

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Those who are following certain side issues of the war cannot but note with a degree of suspicion the curious dispatches that are now coming from Germany with regard to the depopulation from Lille and nearby towns of over 22,000 French civilians, men, women, youths and girls, from the age of fifteen up.

Stung by these criticisms, the German officials, through neutral correspondents, are now doing their best to reply to the charges, but they really seem to be laying on the whitewash a little too thick.

On the other hand, the Yellow Book contains these statements: The inhabitants have been forced by violence, by executions, imprisonment and deportation, to make trenches, bridges, roads and railways, to work in factories and mines, to make sand-bags for use in the trenches.

When it is remembered that those who were taken at night in the Lille outrage had only a brief time in which to get ready to go, that mothers went crazy when separated from their children, going they knew not where, the dispatches that are now coming from Germany read like an ill-timed jest in the face of a great tragedy.

TRENCH ALONG SEA LINE.

Germans Have Formidable Defences on Belgian Coast. A correspondent who has just been permitted to visit the Belgian coast reports on the formidable defences that have been raised there.

The real work of destruction begins where the French land guns have been able to have their say. Middelkerke is a mass of ruins. It is a remarkable fact that 600 people continue to eke out a living there.

LOSSES EYE ON FIRST AIR TRIP. British Flier, Malmed, Shoots Foe, Lands, Cables Mother. An army medical officer back in London from the front reported the case of a Royal Flying Corps observer whose eye was shot out.

Not to be Fooled Twice. Judge (interrupting long-winded lawyer)—Can't you take it for granted that I understand an ordinary point of law?

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THE FASHIONS

Two striking models adopted by the younger set are reproduced here. In one of white and blue linen, the waist and upper part of the skirt were of white linen and the sailor collar, cuffs and lower part of the skirt were blue.



White and Blue Linen Combined.

White and Blue Linen Combined. Darker dresses that are brought out in cooler days. Purple or black, and gold or mustard color on dark blue, give exceptionally good results.



Graceful Russian Dress.

Graceful Russian Dress. White satin crowns with black velvet brims are highly favored, as well as the all-black and all-white hats.

His Status. "What are you, my man, a plain tramp?" "You might say so, mum. Or if you wishes to follow the plan so prevalent these days of giving everything a special name."

A Careful Answer. "Darling, if you had it to do all over again would you still want to marry me?"



A New Photo of Mrs. Herbert H. Asquith. Charles Tennant, she was Miss Margot Tennant renowned for her wit and high spirits.

HEALTH

Concussion of the Brain. Concussion of the brain is a very slight matter, or a very serious one, according to the part of the head that has been struck.

Health Notes. One teaspoonful of glycerine taken in a wine-glass of water three times a day for a fortnight will cure the most obstinate case of indigestion.

A Delicate Instrument. Two men were in the dining car ordering breakfast. The first one said to the waiter: "George, you may bring me two fried eggs, some broiled ham, a pot of coffee and some rolls."

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A Careful Answer. "Darling, if you had it to do all over again would you still want to marry me?"

Superlative Service. Angry Diner—Waiter, you are not fit to serve a pig! Waiter—I'm doing my best, sir.

THE SUNDAY LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON SEPTEMBER 10.

Lesson XI. The Arrest of Paul.—Acts 21. 17-40. Golden Text.—Acts 22. 15.

Verse 27. The seven days—A difficult phrase, since our Jewish authorities insist that a Nazirite vow would last thirty days at least.

28. Israel—Compare what was said last week on 2 Cor. 11. 22. The appeal is made to Jews who really have at heart the sanctity of the temple.

29. Trophimus—See Acts 20. 4. This Ephesian was a very intimate friend. However little Paul now believed in "holy places," or in any difference between man and man before God, he was not likely to trample on religious sentiment by doing such a thing.

30. Doors were shut—For, of course, the intended murder must not be accomplished in sight of the sacred building any more than the "price of blood" might be put in the treasury within it (Matt. 27. 6).

31. Seeking to kill—Here clearly "set about killing"; the beating had nothing less in mind from the first. This passage illustrates John 7. 1, where no mere plot is suggested.

32. Forthwith—For a sufficient force was always kept under arms; the policing of such a turbulent city was no light task.

33. The reason why Lysias put him instantly in a double set of irons appears later on. A notorious brigand chief was badly "wanted," and the official description of a convict in all likely places, contained something which Lysias recognized in Paul.

34. Away with him—A vernacular phrase found in a rude papyrus letter, compare Luke 23. 18; Acts 22. 19. And in still harsher tense John 11. 15.

35. Dost thou know Greek—In the official description of the brigand (see above) it would be stated that he knew no Greek. He must have come from an out-of-the-way part, for the papyri show us that very uneducated men in Egypt could write Greek.

36. The Egyptian—Josephus tells us about him—how he collected a mass of people on the Mount of Olives, and how Felix attached him to his camp, but his people being mostly killed or wounded.

37. The wilderness—Compare Matt. 24. 26. Assassins—In one of the chapters referred to Josephus tells us of banditti found even in Jerusalem who went about with concealed daggers and committed murder unimpeded.



The Cave Family. Robert and Sara were greatly excited. They had found a cave in the mountain back of their summer home, on the side facing the sea.

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WHAT JAPAN IS DOING IN THE WAR

CLOTHES AND ARMED RUSSIAN SOLDIERS. Military Observer Astonished to Find What She Is Doing for Czar's Soldiers.

The extent to which Japan is clothing, shoeing, arming and munitioning the Russian army was forcibly presented to a military observer who has just returned to Paris from a trip along the Russian front.

