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The Church Guardian.

Upholds the Doctrines and Rubrics of the Prayer Book.

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."—Eph. vi. 24.
"Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."—Jude 3.

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THE PASTORAL LETTER OF THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS OF THE PRO- TESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE UNITED STATES,

Delivered at the General Convention held in
Chicago last month,

Is of such general application, and deals with so many matters of equal interest to the Church in Canada, that we devote the space usually given to "Ecclesiastical Notes" to it; giving the letter almost in full, but breaking it up into paragraphs under heads which we supply. We sincerely hope that it will be carefully read, and that it may come as a Message from the great Sister Church to the members of the old Mother Church in this land.

"Brethren, beloved of the Clergy and Laity, grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

The assemblage of this great council of our Church, always an occasion of very deep interest, becomes increasingly impressive and important, with the growth and extension of the Church and the added duties and claims of the day. Life is now so active and intense, the world moves on with such rapidity, that three years cannot elapse without changes of magnitude. The Church, like a mighty river issuing in the remote past from the everlasting hills, flows onward from age to age, through unfamiliar regions and amid varying scenery.

Of the progress made by our country we are impressively reminded by the spectacle presented to us in this great city, with its magnificent buildings, hurrying crowds, and immense business transactions. Standing here where, within the memory of living men, the wilderness was almost untrodden except by the foot of the savage, the marvellous increase, whereof this is a specimen, which astonishes the stranger, and which is contemplated by the citizen with pride and exultation, may well awaken the anxiety of the patriot and the solicitude of the Christian. In what a momentous period of the world we are living! In what a land is our lot cast! What immense responsibilities press upon the Church! In these novel circumstances and untried conditions she is brought face to face with new emergencies and perplexing problems. She has opportunities of unexampled usefulness, claims multiplying and cogent, a stewardship solemn and tremendous.

Shall these broad and fertile regions be the abode of an intelligent, righteous and Christian people, united not only under one form of government and assimilated in various social agreements, but also bound together by faith in one Redeemer, and by the principles which He came from heaven to establish? Shall there be a power for good contending constantly and successfully against the various forms of evil and tendencies to corruption, that are already working with baneful potency, and which, unchecked, will develop with terrific energy? Can the national heart be kept sound, and the national life pure, where there are influences abroad so fraught with danger?

SPECIAL TEMPTATIONS OF THE AGE.

RAPID INCREASE OF WEALTH, THE CONTEMPT OF LAWFUL AUTHORITY, AND THE SPREAD OF UNBELIEF.

"Among the most obvious and alarming of these perils we instance the temptations incident to a rapid increase of wealth, the contempt of lawful authority, and the spread of unbelief.

INCREASE OF WEALTH.

That the increase of riches, and the means of indulgence consequent thereupon, are hazardous, not only to the spiritual life of the Church, but also to the tone of public morality and the highest interests in the State, needs little argument to prove. History abundantly confirms and illustrates the warnings of the divine word. Great nations, intoxicated with success, lifted up with pride, enervated by luxury, inflamed with covetousness, have fallen from their early and purer state into corruption, decay, and ruin. Under the conditions of modern civilization, new dangers spring from the inequalities of the social state, the increase of poverty, discontent and pride being as marked as the accumulation of fortunes and the growth of luxury. How shall this discontent and misery be remedied, wealth recognize its stewardship, affluence own the brotherhood of man, and the less favored and successful of the community be rendered cheerful and contented with their lot?

As a people we glory in liberty. Largest freedom inspires our institutions and our policy. Before the law all are equal. No invidious distinctions or privileged classes are recognized.

LIBERTY NOT LAWLESSNESS.

But liberty is not lawlessness. Nay, disregard of law and right is productive of the worst of tyrannies, whether it be exercised by an autocrat or by a multitude. How vitally important that this freedom, which we so dearly prize, be kept inviolate, and that people who have the right of self-government be capable of governing themselves and acquire those habits of self-restraint and cheerful submission to authority which are indispensable to security, order, peace, and stable prosperity.

UNBELIEF.

With the enlargement of knowledge, scientific discoveries, activity of the press, fearless speculation and facility of propounding and urging the wildest theories, it is no marvel that unbelief should be rife and widespread. A period of prosperity and sensual indulgence tends naturally to irreligion and materialism. It is not surprising, therefore, that infidelity should raise its head, should vaunt its superiority to what it represents as the fables of an ignorant age, seek to subvert men's faith in the Word of God, declaim against the institution of Christianity, and venture to question the very existence of the Lord God Omnipotent.

Neither is it the open enemy that we have most cause to dread, but the insidious, lurking foe, creeping into our schools, colleges, and homes, infecting to a large extent the litera-

ture of the day, and spreading its latent poison in many unsuspected ways.

These and other unhealthy influences, which will be presented for our fuller consideration, threaten our peace and life. When we look them fairly in the face, we might well tremble for the Church and the country if we had only human weapons to wield in this warfare. But blessed be God, we have something better than the arm of flesh in which to trust, something better than philosophy, education, learning, policy, or physical force. We have the word and spirit of the living God.

THE CONQUERING AGENCY.

There is one agency that has encountered successfully enemies as mighty as those now arrayed, and triumphed over difficulties and obstacles as formidable as those with which we are now confronted. The Gospel has not lost its power. The Son of God is riding forth, conquering and to conquer. He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. And to the task set before us, as a part of the Church of Jesus Christ, to extend His reign over this fair, broad land, and to make this American republic submissive to His sway, we address ourselves hopefully, because we trust and believe that He is present with us. We feel as did the Holy Apostle at Ephesus, "a great door and effectual is opened unto me of the Lord, and there are many adversaries." The door is great indeed. Never was a Church called to a nobler work or impelled by sublimer motives. How much of the future destiny of this mighty nation may depend upon our fidelity, our diligence, our godliness and zeal, our consecration of energies, endowments, capacities of teaching and impressing the masses of our land! This great door and effectual is opened to us by the Lord, and all the powers of darkness cannot close it. Shall we draw back and decline to enter, or retreat before these adversaries? In the past we confess that we have fallen far below the measure of our duty. We have been unprofitable servants. The Lord might have closed the door and removed the candlestick, and our mouth would have stopped.

Instead He has been graciously pleased to accept our imperfect service, to give a large increase for the seed sown, to double our talents, and open a still wider door. Surely we serve a kind and bountiful Master. Let us not mock Him with the mere promise and semblance of obedience, and while, to the call to work to-day in the vineyard, we answer, 'I go, Sir,' in reality go not.

NEGLECT OF THE FAMILY.

In our warfare with the adversaries of the Gospel, and with the growing evils of our time, we have imperfectly used many instrumentalities within our reach; but among them all none has been so much neglected as the family. We have worked for and through the Church. Our care has been for the individual, or for society as an aggregate of individuals, or for the State as representing the order of society. Meanwhile the family has been so loosely guarded that our hold upon it has been enfeebled, and its Christian tone has degenerated.

As the original mould in which all human