts with defeat And our rise to victorious reign :

But after it's over the joy that counts most Is the thought that we're leaving behind.

Through the records of strife in our volumes of life. A number of deeds that were kind.

We'd rather be praised for the help we have been Than cheered for the money we've

made : We want men to say, when our souls

pass away, We were ready and willing to aid. We fight and we scramble for fortune and fame

Till our pockets with silver are lined. But the greatest of praise at the end

of our days Is to have it be said we were kind. -EDGAR A. GUEST

BENEFITS FROM THE WAR

War is not all pain, neither is it all loss. It has its spiritual, moral and material advantages. It brings the heroic spirit to some persons who otherwise would never ence the noble sentiments that it, on Who listened to another, occasion, can evoke. A woman has

written the following article: No one would minimize the sacrifice that a mother makes when she sends her son forth to war, but this of boisterous derision; is to be said to comfort her—war is But not one moment left in doubt not wholly evil. It is not even as dangerous as her morbid fancies paint it, and if many a woman will lose her son in battle, many another woman will get back a son who has been reborn in that flery furnace, one who went forth a weakling and came back a man.

Those who know what the training of an army camp will do for a course youth physically declare that as Of one who thus had spoken? many of our young men will save their lives through the War as will be killed by it. Thin - chested, anaemic, stoop-shouldered lads, who have never done any manual labor God's blessing on that steadfast will, harder than pushing a pen across a sheet of paper or up and down a That bears all jeers and laughter ledger, and whose only exercise has confined to fox trotting in a crowded restaurant, will come back from the War broad of shoulder, straight as an arrow, big muscled.

Girls who look up to and try to Five more years of office work would have landed these boys in the graves of consumptives. Soldiering will

save them. plain nourishing food, these will drive the angel with the scythe back into the shadow for a quarter of a century or more for un-numbered thousands of young men whose days, but for this War, would be numbered. The big indemnity that fate is going to pay us in this War is to turn a lot of sickly little flabby maniking into husky he-men.

Another bright spot in this War is that it is doing more in one minute to stamp out intemperance than has been done in all the balance of the history of the human race. And the mother who sends her boy to serve his country may count on getting back cured of the drink habit, if he had it, or was acquiring it.

That alone almost atones for the sacrifice of war, for while it may wring a woman's heart to watch and wait for her son to come home from War, and she may shed many tears picturing him in the trenches, her heart is not so desolate nor her tears so bitter as if she sat watching and waiting for the stumbling steps of a drunken son, or if her fancy pic-tured him lying in the gutter. For in one case she has the comfort of knowing that he is doing the part of a man, and in the other she has the sorrow of knowing that he has descended below the level of the brute.

No man in the uniform of the United States army can touch a drop of intoxicating liquor. That ruling is going to save from the curse of drunkenness tens of thousands of boys who were just beginning to deny—but there's a hollow ring to it. has no other result, is at least as acquire a taste for liquor. At the The smart companions of a girl's efficacious as the best of sermons.

their nerves cry out for stimulants. The cold hard fact that drink diminextent that it cannot be risked in war times is the biggest temperance argument that could possibly be rules. That some indifferent and intended in the trunches or near the trenches.

gence in his head. Keep a boy away from drink during the silly years in which he thinks it shows how much of a man he is to make a swine out of himself, and he's not likely to ever become a drunkard.

All of these are factors in the great reformation in drinking that the war is bringing about, and that will almost justify it in the eyes of women who have found King Alcohol as deadly an enemy as ever the Kaiser is.

Another good thing that this War is going to do for the youth of the country is to give it the discipline that it needs. American parents are too soft, they have too little backbone and nerve to stand up and fight their self-witted children finish. It is a common thing to hear parents say that they don't know what is going to become of their twelve and fourteen year old boysthat they can't do a thing with Johnnie who is running around at night with Heaven knows whom and who does as he pleases

And the result is that Johnnie grows up to be a loafer and a hoodlum, and becomes one of the men are failures, who are always changing business, because they haven't the grit to stick to anything

after it gets hard. The iron hand of the army will do for these spoiled boys what their parents failed to do. It will take no parents failed to do. It will take no heed of their likes or dislikes, their friends, indeed! How quickly they dispositions or their tempers. will teach them for the first time the meaning of duty. It will hold them to a hard task until it breeds in them determination and endurance. It will develop what is worth while in them, and many a man who will make a big success in life after the War is over will owe his achievement to the discipline he got in the army.

Let mothers everywhere consider this golden side of the shield of war. For it is just as real as the leaden side over which they weep.—Catholic Columbian.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

A BOY'S PROMISE

The school was out, and down the street A noisy crowd came thronging; The hue of health and gladness

To every face belonging.

Among them strode a little lad, And mildly said, half grave, half sad; I can't-I promised mother."

A shout went up, a ringing shout, That manly, brave decision.

Go where you please, do what you will, He calmly told the others : But I shall keep my word, boys,

I can't-I promised mother."

Ah! who could doubt the future

Through manhood's struggle, gain and loss. Could faith like this be broken?

Unyielding to another;

Because he promised mother.

make their mothers happy are indeed only doing their duty, yet most lish a socialistic atheism imposed on of us know young women who are the French leaders. not by any means so considerate. The girl who regards her mother's ing out of doors, regular hours, views as passe, who is so engrossed with modern affairs that she loses track of what is transpiring at home may for the time being find the world

all-satisfying. But such a young woman will eventually be brought to her senses, and as sure as day follows night the hour will come when her heart will go back longingly to her mother and

her home. No matter how clever or able a girl thinks she is, she is not by any means as important as she fondly imagines herself to be.

