

Canadian Churchman

Toronto, October 3rd, 1918.

The Christian Year

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

THE Collect, as at first written, taught men to pray that they might accomplish, etc., with a free mind. Compare the Psalmist's words, "I will run the way of Thy commandments when Thou hast set my heart at liberty." A "free mind" is essential to effective service. Nothing will "set our hearts at liberty" or give us a "free mind" to serve God but confidence in His "keeping care." This Our Lord tells us. If we would be rid of anxiety, worry (which always hinders) we must recollect and trust in the Fatherly care and Providence of God. "Your Father knoweth." The Collect, as it has stood for 300 years, reads, "cheerfully accomplish" This suggests not only confident service, but glad, spontaneous and joyous service. The British navy gives and has given all through the darkest days confidence to the British people and enabled them "to carry on." They have done this—and more than this, they have carried on "cheerfully." Our service of God in the face of all trials and temptations must be cheerful if it is to be most acceptable to God (for God loveth a cheerful giver) and most effective and attractive to men. Sadness, moroseness, gloom are no marks of a Christian.

1. Think of some of the characteristic words of our religion: "Glad tidings," "Great joy," "Your joy," "Peace," "Thanksgiving," "Rejoice," "Be of good cheer," "Joy in the Holy Ghost."

2. Though our religion is for the sorrowful and oppressed and troubled, it is not a sorrowful religion. "To hearts oppressed with guilt, it offers the pardon of God; to those who dread Divine wrath, it reveals God's infinite love. . . . If, at the commencement . . . it relies on the purifying power of penitence and to the very end encourages devout and reverential fear, it also teaches that the joy of God is our strength. The service of many would be more effective if, while praying for strength, they prayed for cheerfulness as well.

3. It may be said cheerfulness is a matter of temperament. It is. For some to smile is to labour. Christian cheerfulness is not a matter of temperament; it is a matter of grace. Its source is in God. It is due to a confident faith in the reality of the providence of God and His keeping care. It comes from the felt influence of the Holy Spirit, whose fruits in men's characters are love, joy, peace. It comes with our sincere love of God. (Compare, "I delight to do Thy will, O my God," Ps. 40: 6, 7, 8.)

The Epistle turns us to the source of glad worship and service. "Be filled with the Spirit." Discipline your bodily appetites. "Be not drunk with wine." Thus will we be ready "in body and soul to cheerfully accomplish those things that Thou wouldst have done."

The Holy Gospel tells of the man without the "wedding garment." Many explanations are given of this. Whatever else may be said, surely cheerfulness must form part of its texture—as for a joyful occasion, such as a wedding feast, a garment appropriate must be worn.

In Thine own service make us glad and free, And grant us never more to part with Thee.

Editorial

THE CHURCH OF GOD.

OF God is the power and progress of the Christian Church. "Which He has purchased with His own blood" is St. Paul's highest description of the Church of God. "Called to be saints," according to the Gospel of God, is the destiny of her members. God's Holy Spirit is her guide and inspiration.

New problems (religious, intellectual, social) press in the changing world. Sometimes we forget God's promise that He will be with us to the end of the ages, and that His Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth.

Our zone of power is the confident dependence on God's promises. We can come into that zone in one way only, that is, by wholly dedicating ourselves to the accomplishment of the known will of God.

All the talk about "pep," snap, verve and that sort of thing misses the mark. The spirit of the Church is not to be worked up like a Red Cross drive, a Real Estate boom, or some chain lightning campaign for anything under the sun. It is quite possible to get a great crowd of people, and yet have no power generated. After the advertising has filled the house, the meeting will be void unless the Holy Spirit fills the people. He will possess our hearts only as He is honoured by our waiting upon Him.

Those who have had the anxious planning of mass meetings of one hundred or one thousand have often learned that, although the details of organization have been carefully and prayerfully thought out, yet the meeting has failed—failed utterly of its highest purpose because the speakers thought of themselves and their audience. They valued the approval of their hearers more than the approval of God. They addressed the audience as those who desired entertainment—Christians at play instead of Christians at work. So they brought on the gathering that severest of condemnations: "It came close to being a good thing." The same thing is to be said of some sermons. The preacher got in the way of his message. He was not willing to allow God's Spirit the right-of-way.

