

Dwight L. Moody when he founded the schools of keeping them open exclusively for young men and women of good character who desire an education and cannot afford to secure it elsewhere. Under this plan, students are received at one-half the cost of their tuition and board, and the balance of the expenses has to come from endowment and the gifts of the public. Owing to the immense growth of the schools, the annual deficit has become more than \$100,000. Every summer the schools are used for students' conferences, which have become famous the world over.

Religion in Germany

The reports of recent years of the decay of religion in Protestant Germany have been discouraging. But the tide has turned, according to the "Literary Digest," and German Protestantism is coming to its own. The modern rationalism fails to satisfy the deepest longings of the heart and, on the other hand, preachers of the old faith who are filled with its spirit are drawing the people after them. Many of their Churches are filled to overflowing not only by Bible Christians but by the Modernists as well. Another indication of hunger for the old faith is the fact that multitudes of people seldom seen in Churches, from among those who are supposed to be out of sympathy with the Church, are attracted to services conducted by evangelists where the old Gospel is preached in its simplicity and power. In some Churches standing room is at a premium. There is a remarkable change in the student world, as shown by the increase of the German Union for Christian Students. Some years ago only fifty attended the annual conference. Last year 700 were there.

Sunday Parades

Three thousand volunteers attended Divine Service on May 17th in the Arena in Toronto. But that was not all they did. They held a parade from the Armories to the Arena. It was not a case of simply marching to the Armories but it was a *parade*. The longest way round was the shortest way home, evidently. About two thousand lads, big and little, marched with them in uniform as Public School Cadets, etc. Notice the result. They were ordered to muster at the Armories at an hour which to most of them meant not going to Morning Service. Between three and six o'clock they were on the march when not at the service. They missed Sunday School. They got home any time about seven and were too tired, if not too late, to go to Evening Service. Whatever you may think about the men of the regiments being out, do you consider that the Militia Department of this country acted wisely in ordering out two thousand lads on parade on Sunday with the foregoing consequences? Let alone the wisdom of the action, do you think it had the right to so order. We think the action had neither wisdom nor right. Loyalty, patriotism, is a virtue which is fostered by Christianity. Any thinking man knows that religion is the true and ultimate basis of national and all life. It was the height of shortsightedness, not to say folly, to give the appearance of any conflict between religion and patriotism. Nor is this all. When Johnny came marching with his gun, Johnny's sisters and brothers and father and mother had to be there to see. We are not surprised to read that over 75,000 people lined the route, for Johnny's relatives and friends are a large company. How many of the 75,000 do you think attended Evening Service? How many of Johnny's brothers and sisters attended Sunday School? Why do the volunteers receive orders that every man *must* be present? We are told on the best of authority that Church parades are not popular things among the volunteers. That order cer-

tainly looks like it. Why are they not popular? Because a parade consumes the whole Sunday practically. We feel that if proper representations were made to the Department, Sunday parading would be stopped; at any rate, we have this confidence in the Department, that there would be no more cadets called out on Sunday.

Libraries, Public and Postal

It is reassuring to remark that the circulation of books for adults in all the free libraries of Ontario for non-fiction is 617,094 and only 330,701 for fiction. The Association Libraries give similar proportions in smaller figures. The library exists that the normal man may continue his education. From Lethbridge, Alberta, comes the suggestion that a National Postal Library be founded, that men scattered far and wide over the Dominion may have this same advantage of continuing their education. The means of distribution, storage and management are all at hand in the present post office service. There are about 16,000 post offices in Canada. Notwithstanding the many services performed and the immense spread of sparsely settled country covered and the nominal fees charged, the postal service of Canada is conducted at a profit. Last year the Postal Department earned a surplus of \$1,310,000.00 over expenses. It is now proposed to provide an adequate library service for the people of Canada through the Post Office Department. It is conceived that by an adequate library service the circulation of books among the people should be as easy and inexpensive as to receive or send ordinary mail. A library in every post office is the plan. Mr. J. P. Tracy, president of the Postal Library League, figures that one volume per capita will be an adequate supply of books. Let us assume \$1.00 per volume as the average cost. The population of Canada may be estimated at ten millions. Ten million dollars is a sufficient amount to purchase all the books required for the Postal Library for Canada. It would include all reputable books for which there is a demand. It would include sufficient duplicates. It could include the literature of all languages spoken in Canada. Each post office will receive as many books as there are people in the locality with a minimum of, say, 250 books. It is estimated an average of 50 cents per volume will equip the post offices to receive and operate the library. The whole amount required for equipment would be \$5,000,000. The whole establishment will cost \$15,000,000. This is a comparatively small sum for the Government of Canada to appropriate. One battleship would cost as much. By means of a bond issue at 4 per cent. annual interest and allowing for amortization in 20 years the annual cost of providing the library would be much less than the annual profits of the Post Office Department at the present time. The larger libraries would supplement the needs of the smaller. It is believed a fee of 2 cents on each loan of a book would be sufficient to support the Postal Library. It seems to us that settled parts are scarcely in need of this move. But if Mr. Tracy can work out his scheme to apply to the remote-districts, it will be a boon. We gather from the reports that Travelling Libraries have been very useful but they are necessarily limited. This Postal Library would be a decided improvement.

