

# Canadian Churchman

Toronto, November 14th, 1918.

## The Christian Year

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT.

**A**S a preparation for the Advent season when the Church focuses our attention on the two great facts wherein lie the confidence of the Church and the hope of the world (viz., Christ has come—Christ will come) the Collect, Epistle and Gospel are most appropriate. They will be found very suggestive also when we think of this Sunday as the last of the Christian year. "Lethargy of the will is an insidious disease" very easily succumbed to if we do not carefully watch ourselves: "Be not weary in well-doing," says the Apostle. Yet, how easy it is to become a non-combatant Christian—one whose sentiments and religious affections are above reproach but whose "fruit of good works" is meagre.

It is not easy to keep up enthusiasm and continuously pour forth one's energy when the difficulty, monotony and disappointments incident to Church work are keenly felt. It is easy "to give it up" and take only a passive interest in the Church's battle. It is not easy to bear constant disappointment at one's own failure to grow out of one's old faults and grow in grace. It is easier to let go. We constantly need our wills stimulated to renewed effort.

The heroes of faith in Hebrews 12 did things for God—not only thought them. Our Lord says, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father." We were "created in Christ Jesus unto good works." The purpose of Holy Scripture is that "the Man of God may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works." So we pray "Stir up the wills of thy faithful people." We pray for God to act in us that we may act for God. Are we careful "to maintain good works?" We have plenty of sentiment, Christian so-called. What we need is Christian action—good works.

This prayer is for God's "faithful people." The idea is not that we should be stirred to good works to win salvation. We are not saved by *doing* but by accepting what God has done for us and gratefully making it the supreme motive of our lives. "The love of Christ (i.e., Christ's love for us) constraineth us." Being in "a state of salvation" we must walk answerably to our Christian calling in Christ, "Who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us and purify a people zealous of good works."

What is the character and source of "good work?" Look at Gal. 5: "The works of the flesh are manifest." "The fruit of the Spirit consists of certain graces of character which manifest themselves in appropriate action." Christian character is behind good works and the source of both is God who "maketh us both to will and do of His good pleasure."

The motive is the approval of God Who captures the hearts of His people by love. "This have I done for thee; what doest thou for Me?" is the appeal of the Crucified. The will may be weakened through repeated failure. The Gospel has a suggestion. "Gather up the fragments." Take what little love, faith or desire you have and ask our Lord to bless and increase it, that, beginning again with this, you may bring forth in the coming days a plentiful fruitage of good works to prove your faith and love that you may be rewarded by the approval of God.

### Let us give thanks

for victory over the enemy.  
for the prospect of world peace.  
for the spirit of freedom among enslaved nations.  
for the valour, service and sacrifice of the men and women who have made victory possible.  
for the men who have made the supreme sacrifice for God and the Right, for loved ones and home.

### Let us pray

that God may guide the affairs of the nations—particularly those in revolution.  
that God may be supreme in the counsels and ideals of all nations.  
that God's will may be done at the Peace Conference.  
that we may dedicate ourselves, our country and our future to God.

## Editorial

**N**ON nobis, Domine, non nobis." To God alone be the praise and the honour and the glory and the dominion. The day of peace for which we have prayed and worked and fought for these weary years is in sight by the grace of God. For three days the battle fronts have been quiet. May they ever be so.

The blessings of peace we shall realize step by step, as we awaken each day to the new thought that the fight is over. That sharp anxiety, that overwhelming dread, has lifted from the hearts which have yearned and prayed for loved ones over there. Our minds leap forward to the meeting again of those who have risked life and limb for home and loved ones.

But the cost of peace comes home to us as the shadow of grief falls on the threshold, grief of our own or of another's. Never can we say what is in our hearts of the debt we owe to those who gave their To-morrow for our To-day. In the silent pride of sorrow for those who have given all, there are hearts aching to-day with deep yearning for the sound of a voice that is stilled. God help us to deal tenderly and truly with those whose home has the shadow of grief which is the price of our peace. The mark of mourning becomes the badge of honour.

How shall we use the peace which has cost so much? We are consecrated to the tasks our dead have had to leave unfinished. Only as we take them up with the same fearlessness and unselfishness shall we be worthy of their devotion. A land in which God, Righteousness, Truth and Justice are supreme, that is our task.

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**B**USINESS as usual?" No! Ten thousand times no, if business as usual means the grinding of the face of the poor, the exploitation of children, the curse of the sweatshop, and all that proclaimed the motto of life to be: "Every man for himself and the devil take the hindermost."

Not for this have our men fought and died. Not for this have women sacrificed and served. A new Canada must come. The dream of the man who saw home and country in the sunset glow on the smoke clouds of the battlefields. The spirit of our people which has been raised to high ambitions will not brook the thwarting of hopes. A united people can bring the impossible to pass. God's curse is upon German injustice and unrighteousness. That curse is upon injustice and unrighteousness in Canada. God forgive us if selfishness drugs our conscience to live on the helplessness of the weak.

## A TALE OF TWO CITIES

**T**HERE is civil war in every city in Canada to-day and in practically every city in the world. The only hope of the city is that the civil war shall continue till the bitter end. No quarter is given, no truce is declared in this civil war. No subterfuge is too deceitful, no weapon too dastardly for use on the one side, but on the other side men sometimes grow half-hearted in the fight. For in every city there are two cities—a City Underground and a City of Light.

The City Underground has an organization remarkable in its completeness. All the means of rapid communication and transportation are at its service, and its citizens know how to use them. Money is the main instrument and motive of the organization and there is plenty of that for everyone except the slaves who live in that city. There are bosses and gangs, chiefs and cliques. The citizens of that city live on the price of each other's sins. The strongest preys on the weakest. Honor has only a money value. The human body is the temple of the Devil and is valued only as it ministers to wickedness. You might imagine that the citizenship of the City Underground was confined to those engaged in organized vice. Not so. Some private citizens who covet a fair name in the City of Light lead a double life. They find the life underground more congenial to their darkened spirits. True children of the Devil as they are, they start innocent ones on paths which lead all too soon to that city of darkness. The *Vice Commissioners* reveal only some of the shadowed ways of the City Underground, but they are crowded with the tyrants and slaves of men's lust.

The City of Light is the city as it ought to be, a fair city of honest work and hard endeavor to preserve to all men purity, truth and righteousness. You might imagine its citizenship would be confined to the members of organized Christianity. Not so. Some men who for some reason have not been able to ally themselves for the present with Christ's Church are still working for the love of God and uplift of man. That they are acceptable to God, we doubt not, for God judgeth every man. You might imagine its citizenship would include all the members of the Church. Again, not so. For some have pressed forward to give their oath to their Captain, but they are not heart and soul in the Captain's service. There are actually some people who try to live in the City of Light for one day a week and the other days in the City Underground.

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