

FLANDERS FIELD.

The guns are silent on Flanders Field,—
On Flanders Field, where thund'rous pealed
The merciless voice of war;
Green is the grass, and the daisies grow
On the gory sod where foe met foe,
And Moloch gathered his score.

The clouds have drifted from Flanders Plain,
On Flanders Plain peace falls again,
And the hosts of war have passed;
There is fragrance in the summer breeze,
And bird-song rings from the shattered trees
That bowed to the battle blast.

There's many a cross on Flanders Field,—
On Flanders Field what hearts are sealed
'Neath many a hallowed mound!
The wind breathes many a mother's prayer
Over the loved ones sleeping there,
Till the last roll-call shall sound.

The day is dying on Flanders Plain,
On Flanders Plain the field of pain
Grows red in the setting sun:
The brave are wrapt in the arms of night,
And peace is theirs who have fought the fight,
For the goal of rest is won.

Christchurch.

— "Cylas."

THE CHURCH IN AMERICA.

Authoritative statements from the Census Bureau at Washington disclose some interesting facts concerning religion and religion-professing people in this country (states the *Ave Maria*). We are told that the total church membership of the United States increased in the ten-year period ending in 1916 from 35 to 42 millions. Of these two score and two millions no fewer than fifteen and (about) three-quarter millions are Catholics. We have so long been accustomed to hearing that the adherents of our Church number in this republic one-seventh, one-sixth, or one-fifth of the entire population that it is worth while, if only for a change, to emphasise the fact that we constitute more than 37 per cent. (considerably more than a third) of the church-going population. That more than two-thirds of the American people go to no church is a distressing truth: but in view of the fact that religious instruction is excluded from the public schools it is not surprising.

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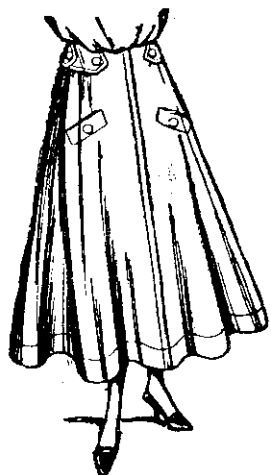
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