

Nation?" but "What kind of a Nation are we?" is the important question. What lessons did God mean Earth to be taught by this young Nation of the West? What blessings can she bring to a weary, strife-racked world? Is her new expression of an old life to be found in narrow outlook, self-seeking conduct, indifference to humanity and God, or, with the dictates of Duty, Faith, and Love, grown greater because of her wide expanses, the silent, but impressive, grandeur of her mountains, the mighty sweep of her magnificent rivers, will she breathe a better message, a deeper affection, a truer Brotherhood in all she does and says?

When Canada passes, as all Nations must pass, and the British Empire become History, as it must,—and will, will they go out in a selfish struggle for riches, place, position, power, or will they pass in self-sacrifice and service to leave behind, for the world's consideration and upbuilding, a story of

"Plain truth to Manhood and to God's supreme design"?

Nation we are! Rich are we in the resources, the beauties, of Nature. Humbly let us seek to show that our natures are not unresponsive to our surroundings, dead to their noble suggestions and inspirations, but those of real seekers for a right interpretation of God's message to us in our wonderful heritage for all mankind.

CHINA

Once, again, attention is called to a disturbance of conditions as they are and, this time, it is China that claims our interest.

No doubt we shall hear regrets for the "alarming conditions in China," will be told again that "Civilization is in danger of collapse," that "Christianity has failed," that "the old World is in bad shape." Is it true?

What lies at the bottom of China's trouble? Nothing more, or less, than the natural impulses of a National desire for self-direction, self-expression, self-control.

Let us, frankly, admit that the union of Bolsheviki idealism with this struggling gleam of light is a grave menace to present peace; but God made man, Chinaman as well as Westerner, fundamentally sound "in his own image and likeness" and though, in ignorance and finiteness of conception, he blunders, and grave errors are made, the progress is ever upwards and onwards into light. So we need not worry about civilization.

All that is good, all that is Christian, all that is true, in our civilization will last throughout the eternity of God. The sham, the untrue, the false will fail, be plucked out and burned in the great fire of human life and action.

Christianity failed? No! Christian doctrine, Christian emphasis on the divinity of man and Nation, is the light by which the present changes are coming to pass. We see some, and only very few, of the birth pangs of a newer and greater Chinese Nation. Be the loss never so great, the cost never so much, the results will be worth while. A candle is being lighted, nay has been lighted, by Christian teachings in China that will never be put out but will be lost in the blaze of a greater light in the years to come when China shall have found her soul.

"The old World in bad shape?" Yes! It has been worse, much worse. Thanks to Christian teaching we recognize its defects and our own. That very recognition shows that the good work of betterment has begun and is going on. When we see our shortcomings, realize our sins, find ourselves, shorn of contentment with ourselves, forced back to an acknowledgment of God's supremacy and our dependence on Him, the old World is not in bad shape. It is finding itself and fitting itself for God's footstool, a place where Heaven shall begin for all its creatures.

N. W. BIRKENSHAW

Time changes all things. People come and go in the building of a City or a Province. Some merely flit across the threshold and are gone like shadows. Others remain for greater or less time and do more or less to help carry on.

Among those whom fate brought to Vancouver some nine years ago was a Banker who had already attracted attention in the business world, Mr. N. W. Birkenshaw of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

After nine years of life in our midst, he has gone and, going, left the community life the poorer thereby. To him the change has meant promotion. To Vancouver it means the supplying of the place of a man who had done much for the City in business and other lines.

Banking is a business that is constantly drawing the attention of the public to itself. Now by being the spotlight of Legislation. Now by some Bank failure or other incident. Now by the chariness with which it lends its aid to business. Now by the eagerness with which it thrusts its wares upon a business public it has been denying strenuously for some months.

Bank Managers have a large place to fill if they are competent. The sad fact is that in most cases they are, in these days, mostly administrators, not business men. They are carefully taught what to do from the standpoint of protecting, or increasing, the dividends of the Bank shareholders. This is perfectly correct—to a certain point. What they are not taught, however, is business. It may not be their fault. It may be the fault of the system. It is none the less true. Their judgment on a business venture, its merits, its possibilities, is quite valueless.

When, therefore, a City is served by a man of Birkenshaw's capacity, who was a business man as well as a Banker, it is thrice happy. In his case, capacity as a Banker and as a business man was reinforced by interests in other circles. Men who were not in business circles met him here and learned of his ability and worth. In more than one circle he leaves a blank.

When can we hope to find a successor for him in Banking circles other than in name? If his successor in office can equal his gifts Vancouver can well rejoice. Sweeneys, Godfreys and Birkenshaws are not to be found in profusion. Once found they are to be loved, honoured and respected. To those who knew Birkenshaw it will be a pleasure to wish him all success and a speedy return to reside here. We need every good man we can get in Vancouver.

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