

THE DEEPER LIFE

The Grace of Courtesy

By Rev. S. G. Bland, D.D.

I THINK we Canadians would be pronounced by a competent observer to be a people more kind than courteous. Canadians are a kindly people. I don't know on the whole a kindlier. Our American cousins in some points surpass us. They are more immediately cordial, but perhaps also a little more mobile, and there seems a great liability to outbursts of passion that are far from kindly. English kindness is great, but sometimes chilled and warped by the unhappy and anti-social thing that is passing away—caste. Scotch kindness too, is delightful and in a high degree reliable, but not always immediately accessible. Irish kindness is perhaps, the warmest of all, but like our western climate it is subject to extremes and sudden changes.

For a reliable, common, practical willingness to do a good turn and to help anyone in need, I think it would be hard to beat Canadians, speaking in the sailor's phrase, by and large. But whether we stand so high in regard to courtesy I doubt. I don't think courtesy is our natural strong point. And that seems a great pity for many reasons. Courtesy seems such a little thing to add to kindness. A people who have such undoubted capacity for the greater ought to find the less very easy. It is like learning French or Italian after mastering Latin. It isn't crusted or sluggish selfishness that holds us back from the fine grace of courtesy. A people so intelligent, so quick, and so genuinely kindly, could easily shine in courtesy, if they liked. Moreover, courtesy, though often a slight thing, so much slighter than real kindness, is yet such a lovely thing in itself and with such power to set off the greater thing, kindness. For lack of a little tact and courtesy a kindness may lose nearly all its charm. One would almost rather take a refusal from some men than a consent from others. Grumpy and discourteous men are often just men and may even be kind men, but I do not think they are often beloved men. You can knock a man down with a kindness as well as with a stone, or at least badly bruise him.

There is greater reason why any falling short in courtesy seems so regrettable. There is a large place for courtesy in life that kindness alone cannot fill. Opportunities are occurring constantly that do not call for, or admit of, any great kindness, but which makes possible a little courtesy which, slight as it is, leaves a very delightful and enduring fragrance behind it. A pleasant, cheery, or humorous sentence instead of a mere nod in passing on the street. A stepping aside on entering a street car or a yielding of a seat to one less able to stand. An enquiry as to another man's views, perhaps a retiring and modest man, instead of the deluging him with one's own. The making way, unsolicited, for a swifter or more hurried vehicle to pass. The prompt and cordial appreciation of every kind of kindness or service, however small. The thanks to the preacher for the sermon that helped, to the teacher for her devotion, to the clerk who waits on us with often great patience and helpfulness, and on the other hand the courtesy of the clerk who gives to the possibly rather slow and trying customer patience and unobstructive assistance. The courtesy more than which, perhaps, no courtesy is more appreciated of an employer to an employee.

Courtesy is the lubricating oil of our modern life, which in its complexity and hurry and strain needs a lubricator as essentially as a complicated machine.

The Canadian character is yet unformed. It has already a fair measure of strength. The war has helped to steel it. The problems and, it may be, struggles of the coming years will still further develop resolution and courage. But with the

strength must be intertwined grace and beauty, and of the gracious and beautiful things courtesy is queen. How shall the energetic and vigorous Canadian characters be given the polish and bloom of courtesy, through the schools in large measure.

Courtesy is in a considerable degree a habit, and habits can be taught. Training in courtesy is, I believe, one of the features of our public school curriculum. Even in the absence of all other teaching an example, the teacher can do much by word and still more by life.

But the home must always be the true training school for courtesy. We Canadians must create a lovelier home life. Members of the same family are usually pretty frank with each other, and sincerity is one of the fundamentals of any home life that is to be worthy of the name. Insincerity disintegrates. But you cannot build a happy

and beautiful home life on frankness alone, nor even on frankness and genuine deep-seated affection. Hearts that really love one another may deeply wound and disappoint one another and even where the currents of love flow warm and strong, underneath the home life may be full of jars and irritations just for want of courtesy. We should be less ashamed of showing love and tenderness. Words of appreciation should flow more readily for the well cooked meal, the new dress, or that becoming article of attire. The daily acts of service that are so often taken for granted. Courtesy, to be perfect, must be habitual. It must be second nature. It will be an awkward or a very shallow courtesy that is kept for special people and special occasions. He who would be perfectly courteous to woman must strive to be so to all. So the home filled with the spirit of courtesy is the sine qua non. It is the indispensable training school. The old proverb, "You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear" applies nowhere more strikingly than to those who would be courteous abroad while they are content to be rude and inconsiderate at home.

