









were duly reported, and the French scientists who had conducted the investigation reported in due course that the energy-producing power of oatmeal exceeded that of any other food by about fifteen per cent.

IN THESE days of electric and other improved modes of lighting the information that a contract has been let in England for 100,000 tinder-lighters for the men in the trenches in Flanders seems like a step back into the past.

out uniforms with pack and tea-kettle slung on the back, or the trained lots marching off. But the sort that are seen are the wounded. Moscow streets abound with them, bandaged heads or hands, arms in slings or hobbling along with sticks.



FATHER FRASER'S CHRISTMAS CONVERTS

LETTER FROM FATHER FRASER Taichowtu, China, Dec. 29, 1914. Editor CATHOLIC RECORD:—It gives me great pleasure to present to the readers of the CATHOLIC RECORD a group of people I baptized on Christmas Eve.

being the latest and most expeditious way. One of our friends from this place was caught in England by the War, but has lately come back, by the only open route, from Newcastle to Bergen by steamer, then by rail to Stockholm, and from thence by water to Tornes, Finland—a rough hard trip, and dangerous from mines and hostile vessels.



FATHER FRASER'S CHRISTMAS CONVERTS

for baptism. I heard one of the faithful remark that if this continues the walls of the church will burst outward. My Christians are really edifying. They came to church at 8 o'clock on Christmas eve and remained there reciting their prayers and singing their Christmas carols until after 1 o'clock in the morning.

A PRAYER FOR THE NATIONS AT WAR

Thorn-crowned, Despised, Rejected of mankind, O Son of Man, in Whom was all the race, The strong, the weak, the seeing, and the blind, Meek, pitying King, Thy sorrows in Thy Face, Who in Thy Heart of Hearts still have a place For all who will Thy perfect Word obey.

SIDELIGHTS ON THE GREAT WAR

FRENCH SOLDIERS AND RELIGION From among the rapidly accumulating evidence of the change which the war is working in the hearts of French soldiers, the following may be cited. A young ecclesiastic of the diocese of Perpignan, writing from the trenches, says:

THE SAME OLD STORY

The great Archduke (Francis Ferdinand, of Austria Hungary), maligned even in death by the press as a "clerical reactionary," because of his loyalty to Catholic principles, was, with his truly Catholic wife, dearly beloved and venerated by his people.

THE GREAT ARCHDUKE

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the most progressive social leaders of our time, but he was a Catholic, and a loyal Catholic, and therefore he must be set down as a "reactionary."

CATHOLICS AND PUBLIC LIFE

"One of the best antidotes for bigotry is for Catholic men to be active, active, prominent in the civic affairs of their respective communities. The contact with your non-Catholic neighbors begets confidence and friendship."

FATHER FRASER'S CHINESE MISSION

Taichowtu, China, June 7, 1914. Dear Mr. Coffey,—When I came here two years ago I only had five catechists, now I have twenty-one. I owe this rapid progress principally to my dear friends of the CATHOLIC RECORD.

RUSSIA IN WAR TIME

The following letter descriptive of daily life in Russia in War time, will be of interest to the CATHOLIC RECORD's wide circle of readers. Russia, notwithstanding its size and importance, being a country of which very little is known on this continent. The letter was written by an American Catholic young lady, whose father went out to Russia some years ago as a construction engineer on the Trans-Siberian Railway, but who is now manager of the great Singer Sewing Machine Works at Podalsk, near Moscow.

ABREAST OF THE TIMES

One of the stock expressions stowed away in the files of the non-Catholic press, conveniently, however, and ready to hand, is the "medieval character" of the Church. With wearisome repetition and on the slightest provocation we are informed that she is reactionary and out of date. The phrase is serviceable and safe, because it is vague enough to evade specific challenge.

ant shall be healed.

Two things are to be noted in these words: an admission of divine attributes in Jesus Christ, and also a realization of the unworthiness to stand in the presence of the "Holy one of God." And Our Lord answered: "I have not found such faith in Israel."

VIEW OF ANOTHER NATIONALIST

Sergeant Mulhall, of the Dublin Fusiliers, writing to a friend in Athy on December 28 from the front says: As for myself, I cannot be better. Why it is only sport to be out here, for we are winning all along the line, and are fast like heroes, and well clothed. I hope the Volunteers are all going to join the Army. If they

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