

Etaples know that its distinctive feature is the number of Dominion soldiers who lie buried there, each Dominion having its own plot. This was one of the cemeteries honoured by a visit from the King, who was met by the High Commissioners for Canada, New Zealand, Newfoundland, and in the case of Australia and South Africa by their representatives. Later His Majesty visited the unique cemetery near Wimereux, named Meerut, where the bodies, or ashes, of Indian soldiers are interred, with the distinctive marks of Hindus, Mahomedans and Sikhs on the headstones of their graves.

So rest the sons of every portion of the British Empire, their graves lovingly cared for, in cemeteries beautified by flowers, honoured by their King and country, honoured by the people who have generously ensured that they shall rest in soil that is "for ever England," the while "their name liveth for evermore."

The beautiful wreath laid by the King at the foot of the Cross of Sacrifice in the cemetery at Terlincthun was shaped as a lyre, and made of laurel, palm, and crimson roses. Having placed it, His Majesty stood at salute, and then, turning, he delivered the following memorable Address, facing the Stone of Remembrance, fittingly draped with the Union Jack:—

#### THE KING'S ADDRESS.

"For the past few days I have been on a solemn pilgrimage in honour of a people who died for all free men. At the close of that pilgrimage, on which I followed ways already marked by many footsteps of love and pride and grief, I should like to send a message to all who have lost those dear to them in the great war, and in this the Queen joins me to-day amidst these surroundings so wonderfully typical of that single-hearted assembly of nations and of races which form our Empire. For here, in their last quarters, lie sons of every portion of that Empire, across, as it were, the threshold of the Mother Island, which they guarded that freedom might be saved in the uttermost ends of the earth.

"For this, a generation of our manhood offered itself without question, and almost without the need of a summons. Those proofs of virtue, which we honour here to-day, are to be found throughout the world and its waters—since we can truly say that the whole circuit of the earth is girdled with the graves of our dead. Beyond the stately cemeteries of France, across Italy, through Eastern Europe, in well-nigh unbroken chain, they stretch, passing over the holy Mount of Olives itself to the farthest shores of the Indian and Pacific Oceans—from Zeebrugge to Coronel, from Dunkirk to the hidden wildernesses of East Africa.

#### A TRIED AND GENEROUS FRIEND.

"But in this fair land of France, which sustained the utmost fury of the long strife, our brothers are numbered, alas! by hundreds of thousands. They lie in the keeping of a tried and generous friend, a resolute and chivalrous comrade-in-arms, who, with ready and quick sympathy has set aside for ever the soil in which they sleep, so that we ourselves and our descendants may for all time reverently tend and preserve their resting-places. And here, at Terlincthun, the shadow of his monument falling almost across their graves, the greatest of French soldiers—of all soldiers—stands guard over them. And this is just, for side by side with the descendants of his incomparable armies, they defended his land in defending their own.

"Never before in history have a people thus dedicated and maintained individual memorials to their fallen, and, in the course of my pilgrimage, I have many times asked myself whether there can be more potent advocates of peace upon earth through the years to come than this massed multitude of silent witnesses to the desolation of war. And I feel that, so long as we have faith in God's purposes, we cannot but believe that the existence of these visible memorials will, eventually, serve to draw all peoples together in sanity and self-control, even as it has already set the relations between our Empire and our Allies on the deep-rooted bases of a common heroism and a common agony.

#### EQUAL IN SACRIFICE ; EQUAL IN HONOUR.

"Standing beneath this Cross of Sacrifice, facing the great Stone of Remembrance, and compassed by these sternly simple headstones, we remember, and must charge our children to remember, that, as our dead were equal in sacrifice, so are they equal in honour, for the greatest and least of them have proved that sacrifice and honour are no vain things, but truths by which the world lives.

"Many of the cemeteries I have visited in the remoter and still desolate districts of this sorely-stricken land, where it has not yet been possible to replace the wooden crosses by headstones, have been made into beautiful gardens which are lovingly cared for by comrades of the war. I rejoice I was fortunate enough to see these in the spring, when the returning pulse of the year tells of unbroken life that goes forward in the face of apparent loss and wreckage; and I fervently pray that, both as nations and individuals, we may so order our lives after the ideals for which our brethren died that we may be able to meet their gallant souls once more, humbly, but unashamed."

At the Stone of Remembrance the King and Queen were saluted by the French colours, dipped by soldiers of the 117th Regiment, and here the Queen laid a wreath of deep red and purple carnations on a ground of "rosemary for remembrance."

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)