MERCIER'S PASTORAL, "COURAGE, BRETHREN," AROUSES GERMANS

"Grand Lessons of Heroism and Patriotism Given by Belgians Will Educate Mind of Generations to Come," Cardinal Writes-Von Bissing Sends

"Vigorous Protest to Primate"

Explanatory Comment

JUST why the Governor General, in the letter given below, should consider that Mercier's appeal to the Kaiser concerning the deportations deprived the Cardinal of any further right to protest about injustices is not clear. gor is it plain why Von Bissing should so curtly refuse assistance to the prelate unless the Governor General was "touchy" and offended because the Emperor had been directly invoked.

What is evident, however, is the offense taken at the publication of another pastoral letter. The tone of this exhortation, "Courage, My Brethren," is exalting, fearless and sincere, as was the character of all the previous epistles to the diocese.

The following are some extracts from this vibrant document:

"Is it, indeed, necessary to preach courage to you?

"And when I say you, I am thinking, of course, directly of the assiduous companions of our misfortune, Carminiani, dello Squadrone Aerero ranks, and that they are easy to debut my thoughts also go beyond the occupied provinces, to our refugees, our prisoners, our deported, our sol-

"Brothers of our army of Liege, of Haelen, Antwerp, of the Yser, of Ypres, of the Cameroon and of East Africa, it is you who are our first instruments of energy. On August 2, 1914, from the heart of all the families of our national aristocracy, you surged forth, with magnificent dash, attesting that nobility in Belgium has kept its traditional significance—the bourgeois classes, solid bulwarks of the nation, arose by your side; a modest employe in our city of Malines has six sons at the front—the people, too, have furnished their contingents of enlisted volunteers, so much the more des rving since their derarture left its gap of emptiness and anguish in the fireside; military almoners and stretcher-bearers, who, of their own volition, offered and expended their devotion; the government, which for two years and six months has been engaged in the task with a valor which nothing can tame; our vows makes cortege for these heroes; all form a guard of honor faithful and proud, for the magnificent sovereign who, from the sandbank to which his kingdom is reduced, gives a Belgium and to the world the accomplished example of endurance and of faith in the future."

given by the Belgian people would serve to educate the

grandeur of the Christian spirit. "If natural moral vir-

tues be worthy of esteem, charity alone, which Christ

infuses into the soul, gives virtue its full significance

Government General of Belgium, Brussels,

On the 25th inst. your Eminence ordered a pas-

To His Eminence Cardinal Mercier, Archbiehop of

toral to be read in all the churches, a whole chapter

of which is taken up with purely political matters.

which has been made of the liberty of worship, hith-

erto accorded, in order to promote a political agita-

tion. By issuing this manifesto, directed against the

occupying power, your Eminence has again sadly

distilusioned me of the hope I was justified in forming, in view of the repeated declarations of the Holy

Father. If, after this incident, I refrain from taking

serious measures it is solely because of my regard for

the Holy See and for the sake of religious peace in

occupied territory. For an action of this nature a

simple priest, according to the orders now in force,

would render himself liable to lead proceedings. Nor

can I refrain from expressing to your Eminence my

surprise that you should issue a public manifesto of

this kind at the very time when, in common with a

certain number of well-known personages in the oc-

cupied territory, you have just addressed an appeal to

his Majestu the Kaiser in the interests of the un-

employed. This act of your Eminence deters me from

promising, as I have done, my support to the above

Receive the assurance of my sincere esteem.

asserting that his duty was to encourage, lead and

support his beloved people struggling in the midst of

To His Excellency Baron von Bissing, Governor Gen-

lency has honored me, under date of February 27,

only reached me yesterday, March 2, and I avail myself of my first leisure moment to answer it. May I beg your Excellency to be so good as to

abstract for a moment from your position as a sol-

dier and the chief representative of the occupying power to hearken to those feelings which cause a re-

sponsive echo in the heart of every Christian and

thrill his very soul? I do not ask more than that in order to rest assured that you will not hold fast to

