







The Catholic Record

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LONDON, SATURDAY, DEC. 21, 1918

FAS EST ET AB HOSTE DOCERI

The Great War was yet young when it was felt that the easy-going and boastful optimism based on the theory of ever increasing human progress was an opiate dream.

Two years ago Army Chaplains belonging to the Established Church of England discussed with commendable frankness and moral courage the religious condition of the millions of Englishmen with whom as soldiers they had come into closer personal contact than ever before.

"The great bulk of the men appear more or less indifferent to the claims of religion. There is a certain shyness in speaking about it.

By "The Christian Church," as will become clear later on, he means those sects whose teaching of posi-

tive religion had become more and more vague and indefinite. He goes on to say that there is a marked revival of faith in God's existence, but "this revival of faith in God does not manifest itself in any great renewal of the desire to worship Him."

Another Anglican chaplain tells that after giving instruction to some soldiers one of them said to him: "You are telling us things we ought to have learned when we were children."

The Archbishop of York, two years ago, summing up the impression derived from the chaplains' reports wrote: "One cannot suppose that the multitudes of men at the front have gone through religious awakening."

And a chaplain writes: "It is hopeless to find a Christian theory of life or any theory in the ordinary soldier. Many a time our scantily attended services stir one to indignant speech against the irreverence, spiritual indifference and carelessness out here."

The Rev. B. H. Berlyn served first as a chaplain of the Established Church in a large garrison at home, and later at the front. In the garrison he found that of 18,000 Church of England men only sixty took any interest in religious matters.

Mr. Berlyn became a Catholic and served later in the War as a combatant officer. This is the testimony of another chaplain: "The almost entire ignorance of the average soldier of the elements of religion, the paucity of confirmed men or regular communicants is simply appalling."

"I have seen regiments and battalions bowed in worship, silent congregations at all hours, prostrate in prayer and intercession. They were not moved to such devotion by any indeterminate, undenominational, new-fangled theories of a higher life. No, they were just practicing the religion taught them by their mothers or their village priests in their childhood, a religion based upon the most definite, the most dogmatic principles of the Incarnation and the Atonement."

What is the object of recalling these things? To boast of our success and gloat over the failure of Protestants? That were a mean and unworthy aim.

In contrast with Protestants, Catholics are well instructed in religion; still Catholic chaplains tell us that too many Catholic soldiers show a lack of adequate religious instruction. Many of them had this lack supplied in the army. There is something for us, Catholics, to learn from the experiences above recorded.

Then there is that very real part of the child's education which goes by the time honored name of the Catechism. The experiences of the War have proved to the hilt its importance and its efficacy. If from the testimony of non Catholics we feel only a self-complacent pride and satisfaction then we have not the humility to learn the lesson which the passages quoted above are intended to drive home.

There is doubtless a modicum of truth in the assertion. There should be no color of reason for it. The priest is the teacher of religion especially to the lambs of the flock. And fathers and mothers can never shirk their first and most essential duty to the children God has given them by sending them to Catholic schools.

While London was giving enthusiastic welcome to Premier Clemenceau and Marshal Foch, the French Premier were told created a sensation by saying in reference to the Great Commander-in-Chief "but for me he would have had no command."

Let us spell it out. Foch was no discovery of the later stages of the War. He was known as Europe's greatest tactician long before the War began.

In the democratic readjustment of the world will Ireland enjoy the right to govern herself, to determine her own destiny and direct her own national development?

Let us spell it out. Foch was no discovery of the later stages of the War. He was known as Europe's greatest tactician long before the War began. On Oct. 31st, 1895, Ferdinand Foch was made associate professor of military history, strategy, and applied tactics, at the Superior School of War, where all the higher officers of the French Army received their training.

That there will be delay is almost equally certain. The present Government dominated by Unionists will do nothing toward settling the Irish question. Millions of Irish origin throughout the world are impatient of delay.

1898 passed into law and been carried into effect it is questionable if the benefit to Ireland would be at all commensurate with the hopes of Irishmen at home or abroad. One thing is certain with the restricted powers then proposed to be conferred the Irish Government could never have financed the gigantic land measure by which the ownership of greater part of the land of Ireland has passed from landlord to tenant.

In the debate a few weeks ago on T. P. O'Connor's resolution Mr. Ascurin Williams, whose labors on behalf of one oppressed nationality, the Armenians, entitled him to speak with authority on a question of this kind, said that he "believed that the Government would have to work out a settlement of their Irish question, taking as a basis the report of the Irish Convention, and if necessary to put troops in Ireland to impose that settlement on all recalcitrants."

Time and more civilized spokesman for the "dominant partner" will bring about conditions more favorable for settlement of the Irish question. Millions of people are yet living on this continent who remember that civilized white men claimed that it was economically necessary and morally justifiable for them to work their cotton plantations with slave labor.

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We owe to him in time of peace that unity of doctrine which was our strength. Since the War we owe to him the highest lessons of intellectual discipline and moral energy. . . . His mind was trained through so many years of study that no war situation could disturb him.

