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The World Renowned Cathedral at Reims, France

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THE CATHEDRAL AT REIMS, FRANCE

Before us, marvelous in symmetry and beauty, towers the Cathedral of Reims, one of the architectural glories and historic shrines of France. During the bombardment of Reims by the Germans in September, 1914, the Cathedral suffered serious damage. Not only France but the world at large was grieved and horrified at war's wanton destruction. Such monuments as this belong to more than a particular century and are the property of more than a single city or nation. They are race products and represent the high spots of human achievement and aspiration. This conviction had perhaps never before been so generally realized and expressed as it was in those days in 1914 when the very existence of this noble edifice was in danger.

For a time it was thought the damage it had suffered was so severe as to place it be-

yond repair. Happily it has proved otherwise. Reconstruction commenced shortly after the war, in which work France was aided by American philanthropy, so that the Cathedral again presents most of its original perfect line and form.

Seven hundred years ago they were building this immense Cathedral. That was during the time of the Crusades, when religious enthusiasm was at its height and fortunes were freely devoted to church needs. Century after century the monarchs of France were crowned here. Here it was that Joan of Arc crowned Charles VII a King of France. In a church standing on this site the Frankish King Clovis, who had become a Christian convert, was baptized in the year 496 A. D.