

The Leadership of God

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"Come not near unto the ark, that ye may know the way by which ye must go; for ye have not passed this way heretofore."—JOSHUA iii. 4.

If this were no more than the first Sunday of Term in an ordinary New Year, this text would be true and appropriate. Each year brings its own problems, difficulties and surprises. How much more so in a New Year which has none to match it in all the centuries—the Year of Peace (as the French press has named it), after the most momentous conflict the human race has ever known.

At the beginning of this year we look out upon a new world in the making, or an old world in its remaking, after an experience unparalleled in human history. From the exhilarating mountain top of victory, we look back over those wonderful four years of war, in which we have witnessed such manifestations of God and Man as must surely leave a lasting impress on our character.

We have seen a Glorious Sight, for it is a glorious thing to see the young manhood of a nation answer to the call of God, as we have seen it. The call of God sounded among the nations; the banner of Truth, Honour, Justice, was uplifted. The nations that obeyed went forth fearlessly into the raging storm, and they have passed triumphantly through the waters. We feel the exhilaration which Psalmists and Prophets expressed of old.

We have seen a Horrible Sight, the demon and the beast in man let loose. Witness the unspeakable cruelties of the German armies in Belgium, the wholesale massacres of Armenians by Turkish soldiery, the calculated frightfulness of sinking passenger ships, "without a trace," the bombing from the air of defenceless civilians, and the shelling of hospitals in the war zone. The long-drawn tortures inflicted upon prisoners by which thousands died a slow death of prolonged agony. That revelation of the demon and the beast in man—and its lesson—must never be forgotten by soldiers of the Cross. Mere civilization is but a thin veneer. Only the teachings and Life of Jesus Christ can eradicate the beast and exorcise the demon.

We have seen a Marvellous Sight. There are many who affirm with profound conviction that when the British army was in the extremity of need at Mons in 1914, the angel hosts of heaven intervened on their behalf. Whether that conviction represents an actual occurrence, or a subjective vision granted to support the faith of our men in their hour of agony, I know not. But this I do know: That from the hour of the great retreat from Mons in 1914 to that day in November, 1918, when our troops re-entered Mons in triumph, we have witnessed such wondrous intervention of God in the affairs of men and nations as has not been seen since Apostolic days. In the short span of human life, it is not given to every generation to see the vindication of righteousness; wickedness often seems to prosper. But we have lived in days when God's power has been shown openly, and His honour vindicated magnificently.

It is worth while to stop a moment to compare Germany in her insensate pride and arrogance before the war; and Germany in her humiliation to-day.

Der Tag.

[Adapted.]

So! It has come and gone—Der Tag, The Day,
And in its sombre twilight now we sit
Dismayed, confounded, waiting for the night.

The Day, for which we plotted through long years,
And built our fleets, and drilled our hosts, and bred
The lust of conquest in a people's heart.

The Day, of which we whispered with wise nods,
Or toasted arrogant at secret feasts,
Babbling of world dominion soon to be.

We could not lose! Our spies were everywhere,
Intrigue and lies and gold had done their work,
The nations idled, trustful, unprepared.

But we were ready—to the last grim word.
Armed by degraded science for a blow
More wanton, ruthless than mankind could dream.

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Well! It has come and gone And in the dusk,
Amid the chaos of our own mad deeds,
Our task remains to cast the reckoning.

What of our cherished lands beyond the seas?
What of our commerce and our trades at home?
What of our sons? When we are asked for these,
What shall we say?

What have we won? The hatred of brave men,
The loathing of all womankind, the fear
Of little children even as they sleep.

Naught else. And we have lost—a Nation's soul.
Prone at the feet of her false god she lies,
Bankrupt alike in honour and estate.

—FREDERIC B. BARD (1918).

British Empire. Not seeking a quarrel with
any, but, when war was forced upon us we were
armed with the justice of our cause. How wonder-
fully we have been delivered and upheld and
brought to final victory. And the victory is the
gift of God, remember.

Why has the power of God thus been exercised
so manifestly in our behalf? Has any genera-
tion in a thousand years witnessed such a mani-
festation of Divine power? We have truly seen
a marvellous sight.

We look forward to a Pregnant Future. We
are standing now face to face with the gigantic
tasks and unparalleled opportunities born of
these conditions. It is not for nothing that the
Providence of God has caused this earth to be
ploughed deep in our day. We could not have
done the ploughing; but we can now sow the
seeds of Love, Truth, Justice, Brotherhood, and
give our lives to tending the growth of these
sensitive plants. Are we men enough to answer
to the needs of these times? Surely we are.
But to do all this, we must sacrifice much we
used to hold dear, and with consecrated lives
carry forward the Banner of the Cross.

"Thou hast made chaos of our old content,
Purged us with fire, and winnowed us with woe;
We were forgetting that Thy gifts are meant
Only to wean us from the things below.

The whirlwind racked our Mounts of Selfish Ease;
Thy Hand was in it, but we did not see.
The earthquake shook our proud-built buttresses;
Thy Hand was in it, but we could not see.

The fire devoured our bravest and our best;
Thy Hand was in it, but we would not see.
But now—Thy ways are manifest,
At last, O Lord, we see."

