

SIDELIGHTS ON THE WAR

GENERAL.

Four of the French Trappist monks of the Monastery of Our Lady of Compassion, near Kingsbridge, are in the trenches. Altogether eight members of the community are serving in the French Army. The only English novice there has also joined the Colors, linking up with the Devonshire regiment.

Surgeon Raymond O'Connell Redmond, R.N., who was lost at sea, on active service, with H.M.S. *Clan McNaughton*, was the son of Dr. O'Connell Redmond, F.R.C.S.I., of Dublin. He had a distinguished course at the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, and volunteered for active service at the beginning of the war, being granted the rank of Surgeon-Probationer. He laid down his life at the age of only twenty-one.

Among the names in a long list of Catholic officers mentioned in Sir John French's despatches is that of Lieut. St. John Coventry (Stonyhurst), the youngest son of Mr. John Coventry, of Fordingbridge, who was wounded in the fighting at La Bassée, and was officially reported 'missing' on October 20, since which date no news of him has been received. He is presumed to be a prisoner in Germany. Another Catholic officer mentioned is Captain Cogan, R.F.A. and Royal Flying Corps.

We have to lament (says the *London Tablet*) the loss also of Lieut. Charles Tyndall, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, killed in action on March 2, after a fortnight in the trenches. Born twenty-three years ago, the second son of Mr. Joseph P. Tyndall, of Monkstown, Dublin, he was educated at Castlknock College, and joined the Dublin Fusiliers four years ago. His eldest brother, Lieut. William Tyndall, also volunteered for the war, and is at the front, attached to the R.A.M.C.

Many military associations attach to the name of an Irish officer whose death was reported early in the war. This was Lieut. John Denis Shine, of old Downside cricket, hockey, and football teams, and later of the Royal Irish Regiment. His father, Colonel Shine, has a distinguished military record; he had, for two uncles, Captain Shine, now of the Indian Army, and the late Lieut. H. V. Shine; and his own two brothers are in the service. Lieut. J. O. W. Shine, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, and Second Lieut. H. P. Shine, Royal Irish Fusiliers.

Among the Catholic officers lately killed at the front are Major John Simeon Ward, of Princess Patricia's Canadian Regiment; Major Jasper J. Howley, of the Lincoln Regiment; Capt. W. A. Gallagher (an Armagh man), East Lancashire Regiment; Capt. T. A. Fitzherbert Brockholes, of the Rifle Brigade; Lieutenant Gilbert E. A. Parker, South Staffordshire Regiment; Second-Lieutenant H. P. O'Donoghue, King's Liverpool Regiment; Major Cecil Eustace Harrison, Rifle Brigade; Captain Nigel Williams Francis Baynes, Second-Lieut. Bernard Francis Gotch Berrill, Royal Fusiliers; and Second-Lieut. Wm. J. Walseley, of the East Lancashire Regiment.

BRITISH OFFICERS AND JOAN OF ARC.

The Church of St. Louis at Versailles possesses a statue of Joan of Arc. The British officers under treatment at the British hospital created in that town, having remarked it, procured a magnificent sheaf of white roses and deposited it at the feet of the image of the patriotic heroine. The sheaf was bound together with a ribbon bearing the inscription: 'From the officers of No. IV. General Hospital, British Army, Versailles, in remembrance and admiration of their French comrades.'

FROM A FRENCH SOLDIER.

A French soldier, writing to his sister, says:— 'Last Saturday a bullet fell two yards from me. I was covered with dust, but did not receive a scratch. What one sees here forces one to believe in the Providence of

God! You can be sure that at this moment there are neither pagans nor unbelievers to be found. Every man is pleased to have five minutes free in order to spend them in the church. Before the war many were ashamed to be seen kneeling down or making the sign of the Cross, but these men are not to be found now. On Sunday, when we are close to a church and can attend Mass in it, we find it difficult to secure a place, so large is the attendance. After Mass one feels so happy; it gives courage; a man feels much braver.'

A PRIEST'S REFLECTIONS FROM THE TRENCHES.

From the French trenches, where he is serving the Colors, Father Falguieres—already wounded in his country's service—writes hopefully concerning the situation from all points of view. 'As priests,' he says, 'we have a wide field for our charity, what with wounded to dress and heal, and we pass easily from the care of bodies to that of souls. Here our work is more consoling than can be imagined. Most of those who come to us in the ambulance seriously wounded have prepared themselves for the trenches by a good confession, and many are the soldiers who tell us how happy they are to find a priest beside them before they die. A large number of those who were without faith before the war have found it again at the sound of the cannon. The long days and nights passed under shot and shell give time for salutary reflection, and the grace of God is doing its work here, sometimes with very marvellous results.'

NUNS' REMARKABLE DEVOTION.

'The courage of the women is as great as the courage of the soldier (writes Mr. Harold Begbie in the *Echo*). An Englishman was telling me (he says) about that one frightful night at Ypres, when German shells rained without cessation hour after hour upon the already battered town. At last, he said, the order was given for the French nuns to leave the wounded and retire to Poperinghe. They begged the authorities to be allowed to stay—some of them indeed refused to go—but in the end they were marched out of the hospital and sheltered to Poperinghe, about six miles away. Two of those nuns, directly they were left alone at Poperinghe, started off and tramped back through the rain and the darkness to Ypres, where the shells were still falling with the most horrible racket you can imagine. He paused for a moment, then added: And the men they were nursing were Germans.'

BRAVE DEEDS HONORED.

The name of the Abbe Castaing, military chaplain, serving in an ambulance at the front, has been mentioned in the military order of the day of the French Army. This honor has been rendered to this priest because 'since the beginning of the war he has given evidence of much zeal, tact, and courage in the fulfilment of his duties. He has been ready to go frequently into the front line of firing to attend the wounded, and he has also been of great assistance to the military authorities in securing suitable burial for the dead.' The same military distinction has been conferred on the Superioress of the Sisters of St. Thomas, who have charge of the hospital at Soissons, Mother St. Prosper Lemoine, for her splendid example of courage and self-sacrifice in keeping her Community at Soissons during the occupation by the Germans in September and the successive bombardments of the town. All the nuns were most devoted in nursing the wounded and the sick, even under fire.

DISCOVERING THE ENEMY.

The great war is full of surprises: the methods of our enemies and those we have been obliged to adopt are methods hitherto unused: the war is, in reality, a series of sieges, and the trenches have tried and proved the steady endurance of the French soldier, who was

A. J. FERNANDEZ

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