

authentic German spies brought back the same tale; and shortly after German aviators duly reported a movement of troop-trains from Warsaw and Ivangorod towards the Bug. The Russian generalissimo kept up the deception in every detail, and he succeeded in completely misleading his adversary. The first intimation in Warsaw of the coming of war was the appearance of German dirigibles and aeroplanes above the city, which dropped bombs chiefly in the direction of Praga—on the eastern side of Warsaw—and the great railway station. Presently came showers of leaflets, some directed to the Poles, promising Polish autonomy: some to the Russian rank and file, asking them why they fought in a war engineered by the aristocracy. To these were added appeals to religious feeling. One pamphlet, aimed at Polish Catholic sentiment, bore on its cover a picture of the Virgin and Child, flanked by medallions of the Pope and the Kaiser, that versatile religionist who elsewhere was being represented as a convert to Islam. The engagement which finally took place within some eight miles of Warsaw resulted in an important Russian victory, and the Germans had to fall back with considerable loss. It is only fair to say that both in the advance and in the retreat the invaders seem to have behaved with reasonable humanity to the civilian inhabitants. Von Hindenburg launched his second bolt against Warsaw in the middle of November, and in an early phase of the struggle, from the 24th to the 26th, the Germans lost terribly. Companies were reduced to a fifth of their strength, and whole battalions were so broken that they had to leave the fighting line. The actual attack, however, commenced on December 7, and lasted till Christmas Eve. For the first fortnight the Russians once again fell back slowly all along their line, until they reached an absolutely impregnable position. The onslaught on the city was pressed with indomitable vigor, for von Hindenburg desired the Polish capital as a Christmas gift for his Emperor. But the effort failed; and by Christmas Eve the German attack ebbed and died away. The success of the Grand Duke's strategy on these two occasions affords a hope—a faint one. It must be admitted that, in spite of the vastly superior numbers and equipment against which he has to contend, he may once again be able to hold his formidable foe at bay.

If by any chance the Germans should fail in this supreme effort, great will be their failure; and even if they are successful, the victory will have been dearly bought. In all three attempts their losses have been enormous: in the present advance, the phalanx alone which forced the crossing of the San lost 150,000 men. Even should Warsaw fall—and on the present outlook its fall seems fairly imminent—it will only mean a delay in the final issue. For the rest, a tribute is surely due to the hitherto despised Russian soldier for the splendid prowess and unbroken tenacity he has shown throughout this struggle. 'We must remember,' says Mr. John Buchan, 'that in all these first five months of war the united strength of the Teutonic League outnumbered the Russians by at least half a million. Locally, as at the first Battle of Warsaw, the latter may have had the superiority, but in all the retreat from the Warta to the Bzura the Russian front was markedly inferior in weight of men to von Mackensen's forces. When we remember this we can do justice not only to the excellence of the generalship but to the stamina and courage of the rank and file. Let it be added that reports are unanimous on the behaviour of the Russian troops, their chivalry towards the foe, their good humor, their kindness towards each other, and their devotion to their commanders.' The improvement in the *moral* of the Russian army during the last decade has, in fact, been a sort of military miracle; and at last it may be said that Russia has found herself. 'There is as much difference,' wrote one correspondent, in the course of the early Polish campaign, 'in organisation, *moral*, and efficiency between the armies which some of us saw in Manchuria ten years ago, and which crumpled up before the Imperial Guards of Japan at the Battle of the Yalu, and the military machine that these past few weeks has

been steadily and surely driving back the armies of Germany and Austria, as there was between the raw American recruits who stampeded at the Battle of Bull Run in 1861 and the veterans who received the surrender of Lee at Appomattox.'

Notes

France and Belgium

Readers should not miss the Notre Dame discourse printed on page 11 of this issue. They will probably recognise that it is at least as earnest and eloquent a tribute to Belgian heroism as the ministerial deliverance at Otautau.

The Late Bishop Grimes: A Tribute from Propaganda

The Very Rev. Dean Smyth, Provincial of the Marist Order, has kindly furnished us with an English translation of a letter received by the Very Rev. Father Superior-General of the Society of Mary from his Eminence Cardinal Gotti, Prefect of Propaganda, on the occasion of the death of the late Bishop Grimes. The sorrowing people of Christchurch, and the many friends of the late Bishop will, no doubt, as Dean Smyth observes, be comforted to know the esteem in which his Lordship was held by the ecclesiastical authorities at Rome. The letter is in these terms:—

'Rome, April 17, 1915.

'Very Reverend Father.—In a letter dated 19th March, the Rev. Father Copéré, Procurator-General of the Society of Mary, over which you so worthily preside, communicated to the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda the news of the death of Monseigneur Grimes, Bishop of Christchurch, on the 15th of March.

The Catholic Church in New Zealand has lost in Bishop Grimes one of the most zealous and fervent propagators of the Gospel in that distant country. The Sacred Congregation of Propaganda is well aware of the apostolic and indefatigable labors, as well as the innumerable sacrifices made by the deceased Bishop from the very beginning of his episcopate, and, for this reason, whilst it laments his Lordship's death, it offers your reverence, and all the members of his Society, the most lively and sincere condolence.

Let us hope that our Lord, in His infinite goodness, has already admitted into heaven the soul of His elect and faithful minister. At the same time, I shall not fail to unite my prayers with those of the Catholics of Christchurch, of his confreres in religion, and of all the friends of the lamented prelate, for the happy repose of his soul.

'Praying our Lord to bless and prosper you.

'Your most devoted servant in J.C.,

'F. G. M. CARD. GOTTI, Prefect.

'C. LAURENT, Sec.

'To the Very Rev. Father John Raffin,

'Sup.-General of the Marist Fathers.'

An Interesting Sunday School Item

The Christchurch *Sun* has unearthed a Sunday School item of a somewhat piquant interest. It is thus recorded in its issue of July 20: 'A passage that reads queerly in the light of passing events, and which occurs in a well-known *Sunday School Teachers' Guide*, was pointed out by a city churchman to a *Sun* representative. The *Guide* referred to is in general use by Sunday School teachers, and it is presumed that from its pages they draw inspiration for the lessons to be imparted to their scholars. The passage referred to is taken from the lesson for July 11, and reads as follows: "The Emperor William of Germany has a pew in a church in a beautiful village among the hills in Southern Germany. Near by is Zoller Castle, which used to be the home of the family to which the Emperor belongs. In that pew these words are written: 'In my house we will serve the Lord.' That is what