

# The Catholic World

## FRANCE

### CASUALTIES AMONG THE JESUITS.

Among the religious Orders who have paid their debt of blood to the cause of patriotism the Society of Jesus holds a foremost place. On June 25, out of 592 French Jesuits on active service, 42 had been killed, 10 were missing, 19 were prisoners, 6 had been decorated with the Legion of Honor, 6 with the Military Medal, one with the Russian Cross of St. George, and one with the medal given for devotion during epidemics. Thirty had been mentioned in the orders of the day for their noble attitude under fire.

### MENTIONED IN THE ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Opening the newspapers at random any day we come across 'citations' like the following, taken from the official paper (writes a Paris correspondent):— 'Louis Gaillot, military chaplain, on April 22, 1915, was in the first line when the Germans used the poisonous gases. He warned his chiefs and then returned where the danger was greatest in order to fulfil his priestly duties. Was killed 100 metres from the Germans.' 'Louis Gaillot' was Father Albert, a Capuchin, whom the persecuting French Government exiled to Canada, and who returned, when the war broke out, to take service in the army. And a few lines beyond, this other mention: 'Corporal Denis has since the beginning of the war shown the greatest courage in removing the wounded. Always volunteers for dangerous missions.' 'Corporal Denis' was, before the war, the Abbe Denis, 'vicaire' at Brienne, near Evreux.

### THE GOVERNMENT AND THE HOLY SEE.

It is becoming clearer day by day that when the French Government broke off diplomatic relations with the Holy See they took a step injurious to the interests of the country. Ever since the war began (says the *Catholic Times*) some of the French papers have been lamenting that the details as to the German disregard for the usages of civilised warfare laid before the Holy Father have not been as complete as could be desired. This much can be said with certainty that the French Ministry has sadly failed to appreciate the power of the Holy See. At the audience which he granted to the editor of the *Revue Hebdomadaire* the Pope stated that his prayer for peace had not been properly interpreted. There could be no mistake as to the Government's hostility towards the Holy Father's instructions, and this was but one of a number of incidents which betrayed the same disposition. The truth is old influences were at work. The French people, tried by suffering, have plainly indicated that they have no longer any sympathy with such influences. A great many of the unbelievers have renounced unbelief, and most of the indifferent have become earnest, practical Christians. The result of this change is that the majority of Frenchmen are now sincere advocates of improved relations between France and the Holy See. Will the French Government yield to the national desire and appoint a diplomatic representative to the Vatican or will it persist in a policy the unwisdom of which is so unmistakable?

### RECOGNITION OF ARMY CHAPLAINS.

The services of the chaplains are now meeting with recognition on the part of the Government (writes a Paris correspondent). M. Millerand has made provisions for pay according to the grades of all the chaplains; he has replaced those who have fallen or been taken prisoners by others holding the authorisation of their bishops. The candidates are numerous; and the method of appointment is, apparently, very different from the haphazard way which prevailed at the beginning of the war. Considerable care is taken to find the right men for the different posts. For the expeditionary force in the Dardanelles the almoners were chosen

amongst the missionaries, who had been professors in the various colleges in Constantinople, Smyrna, or Jerusalem, and possessed of intimate knowledge of the country and the people. France has travelled a long way since the old evil days of 'fiches' and denunciations, when any officer, secretly reported at headquarters as a regular attendant at Mass and 'open to clerical influences,' ruined his chances of promotion, or when politicians believed they could enhance their popularity by reducing the ecclesiastical department in the army, or by starving it out of existence. Something far more than a mere truce has been made between the parties, divided by the great question of religion. The 'sacred union' formed on the battlefield will, we trust, survive the enthusiasm of the war; and the change of mind which has come over the French people will compel the Government of the day to take an attitude towards Christianity and the Church very different from that of the past. In bringing about this change it will be found that the army chaplains have played a notable part.

## ROME

### THE PAPAL SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Feast of SS. Peter and Paul was the name-day of Cardinal Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State. In a letter of congratulation on the day, Benedict XV. expressed his gratitude for the Cardinal's services, and sent with the communication what the Pontiff termed 'a little gift in sign of appreciation.' The 'little gift' is truly royal. It consists of a beautiful pectoral cross of chased gold set with seven emeralds of purest water and large size. Each emerald is surrounded by a circle of brilliants to the number of 152 in all. To the cross is united a chain of gold, the whole being enclosed in a beautiful case adorned with the Papal arms.

### THE FEAST OF SS. PETER AND PAUL.

Even more numerous than in former years were the crowds that flocked to the Basilica of St. Peter's on the vigil and the Feast of the Patrons of Rome, for a visit to the tomb of the Galilean Fisherman is a privilege that few Romans will forego on those days. From dawn on the 29th Low Masses were said at the many altars of the basilica, and at 10 a.m. Pontifical High Mass was celebrated, the Chapter of St. Peter's being in attendance and Cardinal Merry del Val, the Archbishop, presiding. All day Catholics came in thousands to kneel at the tomb of the Prince of the Apostles and to kiss the foot of his ancient bronze statue, which for the occasion was robed in a rich cope, with a gold ring set in brilliants on the finger, a tiara on the head, and on the breast a magnificent pectoral cross, a gift of King Alphonsus XII. of Spain. On the previous morning the Primary Society of Rome for Catholic Interests, according to custom, placed upon the tomb of St. Peter the annual offering of a silver chalice, which up to 1871 the Roman Senate donated in the name of the people of the Eternal City. After First Vespers on the vigil of the Feast the Holy Father, accompanied by the dignitaries, ecclesiastical and lay, of the Curia, descended from the Vatican and entered St. Peter's by the private stairway near the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament to venerate the ashes of the Prince of the Apostles. The procession of prelates, military men, and officials of the Vatican knelt in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament along with the Holy Father, and then moved to the venerable tomb, where all knelt around the *prie-dieu* occupied by the Pope. Here the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin and the Litany were recited by all, at the conclusion of which Benedict XV. and the Court proceeded to the bronze statue to kiss the foot.

Be kind to your mother, for when you were small,  
She kissed and caressed you, if you had a fall.  
She nursed you in sickness, and laughed at your joy,  
For she was your mother and you her dear boy.  
No friends could be kinder, no friends could be truer  
Than mother—and Woods' Great Peppermint Cure!