

Current Topics

European Items

According to *La Croix*, 3276 French ecclesiastics were killed in the war. Nearly 1000 received the decoration of the Legion of Honor, 383 got the Military Medal, and 7848 the Croix de Guerre. The Jesuits who had been expelled came back at the call to arms from all over the world, and it is estimated that 900 of them served with the colors. Of these, 62 got the Legion, 39 the Military Medal, 310 the Croix, and 595 received citations in the Orders of the Day. Catholic France won the war, and now that the Jews and Masons are safe once more they have shown no sign of undoing the wrongs done to the Church. They are all honorable men!

The Italian people have by now learned to love Mr. Wilson. The Peninsula press asserts frankly that Italy never wanted war and that it was only through the bribery of the Allies the Government was induced to break faith with Germany and Austria. The Government sold Italy for a price; and at the end of the war the Entente again sold both Government and people. Wilson is regarded in Italy as the chief traitor and in every *caffé* and *osteria* from Chiasso to Tarento many very rough things are said over the wine about the Yankee word-spinner who proved such a windbag when a man was sought under his skin.

In the process of crushing Germany it was decided that Mr. George's genius must succeed where Napoleon failed. Germany must be deprived of her army and never given a hope of mustering even enough armed men to bury a general respectably. As a sign of the success of our Mr. George, consider that three military organisations already flourish in the new Germany. The numerous civil police may be transformed into a military force almost at a moment's notice; Herr Noske has raised a large body of home guards to cope with the Spartacists; and there are, over and above, the 200,000 allowed by Mr. George. A nice little army all told!

England's playboys have arranged for another farce. By way of showing the world how sincere they were when they asserted that the war was fought for self-determination, these higher criminals known as Cabinet Ministers have now arranged that the Irish system of government shall be drawn up by French, Muckpherson, Shortt, and Long. A Labor man named Barnes was also thrown in. There is no mention of a single Irishman on the boards. Yet one of these days when the Irish people have once more told the clowns to take their British and Orange sham to perdition we will be told that these Irish are hard to please. If there is anything in all history to surpass British hypocrisy and dishonesty we have never heard of it. Do you observe there is very little said now about our Mr. George's election cry, "We must hang the Kaiser"? And do you know why? Facts which are leading many people to doubt if all we were told about the war is true are emerging. If the Kaiser were tried they would not emerge, they would march.

It is a lovely world to live in, and we are a patient people. But sure we won the war and made all safe for Democracy and put despotism in its place and killed secret intrigues and liberated all oppressed and persecuted people, like Ireland, India, Egypt, Korea, and so forth. And what more does anybody want? It is not the Kaiser alone who ought to be tried.

A Problem for Anglicans

Among Christians, theoretically, there can be no hesitation in admitting that Christ founded one Church and only one, and that He committed to that Church one Divine Faith and only one. In practice Catholics are the only Christians who are consistent with that principle. For them truth is one and indivisible; there can be no room in the Fold for those who deny what the Church teaches; the man who believes in

the Divinity of Our Lord cannot be put on the same plane as the man who denies it. In the majority of Protestant sects no such consistency can be found, and the result of the right of private judgment is a chaos of beliefs. Anglicans profess to be a branch of the Catholic Church and to hold the Faith in its purity; yet while making such a profession they are constantly manifesting to the world that it does not matter to them how much or how little a man believes. They say it does matter; but their practice proves that it does not. Not only among the laity but also among the bishops a fine freedom and irresponsibility is allowed, impossible to reconcile with their theory. Early in the past year an incident occurred which must have brought home to many sincere Anglicans the absurdity of their whole position, and its utter untenability. To go back a little further, the Bishop of Oxford published about two years ago a *Manual of Christian Doctrine*, purporting to set forth the teaching of the Church of England. This book was attacked by Canon Henson, then Dean of Durham, who proclaimed that the doctrines in the *Manual* were not by any means the teaching of the Anglican Church. That fact in itself might be insignificant if the Dean, who denied the exposition of the faith of Anglicans, as understood by the most scholarly and orthodox of the bishops, was speaking for himself alone and not for the Church. He might be dismissed as a crank or a modernist—which comes to the same thing—and there would be no more to say about the matter. But he was not. On the other hand he was so cordially approved that he was presented to the vacant See of Hereford by the Baptist Premier who is the real visible Head of the Church of England, and thus the seal of orthodoxy was set on the man who had practically told Dr. Gore that he was a heretic. Now both certainly cannot be in the right, even from the Anglican point of view. If Dr. Gore is not a heretic Dr. Henson must be one; and if Dr. Henson is orthodox Dr. Gore cannot be orthodox. What is the logical position? In matter of fact it is this: the Church of England recognises as equally fit to teach the faithful two men, one of whom believes in the Divinity of Christ and the other does not; in other words one a Christian and the other a Freethinker. And the consequence is that in the sight of the Anglican Church it cannot matter whether a man is a Christian or not. As a sample of the creed of the new Bishop of Hereford take the following words from a sermon he delivered in October, 1914: "Jesus in the belief of Christians is the human medium of God's supreme Self-Revelation. In Him the unseen Creator Himself became incarnate. What is this but to say that there is that in human nature which makes man competent to fulfil so august a ministry. What is this but to maintain that human nature is so kindred to Divine nature as to be capable of revealing God?" There can be no doubt that Dr. Gore would unhesitatingly say with ourselves that such assertions are at the same time heresy and sheer nonsense, and that only a heretic could hold such opinions. But considering that out of 38 bishops 33 congratulated Dr. Henson on his appointment to the See of Hereford, it is plain that they do not think it necessary for an Anglican bishop to be a Christian, and that, whatever they may preach, in practice they have denied that the Church of England has any further concern about maintaining intact the teachings of Christ. Dr. Henson is certainly heretical. The Church of England not only tolerates, but approves, him. What is the consequence but that the Church of England is heretical? And if Dr. Henson is not even a Christian, where is the Church of England which receives him, from Lloyd George, with open arms?

Irish Government

The recent blood-and-thunder tactics of Jock Muckpherson having failed just as egregiously as the awkwardly-staged German plots of Mr. George and Rex Carson, it seems that the foreign Government which holds Ireland by force has found it necessary to make another effort to persuade the world that there

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