

on the foundation of the Great Charter of English liberty—the Magna Charta by virtue of which England is what she is to-day. Who was it that drew up that imperishable charter on which we stand and for which blood runs like water to-day? It was drawn up by the Catholic bishops of England! Who was it that forced the pen into the fingers of a cursing, reluctant king and compelled him to sign and seal this, our glorious heritage? None other than the Catholic bishops, backed by the Catholic soldiers of England. Our Church to-day, as always, is the centre of civilisation—the one solid fortress that no force on earth can shake. In this time of stress men are looking to her and realising her strength, are turning to her with outstretched hands, groping from blindness to light, from uncertainty to surety. The highest form of patriotism is the highest practice of Catholicity. Liberty and progress and Catholicism are synonymous, because Catholicism brings out fully what is best in man. Know yourselves and the heritage that is yours, for thus will you help to lay broad and strong the foundations of the nation. Aim at organisation and education. Fight in this cause, for it is the cause of liberty and truth and justice. The future of the Church is the future of our children. The fate of these little children lies in your hands. Stand fearlessly by their shoulder to shoulder for the honor of the Church and the honor of New Zealand. Fight for that education that will give to New Zealand citizens that will be an honor to her, fight for that which will give to our Church men who will show to the world what a magnificent thing it is to be an enthusiastic, fearless, fighting Catholic.

SIDELIGHTS ON THE WAR

GENERAL.

The Anglican Bishop of Birmingham, speaking at Aston the other day said that, in France, members of the Church of England who had gone to fight, had seen the Catholic Church at its best and when they came home they would want to find their own Church imbued with the same spirit, more democratic, and forming part and parcel of the everyday things of life.

So, Irishmen, rally to your flag, be ready! Charge! Fight, and fight, and fight until the flags of the Allies are seen flying victorious in the breeze over Petrograd, Rome, Paris, London, and Liverpool; fight, and when the fight is done, St. Patrick will say: "See, behold a wise and understanding people—a great nation." In these words Father Bernard Vaughan, S.J., concluded his sermon on a recent Sunday morning in the Pro-Cathedral of St. Nicholas, Liverpool, when one of the most impressive memorial services ever witnessed in the church was held for the gallant Liverpool Irish who have fallen in the war.

Private T. Burke, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, whose home is in Coventry, took part in the Somme fighting, and on August 20 was struck on the left side of the chest with a large piece of shrapnel. The soldier carried in the left pocket of his tunic a Catholic prayer-book which had been given to him by a priest, and this formed an adequate protection from the shrapnel. The prayer-book, which was deeply indented, diverted the missile from the soldier's chest to his right hand, which was wounded. Private Burke was brought to England on account of the injury, and after detention in the Eastbourne V.A.D. Hospital has made a good recovery. Private Burke has been in the Warwickshires two years.

PRINCE ALEXANDER'S APPEAL.

Prince Alexander of Hohenlohe, in an article in the press entitled 'The Suicide of Europe,' urges that the Holy Father with Mr. Wilson should intervene in favor of peace. 'Where are the men,' he asks, 'who will take upon themselves to ward off destruction from

Europe? Do they exist? One of them has the moral authority sufficient, whilst the other—the President of the United States—has the material means which would enable him to exercise the necessary pressure. Let Benedict XV., then, and Mr. Wilson associate their efforts and undertake this work of peace. It will be to the everlasting credit of these two men if they put an end to all the present horrors. Their renown in history will be greater than that of the most illustrious warriors.' Of course this comes from a German source, but it furnishes us with yet another proof of how the world recognises the moral power of the Pope.

MASS FOR GALLANT DEAD.

Requiem Masses were celebrated simultaneously in all the churches in England on Sunday, November 5, for the soldiers and sailors who had died in the war. The service was arranged for Sunday in order to enable members of the working-classes to be present. In the churches of Ireland, of course, the brave dead who have died for their motherland and to protect her from German conquest are prayed for every Sunday, but the celebration of simultaneous Requiem Masses seems to us (*Irish Catholic*) to have an appeal and pathos entirely its own. May God grant the souls of our brave brethren eternal rest!

A CATHOLIC AIR HERO.

The other day the King invested personally Lieut. Tempest with the D.S.O. for having destroyed a Zeppelin. Lieut. Tempest is generally credited with the destruction of the raider which fell in flames at Potter's Bar on the occasion of a recent Zeppelin raid. He was introduced into his Majesty's presence, and the King shook hands with the gallant flying officer, and warmly congratulated him on his achievement. Lieut. Tempest is an old Stonyhurst boy, and is one of the trio of officers of the Flying Corps of whom the other two are Captain Robinson, V.C., and Lieut. Sowrey, D.S.O., both of whom have also been responsible for the destruction of Zeppelins, Captain Robinson having the distinction of bringing down the first Zeppelin on English soil, and Lieut. Sowrey was instrumental in destroying an enemy airship in the following week. To Captain Robinson was awarded the much-coveted V.C., but to the other gallant officers the D.S.O. only has been accorded, doubtless because it is thought probable that the occurrence will be more frequent. All three are bosom friends, and are almost inseparable; they belong to the same 'school,' and there is a story that the little coterie really numbers five, each of whom has sworn to destroy a Zeppelin, and of the five three have already made good. Lieut. Tempest has, unfortunately, lost his elder brother, Major Tempest, on the field of honor, as his death was announced almost simultaneously with the announcement of his own decoration. His father is a magistrate for the West Riding of Yorkshire, and when he received the congratulations from his colleagues of his boy's achievement he had to give them the sad news of the loss of his other son at the front.

RELIGIOUS RELICS OF BOMBARDMENTS.

A most interesting exhibition of artistic articles from a large number of the French towns bombarded by the Germans (writes the Paris correspondent of the *Catholic Times*) has just been opened in the Petit Palais (Champs Elysees). A franc per person is charged for entrance, and the whole proceeds of the show are to go to swell the funds of the Paris Municipal War Charity Fund. Among the treasures displayed are magnificent oak carvings from Verdun Cathedral and four old bronze cannon from the Verdun fortress. These latter played nothing but a decorative role, but recalled the valiant defence of the town during the Franco-German War of 1870-71. The marvellously beautiful old tapestries, which had, fortunately, been removed from Rheims Cathedral before it was bombarded and set on fire, decorate the walls of the Petit Palais. Some twenty-five statues from the Rheims