

THE BOER WAR.

NOTES AND POINTS OF INTEREST TO CATHOLIC READERS.

THE CANADIANS AND THE WAR.

A number of leading Canadian Catholics have asked the Archbishop of Montreal to hold a thanksgiving service in Notre Dame, on the conclusion of the Boer war.

THE RELIGIOUS FERVOR OF THE BOERS.

Mr. Arthus Lynch, 'Colonel of the Second Irish Brigade in the Transvaal,' gives the *Revue de Paris* an account of his experiences. Speaking rather ironically of the religion of the Boers, he mentions that at a council of war at Glencoe General Joubert began with a very long prayer, which depicted the situation in the gloomiest colors, thus throwing a wet blanket on his officers, and then Mr. Kruger, on hearing an account of an engagement by General Botha, exclaimed: 'Ah, yes, and you doubtless remember that I then sent you such and such a psalm, which must have given your men great courage.' 'Certainly,' replied Botha, who at heart scoffed at the psalm, and must have been amused at the idea of suspending his operations in order to read the psalm to his burghers. Colonel Lynch adds: 'At times the religious fervor amounted to hallucination. A belief was spread that an angel in white robes, on a splendid white horse, was on great occasions on the right wing of the Boers. This was frequently repeated among those otherwise very intelligent men, and many explanations of it were given. The most popular one was that Christ had resolved to punish the English on account of their immorality. But this religious sentiment does not supply the place of discipline. Ill-fortune makes despair succeed to senseless confidence, for it seems a judgment of God against His people. The same pious people explained reverses by the 'Babylonish tendency of the Boers,' a by no means commonplace explanation.'

THE NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

The appointment of the soldier who has carried our arms to victory in South Africa to the highest post of honor in his profession (says the *Catholic Times*) will be welcomed by the people of this country with delight. Lord Roberts has fully earned the distinction now conferred upon him. His long service in India, as well as his more recent services in South Africa, made his succession to Lord Wolseley's office a foregone conclusion. When he sits down to work in Pall Mall he will find enough to do. Red tape to be cut down on all sides; obsolete methods to be replaced by new ideas; improvements to be insisted on in men and material; these difficulties and others will tax his energy and resolution. But doubtless, with Lord Kitchener's help, he will put in order that museum of antiquities. And when he comes to deal with his immediate staff, we hope he will not fail to do justice to Sir Redvers Buller. That general had difficulties to face such as did not meet even Lord Roberts, and we hope that the new Commander-in-Chief will not forget the one man whose dogged perseverance enabled our forces to hold their own in the most trying times of the struggle. If he did not win success, Sir Redvers deserved it. The nation owes him a debt which we hope Lord Roberts will pay.

THE NAZARETH HOSPITAL AT KIMBERLEY.

Recently discussion reached high pitch in England with regard to the treatment of the sick and wounded soldiers in ordinary Government hospitals in South Africa. In the face of the adverse criticisms of those institutions it is refreshing to hear the hospital managed by the Sisters so highly spoken of by a Presbyterian minister. In a recent issue of the *D. F. Advertiser*, Kimberley, we find the following extract:—

'Before the Hospital Commission in Capetown on Tuesday, one of the witnesses examined, the Rev. Mr. McClelland, Presbyterian chaplain in the forces, said he went to Modder River in February. As regards the hospital work in the permanent structures this was well done; witness heard no complaints. In the marquees the wind sometimes troubled them, and occasionally overturned a tent. Referring to the bell tents, the witness said that invalids had to be treated in these because of the marquees being full. It was a time of very heavy demand on the hospital accommodation, and the men in the bell tents sometimes complained that they would not get rid of their sickness while they continued to lie on the ground. So far as he was aware there was no lack of medical supplies. He had often seen convoys arriving, and some of these were in bad condition, there being some complaints that the invalids were not sufficiently attended to on the way. The worst cases of sickness were taken out of the bell tents as quickly as possible and removed to the marquees. He went to Kimberley on March 9. Here there was also a large number of sick, and every available building seemed to have been taken up for hospital purposes. The Nazareth House managed by the Sisters, was especially good, and witness was very much struck by the care, skill, and attention shown by the Sisters. This hospital seemed to him to be one of the best he had ever seen. The witness spoke of the various hospital buildings he had visited in Kimberley as being on the whole good, and said there was no cause for complaint in the treatment of the sick at Naauwpoort, which place he visited on March 20.'

HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT.

