

A Shocking Crime.

At all the Masses at Queenstown Cathedral on Sunday, May 9, prayers were offered for the repose of the souls of the victims. During the 12 o'clock Mass, Rev. Wm. F. Brown, Bishop's Secretary, made some touching references to the calamity. They were assembled, he said, under the shadow of a great disaster. Not alone were their hearts sad at the shocking occurrence which had taken place so near their doors, but sorrow had been brought into the homes of thousands of people. It was strange that a somewhat similar disaster had occurred three years ago, when one of the most beautiful creations of the shipbuilder's art was destroyed. In that case, the forces of nature accomplished the destruction. It was purely an accident, which no human foresight could have prevented. It was not so in the present lamentable occurrence. This shocking crime against civilisation had been thought out with fiendish deliberation. People might wonder that the good God should allow such things to happen: but God's ways were inscrutable, and it was not for mere mortals to endeavor to define why He permitted such things to occur. They could only in meek submission bow their heads to His Holy Will. It was hard to be patient under such circumstances, and, as far as they were concerned, they could only pray that the merciful God would have pity on those who perished, and give consolation to the afflicted that were left behind, to whom, in common with all Christians, they extended their most sincere sympathy.

SIDELIGHTS ON THE WAR

GENERAL.

The Hon. Frances Fitzalan Howard, youngest daughter of Lord Howard of Glossop, is working hard at the Charing Cross Hospital as a nurse. Her brother is a lieutenant in Lovat's Scouts.

Second-Lieutenant Francis Lynch was killed in action on April 26 near Ypres. He was educated at the Oratory School, Edgbaston, and Trinity College, Dublin, and was in his twentieth year.

Second-Lieutenant (late Sergeant-Major) Rogers, of the Yorkshire Light Infantry, said to be the first British soldier to gain the French *Médaille Militaire* in the present campaign, is a Catholic. He is at present an inmate of St. Thomas's Hospital, London.

Lieutenant J. R. Hamilton-Dalrymple, of the Scottish Borderers, has been reported missing since April 28. He is the son of Lady Hamilton-Dalrymple, and was educated at Beaumont and Sandhurst. In the first casualty list published last September he was reported missing, but he got back to his regiment. In October he was wounded, and invalided home for two months. In December he rejoined his regiment.

A MEMBER OF A CONVERT FAMILY.

Second-Lieutenant Hugh Bernard Neely, who was killed near Ypres, on April 25, was a member of a convert family, and had been received into the Church in 1913. He was a devout Catholic, and only a week before his death, he wrote to a friend: 'Sing high, sing low! I was able on Sunday to get to Mass and Holy Communion at a church just behind our lines. That was good—and what would have done your heart good to see was the great church packed with British Tommies.' . . . I am very well, quite fit, and happy.'

IT MAKES ONE THINK A GREAT DEAL.

Soldiers at all parts of the battle-front have been impressed by the marvellous manner in which symbols of the Faith, and crucifixes in particular, have remained unharmed in spite of the withering desolation which fell upon neighboring objects. A private in the 1st Gloucestershire Regiment, writing to a friend in England, says:—'I paid a visit to the church in a ruined village—a thing I always do. It was the same

as usual: all the graves were smashed up, and you could see the dead in them. The beautiful church was in ruins. The altar and images were a heap of ruins. The tower was partly standing, so I climbed up to have a look round. The great bell, which I should think weighed a ton, was broken down. The same as in all the rest of the churches I have visited, there stands a very large and beautiful crucifix, with the Virgin Mary kneeling in front, amidst all the ruins, quite safe and untouched. It makes one think a great deal.'

HIBERNIANS AT THE FRONT.

Like many other societies the A.O.H. has suffered as a consequence of the war. Mr. James W. McLarny, secretary for Northumberland and Durham, told a representative of the Glasgow *Observer* that nearly twenty per cent. of the members had joined the colors. Of the eighty-five members in the Easington division only six remain, the others having joined the army, and forty per cent. of the members of the Dinton division have joined. In the thirty-four divisions in the counties of Northumberland and Durham the levy of the district to keep the members who are serving with the colors in funeral benefits, is paid by voluntary subscriptions amongst members. During the past quarter the district has paid funeral benefits on two of its members who were killed in action.

GAVE SEVEN SONS TO THE COLORS.

Many Catholic families in Edinburgh (says the *Catholic Herald*) have made remarkable sacrifices for King and country and made them cheerfully. Since the outbreak of the war M. Marino, who came to Edinburgh in 1871 and married a Scotch lassie, has had no fewer than seven of his eight sons serving with the Colors. The couple are very proud of their sons, as well they may. Like their father, they are all splendid musicians. Joseph has served in the Highland Light Infantry; John (a Cameron Highlander) is missing; Domenico (a corporal in the Seaforth's) was wounded at the Aisne; Michael served for a time in India, was a reservist, and at the outbreak of hostilities came from Vancouver; Raphael (a Seaforth's) was in India when he was ordered to France, and is now at home; Philip (Royal Field Artillery) and Nicholas (Scots Guards) complete the list of gallant sons of these Scoto-Italian parents. The other day joy was brought to the parents by the receipt of a letter from his Majesty in the following terms:—'I am commanded by the King to convey to you the expression of his Majesty's appreciation of the patriotic spirit which has prompted your seven sons to give their services at the present time to the Army. The King was much gratified to hear of the manner in which they have so rapidly responded to the call of their Sovereign and their country: and expresses to you and to them his Majesty's congratulations on having contributed in so full a measure to the great cause for which all the people of the British Empire are so bravely fighting.'

CARDINAL BOURNE ON THE WAR.

At the concert which was given by the Westminster Cathedral Choir at Westminster Hall the chief interest centred in the fact that it was announced that his Eminence Cardinal Bourne would speak briefly on his experiences at the British front. The Cardinal said that he had watched artillery duels between our own guns and the Germans, then posted on the now famous Hill 60, and he wished to bear tribute to the uncomplaining cheerfulness with which our soldiers bear their sufferings, so reluctant were they to accept anything in the nature of sympathy. What struck him most was the wonderful organisation of the British Army. Wherever he travelled in France and Flanders every hotel, every casino, and every place of amusement had been transformed into a hospital, and magnificently equipped hospitals they were. Extreme care was taken of the men. The Germans had had the present war in preparation for at least forty years, and they had excellent railways behind them. The British Army, on the other