

"THE CHURCH THE ONE BIG DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE WAR"

Famous British Journalist Says No Greater Preacher—No New Evangelist Has Risen to Point Out the Moral and Lesson of Armageddon, to succor the Starving Souls of Humanity; to Uplift and Harken the Stricken and Bereaved—A Tour of Congregations Discloses Half Filled Churches Composed of Women and Children—Religion is on Trial—Suggests That Every Church Revive the Angelus.

(By Horatio Bottomley, in the Sunday Pictorial.)

This article concludes the series of three, dealing with the new conditions of life—social, political and religious—which Mr. Bottomley thinks will prevail after the war. The articles have aroused widespread interest and cannot fail to affect profoundly the trend of current thought.

I hope I shall not wound the feelings of any of my readers when I venture to remark that the Church—using the term in its most comprehensive sense—has been the one big disappointment of the war. No great Preacher—no New Evangelist—has arisen to point the moral and the lesson of Armageddon; to succor the starving souls of humanity—to uplift and harken the stricken and the bereaved. I recently made a tour, on several Sundays, of country churches and chapels. They were nearly all half empty, the bulk of the congregation being children; most of the women were in mourning, with weary, vacant expressions on their faces as the persons went through the numbing-jumble of their office, or preached and prayed in placidity. No ray of inspiration illuminated the services—and the poor people came out unmoved, uncomfortable.

And lest you should think that in writing thus I am overstating the case, I would refer you to what the Bishop of Birmingham says. He recently sent me his pamphlet on "The Church After the War," and almost the first thing he says is that "Religion is on trial."

Religion generally is on its trial. They tell us that various circumstances have had the effect of "straining the church from the people," and caused it to be a neglected quantity in regard to matters demanding the citizen touch and power of brain. Not only the churches but the clergy are affected by the war.

Well, I won't follow his lordship through all his arguments and speculations as to the cause of this unhappy state of affairs, but I note that he says: "It may be doubted whether there is very much interest taken in questions of doctrine by the laymen of the country; that the reorganization of all our church services should be determinedly undertaken;" and, finally, that "we have had a rude awakening from our playful belief that somehow or other the world was improving," and that "we now know how very close humanity is at all times to savagery."

Having thus established, by Episcopal dicta, my contention that in the past the church has failed us, let me invite you to consider how far, in common with other aspects of our national life, Religion will be affected by the experience of Armageddon.

What is religion? Never mind what the dictionary says—Religion is the sentiment of the Soul as distinguished from the Reason of the Mind. It is the "wireless" between the known and the unknown. It exists, in some form, in every tribe and branch of the human race. And it seeks outlet and expression in Prayer.

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You, reader, will like this little book immensely, as it gives the full meaning of its special advice from one or two careful readings. It contains a great deal of heretofore unpublished information of interest to all men, young or elderly, single or married, and may easily be of value to you throughout your entire life. In one part of the book I describe my little mechanical VITALIZER, which was invented by me to assist men to regain lost vigor. However, you are not to think of getting this VITALIZER at the present time, but first send for the advice book and read up on the subject of self preservation without drugs.

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Reader, if you ever stop to consider that it is not books which make the real man? Nor is it necessarily a large man who wields the most power in his community. However, whether big or small, young or elderly, we invariably find that vigorous, manly manhood stands behind all of the world's greatest achievements and successes. In this respect, I give it as my honest opinion, based upon over 30 years' experience, that no man need lose hope of himself restoring his full manly power if he but be willing to make a fair, square effort, and will lead a decent, manly life, free from excesses and free from dissipation. My free book gives you all the desired information. According to my belief, lost manly strength is no real organic disease in itself, and, for that reason, should easily respond to any mode of treatment which puts new vital force into the



Manly Men Are Always In The Game.

weakened nerves and blood. The little VITALIZER mentioned above was designed by me to render aid to the man who really is willing to make a reasonable attempt to get strong and who effort to regain his manly vigor. To the man who persists in living an unnatural life of excess and dissipation, no hope can be offered, but for the other kind there is every hope and encouragement, because in regaining his habits of health he has taken the first and necessary step, which prepares the way for the action of any natural treatment which may re-supply his body with the FORCE which it has been drained of.

