

A Cry from France

It is a long look backward to the year following the Franco-Prussian War, when Robert McAll, a Congregational minister of England, heard the Macedonian cry of the workman in the Paris suburb of Belleville, "Sir, are you not a Christian minister? If so, I have something of importance to say to you. You are at this moment in the very midst of a district inhabited by thousands and ten thousands of us workingmen. To a man, we have done with an imposed religion. If, however, anyone would come to teach us religion of another kind—a religion of freedom and earnestness—many of us are ready to listen." But, although it is a long look which takes us back to the year 1872, yet that year is strongly linked with these years of the present great war. It is a romantic story which tells of the life-work of Robert McAll. The Mission, with its preaching of love and forgiveness, bright hymn singing and prayers, started work in an empty store. At the present time the McAll Mission has a great number of mission halls in Paris and many other cities and towns of France, two motor boats for use on the magnificent waterways, movable halls for itinerant preaching in country places not accessible by boat service, and a motor used in Gospel preaching and the distribution of Scriptures at fairs and similar gatherings. This work is linked up with Great Britain, the United States and Canada by means of three separate associations of help, each of which is served by auxiliaries scattered over these countries. Dr. McAll's two great principles were "No propagandism" and "No almsgiving." As regards the first, a simple Gospel only was to be preached. There was to be no attempt to take a man or woman away from the Roman Catholic Church. Hence, many appreciative hearers have continued as adherents of their own Churches, and, while some Priests have denounced the Mission, others have even recommended it. Dr. McAll was given the Cross of the Legion of Honour by the French Government as a public benefactor. "No almsgiving" was necessary in order that only earnest, enquiring souls should be encouraged, and the Mission was thus freed from the charge of attracting by "loaves and fishes."

But at the present moment bodily relief has become the greatest work of the Mission in poor, suffering France. In addition to its usual support of the Mission Halls at Javel and Grenelle, Canada has each year, since the commencement of the war, sent over a winter offering of a large sum collected by the association and its auxiliaries. Can any estimate be made of what this money has meant to the poor and suffering? Think of the numbers of women and children to whom gifts of a little chocolate, a scrap of meat, and small quantities of coal and raiment, represent a little mine of wealth in these dark days. Think, too, of the French soldier in the trenches, whose people are themselves too poor, too needy, to send parcels, and who yet receives from the hands of the Mission the article he so much desires. Then the soldier on furlough or the wounded man, who goes to the Foyer for help and consolation, receives, to his surprise, some gift of socks or a meal from "the dear friends in Canada." Hundreds of refugees, especially those who in happier days attended the Mission Hall in Lille, turn to the various McAll centres for aid, as well as for information concerning their loved ones at the front, from whom they have not heard since the German invasion. The touching letters of appreciation for help given are too long to quote.

Reader, will you help? Please note that the fund is administered by the workers in France of this old-established Mission with the greatest care, while Mr. Reginald McAll, a relative of the founder, is now in France, seeing the actual conditions and reporting on them. He is appalled at the need. There are no working expenses to be deducted. Contributors can be sure of every amount, whether great or small, reaching France in the near future, as the association transmits the sums as promptly as possible.

The Canadian Association Board is thoroughly representative of various Churches, and, therefore, ventures to ask aid of all the Churches for the France which we all love and desire to serve.

(Mrs.) Alice Griffith Thomas,
President.

(Miss) Mary M. Caven,
Treasurer of the Canadian McAll Association, 53 Farnham Avenue.

Boys and Girls

Dear Cousins,—Who got drowned in a thaw-puddle last week? I almost did, and after my first adventure in that direction, I began to be a little more careful about the way I walked. I never knew anything so treacherous as a thaw, and it was almost a relief to find that we are having hard snow to walk on once more. In days like those we had last week, we had to remember very hard that if it was horrible under foot, yet the sky was still beautiful—except the day when it rained all day! Even that day, I heard, seemed lovely to a friend of mine, who is very anxious for spring and the real end of winter, and who thought he recognized in that rain a promise of better times. They are beginning to have spring flowers in the shops already, too, and when Mrs. Cousin Mike presented me with a beautiful yellow narcissus one day to wear in my coat downtown, I was almost ready to believe it was April instead of February.