OXENHAM.

WHAT IS OUR DUTY TO THE WORLD TO-DAY?

"The most destructive and the most tragic war
in history has come to an end," and the chief
powers that were engaged in it are exhausted by
their efforts. The enemy nations and Russia are
in the extremity of need and peril. Famine,
anarchy, ruin threaten them.

They deserve no pity, do you say? Did human-
ity in rebellion against God deserve pity or help,
when God looked down in compassionate mercy
upon a ruined world, and sent His Only Begotten
Son to be the Saviour of mankind? And what
did He say, Who Himself took our sins upon Him
and bare our sorrows, when they nailed Him
to the Cross? To the Father in heaven, He
cried: "Father, forgive them; for they know not."
To the sons of men He had already said: "For-
give and ye shall be forgiven." Soldiers of the
Cross, we must take upon our hearts the sor-
rows, the burden, the agony of Russia, our erst-
while ally; of Armenia, our suffering sister; of
Austria and Turkey, our active enemies of a
short while ago; aye, even of Germany, who set
her hand to work all this evil upon us—even as
another people nineteen centuries ago concen-
trated the venom, the hatred, the villainies of the
human heart upon the One Friend of all man-
kind, and in His person hounded, tormented, cruci-
fied Incarnate Love. "Forgive us our sins, as
we forgive them that sin against us," is the only
prayer for forgiveness we are authorized to offer.

What can we do to help them? do you ask?
I cannot tell you. God knows, and He will teach
those who wish to do His will. Five years ago,
if you had told me our motherland would pre-
sently be at death grips with a relentless and

powerful foe, and had asked me, what can we do
to help? I could not have foretold what hap-
pened later. Who could! But when the call of
God and country came, presently the brave
young manhood of Canada was fighting in Flan-
ders, France, Macedonia, Mesopotamia, Palestine;
on land, sea, air; and a hospital at Saloniki,
equipped and manned by this University, was
ministering with unsurpassed skill and devotion
to the wounded and the dying—our own and of
the enemy.

Where there is the will in a righteous cause,
God shows the way. The problems and
sufferings of the war-wracked peoples of the old
world are beyond our powers of solution, per-
haps; but they are not beyond the reach of the
Son of God, Who puts forth His power, and
brings His love to bear, through human hearts
and brains and skill.

Our part it is to take these sorrows and prob-
lems upon our hearts, and offer ourselves to God
for any work He may have for us to do towards
their solution. In the ultimate issue, the cure of
the ills of mankind and the upward progress of
the world depends on Spiritual forces. It is to
you, and others like you, that men look for the
manifestations and application of these forces.
And spiritual force can engirdle the globe as
quickly and as mysteriously as the "Spanish in-
fluenza" has done.

THE PROBLEMS AT HOME.

But let us come nearer home and think of the
problems of our own Dominion, and particularly
of this city and Province. These invite our atten-
tion most urgently because: (a) They are prob-
lems of our own country; (b) to the Universities
the country rightly looks for trained intelligence,
expert knowledge, wise leadership and consecrat-
ed service. There are many problems here which
we must make our own:—

Of social betterment in a hundred forms;
"decent housing for families of small wage
earners;
"the health and training of children;
"the eradication of those foul diseases that are
born of human lust and selfish indulgence;
"the breaking down of old antagonisms between
capital and labour, and the substitution of
trustful co-operation for conflict and dis-
trust.

Upon each of us rests the duty to do all we
can to make the farms and factories, the busi-
ness houses and the homes, the cities and towns
of this fair Province to be places where all obey
the golden rule: "Thou shalt love thy neighbour
as thyself." This implies that every one shall
be able to secure:—

Wholesome and sufficient food at all times;
Medical and surgical skill and nursing in sick-
ness;
Decent provision for old-age and accident;
Leisure for social intercourse and family joys;
Fundamentals of education for all, and the
highest training for the few who have ex-
ceptional brain power.

Let us be content with nothing less than the
perfect and complete brotherhood of man based
on the Fatherhood of God. The times are singu-
larly favourable for unprecedented achievement
along lines of social amelioration. The progress
of mankind depends on Spiritual forces.

"Not since Christ died upon His lonely cross
Has Time such prospect held of Life's new
birth;

Not since the world of chaos first was born
Has man so clearly visaged hope of a new earth.

God grant us wisdom in these coming days,
And eyes unsealed, that we clear visions see
Of that new world that He would have us build,
To Life's ennoblement and His high ministry."

OXENHAM.

We have looked back over four years of mar-
vels, and forwards to the mighty tasks awaiting
us, and we must realize that only men of God
can accomplish the work. The task must be done:
(a) By the power of God; (b) under the leader-
ship of God.

The leadership of God. "Come not near the
ark, that ye may know the way." Our need is
not for the excessive zeal and hurry begotten of
over-confidence in self, but for the restrained
strength of the man who waits upon God. The
Ark of Covenant contained the Law of the Lord,
Manna, Aaron's Rod, symbols of the declared
will and gracious providence of God.

We have the Written Word of God and the
Indwelling Spirit of God. By these we may al-
ways know the way God would have us go.
There are human schemes without number to

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