

Still through the cloven skies they come
 With peaceful wings unfurled,
 And still their heavenly music floats
 O'er all the weary world;
 Above its sad and lowly plains
 They bend on hovering wing,
 And ever o'er its Babel-sounds
 The blessed angels sing.

But with the woes of sin and strife
 The world has suffered long;
 Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
 Two thousand years of wrong;
 And man, at war with man, hears not
 The song of love they bring;
 Oh! hush the noise, ye men of strife,
 And hear the angels sing!

And ye, beneath life's crushing load
 Whose forms are bending low,
 Who toil along the climbing way
 With painful steps and slow,
 Look now: for glad and golden hours
 Come swiftly on the wing;
 Oh! rest beside the weary road,
 And hear the angels sing!

Notes

Paper and the War

Newspapers, like most other businesses, have felt the pinch of the war, notably in the difficulty of obtaining full supplies of paper, and particularly of the finer quality required for illustrations. On this ground, we have to apologise to our readers for having, on this occasion, to forego our usual Christmas supplement.

Two War Stories

The *Strand* is gathering together what it calls the 'Best War Stories,' and here are two from the collection. They are doubtless as true as the rest of the war items that are sent to us. Scene: Somewhere in France, some time last winter. On the German trenches a placard was erected, bearing the words, 'Gott mit uns' (God with us). The British Tommies were not to be outdone. Up went their rival notice: 'We've got mittens too!'

A company of Sherwood Foresters were walking along the bank of a river, when suddenly the commanding officer shouted, 'Fall in!' 'No fear!' answered a raw recruit. 'I didn't join the Coldstream Guards!'

Cardinal Hartmann and Peace

That the Pope's efforts in the direction of peace—by which he has expressed himself to mean a 'just' and 'lasting' peace—are not altogether without effect, and that there is something very like a definite peace movement in Germany, seems fairly clear from the following paragraph which appears in a recent issue of the German *Vorwaerts*:—'The Cardinal Archbishop of Cologne, who has already repeatedly betrayed his ardent love of peace in Pastoral Letters to his fold, recently issued an appeal to all the faithful to take part in a procession or supplication for the termination of the war. The appeal was published in huge letters on posters all over the town, and it was expected that it would meet with a tremendous response, as all the Catholic unions of Cologne were invited to participate. At the last moment, however, the following notice was issued: "The procession planned for Sunday and authorised by the authorities will not take place in consequence of later misgivings on the subject."'

The Undamaged Crucifix

Coming from a Catholic witness the following testimony would probably be rejected as savoring of superstition, but coming as it does from a Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Kenneth D. McLaren, of the Church of Scotland, it will hardly be considered open to any such suspicion. Mr. McLaren says that as military chaplain he spoke to many of the men home from the front. They told him that wherever they went they had again and again come across churches which had been shelled and broken to pieces, but one part remained, namely, the wall bearing the crucifix, the Cross with a figure of the Saviour upon it. In the little shrines by the roadside the same thing had happened. He asked scores of men what was the significance of that to them, and the reply almost invariably was that it had a religious significance. One said that whatever might be destroyed in this war the Cross of Christ was to remain erect amid the ruins.

A Correction

The Rev. Father Bowers, of Geraldine, writes to us as follows:—'Allow me to point out that you are in error regarding the quotation from the 2nd Book of Esdras of the Apocrypha mentioned on page 35 of last Thursday's issue of the *Tablet*. My copy of the Apocrypha is the Revised Version, published at Oxford, 1895, and a revised version of the words quoted occurs there exactly as stated by the correspondent of the *Spectator*. The 2nd Book of Esdras of the Apocrypha must not be confounded with the 2nd Book of Esdras or Nehemias that is to be found in the Douay, Authorised, and Revised Versions of the Bible. Two other Books of Esdras, a 3rd and a 4th, were published, but their authenticity having been denied they are not now included in any of the above named versions. The 2nd Esdras quoted by the correspondent of the *Spectator* is, of course, the 4th Esdras just mentioned.'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

On Christmas Day Masses will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Cathedral at 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11 o'clock, and at the Sacred Heart Church, North-east Valley, at 7, 8, and 9 o'clock.

On Wednesday evening of last week Privates James O'Connell and Arthur Gustafson, who are about to proceed to the front, were entertained by St. Joseph's Ladies' Club in St. Joseph's Hall, and each presented with a soldier's pocket outfit.

At a meeting held in St. Joseph's Hall on Sunday evening, presided over by Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., a committee was appointed to make arrangements for the annual schools' picnic, and to report later on as regards the date and locality.

At St. Joseph's Cathedral on Christmas night the choir will render an exceptionally attractive programme of sacred music. The choral numbers will include excerpts from Mozart's Twelfth Mass, and solos will also be given by Mesdames Power and Fraher, Misses Gardiner and Murphy, Messrs. Saldaigne, Poppelwell, McGrath, and Woods.

On Sunday evening in the Church of the Sacred Heart, North-east Valley, the Rev. Father Corcoran received ten aspirants into the sodality of the Children of Mary, and six new members were enrolled. Recently the members of this sodality availed themselves of a favorable opportunity to send the gift of a handsome Limerick lace alb to Rev. Father Buckley, Invercargill, in appreciation of his untiring devotion to the church, Altar Society, and the sodality.

VISIT OF THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE TO DUNEDIN.

A well-attended meeting for the purpose of making arrangements to give a fitting reception to his Excellency the Most Rev. Archbishop Cerretti, Apostolic Delegate, on his visit to Dunedin, was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Monday evening. The Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., presided, and there were