

Sursum Corda

By Archdeacon Heathcote



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Are We Downhearted? No!

In the darkest moments of the war the soldiers of our Empire shouted this assurance. Though engaged in a losing fight at the moment, they were confident in the justice of their cause, knowing well, that in the long run right must conquer might. Downheartedness is foreign to our race; difficulties which might be expected to cause depression are apt to affect us in the opposite way. "Spirits rise as danger thickens." Difficulties which confound the coward only serve as a challenge to the brave. Such a spirit must nerve our generation. It must permeate all types in our Country, for Canada has a task before it, which will call for the noblest characteristics of the Nation, if it is to be successfully achieved. For the moment the National spirit is running high; if peace is not already declared, it surely is in sight. The Empire and her Allies have stood firm, while to Germany, and her allies in brutality and wickedness, condemnation and punishment is assured. The purposes for which we went to

war are about to be achieved. With the nightmare of the war removed our spirits and hopes should rise still higher. The Nation has borne a cross throughout the war; the crown of victory will be a pleasant change.

Are we downhearted? Perhaps there is in some minds the dismal feeling that the war, terrible in its inception, has grown worse through its duration, and apart from the treachery and brutality of our enemies, it is a catastrophe and a disaster to all engaged in it, and even to those whose cause is just. Such people think that the disgrace of the war must be shared to some extent by ourselves. The pessimist says civilization has failed. There are voices saying also that Christianity itself has failed. Such people are downhearted. Given the psychology of the Germans, with its arrogance, lack of virtue, and overweening ambitions, it was inevitable that such a people as ours would go to war with them, when they sought to take away our freedom. There is nothing uncivilized, unchristian, nor, to put it strongly, anything contrary to the spirit of Christ in our war against this enemy. This was well expressed by a school boy, whose teacher said to him: "Tommy, how must a Christian feel towards his enemies?" To which Tommy replied, "The Bible says we must love our enemies." The teacher proceeded: "The Germans are our enemies; how can we love them?" to which the boy replied, "By giving them what is good for them." In "My Mission to London," the former German ambassador has proved to the hilt, what we knew to be true before, that Britain, through her foreign ministers, did everything to prevent war, but the Germans would have it. The devil must be cast out of such people if the world is to be made safe for democracy. As members of the Empire we feel no shame. We glory in our cause, and we glory in the men and women everywhere, who have helped to bring us success.

How can we be depressed, standing as we do, in full view of the glory of our manhood, as revealed by the war? Some say this revelation is magnificent; others say it is a miracle; and so it is, for we have found courage and endurance, patience and cheerfulness, ex-