



ANSWERS EX-PRESIDENT ELIOT OF HARVARD

SAYS "NO" TO CLAIM THAT WAR HAS PROVED CHRISTIANITY A FAILURE

"Is Christianity a failure? When a man of the prominence of ex-President Eliot, of Harvard, asks this question...

"For nineteen hundred years the ethics of Jesus of Nazareth have been in the world, but have had no effect to prevent or even reduce the evils of war...

"I have great respect for Dr. Eliot as an intellectual force in the world, but I am not an intellectual force in the world myself...

CALLS DR. ELIOT'S LACK OF APPRECIATION INCREDIBLE

"Nevertheless, and here the smile faded from the Cardinal's face and was replaced by an expression of uncompromising sternness. 'I am amazed at his sweeping denunciation of Christianity. It seems incredible that a man of his learning, experience and opportunities for observation should not realize that Christianity has been for centuries a softening, elevating, civilizing influence upon the human race.'"

"Suddenly his voice, hitherto carefully modulated, rang out harshly: 'Is Dr. Eliot blind? When he can remove from my sight our schools, our asylums, our homes for the old and the poverty-stricken, our institutions for helping the afflicted of all kinds, for providing for the orphans and the friendless; when I can no longer see colleges and hospitals, then only will I admit that Christianity is a failure.'"

"When I can no longer see dispersed over the groaning earth that magnificent army of saintly men and women who are warring, in the name of Christ, against sin, and disease, and all forms of human weakness and error, then—and then only—will I acknowledge that Dr. Eliot is right and that I, and my Church, are wrong."

"The Cardinal sat silent for a moment. Then he said gently: 'Let us take, for example, our hospitals. I wonder if ex-President Eliot ever reflects upon the significant fact that a hospital, in our sense of the term, is an institution having its direct origin in Christianity?'"

"The great pagan civilization produced nothing of this nature. To Greece and Rome, in their days of greatest material splendor, hospitals were unknown. You may go through the writings of the classic authors of old with the most minute care and find nothing there to suggest that before the time of Christ the basic idea underlying our word 'hospital' had come to the minds of men."

"If Christianity had done nothing more in the world than to make hospitals an adjunct of civilization, it could, upon that fact alone, base its claim that it had been something more praiseworthy than a dire failure."

"JESUS OF NAZARETH WAS NOT A PACIFIST"

"The Cardinal sat back in his chair, and it seemed to me that his eyes suggested an inclination upon his part to allow me an opportunity to answer, if I was inclined to do so, the arguments that he had been presenting in behalf of his religion and his Church."

The Cardinal bent toward me with almost startling suddenness, his gray eyes grown black with the fervor of his question had aroused.

"How dare Dr. Eliot imply that the Christ ever said anything against war?" he returned sharply. "Surely they have heard at Harvard the prophecy, 'There shall be wars and rumors of wars.' Dr. Eliot must know that the Christ said that He came to earth to bring not peace, but a sword."

His Eminence paused for a moment, his pale, thin face slightly flushed by the earnestness of his mood. "Do not mistake my meaning," he urged presently. "Do not imagine, for a moment, that I am advocating warfare as a desirable, or even necessary, human activity. But I deny that there is anything in the authenticated teachings of Jesus of Nazareth that would place Him among those whom we know today as pacifists. On the contrary, He repeatedly recognized the moral value of strife and conflict among men, and implied in all His teachings that warfare, the eternal struggle between good and evil, is inherent in the nature of the universe. 'Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's.' In these words the Christ makes a distinction that comes logically from the lips of Him who came to bring not an olive-branch but a sword to earth."

CHRISTIANITY HAS MADE WARS LESS FREQUENT

The Cardinal paused, and leaning back again in his chair, gazed musingly at the ceiling.

"When we discuss the subject of war," he went on presently, "we need historical bases for any conclusion we may reach. War, though it apparently has received divine sanction, is inherently a pernicious and abnormal manifestation of human nature. We get the right light upon it only by employing a long perspective and comparing recent centuries with those more remote."

"In former ages war was universal and continuous; the main occupation of men in those dark times consisted in the slaughter of their fellows."

"Take, for instance, the seven hundred years in the history of Rome from the time of its founder, Romulus, to the age of Augustus. During that whole period the Romans were in practically a permanent state of war. During these seven centuries they enjoyed only seven years of what could be reasonably called peace."

"Contrast this appalling record with that of the United States for the past century. We have had in that time only ten years of war—that is one year of war for ten years of peace in contrast with Rome's ten years of war for one year of peace."

