

# The Canadian Churchman

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Hymns from the Book of Common Praise, compiled by Dr. Albert Ham, F.R.C.O., Organist and Director of the choir of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto.

## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

(September 21st.)

Holy Communion: 251, 258, 433, 643.

Processional: 384, 406, 468, 473.

Children: 688, 694, 695, 703.

Offertory: 322, 397, 610, 646.

General: 3, 652, 660, 760.

## The Outlook

### A Welcome Condemnation

Canon Newbolt in a recent sermon in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, England, made a very plain reference to two aspects of present-day life: the modern dance and the society novel, and he expressed the opinion that neither of these would be allowed to disgrace our civilization for a moment if professed Christians were to refuse to allow their daughters to participate in anything wrong. The Canon well remarked that a few more consistent, God-fearing lives would yet save England from the deadly peril which waits upon godless materialism. He has here put his finger upon one of the weak spots of modern life, the freedom with which young people are allowed by their parents to take part in forms of pleasure which cannot but be destructive of modesty, simplicity, and moral strenuousness. Parental influence must be strong if it is to be of service, and this strength can only come from the source of all power, Divine grace. No wonder the Apostle laid such stress upon showing "piety at home."

### Right and Wrong

One of our papers gave an account the other day of a prominent clergyman and a well-known King's Counsel discussing in a street car an incident which involved some of the deepest problems of life. By a clever trick a detective enticed a thief back to Toronto from Chicago by calling him up on the long distance telephone and informing him that he wanted to invest in a certain scheme and would be glad of an appointment. When the man arrived he was at once arrested. The King's Counsel maintained that the deception was justified, inasmuch as it enabled the police to apprehend the wrongdoer. The clergyman could not agree with this, and asserted that any form of deception was wrong, and that to commit a wrong to right a wrong could not be right any more than that two wrongs make a right. This is the old contention as to whether the end justifies the means, and whether deceit is warranted in certain circumstances. The paper that gives the account of this incident closes by asking: "Who was right, and who was wrong?" And the problem is a very important one. We commend it to our readers in this form: Is a lie ever justifiable?

### A Royal Example

It is said that the Kaiser has joined the ranks of teetotalers, having foresworn the beer and wines of the Fatherland. According to the report this is the result of the Emperor's conviction that alcohol lessens a man's working capacity. Some time ago he demanded the latest alcoholic statistics as to the accidents and crimes which result from immoderate drinking. After a study of these he experimented on himself, and found that even small quantities of liquor lessened his energies and capacity for work, whereupon with characteristic action he cut out alcohol entirely, and now never misses an opportunity to speak of the value of temperance. Quite recently he told army officers that not only would there be no objection, but that he would be well pleased if his health were drunk in water. This newest recruit will be very welcome to all total abstinents, and will afford another illustration of the uselessness of alcoholic liquors for mental or physical work, to say nothing of the harm caused by its consumption in modern life.

### A Missionary Example

Speaking of the Kaiser is a reminder that among the many forms of celebration which have been adopted in Germany to commemorate the completion of twenty-five years' reign by Wilhelm II. is one of particular interest and significance. Throughout Germany a National Collection is being made in aid of Foreign Missions. It is called a National Collection, because it is the only one in which the entire nation is taking part. It is divided into two sections, one for the Evangelical and the other for the Roman Catholic Missions. When complete the money will be presented to the Kaiser, who will then forward it to the various Foreign Missionary Societies of his country. Articles have appeared in the Daily Press about it, and addresses have been given, so that foreign missions have won a more general interest among the people of the Fatherland. This is surely a noteworthy manner of celebrating a long and peaceful reign. We wonder whether the example can be followed by other nations.

### The Power of Newspapers

President Wilson has just expressed his belief that a lobby has been at work in Washington to embroil his country with Mexico. This is a very grave charge, and we may be sure that it was not lightly made. In the Senate of the United States a similar opinion was expressed, that there is at the present moment a systematic attempt to stir up strife between the United States and Mexico. These charges are profoundly serious, and, unfortunately, they seem to be true. Similar ones are known in connection with certain newspapers in the United States, which have been doing their utmost to work up feeling against Mexico. One newspaper actually made an appeal, based upon sensational stories of atrocities, but when an investigation was made the whole story was found to be absolutely baseless. It is deplorable that newspapers should be used for such disgraceful purposes. The same thing was said, whether right or wrong, of certain English papers in connection with the Boer War. It might seem inconceivable that a newspaper should do such a dastardly deed, but apparently the desire to make money dominates everything, even destroying true, patriotic, and peaceful desires. It is, therefore, all the more necessary that Christian men and Churches everywhere should use their influence on behalf of peace, and see that, so far as they are concerned, the newspapers which they support are marked by integrity and purity instead of being actuated by greed and ambition.

### Immortality

Speaking to a large audience on a recent Sunday afternoon, that well-known and most interesting writer, Mr. A. C. Benson, son of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, spoke on the subject of the future life, and remarked that it was difficult to imagine the cessation of human consciousness. He proceeded to refer to a vivid experience of his own, which, he said, converted him to belief in immortality:—

He had a long illness, brought on by overwork. He could neither write nor read, and he was the victim of great hopelessness and dejection. Yet he gradually became aware that all the time he was caring for the same things and thinking the same thoughts, and was not really concerned at the failure of his intellectual machinery. He realized that everything was just as beautiful and interesting as ever, and as he was healed he came to see that the real essence was untouched by illness or disability, unimpaired by any failure of the corporeal structure. He grudged not an hour of that enforced inaction. "What, then," said Mr. Benson, "is it that I believe? I believe life and conscious thought are of their nature perennial, and I can conceive of no process by which my sense of personal identity can be extinguished."

Mr. Benson deliberately kept clear of any assumption of immortality derived from religion, because he considered it right to look at the subject in the light of life, and to enquire whether anything in our experience contradicted the belief. It is eminently satisfactory to have this testimony from so thoughtful and able a man, though, of course, for Christians the supreme warrant for immortality is found in the Person, Teaching, and Resurrection of Christ, who has not only abolished death, but has "illuminated life and immortality by the Gospel."