Be so good, Excellency, as to look the facts in the face. Just as Our Holy Father Benedict XV, in

his consistorial address of December 4, 1916, pro-

claimed so nobly before the Church and before the

world, considerable numbers of inoffensive citizens

are dragged from their mothers, their wives and their

weeping children and led off into captivity far from

their native lard. We have seen them go dejected in

mind, though sound in body, and we have seen them

come back wizened, emaciated, a prey to tuberculosis

in the proportion of six to ten, thus creating a dire

to us from every side and how can we in face of this

remain unmoved witnesses of our beloved people's

anguish? No. Excellency, a power which only took

count of exterior discipline might make this claim.

moment when people are speaking about the generous

efforts displayed by your Excellency to prevent fresh

deportations and to mitigate the effects of those al-

ready carried out-at a moment when I had just

signed a confident appeal to his Imperial Majestv. But

it is needful to take account of the complex situation

created for us by events. We are face to face with

a power which has at its disposal the means

of might; but around us are a people weak, agonized

and suffering; we have to respect the one without

neglecting the other. I am ready, with God's grace,

for every personal sacrifice, but one cannot ask a

shepherd to take no interest in his flock. It is in-

conceivable that he should see it dispersed and hear

its cries without trying, at least, with the poor

means at his disposal, to prove that he still leads

will find therein nothing but the expression of the

sentiments of kindly solicitude. I have no intention

of wounding any one whatever, nor of being aggres-

sive. I merely confine myself to encouraging a people

who are dear to me and of whom I am, by my voca-

tion, the leader and mainstay. The faithful under-

stand me; my words incite no one to rebellion, where-

as in the case of many I know it has brought them

(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

Accept, sir, the expression of my sincere esteem.

D. J. CARDINAL MERCIER,

Archbishop of Malines.

Would your Excellency kindly read again with an impartial eye my pastoral of February 11? You

them and that he will not forsake them.

peace of mind.

I regret having to raise my voice in public at a

A man with a heart would not uphold it.

Every family is in dread. Tales of sorrow come

menace for generations to come.

Sir-The letter I. 1799, with which your Excel-

The Cardinal hastened to justify his conduct by

BARON VON BISSING.

Archbishop's House. Malines,

Lieutenant General.

March 8, 1917.

must raise a vigorous protest against the abuse

February 27, 1917.

and strictly speaking merits eternal reward."

In the second section the Cardinal dwelt on the

mind of generations to come."

sion to His holy will.

Malines.

(Signed)

the most cruel sufferings.

eral. Brussels.

your first decision.

Cardinal Mercier's Story

Including his correspondence with the German authorities in Belgium during the war, 1914 to 1918, edited by Professor Fernand Mayence of Louvain University and translated by the Benedictine Monks of St. Augustine's, Ramsgate, England.

CHAPTER XXXIV

Requisition of Copper

AN ORDER of the Governor General dated July 8, 1916, ordered the compulsory declaration of all exsting stocks of copper, tin, nicke?, bronze, or gun-metal occupied territory.

By a new order of December 30 all household articles made of tin, brass, copper, etc., were seized and had to be made over; the date of delivery being fixed later on for each district. Any one contravening the order was liable to penalties not exceeding five years' imprisonment and 20,000 marks fine.

As soon as these orders came into force, the Cardinal wrote Baron von Bissing as follows:

Archbishop's House, Malines, February 14, 1917. To His Excellency Baron von Bissing, Governor Gen-

eral, Brussels. Sir-The official gazette of laws and orders of July 8, 1916, announces that the military authorities are thinking of commandeering all existing copper, tin and nickel in occupied territory. We could not bring ourselves to believe that the occupying power would ever resort to such measures; but now an order of December 30 confirms that of July 8 and we

learn that these regulations are now being enforced. From the moral and religious point of view adopted by me by reason of my duty as bishop, I

respectfully make your Eminence a dual request: First. That you will not regard as guilty those who in their conscience believe that they cannot actively lend a hand in carrying off the commandeered

Second. That you would kindly take into account that, according to canon law, the goods of religious communities, seminaries, episcoral colleges, as well as those of the "fabriques," are ecclesiastical property and therefore cannot be alienated without the sov-

ereign pontiff's sanction. To be fair, I must inform your Excellency that I can neither co-operate myself nor allow those under me to co-operate in the alienation of these goods.

