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EDITORIAL.

THE KING AND HIS PEOPLES.

"WE COULD NOT DECLINE GERMAN CHALLENGE WITHOUT DISHONOUR."

Parliament was prorogued on November 23rd. The King's Speech, as follows, will, we have no doubt, be acclaimed throughout the Empire.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS :

The shadow of war has once more fallen over Europe. Despite the efforts of my Government to preserve peace, Germany, in violation of her solemn undertakings, wantonly invaded Poland. This new instance of German aggression and bad faith was a challenge which we could not have declined without dishonour to ourselves, and without peril to the cause of freedom and the progress of mankind.

We seek no material gain. Liberty and free institutions are our birthright which we, like our forefathers, are resolved to preserve.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS :

I thank you for your ready acceptance of the heavy financial burdens rendered necessary as a contribution towards meeting the severe expense of war. So prompt and ungrudging a response has deeply impressed the world and demonstrates the unflinching determination of my people to make every sacrifice necessary for victory.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS :

The issue is clear. With united will my peoples here and overseas have dedicated themselves to the struggle. The spontaneous decision of my Dominions to participate in the conflict and the invaluable help which they are giving, and are about to give, to the common cause have been of the greatest encouragement to me. With the aid of our faithful French and Polish allies we cannot doubt that our cause will prevail.

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your labours.

ROYAL OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The King, accompanied by the Queen, opened the first war-time session of Parliament in person on November 28th. The ceremony was not performed in State.

His Majesty read his speech and referred with pride to the Fighting Forces as follows :

Throughout the world my Navies, together with the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets, are keeping free and open the highways of the sea.

At home, in France and in all stations overseas, my Armies and Air Forces are fulfilling their tasks. I am well assured that they will be equal to any efforts and sacrifices to which they may be called.

I pray that Almighty God will give His blessing to your counsel.

We are privileged to have the issue of war so nobly set before us by our King ; the only King, mind you, who has gone forth to War at this crisis for conscience sake. That is a grievous thought, that the Crowned Heads in this world are not apparently alive to the peril to the cause of freedom of German and Russian aggression, resulting in ruthless massacre and rapine.

We turn from the futility of neutrality and thank God that with sword in hand our noble King George VI is out to slay the dragon of despotism which would crush the soul of man throughout the world.

GOD'S CHIVALRY.

The Governor-General of Canada, Lord Tweedsmuir, addressing Canadian women at Toronto on the same date, pleaded for the revival of the Christian faith and morality which were now challenged. He said the present contest was not between armies and navies like bygone wars, but between peoples, and the steady maintenance of the national moral would make victory certain. His closing words were " Let us remember that in this fight we are God's chivalry."

Chivalry, the mediæval system of knighthood, defined the qualifications of a knight as—bravery, nobleness, courtesy, and respect for womanly dignity and chastity.

We Nurses may claim to belong to " God's Chivalry," Let us ever remember its noble definition in our work in War.

THE KING IN FRANCE WITH HIS ARMY IN THE FIELD.

Early this week His Majesty set foot on the soil of France on a surprise visit to His Army in the Field. Through rough weather, fine sailor as he is, his battleship, flying the Royal Standard at its masthead, escorted by destroyers, with air craft flying overhead, the King stood on the bridge all the way regardless of the storm.

Close by, when the King stepped on shore, a French dispatch ship hoisted the ensign and the officers and men manned ship. The King was piped ashore while British officers and men lined the rails.

All the Army knows and rejoices that the King will go to the advance positions, where life and death stand hand in hand.

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