

Mr. Hobhouse draws the moral of the Ambrose and Mercier incidents, and throws out a pointed hint to the German ecclesiastical authorities. 'We know that in every country ministers of religion ask themselves anxiously why faith is declining. Well, the leaders of the German churches just now have a magnificent opportunity for arresting the decline. Let the Germans see one of their ecclesiastical authorities ordering the Kaiser out of church until he will make good the wrongs of Belgium, and they will very speedily be convinced that a religion which can so inspire its leading exponents must at least command respect. Respect is not the same thing as belief, but in religion there can be no belief without respect. Cardinal Mercier has won the world's respect. He has also shown every Christian minister the simplest and surest way of re-establishing his religion in the minds of men.'

## SIDELIGHTS ON THE WAR

### GENERAL.

Mr. Rocco Mazza, an Italian, a member of St. Patrick's congregation, Leeds, who has seven sons serving in the British Army, has received a letter of appreciation from H.M. the King.

It is calculated that approximately 1000 Catholic churches have been destroyed in Poland during the present war. A committee has been appointed to consider means for their reconstruction and repair.

Information has reached Renton that Private Andrew O'Neill, of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, has been wounded for the second time since going to the front. He is one of five brothers whom this 'Scottish' family has sent to the front.

Another Irish member of Parliament has gone to the fighting line. Dr. Esmonde, M.P. for North Tipperary, has just been commissioned as a Captain in the R.A.M.C. His eldest son is already an officer in the Royal Irish Regiment with the Irish Brigade at Fermeux.

Colonel Laurence Gratian Esmonde has been appointed to command the Fourth Battalion of Tyneside Irishmen enrolled in the Tyneside Irish Brigade. The colonel is the brother of Sir Thomas Gratian Esmonde, Bart., M.P., who has now taken over the position in the Wexford and Waterford Irish National Volunteers which Colonel Laurence Esmonde previously held.

'Hearing confessions in the orthodox way in confession boxes is not generally possible,' wrote a Jesuit Father, chaplain with the Second Royal Irish Rifles. 'One Saturday I had three hours, but the greater part of the work has to be done by button-holing the men, and helping them through on the spot often in a shower of rain, and generally standing in an inch or two of mud. Their dispositions are quite good, and they are most sincere in their confessions.'

Information has reached Mrs. Young, Kirkealdy, that her nephew, Lance-Corporal William O'Leary, of the Hampshire Regiment, has been killed in action. The deceased belonged to a family which has given many members to the service of King and country. His brother, Denis, is at present a member of the Royal Irish Fusiliers; another brother, John, is in the ranks of the Hampshire regiment, while a third brother, Dan, is serving with the Kirkealdy Highlanders. His father, grandfather, and great-grandfather were also soldiers, and served respectively with the Hampshires, the 87th Royal Irish, and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

### FIELD-MARSHAL FRENCH PRESENT AT BENEDICTION.

A Redemptorist Father, who is chaplain to the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment, fighting gallantly at the front, has just written to tell how Field-Marshal Sir John French attended Benediction on the first Sunday of January, 1915. The reverend chaplain says:—

'Invitations were issued by the head priest to General French and the Staff and to my Commanding Officer and his officers. At 5.45 General French made his appearance, and he was duly escorted to a special seat near the altar rails. His whole Staff turned up to a man. The Mayor and Aldermen of the town were present, and the people of the town flocked in in such numbers to the church that evening that many were forced to stay outside.

### 'REMEMBER YOUR RACE AND YOUR COUNTRY.'

Lord Kitchener on January 18 inspected the 2nd Battalion of the Irish Guards, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel the Earl of Kerry, Major the Earl of Rosse also being on parade. Addressing the battalion, the Secretary for War said he was proud to have been honored by being appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the Irish Guards, who upheld the most glorious traditions of their race in the present war, and were making an imperishable name for themselves. It was only a short time since their late colonel, Lord Roberts, stood on that spot to encourage the regiment, and he (Lord Kitchener) felt deeply the honor which had been paid him as successor to so great a soldier. Those who were going out to join their comrades should remember their race and their country. Those who were in training should determine to be ready and fit when the call came to carry on the great example.

### SOME FOREIGN NAMES.

Undoubtedly the correct pronunciation of Przenysl is Pjzenysl (says a correspondent of the *Catholic Herald of India*). In the Polish alphabet *rz* is merely a compound symbol for the simple sound *j*. So a Gdician friend of great literary abilities told me many years ago. I remember his illustrating the precept by the proper name Brzozowski which, he said, is pronounced Bjozowski. Should anybody wonder at the titles of *z*, to stand for *j*, I can only say that a Pole might possibly ask to be informed why the English *shell* and the French *chat* are not pronounced respectively *shell* and *chat*.

So this ought to settle 'Przenysl.' As for 'Ypres' which seems to come second in the list of difficulties the natives of Belgium speak of it as 'Eprel.' It is all so simple once one knows, isn't it? Analogies are of no use. Otherwise, why would 'Isleworth' for instance, not have its first syllable pronounced as 'isle' instead of 'izel,' as the dictionary gives it? Do any one go by analogy in the pronunciation of 'Beau-Séjour' and 'Beauchamp'?

### THE WAR AND RELIGION.

There is one patch of sunlight in the dark clouds that overshadow Europe (says the *Catholic Magazine* for South Africa). For once the question of religion is not made the bone of contention. There is no lack of religious persecution in the bosom of some of the fighting nations; but religion has not been made the pretext for the fight, nor has it been dragged into the arena as a supplementary cause after the war began. The so-called wars of religion in the past have rarely been fought on a fair and square religious issue; but a religious war-ery has only too often been used to influence the passions of the mob, as was done during the Reformation struggles, especially between England and Spain. We know now that the real issue between England and Spain was a commercial one. In the present struggle Catholics are to be found on both sides, Protestants are likewise divided, and even the Mohammedans are split up into opposing factions. In so far as this removes a source of peculiar bitterness, it is a matter for congratulation.

### FATHER BERNARD VAUGHAN'S VIEW.

Father Bernard Vaughan, S.J., speaking in the East End of London recently, said that from one important view-point Cardinal Mercier's arrest was about the best bit of news that had been flashed to them