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JUNE

## A New Day is Dawning

1915

OUR  
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and other acts of frightfulness which have been perpetrated by men who for generations had been accounted the vanguard "Knights of Culture." Many writers keep telling us that our civilization is on the wane; that the parallel between existing social conditions in the Western World and those which we find in the Rome of the decadence is closer even than the parallel social unrest and that of pre-revolutionary France. The decay in moral ideals, in political honor with other "Signs of the times" continue to suggest the parallel with Rome. The very forces which undermined Roman Civilization, viz: commercialism, individualism, materialistic standards of life—are the things which for many years have been prominent if not dominant in Western Civilization.

MANY EDUCATIONALISTS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS profess with a show of righteous indignation that the War has come as a shock to those who have not studied intimately the foundations of Nineteenth Century European Culture; but in the opinion of others who are accustomed to dig beneath the shibboleth of "Culture" and religious dogma, it is not an accident of that kind or of any sort at all in diplomacy or otherwise. Rather the war has merely exposed the rottenness of some of those foundations of Western Civilization. That is our feeling too, and coincident with the war, there has recently come an upheaval in public morals in Canada with no less tragic results to one's faith in human nature if it does not dip its dagger into the flesh and blood of its victims.

THE EYES OF THE WORLD have dilated in horror at the awful atrocity of men being murdered on the battlefield by the use of a poisonous gas, the effects of which beggar description as an example of the refinement of physical torture before the hand of death mercifully releases the victim. This last act of "Civilized barbarity" comes home with special force to the Canadian people, for was it not a

Company of the very brightest and bravest of Canadian boys who were selected to bear the brunt of the first experiment with this diabolic invention—the brain work of the "most learned race on the face of the earth."

CIVILIZATION SEEMS TO ROCK to its foundations at the hideous contemplation of this

WE DARE NOT PARTICULARISE on this earthquake at this point. It is in the minds of every free Canadian citizen and needs no explanation or accentuation, but as the war has exposed to the outside world the "rottenness of Western Civilization," this experience at our own doors exposes the ineptitude and rottenness of our political system in a way we had never dared to look for when expressing ourselves

as we have so recently done on the abuses and corruption of party politicians in this fair country. If this is not going to be the end of men who are going into our legislative councils to be the pigeon stools and willing instruments of party bosses and political heelers, then God help Canada, for nothing else, humanly speaking, will shake her in a sense of the fitness of things.

WE WANT MEN—illiterate men if we can't get educated men, but the must be honest men. Recent happenings in Europe and Canada have given "the people" the smartest lesson they have ever received from history in the ethics of living. These incidents have shown that "culture," "intellectual endowments," count for nothing in

integrity is held at one cent less than the value God gave it. Whatever changes the times may bring in, there is one man at least who is never "out-of-date" and that is the straight man. Manitoba at least will rate him at a higher value than she has ever yet set upon him.

THE OPPORTUNIST AND THE POLITICAL CROOK may have his fling for a brief space, but as every dog has its day, he snuffs out and is forgotten. His hour of delight is a tragically short one at the best, and the aftermath is one that no one who knows the joy of a mind at ease would exchange for any sweet morsel the world has to offer. When a man can be rated as an honest man, the only criterion after that for the public service is just what would be the criterion for employment in any position of trust or efficiency. How many business houses in Canada enquire as to a man's politics when they are engaging a cashier? Men who can be trusted are the only men for all future employments. They form, in a manner, the "party" of human kind against vice and disorder, its common enemy.

## MAY, 1915

*I thought that God, perchance, in punishment  
Of the world's sin, would stay His gifts  
this year,  
And that no Spring in glory would appear;  
Even His mercy must (it seemed) be spent!  
Yet on this blue May morning as I went  
Along the rustling lanes the birds made cheer  
Such as before had never charmed my ear;  
And had the woods e'er breathed a richer scent?  
So sweet it was, I fled! I could not face  
The scourge of God's forgiveness! I could  
bear,  
Amid the world's red guilt and black despair,  
Thy wrath, I cried, but not Thy mercy, Lord.  
Oh, spare me from the year's unfolding grace,  
For every flower is as a two-edged sword!*

—G. T., in the Daily Chronicle.

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