

Honour to the Letter Carriers.

The letter carriers of the Federal Service of the United States held a great memorial service recently in the city of New York in honour of those who, having served their country faithfully had departed this life. The following extract is from the eloquent sermon preached by the Very Reverend John P. Chidwick:—

Addressing himself directly to the letter carriers, he concluded his masterful discourse as follows:

And of those whom we commemorated this afternoon, what shall we say of the work which they performed here on earth, its value and their fidelity and efficiency, that we may have reason to entertain our Christian hope for them? Dearly Beloved, I have always considered that the work of the men of the postal department of our government service is but poorly recognized and rewarded by the public at large. Yours is a uniformed branch of our public service which has no spectacular effect. There is nothing about it which excites wonder and admiration. Bravery and brilliancy of achievement are not connected with it in the public mind. It takes its place in popular appreciation with the ordinary labor of the land. Apparently there is little to lift it above the commonplace. Accordingly it receives no marked or special attention and excites no popular enthusiasm: But it is far from being work of ordinary importance. Few other departments of work in our land are more important. Your work enters continually, daily, almost momentarily, into the life-building of the nation, making for its happiness and prosperity and progress, both in its national body and in every individual house and enterprise. It is food and nourishment without which the nation's health and strength cannot be preserved. Let your work cease for a single day and the nation's business will stand still with it. Let it be crippled and the nation is temporarily paralyzed. If we can imagine it passing from government control into that of private enterprise, from what we know of private corporations, it does not require much power of prophecy to predict the onerous and serious burdens which would be placed upon business and the narrow restrictions to which the present wide field our people's happiness would be reduced.

When you consider what you men are doing, the vital importance of your work and the confidence we place in you, then, I say, your request that we take care of you in your old age is not only human but eminently just. We who use you until such time as your strength is exhausted and we whom you save from expenses which would accumulate for every man to a serious amount, should be willing in the name of ordinary humanity and justice to provide for you in your years of decrepitude and dependency. — *The Chief, New York.*