

January 10, 1918

Memorandum on Cardinal Mercier:

Mr. Walcott tells me that he impressed him profoundly as a noble, sincere and extraordinarily able man. He says your first impression in meeting him is of the spirituality of the nature; that the clasp of your hand makes you realize at once his strength. He says that there is tremendous moral resolution back of the spirituality, that he is a man of courage, judgement and firmness. He says his own first thought on seeing him was "here is a man" and that his impression was intensified as time went on. He speaks of the political complications, the contest in Belgium between the ecclesiastical and non-ecclesiastical factions.

Talked with Dr. Kellogg who speaks with unreserved enthusiasm about Mercier, and says he is one of the noblest and ablest of men. He says that Mrs. Kellogg believes him the greatest soul she has ever met. Her enthusiasm is unbounded. Kellogg speaks of the difficulty they had as a Commission with the opposing political factions in Belgium; that when he first went to see Mercier he was with one of the most radical of the leaders, a man most opposed to the Cardinal's ideas. He warned Kellogg in going that he must look out that the Cardinal was a very wiley person, but that before they were through he had succumbed thoroughly to the man's extraordinary personality.

Walcott describes him as a man of high forehead, deep-set eyes, overhanging brow. The strongest feature is his nose which is the impression one gets of the picture in Gibson's book. I spoke of the fullness of the lips and he said they are full but very firm, that the whole impression of the face strongly accentuated as it is in features is of spirituality and intelligence.

*Belgium is in your hands*

*6/27/1928 - one of the impressions  
of the war*

*MIT. Personal*