

Canadian Churchman

Thursday, February 5th, 1920

Editorial

THE devil is not on our subscription lists, but there is just a chance that a stray copy of this issue may fall into the hands of the world or the flesh, and there is a word we desire to say to them. Whatever else our age is noted for, certainly its extravagance and extremes are without precedent. A jazz and rag-time generation is the epithet bestowed on us, and it is not altogether a slander. The average citizen has never known a time when money was spent more loosely, when entertainment was so lavish, and when amusement ran so close to libertinism. Some things said and done and worn to-day with scarce a protest raise the colour as well as the eyebrows of the aforesaid average citizen. It is not because we are getting old, for our hearts were never younger. But we cannot see rhyme or reason in the mad dance of pleasure which has caught so many in its swirl. The wholesomeness of life seems to have lost its charm. Of course it is insipid to palates that tasted fiery vintages. After-war conditions is what we say. That is the cause of it all. But we are not foolish enough to think that the diagnosis of a disease is its remedy. We cannot rest content with that. And after-war conditions are not the cause of it all by any means. Some of us want to do it, and some of us have not back-bone enough to say anything against it, and the rest of us don't care a cent about the matter so long as we are not disturbed.

The man or woman of mature years who can look out on the present state of affairs without misgiving is culpably slothful.

"Well, what can you do about it?" We all realize that a period of reaction follows high tension. It is one of nature's laws. But Christian men and women can see to it that by example as well as speech they help to make an atmosphere which shall be re-creation as well as recreation. "Ye are the salt of the earth," said One, and if ever there was a time when salt was needed to save society from the decay which inevitably follows low ideals it is right now. No, it is not the young people, because there are oldsters as well as youngsters fluttering too close to the candle flame.

Who are the salt? Well, who unless the followers of the Master. Cannot we persuade our friends that the increase of stimulus and novelty which is demanded in pleasure now is a symptom of jaded nerves. And don't we all know that permanent satisfaction can come only from things worth while. We hate to be despondent about some of our fellows, but their dedication of nights and days to a fruitless round of frivolity leaves the impression that they can no more take in the meaning of life than a butterfly, or that they are trying to deaden life's insistent voices by the abandon of pleasure.

"If any one loves the world, there is no love in his heart for the Father. For the things in the world—the cravings of the earthly nature, the cravings of the eyes, the show and pride of life—

of LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR RICHARD TURNER, V.C., late Chief of Canadian General Staff. He says: "There is really grave complaint to be made of the lack of consideration shown by many employers of labour. They are certainly not doing all they could to help out. Many of them are selfish, and they won't have a returned man unless he is one hundred per cent. efficient, which is not to be expected. When one considers, on the one hand, the position these employers would have been in had Germany won the war, and been free to work out her own will in Canada, and on the other hand the flourishing, prosperous condition industry is in as a result of the heroic fighting of these lads Overseas, one cannot but feel that the employers might be a little more sympathetic and be satisfied with a little less than complete efficiency from returned soldiers for the time being."

The Quiet Hour

Rev. Canon G. OSBORNE TROOP, M.A.

RIVERS OF LIVING WATER.

IT was, strange to say, only a short time ago that the wonderful words of our Lord, recorded in the seventh chapter of St. John, came home to my heart as a living message: "If any man thirst, let him (continually) come unto Me and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, from within him shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake He of the Spirit."

What conviction should these solemn words bring to the average believer! Why, here is a clear, simple and definite promise, that every sincerely believing heart shall be so filled with the Holy Spirit, that from within him shall flow, for the continual refreshment of all with whom he has to do, rivers of living water. Does this, as a matter of fact, describe you? Does it describe me? Is the Holy Spirit in all godly sincerity flowing through our hearts and lives as glorious rivers of life and love and joy and peace and blessing? Imagine what a holy revolution would be wrought in Christendom, if even our Communicants were as "rivers of living water"! Alas! the average Christian is too often like "a barren and dry land, where no water is." He has little or no spiritual comfort for himself, and therefore has still less to overflow for the comfort of others. We can only comfort others "with the comfort wherewith we ourselves have been comforted of God."

