

line, have now **THREE STORES** for the service of the Vancouver public, and that at the big exhibitions they have frequently been awarded first prizes for their bouquet and design work. In that connection we venture to remind readers that orders can with confidence be given to this leading local horticultural house for delivery, not merely in Vancouver and vicinity, but also in the large cities of the East, and even in the central Homelands.



MR. EDWARD BROWN

As president of the company Mr. Brown, senior, still exercises an active interest in and oversight of all its affairs. His son, Mr. Joseph Brown, supervises the estate at Hammond, while in connection with the Vancouver stores we infer that a Joseph Brown of the third generation is proving himself the right-hand man of his uncle, Mr. Edward Brown, who is known to Kiwanians and others as "Ed." It may be said—as is being done here without his knowledge—that "Ed." is one of those quiet business men, never fussy or effusive, but always courteous and kindly in his manner. No matter how busy he may be with a "rush order," this man among flowers, and (it comes naturally) flower among men, seems to be one of those serene

souls who can always find time to greet the caller with a friendly word and unaffected smile. We write of him, as we try to do of all men—as we find them—fairly, and without flattery. And that is just as we have found Mr. Edward Brown throughout many years.

If someone suggests that this is a "bouquet," we reply that if by bouquet is meant a due compliment, well earned by independent impressions of character given over a lengthy period, while we are still earthly wayfarers, then it is true—and we are sending "the flowers" while the recipient, "Ed.," is here to receive them, and his associates in home, club, and business life with us to value them.

—D. A. C.

The Wayside Philosopher

ABRACADABRA.

What Is My Religion?

Formerly we referred to the series of articles appearing in the Vancouver "Star," on Saturdays, under this caption. At this time we do not intend to refer to any one of them individually. When any person, upon proper request, discloses his or her innermost thoughts, or beliefs, to advantage those who read, it is surely most fitting that we pay the respect to those expressions we would ask for our own in similar instance. Debate on, or criticism of, the individual contribution would be unworthy. We have not read them all, but it seems proper to comment on such as we have read taken as a whole.

We would first express our opinion that they evidence the confusion existing, in regard to what is religion, in many quarters to-day. We find in them from our viewpoint, in the main, expositions of religious philosophies, theological propositions, Creed bases with explanations, but not religion as we deem it to be.

Subject to correction, we assume that the only real definition of religion is to be found in Holy Writ: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy might and thy neighbour as thyself." The "works" or expression of religion is defined elsewhere in the Bible, and the introduction of the latter definition in the King James version, "pure and undefiled religion is, etc.," may cause some minds to confuse religion and its indices. Our first definition gives us religion as we view it.

To our mind, then, religion is not a matter of creed or philosophy or theology, but a pure matter of experience. In our view we can only show our religion by our lives, our practical exposition in daily conduct of our definition. One can more truly say what one's religion means to oneself, than what it is.

Therefore, we dismiss, as foreign to religion, such questions as the correctness or incorrectness of the story of Virgin Birth of Christ; the actuality of the Garden of Eden; and all matters which are not and cannot be expressed by a life conformable to religion as we use the term. Such matters may sometimes be of value, and often are. Sometimes they may give a

key to an otherwise unreadable experience. But they are not religion and partake not of its character.

Shall Canada Join the United States?

We had thought this question settled forever. In fact we believe it to be so. When we think of our past history in Canada, the ideals generally held in Canada in contrast with those generally held in the United States, we cannot but conclude that the paths of these two nations lie eternally apart, save for the possibility of the British Empire being some day widened by the inclusion of the United States.

It was no shock, however, to see in a recent issue of a local journal two views of this question, one by an American whose source of information was an evidently uninformed Canadian; the other by an Englishman of twenty-odd years' residence in Canada. While the latter had, apparently, missed much of the Canadian mind and viewpoint, he had read it aright to a certain extent. Had he known it more fully and understood its undercurrents, he would have translated its voice on this subject not "bide a wee," but "never."

It is not our purpose to discuss a dead issue. Earlier in our national life this matter was a real live question. Even among our Federal representatives there were those who believed Canada was destined to unite with the neighboring Republic; and that Republic felt certain Canada would one day be hers.

To-day we know of no responsible public man who holds such a view. A certain United States element in the Prairie Provinces may cherish such a dream; but it is only a dream. Canadians in the States would most naturally dream of this, were there any real hope of its becoming a fact. No class is freer from its delusions than these same Canadians, who realize fully that a gulf as impassable as any the world knows separates these two nations, bound so closely in friendship and mutual obligation.

The embodied spirit of a written constitution will always live side by side in friendship with the embodied spirit of our unwritten constitution on this side of the line. Realization of a certain community of ideals and aims will disarm suspicion and allow real understanding of each other. Eternal friendship as