In 1901 the anticlericals—whom we are accustomed to see lauded in the Canadian press as the champions of liberty—retired Ferdinand Foch the great military teacher and dumped him at Leon as Lieut-Col. to the 29th Artillery. The name of the anti-clerical who supplanted him may be left to rot in deserved oblivion.

The foregoing considerations may throw some light on the sensational statement of Premier Clemenceau. And the circumstances of his appointment may afford further light. General Foch succeeded Marshal Joffre as head of the General Staff on May 15th, 1917.

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he has attained the use of reason he becomes very reticent in regard to his spiritual aspirations. To fill up the depleted ranks of the clergy recourse must be had to some more drastic measures than the self-initiative of possible candidates for the priesthood and general exhortations from the pulpit.

The Gospel for the feast of St. Andrew prompts a suggestion which we offer as a merely tentative proposition. Our Lord did not say to the young fisherman "Would you like to follow Me?" but "Come follow Me."

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It may be objected that in comparing Our Lord's action with that of His representative the parallel is forced, since the latter can have only a limited knowledge of a young man's dispositions and cannot confer upon him, as Christ could, the necessary qualifications for the sacred calling. Those whom Our Lord personally invited to follow Him had the necessary qualifications. Nor was Judas an exception, albeit he subsequently abused the graces of his state.

The Divine Babe of Bethlehem. Who does all things well, leaves nothing undone to provide for the salvation of souls and the perpetuation of His Incarnation through the growth of His mystical body, the Church, and the multiplication of His real Body wherever there are souls to worship and to be nourished. This perpetuating of the Incarnation is the work of the priesthood. There must, therefore, be an increase of candidates for the ministry; otherwise there will be a loss of souls and a dwarfing of Christ's mystical Body.

THE GLEANER

NOTES AND COMMENTS

THE CELEBRATION OF "Britain's Day" in the United States was memorable. It marked the rebirth of racial fraternity between the two great English speaking nations. Its effect in the direction of world-peace will become manifested as the years go on.

THE GUELPH Novitiate affair is not to be allowed to pass into oblivion. The dauntless cohort of notoriety-seeking persons and political axe-grinders of the far-famed Order are not content to be thus deprived of the fruit of their labors. Even infamy is better to some minds than reputable obscurity.

In the Province of Quebec there has always been an abundance of candidates for the sanctuary. One of the chief reasons for this, we believe, that a very large percentage of the youth of that province receive their classical training and study Philosophy on the same benches with those who are preparing for the priesthood.

THE ACCOUNT of the sinking, on June 27th last, of the Canadian Hospital Ship, Llandovery Castle, just issued by the Director of Public Information at Ottawa, constitutes a record which will forever stand as a witness to German barbarity and inhumanity throughout the War. The information contained in the pamphlet, which should be read by every Canadian, was obtained by personal interviews with the survivors and verified from other sources.

THERE IS, however, another feature of the affair which Canada will cherish with legitimate pride for all time. This concerns the conduct





CHATS WITH YOUNG MEN

"A MERRY CHRISTMAS"

"A merry Christmas" is the wish I send from my heart...

HOW TO MAKE A MERRY CHRISTMAS

A merry Christmas will be yours if you forget yourself in service to your neighbor...

WHAT A YOUNG MAN CAN DO FOR XMAS

What can a young man do for Christ at Christmas? There are a thousand and one ways...

CHRISTMAS LEGENDS

An anecdote related by Mr. Howatson in his "Sketches of Upper Canada" is full of comparative interest...

THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM

"The kingdom come," we pray and honestly wish its peace, its justice, and its righteousness...

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people and remember what other people have done for you?

IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?

How many times has the question been asked? There was once a little girl whose name was Virginia...

THE CARDINAL'S APPEARANCE

It was a simple room, but of a rather unusual simplicity, with its great dimensions and its old furniture...

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

"JES' FORE CHRISTMAS"

They're acting mighty funny up at our house nowadays. They're different than they used to be...

I'VE NEVER KNOWN 'EM SO KIND

I've never known 'em so kind in all my life before; they'll jump to wait on me 'n find the things I'm huntin' for...

THE HEROIC CARDINAL OF RHEIMS

PIERRE LOTI INTERVIEWS FAMOUS CHURCHMAN

"Look! Rheims is burning!" was crying an old woodworker in a tone of morbid irony...

THE GLORY THAT WAS RHEIMS

Alas! alas! to see Rheims burning and to be unable to do anything! O Rheims, what name was more fit to recall our marvelous past...

THE INCARNATION

On this day Our Saviour is born; let us rejoice, for there should be no sadness where life appears...

THE GOOD SHEPHERD REMAINS

It is known that the Cardinal Archbishop insisted upon remaining amidst the last of the inhabitants...

WE TALKED THEN OF HIS CATHEDRAL

We talked then of his Cathedral, the agony of which tore his heart, and when I expressed my astonishment...

CHRISTMAS IN DEAR OLD IRELAND

Christmas in dear old Ireland, Fain would this lone heart be Back in that humble cottage Down by the silvery Leas...

CHRISTMAS IN DEAR OLD IRELAND

Christmas in dear old Ireland, Ah! 'twas but yester year! Crushed with the grief of parting, Wearily I landed here...

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