

## A Christian's Duty to the State

is sure. Evil habits are overcome; character grows. The public mind, too, is learning to value the life that is life. A higher use of money and power and other possessions is manifest. We are prisoners of hope.

If we add, and keep in the forefront, the thought of what God is and promises, we may face the New Year and work, with ourselves and others, young and old, assured that He "that spared not His own Son," will with him freely give us all needed help. "If the Son, therefore, shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

St. Paul's Church, Hamilton

### A Christian's Duty to the State

*By Rev. W. D. Armstrong, D.D.*

Moderator of the General Assembly

We are so apt to think that the state exists for material ends—for tariffs, the production of wealth or the protection of rights, that we forget the great moral end which gives it dignity and worth.

The perfect form of society, which is the ideal towards which the state is working, can be reached only when Christian men take an earnest and honest interest in politics.

The Christian Church must make men good citizens of the state here, as well as prepare them for the heaven of the future.

The Christian citizen is to "obey the powers that be," but he is to do more than that. He is to do his best to see that the powers that be are making for righteousness. He may obey unjust laws, but he should also seek their removal. Is there unrighteousness in the land? He surely is not to remain acquiescent or indifferent. It is for him to do his utmost towards righting every wrong.

No man who has the Spirit of Christ in him can be morally indifferent to anything that touches the welfare of humanity. No man can truly pray "Thy kingdom come," and not be active, as he may find or make opportunity, in all lines of influence and efforts that tend to bring in that kingdom. No man with enlightened Christian consciousness can look on with indifference and see corruption eating out the heart of the national life, or fail in desire to see his country pervad-

ed by that righteousness which exalteth a nation.

Further, the Christian man will not refuse offices of public trust when desired to undertake them by his fellow citizens, unless other responsibilities forbid him. He may shrink from the discomfort of political associations, but does not the law of self-denial come in here? Public life should be viewed from the ethical standpoint. The standpoint of the true statesman is always ethical. He looks for the moral meaning and moral outcome of every measure. Our present Governor-General shows this mark of true statesmanship. Read his addresses.

How different things would be, if our public men kept the moral bearings of questions they discuss before their eyes. If political contests were carried on under the great principle, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor," what a change would come over our elections! If the command, "Thou shalt not steal," were hung upon the walls of public offices, or rather were engraved on the consciences of men in public trust, how it would modify commercial and political life.

One could illustrate this subject by many particulars, but my point is sufficiently clear—the moral outcome of any political policy or of any commercial enterprise should be kept clearly in the forefront; and further, Christian men should accept responsibilities and bring influence to bear to secure, as far as possible this end.

We should do our best, not only to secure a God-fearing people, but also a God-knowing government.

Ottawa

### The Still Waters

*By Rev. W. McC. Thomson, M.A.*

Centuries are crossed at a bound when we are passing through troubled waters. Barriers of race and creed are in a moment hurried away, whether a David fleeing for his life, palace gone, kingdom gone, friends gone, the work of a life time in ruins, or whether it be the modern strife between capital and labor, between greedy corporations and Christian public sentiment guarding "the