# "INNOCENT PRIESTS OF NAMUR SHOT" -- FAKE PROBE IS OFFERED

BOWHEYDED

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HOFSTADE

NEVER NAN KELRBERGEN

BOORT-HEERISEBK

Cardinal Mercier Answers Inquiry by Giving Names of Clergy in His Diocese Who Had Been Put to Death by Invader.

### CARDINAL MERCIER'S STORY

Including his correspondence ith the German authorities in Belgium during the war, 1914 to 1918, edited by Professor Fernand Mayence of Louvain university and translated by the Bonedictine Monks of St. Augustine's, Ramsgate, England.

## Explanatory Comment by Professor Fernand Mayence.

tory in the incident of the pastoral letter was unsullied. He had delivered his message and revived many hearts. He had been acorded such international distinction that the German government could not lay hands upon him without insurving odium from which even the most hardened Junker would shrink. The pertinent interest of the press of the greatest of the neutral nations rendered it difficult for the invaders to resort to measures of physical vio ce on the numerous occasions when prelate expressed his patriotic

But these factors of success, which n one sense protected the cardinal, ankled in the breasts of the chiefs of both the political and military departments in Brussels. The invaders could not forgive the promulgation of the pastoral letter. The govern-or-general was fretfully anxious to unearth some fact, or, if this were impossible, to invent others, reflect-ng upon the behavior of the Belgian people under the guidance of their continue leader spiritual leader.

spiritual leader. The German authorities also as-sumed concern for "reports" of their atrocities which they knew perfectly well to be facts. By January, 1915, the stain upon the German name was dark indeed. Nations then officially neutral were aware of the barbarity of the empire. It is too much to say that either Von Bissing or Von der Lancken, who figure so prominently

foul of the accepted codes of civil-



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Archbishop's House, Malines, April 16, 1915, is Excellency Haron von Bissing,

the right to speak about it? Would anyone venture to interrogate the offended puries? Would not this be crue!? Would any one attempt is induce the winess to speak at the tisk of mak-ing known the hapless victims of a vic-bence which would, in the opinion of the mathic being upon them the stain of bring upon them the

dishonor? So far' as I am concerned, I would not dare to submit anybody to an interroga-tory on so delicate a subject and any con-fidences which have already been ex-tended to me spontaneously, or in the future will be made to me on the subject, my conacience forbids me to reveal to others.

stain of

<text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text> my conscience forbids mis to reveat to others. Our duty, your excellency, is to prevent by every means in our power the public from hodurging in such wanton and im-merat allegations: and I shall approve with all my heart any effort at represion which justice chooses to adopt with those who either of set purpose or through an unpardenable levity given these taies or spread them broadcast. But I think we cannot proceed any further without en-croaching upon the rights of conscience and without also exposing them to viola-tion.

P. A. J. No. 1874. Approximately Methods To his emimence. Cardinal Methods archibility of Maines.
I have the honor of expressing to your eminence my hearty thanks for your letter of the 16th instant.
I perfectly understand the feelings which hindered your eminence from undertaking any painful inquiry in order to anawer the questions which I had addressed to you. I had findeed no intention of exacting such as more that if, after all, these the component that if, after all, these

They Never

Shake you up!

So Convenient!

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