Youth has a lot to learn in connection with what it has absorbed from text books, and the young woman who looks upon her mother as a back number simply because that good woman's ideas are not good modern," needs to take up another and very necessary course in every

day philosophy.

There are, indeed, many girls who do not appreciate what their mothers do for them, Such young women may declare that they go to business every day and help defray the home expenses; but if they were alone in the world and had no home, life would, without a question, mean a serious problem to them, and, further more, they would have to pay, and pay well, for doing the thousand and one things that every girl's mother does for her.

her parents first. The world's applause is sweet—that no one will

Building up their bodies is going if she is brought face to face with soldiers been so careful to say their to keep the neurotic from having financial or other difficulties. The prayers, to attend Mass, to go to conworld hasn't time to bother with fession and holy C bruised hearts or failures, but a girl's hundred thousand

offered to a man with any intelli- considerate mothers exist we all admit, but the average working young owes her mother a debt of gratitude that she can never repay. She is only doing her duty in helping ectly participating in, the War, defray the home expenses. Father Flynn said that in one of the defray the home expenses.

Most of us have had to do the same thing, and it probably was the of 50,000 there were before the War best investment we ever made.

The girl who delights in making her home, eyen though it be small the population had diminished and humble, bright and attractive is owing to the number who had gone always on good terms with her to the front. In this same parish parents. Such young women know the parishioners had been so generwhat it is to give up this or that ous as to give to the parish priest blouse or bit of finery in about £80 per week to procure presorder that new pictures may be ents for the soldiers at the front. Father Flynn's own experie pretty rug bought for the parlor.

Girls of this type — splendid, womanly, home loving girls—are as far superior to the selfish, ungrate ful young woman as a pure diamond is when compared to paste.

A girl's mother is her best friend indeed, the only friend that will stand the test of time. Remember this, and if you are blessed with a good mother, even though her education is not as "finished" as yours, recognize the obligations that lie before you. Forget the world outside

Give the best that is in you for your parents - the only ones that will take you as you are cheer them in their declining years, will go their way, forgetting all about you and your achievements but your mother-well, her every heartbeat will always be for you.-

HEROIC IRISHMEN IN THE TRENCHES

TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND OF THEM ENLISTED IN GREAT STRUGGLE FOR LIBERTY

Father Henry Flynn of Menilmoutant, Pa., at present in Ireland, whose brother, Patrick Flynn, P. P. of Sureune, Paris, a chaplain to the French forces at Verdun, has given an interview to a Freeman represen tative. Father Flynn, whose parents are Irish, was born in Paris, and having served in the French army, he became a priest.

He recalled that the records of the French war office.show that between 1691 and 1745, a period of fifty-four years, more than 450,000 Irishmen died in the service of France. now," he added, "I think of Ireland's sons-200,000-who have enlisted to help France in this terrible struggle for liberty. I wish you to know how deeply grateful we are for their assistance and sympathy. It is with hearty welcome that France receives the heroic sons of Ireland who come to mix their Celtic blood with the Celtic blood also flowing through the veins of our French soldiers—a splen did fraternity of souls, renewing and completing the centuries' old friendship.'

WANING ANTAGONISM

Turning to the position of the Church in France to-day, Father Flynn expressed a very hopeful view of the effect which was being pro-duced by the War. "A great number of clear-sighted and intelligent men in France, among whom are a num-ber of radicals and socialists, begin to understand." he said. "that for forty-five years they have in all good faith, followed the policy of Germany. and even obeyed the injunctions of Bismarck himself. Convinced that Girls who look up to and try to duct France to its ruin, Bismarck managed to have his policy to estab the war against religion would con-

> "In France there are now men Catholicism and the Church - men of sincere mind, and patriots, who, seeing at last that they have been the unconscious tools of their greatest enemy, will be firmly decided to avoid helping Germany in continu ing anti - religious persecution in spired by her leaders. In a word, the most violent and bitter anti-Catholic propaganda in France has been the work of Germany.

Father Flynn, after declaring that France today was sound at heart, pointed out that when the government had taken from the priests a sum valued at £24,000,000 in 1903, upon which they might have lived, the clergy did not die, which proved once more that there remain enough Catholics in France to sup port their priests and ensure religous worship

THE SOLDIER-PRIESTS

The religious work of his parish was at present being done, he went on to say, by members of religious orders who had been expelled from France and had returned. No less than 6,000 of the expelled French priests had voluntarily France to act as soldiers since the outbreak of the War,

"It happens now that the presence of these cures among the soldiers, in the same shower of bullets and The young woman whose heart is shells on the battlefield, or in the in the right place always thinks of same trenches and ambulances, has created between them a respectful and brotherly sympathy which, if it acquire a taste for liquor. At the risk of their skins their souls will be saved.

| Companions of a girl's companion of a girl's co fession and holy Communion. Six ishes a man's efficiency to such an mother always has time to listen and extent that it cannot be risked in to sympathize.

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will affect our bodies, as certainly as judging so much by mannerisms and the food we eat will either sustain or externals as by the things which externals as by the things which lonely; but there are comparatively really matter-truth, sincerity, broad- few who are worth admission into will the company we frequent have ness of mind-all that goes to make the inner circle of our hearts. Conup sterling worth.

on why we should choose have agreat many friends; acquaint- to so act as to be worthy of the our friends slowly and carefully, not lances, yes, they are to be had in treasure,

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