

Canadian Churchman

Toronto, September 20th, 1917.

The Christian Year

The 17th Sunday After Trinity, Sept. 30, 1917.

The condition of advancement in the Kingdom of God is lowliness. In the Gospel for the day Our Lord tells a parable about this. It was the man who sat down in the lowest room who received the command, "Friend, go up higher." This is one of the persistent themes of the Gospel. There is no advancement possible to those who will not stoop, and there is no limit to the progress of those who are willing to abase themselves. Set yourself up, and you are standing in your own poor strength, there is no Divine advancement for you, you will have to travel in your own power alone. Keep low and the grace of God is yours, and all the power of the Most High is at your disposal. Take the lower room, and the Lover of the Lowly will Himself take your cause into His own Hand. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

St. Paul has his word to say on this in the Epistle. He, the prisoner, rejoices in the power of lowliness. "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you, that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness." He has found the same secret. Do you want to travel upwards in life's journey? Then "walk . . . with all lowliness and meekness." If you walk humbly, if the ground is near you as you walk, then you know that you are climbing the mountain and that you are coming nearer the peak. The mountain climber on the steep ascent cannot walk erect. He climbs with the ground close to him, and the steeper the ascent the nearer he knows he is to the mountain peak! Well enough for those who walk upon the plain to walk erect, but for those who would scale the steep ascent, they must walk "with all lowliness." Such is the paradox of the spiritual journey. Are you spiritually ambitious? You ought to be. Do you wish to climb the mountain? Then this is the secret—keep low. Have you heard the Voice calling, "Come up higher"? Do you know of the vocation to holiness? Then listen again to St. Paul: "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you, that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness." And remember that for those who so walk there is abundant grace, for they are surrounded by it. As they climb, keeping near to the ground, grace goes before to lift them up, grace follows after to be leaned upon. For do we not say in the Collect for this day, "Lord, we pray Thee that Thy grace may always prevent and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ Our Lord"?

"To say that God makes war is to degrade Him to the level of Jove. If war be a necessity, the only good resulting is the noble qualities of patriotism and manhood which it stirs to life. But when we put over against this the loss and the hatred, surely it is indefensible."—Canon Kittson, in sermon at Provincial Synod of Ontario.

Editorial

ELECTION LITERATURE.

Canada is at war and the immediate concern of the people of Canada is to defeat Germany. Canada is also, unfortunately, faced with a Dominion election, and no matter what other issues may be brought forward, the main issue is the successful prosecution of the war. Anything, therefore, that is done for purely party ends, or that tends to draw people's minds away from the main issue, should be regarded as unpatriotic and unworthy of loyal Canadians.

We have no intention whatever to take sides in the coming election, so far as the columns of the "Canadian Churchman" are concerned, except that we are unhesitatingly opposed to any man, asking for the votes of the people, who opposes the principles of the Military Service Act, or who puts party above patriotism. We quite realize that all political parties make mistakes and that the members of parliament are not perfect. However, we do expect that the men who are made responsible for the government of a nation will strive to be more than party politicians or ward-healers. They know, or ought to know, the meaning of the word *statesman*, and we expect them at least to make an honest effort to live up to the ideal that such a term must place before them. Especially at a time such as the present, we want men in the parliament of Canada who realize the gravity of the situation and who endeavour by every honourable means in their power to lead the masses of the people to realize it likewise.

One of the most powerful forces in influencing public opinion on any subject is the printed page. It has a peculiar charm for the average man who considers that what is put in print must be true. The words of the political speaker may be forgotten but the printed words remain and their work goes on. Advantage is taken of this fact by every political party and the country is flooded with literature previous to an election. Unfortunately, too much of this literature aims at stirring up party feeling and at winning the election at any cost. Petty personalities are indulged in, exaggerated statements are made which the average elector is unable to correct or verify. The main issues are frequently lost sight of or their true significance overlooked.

Our object in drawing attention to this subject is to urge our readers to be on their guard and to use every legitimate means in their power to keep the real issue that is before the people of Canada at the present time in the foreground. The opponents of conscription, rest assured, will make every effort to sidetrack this issue and to divert attention to other matters. It is therefore a matter that should be kept in mind by every loyal Britisher. The clergy can very well use their influence in this direction without being guilty of "meddling with politics" in the ordinary meaning of that expression. It is a matter of vital importance to Canada and to humanity that the right kind of men be returned to parliament and clergy and laity alike should combine in securing this end. Let us remember the old adage and live up to it. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

WHAT SOME SOLDIERS ARE ASKING.

Why are the men of the rank and file in the trenches at the front paid least and the men in munition factories paid most? Or, put in another way, Why is it that the farther you go back from the fighting line the greater you find the pay?

Another soldier wants to know why it is that a number of Canadian officers who recently returned from England and who never saw the front had their passages paid, while he and others who had served for months in the trenches had to pay their own way?

So long as conditions like this exist, is it any wonder that soldiers complain? Who wouldn't?

In a Toronto Military Hospital there is at the present time a young Canadian soldier, a member of the Church of England, who returned from England early in the present year minus a foot and with other injuries. Since the day that he landed in Toronto up to the present not a single Anglican chaplain has been near him except one who was asked to visit him and who saw him once. This is only one instance out of scores that might be mentioned. Is it any wonder that we have found fault with the whole Chaplain organization of the Church in Canada? We have not said one-half what we have felt like saying about this matter.

The War-Time Elections Act has been passed, and without expressing any opinion regarding the methods employed, we have no hesitation in approving of the main principles of the Act. It is inconceivable that men who are unwilling to defend a country should be allowed to legislate in matters concerning its defence. A great deal is said about the rights of naturalization. We should like to see more said about the responsibilities of naturalization. When our men in the trenches are calling for help is no time to take chances here at home. People in Canada have had plenty of opportunity since the outbreak of the war to give evidence of their loyalty and willingness to share in the present struggle.

Russia, instead of being a source of strength to the Allies, is at present a source of weakness. She is not only unable to defend her borders against the enemy, but seems unable to settle differences within her borders. She remains, however, one of the Allies and as such should receive any assistance that can be given her. And those of us who believe in the power of prayer have a special responsibility towards her. What we should like to see is a special prayer used throughout the whole Christian Church in behalf of Russia at all services, and an effort made to have it used in our homes in private and family prayer. This may possibly have been done in places already but if so we have not heard of it. Let it be united and general.

A religion cannot be really strengthened at home by declining to extend its blessings abroad. It was said long ago that Christianity is a commodity of which the more we export the more we shall have at home. It is equally true that the less we export the less we may find at home.—Selected.

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