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"BE BRITISH" COLUMBIANS!

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EDITORIAL NOTES

A FIRST DUTY in December is to express the hope that the Christmas season may be a happy one for B. C. M. readers and homes, and that the year 1925 may bring satisfying progress and prosperity to them. It is also timely to record a word of sincere thanks to those who have in recent months shown more than an ordinary subscriber's interest in this magazine. Not a few have sent the Editor such letters of late that only crowding duties that had to be given precedence, have hitherto prevented him from publishing a column or page of comments from these members of the noble army of ENCOURAGERS. We may do so yet. But in ordinary course even an editor may seek to practise the kingly principle which Shakespeare makes Caesar utter: "What touches us ourself shall be last served."

THE TWILIGHT HOUR of a long summer day, the shortening days of the fall, and especially the approaching end of a year are suggestive times to all reflective minds. As the cartoonists often remind us, the New Year season is one for new resolutions—though the subject is not one of which sensible folk make light. The ambition to improve one's self or one's ways is surely linked to the highest in human nature, even if it be suggested by Tennyson and others that "a God must mingle with the game." But as folk ripen in experience they may cease to make "New Year resolutions," not because they do not approve of them and continually feel the need of reforming and advancing, but because their sense of proportion has become so developed that—without necessarily being old in years—they learn to LIVE A DAY AT A TIME.

EACH NEW DAY is a new era of opportunity. The recognition of that fact, and an enlightenment as to relative values, which teaches us to put first things first, are surely the prime essentials to progress in life. In one form or another the temptation seems to beset all to let material and transient things dominate our thinking—be it through the attractions of money-power, or so-called social position, or such like; and yet every soul, who seeks to be apart awhile to ponder, can hardly fail to recognize that the exercise and growth of mind and spirit in each human being are by far the most important phases of this preliminary adventure in life—assuming, of course, that tolerable living conditions are assured.

THE ABIDING MYSTERY IN LIFE is another thing that must come home to all. The reasoning expressed in Dr. Young's words—"Had there been naught, naught still had been; Eternal these must be"—is conclusive enough. But even if we are led to associate "Fatherhood"

with "the Eternal" (involving the "Brotherhood" of man), as Milton reminds us:—

"Enough is left besides to search and know."

Like Dr. Young again, we proceed to ask: "Whence earth and these bright orbs—eternal too?" And whatever else such questioning leads to, it should tend to make man humble, and to be ready to follow the highest he knows. No doubt such themes are congenial to many who, like the writer, find it difficult to get time to pursue them—in fuller reading or uninterrupted, quiet thought.

CERTAINLY THE SEASON IS A SUITABLE ONE in which to review personal ambitions. To get and to gain by honest effort those things essential to healthful life on earth is a legitimate aim for all. Not next, but reasonably associated with that, may be a desire to see more of the world in which we live. But what then? Is not the next wish that we might have time to learn more of the THOUGHT-LIFE of great souls as revealed in the book records they have left? But who, in or approaching mid-life, with a real job, is able to get time to read—or re-read—many of the masterpieces of literature, to say nothing of ephemeral books that are produced in this age? It may be questioned if the leading articles, editorial and other, in the leading "dailies" are perused regularly by more than a small percentage of readers—though these are probably more read by the thoughtful than any other matter published.

IN THAT CONNECTION we have no hesitation in saying quite frankly that we believe the questioning may be applied to magazine work too, and especially to those that (like the B.C.M.) give space to serious subjects. But let it be noted parenthetically that, apart from his notes and his work in other departments, the editor holds himself at best but the "hub" of this periodical, and is satisfied to provide in some measure a centre or medium through which other "builders" (such as those referred to on the cover of the November magazine) may, we trust increasingly throughout the years, serve the community of British Columbia and the Canadian West. Whatever the appeal of the "news"-paper, or the attraction of works of fiction, studied magazine articles bearing on community life are likely to share in the active interest of all loyal citizens and homes.

REFLECTION ON EXPERIENCE prompts these paragraphs, but that line of thought is strengthened by two things. First, as we go to press with this issue, Vancouver literary circles are being introduced to "ASSOCIATED READERS

OF CANADA, LIMITED," a new organization, "To encourage wider reading and the creative arts in Canada." Apart from the beautiful "bonds"—suggestive of "Victory Bonds"—which the organization, for its business basis no doubt, is issuing at five dollars each to subscribers, its object, as published, suggests that the organization only needs to be known to win a large measure of success. Owing to the necessity of putting this magazine to press somewhat earlier in the month, we have neither time nor space for a fuller notice at present; but it may be added that the "Associated Readers of Canada" has originated in Winnipeg and that that well known and happy-spirited literary reviewer, "W. T. A."—Professor W. T. Allison—is chairman of the advisory board, while the genial Mr. Hopkins Moorhouse, author of "Deep Furrows," etc., is the president and editorial director.

THE OTHER THING INFLUENCING previous paragraphs is that among review copies of books received by us in recent months was one of outstanding importance of which we had hoped to publish a first notice in this issue at latest. Biography is generally recognized as one of the finest and most beneficial forms of literature. The proverb which tells us that "Experience teaches fools" applies more or less to all mankind, but the less foolish, while not imitating others, will seek to profit by the experience of others as set forth in personal exposition or the authentic records of their lives. If we had space for no more than another sentence in these notes, we should add that "THE LIFE OF ALEXANDER WHYTE" is a book likely, if this old world lasts, to be in helpful evidence when many "novels of the year" and other books are as completely forgotten as any magazine of the month. Accordingly, any one who gives himself

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