

The Canadian Churchman

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Publisher.

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Hymns from the Book of Common Praise, compiled by Dr. Albert Ham, F.R.C.O., Organist and Director of the choir of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT.

(March 15).

Holy Communion: 242, 255, 263, 515.

Processional: 314, 318, 623, 633.

Offertory: 114, 421, 503, 654.

Children: 509, 722, 723, 731.

General: 117, 496, 560, 608.

The Outlook

Religion in Schools.

A very remarkable gathering was held last week at which a unanimous decision was arrived at to urge upon the Ontario Government the necessity for the teaching of the Scriptures in schools. The fact that the resolution was endorsed by representative Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Methodists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, and Jews, gives particular force to it, and Dr. Seath, the Superintendent of Education for the Province of Ontario, was urged to bring his recently announced scheme before the Government in the hope of securing their support for this plan of religious instruction, as well as a systematic teaching of morality. The religious lessons would consist of certain selected passages from the Bible, and the moral lessons would be taken from what is known as "The Golden Rule Series," which is now published in the United States, and would be specially adapted for Canadian use. While no religious body is committed to any definite action, the support given to the scheme was most encouraging, and if it should be brought about the results would be of great advantage to the life and progress of the Province. It is deplorable that religious divisions should prevent our uniting in teaching children the foundations of religion and morality, which are common to all, and which are also the basis of all true personal and national life. A similar work has been accomplished in the schools of New Zealand, and this united resolution gives good promise that our children in Ontario shall not much longer suffer from the absence of genuine religious teaching at the most impressionable part of their life.

A Disreputable Affair

In these words Colonel Denison, the Police Magistrate, described the revel at McConkey's Restaurant on the first day of the New Year, and in view of all the evidence it is not surprising that the license has been suspended for sixty days. As the Magistrate said: "The whole thing was a disreputable affair, a drunken revel, what they call an orgie . . . altogether the sort of conduct which should not be allowed in any respectable place." We are glad that so plain a description and so summary a treatment have been meted out, because it is only by means of such frankness and severity that there will be an alteration. Those who are desirous of maintaining and furthering the purity of our city life will be thankful that such a warning has been given.

Politics and Liquor

We had a striking illustration of the connection between politics and the drink traffic during the past week. A member of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, while charging his political opponents with forming a league with the liquor interests, was faced with a letter of his own, written to a Hotel Keepers' Association, and asking to be appointed representative of the liquor interests at a salary of \$10,000.00. No wonder that the scene is described as sensational and dramatic. But it is also deplorably sad to think that men of any political party can ally themselves to a traffic that is so detrimental to the highest interests of the community. That the letter will lead to the resignation and disappearance from public life of the member in question is only the least thing to hope. What is to be desired beyond all else is that these revelations should make it impossible for political influences to be harnessed to the drink traffic. In view of the marvellous power of the saloons all over the land it behoves our politicians to keep perfectly free, and to insist that no interest, financial or otherwise, shall ever be permitted to interfere with their duty to the community at large. All this shows, too, how essential it is for the Church to go on educating the people in the first principles of morality, and also at the same time providing information as to the ravages made by the drink traffic in all parts of the national life.

Religious Liberty in Spain

Some weeks ago we called attention to the case of a Spanish officer, who, according to the report, had been committed to prison because of his conscientious inability to be present at Mass, which as an officer he was called upon to attend. The incident was dismissed by a Roman Catholic contemporary as "faked," but we knew at the time that the case was absolutely correct. Confirmation of the accuracy is now found in the letter just addressed to the King of Spain by the World's Evangelical Alliance, in which the Alliance records its gratitude to the King "for the free pardon granted to Colonel Labrador, who, in obedience to the dictates of his conscience, felt compelled to absent himself from the Mass of the Holy Spirit, which, as a presiding officer at a court martial, he was called upon to attend." The letter goes on to notice with thankfulness "the many interventions of your Majesty to obtain for your Evangelical subjects relief from the consequences of legal disabilities." This enables us to say again that we sincerely hope our Canadian Roman Catholic friends will recognize the splendid position

they occupy in regard to perfect religious liberty, so different from the position of Protestants in Spain and other Roman Catholic countries. We must, therefore, urge the necessity of absolute toleration everywhere for all as the only secret and guarantee of peace and prosperity.

A Fine Challenge

It is natural that utterances of the new Bishop of Chelmsford (formerly the Rev. J. E. Watts-Ditchfield) should be much in evidence just now, and in an address delivered a few days ago he said that he had thrown out a challenge to Mr. Blatchford to produce ten men who had been down in the gutter morally and had been set on their feet and made real men by any other power than that of the Gospel. The Bishop added: "I am still waiting for the names," and he quoted a remark Lord Kelvin once made to him. "The older I grow the more firmly convinced I am of the truth of the Gospel story, and the more do I depend upon it for my own salvation." This is a testimony that should not be overlooked when men of the Blatchford type oppose Christianity and ridicule its claims. If the old saying is true, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," then Christianity can adduce evidences beyond all question that it is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."

Gambling

It has been estimated by the Organizing Secretary of the National Anti-Gambling League that between 375 and 500 million dollars annually change hands in the United Kingdom through betting and gambling. The figure is so enormous as to cast suspicion over its authenticity, but in reality the estimate rests on a sound basis; indeed, the amount of 500 millions is probably nearer the mark than that of 375, and one of the most serious features is that gambling is on the increase. One hundred years ago there were twenty bookmakers; now there are thirty thousand. It is impossible to procure definite statistics as to the number of their victims, but it is certain that among the working classes at least the proportion is enormous. Three striking testimonies have been given by well-known men to this evil and they are worth while passing on:—

The Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, says: "Gambling is one of the two greatest curses of modern society, and I wish success to every effort to check the evil."

The Duke of Portland says: "I have been connected with the Turf for thirty years, and I have known no one who consistently went on betting but in the long run found himself very much the worse for having done so."

Mr. Justice Wills says: "Gambling leads to almost half the crimes of dishonesty, by previously unconvicted persons, that Judges have to deal with, and is bringing thousands to ruin and despair."

The Bible and Devotion

The season of Lent gives special point to some words of Canon Newbolt, in which he has pleaded earnestly for the Bible as a book of devotion, saying that there is no weapon like this wherewith to meet our enemies:—

It was the book of Deuteronomy wherewith Christ faced the tempter in the wild-