

A Kindly Act

If the war has served no other useful purpose, it has at least done something in the way of reducing religious bigotry and towards promoting a better understanding and a more kindly mutual feeling between the various religious bodies represented in the fighting line — and this not alone on the western front but even in far-away Mesopotamia. A pleasant illustration of this is recorded in the *Catholic Herald of India* in a recent issue. A Church of England chaplain, the Rev. V. C. Harwood, now at Amara (Mesopotamia) writing to one of the ladies of Lady Carmichael's fund, said: "Dear Madam, you ask me sometimes if there is anything else I would like you to send. There is one thing which if you will send will be most useful, and it is most necessary, and I really don't know where else I can get it — it is this, the Roman Catholic chaplain here is a Frenchman, he is a most charming old gentleman and works very hard for our Roman Catholic troops indeed could you send him from Rose and Co., Bombay, a "baby" harmonium for his little chapel. The soldiers go there and there is no music. He has so often asked me to try and get him one. I think the cost is £5, they fold up and go into a box. If you will do this you will be rendering a real service to the troops. The Father can play it." Lady Sanderson says our Indian contemporary, let Mrs. Monahan know about this request, and the latter collected the Rs 75 from a few Catholics, and the "baby" harmonium will be sent to Father Emmanuel, the "charming old gentleman" at Amara through Lady Carmichael's war fund depot. We feel that the "baby" will be doubly welcome on account of the way it will come, and we shall not be surprised to hear Father Emmanuel christened it the "Harwood" harmonium.

A Letter from the Front

The following letter from the front, addressed to the boys of the Preparatory College, Dunedin, will be read with interest by you, and our readers.

Dear Boys, I have just received your letter of sympathy, for which my most grateful thanks. Your old drill instructor appreciates your little note very highly. Since I left you I have been in many lands. A brief summary will perhaps be something of a history for you to scan in your History lessons at school some time. I left Wellington on October 11, 1914. We called at Hobart, in Tasmania; thence to Albany, Colombo, Aden, Port Said, Suez, Alexandria, which finishes our route as regards ports of call. We arrived in Cairo, Egypt, on December 2, 1914, and trained very hard from that date until January 28, when we set off in our first little offensive (or defensive, as it proved later) down the Suez Canal, where the Turkish Army was endeavouring to make a crossing, and so regain Egypt. As you know, boys, we drove them back; and we returned to Cairo on February 28. On April 10 we set off from Cairo for our next sally — the Dardanelles, landing on Anzac Beach on the 25th. I was on the Peninsula from that date until August 21, when I went to Hospital. I returned on October 8 and came off at the evacuation. Then returned to Egypt, and on June 1 went to France with an Australian contingent.

France.

The Trenches, July, 19, 1916.

I had to leave the letter over, as the boat for France sailed early on the 10th. To continue: I had five weeks with the Australians over here, and then went to England. When I commenced this letter I had received orders to proceed to France to join my regiment, and here I am now in the trenches again. This place is an inferno just now, and I'll have no nerves when I return to New Zealand, if it is permitted me to return. Now, boys, I wish you all good luck at school, and prosperity in the future. And always remember when you have trials, that your old friend and instructor has had some very severe ones. I hope you will not forget your physical training, it has been of very great value to all our soldiers. With kindest of regards,

I remain, your sincere comrade,

D. J. WALLS.

DIocese of Dunedin

The Devotion of the Forty Hours will commence in St. Patrick's Church, South Dunedin, on next Friday, the 6th inst.

Rev. Father O'Sullivan, C.S.S.R., is engaged during this week in giving a retreat to the Children of Mary, North-East Valley. A mission, conducted by the Rev. Father, will commence in Mosgiel at the 10.30 o'clock Mass next Sunday, and will be continued during the week. On Sunday, 15th inst., a mission will commence in Invercargill parish.

The members of the Hibernian Society received Holy Communion in a body at the 9 o'clock Mass in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday, and were afterwards entertained at breakfast in St. Joseph's Hall by Mrs. Jackson and the members of the Ladies' Club. Mr. J. Doherty (president) proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the club.

The St. Joseph's Ladies' Club have to thank all those who are assisting them in their effort to fill a large hamper to be dispatched to the front some time during this month. A large and varied assortment of articles have already been received, from balaclavas to packets of chocolate. They would like all those who are working for this object to send in their parcels as soon as possible. A letter was received by the club from Miss Edna Keeley and Mr. Allen Doone, wishing the club every success in their undertaking.

On Wednesday, September 20, the St. Joseph's Ladies' Club entertained Mr. H. Macauley and Mr. J. O'Farrell, prior to their departure for the front. Rev. Father Corcoran, in making the presentation, which consisted of writers' companions, referred to the esteem in which Privates Macauley and O'Farrell were held by all who knew them, and trusted that they would soon be back amongst them all once more. During the evening games were indulged in, and the following contributed to the evening's entertainment: Misses A. Brady, M. Carter, Eileen Murphy, Messrs. D. Fogarty and T. Hughes (songs), and Messrs. D. Fogarty, T. Hughes, and E. Fogarty (trio), Misses L. Foster and M. Puchezud (recitations), Misses Fulton, E. Salmon, and R. Carter acted as accompanists.

The Rev. Captain-Chaplain Dore, who had shown such heroism in Gallipoli, where he was very severely wounded, returned to the Dominion by the Willochra on last Wednesday. He was met on the boat by the Very Rev. Father Coffey, who remained with him until he left for the north by the special troop train in the forenoon. His many friends will be glad to hear that though still an invalid, the Rev. Father is in good spirits, and has every hope of recovering sufficiently to be able to undertake light duties of his holy calling. For the present he goes into a convalescent home in Wellington. He intends later to go on to Rotorna.

The Devotion of the Forty Hours was brought to a close in St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday night. A constant stream of people kept visiting the church during the three days, and every morning, but especially on Sunday morning, great numbers of people received Holy Communion. Solemn High Mass, *Coram Pontifice*, was celebrated at 11 o'clock by Rev. Father Collins (Holy Cross College, Mosgiel), Rev. Mr. Cullen (Holy Cross College) being deacon, Rev. Mr. Ardagh (Holy Cross College) subdeacon, Very Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., master of ceremonies. The sermon was preached by Rev. Father O'Sullivan, C.S.S.R. During the afternoon a procession of the members of the sodality of the Living Rosary was formed in St. Joseph's School and marched through the convent grounds to the Cathedral, reciting the Rosary, which was continued in the Cathedral till the fifteen mysteries were said.

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