Receive, sir, the assurance of my sincere esteem. D. J. CARDINAL MERCIER,

CHAPTER XXXV

The Governor General Requests the Cardinal to Restrict the Consumption of Coal

in the Churches

Political Department of the Government General, Brussels, Feb. 9, 1917. TO His Eminence Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of

Your Eminence is not unaware that at the presmoment a great dearth of coal is making itself felt. As the weather continues to be bitterly cold, it is needful for this fuel to be everywhere used with the realest economy, so the government has taken cleps to limit the consumption of coal. As regards fuel teonomy, those churches which are heated must fall hits line with the rest. The Governor General requests me to draw your attention to this matter and tares it to you to judge what steps you think ought to be taken so that the coal restrictions imposed upon therybody in the public interest may be complied with.

Please receive the assurance of my sincere es-

The coal shortage was due solely to the German quisitions, for, as the Cardinal showed in his letter of November 2 to Baron von Bissing, reproduced later on, the wartime output of the Belgian mines, had been left at the disposal of the people, would have dmitted of the distribution of approximately three ions of coal a year to each of the population. But the freater part of the output was commandeered by the eman Government, which, in order to secure a supply gold, sold it to neutral countries at a handsome ofit. Meanwhile the Belgian people—for the common good, said Baron von der Lancken-had to deprive

mselves of fuel during the most intense cold. Among the steps mentioned by the chief of the olitical department in his letter to the Cardinal, we must note the closing of all educational establishments rough lack of heating power.

CHAPTER XXXVI The Cardinal's Pastoral Letter "Courage,

Brethren" THE Cardinal's Lenten pastoral for the year 1917, besinning, "Courage, brethren," was read in all the sches of the diocese on Sunday, February 25.

It was divided into two sections. In the first the ardinal dilated upon the moral greatness of the nahe did homage to the valor of the army and the ers, the patience of the refugees, the firmness of government and the undaunted courage of the "If," said he. "there were some dark clouds in ky, they would dissolve in the course of history aw nothing to shine forth but the moral beauty nation, its glowing patriotism, its stanch resolve. grand lessons of military heroism and patriotism

Il Monito di Gabriele D'Annunzio alla Francia Riguardo Fiume e la Dalmazia

Published and Distributed Under PERMIT NO. 341. Authorized by the act of October 5. 17. on file at the Postoffice of Phila-A. S. BURLESON, Postmaster General

Parigi, 18 gennalo-Verso in fine de' pomeriggio di sabato, dopo le elezioni presidenziali, migliaja di manifestini presidenziall, migliaia di manifestini stroke. "Let them come, suid a Lett-verdi furono gettati sopra la città" di lah officer. "The more there are the lah officer. "The more there are the more will be killed." The Letts say the dei manifestini era un messaggio di Bolshevist army is an army of slaves by Annunzio, portato dal giovane tenente Carminiani, dello Squadrone Aerron

delle forze del poeta, Il Tenente Inscio' Flume alle ore 7,32 della mattina e compi' il volo seguendo la rotta Venezia, Torino, Chambery Lione e Digione. Egli traverso' le Alpi ad un'altezza di 4000 metri. Nel mes-

ad un a tezza di 4000 metri. Nel mes-saggio si legge quanto segue:

"Alla Francia eterna, sopra il piu' forte a piu' celere de i miei velivoli.

"ando i sa'nto che sia attestato novello della potenza e della bellezza del nostro ideale invitto di giustizia e liberta."

"Mando un saluto fraterno, a voi

Mando un sauto traterno, a voi istini, mentre si tenta di imporvi il giogo di un vecchio testardo il quale, a causa della sua senilita, c' restio a valutare la forzo prodigiose della vita rinovellata e crudalmente le ferisce nelle

lore alte aspirazioni.

"Se il patto coderdo di inginstixia sara' consumato ni danni di Finme italiana e delle citta' italiane della Dalmazia, la battaglia sara' inevitabile ed sangue piu' eroico sara' versato. Belgrado, 18 gennaio — Il seguente ommunicato semi-ufficiale fui qui' abblicato a tarda ora:

The pastoral ended with an exhortation to confidence and acts of adoration and love of God, and of submis-Baron von Bissing, considering that the Cardinal had again issued a political manifeste, wrote him as

a citta' all'ultimo momento, quando dovra' essere data all Jugoslavia.
"L'arrivo di una nave do guerra e' attesa e gli italiani si preparano a resistere a tutti i costi quando giunge- lish law a wife is still a "quasi-chat- tal." anno le nostre truppe."

