

# Canadian Churchman

Toronto, October 31st, 1918.

## The Christian Year

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

THE poor woman in to-day's Gospel wished to establish a point of contact with our Lord. Her experience with other physicians had been disappointing and costly. From what she had heard or seen of the Great Physician she felt He could answer her need. "She said within herself, If I may but touch His garment, I shall be whole." She seized the opportunity by pressing through the crowd that thronged Jesus as He made His way to Jairus' house; and when she touched, "immediately her issue of blood stanch'd" (St. Luke). Further, her anxious, needy touch drew to her Our Lord's attention and called forth His commendation and blessing.

How many have an inarticulate, subconscious feeling that in Christ they would find healing and blessing, all attempts to attain these from other sources having failed! How can a point of contact be established for them that "virtue" may flow from Him to them? Where may needy souls go to wait for the Saviour? Is there a tryst where He may be met? Is there for us, now that He is invisible, anything corresponding to the hem of His garment?

Holy Scripture is spoken of as the "Key of Knowledge" (St. Luke 11:52. Compare St. John 5:39; St. Luke 24:27, 45). If this is said of the Old Testament, what may we not say of the New Testament, where is set out for us the activities and words of Our Lord in His earthly life, as also of His ascended and glorified life? Holy Scripture is for those who "would see Jesus" a point of contact. Is it not true that in neglect of the use of this key of knowledge, the excellency of the knowledge grows dim? Too much value cannot be placed upon the constant and regular reading of the Bible to keep our knowledge of Him clear.

Divine Instructor, gracious Lord,  
Be Thou for ever near;  
Teach me to love Thy sacred Word,  
And view my Saviour there.

Our Lord has promised His Presence with His people. "Where two or three are gathered in My Name, there am I." "I am with you always." Common worship is a point of contact.

What of the Holy Communion—"the Lord's tryst," as it has been called? How near—how very near—is the gracious Master to the humble, faithful, thankful, penitent man as he receives the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ and hears the words, "The Body—the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ—given—shed for thee—preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat—drink."

The world about us—have we eyes to see—is the hem of His garment. "Thou deckest Thyself with light as with a garment." "The heavens are the work of Thy fingers." "Thou hast made summer and winter." "The waves of the sea are mighty and rage horribly, but yet the Lord Who dwelleth on high is mightier."

Christ alone can heal us. Touch the hem of His garment with faith and desire, and that touch will not be unfruitful of blessing.

## Editorial

THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT.

FAMINE has passed us by but war and plague have invaded our homes. In our land there are countless hearts that are bearing a weight of proud sorrow for those who will not return from France. In the last month thousands of homes are desolate after the swift death has taken the ones that could ill be spared. Pitiful word comes of little children made orphans in a day, and of parents who have lost all the treasure of young life in the home. The response of kindly service has been a revelation of the heart of mankind, but it does not lift the cloud which shadows the lonely path of the future.

The medical and scientific reasons for the outbreak afford no comfort for the sorrowful ones. To God alone can we turn. Our Saviour revealed the heart of the Father and we know He cares. "Not a sparrow falls to the ground without your Father." Jesus felt the jar and discord of this world more than we, for He was perfect man, and yet as He looked out on a world "red in tooth and claw" and felt the iron of the same world's injustice enter His soul, the only word upon His lips was "Father." Perfect fellowship with the Father's will was His complete support and strength. May the God of all comfort bring to the sorrowing ones the fulness of His comfort and may the Holy Spirit unseal their eyes to the promises of God's Word and Love.

NOT whether Germany has learned her lesson but whether we have learned our lesson is the fear that robs us of peace of mind. Just as Germany plotted and planned to keep her army ready to strike an unsuspecting world, now she is prepared to go any length to save her army from the aroused world incensed at her treachery. Her promises and undertakings fall from too glib a tongue. The rapidity of her conversion damages its sincerity. In future years the German histories will tell, if by that time they fall into the habit of truthfulness, of the wonderful adroitness of the German leaders who saved their army and land from an enraged world by their clever ruse of using a democratic varnish to hide an autocratic state.

POPE BENEDICT XV. last week sent a letter dealing with the Bilingual question in Ontario which has for some time caused dissension between the English and French Roman Catholics, generally, and in Ottawa particularly. He gives it as his decision that the Roman Catholics should seek further advantages as follows: (1) that the inspectors of their separate schools should be Roman Catholics, (2) that during the first years of tuition the use of their own language should be granted for the teaching of certain subjects, chiefly and above all, of Christian doctrine, and (3) that Roman Catholics should be allowed to establish training schools for teachers. He urges peace between the two parties and suggests that every priest should learn both English and French. He forbids appeals to the civil courts without the knowledge of the Bishop. Those of us who regard the whole separate school system in Ontario as a profound mistake, viewed educationally, socially and nationally, will look with distrust upon these proposed extensions which the Pope urges. The first and the third suggestions

would make the system a complete unit. To create such would be unwise, for outside inspection and normal training have resulted in the improvement of the educational standard of the separate schools. We feel that religious teaching should have a recognized and enlarged place in our educational system. But where any denomination would be in practically unchecked control of the expenditure of government moneys for a system separate on the basis of religion we feel that the educational efficiency would be in constant danger of being sacrificed in the interests of sectarian propaganda.

THIRTEEN clergymen of the Church of England have recently been "received" into the Church of Rome. One was formerly Warden of the College of Clergy, Worcester. They were received by three clergy who themselves had left the Church of England for that of Rome. It is really better for our Church that the men whose minds are set in the direction of Rome should go their way, for no Church could be more anti-Roman in its declarations than the Anglican, and it is better for them, for the dishonest continuance in our Communion is a peril to their souls. Their candour is preferable to the duplicity of some who circulate literature, advocating Roman practices. For instance, in "a simple prayer book for lay folk" is found the Roman mass with the Church of England service dovetailed into it, and the words, "Don't forget to pray for the Chief Bishop, the Pope." In the prayer during the "canon" are the words: "I pray thee have mercy on the Pope." We are reminded of the resolution of the House of Commons carried in April, 1899, by 220 votes to 14: "That this House deplores the spirit of lawlessness shown by certain members of the Church of England, and confidently hopes that the Ministers of the Crown will not recommend any clergyman for ecclesiastical preferment unless they are satisfied that he will loyally obey the Bishops and the Prayer Book and the law as declared by the Courts which have jurisdiction in matters ecclesiastical." We can be thankful that the spirit of Canadian churchmen is loyal to the Anglican position.

MEMORIALS in England for those who have given their lives for King and Country are taking the form of missionary endowments. The S.P.G. has received from an anonymous donor £4,000 to provide a permanent income for a missionary. The Sunday School War Memorial Fund is the opportunity for all our parishes to combine in keeping not one but many missionaries in the field in memory of those who have fallen in the fight for truth and freedom.

SIR DOUGLAS HAIG is a leader whose successful manipulation of military forces has not blotted out his sense of dependence on God. At the time of the German push Major James M. Black, of Edinburgh, was taking services at General Headquarters on the dark Sunday. Writing to a friend he said: "Sir Douglas was very quiet. He came and thanked me afterwards for the comfort I had given him and remarked: 'Remember, the battle is not ours, but God's.' General Pershing issued orders to his men on their arrival in France which will be treasured with those of Lord Roberts and Admiral Beatty, which appeared in our columns. That our leaders are thoroughly Christian is reassuring."

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