

THE K. OF C. IN COBLENZ.

First-Hand Account of Entry and Work of First American Relief Workers K. of C., to Enter Germany With the American Army of Occupation.

By Charles Phillips.

Coblentz—Over here the K. of C.'s have pulled off all sorts of stunts for the soldier boys, and have not stopped at anything to see that the lads have the care they need. In the matter of spiritual comforts, as well as bodily, everything possible has been done—against all sorts of odds. Mass has been celebrated, somehow, somewhere and the Sacraments administered. But it is in Coblentz, the Capital of the American Army of Occupation, that we have, for the first time, I believe, actually confiscated an entire parish!—a Church with pastor, choir and organist to boot! I can't tell you how pleased and gratified I have felt over this achievement—not because it is unique, but because, as results have shown, it has been appreciated by the boys to the fullest extent. . . . All this the enclosed clipping from one of the local dailies will show you. . . . It was only yesterday that I learned that the German press had taken notice of the K. of C.'s and our work here.

With H. L. Welch, another of our secretaries, the man who drove me up here from Paris through the historic ground extending from the Argonne to Verdun and Etain, I was the first war-worker to enter occupied territory; and the K. of C.'s were thus the first welfare organization on the ground, preceding the Salvation Army by two or three days, and the Y. M. C. A. by nearly a week. (As it chanced, I was also the first war worker to cross the Rhine, going by invitation with Co. F., 39th Engineers to Nieuwied, 30 kilos down the River, to assist at the burial of one of their comrades who had been killed on the trail entering Coblentz. This poor lad, a Catholic and a Californian—Charles Neilon, of Yreka, Cal.—was thus indeed the first American to occupy German soil "über dem Rhine—and I the first K. of C. to cross into that then "forbidden territory"—for the Army of Occupation had not then advanced so far.)

My few words of German were useful in establishing our headquarters for the III Army, the work of dealing with the local people devolved upon me—I was the only one of us who knew any German at all. (It was a ghastly joke, how I got by with my 20 words!) My duties ranged from the purchase of a box of tacks to the securing of a warehouse—of club buildings (two—one for officers and one for enlisted men)—of furniture for same, pianos, repairs, whatnot. And in my chasings about the city, I came upon this Church of St. Joseph, in times past, a Benedictine—then a Carmelite Chapel (800 years ago). In later days it had become the Imperial Garrison Church—popularly known as "The Military Church"—used exclusively for the local military. But when I found it, it had been closed by order of the Socialist gang up in Berlin—the Soldiers' and Workmen's Council; and when I managed to locate the pastor (a Polish priest who has acted for years as an army chaplain with the German troops), I found him only too glad to consider the prospects of re-opening his Church and restoring the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar.

It did not take long for our "confiscation" to be achieved—and when I left Fr. Rarkowski that day, I had to return to our director, F. J. Riler, one of the ablest men the Knights have sent over here, to report that I'd gone and done it—that I had a Church on my hands, with a priest, organist and choir.

Yet my troubles had only really begun, for I still lacked the big essential that had started me on my adventure—an English speaking Chaplain, to hear the boys' confessions. From the first, the soldiers here had made inquiries as to this; but as yet there was no sign of a Chaplain. Christmas was coming on and days passed and no Chaplain. I was just in the midst of a final search through the town for some local priests who could speak English and had located two, when Father Dannigan (Capt. Patrick Dannigan, senior Chaplain of the III Army) arrived in town. That was Friday, Dec. 20, and I had only a few hours left to arrange and advertise Saturday's confessions, Sunday's Masses and the Christmas Day services.

Father Dannigan went to bat like a shot—and to make a long story short, he wound up by landing a real success!—The clipping will tell you the rest. One interesting item it omits is this: the orphan children who sang the responses were all War Orphans: not one of them whose father was not killed in the war. The Indian lady who sang "Holy Night" was Princess Red Feather, of the Cherokees. The final novel twist to the affair was the presence of Bishop Brent, who asked to address the boys and, after the services were concluded, he spoke a few words, and very beautiful and appealing words they were.

The Church was crowded—we had to put chairs in the aisles—officers and men, alike came in crowds—and the natives were there in force and curiosity.

And there was another feature that must be mentioned—the Crib. It is very beautiful and was erected by K. of C. secretary Jos. Nihill, with the assistance of two soldier boys. The Church is a fine old structure, full of martial figures—St. Mauritius, St. George, St. Sebastian—etc. It seats about 1500. The organ is splendid.

I have the whole city posted now with placards,—red, white and blue:

CATHOLIC ARMY SERVICES

All members of the A. E. F. are invited to the services held regularly in Coblentz At the Military Church (Opposite the Knights of Columbus Club) Masses Every Sunday at 7, 9, 10 Sermons in English, Music—Singing Everybody Welcomes Confessions Every Saturday 3—5:30 7—9 o'clock

Late News of Ireland

Carlow

Bonfires blazed around Clough Jordan, Bagnelstown celebrated the return of J. Lennon for Carlow.

