

Canadian Churchman

Toronto, July 5, 1917.

The Christian Year

The Sixth Sunday After Trinity, July 15th.

The Collect for this Sunday is based upon the words of St. Paul, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."

1. **God's Preparation of Good Things.** "O God, Who hast prepared for them that love Thee such good things." What an anchor of hope! What an assurance for struggling men! Amid all—the failure, the seeming loss, the futility of life, the contradictions—there is going on a silent, certain, wonderful preparation of reward, of tranquility, of rest, of fulfilment. The broken things are being made whole, the remnants of our poor shattered plans are being collected. There is a Silent Worker at work preparing. These good things which are being prepared have two characteristics. In the first place, "they pass man's understanding." That which is being prepared is so much better, completer and more satisfying than the best things we can imagine, that St. Paul says of them, "neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." In the second place, "they exceed all that we can desire." I think we can say that these good things which are now being prepared under the Hand of God are along the line of our best desires and our highest hopes. Your longing for rest, tranquility, for the land of fulfilled hopes, for the land where there are no tears, no pain, no broken plans, no shattered purposes, where there is a complete self-expression, for the land of complete re-union with loved ones, for illumination on the baffling problems of life, for the sight of the King in His Beauty—these are true longings which shall be fulfilled; but in their fulfilment shall exceed all that you can desire, or imagine.

2. **What Is It Which Assures Participation in These Things?** They are prepared for certain people. For whom? "O God, Who hast prepared for them that love Thee such good things as pass man's understanding." Love! This is the qualification—love for God. This love is a Divine gift, and the Collect tells us two things about this gift: we are to pray for it, and we must put this love first. "Pour into our hearts such love towards Thee, that we, loving Thee above all things, may obtain." This is the love that obtains. There is only one place in a man's heart which God will take—the Throne.

This love won, carries with it the promises of God. "That we, loving Thee above all things, may obtain Thy promises." That is to say, if a man loves God, then all the gracious promises of God will be, or are being, fulfilled in him. Take, for instance, the promise that all things work together for good. We hear sometimes, "Things come out right," "Whatever is, is right." It is not true. All things do not work together for good. This promise is, "All things work together for good to them that love God." There is no guarantee that things will come out right, that all things work together for good. There is no general promise. The promise is for the people who love. If you love, things will come out right, there is a certain promise that all things work together for good.

Editorial

MISSIONS IN WAR TIME.

There is no doubt in the minds of our Bishops regarding the proper attitude of members of the Church towards missionary work during the course of the war. The place where one finds doubt on the subject is usually in the minds of those who were never enthusiastic on the subject. There is also, unfortunately, a certain degree of doubt found among faithful Church members who have not been able to grasp the relation that exists between this work and our duty towards the war.

The striking statement made by the Provost of Trinity College, Toronto, in the admirable report presented by him to the Synod of Toronto diocese on the work of the M.S.C.C. ought to be sent broadcast throughout the Church and beyond it. "In the crisis of the war and in the aftermath, this battered and burdened world will need the Gospel of Jesus Christ more than any gift that peace can bestow." And to this sentence may be fitly added the following from the Charge of the Bishop of Niagara: "If ever there was a time when the call for Missionary effort should be responded to, it is now. To slacken our efforts at this time in any heathen land would be a sign that Christianity in this conflict is a losing cause." Our boys at the front are, above everything else, fighting and dying for a righteous cause, not for a piece of earthly territory, and not for earthly glory. The source of that righteousness is Christ, and the responsibility for upholding the cause rests just as heavily on those at home as on those in the trenches. No man in Canada to-day can honestly say that there is need to withdraw the men from the battle lines of the Church to reinforce those in Europe. There is an abundance of men and wealth to carry on both struggles or rather both phases of the one struggle. The difficulty with the recruiting situation in Canada is not dearth of men or money and to divert even all the men and money given to the Missionary work of the whole Christian Church, to the battle lines in Europe would avail little if this were the only thing done. The great strength of the volunteer system is the spirit of self-sacrifice pervading the forces and such a spirit is engendered only when men believe in a cause to the extent of being willing to lay down their lives for it. That which will take men to the ends of the earth to fight in defence of righteousness and liberty is the spirit of Christ, whether they are fully cognizant of the fact or not.

To slacken our efforts along missionary lines would mean playing into the hands of our enemy and nothing could please the devil more than to have us do this. It would mean a slackening of the emphasis placed upon the primary duty of the Church. This has been well stated by the Archbishop of Nova Scotia in his recent charge: "Missionary enterprise is not merely a benevolent recreation for a few philanthropic people, but the actual business of the whole Church." Nor is it merely a matter of being loyal to the men and women who have volunteered and gone to the front in our Mission fields. It is our loyalty to Christ that is at stake. Let us put the war in Europe and our war in our mission fields on the same high level of service to Christ and let us use the power that is ours if we will but ask for it. We will then not think of dropping

either for the other but will see to it that both are given the support they deserve.

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Wonders will never cease. The British Parliament and the Synod of Huron have both decided to extend the franchise to women.

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We regret exceedingly the misspelling that occurred in last week's issue in the names of the Revs, Dr. C. A. Seager and Lim Yuen in the former's article on work among Orientals in Vancouver.

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Never again can Canadians say that their line of defence is co-terminous with their geographical boundaries. The true line of defence is where the enemy is, whether in Canada or Europe or Asia or Africa, and the strength of our defence depends upon our readiness to respond, no matter what part of the globe the call comes from.

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Premier Lloyd George stated recently that "if employers and workers pull together to their utmost, we will pull through—provided the national morals are maintained." It was a great Japanese statesman, Marquis Ito, who said, "Civilization depends upon morality and the highest morality depends upon religion." It would have been much more to the point had Premier Lloyd George said "provided the religious life of the nation is strengthened."

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Canada is to be congratulated on the choice of Food Controller made by the Government. A few petty politicians are certain to criticize such appointments no matter who the man happens to be, and even the existence of war does not make them forget political parties. The fact that Mr. Hanna accepted the position on condition that there should be no salary attached to it is sufficient proof of his whole-hearted desire to serve his country and to disarm suspicion of selfish motives. His success will, however, depend largely upon the degree of co-operation given him by the rank and file of the people, as no man in his position can do the work single-handed.

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The attendance at the various Summer Schools held by the M.S.C.C. and S.S. Commission in Eastern Canada during the past fortnight has been larger than ever, the various institutions being taxed to the utmost of their capacity. The aggregate in 1916 was 320 while according to latest returns that of the present year was 481. These Schools have passed the experimental stage and have abundantly proved their value. Nor is this value confined to the instruction that is imparted in the study classes, lectures and conferences. One of the most important features is the unifying influence at work, the breaking down of the wall of suspicion that has been rendering the Church almost helpless. The younger members of the Church are learning rapidly that loyalty to the Church does not necessitate a dead level of uniformity, and that loyalty to Christ does not mean suspicion and bitterness towards those who do not see eye to eye with one.

N.B.—If your copy of the Canadian Churchman does not reach you regularly, we shall be grateful if you will let us know.

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