

made a crucifix fall to the ground by shooting at it; they also took a statue of St. Joseph and feigned they shot it dead. Moreover, she saw the tabernacle of their convent shot at till it was torn to pieces, and the men then took out the ciborium, casting the Hosts on the floor. In a place called Santa Rosa, where there was exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the soldiers shot at the Blessed Sacrament and gave the Sacred Hosts to the horses to eat. . . . Second affidavit: 'She declares that she has seen with her own eyes over 20 Sisters kept in some hospitals, as for instance, . . . who had been violated. . . . Third affidavit: 'Lastly, on my way from Aguascalientes to Mexico City, I met seven Sisters, who asked me for a maternity house, and although they tried to conceal the fact of their being religious, I knew them from their manner of speaking. They told me how they escaped from the . . . where the Zapatistas had held them. I made every effort to console them, but they were inconsolable, saying that they were already damned and abandoned by God. . . . Other affidavits describe the infliction of diabolical tortures—such as the cutting out of tongues, the gouging out of eyes, and the subsequent burning of the victims after their persons had been saturated with oil.

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These horrors, it must be remembered—too awful, as they are, to dwell upon,—are directly traceable to the pitiful, pusillanimous policy of America's President. So much is frankly admitted in the dispassionate and moderately worded statement published on November 28 by ex-President Taft. 'It is difficult,' he says, 'to deny the fairness of the conclusion that in announcing to the world that we never would recognise Huerta either as Provisional President or as permanent President, in lifting the embargo on the importation of arms to enable the forces of Carranza and Villa to arm themselves, and in the seizure and occupation of his chief revenue-producing port of Vera Cruz, we deliberately drove Huerta out of Mexico, and with equal deliberation brought in Carranza and Villa, in the expectation that they would compose the troubles of unfortunate Mexico. Our policy, therefore, has been that, while defining our status as merely that of watchful waiting, we have neither watched nor waited, but have in fact most hastily intervened and thus find the present anarchy charged as the logical consequence of our policy.' The *New York Sun* and *New York Times* endorse this verdict. Writing in the latter, Mr. Roosevelt points out that, though President Wilson did not officially intervene in Mexican affairs, he meddled with them in such a manner 'as to produce much evil and no good and to make us responsible for the actions of a peculiarly lawless, ignorant, and bloodthirsty faction.' Under the circumstances, it would naturally be expected that a recital of the outrages referred to above would have been received by President Wilson with a blaze of righteous wrath, mingled with shame at the thought of America's unfortunate complicity in bringing about such an inferno. One can only say that if President Wilson really feels any such burning indignation at the wrongs of helpless priests and nuns he has been very successful in concealing it. We have no desire to exaggerate or to state the position in any way unfairly, and we therefore print in full the Department of State's reply to Catholic representations on the subject. Many Catholic organisations have submitted to the American Government long authenticated lists of Mexican atrocities, and these have been accompanied by a letter from Father R. H. Tierney, Chairman of Committee of the Federation of Catholic Societies. Here is the official reply to Father Tierney: 'Sir,—The Department acknowledges the receipt of your letter of October 17, 1914, with which you enclose a statement outlining conditions in Mexico. You ask this Government to rescue the priests and nuns who took refuge at Vera Cruz, and also that this Government withhold its recognition of any government in Mexico which does not grant real freedom of worship. In reply you are informed that the Department has carefully considered your letter and its enclosures. With reference to the priests and nuns

who had taken refuge at Vera Cruz, the Department would advise you that orders have been issued by the Secretary of War to General Funston to convey all priests and nuns who desire to leave, to the United States, and it is the understanding of the Department that this order has been complied with. Regarding your request that this Government withhold its recognition of any Government in Mexico that does not grant real freedom of worship, the Department informs you that it will defer final decision as to whether or not to accord recognition to a Government in Mexico until the time shall have arrived for making such a decision. When that time arrives, the Department assures you that the question of religious freedom in Mexico will receive due consideration. The Department has shown your letter with accompanying enclosures to the President, and it has received from him a written reply in which he says: "I am distressed that our Catholic fellow-countrymen do not more fully realise how frequent and serious our attempts have been to act in the interest of their people in Mexico."—I am, sir, your obedient servant, W. J. BRYAN.'

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'When that time arrives!' In the meantime, this watchful-waiting President will stand by and see priests tortured, churches desecrated, and innocent nuns insulted and violated, and will doubtless continue to be 'distressed' that Catholics are not sufficiently impressed by all he has done—and not done—in the interest of their people in Mexico.' By his miserable policy of muddle and shilly-shally in Mexico, as also by his hitherto pitiable weakness in regard to the general international situation, President Wilson is dragging the fair name of America in the mud, and is going the sure way to rob her of her rightful place among the nations. He is at the same time rapidly divesting himself of the last shred of personal reputation which remains to him. Of America, or at least of its official head, it will soon be written: 'But yesterday, the word of Caesar might have stood against the world; now . . . none so poor to do him reverence.'

## Notes

### Held Over

Owing to extreme pressure on our space, arising from accumulated Federation reports, a quantity of late matter, including report of a Federation social function at Timaru, has been unavoidably held over.

### Wexford to the Fore

Rear-Admiral Beatty, who led the British Squadron in the two naval victories in the North Sea, was born in Wexford, and is the youngest Admiral in the British Navy. We learn from the cables that Mr. John Redmond, on behalf of Wexfordians, has congratulated Admiral Beatty on his victory.

### The Censor's (Long) Way

'Mr. Punch' thus aptly hits off the devious and tedious ways of the press censor:

'A censored letter from a correspondent at the front tells us that the most popular song with our troops is the following:

'It's a long way to —,  
It's a long way to go;  
It's a long way to —,  
To the sweetest — I know,  
Goodbye —, farewell —;  
It's a long, long way to —,  
But my heart's right —.'

It will be interesting to hear further details as soon as they can be divulged without giving the position away to the enemy.'