

These illusions—and the illusion of Hitler as an anti-Bolshevik crusader—have now been swept away; but after their long and disastrous persistence it is very necessary that Britain's mood and purpose in the war should be given authoritative expression in words which can be trusted to carry weight wherever they are heard or read. This is what Mr. Churchill's speech has done; and the impression it has evidently made in America is particularly timely, for there is no doubt that President Roosevelt's efforts to secure repeal of the arms embargo Act have been gravely hampered by a widespread suspicion among the American people that Britain and France were, even now, not wholly in earnest in their struggle against Hitlerism and its pernicious fruits. President Roosevelt himself has for long perceived clearly the true character of the Nazi régime, and, so far as his position allowed, he has warned the world against it. But the hesitations and wishful thinking of democratic statesmen, and above all their reluctance to speak out boldly, in terms of honest indignation, against the cruelties and treacheries of Hitlerism, have given American sentiment little encouragement to rally behind President Roosevelt in his far-sighted attitude towards European events.

But the ideals of democracy and freedom are world-wide in their appeal, and in Mr. Churchill they have at last found eloquent voice. He has shown that we need not wait apathetically for Hitler's next speech or his next "surprise move." Our sailors have gained us ascendancy at sea; our soldiers are risking their lives to gain us ascendancy on land, and our airmen, in the air. But there is another ascendancy, no less important, which we must make our own. We must secure ascendancy also on the air, meeting the insistent and resourceful radio propaganda of Germany with utterances, such as Mr. Churchill's, which, without rhetoric, but with the warmth of profound conviction, will carry across frontiers and oceans an affirmation of Britain's faith in the justice of her cause and her determination to prosecute it to the end.

### THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.

The King and Queen went to St. Paul's to join in the National Day of Prayer on October 1st.

From the pulpit the Dean, Dr. W. R. Matthews, offered special prayers for the King and Government and for the Fighting Forces. He said too a prayer for all serving in the King's forces by sea, land, or in the air, and another for the sick and wounded, on whichever side they were fighting. He prayed God grant victory to the Allied arms and to hasten the day when war shall cease in all the world. Many nurses attended this inspiring service and came away greatly refreshed.

Dean Matthews did not shirk reference to the prevalence of evil and reminded the congregation that

"In this great crisis of world history we begin to know by experience what men meant when they spoke of demonic power. We see hatred, lying, treachery and calculated cruelty dominating men's minds, sweeping men's lives, and directing whole populations.

"These evil principles of destruction are raised to the dignity of a cult and idealism, so that there are

men to-day who find a horrible spiritual satisfaction in cruelty, hatred and treachery.

"We are confronted by men possessed. Though it seems we have rarely had fewer friends who dared to come out on our side, never have we been so plainly fighting for the freedom of all peace-loving countries.

"Poland was only the latest example of triumphant wrong, and we knew that the spirit which fought against tyranny and oppression would ultimately prevail.

"We stand against a system based on one gigantic lie, that of the natural superiority of the so-called German race, and its alleged inherent right to dominate others, against a system which makes perfidy a policy which destroys all law and right, not only between nations but for individuals, a system and a Government which has hardened its heart on principle, and which lives by secret police, secret tortures, and concentration camps."

In Westminster Cathedral, Cardinal Hinsley attended a Solemn High Mass for the victory of the Allies.

### COMMANDANT-IN-CHIEF OF WOMEN'S SERVICES.

#### THE QUEEN'S WAR APPOINTMENTS.

The King, it was announced in the *London Gazette*, has approved the appointment of Her Majesty the Queen as Commandant-in-Chief of Women's Royal Naval Service, Commandant-in-Chief, Auxiliary Territorial Service, and Commandant-in-Chief, Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

### QUEEN MARY SENDS SPECIAL GREETINGS TO NURSES.

Queen Mary praises the courage women have shown in response to the national call, and sends her special greetings to nurses in a message she sent recently from Marlborough House.

"I wish to express my admiration at the way my countrywomen have come forward in their thousands to give their help in the present emergency," she says.

"The Queen, my dear daughter-in-law, has told me of the wonderful spirit, enterprise, and courage shown on all sides, of which she has found ample proof in her visits to the various centres.

"I send a special greeting to nurses, particularly to those belonging to the services of which I am the president—the Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and the Territorial Army Nursing Service.

#### Merciful Work.

"At the same time my daughter, the Princess Royal, asks me to join with her in sending greetings to all members of Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service.

"I am mindful, also, of the invaluable work of the Queen's Nurses, who are exceptionally busy now in the reception areas.

"It is my constant prayer that God's blessing may be on the merciful work of all nurses throughout the Empire."

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