With respect to my VITALIZER, you simply buckle it on your body when you go to bed. Thus, while you sleep, it sends a great, mysterious power (which I call VIGOR) into your blood, nerves, organs and muscles, and it takes pain or weakness out of the back from one application; that 60 to 80 days' use is sufficient to restore normal, manly strength.

With special attachments, which carry the FORCE to any parts of the body, my VITALIZER is used by women as well as men, for rheumatism, kidney, liver, stomach, bladder disorders, etc., and I have had some most remarkable testimony in respect to its almost miraculous effects in individual cases, where every known treatment had failed.

Therefore, first get the free book of general advice to men, which also describes my VITALIZER. Then, if in the future you feel you would like to use one of these little appliances in your own case, I will make some special proposition whereby you may have one to wear. If you happen to live in or near this city, I would be pleased to have you call. Otherwise, just use the coupon and get the free book by return mail. Office hours, 9 to 6.

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er and worship. Whether the end is best attained by the simplicity of the New Testament services, or by the stately ritual of the great churches it is not my purpose to consider—perhaps it is all a matter of personal temperament. But that man and woman will always crave for spiritual consolation and ministrations there can be no doubt. How, then, will the war have affected the religious life of New Britain?

Let me at once say there is one direction in which we may look for hope. There is, at least, a prospect of success amongst the various Christian churches. That, of course, is the natural outcome of the comradeship of the battlefield. There, sect and dogma have had small play. Ministers of religion have been face to face with Reality and Humanity—a Jewish Rabbi, has administered spiritual comfort to a dying Catholic, but did not remember Churchmen and Nonconformists and other Theologians meeting in conference at Lambeth Palace and passing resolutions to work for a League of Nations. All of which is well.

Indeed, I like that incident better than the appeal of the Church of England for a fighting fund of five millions—for the purpose of National Spiritual Reconstruction. It sounds just a little "too much of the mark," and rather recalls that melancholy Mission of Repentance and Hope. And, believe me, it will not be by that five millions that the religious life of the nation will be determined—it will be by those five million men who will soon be back from the front.

Yes, they will be the determining factor. Coming back to us, straight from the jaws of Hell, they will know the shortest cut to Heaven. Do you think they will trouble their heads about Creed and Dogma? Will the father, home from the war, take his wife and youngsters to church or chapel on the first Sunday of his return—or for a walk and then to the "Picture"? You see, there is no man in the pulpit "big" enough to preach to him of the things he has seen. That's the difficulty.

And yet the ground-work of a real abiding faith will be there. Not only have the people been chastened by grief and sacrifice and by sore bereavement, but it may be remembered that Palestine—the home and cradle of Christianity—is now in our hands; and many thousands of the fighting men have stood on its sacred soil. True, they did not find much evidence of Christian love and unity there; indeed, it is one of the grimmest of ironies that the first thing the Church is doing is to promote a Mission to Jerusalem! But let that pass. Any great, concerted effort on the part of all sects for the establishment of the new human Church—with its corner-stones, as I have said before, resting on the four quarters of the earth, and with a dome as wide as the vault of Heaven itself—will find plenty of pliable material at hand. And the only question is whether the clergymen will rise to the occasion.

How do the churches, the religious "experts," propose to meet the situation? What is their message? What is the gospel to be preached? Are the Bishops any wiser today than more closely in touch with popular sentiment and with vital human needs? I fear that in tomorrow's effort they will be hampered by their Yesterday; and that it will not be to the Abbey at Westminster nor to the Temple in Holborn nor to the Tabernacle in South London that the nation will look for the inspiration that shall guide its footsteps in the coming days.

