

THE QUEEN OF THE BELGIANS.

The Amsterdam correspondent of the *Catholic Times*, writing on May 1, says:—The Queen of the Belgians zealously continues her work of succouring the sick, the wounded, and those who are in need. The other day she visited Ypres, which is almost in ruins. It was a dreary, rainy, miserable day, in keeping with the desolate countryside the royal lady passed through. Accompanied only by a physician and an aide-de-camp, the Queen visited the hospitals and the orphanages, consoled the poor and bereft along the route, and once more proved herself worthy of the title of 'Angel of Charity' which the people have bestowed upon her. Queen Elizabeth usually carries a small camera to enable her to secure memorials of the devastations that have taken place. Wherever she goes she carries consolation and encouragement. She is often seen in hospitals and ambulance-trains. Some while ago, on leaving a hospital, she was cheered with great enthusiasm by a Belgian regiment. This occurred just after the following episode. She was standing at the bed-side of a poor ambulance man who had been wounded on the head whilst picking up a wounded man. The man being nearly unconscious, one of the doctors whispered into his ear: 'The Queen is standing at your side.' The patient slightly turned his head, joyfully smiled, and in a hardly audible voice said: 'What an honor, your Majesty, for a poor little ambulance man.'

THE DEVOTION OF THE FRENCH CLERGY.

The Abbe Thebault, a French voluntary chaplain, has received the Cross of the Legion of Honor. He is twenty-nine years old. One could see him on all the battlefields in Belgium, on the Aisne, amongst the hills of Argonne, on his bicycle, heedless of shot and shell, bringing to the dying the consolations of religion.

The Abbe Vichy, curate at St. Paul de Montlucon, corporal stretcher-bearer in the 98th Regiment, mentioned twice in despatches, has just received the Order of St. George of Russia. One day the Abbe Vichy saved fifteen wounded men. Carrying them, one after the other, on his back from an ambulance which had been set on fire by the Germans, he put them into a place of safety in a church distant two hundred metres.

Most interesting is the account given by a seminarist of the diocese of Albi, Henri Galan, now serving as an infantry sergeant, who received on the 25th March his military medal.

'In spite of the bad weather,' he writes, 'Thursday was a grand day for me. In fact, I was at Chalons, to receive the military medal at the hands of General Joffre. It was in front of fifteen thousand men, fifteen generals, and foreign military attaches, that the cere-

mony took place. Fifty of us received decorations and medals. The Commander-in-Chief had a kind word for each one of us. "You are very young to have the military medal, sergeant," he said to me. "I am twenty-three years old, sir." "Twenty-three! Do you know that I had to wait sixty-three years before I got mine? Are you satisfied?" "I am very proud, sir." "So am I," he replied, and after this dialogue there was a hearty embrace.'

EXAMPLES OF HEROISM.

I had occasion last week (writes the Paris correspondent of the *Catholic Times*) to mention the glorious death of a Jesuit soldier, Father Deslandes. Another Jesuit, Father d'Esmard de Jabrun, sergeant in an infantry regiment, has just received the military medal. The official report says: 'Grievously wounded on March 13, when leading his men forward, he never ceased to encourage them, and he continued to cry out: "Forward! We have reached our object. Forward!"' Another priest, the Abbe Clermont, was publicly honored by his chiefs for his devotion to his captain. When the latter fell mortally wounded, the priest went to his assistance, and was in the act of binding his wounds when a shell broke his own shoulder. 'My poor friend,' said the captain, 'you too are hurt; let us unite our sufferings to those of our Lord and offer them for the expiation of our sins.' Then, after a last prayer for his young wife and little child, the officer breathed his last. The Abbe was rescued in time, and lives to tell of his chief's heroic sacrifice. No less striking is the courage of a soldier-priest from the diocese of Albi, the Abbe Tabarly, aged twenty-nine, who, before the war, was professor in an ecclesiastical college. He was leading his men forward when he was struck; his comrades saw his gun fall from his hands; then he made a solemn sign of the Cross over himself and sank to the ground. He was found lying on his back, his arms crossed on his breast, quite dead, but with a smile upon his lips. 'He was,' said one who knew him well, 'idolised by his fellow-soldiers for his courage, his devotedness, and his kindness.' The fact is brought home to us daily that our seminaries, with their austere self-repression; our colleges, with their studious atmosphere, have, strange as it may seem, proved excellent preparatory schools for our soldier priests.

A NUN'S WAR EXPERIENCE.

The Rev. Mother-General of the Order of Christian Doctrine has received the following letter, written on Easter Sunday, from one of her nuns, who is stationed close to the front.

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