

leading the way in the great social and moral questions facing us is being acknowledged by all.

One feature of the present situation in Canada that fills one with foreboding for the future is the racial feeling that has developed. This is most unfortunate, just as the war is most unfortunate, but if the sacrifice of the fundamental principles of our faith is to be the price of so-called peace and unity, we should not hesitate as to the answer we should give. Loyalty to these principles does not, however, necessitate bitter feelings and reckless language, and it would be criminal to say or do anything to unnecessarily widen the breach. These are days of tremendous import when every patriotic citizen should watch with scrupulous care his every act and word and should pray without ceasing that the Spirit of Righteousness will guide the course of events aright.

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Thousands of Canadians have been praying to God to guide the course of events in connection with the election that has just taken place. Do you believe that He has answered these prayers? If so, let us not take all the credit for what has taken place. Let us thank Him for what He has done and pray for a continuance of His guidance.

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We are exceedingly grateful for the kind reception accorded our Christmas issue. Orders for a large number of extra copies have been received and many kind things have been said about it. We have a limited supply left which we shall be glad to send to any desiring copies at ten cents each.

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We regret exceedingly that through an oversight the name of the author of that beautiful poem in our Christmas number entitled "The Best Gift," was omitted. The Rev. H. A. West, of St. Catharines, Ont., who has at different times contributed valuable articles, is the author.

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The Christmas issue of the Story Paper of the Sunday School Commission has been received and reflects credit upon those responsible for it. The difficulties arising from cost of paper and printing are being felt very keenly these days by every religious publication, and we are very glad that in spite of these we are able week by week to place in the hands of the boys and girls in our Sunday Schools a paper as worthy of support as that being issued by our own Church in Canada. Increased support in the form of new subscribers will enable the Commission to increase its effectiveness.

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It is most gratifying to learn that during the past three or four months a voluntary service, with an average attendance of some fifty men out of a total of two hundred and fifty in the unit, has been held every Friday at 12.30 p.m., immediately after mess, for the Engineers' Detachment at Stanley Barracks, Toronto. As a matter of fact, there is accommodation for only fifty in the room set apart for such purposes. Nor is it the same group of men every time, as the personnel is changing continually. It is a good illustration of the fact that whatever one may find to the contrary among certain members of our overseas troops, a very large percentage are serious minded men who realize the character of the task they have undertaken and their need of divine help if they are to "carry on" to true victory.

Bible Sunday

From a Sermon by the Right Rev. J. Fielding Sweeny, D.D., at St. Alban's Cathedral, December 9th, 1917.

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."
"Saying, with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come."—Rev. xiv. 6 and 7 verses.

THE Bishop remarked that in continuing his course of Advent sermons on "Advent Thoughts from the Book of Revelations," his subject for the day was virtually chosen for him, not only by the Collect of 1549 for the Second Sunday in Advent upon Holy Scripture, based upon the Epistle for the day, Romans xv., 4 and 5, but also because by resolution of the Synod of this Diocese in 1913 constituting this to be "Bible Sunday." This is the Resolution upon which the clergy of this Diocese are bringing before their people on this day, the authenticity and inspiration and pre-eminence of the Word of God.

"That in this crisis of the world's history the truth of the Holy Scriptures should be attested and their authority upheld more faithfully than ever, and therefore this Synod approves the movement for the universal observance of a 'Bible Sunday' as an occasion to review the progress of the translation and circulation of the inspired Word of God; its relation to individual and national life; for reviewing the progress of Missions, and for making accessible the results of Historical and Archæological discoveries which are every year throwing fresh light on the records of Holy Writ, and that such day be the 2nd Sunday in Advent, which may be otherwise described as the third Sunday before Christmas."

Thus, in accordance with this Resolution of the Synod, the whole Anglican Church throughout the Diocese, as well as the various Protestant denominations with her, are to-day observing what we may call "Bible Sunday."

Continuing, the Bishop said: "Now, could I find any passage in the Book of Revelation more suitable for 'Bible Sunday' than that which I have selected, combining as it does, a reference to the preaching of the 'Everlasting Gospel,' and the fact of the 'Advent' in the words, 'the hour of His Judgment is come.'"

The Bishop then touched briefly upon the "Vision" of the text, the 144,000 standing upon Mount Zion with the Lamb, having His Father's name written in their foreheads, representing the very aristocracy of the Church of the Living God; "these follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. They are the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb."

But there are vast multitudes besides upon the earth; and there are nations and kindreds and tongues and peoples which have not yet heard the Gospel and which are not to be without their opportunity of hearing it. And so the angel is represented as flying in the zenith of heaven, bearing a scroll of that gospel "to preach unto them that dwell (R. V. Margin 'sit') upon the earth," and out beyond them to the great masses of kindreds and peoples that have yet to hear the preaching of the "Everlasting Gospel."

The preaching of the Gospel, and its bearing in relation to the end of the age, is here in confirmatory of the Word of Christ. "This Gospel must first be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." St. Matt. xxiv. 14.

The preaching of the "Everlasting Gospel" to-day is a part of this Vision. We are living

in the very moment of this very Vision that we are speaking about this morning. The angel is still in the zenith of heaven, and the gospel is still being preached to them that dwell on the Earth, the Holy Ghost is speaking to the Church to-day just as He spoke to Philip the Evangelist, telling His ministers to expound its truths to the individual, as He did in the case of the Eunuch of Candace, Queen of Ethiopia.

Continuing, the Bishop said: "A little book published a few years ago by Arthur J. Brown, 'The Why and How of Foreign Missions,' is at the very centre the 'Why and How' of the circulation and distribution of the word of God. 'The word of God is the auxiliary to Missions,' and apart from its preaching there can be no Missions.

"What is the 'Why' of the circulation and distribution of the Word of God? What says the Psalmist? 'Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.' Psl. cix. 105. And what saith the Christ? 'Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me.' And what His Holy Apostle? 'All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for Doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.' II. Tim. iii. 16-17. This is the adequate 'Why' of the distribution and circulation of the Word of God.

"And there is the other simple little question—the 'How' of the distribution of the Word of God. To which the answer is, 'through human instrumentality.' It is exactly parallel to the matter of preaching when the apostle puts the case in Romans x. 14, 15, 'How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent?'"

"This is the work that is being done through the great and splendid Missionary Societies, the S.P.C.K., our own 'Church Bible and Prayer Book Society,' and the 'Gideons,' which aim at placing in every railway station and in every hotel room in our land a copy of the Bible; as well as the 'British and Foreign Bible Society,' represented here by the 'Upper Canada Bible Society,' the auxiliary of the Canadian and the British and Foreign Bible Societies.

"Last year, through this Chief Bible Society, 9,539,235 copies were distributed, of which 837,000 were the complete Bible, 1,903,000 New Testaments, 6,799,000 portions. For the last three years, 30 million copies of the Bible, Old Testament, or portions, have been circulated. Last year two million copies were distributed in English, one million in the languages of India, and a large number in Chinese, Japanese and the language of Corea.

"Since 1804, when it first began its work, the Society has distributed 284 millions of copies, of which 95 millions have been printed in English.

"As a member of the Canadian Society, I look with great interest from time to time into the personnel of the officials from its inception of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and notice that the long list contains the names of four Archbishops, forty-three Bishops and other dignitaries who have been, and many of whom still are identified with it, and who are amongst the strongest writers on its behalf, and champions of its cause.

"And why? Because I find that notwithstanding what other Societies have been able to do, the 'British and Foreign Bible Society' has given the Anglican Communion 167 different translations, which we could not have had for