

infernal doings in the dug-outs, ruined villages, and battered woods of Picardy. I saw faces that might so easily seem mean in the mean field of politics, that I could so well imagine disfigured by drunkenness, bigotry, or the hateful passions of domestic strife, scarred and ennobled by great endurance, great endeavor, great achievement.

#### The Irish Way.

And beside them, talking in soft western voices of exactly the same big things which they had shared with them, were the men whom at home they could hardly meet in the street without fighting.

'There's great shouting and screaming in it, anyways,' said one man, describing an incident in a Boche dug-out. 'You shout yourself to keep yourself squealin' mad,' he added in a dreary voice, 'and the Germans, them big fellers most of all, they'll scream for you.'

I asked another as to his methods when actually attacking men hand to hand in a trench—did he jump down or operate from the top. 'Just jump on them,' he replied, spitting on the ground. 'In any ways at all, feet and bayonet both together. There's nothing of all that work they teach you in them bayonet exercises,' he added. 'It's just to get them heroes on the prick of it the best way you can.'

The general is, needless to say, an Irishman—who else could handle such a division?—and he told me of many things which these boys had done which will never be rewarded, so commonplace are they in the annals of the Army. But so that they shall remain on record he has designed a certificate which is awarded to all men who have been specially reported for gallantry, and the name and deed are entered in a great book whose pages are fast filling up. This is the certificate: The Irish Brigade.....

I have read with much pleasure the reports of your regimental commander and brigade commander regarding your gallant conduct and devotion to duty in the field on.....and have ordered your name and deed to be entered in the record of the Irish Division.

Major-General,

Commanding 16th Irish Division.

'Alien' Irishmen.

There are others beside Irishmen in the Irish battalions, of course, but not many. It is strange to see how Irish these few become. 'The Englishman makes a very good Irishman,' as the general said, and I had an example in one boy I talked to who came. I think, from Essex or Kent. I asked him how many Germans he had killed on the Guillemont day, whereupon he smiled and blushed depreciatingly, and answered, 'Just two, sir, but they began to surrender then.' The 'just' and the 'but' are purely Irish in their significance.

The division has a great contempt for the Germans whom they are now facing, and who are keeping very quiet. 'I think they are beginning to wake up a bit now we've come.' I was told by one enthusiast. 'If the colonel'll let us we'll contrive some way to be stirring them up.' The belief that his particular battalion or brigade has a disturbing effect on otherwise peaceful Germans is not confined to the Irishman, but I believe that there may be some justification for it in his case.

I cannot think that the movements of the Irish Division can be hidden from the German. There

is a quality and flavor about everything they do that must surely reach across 'No Man's Land.' And when I thought of what they had lately been through and heard that they wanted to do it again and to earn these little bits of certificates, and realised how like a family in a strange land they were, and looked into their eyes I had to turn away without saying good-bye.

#### THE CENSORSHIP AND THE INDEX.

One of the conditions of life which the war has made us familiar with is the vigilant censorships imposed by the Government on the press and the Post Office (says the *Catholic Watchman*). Even the irritation caused by the censorship in the beginning has now almost disappeared. To Catholics, however, this censorship would not have appeared a strange and out-of-the-way act on the part of the Government. They are familiar with the Index in the Church and with the principles which actuate her to put un-Christian and anti Catholic publications in the Index. His Excellency the Delegate Apostolic to the Government of the United States, comparing the Index of the Catholic Church with the censorship of the Government says:

'No one criticises a nation at war for establishing a censorship. The Church is constantly at war with the world, the flesh, and the devil. Why should she not establish a censorship?'

'People exclaim against the Index,' said his Excellency, 'and yet since August, 1914, all the nations of the world have been applying the principle of the Index. Their censorship extends not only to printed books, but even to letters. I cannot be the first one to read a letter from my old mother in Italy; it must be opened and scanned by Government officials. The various Governments fear that books, magazines, and letters may contain something that will harm their interests; therefore they have established the censorship.'

'Now, the Church is an organisation that is constantly waging war. The Church is more keenly interested in putting obstacles in the way of things that harm the soul than the nation is in putting obstacles in the way of things that harm the body.'

In times of war the nations establish censorship; since the Church is always at war; her censorship is perpetual. It is due to her motherly desire to keep her sons from being harmed, just as the nation establishes a censorship actually in the interests of its citizens.

'So you see that the time has gone by when any nation can criticise the Church's example in establishing censorships. And their censorships go further than that of the Church; the Church makes a moral prohibition, but the nations make it an official matter, a physical matter; they put into prison those citizens who violate the law regarding the censorship.'

'There certainly is nothing about the Index,' said his Excellency, 'to support the absurd contention that the Church is opposed to modern literature. The Church is opposed to unclean literature. But the Church to-day, as in the ages past, fosters literature, as she fosters all the arts.'

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