

The Catholic World

FRANCE

WELCOME GIFTS TO SOLDIER-PRIESTS.

The Association of 'Notre Dame du Salut' started a subscription some time ago for providing the soldier-priests with portable altars, such as are used by the military chaplains. The delight of the priests was unbounded when the precious chapels arrived safely. 'You cannot imagine,' writes one, 'what it is to be able to say Mass oftener. In the country where our regiment is quartered many of the churches are destroyed, and the sacristies are empty. The cures are prisoners in Germany. Thanks to the Association of 'Notre Dame du Salut' we are now independent and, in moments of quiet, will be able to say Mass by turns for our comrades.' At Easter, especially, these chapels proved of use; in the trenches, in half-destroyed farm-houses, close to the line of fire; or under the shelter of a wood, Masses were said by soldier-priests.

THE GOVERNMENT'S TOLERATION.

The French Government has given no clear proofs of its anti-clerical spirit having changed since the war, but in face of the deadly peril that threatens their country, the Ministers, whatever may be their prejudices, are obliged, for the time being, to put aside their petty, persecuting methods (writes a Paris correspondent). There are graver perils ahead than the appearance of a white-robed monk in the pulpit of Notre Dame. Pere Janvier's re-assumption of his habit and other signs and symptoms of the same kind point not to a change in the spirit of the Government, but to a more healthy tone in public opinion. There is no doubt that the men on the line of fire, whatever they may have been before, are now drawn to the Church by the influence of danger and death, and also, in a certain measure, by the example of the soldier-priests. The latter are not only excellent soldiers, they are also the first to volunteer as infirmarians in hospitals for contagious diseases. A letter has just reached me from a priest who, before the war, was a professor in a seminary of central France. He writes from a hospital for soldiers on the eastern frontier: 'This is a large hospital devoted to infectious maladies, where there are many cases of typhoid fever. It was served by medical students, but their indiscipline and carelessness ended by irritating the military doctor who is at the head of the institution, and he expressly demanded that they might be replaced by priests. His request was granted and, although we have much to do, we delight in our work; it brings us very close to our soldiers; we are able to influence them, and, as a rule, they come back from the front with grave thoughts and resolutions that make our task an easy one.'

ITALY

CARDINAL MAFFI ON JOURNALISM.

In a sermon delivered by his Eminence Cardinal Maffi, Archbishop of Pisa, at his cathedral on Easter Sunday, there were remarks well worth quoting. Referring to the foundation by Benedict XV. of the national movement for a sound Catholic press in Italy, the Cardinal said: 'Journalism is at one and the same time the echo and the creator of public opinion, the marvellous artificer of currents that can both save or destroy the very edifice of social life in its progress and in its civilisation. The journal is a sympathetic instrument, and has become a necessary thing in the hands of all those who wish to influence civil life.' His Eminence then pointed out how the enemy of good and of Christian ideals had made the evil journal universal, and continued: 'Nowadays, not only as a swift means of

propagating truth, but as a weapon of defence, Catholics must feel the efficacy of the sound journal, which has all the attractions of novelty, without its odious defects. The journal can penetrate where the word of the sacred orator, the voice of the missionary, and the admonition of the man of conscience and science do not reach—the journal which rapidly diffuses truth throughout the world and excites devotion to good. To subscribe to and read a journal having for its programme the propaganda of truth and the defeat of error, no matter under what form, has become to-day almost a matter of conscience.'

POLAND

THE HOLY FATHER'S SYMPATHY.

In reply to a despatch which he addressed to the Sovereign Pontiff M. Henryk Sienkiewicz, the celebrated author of *Quo Vadis?* and president of the General Committee of Help for Poland, has received the following letter from the Cardinal Secretary of State on behalf of the Holy Father:—

'Instead of the usual telegraphic reply, the Holy Father has charged me to send you the expression of the sentiments of gratitude and paternal affection with which he has been inspired by the reading of your despatch in the name of the General Committee of Help for the victims of the war in Poland, so full of testimonies of devoted regard. You know how great the Holy Father's grief is at the terrible spectacle of the dreadful carnage and ruin which are the consequences of the present horrible war.

'As the Vicar of the merciful God Who loves all men with an infinite love and Who has given His blood for all, he feels for the sufferings of all the combatants and bears the burden of the sorrow of all their families. He entertains the same love for all the unfortunate, without distinction, and, as he said at the last Consistory, his heart is particularly moved at the thought of the troubles of those of his children who are the most terribly tried by this fearful catastrophe. I can assure you in his name that by succoring the victims of the war in Poland, by carrying on a work so eminently noble and charitable, your committee have deeply touched the paternal heart of the august Pontiff. In his beloved children of Poland he not only sees a people plunged in terror and desolation, but he looks upon them and loves them as specially affectionate and generous children, devoted to the Holy See, even unto sacrifice. Consequently, as his Holiness has given proofs of attachment to Catholic Belgium by sending a letter of encouragement and a personal offering, with that of the Sacred College, he is particularly pleased to-day in being able to act in the same way towards his beloved people of Poland by sending you a similar offering in his august name and in the name of the Sacred College, and by expressing the hope of seeing the sufferings of the Poles relieved and Poland comforted in her anguish.

'His Holiness renews his congratulations to your Committee of Help on their truly charitable work in solacing the misery of the beloved people of Poland; and in testimony of his paternal good-will towards the whole Polish nation the Sovereign Pontiff, from the bottom of his heart, sends the Apostolic Benediction to all who shall aid you, and especially to you and the members of the committee.'

Nature's sweet face is decked with jewels rare,
She weaves glad garlands in her sunny hair.
She is a lady, fair beyond compare,
But man is subject to her darker moods,
So to the rescue comes the cure of "Woods,"
The Peppermint Cure is really "just the goods."

Every day Crockery can be better selected at Smith and Laing's, Esk street, Invercargill, than anywhere else. We have a multiplicity of patterns, all brought when prices were cheap.

WOOD'S HEALING OINTMENT

J. R. WOOD

::

WALDEGRAVE'S BUILDINGS, THE SQUARE, PALMERSTON NORTH.

SOOTHING
ASTRINGENT
ANTISEPTIC

A Soothing and Healing preparation for all Eruptions and Irritations of the Skin. 1/6 & 2/6 P free