

TRIAL OF EDITH CAVELL.

It was a crowded and thrilled audience that gathered on Friday, May 16th, at the Queen's Hall to listen to Monsieur Gaston de Leval on "The Trial of Edith Cavell."

It will be remembered that he was the member of the American Legation at Brussels who did his uttermost to save her life.

Miss Cavell, he said, was a national heroine, who did more for her country in dying than many generals have done by living. A woman without rank, her funeral was unequalled in history. To

death in the most strenuous efforts to save her. "We could find out *nothing*," he said, referring to the secrecy which surrounded the proceedings.

On the day preceding her death, he had a "nervous feeling"—he knew not why or for what. He telephoned to the German Legation. "Always the same answer—no judgment pronounced yet." His presage of ill was so insistent that he prepared a plea for pardon.

At 5.30 he again telephoned. "No, sir, no judgment yet, probably it will be given to-morrow."

At 4 o'clock—an hour-and-a-half before this false statement—Edith Cavell had been sum-



HONOURING THE GREAT DEAD.—
SAILORS, SOLDIERS, AND NURSES IN THE PROCESSION AT THE HOMECOMING OF EDITH CAVELL.

the English she was a symbol of devotion to duty and of the Christian spirit, but to the Belgians she was something more—she was a link between them and England. She was an example to the whole world of what an Englishwoman can do. She had risked her life that the army should grow stronger, and the soldiers she had helped, bore her to her last abode.

To a deeply sympathetic audience, M. de Leval read the letter written two days before her death to her pupil-nurses, and which shows that she anticipated the extreme penalty.

The now familiar details of her arrest and trial took on a new significance when related by M. de Leval, who had spent the terrible time of her trial and the time immediately preceding her

moned from her cell with her fellow-prisoners, and Stoeber, "elegant, smiling, almost happy," read over the various sentences. For Edith Cavell, sentence of death. In the words of one of her fellow-prisoners, who recorded the incidents, she was leaning against the wall, pale, trembling, but very straight. Asked if she would not make a plea for her life, she refused with a smile, saying: "I am English; they want my life." M. de Leval told his breathless audience of the nurse who came to him with the news of the death sentence and of his own exclamation, "Impossible." He told of his visit to the German Legation, only to find Baron von der Lancken out at a place of amusement of no great repute; and of his message to M. de Leval that he would come to speak with him

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