Yet here ever stands the patient Saviour, calling as of old—"If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink." As He said to the wondering woman at the well of Sychar—"Whoso drinketh of this water shall thirst again, but whoso drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but it shall become in him a spring of water, springing up unto everlasting life." As Ezekiel prophesied of old—"Everything shall live, whithersoever the river cometh."

My friends, will you now with me face a straight question as before God? Is it not to our eternal shame and reproach, if we claim to be in any real sense believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, and yet remain "barren and dry" in the midst of a world perishing for lack of the living water? If we humbly take our Lord at His word, even now, without upbraiding, He will at once cause those promised "rivers" to rise within our hearts and to flow through our lives, not only to our own "great and endless comfort," but also to the "sweet and inexpressible comfort" of all with whom we have to do. Shall we not put His faithfulness to the test? If we do, one thing is certain He will not, He cannot fail us. Even "if we are faithless, He abideth faithful; He cannot deny Himself." "They who trust Him wholly, find Him wholly true." The rivers of life immediately began to flow in that awakened woman of Samaria. How eagerly she cried to the men of her city—"Come, see a Man, that told me all things that ever I did. Is not this the Christ?" Let us go and do likewise.

The Aged Minister's Prayer

"Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth. Now also when I am old and grey-headed, O God, forsake me not."—Ps. 71: 9, 18.

Forsake me not when I am old,
The daylight wanes, my work is done,
My feet draw near the streets of gold;
I wait the setting of the sun.

Forsake me not when I am old,
When youthful vigour is no more;
When in the twilight grey and cold,
I sit and wait the summons o'er.

Forsake thee not when thou art old?
Thy Father hears thy trustful prayer,
His arms of love shall thee enfold;
His hand thy table shall prepare.

Forsake thee not when thou art old?
We hear the call; the churches wake,
The heart that won us to the fold
Our grateful love shall ne'er forsake.

they all come, not from the Father, but from the world. And the world with its cravings, is passing away, but he who does God's will continues forever."

The message of Lent comes this year with added emphasis. But the parson or the people who interpret that as an interruption, but not a cessation, of things frivolous have not begun to understand the message of the Church.

NO word of ours is needed to emphasize the call for volunteers for this page and on the correspondence page. It is gratifying to learn that six applications resulted from the appeal which this journal printed three months ago. May God clear the vision of those who can heed these calls and give them grace to give what is more precious than money—a life of service.

YOU might imagine that the remembrance of what our men had done at the front would never be far from our minds. But there are some employers who will not be patient with returned men. They think that a hundred per cent. business is better than helping a man back to a hundred per cent. efficiency. Not everyone is in that class. We believe the majority are not. But there are enough to warrant the remarks

WANTED!

Nurses! Teachers! Domestic Help!

IN our Canadian Northwest there is a pressing and immediate need for the services of strong, capable, devoted Churchwomen as nurses, teachers and kitchen help in connection with our Indian Schools and hospitals. The work is hard, the salaries very small. Such service must needs entail self-sacrifice, but it is well worth while. It is Christian Social Service among these wards of our nation, a contribution alike towards the extension of the Kingdom of God, and towards the uplifting of our national life.

The following are among the more pressing needs:—

1. Two nurses, friends if possible, for a small hospital in the far west and for work in the surrounding district.

2. Trained and qualified nurse for field work in district surrounding an Indian School—an Indian Department appointment.

3. Certificated 2nd class—3rd class may do if thoroughly reliable—teacher as Senior teacher in an Indian boarding school.

4. A Churchwoman with some experience in plain cooking to take charge of the kitchen department in an Indian boarding school.

5. A girls' matron—also in an Indian school—to call the girls to rise, oversee sewing room, etc., etc.

For particulars as to salary, location, qualifications, etc., apply to (Miss) L. A. Metcalf, Grimsby W. A. Bureau of Christian Service.

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