

# SISTERS TELL OF ADVENTURES ON BATTLEFIELDS OF EUROPEAN WAR

## Madame Foret and Madame Gannon Relate Thrilling Incidents of Occupation of Tournay by the German Troops—Wandered Seven Days.

Spending several weeks in Belgium in the very heart of the conflict now waging between the powers of Europe Madame Monk, Madame Gannon and Madame Foret, of St. Genevieve's college of this city, returned to Asheville Friday, after passing through experiences never to be forgotten. The sisters, who have been attached to the Asheville convent for several years, stated that many times during their stay in Europe they had grave doubts of ever being able to return to the United States. Madame Foret and Madame Gannon received a representative of The Citizen and gave an interesting account of their adventures from the time they left Asheville last June until they returned last Friday.

"For seven days we wandered around over Belgium unable to get a seaport where we could take a ship for America," exclaimed Madame Foret, "and at the end of that time we found ourselves back in Tournay, from which place we had started. Surrounded by peace and quiet in this country one cannot imagine the terror of the struggle over there. We prayed constantly and I am sure that when we have finished telling you of our escape you will be a firm believer in prayer."

"After leaving St. Genevieve's in June, I went to France to see my people, while Madame Gannon went to Ireland to pay her home place a visit. This was before any rumors of war had been spread abroad and all was peace and quiet. After remaining at the place of my birth I joined the other sisters at the mother house, the home of our order, in Tournay and reached that place just about the time the first rumors of the approaching strife appeared in the newspapers."

**No Alarm Felt.**  
"At first no one credited there and all seemed to think that Germany was not in earnest. It was thought that the whole affair would have a peaceful ending and no alarm was felt. Then the troops began to mobilize and we felt that we should be starting toward our home country. However, every one assured us that we had plenty of time and that even if war were declared it would be months before the Germans could possibly hope to reach Tournay, if they ever accomplished the task. War was declared and we again expressed the thought that we had better start, and again it was insisted that there was plenty of time. A small garrison of French troops arrived in the city and no one seemed to think there was much danger, although we received constant reports that the Germans were advancing."

"We had prepared to leave on a certain day when the day before the French troops left hurriedly and we were told that the bridges had been blown up so that we could take no train out of Tournay. As the French soldiers marched by on the streets they waved to their acquaintances and exclaimed that they were only going away for a short time and would be back for the dance on the morrow. All day long we heard reports that the Germans were approaching but they did not really come to the city for many hours. We knew by this time that we had been foolish for not leaving several days earlier for we feared that it might be months before we could get away."

**Troops Seen.**  
"At last the German troops did come into view across the river. They had little or no opposition in coming into the town for the French soldiers were few, the general in command having failed to send reinforcements. One of the sisters on the lookout for the arrival of the Germans gave the warning that some soldiers had entered the street in front of the mother house. Peeping through the blinds we could see that the stripes on their trousers were green and we knew they were not French but the dreaded Germans."

"A short time after that we were all gathered together in the afternoon when a thunderous knocking on the front door scared the wits out of most of us and running to the entrance we found that several of the German soldiers had broken some of the glass and were demanding admittance. When the door was opened we were told that they were looking for French soldiers that were reported to be stopping there. The reply was made that some French nuns were there but that it was not known that the Germans were making war on women. When the soldiers found that no French soldiers were in the house they departed and promised immunity to the mother house when they learned that some of the nuns were from Germany."

"They wrote on the windows that the house must be spared by other Germans, but for fear that the French and Belgians might misunderstand this we rubbed that out and wrote in German, French and English the words, 'school for girls,' as all armies are supposed to respect such institutions."

**Actual Fighting.**  
"The next day there was fighting all around us and a terrible thing happened in the convent of the Sacred Heart, which was situated just across the street from us. The mother superior and a nun were hanging a mattress over a window to keep out the noise of the battle when stray bullets entering the window killed both of them. The nun fell dead instantly, while the mother superior was able to walk to the stairway, where she died in the arms of her sister. Her last words were, 'Let us be thankful that it is only I.' She did not know that the other had been killed at her feet."

