

THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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Christmas.

How different is the Christmas of 1918 to that of 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917. Those years of War, with its bloody trail, stalked over the wide world. Men were at each others throats. The Babe of Bethlehem, seemingly, refused to visit most of Europe or Asia and here in the United States, while the full horror of war was absent, scarcely a family but felt its effect in the absence of some loved one and dark uncertainty as to his well-being, even his whereabouts. And, worst of all, the future seemed to hold no prospect of relief or cessation. A year ago the wise-acres were sure the war would last another year, possibly two or even three years.

Lo and behold! While the full fruits of peace are not yet realized, the roar of cannon has ceased, the sword has been sheathed, the rifles are still, the bayonets are carried over shoulder, the air planes but whirl in token of peace and their guns and bombs are silenced; our Navy is intact.

So far as the Allies are concerned the horrors of active warfare are at an end. The effects of that warfare will be felt for many a day. The memories of the war will never be effaced while the present and the immediate future generations are on earth. The enemy knows now that it was madness even to begin the war and that knowledge will be seared into their inner consciousness as days go on.

Here at home, except where the loved ones have not yet come back or in those families where they never will come back, Christmas will seem like the holiday feast of old. We shall welcome the Christ Child with glad and joyous hearts and even those who have lost loved ones can open their hearts to Him because He will bind up their wounds. He will lighten their hearts with the knowledge that He has taken their loved ones into His bosom and that soon they will be reunited never to part for eternity in Heaven.

And so let us all bow our heads in reverence at the Blessed crib this Christmas of 1918 and praise God for the gift of His Immortal Son who came on earth to bring peace to men of good will!

Two Sides.

At first blush, ex-President Roosevelt's suggestion that the dead American soldiers be permitted to rest forever "over there in France and Belgium" where those they succored will ever keep green their graves, appeals. But there is another side, that is indicated in the following letter to the New York "World" from "a father whose son lies dead somewhere in France":

The final disposition of our fallen heroes will no doubt become

of Nation-wide interest shortly, and undoubtedly the remains of the American heroes belong in America and should find their final resting-place in their native land. The sentiment of mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers of our dead soldiers should be consulted if there is any change to be made from the general practice and custom.

I believe the residents of every city or town of our United States who have boys that have made the supreme sacrifice will want the remains of their boys laid away in a cemetery in their home city or town, so that they can visit the graves and do honor to them as a patriotic duty.

While opinions will differ on the subject, surely the problem of removal, if a vexed one, should not stand in the way when we look at the thousands of mothers, who have given their sons in this cause. Their sentiment should be considered, and a visit to the graves of their loved ones would go a long way to heal the heart-wound.

In ex-President Roosevelt's letter to Gen. March, he says he believes a tree should lie where it falls, and that he will pay a visit to his son's grave in France. That is the spirit all of us fathers have, thousands of us in this country. We also want to visit our sons' graves, but we cannot afford to go to France to do honor to our sons; so give us fair play and do not let the opinion of one man prevail, even though he is an ex-President. What say our readers?

Ireland.

More and more it becomes evident that Ireland's future will be discussed, at least, at the Peace Congress.

The great meeting in New York City last week at which inspiring speeches were made by Cardinal O'Connell, Governor Whitman, Justice Daniel F. Coahalan and others tells the story so far as America is concerned. We all are friends of Ireland, except, perchance, a few ultra-Tory Englishmen, who do not count, and we all want that she should have justice.

His Eminence, the Cardinal Archbishop of Boston, rose to the heights of eloquence when he detailed Ireland's history, the glorious faith of her people, the holy-white morality of her women, folk. He was at his best when he told how Ireland has suffered at the hands of absentee alien landlords and also that English politicians had not kept their faith.

Perhaps, it is too much to expect that full justice will be done to Ireland and absolute national freedom given to her. But is there any reason why Canada should be self-governing and Ireland be at the mercy of an English Lord Lieutenant whose alien heart throbs not at all in sympathy with the people he rules? Is there any reason why Australia should have her own Parliament and Irishmen be denied self-government?

Unless Ireland is given self-government, the British Empire never will have full peace and the much sought, Anglo-Saxon alliance between Great Britain and the United States never will be a stable and binding entity.

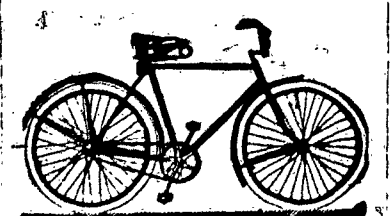
"Peace on earth to men of good will" has a deeper meaning this year.

If Great Britain insists upon maintenance of a great navy, in all probability the United States will insist upon maintenance of equal naval armament. Then what did we go to war for?

Is it really wise for the United States to mix up in European politics?

Clean habits and quiet living may not ward off the "Flu" but such a one has a better chance of beating it out.

Give Santa Claus the Tip



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Three of the eight professors in the University of Dallas are priests who have received commissions in the army.

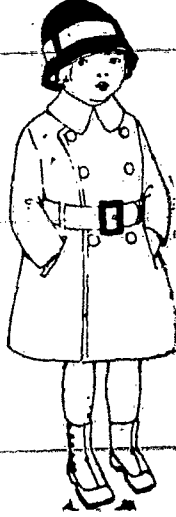
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