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## EDITORIAL.

### THE KING'S MESSAGE.

#### TIME FOR A NEW RESOLVE.

#### CALL TO PRAYER AND DEDICATION.

The following message was broadcast by the King on June 6th, and it will be well that we should take it to heart:—

Four years ago, our Nation and Empire stood alone against an overwhelming enemy, with our backs to the wall. Tested as never before in our history, in God's providence we survived that test; the spirit of the people, resolute, dedicated, burned like a bright flame, lit surely from those Unseen Fires which nothing can quench.

Now once more a supreme test has to be faced. This time the challenge is not to fight to survive, but to fight to win the final victory for the good cause. Once again what is demanded from us all is something more than courage and endurance; we need a revival of spirit, a new unconquerable resolve. After nearly five years of toil and suffering, we must renew that crusading impulse on which we entered the war and met its darkest hour. We and our Allies are sure that our fight is against evil and for a world in which goodness and honour may be the foundation of the life of men in every land.

That we may be worthily matched with this new summons of destiny, I desire solemnly to call my people to prayer and dedication. We are not unmindful of our own shortcomings, past and present. We shall ask not that God may do our will, but that we may be enabled to do the will of God; and we dare to believe that God has used our Nation and Empire as an instrument for fulfilling his high purpose.

I hope that throughout the present crisis of the liberation of Europe there may be offered up earnest, continuous, and widespread prayer. We who remain in this land can most effectively enter into the sufferings of subjugated Europe by prayer, whereby we can fortify the determination of our sailors, soldiers, and airmen who go forth to set the captives free.

The Queen joins with me in sending you this message. She well understands the anxieties and cares of our womenfolk at this time and she knows that many of them will find, as she does herself, fresh strength and comfort in such waiting

upon God. She feels that many women will be glad in this way to keep vigil with their menfolk as they man the ships, storm the beaches, and fill the skies.

At this historic moment surely not one of us is too busy, too young, or too old to play a part in a nation-wide, perchance a world-wide, vigil of prayer as the great crusade sets forth. If from every place of worship, from home and factory, from men and women of all ages and many races and occupations, our intercessions arise, then, please God, both now and in a future not remote, the predictions of an ancient Psalm may be fulfilled: "The Lord will give strength unto his people: the Lord will give his people the blessing of peace."

#### "A SOLDIER—HIS PRAYER."

#### 8TH ARMY POEM FOUND IN BATTLE.

During the campaign which ended so triumphantly in Tunis, in response to a competition for the best poems composed by men in the Forces, of the poems sent in, 27 have now been selected for publication in one volume. "All," says the Daily Telegraph, "are worthy of reproduction; but the choicest flower of this coronal of verse is the last." "A Soldier—His Prayer." It is anonymous, for the scrap of paper on which it was written fluttered into the hands of a soldier sheltering in a slit trench during the battle of El Agheila, from which we quote the following verses.

*"Stay with me, God, the night is dark,  
The night is cold; my little spark  
Of courage dies. The night is long,  
Be with me, God, and make me strong.*

*I love a game, I love a fight;  
I hate the dark; I love the light;  
I love my child; I love my wife.  
I am no coward, I love Life.*

*Dear God, that nightmare road, and then  
That sea—we got there . . . we were men,  
My eyes were blind, my feet were torn.  
My soul sang like a bird at dawn!*

*Help me, O God, when death is near,  
To mock the haggard face of fear.  
That when I fall—if fall I must—  
My soul may triumph in the Dust.*

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