"After the battle was over a poor woman went on the field to attend some of the French wounded and the German soldiers shot her. After that no one would dare attend any of the wounded Frenchmen and we were told that the German soldiers were taking their pistols and murdering the French wounded on the field of battle where they had fallen. We were told also of French soldiers who were left on the streets to die and no one would dare to help them although they would raise their hands to the houses in entreaty."

"Tournay was like a dead city after it was occupied by the Germans. Only a few people moved about the streets and for two days none of us left the mother house. On the third day it was reported that the Germans had gone from the city and it was true. It was then that we determined to leave, with the idea of going to Havre, where we had passage on the La France. After a time we secured a carriage and while a great crowd gathered to see us leave, the first that had dared to cross the road since the Germans left, we set out on our seven days of wandering. We drove to Lille, where we found that the station was locked and no trains were leaving. For a time we were at a loss to know what to do but when we were told that trains are running from St. Pol to Paris, we secured conveyance to that place."

**Purchased Tickets.**  
"We were able to get in the station at St. Pol and we purchased six tickets for Paris, thinking that our troubles were over. You may imagine our consternation when the station master made the announcement that no one could ride on the trains but the French soldiers who were being hurried away. We stated that we were willing to ride with the soldiers but he could not allow it and we were thankful afterward when we heard that the train had run into the midst of a great battle."

"There we were in St. Pol with no place to go and with no idea where we could secure lodging for the night. After awhile we learned where there was a convent and going there we found that it had been turned into a hospital for French wounded. However, the mother superior told us where there was a poor Franciscan orphanage and going there we were taken in for the night to sleep in the small beds used by some of the orphans."

"The next day we would have gone back to Lille and Tournay gladly but were told that the armies were fighting between St. Pol and those places, so we set out on foot to find the house of a French nobleman who would see that we were taken to Paris. We were compelled to carry our suit cases behind us and took only such bare necessities as we could carry in our hands. While we were on the way to the mansion of the nobleman, however, a meat wagon came along and in the back of it were piled our suit cases. Climbing into this we were taken to the house, where we were made at home for two days. The nobleman could not provide us with transportation to Paris, however, and giving up the idea we secured transportation to Bethune, in an effort to reach some of the seaports. This was not practical, and the best that we could do was to go from there to Lille and Tournay, making a circle back to our starting place."

**All Surprised.**  
"Everybody was greatly surprised to see us on our return and thankful that we were alive after they were given an account of our adventures. They had thought that we were well on our way to the United States."

"While we were there the Germans demanded 2,000,000 francs of the citizens of the town in order to save the city from destruction and to insure the good behavior of the citizens, carried 200 hostages away to Berlin. They told us that the hostages were compelled to eat bread and water."

"After several days of waiting we were given passports by the Spanish consul who was taking charge of the French consul's business. We secured a train for Havre and arrived there in time to get passage on the Chicago. This passage was in the steerage, which was too bad to be told about. We were given a second class cabin after the boat left, however, but the voyage was anything but pleasant."

"I cannot tell you how glad we were to get back to New York and although there was considerable delay in landing we finally changed from the steamer to the railroad and reached St. Genevieve's Friday afternoon."

**A Home Recipe For Removing Wrinkles**  
Who will blame the modern woman for trying to look as young and attractive as she reasonable can? Why should she be placed at a disadvantage in numerous ways by wearing wrinkles, if she can avoid these hateful marks of advancing age? Few women, however, know what to do effectively rid themselves of wrinkles or sagging. Most of the advertised preparations are unsatisfactory and very expensive. But a very simple and harmless home remedy, which any woman can make, will work wonders where all the patent preparations fail. Buy an ounce of powdered azoelite at any drug store. Dissolve the whole ounce in a half pint of witch hazel and use as a wash lotion. The results are practically instantaneous. Marked improvement is noticed immediately after the very first trial. Wrinkles and sagging are corrected and the face feels so refreshed and snug-like.

"After the battle was over a poor

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## TEACHERS' MEETING IS WELL ATTENDED

Board of Trade Offers Libraries for County Schools Making Best Records for Prompt Attendance.

