

# Canadian Churchman

Toronto, December 19th, 1918.

## The Christian Year

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.

HE brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." This is the fact we celebrate at Christmas—the Birth of Jesus Christ—the Birth of Him Whose influence has changed the course of history and (in the words of John Stuart Mill) "Whose three years of public ministry have done more to uplift and cleanse the world than all the teachings of philosophers and moralists."

"The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." This is the truth revealed. He Who was born as at this time is the Only-Begotten Son of God.

In the past four years many people have been driven by their anxiety and sorrow to "think upon God." They have heard that "God is love"—but their tortured hearts and bewildered minds have made them ask, Is God Love? Christians affirm That God is love and lead the bewildered to Bethlehem and Calvary. The Christmas scene is before us now.

But O, what sight appears

Within that lowly door,  
A manger, stall and swaddling clothes,  
A Child, a mother poor!

The meaning of that scene is that "God from on high hath heard." The fulness of time has come. God hath sent forth His Only Begotten Son, born of a woman. God is manifest in the flesh. Being in the form of God, He made Himself of no reputation and has taken the form of a servant and lived His life of obedience. God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son. Does not all this say that "God is love"? What great love and sacrifice was in the hearts of the splendid fathers who willingly gave their splendid sons in the war? In the going forth of these sons, and in their deaths the fathers, paid a great price. It cost them something, did it not? God is love. Herein is love . . . that He gave His Son to die for us.

Christians awake, salute the happy morn  
Whereon the Saviour of the world was born,  
Rise to adore the mystery of love  
Which hosts of angels chanted from above;  
With them the joyful tidings first begun  
Of God Incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

"Grant that we being regenerate, and made Thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Thy Holy Spirit." In the privileges of God's love we have shared. Of God's favor and free gift we have received the adoption of sons apart from our deserts or deserving. "He first loved us." Before we were conscious even of love of father or mother, God's love was declared to most of us in the privileges of Holy Baptism. It is for us to realize and exercise our sonship. This demands the co-operation of heart, mind, conscience and will with the helping power of the Holy Spirit. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

N.B.—If your copy of the Canadian Churchman does not reach you regularly, we shall be grateful if you will let us know.

## The Peace Conference

LET US PRAY

*That the German officials and people may come to a knowledge of their evil doings and repent.*

*That justice may be done to both friend and foe.*

*That righteousness and truth may be established among us for all generations.*

*That Christ Himself shall be the final arbiter at the board.*

## Editorial

### THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

THE greatest practical issue before the world to-day is the League of Nations. It holds possibilities for future generations which are incalculable. The thought of the men who have nobly given life itself in the hope that this war would be the last of wars compels us to realize something of what peace will mean to the coming years.

A writer in the "New York Tribune" imagines the allied dead on a march down Fifth avenue. The British head the column.

"At daybreak they start, twenty abreast. Until sunset they march . . . and the next day, and the next and the next. For ten days the British dead pass in review. For eleven days more the French dead file down the 'Avenue of the Allies.' For the Russian it would require the daylight of five weeks. Two months and a half in all would be required for the allied dead to pass a given point."

To this procession add the stalwart Belgian host, the Serbian, the Italian and the American. Behind them let there pass the mothers, wives, and children of the men who gave themselves for their love. Following them let the martyrs of Armenia, young and old, men and women fill sorrow's eye.

We bow our heads before the great host who have suffered and endured and a mighty resolve sweeps over us that by Gods' help the curse of war shall not pass this way again.

The League of Nations is the answer to the War of Nations. "Never in God's earth can you bring it to pass," says the doubter. But if only the earth be God's it must come to pass. Too many people have assumed an attitude of indifference, even opposition; to the project. "It is too visionary for practical politics." But in the name of God let us try to get such a thing. God and the children yet unborn will not forgive us if we do not try.

We have missed the clear statement of the Churches in this matter. We have not seen utterances which would lead us to believe that the Churches are throwing their whole weight of influence on its side. Yet if ever there be a cause which God can bless, it is this attempt to bind the nations with the cords of love instead of the cords of fear. Every preacher should become

a propagandist for the League. The very effort will lead us to the necessity of the *fundamental league of men with God* as well as one another.

This League must not be simply a Treaty founded on self interest like the alliances of the past. Its foundation and its aim must be righteousness, truth and liberty for all mankind. It must represent the wills of the peoples themselves. It must not be planned in the secret chamber of the diplomat but at the open council board of the nations. Overreaching and grasping, whether of friend or foe, it must condemn. Most certainly an unrepentant and an unregenerate Germany can have no place in the League.

Aggressive warfare is a crime which brands a nation as a murderer. When the conscience of the nations is quickened by God's Spirit to see and acknowledge that point, they will find it but a small task to control and police the seas and lands of the world. A League of Nations can change the face of the world. God has given us life in days fraught with great issues to mankind. God help us to meet our responsibilities in the Spirit of Christ.

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UNANSWERED need is the unavoidable inference from the Baffin Land and Fort Churchill articles in this issue. There is the appeal of the heroic in the work. And the Church should see to it that the only hardships are those of isolation, and climate. It is disgraceful to add poverty as another star to the missionary's crown. Can we get men for even the most isolated post—Baffin Land? Men are desperately needed. We are glad that Bishop Anderson was able to go for the first time to this North land. His visit will bear much fruit, we hope. Far greater fruit it would have borne if a missionary had been in the land last winter to prepare the Eskimo for Confirmation. The system of summer trips saves connections from being absolutely broken, but it is no solution of the problem at all. Such work should not be entrusted to native catechists. It is well that the Eskimo should meet other white men than traders and explorers, quite apart from the question of Christian teaching. It is time that we heard a definite appeal in Canada for workers. We are confident that to-day men will respond to the heroic as they have in the past.

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THE significance of the ANGLICAN SERVICE LEAGUE formed in Toronto last week is greater than the average reader might gather. It is a sign of the times, and best of all it is a sign of the needs of the times being so felt that a determined effort is to be made to meet them. Churchwomen have long set us a notable example which Churchmen are resolved to follow. We are sure that the motive of the League is not "charity," but justice and love. The man who lets "charity" creep into his attitude to the needy has not felt the pulse of brotherhood which makes the needy one's problem his own. The needy one has a right to food, clothing, shelter, education, home, in short, to life. The highest service of the League will be to help him gain these things of which he has been robbed by the greed and sin of the men who should be his brothers.

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