"Nevertheless, and here the smile faded from the Cardinal's face and was replaced by an expression of uncompromising sternness. 'I am amazed at his sweeping denunciation of Christianity. It seems incredible that a man of his learning, experience and opportunities for observation should not realize that Christianity has been for centuries a softening, elevating, civilizing influence upon the human race.'"

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Presently, after earnest consideration, I put to the Cardinal a question that precipitated the most dramatic moment of the afternoon.

ence to voice his views regarding the tragedy now being enacted in Europe, I could not refrain from the temptation to refer to Belgium, his recent words having brought that afflicted country vividly into my mind.

"Belgium," exclaimed His Eminence. "How sad it all is, is it not? I am actively engaged in raising funds for that afflicted country. Cardinal Mercier has my admiration and friendship. It is appalling the amount of suffering the world is called upon at present to endure."

"But is it not marvelous how all that is best, most Christlike, in human nature has been brought forth by this great cataclysm of war? On the one side we see, with horror, man's inhumanity to man, but, on the other, gloriously resplendent, appears what is noblest, most godlike in the soul of the race."

"But the question of responsibility? I could not refrain from exclaiming."

The Cardinal smiled sympathetically. "You have in mind, I see, the great problem of free will," he remarked. "But is there not given to nations, as to individuals, the power to make the crucial choice between good and evil? We must believe this. We must believe that there is a divine purpose in it all that is being fulfilled."

"WHO CAN DOUBT GREATNESS OF AMERICA'S DESTINY?" HE ASKS

"And the destiny of America?" I queried. "Who can doubt its greatness?" returned His Eminence warmly. "We came into the family of nations with a mission, and that mission grows constantly clearer to our sight and more glorious."

"And it is not true, as the late Prof. Cramb asserted," I asked, "that in the modern world Corsica has conquered Galilee?"

"As I have said," answered the Cardinal gravely, rising to intimate that my audience with him was at an end, "they who, like Dr. Eliot, argue that war demonstrates the failure of Christianity reason upon false premises and so reach a false conclusion."

"Christianity has prevailed upon earth in spite of war, and during the centuries of its increasing influence war has changed from a permanent manifestation of man's baser qualities into a sporadic and occasional."

"And until Dr. Eliot can bring proof to show that the Christ based the success of His mission upon earth upon the elimination of war from man's activities, his recent utterances will remain in my mind as the exalted position of a thinker and publicist."—Catholic Columbian.

A SUGGESTIVE COINCIDENCE

An interesting fact has developed in connection with the Patriotic Fund. It has been found that, broadly speaking, the sums granted from the Fund, as supplementary to the separation allowance and assigned pay, bring the total income of families on the Fund, in each province, to a parity with the cost of living as estimated by the Dominion Government's Labor Bureau. This result goes to confirm the substantial accuracy of the Labor Bureau's estimates, and also indicates that the administrators of the Patriotic Fund in each province are keeping their grants reasonably close to the actual wants of the people dependent on it.

Naturally, the cost of living increases as we move westward, and therefore the grants from the Fund increase also. For illustration, the average grant in Prince Edward Island is about \$10 per month, while in British Columbia it is nearly \$21. The average over the Dominion is about \$16. It is estimated that the degree of comfort ensured by the Patriotic Fund is practically the same in each Province, notwithstanding the difference in the average grants.

DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI'S DEMAND FOR A PRIEST

A terribly significant passage, descriptive of the last hours of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, is quoted by a correspondent to the London Tablet. It is taken from the "autobiographical Notes of the Life of William Bell Scott." The full import of the scene it pictures will be intelligible to the Catholic reader.

"A new idea had taken possession of his mind, which caused us painful agitation. He wanted a priest to give him absolution for his sins. At first no one took any notice of this demand for a confessor. We thought his mind wandering or that he was dreaming. But on its earnest repetition, with his eyes open, I for one put him in mind of his not being a Papist, and of his extreme agnosticism. 'I don't care about that,' was his puzzling reply: 'I can make nothing of Christianity, but I only want a confessor to give me absolution for my sins!' This was so truly like a man living or rather dying, in A. D. 1300, that it was impossible to do anything but smile. Yet he was serious and went on: 'I believe in a future life. Have I not had evidence of that enough? Have I not heard and seen those that died long years ago? What I want now is absolution for my sins, that's all.' And very little, too! some outsider in the room whispered, as a gloomy joke. None of us, the deeply interested few who heard him, could answer a word." (ll. 807-8.)

"This," the correspondent remarks, "has always seemed to me a terrible passage." And well it might. Dante Gabriel Rossetti, he adds, was assuredly never a Catholic, although his poem "Ave" shows his acquaintance with Catholic teaching and his first picture, "The Girlhood of Mary Virgin," with the sonnet accompanying it, "This is that blessed Mary, pre-elect God's Virgin," is entirely Catholic in conception.—America.

PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY

The Post Office Department is in receipt of a cablegram from the British authorities stating that no parcels containing food-stuffs or articles of clothing should be forwarded in future from Canada for Prisoners of War in Germany.

The British authorities represent that this is absolutely necessary that the above caution should be complied with. Therefore, on and from the 1st February, 1917, the Post Office Department will refuse to accept any such parcels for prisoners of war in Germany. The Department is advised by the English authorities that such parcels cannot be accepted for transmission to the prisoners, and could not get through.

The Canadian Red Cross Society through its London Office undertakes that every Canadian prisoner shall receive adequate relief in food and clothing, sending one parcel every week to each prisoner. Therefore, existing Organizations should continue their work of collecting funds to be sent to the Canadian Red Cross Society; and it is most desirable that they should not relax their efforts in this respect.

Persons desiring to have additional food or supplies sent to a Canadian Prisoner should send money for that purpose to the Prisoners of War Department, Canadian Red Cross Society.

A letter containing a remittance and asking the Prisoners of War Department, Canadian Red Cross Society, to send food or other articles to a prisoner of war should be addressed to the Prisoners of War Department, Canadian Red Cross Society, and should contain information in the following form—

No. 12345 Pte. A. G. Robinson, 48th Highlanders, Canadian Contingent, B. E. F., Canadian Prisoner of War, Gottingen, Germany, c/o Prisoners of War Dept., Canadian Red Cross Society.

The remittance should be in the form of a Post Office Money Order drawn in favour of the Prisoners of War Department, Canadian Red Cross Society, for the Prisoner of War in question.

Any person wishing to send a remittance direct to a Prisoner of War may do so by means of a Post Office Money Order, which is issued free of commission. Instructions as to how to proceed can be obtained from Postmasters of Accounting Post Offices.

Parcels for prisoners of war containing articles which are not prohibited, may be sent fully addressed to the place of destination in the form above care of Prisoners of War Department, Canadian Red Cross Society, London, England, to be forwarded after they have been censored.

Communication with Prisoners of War are being issued to the Postal Service generally, and full information may be obtained by making application to any Postmaster.

CLERICAL HEROISM

PARIS ARCHDIOCESE HAS LOST SIXTY OF ITS PRESTS IN WAR

Paris, Jan. 11, 1917. The French army counts amongst its members thousands of priests, many of whom have been cited in the Order of the day and have received decorations, but few have yet reached the super-ior grades in the army. A Canon is the first amongst French ecclesiastics to receive the honor of wearing four galloons on the kepi and sash. Canon Remond, Chaplain of the Lycee of Besancon, and Captain of the 54th Territorials, has been nominated Chef de Battalion in the same regiment. He has already been twice cited in the Order of the day, and has received the Legion of Honor for his fine conduct on the Somme.

Cardinal Amette, Archbishop of Paris, in his New Year reception to the archbishops of the sixty priests of the archdiocese of Paris who have fallen on the field of honor, His Eminence also wrote a touching letter to those of his priests who are in the trenches, in which he praised their courage and devotion to duty which was giving glory to God in the midst of strange occupations and bringing them that interior peace which was so precious in the midst of the fracas of battles. Speaking to the few clergy left in the parishes the archbishop recommended to them the communal life for priests, as more economical and as attuned to the Church's spirit. He also asked them to keep before the minds of the people, the moral religious and patriotic obligation of the birth-rate, called for their cooperation in repairing the ravages suffered through the War in vocations to the priesthood, and praised the public work of the Cures for the national loan which had resulted in placing six millions of gold in the banks of France for the continuation of the War.—New World.

DIED

KEARNEY.—In London, on May 10, 1916, Mrs. Mary Ann Kearney, wife of R. J. Kearney. May her soul rest in peace.

KEARNEY.—In London, on January 10, 1917, Mr. T. W. Kearney, son of Mr. R. J. and the late Mrs. Mary Ann Kearney, aged twenty-seven years. May his soul rest in peace.

KEARNEY.—In London, on February 6, 1917, Miss Margaret, daughter of Mr. R. J. and the late Mrs. Mary Ann Kearney, aged twenty years. May her soul rest in peace.

BLANCHFIELD.—At Osgoode, Ont., on Jan. 27th, 1917, Terese M. Dolan, beloved wife of Chas. Blanchfield, aged fifty years. May her soul rest in peace.

BRELL.—At Wyman, Que., on Jan. 27, 1917, Mr. Peter Francis Bell, one of the most highly respected residents of Bristol Township, aged seventy years. May his soul rest in peace.