I haven't much to talk about to-day. I've not been about very much lately, except one night, when I went to hear an orchestra play some beautiful music. They played two lovely old tunes that used to be played many, many years ago for country people to dance to in England, and they were so merry that they just made me laugh all the time they were being played. Do you know any music like that? Tunes that make you happy, just like friends? If you don't, try to get your ears unbuttoned quick, and see if you can't catch a few and keep them with you all your life. Lots of you collect stamps. Try collecting tunes, too, and you see how interesting it is, and how happy it makes you. It's a great idea, and I leave it with you.

Your Affectionate Cousin,
Mike.

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pennant "breaks out" from the mainmast in a position above the Stars and Stripes. This church pennant is a long, white, triangular flag, with a blue cross in the centre. It is the only flag that is allowed to be placed above the Stars and Stripes. Do you know why? It is because we Americans revere God above everything and recognize that the nation is under His direct guidance. When this flag is flying no one is allowed to approach the ship, not even officers of the navy. After service it is "run down," and rolled up and placed away in the chart house.

The minister, or chaplain, as he is called, conducts the service and preaches a short sermon. If it is on a flagship the marine band furnishes music for the service, but on other vessels an organ, played by one of the sailors, is used. Music is a feature which all seamen enjoy. They have strong voices and join heartily in a familiar hymn. How would you like to hear two or three hundred sailors sing "All hail the power of Jesus' name"? Well, if you have never heard them sing, go on board the next warship that comes into your harbour and attend service. You will need weights to hold you down. It is the grandest singing I ever heard.

—From an American Paper.

Could Not Lift Stick of Wood

Would Almost Faint From Severe Pain in Back—Doctors Could Not Get the Kidneys Set Right.

A great many people suffer the results of deranged kidneys and do not understand the cause of trouble or the way to obtain cure. The writer of this letter suffered excruciating pains in the back and in vain his physician tried to cure him. For some reason or other his medicines did not have the desired effect.

Mr. Olts' brother was a merchant selling, among other medicines, Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, and he heard his customers telling about how they were cured of kidney derangements by their use. This led to Mr. Olts putting them to the test, with the splendid results reported in this letter.

Mr. E. C. Olts, Benton, Carleton County, N.B., writes: "I am glad to let you know how much your medicine has done for me. I suffered from my kidneys, which at one time were so bad I could not lift a stick of wood without getting on my knees, and then would almost faint from the pain in my back. I consulted a doctor about it, and he gave me some medicine, but it did not help me. My brother, who is a merchant, and carries all your medicines, advised me to try Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. I got one box, and they helped me, so I got another one, and kept on until I had taken five boxes, which cured me. I have had no trouble with my back since, and am never without Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills in the house. Last summer I also suffered from piles. I used three boxes of your Ointment, and it cured them. I can certainly recommend Dr. Chase's Pills and Ointment."

Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, one pill a dose, 25c. a box, 5 for \$1.00, at all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto. Do not be talked into accepting a substitute or you will certainly be disappointed.

SUNDAY ON A MAN-OF-WAR.

I wonder how many have heard the expression "rig church"? Well, this is what the boatswain on one of our battleships calls out every Sunday morning just before the hour for service. The sailors, or seamen, as they are called, have to respond as quickly as if the command were, "Clear the ship for action," an order given before a ship enters a battle. The boatswain and his four mates stand in the "waist of the ship" and blow their whistles to call attention. No matter what a sailor is doing, he must drop everything and run to where the signal was given. The chief boatswain then orders one of his mates to "rig church." The mate in turn transmits the order to the sailors. The blue-jackets immediately begin to get everything in readiness. They first "reverse buckets," and place them in rows amidships and between decks, where the service is to be held. One squad brings the capstan bars, while another places them upon the reversed buckets for use as benches, on which the sailors are to sit during service. Some ships have benches made for the purpose. One or two sailors collect chairs for the officers. Then they bring the pulpit or altar, as the case may be, and place it facing the benches. The seamen are not obliged to attend service, but most of them do. Only the apprentices, or boy sailors, are compelled to be present.

The beautiful feature in "rigging church" is the use of flags. The quartermaster decorates the pulpit with the American flag. He spreads it over the table, allowing the large number of stars to hang down in front, facing the benches or pews. The Bible is then placed upon this emblem of national liberty. When all is ready a sailor is stationed at the bell, which he rings at the hour for service. As the sailors come marching in and take their seats the church

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