

supposed to be more dashing than patient. Another unforeseen feature of the great conflict is the good service rendered to the allied forces by dogs, trained for the purpose. They are trained by and receive their orders from the same soldier, as they only fulfil their mission when under the direction of a familiar voice. Near Dixmude there was a thick wood that it was important to capture; it was too thick for the airmen to observe it thoroughly and for the cavalry to explore it. The dogs were assembled by their trainer and shown the German soldiers' headgear that they were to bring back. They were also shown the wood, and, in order to escape observation, their cloth coats were cunningly covered with fern leaves, so much so that when in motion they resembled moving bundles of fern branches. Having learnt their lesson, the dogs made for the wood: when they returned 'Bac' brought the kepi of a German private, 'Riff' had a colonel's kepi, another the headgear of an artilleryman, and the last a French kepi, stained with fresh blood. The dogs' trainer drew his conclusions. 'In the wood,' he said, 'there is one regiment, but one only, of German infantry, a few artillerymen, and a wounded French soldier. There is only one colonel, whose kepi is here. "Riff" always makes for the headgear of the man in command.' One hour later the Germans were dislodged from the wood, a wounded French soldier was carried away safely, and among the German prisoners was a red-faced, bare-headed colonel, whose kepi had been carried away by 'Riff' and whose anger at having lost it thus greatly diverted the French soldiers.

#### TOUCHING STORY.

The Bishop of Nevers told the following touching story, in a sermon which he preached at a funeral service, held in the Cathedral at Nevers, for the repose of the souls of the soldiers who have died during the present war: 'Two young soldiers met on the battlefield, fighting side by side. They had been school companions in childhood. The years had passed since then, and one man had kept the Faith, the other had lost it. The friends were mortally wounded, and lay on the ground dying, when, in a weak voice, the one who had been unfaithful to the teaching of Holy Church, said to his comrade: "You have not forgotten your prayers. Recite one, and I shall repeat the words." Immediately the other dying soldier commenced the "Our Father" as best he could, and his companion re-echoed the prayer until he had uttered "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them who trespass against us." He could say no more; his spirit had flown before the great white throne, whilst repeating these words of contrition.'

#### JESUITS IN THE FRENCH ARMY.

Amongst the twenty thousand priests in the French Army there are at present 442 Jesuits, of whom 263 are serving as soldiers, 133 with the Red Cross, and 46 as military chaplains. Twenty-two of their number have fallen, 11 disappeared, 14 are prisoners, and 31 wounded. Four have been decorated with the Legion of Honor, two with the Military Medal, and a dozen mentioned in despatches. Amongst those who have received the decoration of the Legion of Honor, Ph. de Blic deserves mention—a subaltern in the marine infantry. Those who got the medal included Father P. Gilbert de Giroude, who fell on December 7. A despatch speaks of him as follows:—

'De Giroude, Sub-Lieutenant in the 81st Infantry Regiment, a priest in civil life, who joined his regiment as reservist, showed himself soon a devoted helper to his officers, and to his comrades a friend who could impart counsel, courage, comfort. He was always ready to undertake difficult tasks; he succeeded by his daring in bringing in valuable information about the enemy. He was made corporal on September 8, 1914, received the Military Medal on September 30, and was promoted sergeant on October 16, and sub-lieutenant on November 26. He received his death-wound on December 7 in a trench as he was about to offer up prayers over the bodies of two men of his company.'

It is characteristic of a certain—fortunately small—section of the French press, that a paper like the *Depeche de Toulouse* suppressed the fact that De Giroude was a priest and met his death whilst offering up prayers. The *Depeche* does not wish its readers to hear of the heroism of priests. Very different, to judge from the following notice, is the attitude of the *Petit Parisien*, which no one can accuse of clerical tendencies:—

'Last July Father Rivet was Professor of Canon Law at the Gregorian University, Rome, when he received his orders. The Jesuit, formerly a pupil of Saint Cyr, hastened to France and donned his lieutenant's uniform. Soon afterwards he was promoted captain in the 1. Regt. of the Foreign Legion. Since that time he has been leading the Garibaldians into action.'

#### AN ABBE'S CROSS OF HONOR.

It is worth noting the imposing ceremony at which Abbe Thibault received the Cross of the Legion of Honor, not only because he had earned the distinction well by his heroic devotion and courage, but because the Abbe's admirable conduct elicited from the commander of the Army Corps, who pinned the cross on his cassock, the expression of heartfelt admiration for the whole French Catholic Church. That high officer, who, in the name of the President of the Republic, had just presented the insignia of the Legion of Honor to the military chaplain, said:—'Whatever be the opinions each individual man may profess, it is impossible for anyone not to acknowledge that in the present war the clergy have done their duty, and all their duty.' The ceremony took place in a little village of the Champagne region in presence of a regiment which had returned from the fighting line for a few days' rest. All the soldiers and all the inhabitants of the Cambrai region know Abbe Thibault. He is a young man of 29 years of age, whose sweet face has, nevertheless, an expression of courageous determination. Since the very beginning of the hostilities he has been constantly in the front, braving shot and shell in the accomplishment of his Christian mission. Abbe Thibault was on the battlefields of Belgium, and at so many sanguinary engagements in the department of Aisne and the hilly region of Argonne. He went on his bicyclette, careless of the projectiles raining all around him, to administer the Sacrament to the dying, consolation to the wounded, and giving words of encouragement to all the men in the fighting line. It is scarcely necessary to add that he is loved by the soldiers and most highly esteemed by their chiefs.

Twenty years ago Ferdinand Zeppelin, then a captain in the German Army, began to experiment with airships. He ran through his private fortune, but the for the continuance of his work. Thousands of pounds for the continuance of his work. Thousands of pounds have been spent and many lives sacrificed in experimenting with Zeppelins, which at first were failures, but during the last two years they have proved capable of lifting heavy weights and travelling long distances.

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