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## Editorial Notes and Comment

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ROMAN CATHOLICS are trying to outdo the Y. M. C. A. in getting a hold upon the American soldiers in France. Thus far, notwithstanding some reports to the contrary, they have not succeeded in doing much along this line. They have been unable to attract any large numbers to their religious services, according to the best information we have received on the subject. In their amusement features they have not been able to compete with the Association. Now our Government has turned over to the Y. M. C. A. all of its canteen work, which means that the Association is to run all the stores, which the soldiers have been accustomed to run for themselves, and in this way give the soldiers the opportunity to buy whatever they want, that the Government does not supply them. This is naturally making the Y. huts more popular than ever. The Roman Catholics, to offset this tendency of the men to visit the Y. huts, are proposing to raise in this country \$50,000,000 with which to furnish the Knights of Columbus buildings with immense quantities of tobacco, cigarettes, chocolate, candy, soft drinks and other articles that a soldier would like to have. These are to be given away free of charge to any soldier who wants them in any quantity that he may desire. It is of course an effort to bribe the men to go to these buildings, and to make an impression upon them that the Roman Catholic Church is doing so much for them. Leaving out of consideration the fact that this is largely propaganda work, it will certainly be injurious to the soldiers. An unlimited supply of cigarettes, soft drinks, candy, etc., will not be of any physical benefit to the soldiers. Moreover, why should our soldiers be treated as paupers? They all have as much money to spend as they need for luxuries. They will be much better off if they pay for them. No doubt many Protestants will be appealed to for contributions to this fund. Better give what you can to the Y. M. C. A., which is doing more than any other agency ever has done or can do for the physical, moral and spiritual welfare of the soldiers, who are fighting our battles for us.

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ROMAN CATHOLIC claims in regard to the leading men of the present war were mentioned in this paper a few weeks ago. We find that we did not have a full list of those whom that Church's editors are claiming as "Catholic heroes of the war." They are now claiming General Joffre, of the French Army, and General Pershing, in command of the American Army. General Joffre is an elder in the French Presbyterian Church, and when General Pershing left this country he was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. If he has joined the Catholic Church since going to

France, we have not heard of it. It seems strange that the leaders of any Church should try to boost their Church by making such claims as these. Their statements will be believed by many of their readers, who will not see any correction of them; but their Church will not gain anything by such a course in the minds of truth-loving people.

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SCHOOL days will soon be here. We wonder if all the parents in the land are making every possible effort to send their children to school. Our President and all those connected with the Government are urging that this shall be done. The temptation to let boys and girls go into business at this time is twofold. It is urged that patriotism requires every one to work. But the best work that the boys and girls can do is to prepare themselves for the great work and responsibility of the coming days. The other temptation is the high wages and salaries that are being offered even inexperienced workers at this time. But it should be remembered that what may seem large pay now will not mean that large pay will always be secured. It is the trained and educated man or woman who commands increasing pay as the years go by. Parents, send your children to school for their own sake and for the sake of the country.

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LETTERS such as this bring pleasure and gratitude to the heart of editors: "I enclose remittance of four dollars for renewal of my subscription for one year, and for you to furnish the paper to some deserving person unable to pay for it. I have been a diligent reader of your excellent paper and its predecessors ever since I could read. I love the paper and I want to be the means of some other person getting the benefit of it. It is worth much more than the subscription price." There are many men in our Church who are just as able to do this as the man who wrote this letter. If they could read some of the letters that come to us, some of them from preachers, saying that the writers must give up the paper because they are not able to pay for it, we believe there would be many who would take advantage of this opportunity of doing good.

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FOREIGN MISSIONS has always made large returns to the business world, and now it is making returns to the military world. It has not been very long since the Island of Madagascar was inhabited only by savages. Foreign missions changed the people, and now they are sending help to fight the war for righteousness, and Christian people working for the welfare of the armies are trying in turn to give them more of the gospel. There are thirty thousand troops from Madagascar

in France, and of these ten thousand are said to be Protestant Christians who have been won to Christianity through foreign missions. The Red Triangle workers in France are serving these Malagasy (or Malgaches, as they are called in France) and are most heartily received, especially by the Christians. A secretary working in a French foyer du soldat, the equivalent of the American Y. M. C. A. hut, has recently reported: "This camp is only in the making, but it is destined to be a very important place and will serve many kinds of troops, among them the Malgaches, and it was with these that my first evening was passed. A platform was made in the rear from tables, and from this the French director, the lieutenant of the troops, Mr. Charlton and I looked into the sea of black faces. These curious faces, with their great rolling white eyes and smiling lips, presented a mind picture which I will always carry. The foyer presented them with two concertinos and a drum and volunteers were called, amid cheers, to play. Here is where their natural ability was felt, for they sent forth a harmony that was original, emphatically original Malgach. Mr. Charlton gave a little speech, setting forth the purpose of America in the war, our friendship for France and the aim of the foyer among the troops. This was translated by the little French director into a literary Malgach which sounded to us like hot mush and a gargle of vinegar, but they applauded him heartily, so we passed on it as O. K."

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CHAPLAINS in the army are very much needed, and it is proposed in some quarters that the requirements be so modified that any man who is endorsed by his Church may be appointed to this office. This does not seem wise to us. It might be all right so far as some churches are concerned. But it would be too easy to let the bars down and have men appointed who are not suitable for such a high office. In the army the chaplain is the only man who stands as the representative of the Church, and it is very important that the Church should be well represented. Besides this the chaplain is the only man who can administer the sacraments, and if unordained men are appointed to this office, they would not be able to render this service. It is taking a great many of our pastors and it will take many more to fill the positions in the army and navy, and this means that many of the churches at home will be without pastors. It will be far better to have an unordained man to supply a church at home than to send him out as chaplain. Besides this, there are many ministers in this country who are not now in the pastorate. The churches should use them. They are well trained and many of them are strong efficient men. Our own Church has hundreds of such men.