Veni Creator Spiritus!

So sings the whole Church this week in words that carry us back to the days of St. Ambrose, the great Archbishop of Milan in Northern Italy—words sung by the ordaining bishop over his kneeling priests (that are to be) in almost every part of the Church for so many

centuries. What significance have they for the Church Catholic in this, the second decade of the 20th century, that the members of that Church love to make such words part of public worship at Whitsuntide? Nay, does not the tone deepen, does not the chord become more full of woven melodies, does not the very cadence become more solemn and emphatic as the ages roll on—in *sæcula sæculorum*, for ever and ever?

Ascensiontide has come and gone, climax of the Church's panoramic study of Christ's life, and Ascension Sunday breathed its special aspiration—in the same breath with exultation of the "Lord's Great Triumph"—*send thy Holy Ghost to comfort us and exalt us!* Therein lies the key of the soul's position. Christ is gone, His work of atonement being done. He has laid the foundation of twelve precious stones Apostolic, Himself the tried corner stone of all, elect, precious above all. Another stage of building in the temple of human souls has begun, is going on; and it needs, it calls for this our mastering and over-ruling supervision. So it sings—the stones cry out—"Come, Creator, Spirit, our souls inspire."

As the Collect says, "Grant us to have a right judgment in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort. That is the result desired from the Sacred Presence we invoke at all times. At baptism, confirmation, communion, on all solemn occasions of rites and ceremonies of public worship, in crises of family and private life, in personal supreme efforts of energy in the discharge of onerous duty—we need that "right judgment" to guide, that "evermore rejoicing" to keep us free and forceful. As time rolls, the ages accumulating, there seems an over-burdening weight of experience in human life, an increasing need of the directing and sustaining power—something far more than human counsel can give. So—in this special "dispensation of the Spirit"—the Church's cry is increasingly justified and explained to the inner consciousness of all her devout and reverent members. She thrills with feeling while she sings "Veni Creator."

We are not, however, without considerable danger that this gift of boundless value may be regarded with less attention than it ought; and the tendencies of the present age are of such a nature, and of so powerful an influence, that great watchfulness on the part of the Church is imperatively demanded, lest the work and agency of the Divine Spirit, on the Church collectively, and on the individual Christian, should come to be too little regarded. In the first and purest ages of the Church, and when her triumphs over the world and sin were the most remarkable, it was in the assemblies of the Church, it was when they met together in the breaking of bread and with prayers, that the Divine Spirit was eminently vouchsafed. That primitive upper room, whose walls could testify to the devotion, the united accord, and the daily assemblies of the disciples, was the first to be filled with the tokens of the Holy Ghost, as it was poured forth from the Throne of Heaven, whither the Redeemer had just ascended. The Holy Spirit indwelt in men's hearts impelling to service, strengthening to endurance and guiding to wisdom. The heart willing to be cleansed is the only dwelling place of the Spirit. Without the Spirit we have not life. His presence differentiates the Church from any other agency. No change can ever take place in the means whereby the graces and virtues of the Divine Spirit can be attained, until Messiah shall come in His glory and establish His reign on earth according to the purposes of His will. He comes only to His Church when communion with the Master is her controlling thought. He comes only to His children, making them His when the heart is open to be purified and the will ready to be consecrated.