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EDITORIAL.

OUR HOLY WEEK.

Never in the history of the Empire have British women been able to enter more closely into companionship with the Queen of Sorrows as she stands at the foot of the cross, her heart riven with the sufferings of her beloved Son, yet realizing in her grief the supreme honour of being chosen, in the Divine wisdom, as the Mother of the World's Redeemer, though the anguish of the sword-thrust, which pierced her heart, as it pierced His, almost overwhelmed her.

So do those women feel, including the members of the nursing profession, who have agonized over the sufferings of our Army during the past week, while they have thrilled with pride and gratitude for the glorious qualities of the British soldier, in the clash of arms between the knightly Briton and the barbarous German hordes. No woman need have been on the spot to realize, in the immortal phrase of Napier, "with what a strength and majesty the British soldier fights" in support of the ideals of the free nations of the world. But it has been the high privilege of nurses to be brought into close touch with gallant men of all ranks in our Army, as behind the lines they wait, as St. Veronica of old, to mitigate the suffering of those who pass along their Via Dolorosa. All our thoughts, and all our prayers, have been with these heroes day and night during the awful battle raging on the Western Front.

The King's telegram to Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig well expresses the feeling of the British people—

THE KING'S MESSAGE.

I can assure you that the fortitude, courage, and self-sacrifice with which the troops under your command continue so heroically to resist greatly superior numbers are realized by me and my people.

The Empire stands calm and confident in its soldiers. May God bless and give them strength in this time of trial.

George R.I.

And President Wilson's inspiring message, expressing "the perfect confidence which all Americans feel" that we shall "win and secure final victory," is welcome evidence of the feeling from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

In following the advice of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the nation will find inspiration and consolation. His Grace writes:—

"BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST JESUS,

We have entered upon our Holy Week. We are recalling the supreme sacrifice in the history of mankind: the suffering of the world's Redeemer: the uplifted Cross, and, after these, the Easter victory. We recall it year by year in prayer and thanksgiving, in self-surrender and resolve. But this is not like other years.

We have come this very week to a vital moment in the world war. Our hearts are full. The peril strengthens us in firm-knit purpose and stern resolve that, God helping us, the cause of righteousness and truth, the cause of liberty and future peace, shall not at our hands suffer loss: that the blood of our dearest and most honoured shall not have been spilt in vain, but shall be the seed of fresh life to the peoples of the world.

Let this week; then, send us daily, hourly, to our knees. Unite, I urge you, in prayer and sacrament. Unite in steady confident reliance upon the supreme guidance, the promised blessing, of our living Lord. Pray to Him for victory. To Him, in time and in eternity, we commit, with unflinching hope, the brave men whom, in love and trust, we have sent forth."

So when Easter Day dawns shall its peace, even in the midst of strife, brood over a sorrowful world.

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