No, when Peace comes the Prophet will emerge, most likely, not from the churches, but from the ranks of humble "laymen"—just as once before a Teacher came not from the Synagogue, but from the carpenter's bench at Nazareth. Perhaps once again a Son of the People will arise to shame the clergymen and confound the Pharisees. We shall see. Meanwhile, I look forward to the breaking down of sectarian barriers, to a definite movement for unity among the churches, and to the gathering together in free communion of those who were once taught as "heretics" and who were once regarded as persons linked by no other bond than devotion to Right and love of their fellow men. I cannot believe that where there is sincere faith, the purgatory of war there will be room amongst us for any Church that insists upon a literal acceptance of ancient dogma. It is, indeed, common ground today among large sections of the population, even with many who continue to use the ancient forms of worship, that most of the dogmas we were once taught as "necessary for salvation" are mere guesses at Truth, efforts of the finite mind of man to grasp and express the Infinite.

All that we have a right to expect, all that any Church has a right to demand, is that a man shall be honestly devoted to the ascertainment of Truth in every department of human experience, that he shall venerate Justice and take Chivalry for his guide; that he shall obey the rule of Conscience and accept the sanctions of the moral law—and that in every situation of life his conduct shall be animated by love for and sympathy with his fellow man. That will be the new religion.

But it will find its vent, in most cases, outside orthodox channels. The portals of the churches will have to be opened much wider than they are at present before "Tommy" and "Jack" and their "comrades" are tempted to walk in; and even then they will require to be sure of their welcome. Meanwhile, there is one way in which we may all help to bring the new religion into being. Let every church revive the Angelus; and when at either noon or sunset, its bell calls us to meditation, let every woman's head be bowed and every man's head uncovered whilst just for the space of one short minute we put aside all other thoughts and occupations in silent prayer for the living and a sweet thought for the sleeping dead. Come, my friends, try it today. Never mind the whine—listen, the Angelus is ringing.

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

From the Chestnut Tree.

"I understand your son is writing for a living."
"Yes, he writes me."

Shall America Stint Herself To Feed Germany?

An examination of the American press shows that the German wail for food, which was the first sign of life of the new-born German Government, has not aroused any large amount of compassion over here. To many observers this "propaganda" is important as the opening gun of Germany's fight for a victory at the peace table. All our late full-Germans, pro-Germans, and pacifists are expected to come out of hiding forthwith and "show mercy to the defeated." "They will come," predicts the Kansas City Star, "bearing bouquets, asking permission to offer consolation to the prisoner and to leave tracts and flowers in the cell . . . Heaven spare us now from mush." On the other hand, Mr. Herbert C. Hoover, the Food Administrator, says "there has been a great deal of unnecessary furor in this country about feeding the Germans. We are not calling upon the American people to make any sacrifice with a view to feeding the Germans. Remove the water-tight blockade and the Germans will take care of themselves."

The leading article in THE LITERARY DIGEST this week—November 30th—takes up the latest phase of the peace negotiations and by presenting the sentiments of editors of all political persuasions gives the reader a concrete idea of how America feels upon the subject of feeding Germany this winter.

Other articles that will be of great interest to the American people upon subjects that concern them intimately, are:

How the War Was Won

The Contributing Causes of Germany's Defeat as Adduced by Authorities in America, England, France and Germany

Willhelm to the Bar of Justice
The Coming British Elections
The Swiss Center of Bolshevism
The World's Strongest Fiber
Curing Madness by Tooth-Pulling
Praise for American Poets
Cold Water for French Good Will
A Call to Repentance
Meeting the Test
(Prepared by U. S. Food Administration)

News of Business and Finance
The President at the Peace Table
Germany Playing "The Baby Act"
How Aviation Has Done the Impossible
How Influenza Got In
New York's First Statue to an Actor
Tolstoy Still Dreaming
Foch—"The Gray Man of Christ"
"The Great Army That Died"
The Best of Current Poetry
Personal Glimpses of Men and Events

Many Illustrations, Including Maps, Half-tone Portraits and Cartoons

Full-Page Colored Map in "The Digest" This Week

This instructive Map will be eagerly welcomed by the readers of "The Digest," for on it they can easily trace the progress of the great Allied army of occupation in its triumphal march toward the Rhine. The map also shows the German territory to be occupied by the American and Allied armies under the terms of the armistice. The "bridge-

heads" along the line are clearly indicated, with the neutral zone shown in color; also the battle line as it stood when hostilities ceased at the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year. Briefly, the entire region that will be most prominent in the news for a long time to come will be available for ready reference through this map. It is worthy of permanent preservation.