## SECRETARY BRYAN SPEAKS TO CADETS

Talks to Students at Bingham and Invited Guests on "Faith"—Given Profound Attention.

Between 200 and 250 members of the Buncombe County Teachers' association met at the Asheville High school Saturday morning at 11 o'clock in regular monthly session. This was one of the most interesting meetings held by the teachers during the year and many matters of interest were taken up and disposed of. The course of study prescribed by the county superintendents was reviewed in sections according to teachers of primary, intermediate and high school grades.

The cadets of Bingham school were addressed yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock by Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, who is a guest at Grove Park Inn on a short vacation. The address was delivered at the auditorium of the main school building and was attended by a crowd of about 150 people, many residents of the city being invited to attend. Mr. Bryan spoke about half an hour and was given the closest attention throughout his address.

One of the most interesting matters to be taken up was the tardiness of pupils at the various schools. It is stated that many of the students have formed the habit of arriving late at the school houses and a remedy for this was the chief topic to come up for discussion. In order to increase the interest among the patrons of the schools and the teachers as well as the pupils, Secretary N. Buckner, of the Asheville Board of Trade, appeared before the meeting and offered in the name of the board of trade three libraries to the three schools making the best records for prompt attendance during the year. These three libraries are to be first, second and third prizes, the first consisting of twelve volumes, the second of eight volumes and the third of five volumes. These volumes are to be selected by the teachers of the winning schools and the county superintendent. The hope was expressed at the meeting that this generous offer will assist greatly in causing the pupils to attend the daily sessions promptly and the determination was expressed by the teachers to exert every effort to win the first prize.

Choosing as his subject, "Faith," in a simple and straightforward manner he talked of faith as indispensable to achievement, faith in one's self, faith in one's fellowmen, faith in the government and faith in God. He pointed out with strong emphasis that faith is necessary to the success of every project in the life of a man and that nothing is achieved without it.

The secretary told his audience that he liked to talk to boys and that one of the regrets of his life is that he has devoted so much to politics and so little to boys. He urged the cadets to take up an early study of God's word and practice its teachings in their daily lives.

Miss Florence Steinscher, of Brooklyn, bathing at Culver's Lake, N. J., floundered in twenty feet of water. She would have drowned had not some one thrown her an inflated automobile tire.

## NEGRO WOMAN WOUNDS OTHERS WITH KNIFE

Henrietta Rogers, colored, was arrested last night by the police charged with assault on Catherine and Mayme McLean, both colored, with a knife. She was lodged at the police station and will be tried at the morning session of the police court. According to the statements of the officers making the arrest a fight took place in that part of the city known as "Brooklyn," in the West End section. It is stated that the trouble arose when the two victims of the assault invited a "gentleman friend" of the Rogers woman, to call on them. Both women were taken to their home, 29 Brooklyn alley, the first named being in a serious condition and it is considered doubtful if she will live. The cuts inflicted on the other are not considered of a serious nature.

Big Fair Sylva, N. C., September 29-30 and October 1-2. Advt. 24

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# Young Men's Clothes

RECEIVE most attention here. Our showing of Society Brand and Sincerity Clothes at \$15 to \$30 has awakened Asheville men to their opportunities at the

# Asheville Drygoods Co.

The Sincerity Clothes Shop

## RUSSIANS OCCUPYING GREATER PORTION OF PRZEMYSL IN GALICIA

## Austrians in Critical Position in the Eastern Forts of City.

## FORTS SURROUNDED.

LONDON, Sept. 27.—"The Russians Saturday occupied the greater part of the city of Przemyśl (Galicia) according to a message from Vienna," says the Rome correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph. His dispatch continues:

"The Russians approached from

RECIPES OF OUR PIONEER MOTHERS

for the home treatment of diseases were wonderfully dependable. True, they knew nothing of drugs, but owed their success to the roots, herbs and barks of the field. It is interesting to note that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, the most successful remedy for female ills we have, was originally prepared for home use from one of these recipes. Its fame has now spread from shore to shore, and thousands of American women now well and strong claim they owe their health and happiness to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Advt.