TOBIN.—At St. Mary's Hospital, Minneapolis, Minn., on January 10, 1917, after a short illness of pneumonia, James Angus Tobin, of Moose Jaw, Sask., formerly of Smith's Falls, Ont., aged thirty-eight years. May his soul rest in peace.

Charity to our neighbor is more pleasing to God than solitude and pious thoughts.—St. Teresa.

THE HOME BANK OF CANADA

Let your plans for the year 1917 provide for setting aside at least one dollar each week towards a savings account in the Home Bank of Canada.

"A man may, if he knows, keep his nose all his life to the grindstone."

BRANCHES AND CONNECTIONS THROUGHOUT CANADA

THE "LOURDES OF WALES"

Water of St. Winefride's Well ceases to flow, following mining accident

The famous well of St. Winefride at Holywell, in Wales, has suddenly run dry. The news will cause regret amongst Catholics all the world over, as the well was justly termed the "Lourdes of Wales."

The stoppage of the water has not alone affected the well, but also the townsfolk, as their water supply has ceased also. The stoppage is due to the fact that some workmen were draining an abandoned lead mine in the vicinity when a rock fell into the water, and thence by way of a ditch into the river.—Philadelphia Standard and Times.

REGENT ORGANIST AND FIRST CLASS choir trainer, at liberty, shortly desires position in Catholic cathedral or large church. Good salary. Excellent references. Apply Box F, CATHOLIC RECORD, London, Ont. 2000-1

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED FOR PRIEST living in Western province. Good wages. Apply with references to Box G, CATHOLIC RECORD, London, Ont. 2000-2

FIREMAN WANTED WANTED FIRST CLASS FIREMAN, ONE who has a knowledge of machinery. Single man preferred. Apply to Chief of Fire Dept., St. Joseph's Retiree, Deseronto, Ont. 2000-3

SCHOLARSHIPS TO SEPARATE SCHOOLS FROM CATHOLIC SOCIETIES Hamilton Times, Feb. 6

WANTED GENERAL HOUSEMAID, BY Catholic family on farm in Saskatchewan. Must be good with children. \$20 a month plus board. Inspector, Children's Aid, CATHOLIC RECORD, London, Ont. 2000-4

SHAMROCKS SHAMROCKS ARE GOING TO BE VERY scarce this year as we buy them in England and sell them in a very pretty silk threaded shamrock at \$1.25 a gross; they will be largely used for Patriotic and Bazaar purposes. We give credit to any society. Easter Lilies, Fleur de lis, Violet Bunches, Apple Blossom Sprays, Mums 50 cents a doz.; Carnations, 25 cents a doz.; Shamrock Roses, Shaded Roses, Jack Roses 75 cents a doz. We pay charges. Bramford Artificial Flower Co., Bramford, Ont. 2000-5

TO TRAIN AS NURSES APPLICANTS WANTED TO TRAIN AS nurses. Apply to Superintendent, Holy Family Hospital, Prince Albert, Sask. 1900-6

MEMORIAL WINDOWS ENGLISH ANTIQUE STAINED GLASS LYON GLASS CO. 413 CHURCH ST. TORONTO ONT.

Before Insuring Your Life PLEASE OBTAIN THE RATES OF THE MUTUAL LIFE OF NEW YORK

73 years honorable record; no stockholders to pay dividends to; all the profits go to the policyholders. No tying up your profits for 5, 10 or 20 years. Dividends paid annually, while you are alive to receive them

LONDON OFFICE Royal Bank Building, 2nd Floor TAKE THE ELEVATOR

Very Complete FIRE-PROOF STEEL CABINETS to hold your Cash, Charcoal, etc., at the PRICE OF \$20

ORDER NOW PALM For Palm Sunday J. J. M. LANDY 405 YONGE ST. TORONTO

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NEW BOOKS 50c. EACH

Adventures of Four Young Americans, By Henriette E. DeLamare. This book describes the stirring times during their trip abroad, and the experiences of Johnny who was lost in the Catskills.

Althea, By John E. Nirdlinger. A wonderful story of a young girl who has had the most wonderful adventures of her life. It is a merry comedy of four brothers, a sister, and their devoted parents.

Brownie and I, By Richard Auerick. Brownie is a college boy who hangs with the new boys as soon as they arrive and with them all their sports. He even succeeds in winning the decisive baseball game of the year. Boys who are interested in sports will follow with deep interest this genuine record of two years of college life.

Claren Belmont, By Rev. Walter T. Leahy. This is a fine college story, full of happy vitality, and it will amuse all the boys who are interested in the study of a college boy.

Five Girls in a Boat, By Maurice Francis Egan. This is a fine story of a group of five girls who are interested in the study of a college boy.

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