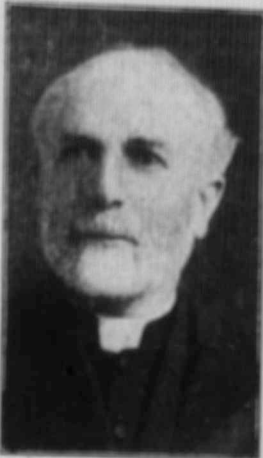
Courtesy is like sunshine. It cheers and irradiates. A dull day may not affect our health, but it certainly affects our spirits. Courtesy lets at least a glint of sunshine into the grayest life, and it costs nothing or at most a little thought.

After all, I fancy the main reason why we are not as courteous as we are kind is just because we think we are too busy; we are too hurried to be courteous. Some of these days we are going to awaken to the deadlines of always living in a hurry. Now and then possibly hurry may be imperative, but the chronic hurry means nothing less than life failure. Men and women always in a hurry need better try, if possible, not to do so much and be content to win less, for constant hurry loses more than it ever gains, and one of the things most surely lost is the grace of courtesy.

For the home all fields are sown, all harvests reaped; for the home all ships set sail and return again; for the home man's shuttles fly, his spindles whirl, his wheels turn round, for home the canvas is made bright, the marbles beautiful, and all music sweet; for his home, too, makes laws to be just property safe, life secure and rich.

Later on, when life's battle is fierce, and events go hard with men, it is the home that enables them to bear up against the troubles that sweep over life like sheeted storms.

God endows the soul with judgment and with will, but he gives it also great power for affection. Love that is hidden like the spring gushes out from the hillside, like that spring, is fed by all the secret forces of the clouds and the sky.

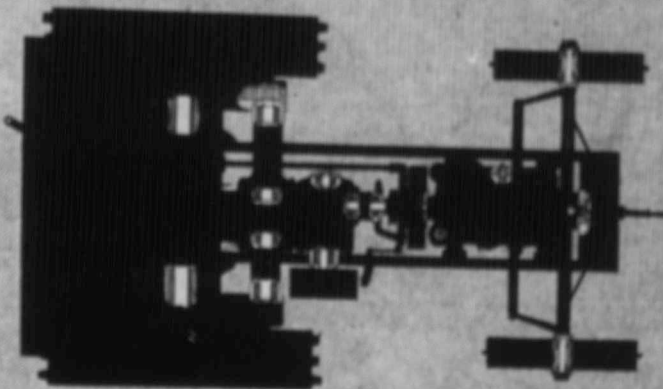


Dr. BLAND.

Text:
"Whatsoever things are lovely,
"Whatsoever things are of good report...
"Think on these things."—Phil. iv. 8.

The LAUSON 15-25

DUST PROOF-ALL GEARS ENCLOSED



The Full Jewelled Tractor

Every one knows the value of the watch with the "Full Jewelled Movement"—it can be depended upon. In the LAUSON 15-25 we have followed the full jewelled idea by equipping it with 24 sets of Hyatt and Timken heavy duty Roller and Ball Bearings. These mean to the tractor what the jewels mean to the watch movement. They insure easy running, no friction, dependability, long life, power.

Combined with LAUSON dust-proof design—all gears enclosed and running in oil—and LAUSON rugged construction, the LAUSON owner has real tractor insurance for field or belt work, year after year.

Full particulars about the LAUSON 15-25—the economical farm power unit for all farm work—will be sent on request. Our nearest Sales and Service Station will gladly arrange a demonstration on your farm.

McClenaghan & Taylor, Lethbridge, Alberta
Walter Gratias, Saskatoon, Sask.

Distributors for

THE JOHN LAUSON MFG. CO.,
NEW HOLSTEIN, WIS.

Carlsbad is No More

THEN COME TO

Harrison Hot Springs

You'll find here a panacea for your winter ills or tired muscles—especially your rheumatic ones.

Harrison is one of the most beautiful spots in the world, only 70 miles east of Vancouver, B.C., in the heart of the mountains on a lake 40 miles long. Mild, salubrious climate. Write for analysis of sulphur and potash waters.

St. Alice Hotel

HARRISON HOT SPRINGS, B.C.

J. O'Brien, Mgr.

Get off at Agassiz, on C.P.R. Main Line. Busses meet every train.



CATER'S WOOD PUMPS



Will stand more frost, pump easier, last longer, cost less, in wells not more than 40 feet deep, than any pump made.

For Deep Wells get Cater's Fig. 750.

No easy to put in and so easy to repair.

A full line of Gasoline Engines, Windmills, Water Tanks, etc., kept in stock.

Write for Catalogue G. Address:—

H. CATER Dept. G. BRANDON, MAN.

IF you do not see what you want advertised in this issue, write and let us know, and we will put you in touch with the makers.