

Canadian Churchman

Toronto, September 21st, 1916

The Harvest

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COLLEGES

1916 Presbyterian and Wesleyan, ADVANTAGES to students. Tuition fees are charged. Member of University and COLLEGE TEACHERS in DIVINITY—teaching faculties. make selections, subject to approval of the four Colleges at the University of Toronto. Faculties of studying Canada. Principals as follows—WESLEYAN, D.D., Presbyterian, Montreal. WESLEYAN, LL.D., Wesleyan College, Montreal. Life in God—that is the supreme good. There lie "the unsearchable riches of Christ."

The Christian Year

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity, Oct. 1st.

The success of a life depends largely upon the correctness of its value-judgments. The man who sees clearly what is ultimately desirable, who can distinguish where permanent worth lies, and who then steers his course accordingly, blind to the fascinating allurements of the second-rate—he is the man who attains the goal.

For the trouble lies here—"All is not gold that glitters." The task of earth's pilgrims is no easy one. Each man finds himself walking, as it were, down the Midway of some stupendous fair, beset by a babel of strident voices, each clamouring for him to buy their wares. This alone were confusing enough. But the situation becomes more perilous when the man is conscious within himself of an answering chorus of clamant appetites, bidding him accept now one and now another of the alluring propositions. To do so almost invariably spells ruin, for the loudest voices are generally those which push the most dangerous goods. The things of real value are praised by a still, small voice, which can often only be heard during some lull of silence.

All this is, of course, a commonplace of the moralist, and has been largely absorbed into the popular morality. Outrageous mistakes in value-judgments, the yielding to the lure of the baser siren voices, is universally condemned. It is, therefore, of profound interest to notice how Christ treats the matter. He does not warn us most urgently against the attraction of the bad, but rather against the danger which lurks in the pursuit of what is lawful, but second-best. Money, food, drink, and raiment—these are the idols which, as Christ saw, most frequently dethrone God from His rightful place in the affections. Necessities of human life they are. All must possess, and all must, in some sense, seek them. And precisely for this reason it is here that most men make a fatal mistake in value-judgment. Money is necessary, but to consider it also primary is disastrous. The allegiance of the heart must be anchored to a higher affection—even the Kingdom of God. That God may have complete control of our lives and of the life of the world—that must be our highest concern; to that our value-judgment must assign the premier place.

Mark how St. Paul in our Epistle expresses the same truth. He is discussing the danger of erroneous value-judgments, not in the sphere of life in general, but in that of religion. He is speaking to Churchmen, not outsiders. Here he assigns the highest value to a "new creature"—that is to say, an inner life, recreated, energized, and controlled by the Holy Spirit; in other words, the same Kingdom of God of which Our Lord spoke, which is "righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." The primary concern in religion, as in the world, is the Christ-controlled life. "Neither circumcision," which we of to-day should call "Sacramentarianism," "availeth anything, nor uncircumcision," which we should name "Evangelicalism," "but a new creature."

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Editorial Notes

Moosonee Appeal.

While the response to the appeal made a few weeks ago in this paper by the Bishop of Moosonee has been most gratifying so far as the few who have already contributed are concerned, it has been disappointing in the number of such contributors. Winter is fast approaching, and if the work in the various missions that suffered by the recent fires is not to remain at a standstill until next year, funds must be provided at once. We must remember that the work of the Church in these missions is the work of the whole Church, and, while the immediate care of it rests with the Bishop and his helpers, the responsibility for it rests on the Church as a whole. We realize that the appeal was made in the midst of the holiday season, and we trust that this fact accounts for the delay in the response made. A great deal is being done by the Government and different municipalities to assist the settlers who suffered material loss, and rightly so. Let us see to it that the Church shows at least as much anxiety regarding the spiritual needs of these sufferers.

The M.S.C.C. Board.

According to Canon, the M.S.C.C. Board should meet in the autumn on the second Thursday in October. This year, however, this would conflict with the meeting of the General Convention of the Church in the United States, which some of the members of the Board wish to attend. It has, therefore, been arranged that the meeting will be called *pro forma* for the 22th of October in the city of Montreal, and be adjourned until the following Thursday, the 19th. The usual spring meeting of the Board was dispensed with this year, which makes the coming autumn meeting all the more important. Much of the business to be considered will be presented in the form of reports from various sub-committees, which will expedite matters considerably, but there are two matters at least that will require careful attention, the apportionments and grants for the year 1917, and the report of the Committee on Work among Indians and Eskimos. The latter has been under consideration for some time by a committee in the West under the chairmanship of the Primate, and we understand that the prospects of a satisfactory solution are encouraging. We sincerely trust that this is so as it is time that the Canadian Church took charge of this work. This subject alone will make the coming meeting one of the most important that the Board has held.

Prayer Book Revision.

The Provincial Synod of Ontario has accepted the Prayer Book as revised by the last meeting of the General Synod with the proviso that they desire that part of the revision referring to the recitation of the Athanasian Creed to be safeguarded. This is the first of the Provincial Synods to pass upon the revision, and its action must carry great weight, representing as it does a very large percentage of the Canadian Church population. And the decision represents not only the opinion of the Lower House but of the House of Bishops as

well. The practical unanimity on such a subject indicates a tremendous step in advance in recent years. It indicates also a growing national spirit in the Church and a fuller realization of the fact that unity within the Anglican Communion throughout the world does not consist in uniformity in the wording, paging and general arrangement of its Book of Common Prayer. These must necessarily vary for different races or even for different portions of the same race. True union rests on great underlying truths and our imperfect efforts at expressing these in language have led to much of the lack of union that exists. The form of expression is, however, of very great importance and it is only by the exercise of the utmost caution in making changes that we can hope to approach perfection. The present revision must be regarded as exceedingly conservative and we are confident that the few alterations made will prove acceptable to a very large majority of the members of the Church.

Duke of Connaught.

The presence of the Duke of Connaught in Canada as Governor-General on the outbreak of war was one of many fortunate, one might say, providential, coincidences. His military training, his tact and good commonsense, not only made him most valuable to the military authorities but strengthened the bond of affection and loyalty between Canada and the Motherland. The representative of the Crown in Canada has in many ways a difficult and delicate position to fill and the influence he is able to exert depends largely on his own personality. His public utterances must always be non-partizan. To be more than a mere figure-head it is necessary that he visit the various provinces and be prepared at all times to say the right thing in the right place. In the present Governor-General we have a happy combination of qualities that have made him not only popular with all classes but have inspired confidence in him. We have almost forgotten that he is a member of the royal family and we venture to predict that his presence in this country has affected very materially the attitude of large sections of our population towards Royalty. We are grateful to him for what he has done for us and we wish for him many years of continued usefulness in the highest interests of the Empire.

"Ephphatha."

We were reminded by a sermon a few Sundays ago of the efforts put forth by the Church in the United States in behalf of the deaf and dumb. Between seven and eight thousand of these unfortunates are provided with special ministrations by our sister Church. It is needless to say that it is a noble cause and pleasing to Him who made "both the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak." It is, moreover, a difficult work, as it requires specially trained workers. The Church in Canada, so far as we are aware, has done practically nothing in this direction, although there must be a great many of this class who are members of the Church of England. It is surely a matter that ought to be considered by our leaders and one in which united action by groups of dioceses should be agreed upon. Our Provincial Synods might very well take up this matter. It is only one of several new departments of work that ought to receive earnest attention.