(Il telegramma di cui sopra e' uno lei soliti dovut i alla propaganda insidiosa dei serbi-croati-jugoslavi, e non merita commenti. N. d. R.)

Roma, 18 gennaio—Lo sciopano degli impiegat i postal i, telegrafici e te.efonici e virtnalmente cessato.

Soltanto una min ima minoranza trascurabile, non ha fatto ritorno ai propri uffici. I servizi hanno ricomineiato a procedere quas i normalmente.

Cable Briefs

Advices from Riga are to the effect that Lettish troops are driving the Reds back all along the line from the Es-thonian border to the junction point with the Poles. The Letts now ridicule the threat that the Bolshevists will appropriate the policy of their counter. overwhelm them with their counter stroke. "Let them come," said a Lett

Esnault Pelterie, French aviator and constructor, ridicules the idea of Pro-fessor Goddard, of Clark University, that a rocket to reach beyond the earth's that a rocket to reach beyond the earth's atmosphere is possible. He declares that even if the American has found a gas powerful enough to drive his rocket "0 000 000 feet through air the initial velocity would have to be 40,000 feet per second, and it would take twenty-four minutes and nine seconds to reach the space beyond. The journey from the earth to the moon would take forty-eight and a half bours, he says.

Reopening of trade relations with Bolshevist Russia has caused considerable uproar in Paris. All sorts of arguments on the subject are heard. On only one phase are all agreed—England is to blame. Italy's need for Russian wheat and corn is believed to have been the fundamental cause for the move.

"Secondo notizie da Buccari (a 5 miglia ad est di Fiume) i rappresentanti della citta' di Fiume tennero ieri una riunione e deliberarono di raccomandare che D'Aununzio lasci Fiume piu' presto possibile.
"Corrispondenti da Spalato segnalano, secondo rapperti da buona autorita', che gii Arditi e volontari a Zarra stanno presenzado di incondiare de la condita della citta della citta di Fiume tennero ieri una riunione e deliberarono di raccomandare che D'Aununzio lasci Fiume political phases of the situation, he said. Germany has neither the men nor the material to spare on foreign soil, and therefore must adopt a hands-off policy.

The question of the cash value of



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TURKS VOICE PROTEST

Oppose Peace Conference's Reported Intation to Dismember Country Constantinople, Jan. 14 (delayed)—
(By A. P.)—Protests against the reported intention of the Peace Conference to dismember the Turkish empires and to internationalize this city were Edinburgh is forming a club in honor of its illustrious son, Robert Louis Stevenson. Lord Guthrie, who now oc-

cupies Swanston cottage, where the author lived in his younger days, is sponsor for the movement.

Defending his recent declaration that the Labor party was 'unfit to rule,' Winston Churchill, the British war secretary, has written an article in which he says the world struggle is on 'he-tween these with a discovered on Turkey's 'inalienable rights' to Constantinople. Resolutions were adopted declaring Constantinople should be maintained as the capital of Turkey, demanding the evacuation of Smyrna and adjacent regions by the Greeks; asking for an immediate conclusion of peace; asserting the integral sovereignty of the mediate conclusion of the integral sovereignty of the mediate conclusion of the integral sovereignty of the mediate conclusion of peace; asserting the integral sovereignty of the mediate conclusion of the integral sovereignty of the mediate conclusion of peace; asserting the integral sovereignty of the mediate conclusion of peace; asserting the control of the mediate conclusion of peace; asserting the control of mediate conclusion of peace; asserting the integral sovereignty of the Turkish nation should be maintained over terri-tories in which the majority of the in-habitants are Turks, and giving as-surance that the rights and interests of Christian or Turkish minorities would be safewarded. the says the world struggle is on "be-tween those who adhere to national and individualist conceptions on the one hand and those who pin faith to cos-mopolitan and communistic theories on



Miss Mary DeVincentis

We present Miss DeVincentis, of South Philadelphia, who for a year and a half was chief clerk of Local Board No. 3 at a salary of \$100 a month. She is now 18 years of age.

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