

Dawn of Tomorrow

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Editorial

THE DEATH OF JAMES GRANGER.

A few days ago death removed from our ranks one of our most prominent and useful citizens in the person of Mr. James Granger. He had been a resident of the city for many years and had greatly influenced its church and civic life. He was deeply interested in many forms of philanthropy and was a generous contributor to them all. Rising from the rank and file of the working man to a most prominent position in the city and Province, his sympathy was always with the common people and he did much to make conditions better for them. His interest in the Canadian League for the Advancement of Colored People was deep and genuine and had it not been for declining health, he would have been a director of that body. He often asked of its progress and expressed his desire to see it prosper. He was a regular contributor to its funds.

London and vicinity can not but feel keenly the loss of such a sterling character as was James Granger. However, we trust that his life will be taken as a model by the youth of the coming generation.

THE SALVATION ARMY

There is a report to the effect that once upon a time two very wealthy residents of the City of Toronto had a band of the Salvation Army haled into court for disturbing the peace and "dignity" of their neighborhood by singing, praying and otherwise giving thanks to the Creator. This occurred before the World War. It so happened that the sons of these two rich men went to France and fought in the trenches. There, they, like other soldiers, were subject to fatigue, hunger and privation. It was on such an occasion that they discovered that the Salvation Army was also in France and that it was not only administering to the spiritual welfare of the boys in khaki, but to their physical and bodily needs as well. The story goes that these two boys wrote home to their parents, telling them of the noble work of the Army; how self-sacrificing and devoted to duty they were, how thoughtful of the boys in the trenches and how kind, sympathetic and humane

to all alike, rich or poor, friend or foe. One boy observed: "I believe they act as near as is humanly possible just as Christ would have acted. Of the many organizations here working along us and for us, the Salvation Army is by far the most cheering and inspiring. Many times I have been relieved from duty, cold, wet, hungry, without a cent. I have appealed to some organizations who supply refreshments, for a cup of coffee. I have sometimes been refused if I did not have the price. But the Army, never. I am always made welcome and given my hot coffee and rolls. I am told to play whenever I can. They seem not so much interested in getting their pay as in giving comfort to us weary soldiers. They have done much to make me understand the real spirit and the true character of Christ."

It is not recorded that these two wealthy Toronto families endowed the Army, but we are sure they should have. For their sons had been brought into touch with the spirit of the Master. In Toronto they had been brought up in the church, of course. They had attended Sunday school regularly, to be sure. But they had rubbed elbows with people only in their own fine church. Perhaps they were made to believe that Christ cared only for fine churches and wealthy members.

Last Sunday evening was cold and bleak. As we briskly walked through the city our attention was caught by the Army band. They were playing hymns and putting life into them. We felt a thrill of religious reverence. We walked on and soon passed another detachment of the Army singing with all the force of their nature. We stopped on the third corner to await the coming of the street car. Suddenly there burst upon our ears the peals of the first band. They were coming! They were marching down the middle of the streets. With the Army's banner lifted high! As a boy we have watched our soldiers marching off to war. We have felt the thrill of patriotism and have sometimes yelled "hurrah!" But the enthusiasm which possessed us last Sunday evening was of a different kind. Old as we are, we could hardly refrain from doffing our hat and shouting at the top of our voice, "God bless you self-sacrificing followers of the cross."

We know something of the Army's work among the poor. We have never known it to turn down a needy case without doing whatever little it could to comfort, to cheer, to assist. We have watched their "pot boil" year by year just before Yuletide. We have observed the workers sticking to their posts on days and nights which seemed really too cold for human beings to be exposed. We have found out by observation and by investigation that the funds from the "boiling pot" go to make more happy homes among the really poor on Christmas morning than the average person dreams of.

What the creed, the denomination of the Salvation Army is we know not and we care not. But, to our mind it comes nearer representing the true religion of the lowly Nazarene; it comes nearer striking a common basis on which all humanity can meet and worship in spirit and in truth than any church we now know of.

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