

"Necessary Lies"

In a recent police court a witness, questioned as to his truthfulness, replied: "I have never told a lie—that is to say, not an unnecessary one. One has to tell lies in business sometimes." We venture to say that this is an absolutely impossible position. It was said of a statesman years ago that he certainly told a lie and would have deserved impeachment if he had not done so. But this again is an illustration of the extent to which it is possible to depart from simple Christian morality. In a debate the other day in the English Parliament a member was blamed for using the phrase "infamous lie," but was allowed to substitute the term "wilful falsehood." It is a little difficult to see any essential difference between these two expressions, for surely falsehood and lies are so indistinguishable that "wilful falsehood" must be "infamous." A thoughtful writer, Dr. H. C. Trumbull, has written a book, "A Lie Never Justifiable," and this is undoubtedly the only possible attitude for the Christian to adopt. The line between concealment and falsehood may be thin and often difficult to draw, but it represents a fact in the moral world and must never be overlooked.

Work for Missions

Horace Bushnell long ago published the following list of excuses for the people who belong not to the mission, but to the "omission" band. The following persons are excused from giving to missions:

"The man who believes that the world is not lost and does not need a Saviour. The man who believes that Jesus Christ made a mistake when He said: 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.' The man who believes the Gospel is not the power of God, and cannot save the heathen. The man who wishes that missionaries had never come to our ancestors, and that we ourselves were still heathen. The man who believes that it is 'every man for himself' in this world, who, with Cain, asks, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' The man who wants to have no share in the final victory. The man who believes he is not accountable to God for the money entrusted to him. The man who is prepared to accept the final sentence: 'Inasmuch as ye did it not unto the least of these, ye did it not unto Me.'"

It is clear that the man who gives nothing to the work of missions cannot possess any spiritual interest or sympathy. In reality, he needs evangelization himself.

Babies Who Want an Outing

The Baby Home Department of the City Hall, is anxious to place a number of babies in homes for the summer. It is much better to have a baby in the country than to allow it to go to an institution. Dr. Harley Smith writes: "We have at least twenty babies, as beautiful and attractive as any others you ever saw, whose mothers are clean and pure, but unfortunate. Will you take one of these babies into your home for the summer months? It will add happiness to your own home, and it will save a baby's life."

"We have these babies in all varieties—fair and dark, blue eyes and hazel eyes, lively and quiet—from a fortnight old up to two years.

"People who are going to comfortable summer homes would add to their joys if they would take into their homes a baby for the summer. These people will come back more contented, and will perhaps be the means of saving a good citizen."

Letters addressed to Harley Smith, M.D., "Baby Home Department," City Hall, Toronto, will receive immediate attention.

A Christian Nationalism

The genius of the Anglican Communion seems to be to Christianize the nation through the living influence of a national Christianity. In the home land this is visibly set forth in the Establishment. However, history in England before the recognition of the State Church, and history in sections of the "Communion" where no legal hand brings organized Churchmanship and National government into formal union, alike illustrate the inherent nationality of Anglican Christianity. The student of early English Church history knows full well that the united Christianity of Britain played a strong part in unifying the political factions that deferred so long the realization of a unified nation. Wherever the traditions of that same system have gone, whether through the Establishment in the mother land, or through independent Anglican settlements in the newer portions of the Empire, or, indeed, in the missionary lands where our Church is planted, Anglicanism represents the ideals of a Church whose mission it is to discover and win for Christ the spirit of the nation in the midst of which she is placed.

If this be a true estimate of her position, our Church in Canada ought to lead in making Dominion Day a truly Christian observance. Because this day stands for so much in the story of Canada's life, it will hold an equally dear place in the life and prayers of the Canadian Church. Adapting the fervent outburst of Judah's prophet, she will cry, "For my country's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Canada's sake I will not rest until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And the nations shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory; and thou shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name." This is the passionate patriotism of a truly "national" Church.

We are to-day witnessing a new expression of patriotism. Some there are who question its right to the ancient name. There were some in the day of the prophet who considered his refusal to hold peace a poor evidence of love of country. He dared to point out some things in the life of his time that were not ideal, and to many this was pure treason. Much of our current "patriotism" has been the growth of a spirit quite akin to this. True Canadianism has too often meant only the praising of Canada, right or wrong; the prophet who dared to point her leaders to some better way was ruthlessly cast out as an enemy. It is easy to understand this attitude in a youthful nation. Just because there is so much of heritage and achievement to rejoice over, it is very easy to do nothing else. The new and healthy spirit that is more and more evident is not less passionately patriotic because it dares to believe it possible that even Canada has some things to learn from other nations—and quite as much from her own experience. There is hope for us to-day because we can respect as patriots the honest critics, the prophets of the day, who point out our faults and perils and help us to face and get rid of them.

A time such as ours will, of course, beget some who are ready to make capital of the desire for honest introspection by revelling in the supposed revelations of unutterable corruption in high and low places alike. Nearly every large city can point to some journal that wallows in the mire for the pure pleasure that

it gets in the handling of the unclean. Such pseudo-critics are the nation's worst enemies, who would be the last to move a hand to actually remedy conditions, were they half as evil as they choose to depict; and who, moreover, would grieve more to see the evil removed than they now profess to grieve over its foul existence. In a clean commonwealth, their occupation's gone! It is quite clear that the new patriotism we welcome is not after this kind.

The healthy aspect of the situation is this, that this new spirit seeks to know and to face the truth. Whatever be the national peril or the national problem, it desires to understand the real condition of affairs, to obtain all the facts, to consider all points of view, and to adopt the measures and ideas that promise the best interests of all concerned. We are living to see a time when appeals to prejudice and passion have less and less weight, but information, facts, are in demand, and form a determining factor in the making of opinion. Possibly this is more possible to-day than formerly, for the simple reason that our opportunities in this regard are unique. No other time has had presented to it such a wealth of popularized, authentic and informing reading-matter. Even technical subjects are reasonably and accurately treated well within the scope of the average reader. Our fathers were largely dependent upon one voice or one favourite journal; we can, if we will, read all sides of our present problems. In any case, the noteworthy point now emphasized is the laudable emphasis upon fact and truth in the discussion of public questions and the development of national life. We are exultant over the facts that make us proud; we are willing to face without fear, though not without shame, the facts that humble us to the dust; we believe in the power of truth to make the noble and the pure to finally triumph.

This is the old prophets' frank optimism over again. This is the kind of thing the Christian Church can seize as its own message, carrying it into the highest phases of teaching and sanctifying it in the very holy of holies. The more we Christians grasp this new national spirit, the more shall we welcome it as an evidence of the Divine Spirit within us, and the more shall we insist that no man can truly love his country and yet be indifferent to religion as involving its well-being. It is religion that teaches us that while evil forces are powerful and not to be ignored, the good forces are more than equally so, and must prevail. To neglect this message which only religion can give is to permanently injure the spiritual condition of our nation.

The Church holds the secret of national might. Let Dominion Day witness the unfettered utterance of her message to make Christ the light of this Canada of ours and to "Crown Him King of all."

THE TRUE IMPERIALISM.

"Here, where the tide of conquest rolls
Against the distant golden shore,
The starved and stunted human souls
Are with us more and more.

"Vain is your Science, vain your Art,
Your triumphs and your glories vain,
To feed the hunger of their heart
And famine of their brain.

"Your savage deserts howling near,
Your wastes of ignorance, vice, and shame—
Is there no room for victories here,
No field for deeds of fame?

"Arise and conquer while ye can
The foe that in your midst resides,
And build within the mind of Man
The Empire that abides."

William Watson.