

**CARDINAL MERCIER;
PASTORALS, LETTERS,
ALLOCUTIONS, 1914-1917**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649088515

Cardinal Mercier; pastorals, letters, allocutions, 1914-1917 by Joseph F. Stillemans

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOSEPH F. STILLEMANS

**CARDINAL MERCIER;
PASTORALS, LETTERS,
ALLOCUTIONS, 1914-1917**



CARDINAL MERCIER

Pastorals, Letters, Allocutions

1914-1917

WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
AND FOREWORD

BY

REV. JOSEPH F. STILLEMANS

PRESIDENT OF THE BELGIAN RELIEF FUND



NEW YORK
P. J. KENEDY & SONS
1917

COPYRIGHT, 1917
BY P. J. KENEDY & SONS

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
FOREWORD.....	vii
CARDINAL MERCIER, BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH ...	xi
I. PATRIOTISM AND ENDURANCE	1
II. AN APPEAL TO TRUTH.....	37
III. MY RETURN FROM ROME	95
IV. FOR OUR SOLDIERS	111
V. THE VOICE OF GOD.....	123
VI. BELGIUM ENSLAVED.....	145
VII. COURAGE, MY BRETHREN!	197
VIII. CHRISTIAN VENGEANCE.....	219

FOREWORD

A THREEFOLD purpose has prompted the edition of this book. First of all to give the American people an opportunity of reading and keeping within reach the principal writings and utterances of the heroic Belgian Cardinal from the time of Belgium's invasion up to the present day. True, the American people have an unbounded admiration for Cardinal Mercier. His figure loomed up as that of a giant the day he issued his Pastoral on "Patriotism and Endurance," openly accusing and defying the invader. It is perhaps safe to say that the majority of those who read at all in America have read the first Pastoral of the Cardinal, but few have read his further writings and discourses. These, although they have not made the same impression upon the world at large, are equally energetic and noble and put forth the Cardinal as the "great man" of Belgium, in turn protesting energetically, tenderly encouraging and wisely enlightening. Cardinal Mercier did not deem his duty fulfilled after his first protest against the German invasion and the barbarous methods of the Germans. Since then he has not ceased to speak, condemning repeatedly the various kinds of cruelty and

atrocities a tragically inventive mind continues to produce. Thus he lifts up his voice "For Those in Captivity," protesting against the enslavement of the Belgians by the horrifying system of deportations. When the Germans not only deny any and all atrocities on their part, but, cynically humoristic, turn the tables and accuse the Belgians of the most abominable crimes, he sends forth a protest as forceful as conclusive, and inasmuch as these accusations are directed especially against the Belgian priests, he makes "An Appeal to Truth" in a "Letter to the Bishops of Germany, Bavaria, and Austria-Hungary." Or he strives to keep up the courage of the people by means of his Pastorals—"My Return from Rome," "Courage, my Brethren," and "The Voice of God." Undaunted by fear, he speaks to his people of their great and good King, of the heroism of their absent army, addressing them "For Our Soldiers." Courage, however, is not sufficient, nay, it is often blind. Belgium needs direction and light. Are not the subtile German doctors and the longheaded German professors trying to upset the Belgian mind and conscience? In vain do they labor. There is one watching, one always on duty; and taking as his subject several Christian virtues, but especially "Christian Vengeance," he will speak to the priests of Belgium and through the priests to the entire Belgian nation; pointing out to