

Our next issue

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tions made up for a few of the humiliations I had undergone previously.

I explained to him that, as he did not possess a photograph of Rösli, he must give me instead an accurate description of her appearance, as I could hardly talk in my letters of heavenly blue eyes, when in reality they were green or black, nor could I write about a dainty little mouth, when this organ was rather an outsize, or again about the sweet little ears, in case they were like cabbage leaves. Then the colour of the hair would be of great importance, in case I should allude to golden locks, when in reality they were straight and ginger.

I also wanted to know approximately the size of Rösli, explaining that I could hardly write about her tender, slight appearance, in case she should weigh over 12 stones, also the size of her boots would be required, as I had visions to bring in the "fairy feet which had stepped into a lonely soldier's life."

These questions were very embarrassing to sergeant Röstli, and also to me. He blushed violently on several occasions; but when I, as a final shot, asked him with a piercing look whether he had ever before kissed his Rösli, he simply went purple. He flatly refused to answer, but after I had explained in so many words that this was a most important matter, as sooner or later that would have to appear in the letters, he admitted that he tried, but somehow had missed the mark. I looked at him in a sort of "how could you, sergeant" way. I also found out that Rösli was fond of dancing, and could play the piano with one finger, also that she was rather sentimental, the latter fact was important and I made up my mind to rub it in thickly.

After having devoured a bottle of Neuchâtel in honour of Rösli and the future happiness of the two lovers, I was told to depart, the sergeant explaining to me that it would not do for us to be seen together. This rather hurt my pride a little. Here was I asked to collaborate in paving the way to eternal bliss, and yet I must not be seen with the one for whom I was willing to expose some of my tenderest and innermost feelings; but with a click of my heels and a brave military salute, I drowned those feelings, and went back to the place which harboured so many disappointments. That night I could not sleep for a long time; visions of Rösli kept me awake. From the description received that night, she answered many of my longings. Was I in love with Rösli too?, I asked myself. What a disaster that would be, and for the first time since I slept with thirty-six of my comrades in the same *sanctuary* I did not mind the awful snoring of some of them. It sounded like music, it was like a symphony of love, and the last words which I whispered into a hard pillow were, "Good night, Rösli dear."

(To follow.)

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, June 27th, 1947.

We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations: A. F. Frikart, E. E. Rognon, M. Wintsch and F. Bieri.

BRUDER KLAUS CELEBRATIONS OF SWISS CATHOLICS.

Whilst in Switzerland in the presence of the Swiss President, Swiss Statesmen and Clergy, Townsmen and Farmers, young and old gathered in Sachseln and in the Flueh on the lake of Sarnen to begin the "Bruder Klausen Year" — the Swiss Catholics met on Sunday, June 1st, at the Westminster Cathedral to do honour to the new Saint.—

Following Vespers at 4 p.m. in the presence of over 1,800 people, the Very Rev. Bishop Myers, M.A., preached on the Saints Life and death, giving a complete record of Niklaus von Flue's wonderful history both as statesman, peacemaker, father and hermit. —

He compared the time of Niklaus' life with to-days troubled world and said that if only the world statesmen of to-day would listen to advice of reason and moderation, as the Swiss statesmen did at Stans to "Bruder Klaus," a better and saner world than we experience to-day would result. —

During the Benediction the Bishop recited the special prayer offered to the New Saint by the Pope during the canonisation ceremonies asking Niklaus' intercession not only for his native Switzerland but also for a christian peace for the whole world. . . .

At the subsequent "Civic meeting at the Cathedral Hall, the Swiss Minister, Dr. Paul Ruegger, thanked Bishop Myers for the impressive sermon and service. He read extracts from the Pope's address in our three national languages to the 7,000 Swiss pilgrims who had gathered in Rome on May 15th.

Mr. H. Marfurt of the S.M.S. College gave an outline of Niklaus von Flue as a Soldier, Judge and Statesman, whilst Rev. Wuerms, M.S.B., showed in word and lantern slide pictures the Saints life, his homeland, etc. Unfortunately owing to a bad black-out the pictures did not show off to great advantage.

Colonel Bon, the President of the Swiss Catholic Committss thanked all those who had worked hard to make this afternoon ceremonies and meeting possible, particularly the Chaplain, Father Lanfranchi.

J.J.B.

ALBERT FERBER (SWISS)



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