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EDITORIAL.

MAN OF DESTINY.

In War, Resolution. In Defeat, Defiance. In Victory, Magnanimity. In Peace, Good-will.

Those of us who realised that sooner or later the struggle in Europe would be to the death, have resented the exclusion from high office in politics, in recent years, of the Man of Destiny—Winston Churchill. Happily, public feeling has been too strong for further opposition from the more timorous; and he will, as our inspired Premier, guide us to victory.

It is well to see ourselves as others see us; and the *New York Times*, in a leading article on Mr. Churchill, "Man of Destiny," says:—

"Seldom has the English-speaking world been so moved by public utterance as it is now moved by the great speeches of Winston Churchill. Their candour, simplicity, and resolution give them stature. In every corner of the British Empire men have come to feel that out of the crucible of experience in victory and defeat, of acclaim and bitter criticism, Mr. Churchill has emerged as a man fit to voice the dauntless spirit of a free people.

It is no sudden leap of fortune that has brought together the man and his mission. From the time of the South African War Mr. Churchill has been thinking and talking and acting with a great deal of consistency, as the written record proves. It is interesting now to look back over some of these earlier writings. In his book 'A Roving Commission,' published in 1939, he said that the leader of a nation that goes to war

must realise that once the signal is given he is no longer the master of policy but the slave of unforeseeable and uncontrollable events. Antiquated war offices, weak, incompetent, or arrogant commanders, untrustworthy allies, hostile neutrals, malignant fortune, ugly surprises, awful miscalculations—all take their seats at the council board.

What prophecy more truly could forecast the difficulties with which Mr. Churchill has had to deal in the present conflict?

With Lord Halifax and other British leaders, Mr. Churchill has been held up by Hitler and his crew as the arch-enemy of Germany, who would dismember her should she lose the war. Yet in the same volume of a decade ago the Prime Minister eloquently advocated generosity for a beaten enemy, saying: 'I have always urged fighting wars and other contentions with might and main till overwhelming victory, and then offering

the hand of friendship to the vanquished.' He continued:—

I was once asked to devise an inscription for a monument in France. I wrote, 'In war, Resolution. In defeat, Defiance. In victory, Magnanimity. In peace, Good-will.'

These are gallant words, from the leader of a gallant people."

THE NEW GEORGE ORDER.

The King, in his recent broadcast, announced that he had created a new "George Order," ranking next to the Victoria Cross. The King said he had created these new decorations as a "mark of honour for men and women in all walks of civilian life."

There is a small military division of the Cross to permit of its award to members of the fighting Services who have performed acts coming within the terms of the warrant.

GEORGE CROSSES AND MEDALS.

First Awards.

The first awards of the George Cross—ranking next to the Victoria Cross—go to:—

LIEUTENANT ROBERT DAVIES, Royal Engineers, leader of the bomb squad which saved St. Paul's Cathedral; SAPPER GEORGE CAMERON WYLIE, who actually discovered the one-ton bomb; and THOMAS HOPPER ALDERSON, a part-time A.R.P. worker and detachment leader of rescue parties at Bridlington, "for sustained gallantry, enterprise, and devotion to duty during enemy air raids."

George Medal.

Three women are among the first 14 recipients of the medal. They are:—

MRS. DOROTHY CLARKE, an ambulance driver, Aldeburgh.

MRS. BESSIE JANE HEPBURN, an ambulance attendant, Aldeburgh.

MISS SONIA VERA CARLYLE STRAW, an air-raid warden, of Caterham.

The 11 men who receive the medal are:—

ERNEST HERBERT HARMER, Executive Chief Officer, Dover Fire Brigade.

CYRIL WILLIAM ARTHUR BROWN, Second Officer of the Dover Fire Brigade.

ALEXANDER EDMUND CAMPBELL, Section Officer of the Dover Auxiliary Fire Service.

GEORGE ARCHIBALD HOWE, manager, Shell Mex and B.P., Ltd.

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