Cork

The body of Patrick Murphy, the last of the victims of the Coulagh Bay fishing disaster, has been recovered, and was interred in Castletown.

Cork Harbor Board have voted their sympathy to James O'Connor, Queenstown, on the death of his brother. The death of M. F. Condon, merchant, Mitchelstown, has caused the deepest regret.

Dublin

T. M. Healey made a very brilliant speech in support of the Sinn Fein candidate for Rathmines Division in Dublin. He took the line that he could not agree with every point in their program, but he was with them on the large issue that Ireland should put her case before the Peace Conference. A Peace Conference like the present one only comes once in the ages, and it is worth Ireland's while to make one supreme effort to claim her rights as against England.

Kerry

G. F. Hewson, Ennismore, was sworn in a J. P. for Co. Kerry, at the Listowel Petty Sessions.

The Right Rev. T. Broderick, Titular Bishop of Pednelisus and First Vicar Apostolic of Western Nigeria, was consecrated in the Cathedral Killarney. The consecrating prelate was the Most Rev. Dr. O'Sullivan, and the assisting prelates were the Most Rev. Colahan and the Most Rev. Dr. Halliman. The Most Rev. Dr. Browne was also present. There was a large gathering of clergy.

Mayo

Rev. Michael Kearney, army chaplain, C. C., Headford, has been appointed C. C., The Neale, Ballinrobe. Rev. P. Cusack, has been recalled from Liverpool to be C. C. Letterfrack.

Tipperary

Joseph McDonagh, from Reading Jail, telegraphed to Rev. C. Culligan, C. C., North Tipperary S. F. Election Committee: "Magnificent, Tipperary East and South will follow." F. McGrath, President, Nenagh S. F. Club, interred in Durham, telegraphed that he was proud Tipperary stands for Ireland.

G. Hobbs, Rathmore House, Borrisokane, has been appointed a magistrate.

Waterford

In Waterford City out of 12,043, on the register, 8,996 polled. This, of course, does not include 1,044 absent voters.

Wexford

Father Kavanagh, has died at the Franciscan Friary, Wexford. He was discovered in a kneeling position in his room, as if praying. Father Kavanagh was the son of a Wexford Merchant, and was over 80 at his death. He wrote the standard History of the Rebellion of Ninety-eight and many other works. His grand-uncle, Father Michael Murphy was killed at Arklow in '98.

Died—December 10, 1918, at Ballycullane, Patrick Power, father of Rev. Pierce Power, Castle-dockrill, and Sister Mary Transfiguration, Superiores, Good Shepherd Convent, New Ross.

Wicklow

The funeral of Mrs. Mullally, wife of Denis Mullally, Town Clerk, Bray took place from the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer, Bray, to St. Peter's Cemetery, Little Bray. The cortege was very large and representative.

Catholic Short Notes.

The New York Foundling Hospital, in charge of the Sisters of Charity, in a special Pullman car, took sixty children from three months to three years of age, to Minnesota and Montana, recently, where homes were provided for them.

Mgr. Pitaval, resigned Archbishop of Santa Fe, has been appointed Titular Archbishop of Anida, in Turkish Kurdistan.

Many petitions, diocesan, local and other, have been forwarded President Wilson, pleading his good offices on behalf of Ireland.

It is said that the number of pagans in the world to be yet converted is 950,000,000. Christians in the world number about 620,000,000.

The Supreme Court of Kansas forbids the closing of Catholic churches during the influenza epidemic.

New York City has named the land on Riverside, Joan of Arc Park.

Former U. S. Ambassador to Turkey says the Turk has massacred two million men, women and children of Armenia, Syria and Greece.

Twenty-three languages are embodied in the equipment of the American Peace delegates.

Lieutenant Father John A. Cotter, of New York, has been appointed Chaplain at Fort McHenry.

In a letter to his Cardinal Secretary of State, His Holiness Benedict XV says: "The Church is a perfect society, which has for its one and only aim the sanctification of men, in every time and every country, while it adapts itself to the different forms of governments, so it accepts, without difficulty, the legitimate territorial and political variations of the peoples."

The University College at Cork, Ireland, has 566 students.

From the armies in Europe will now be demobilized thousands of priests, who were obliged to serve in them.

One-seventh of the population of Tahiti is dead. The influenza has swept the whole island. The bodies of the dead were burned. The poor people are without medicine and food.

A broad gauge railway from Cairo to Jerusalem has just been opened. The Holy Land is being rapidly modernized.

At Barcelona, Spain, the 700 year old national shrine of Our Lady of Mercy has been given the rank of a basilica.

The Holy Father Benedict XV says to Poland: "The Holy See which loved Poland at the height of her glory, loved her still more, if possible, in her hour of misfortune."

Since the Holy Land occupation a few months ago, water has become plentiful there, and likewise "beer." In the desert there almost anything can now be bought. Sleeping cars will be installed between Cairo and Jerusalem.

Ellen Flanagan, of Cork, aged over 100 years, died last month.

New Bishop of Buffalo Is Named.

Priest from Buffalo Is To Be Made Bishop of Albany.

