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## EDITORIAL.

### FRANCE'S DAY.

#### REQUIEM FOR THE FALLEN.

"Pray for my soul. More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

It is the common instinct of humanity to honour the dead who have fallen gloriously in battle, or have died in the defence of their country of wounds and sickness, and it is the practice of all branches of the Catholic Church, from primitive times, to associate that honour with prayers for the departed.

It was fitting and natural, therefore, that on France's Day a Solemn Mass of Requiem for the Fallen should be sung at the Cathedral at Westminster for the French soldiers and sailors who have fallen in the war, and the great congregation which filled the Cathedral to overflowing was proof that this remembrance of their dead was appreciated by a large number of the relatives and friends of these fallen heroes.

The King, Queen Alexandra, and the Government were represented, and the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs attended in state, and there were present the French Ambassador and the full staff of the Embassy, as well as many of the Diplomatic Corps, the French Commission, the French Red Cross, Members of Parliament and the Consular Service, Ministers of the Allied Countries, representatives of British Overseas Dominions, the wives of French soldiers, and many others.

At the foot of the Sanctuary steps was the Catafalque adorned with the Tricolour. Around it burned six tall candles, and by each, erect and motionless, stood a Zouave, in his striking red and blue uniform, with fixed bayonet, and facing the Catafalque was an officer in khaki, with red, blue, and gold laced cap. Bishop Butt, the celebrant, was vested in black, but on the High Altar burned many candles, and colour was the

prevailing note, for the Cardinal Archbishop wore his red robes and cappa magna, the Metropolitan Chapter wore exquisite rose-coloured cappas, and the Cathedral clergy grey silk.

The Zouave band played before the service, and then was silent for the music of the Mass, when the plain-song melodies in the Mass of Anerio, a 16th century composer, were sung by the choir under the direction of Dr. Terry with beautiful effect, the men's and boys' voices alternating in the *Dies Irae*.

In the Offertorium the Zouave Band played a fragment from Gounod's *Jeanne d'Arc* Mass, and at the Elevation of the Host, signalized by fanfares of trumpets, the Zouaves at the Catafalque presented arms, and the officer's sword came to the salute.

After the departure of the Celebrant, the Cardinal, vested in cope and mitre, and the choir, sang the *Libera Me*, and then with his procession, carrying lighted torches, he came down to the Catafalque, sprinkling and censuring it and giving the Absolutions.

Then came the heart-stirring roll of the drums, which re-echoed through the Cathedral, the Last Post sounded by the buglers of the Grenadier Guards, and the "Marche Heroique," rendered with consummate skill and inspiring beauty by the Zouave Band. After these the "Marseillaise" thrilled the great congregation, and a profoundly impressive service concluded with the National Anthem.

In many a quiet side chapel in our churches to-day an increasing number of the faithful avail themselves of the opportunity, and consolation, afforded them of praying for their dear ones, quick and dead, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

"To souls departed in the fear of the Lord, grant refreshment in the land of peace, Jesus, God of life and death."

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