

word 'farewell,' as he took leave of her that afternoon, going out to transact his business.

But if she marvelled, far more so did those who, at the jail, whither the squire bent his steps, heard his request to confer with Robert Hooper, the prisoner whose high treason in having received orders and exercised his priestly faculties was to be publicly punished on the morrow. Eventually, however, his name standing him in good stead, he was admitted to the priest's presence without much demur.

Here, in the large bare room in which the captive had latterly been confined, Squire Corby discovered a number of the local Catholics taking affectionate leave of their Father, availing themselves of his ministrations, and listening with tearful reverence to his last words. The Father himself, though bearing the traces of suffering, was composed and cheerful, with a sweet and sincere gaiety of mien. All looked somewhat surprised on seeing the newcomer. But Swithin was master of himself. On his knees at the martyr's feet, he exclaimed in a loud voice:

'As by my defection I scandalised many, so by my return—which I humbly crave permission to make—to holy Mother Church, may I repair before many my grievous wrong. Receive me, a poor penitent, most blessed Father, and you my faithful brethren, pray for your erring but sorrowing neighbor.'

And it was once more a son of St. Dominic—the martyr, it transpired, was a friar—who turned the key of the Kingdom of Heaven' for Swithin Corby.

No later was it than that same afternoon (for their intercourse had been spied upon) that the newly reconciled stood at the bar upon his trial also for so high a misdemeanor. The proceedings were short and sharp.

'Since you have such sudden liking for this traitor's company,' cried the magistrate, laughing angrily, 'ye need not part. Go with him, therefore, to the gallows tree upon the morrow.'

And Swithin was in more than readiness.

Yet that very night the call came. The will stood for the deed with Infinite Mercy. And they found him in the morning, his heart stilled forever, and on his face the sweetest smile that even men or angels had seen there.

Well might it be so. He had witnessed a glorious sight. There had entered his small and noisome cell a procession of light-bearers, as though the stars themselves had come from heaven. There were his parents; ah! there dear Father Bertrand, glad of face and with his lovely candle all alight at last; there was St. Dominic with his torch of silver radiance and with him a glittering host of the Saints of 'the Order of Holy Light.' And every one of all that company carried a shining taper. There was the Rose Queen, Star of the Sea, and Mother of Him Who walked by her, King of glory of the new light, light enlightening the Gentiles, and the Glory of His people.

The soul that had so long abode in darkness was now in everlasting light. —*Magnificat.*

The Catholic Bishop of Elphin, the Right Rev. Dr. Coyne, has placed his motor car at the disposal of the military authorities for the conveyance of recruits in his district.

'You don't know what I suffer' is a remark often made by those tortured by Rheumatism, Gout, Lumbago or Sciatica. Yet, strange to say, many continue to endure these complaints, when they can be easily cured. Year in, year out, some continue to use plasters and liniments that can bring but temporary relief, when RHEUMO would in a few weeks cure them permanently. RHEUMO drives the uric acid from the blood and cures the disease by removing the cause. Thousands have testified to the wonderful efficacy of RHEUMO. Of all chemists and stores, 2/6 and 4/6.

'STAND FAST IN THE FAITH'

(A Weekly Instruction specially written for the N.Z. TABLET by GHIMEL.)

THE NEUTRALITY OF THE POPE.

(Continued.)

The only role that a Pope of the present day can play is that of charity and peace. The cables have told of Benedict's efforts to mitigate the hardships of military prisoners, and, in some cases, to obtain an exchange of those captured; and it is some consolation in the never-ending tale of horrors to learn that these efforts have been happily successful. We may rest assured, also, that if counsels of peace are not yet heard above the din, it is not the fault of the Father of Christendom.

But obviously in order to carry out this beneficent work of charity, the Pope must keep in touch with all the Powers at war. Controversy is not as a rule a successful method for winning men to your side—the heart has reasons that the intellect cannot know; and condemnation, especially on the part of one holding the Pope's position, would at once alienate the sympathetic respect and confidence of the nations condemned.

If the Supreme Pontiff were in a position at the present moment to pronounce judgment on the war—its justice in one case, its injustice in another—and all its accompanying horrors, it would be an easy thing to speak and to condemn.

But even supposing it were possible to get at the full truth, motives of prudence would still counsel silence.

In the first place, such a condemnation would place the Pope in a difficult, impossible position with the belligerent nation condemned. Such a country would turn a deaf ear to any proposals coming from such a source. Yet it would have in its power many whose lot the Pope's words might otherwise have relieved.

The end of the war, we are constantly told, will see a remaking of the map of Europe. It is quite certain that the position of Catholics in the old and the new nations will be one of the most important and most thorny of the questions to be settled. The Pope's representative took part in the rearrangement of Europe after the Napoleonic wars; Catholic interests have not grown less since then. The bishops of the different nations will use the influence of their high office for the benefit of their flocks; the Prince of bishops will have much to say and to do. But does not all this make it imperative that the Pope should keep on good terms with all? We must always remember that the successor of Peter is ruler not of a national but of a Catholic Church.

No doubt, too, the present Head of the Church remembers that his Master, when on earth, refused more than once, for motives which He did not choose to make known, to condemn publicly grave crimes about the existence of which there was no possible doubt. The woman taken in adultery is a case in point. There was no doubt about the crime, and the Jews were justified in asking that she should be stoned to death according to the provisions of the Mosaic Law. But the only reply of the merciful Saviour was: 'He that is without sin amongst you, let him cast the first stone.' Then turning to the woman He added: 'Hath no man condemned thee? Then neither will I condemn thee. Go thy way and sin no more.' He would even write the sins of the woman on the ground where the winds and the rain would soon blow away and the busy feet of men trample out the very record of them, as if to show that in His eyes sin repented is sin forgotten.

The Pope is not only the appointed guardian of justice and morality, he is also the Shepherd of the flock. His chief care is to feed Christ's lambs and sheep, not to redress wrongs.

LANGFORD & RHIND,

Address—HERBERT LANGFORD, 19 London Street, Richmond. Phone 689
JOHN RHIND, 196 Montreal Street, Sydenham. Phone 1603

(Late W. & H. Langford) FUNERAL FURNISHERS and EMBALMERS
Phone 689 LONDON STREET P.O. Box 523

Town Office—104 Cashal Street