Rome, Feb. 1.—The Rev. Edmund F. Gibbons of Buffalo, has been nominated bishop of Albany succeeding the late Monsignor Thomas F. Cusack. The Rev. William Turner, professor at the Catholic University in Washington, D. C., becomes bishop of Buffalo.

Pope Benedict has promoted Monsignor Austin Dowling, bishop of Des Moines, Iowa, to metropolitan of the diocese of St. Paul, Minn., in succession to the late Archbishop John Ireland.

The Rev. Edward Dionysius Kelly has been transferred from the titular bishopric of Cester to a residential one at Grand Rapids, Mich. The Rev. William Hickey, titular bishop of Gradapoli, has been nominated coadjutor bishop at Providence, R. I.

Buffalo, Feb. 7.—The Rev. Edmund F. Gibbons, nominated for the bishopric of Albany, has been rector of St. Teresa's Church here for three years. He was superintendent of the parochial schools of the Diocese of Buffalo and in that capacity won high praise from ecclesiastical and school authorities of his church and the state board of regents. He is 45 years old and was educated for the priesthood in Rome.

Rev. W. E. Etzel Dies In St. Paul, Minn.

International Educator Called City His Home.

Rev. William Earnshaw Etzel, internationally known as an educator, died on last Sunday night at a hospital in St. Paul, Minn. The body was brought here for burial from the home of relatives at No. 455 Flower City Park. Rev. Father Etzel was born in Schuylerville. He moved to Rochester when he was quite young. He always considered Rochester his home.

The early education of Rev. Father Etzel was obtained in St. Joseph's School, Franklin street. From there he went to Marian Brothers' College, Dayton, Ohio, and later went to France for further study. He completed his education and theological studies there. Rev. Father Etzel was a member of a number of college faculties in France. Among his noted pupils were the present King of Spain and Marshal Pétain. He stayed in Europe twenty years. He always retained his American citizenship.

At the separation of church and state in France, Rev. Father Etzel returned to the United States and for a time was a member of the faculty at the Franciscan College, Trenton, N. J., and of St. Bernard's Seminary here. He received a call from St. Thomas' College and accepted it. In the European institutions he had prepared many young men for national service as military officers, and at the St. Paul institution he was given the similar opportunity. He had charge of the army class and prepared a number of young men for commissions even in peace time without their entering West Point.

Rev. Father Etzel leaves five sisters, Mary, Louise, Anna and Stella Etzel; and Mrs. George Pearson, all of Rochester; two brothers, Peter Etzel, of Syracuse, and James Etzel, of Kentucky; three nieces and a nephew.

Foreign Mission News

The Propagation of the Faith Society, 348 Lexington Ave., New York City

POOR INDIA.

Even the secular press is commenting on the dreadful condition of India, that country eternally scourged by famine plagues and other afflictions. The "flu" is working terrible havoc, and of course there is a famine,—indeed when is the country without one! Poor India! It is well known that millions of her people go from birth to the grave without ever knowing what it is to quench hunger.

The influenza is claiming more victims than the worst pest ever did; war conditions have put up the cost of medicines and the little food that is available, and the result is an appalling misery that should tug at our heartstrings. India needs immediate and generous aid.

SUCCESS OF THE JAPANESE MISSION IN CALIFORNIA.

The new home of the Japanese Sisters in Los Angeles, has just been dedicated by Bishop Campbell and marks a step in the progress made by the workers for the Japanese in California.

It is now nearly four years since the Japanese Catholic Mission was established in Los Angeles, and during that time one hundred and twenty Japanese, mostly converts, have been received into the Church.

The Japanese children, though born in this country, are placed in circumstances most unfavorable for the development of Christian and American ideals. Their parents, being in America but not of it, cannot give them the genuine American education. The school is the channel through which the good Catholic Sisters—some Americans, some Japanese—reach these little souls and teach them religion and the customs of our civilization.

A BIG NOISE IN CHINA, TOO; WHEN PEACE WAS REPORTED.

"The great peace festival was well observed in Peking and Shanghai," writes Fr. A. Busch, C. M., of Ningpo, "but it is still hard to make some of our Chinese comprehend that there is a real stop to the fighting of which they have heard so much.

"Obeying the command of Ministers from the Allied countries, the chiefs of the North and South of China are going to try and bring about a cessation of hostilities. Even if they succeed it is doubtful if the peace will be a lasting one. A big army is needed to quell these disturbing factions, and I doubt if China herself can manage the situation. The intervention of some powerful country is required for this and outside authority could not fail to impress the Chinese now engaged in endless rivalries."

SAVED BY HER CORNETTE.

A missionary in Chibbi writing of the flood in that section, says that one morning he had just spoken to a Sister of Charity, who had come out of the Convent, when he saw her suddenly disappear from view, actually sink to the ground so that only her white corset was visible. He ran to her rescue and succeeded in pulling her out of what proved to be a deep crevice made by the inundation. When he was sure she was uninjured, he couldn't help laughing at the remembrance of her very sudden disappearance from view—all but the white corset.