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OCT. 15TH TO 16TH

the southwest, forcing the Austrians to take shelter in the eastern forts, where the entire garrison is preparing to make a final resistance. The situation of the garrison is critical; it is entirely surrounded.

"Russian troops are advancing from Grodek on the Austrian positions, while the right wing continues to attack on the north. These attacks are being poured into Przemyśl to press the attack from the southwest."

The Petrograd correspondent of the Daily Telegraph has forwarded the following semi-official statement, regarding operations in Russian Poland:

"The movement of German troops from East Prussia in the direction of Warsaw has come to nothing. In the government of Suwalki (Russian Poland) the Germans have suffered a serious repulse. The left flank of the Russian army has defeated troops under General von Hindenburg near Suwalki."

"At the same time our troops won a complete victory at Marjampol and the attacking Germans were thrown back ten miles across the river Scheschupa, with a loss of many guns and prisoners. On the right flank at the Niemen river the battle ended in success for us at Snedniki, where a German attempt to cross the river was repulsed with great loss."

## CALDERON MENTIONED FOR THE PRESIDENCY

## Villa's Choice is Leader of Liberal Party and Will Run at Elections.

EL PASO, Texas, Sept. 27.—Ferdinando Iglesias Calderon, the choice of General Villa for president of Mexico, some months ago was mentioned as a possibility for the presidency while in Washington, where he conferred with American officials. He is present in Mexico City. It is said, Calderon is leader of the liberal party, a political organization which allied itself with the constitutionalists in the revolution. It has been announced that he will run at the elections.

While an answer to Villa's proposal is awaited from Mexico City, the Mexican leader has not halted his movement of troops toward the opposing Carranza forces.

Villa officials today declared they had assurances that Zacatecas would be turned over to Villa's men without a fight.

It was learned that a Villa brigade was on the march into Sonora, the western border state to assist Governor Martorena in his attacks on the Carranza forces in that state.

Another strong group of Villa men are moving into Coahuila to the east.

Adams 10 cars show at Jackson County Fair, Sylva, N. C., Sept. 29-30 and Oct. 1-2. Advt. 21

Washington state requires \$3 a week minimum wages for telephone operators.

## ASSOCIATION FORMED AT TWEED'S CHAPEL

Parents Form Organization to Co-operate With Members of the Faculty of the School.

An organization which promises to play an important part in the welfare of the school is the Parents' Betterment association which recently was formed and which has as its members the parents of the students in school at Tweed's chapel. D. S. Dodson has been chosen as president of the organization and Miss Lottie Merrell has been elected secretary. Monthly meetings will be held at which various matters pertaining to the welfare of the institution will be considered. "Regular Attendance" is to be discussed at the next monthly meeting which doubtless will be well attended.

H. F. Sales is the principal of the school and Miss Lottie Merrell is the assistant. Of eighty-eight school children in the district, seventy-seven are enrolled this year and the average attendance for the past month has been seventy-three.

Parents throughout the county are organizing associations to co-operate with the teachers and it is believed that they will have excellent results.

## CITY MISSION BOARD TO MEET AT COTTAGE

In order that the members of the Woman's Board of City Missions may familiarize themselves with the work being done by the city missionary and her assistant, under the auspices of the board, the regular meeting will be held at Welfare cottage this afternoon. All members are urged to take the Patton avenue street car at 3:30 o'clock, the car being located a short distance from the end of the car line.

This afternoon's meeting promises to be one of unusual interest and importance and it is expected that a large attendance will be recorded at the gathering.

## BALE OF COTTON WILL BE BOUGHT AND STORED

The board of trade will purchase a bale of cotton within the next few days at ten cents per pound, being instructed to make the deal for Chambers & Weaver, representing the Hudson Motor Car company, of Detroit. The manufacturing concern has decided to purchase cotton throughout the south and has instructed its local representatives to make the deal at an early date.

The cotton probably will be stored at this city and it is more than likely that it will be shown at the Western North Carolina fair which is to be held here next month.