The ranks of the Royal Army Medical Service have a very large percentage of Catholics, it being numerously officered from Ireland. In illustration of the prominence of Catholics in this department (says the *London Tablet*) may be cited the name of Colonel Stevenson, the Principal Medical Officer at Bloemfontein, that head-centre of the current hospital agitation; while two other names mentioned with great prominence are those of Colonel Galloway and Colonel Clerly. They appear in a brief addressed to

the *Times* by General Sir Redvers Buller from Paardekop. It happens that Mr. Lees Knowles, in a letter written some time ago to show that complaints against the Army Medical Service were of old standing, quoted the following 'utterance of a person in high position': 'I am given to understand that the senior officers Royal Army Medical Corps, with few exceptions, are so taken up with their own importance as combatant officers, and their rank as colonels and majors, that they leave much to be desired.'

This quotation gave Sir Redvers Buller his opportunity, and he took it. 'Was ever a more shameful accusation more shamelessly published?' he asks, and he goes on to say: 'There were then but three Colonels Royal Army Medical Corps in Natal, outside Ladysmith. Colonel Galloway, Principal Medical Officer, has procured for the Natal Field Force the most complete hospital system ever provided for an army in the field. He is, I believe, the first P.M.O. who has ever provided nurses in the hospitals receiving wounded on the battlefield. His organising power and untiring energy, with assistance from home, added 4700 improvised beds to our hospital accommodation, and provided nurses, doctors, and attendants, some of them (let Mr. Knowles note) from Johannesburg. Colonel Clerly was in charge of No. 4 General Hospital of 520 beds, which was expanded into Mooi River Hospital of 920 beds; it was justly referred to by the writer of the articles in the *Times* of Natal as a model of what a hospital should be.' Whatever may be the defects of the Army medical system, and whatever may have been its shortcomings during this campaign, these words of General Buller's will suffice to clear the air of any unworthy imputations cast by loose and vague gossip on two honorable Catholic names. And not on theirs only. 'I could say as much,' adds Sir Redvers, 'for the next senior officers R.A.M.C., but Colonels are mentioned, and I challenge Mr. Lees Knowles and his correspondent of high position to say which Colonels they refer to, and either prove their accusations or withdraw their slander.' Mr. Lees Knowles, it is agreeable to add, thoroughly accepted the alternative put to him. He has withdrawn utterly the foolish sentence which seemed to impute to Colonels Galloway and Clerly a levity of motive unworthy of their high profession.

CATHOLIC OFFICERS WHO HAVE FALLEN.

Beaumont College has supplied another name—her second—to the roll-call of officers killed in South Africa. Lieutenant John Lawrence Lawlor, of the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, has died of wounds received in the recent fighting on the way to Lydenburg, thus gloriously closing a brief military career of only four years. As the conflict draws near to its desired close (says the *London Tablet*), the record of death may be hoped to be well-nigh complete. By these statistics we may know that just over a dozen Catholic officers have fallen, including officers in the Irregulars, such as Captains Knapp and Petre, and members of the Army Medical Service—not forgetting the Catholic chaplain whom fever slew. These numbers give us a rate of about 2 per cent. of the total deaths in the same ranks. Of combatant officers, in the Regular Army, Lieutenant Lawlor is the seventh Catholic to lay down his life; and is the first among cavalry officers—a grade in which Catholics happen to be very sparsely represented.

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

November 24.

The Rev. Father Goggan returned from Hawera on Friday.

The Newtown Convent was privately blessed and opened on Wednesday morning by His Grace the Archbishop. The nuns have taken up their residence there.

Archdeacon Devoy and Marist delegates arrived at Marseilles on the 11th October, being four days overdue owing to the wreck of a cargo steamer in the Suez Canal. The Marist Chapter began on the 16th October.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood, accompanied by the Rev. Father Ainsworth, is at present conducting a mission at Petone. They will continue their ministrations in the Hui district until the end of the present month.

The annual distribution of prizes at St. Patrick's College will take place on the 4th of December. The drama 'The Two Orphans,' which was recently so successfully produced by the students, is to be repeated on that evening. The midsummer vacation will begin on the following day.

St. Patrick's College annual harbor excursion was held on Tuesday. Led by the band the students marched to the ferry wharf, where the steamer *Duchess* was in readiness to convey them to Day's Bay. Beautiful weather was experienced and a most enjoyable day was spent.

An impressive ceremony took place at St. Joseph's Church on Wednesday afternoon on the occasion of the reception of seven young ladies into the Order of the Sisters of Compassion. The young novices, attired in white muslin dresses with royal blue trimmings and veils and wreaths of passion flowers, formed in procession accompanied by their Superior and Mother-assistant. As the procession entered the church 'O Gloriosa' was sung by the choir. The ceremony was performed by His Grace the Archbishop, with Rev. Father Herbert as master of ceremonies. The Very Rev. Dean Martin, Rev. Fathers Holley, Ainsworth, and Mahoney were also present in the sanctuary. Addressing the novices His Grace referred to the high calling and life of self-sacrifice to which they were about to devote themselves, showing the model they had in our Blessed Lady, whose Feast it was on that day—the Presentation