

## EDITH CAVELL.

The press of the civilized world has with passion unanimously condemned the murder of a noble Englishwoman in Brussels by the German military authorities. At her trial she frankly owned that she had transgressed the military law by mercifully aiding the escape of her compatriots and others over the Belgian frontier.

The exact circumstances of her martyrdom are not yet officially announced, but very beautiful is the description given by the British chaplain, Rev. H. Stirling T. Gahan, of his interview with her on the evening of October 11th, a few hours before her death.

### THE LAST HOURS.

Mr. Gahan writes :—

On Monday evening, October 11th, I was admitted, by special passport from the German authorities, to the prison of St. Gilles, where Miss Edith Cavell had been confined for ten weeks. The final sentence had been given early that afternoon.

To my astonishment and relief I found my friend perfectly calm and resigned. But this could not lessen the tenderness and intensity of feeling on either part during that last interview of almost an hour.

Her first words to me were upon a matter concerning herself personally, but the solemn asseveration which accompanied them was made expressedly in the light of God and eternity. She then added that she wished all her friends to know that she willingly gave her life for her country, and said : " I have no fear nor shrinking ; I have seen death so often that it is not strange or fearful to me."

She further said : " I thank God for this ten weeks' quiet before the end. Life has always been hurried and full of difficulty. This time of rest has been a great mercy. They have all been very kind to me here. But this I would say, standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

We partook of the Holy Communion together, and she received the Gospel message of consolation with all her heart. At the close of the little service I began to repeat the words " Abide with me," and she joined softly in the end.

We sat quietly talking until it was time for me to go. She gave me parting messages for relations and friends. She spoke of her soul's

needs at the moment, and she received the assurance of God's Word as only the Christian can do.

Then I said " Good-bye," and she smiled and said, " We shall meet again."

The German military chaplain was with her at the end, and afterward gave her Christian burial.

He told me : " She was brave and bright to the last. She professed her Christian faith, and that she was glad to die for her country. She died like a heroine."

### PITCHED INTO A PRISONER'S GRAVE.

After her death application was made to the authorities that her body might be exhumed and given over for burial to the Nursing School of which she was Matron, but this request has not been granted. The fact that the sacred remains of this great Englishwoman have been pitched into a prisoner's grave is most grievous to those who knew and loved her.

### GERMAN OFFICIAL DEFENCE.

Probably the real truth of how she was executed will never be known : that she was done to death horribly and in haste is incontestable, but the German official defence states that the execution " took place entirely in accordance with established regulations, and that death occurred immediately after the first volley," and continues :—" Once and for all, the activity of our enemies has been stopped, and the sentence has been carried out to frighten those who might presume on their sex to take part in enterprises punishable with death."

An Englishwoman was selected for this sacrificial slaughter—but Fear is not the emotion which will exact just retribution for this murder.

### QUEENS SYMPATHISE WITH MOTHER.

Their Majesties the King and Queen have sent a touching letter to Mrs. Cavell, the mourning mother of the victim, and Queen Alexandra has also conveyed her sympathy and expressed her " utmost abhorrence of this crime against humanity."

### THE SERVICE AT ST. PAUL'S.

The Prime Minister, and the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and members of the Corporation, will attend the Memorial Service to be held in St. Paul's Cathedral on Friday, October 29th inst., at 12 o'clock. Seats are to be specially reserved for members of the nursing profession, for which they are to apply direct to the offices of the British Red Cross Society, 83, Pall Mall, S.W. It will be a very solemn and touching ceremony.

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