"I was astonished," he said, "to find great numbers of Russian soldiers clothed from head to foot in uniforms made in Japan, not only the tunics and trousers, but even the leggings. They carried on their shoulders Japanese guns. Their cartridge belts were filled with cartridges made in Japan. Their leather belts and buckles were from Japan.

"It is strange," he went on, "that Russia went to war with Japan over Korea, and now Korea, the source of all the trouble, is supplying Russia with the shoes in which her soldiers are marching to victory. Korea is a great grazing country and is providing a vast reservoir of raw hides which the Japanese are rapidly turning into boots, shoes, saddles, and leather furnishings.

"How did these supplies get from Japan to the Russian front?" the observer was asked. "It was noted," said he, "that about the only vital point where the Germans had not been able to send their submarines was in the waters of the East China Sea, the Straits of Korea and the Sea of Japan. These are the waters separating Japan from Russia and the Asiatic mainland, and the routes over them, commercial and military, are open and without menace."

All Sorts of Arms Supplied. "What sort of arms and munition is Russia getting from Japan?" was asked. "All sorts," was the reply, "from the service rifle and small field pieces down to the 12-inch gun. The Japanese 12-inch is a terrible weapon, and they are content not to make any of the 14-inch and 16-inch guns, as they consider, from a military standpoint, that the immobility of the monster gun offsets its advantages, where they are used as a mobile gun, and very deadly."

Her Reply. Dora had just returned from Sunday school, where she had been for the first time. "What did my little daughter learn this morning?" asked the fond father. "That I am a child of Satan," was the beaming reply.

Superlative Service. Angry Diner—Waiter, you are not fit to serve a pig! Waiter—I'm doing my best, sir.

LESS INSANITY DURING THE WAR

WHAT AN IRISH ALIENIST HAS TO SAY.

Presents Remarkable Picture of the Tonic Value of Great Conflict.

An interesting sidelight on President Wilson's remark about the world going mad is given in the annual report of Dr. William Graham of Belfast, one of the most highly respected Irish alienists. Dr. Graham presents a remarkable picture of the tonic value of war. He says: "It has become common practice since August, 1914, to say the world is growing mad, and there is a widespread popular notion that the distress and agony of a conflict so terrible as the present one must end in a profound disturbance and alienation. Yet the fact is indisputable that insanity, like corns, has lessened during the period of the war."

So far as the future is concerned, Dr. Graham is equally encouraging. He says: "There are solid grounds for the hope that, especially although exclusively among women, we shall find a great diminution in those neurotic disorders that form a part of the mental abnormality of thousands of men who have gone, or are preparing to go, to the front, who have all their life been subjected to the bondage of neurotic weakness and incapacity of psychopathic fears or hypochondriac fancies. They have never known what it is to live, but at the country's call they have flung from them the spell of ancient inhibitions and long established incapacities and have gone forth to face wounds and death. Only when summoned to possible surrender of life have they learned how wonderful life really is. The physical re-

Sickness is often a mask worn by lazy people. Every woman thinks she is a prima donna when it comes to putting a baby to sleep.

ONE OF THE CENTRAL TRUTHS

Man Cannot Save Himself, Nor Can He Be Saved By a Fellow-Sinner.

The Christian religion is of revelation. It is not known through evolution or discovery, or cleverness, or accident, or luck, or combination of circumstances, or experience. Our faith is in a God revealed by His holy prophets which hath been since it began. God, man, law, duty, destiny, eternity. Sin is the transgression of the law of God; it is the discord in the harmony of the moral realm; it is one of the central truths made known in the Bible. Man is the sinner; he cannot save himself, nor can he be saved by a fellow sinner. As he is intended to live in a sinless world, with a holy God and perfect spirits, he needs to be saved from sin. This is not all. He needs to be cleansed from sin; made clean, so as to be made fit for a home in pure heaven. To accomplish this eternal peace it was needful for God to send His Son, as said St. John, to redeem the world.

This is a Revelation. It deals with spirit, soul, mind, and for man to be told all this shows the kindness and the love of God, who has ever been showing man as they could understand them, mighty truths in all realms of thought, action, in earth and sea, in air and sky, in the physical realm, in the mental realm, in pure and in applied branches of art, science and philosophy. The world has not been left without its eloquent witnesses, teachers, instructors. The man who knew took the place of the man who had to guess. The whole history of progress shows this. Its foundations are in the eternal realities. Angels were in the world before the days of Euclid, as was gravitation before Sir Isaac Newton. These men, and men of like power, were discovered. But they could not demonstrate the being of God or the eternity of His law or that He made man, or that by sin death came into the world and that Jesus Christ came to save all men from sin. I ask, who so likely to know eternally as an Eternal God? Who so likely to save sinners by a plan inexplicable by philosophers as an all-wise God? The legislation, mission, purpose of Jesus is by faith. Once believe the Bible and the mighty deeds of Christian men believe in God as revealed to me in the Bible, and the world around me, the sky above me and the perplexities of the past as well as the astounding things I see and read are made bearable—why?

The Legation of Jesus Christ. Jesus had a divine legation, was divine, and He revealed to man the truth that the life which now is is not the whole life of man, but one of preparation for life in other conditions; that He has other words to speak, but I cannot hear them, understand them, now. Man, vain man, wants to have all made plain here, at once and low in the realm of religion. Does he find this law, the practice, in any other realm? Truly not. The legation of Jesus was to show us the Father, to teach us His will and give us the grace to do it and so find healing for the soul. Man being a spiritual being, a revelation from the spirit world was not a high probability only. It was a necessity of thought, an indispensable thing. Other foundation can no man lay than this—Jesus Christ, first, last, last—in whom at last the world shall see the fullness of the blessings of the eternal God.—Rev. William Wilkinson.