Let us remember that we are not on the basis of a voluntary organization, that we are not a league of Good Fellowship and Good-will alone. "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you." We are bound to our Master by our sacramentum, our oath. By His word and sacraments we are given strength. We are part of the Body of Christ.

Of ourselves, we are not sufficient for the tasks which demand our effort. But by the promises of God we have the resources of His Holy Spirit, which are more than sufficient for our needs. We need trust and courage to claim these. We can claim only what we use.

No distress or misgiving should possess our mind on account of the present hour, big with possibilities. The Church comes to her own in such times. The elements of decay were evident when she was baptized with power at Pentecost. She did not fall when the Empire fell. Men's hearts failed them for

fear, but God's Church was the pillar and ground of truth. She remained unshaken amid a tottering world. Her foundations were laid by God.

So to-day there is no doubt that the Church, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, will weather the storm. More than that, she will allay the storm. Men change, customs change, values change. But the Church's Message is the Gospel of the Love of God, and that is the fundamental in every situation and the solvent in every crisis. Let us take His Truth as our beacon light, and with one heart and voice follow and proclaim the Truth. It will take all our courage and devotion. It may mean persecution and misunderstanding. But to do less would be the part of a coward. The world, weary with sin and selfishness, is waiting for the clear proclamation of the love of God and its unflinching application. The supreme message of the Church is, "Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

* * * * *

AMERICA DAY will be held in the churches of Toronto on October 13th. Rev. C. J. James, Rural Dean of Toronto, is to be given credit for the timely innovation. Sixteen clergymen and four laymen from Rochester, Buffalo, Cleveland and Detroit will preach in over thirty Toronto churches. A luncheon and reception are planned for the following day. Since the American declaration of War a year ago last April, the ties between us have been wonderfully strengthened. We are partners in a common cause and common sacrifice. We Anglicans are also partners in a common spiritual heritage. Toronto has been slow in expressing outwardly the fellowship we feel. British Columbia Anglicans join regularly in the Pacific Coast Conference with their neighbours in the south. At Winnipeg the interchange is quite frequent. The Buffalo and Detroit churches expect a delegation of Toronto Churchmen in November.

We hope that this will lead to something more than an exchange of greetings. The Protestant Episcopal Church has some viewpoints which we could become acquainted with to our profit, and, with all modesty, the Canadian Church illustrates viewpoints also worth consideration. There is nothing to prevent a conference at a central point. A North American Conference, for instance, on Faith and Order, would have splendid potentialities. If we could present our combined ideas as the reactions of these young countries on the problems which are awaiting solution in the old lands as well as here, they would come with greater force than from each of us separately. Such a drawing together would not mean a loosening of the ties that bind us to England, but would be a preparatory step to a world federation of Anglicans.

* * * * *

With this issue we welcome a writer who will contribute a fortnightly column on Social Service Notes and News. He comes well equipped for the work. He is thoroughly abreast of developments in Social Service and Economics. He has already won a place as a leader in the Church's social work. The initials he uses reveal more than they conceal.

Merits Alone
be some good
so many hard-
ness men, when
insurance for busi-
ness, apply to The
Life. "Senti-
mentality to do with
The Great-West
chosen on their
and remarkable
returns are the
on request

WEST LIFE
COMPANY
WINNIPEG

BANK
MONTHLY

of "The Home
Monthly" will be
mail the current
publication.
on application.

Bank Monthly,
Bank of Canada,
Street West,
Toronto
to your address,
paid.

If You
Are Not
Already
Acquainted

you to the Walker
House of Plenty,
comfort is made the
or. It is the one
management lend
make its patrons
like home."

WALKER HOUSE
House of Plenty
TORONTO, CANADA

FORGET

ADDRESS IS
St., Toronto

COURT STREET.
IS MAIN 7404

ared to execute large
efficiently, prompt-
reasonable prices. A
vince you.

ry Times Printing
Canada, Limited