

### THE CRUCIFIX.

'Eye-Witness,' present with the British Headquarters in France, in a descriptive account, dated March 5, says that the astonishing strength of many of the old medieval buildings in the country, such as the Templars' Tower at Nieuport and the church tower of Messines, is evinced by the fact that they have resisted bombardment by modern artillery. The latter is, of course, in a more or less ruinous condition as a result of the German bombardment four months ago; great blocks of masonry have been blown off it, the belfry has been shot away, the interior is completely burnt out; but the framework, though irregular in outline and full of gaping holes, still stands defiant amid the surrounding ruins. The church contained a very fine oak screen, in the centre of which was a lifesize plaster crucifix. When the British evacuated the place on October 31 the German shells had set alight the woodwork, which was completely burnt, and everything in the church destroyed, with the sole exception of the crucifix, which was not touched.

### 'PRIVATE MOUREY.'

'A Second Lieutenant,' writing to the *Times*, says that among the 20,000 priests, religious, and seminarists, serving in the French Army, are Mgr. Ruch, the Coadjutor of Nancy, who is acting as a stretcher-bearer; Mgr. Perros, Vicar Apostolic of Siam, who is sub-lieutenant in an infantry regiment; and Mgr. Mourey, Bishop of the Gold Coast, who, in the ranks, is simply 'Private Mourey.' 'Second Lieutenant' speaks of the coolness under fire of Bishop Ruch, and says of 'Private Mourey' that he might have been excused military service, as he was born at Le Puy in 1873, 'but his straightforward conscience impelled him to serve.'

### A RIGHT AND TRUE VIEW.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., in an article in the *Daily Chronicle*, says that many people are still under the hallucination that Ireland has held back and is not doing her fair share in defending the Empire from peril. As a matter of fact, to him the most extraordinary outcome of the war is the incredible rapidity with which the good results of the just treatment of Ireland by the Empire have borne fruit. Especially he has been quite astounded at the promptitude and unanimity with which the Irish in Great Britain took the right and true view of the present struggle. Glasgow's meeting stands out in his memory as one of the most remarkable gatherings he ever addressed. One of the men sentenced to be hanged with the 'Manchester Martyrs' survives. His name is Captain O'Meagher Condon. He has nothing to hope nor to fear from England now, but he is on the side of England and the Allies. 'An old fighter for freedom, how could he take any other side?'

### THE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY AND CIVILISATION.

Mr. Redmond, after his speech in Manchester in connection with the St. Patrick's Day celebration there, remained in Manchester for a few days. In the course of his stay he paid a visit to the local branch of the Calico Printers' Association, and was afterwards entertained with his wife to lunch at the Town Hall by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. This year, as last, Manchester has a Catholic Nationalist Lord Mayor in the person of Alderman Dan McCabe. The guests invited to meet Mr. Redmond included Bishop Hanlon, of Uganda, Abbot Seadon, the Protestant Dean of Manchester, Bishop Weldon, and a number of local notabilities. Mr. Redmond said it was not only the duty of young Irishmen to face the risks and sacrifices of the

war, but it ought to be their glory as well, since the Allies were engaged in a battle for the maintenance of the most sacred of principles, liberty, and civilisation.

### CATHOLIC CLERGY ACCLAIMED.

A volume entitled 'With the Allies,' by Richard Harding Davis, refers in terms of glowing admiration to the courage of the Catholic clergy in the bombardment of Rheims. The *Scotsman* review of the volume, having described the terror and wreckage wrought by the bursting shells, and referred with admiration to the bravery of the women of Rheims, who stood with their knitting in their hands watching the terrific spectacle, goes on to make these references to the Catholic clergy:—

'But more heroic than their composure was the noble conduct of the clergy of the Cathedral, who, led by their Archbishop, carried the German wounded, who had been taken for shelter within the Cathedral walls, out of the burning and mutilated edifice, when German shells were raining steadily upon it. Enraged by the infamous action of the enemy, the citizens of Rheims threatened to take vengeance upon the German wounded; but, says Mr. Davis, the Archbishop and his priests formed a protecting guard around their charges, and bore them unmolested through the excited throng.'

### HOW THE MUNSTERS FOUGHT.

Whoever reads Mr. John Buchan's fine story of the war (says the *Irish News*) will understand a hundred things which still mystify the public. We quote the author's narrative of the fate of a heroic battalion of the Munster Fusiliers—an incident which has not been officially explained with any degree of clarity up to the present:—

'The critical day for the British force had been that of Le Cateau (August 26). Smith-Dorrien's dogged resistance on that day had done more than merely save the army for the moment. It had broken the vigor of the German pursuit. Heavy as the British losses had been, both in the battle and in the terrible night march southwards, von Kluck's attempt to envelop and cut off the Second Corps had failed, and for the next few days Sir John French had an easier task. On the day of the battle the First Corps had marched southwards towards Guise, in the valley of the Oise, without serious menace from the German pursuit. Early on the next morning, however, it suffered an unfortunate loss. The Munster Fusiliers had halted for the night on the extreme right rear of the corps. A dispatch rider sent to them with orders for an early march next day lost his way, and was made prisoner. At dawn the Munsters found themselves attacked by several German battalions, and presently noticed that their retreat was cut off. They made a good fight for several hours, hoping to hold out till help should come. But all the while their comrades of the First Corps were marching southward, utterly unaware of their desperate position. It was only when they had lost their colonel, most of their officers, and a large proportion of their rank and file, when their ammunition was all but expended, and they were ringed round by superior numbers, that the remnant of this splendid battalion surrendered.'

All this happened six and a-half months ago; and no finer deed has been recorded since that 27th of August. The little battalion of Munsters, unwittingly deserted by their comrades, fought against all the advancing victorious German legions, held them back for several hours, and did not surrender until scarcely a round of ammunition was left to the shattered, wearied, leaderless remnant of the heroes from Cork and Kerry. Many other battalions of the Munster Fusiliers have distinguished themselves since the end of August; but the glory of the men who fought near Guise will never be eclipsed.

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