November 30th Number on Sale Today—All News-dealers—10 Cents

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SENTENCED FOR BANK ROBBERY

Group of Quebec Desperadoes Will go Down for from Five to Seven Years.

Quebec, Nov. 29.—Sentence was passed today at St. Joseph, Beauce, by Magistrate Coriveau, in the bank robbery of Scott's, Beauce. Drew was sent to the penitentiary for seven years. Young, Scott, MacKay and Little, alias Lewis, were sentenced to five years each. The men sentenced are all well-known yeg-men who have operated at different times both in the United States and Canada. The crime for which they have been sentenced was committed on July 4, when they broke into the branch of the Banque Nationale at Scott's, Quebec, and stole \$3,800. Agents of the United States Fidelity and Guarantee Company put on the case identified the gang by the number of the automobile used, and

which was owned by Robert J. Young of Hamilton, Ont. The men were traced to Hamilton and Young was arrested there. The remainder of the gang escaped, but were located in Montreal. Scott was arrested in a house on Ontario street west, and Little, Drew and MacKay were taken in a house on St. Dominique street. The agents entered the St. Dominique house disguised as military police looking for deserters, because it was feared the men wanted to put up a fight. They were arrested, and not till they had been disarmed did they realize they had not been arrested as deserters.

DOMINION DAIRY CONFERENCE ENDS

Representatives to National Dairy Council Include P. Simmonds and W. H. Huggard of N. B.

Ottawa, Nov. 29.—At the final meeting of the dominion dairy conference Thursday, resolutions were adopted dealing with the improvement of dairy herds; creamery, payment for milk on butter fat contents; investigation of British market requirements; procedure in taking milk samples; scale of points and grading certificates for cheese and butter.

The following easterners were named by the delegates to the conference provinces on the national dairy council: Quebec—James Winter, J. B. Vincent. New Brunswick—P. Simmonds, W. H. Huggard. Nova Scotia—H. Falconer, D. W. Murray. P. E. Island—J. W. Jones, J. T. Proffit.

The council elected the following officers: E. W. Stonehouse, Weston, President; A. McKay, Winnipeg, Vice-President. Eastern executives included: J. Pare, Quebec; R. W. Jones, P.E.I.

DR. BELAND TELLS OF HIS EXPERIENCE

Ottawa, Nov. 29.—Before a distinguished audience, Thursday night, which included His Excellency the Governor General and party from government house, Sir Wilfrid and Lady Laurier, and others, from Dr. Beland, on his first visit to Ottawa in nearly five years, told of his experiences while a prisoner in the hands of the Germans.

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1st Prize, \$50.00 in Cash. 2nd Prize, \$40.00 in Cash.
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Here will be found the picture of an Aviator who has just dropped a bomb on a pile of shells. At first glance the Aviator and the Explosion appear to be all there is in the picture, but by careful study the faces of several soldiers will be found. There are 7 of them in all. Can you find them? It is no easy task but by patience and endurance can be accomplished.

You may win a cash prize by doing so. Many have done this as will be shown by the names and addresses which we will send you. If you find the faces mark each one with an X, cut out the picture and send it to us, together with a slip of paper on which you have written the words "I have found all the faces and marked them." Write these nine words plainly and neatly, as in case of ties, both writing and neatness are considered factors in this contest.

This may take up a little of your time but as TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS in cash and many merchandise prizes are given away, it is worth your time to take a little trouble over this matter. Remember all you have to do is to mark the faces, cut out the picture and write on a separate piece of paper the words, "I have found all the faces and marked them."

WE DO NOT ASK YOU TO SPEND ONE CENT OF YOUR MONEY IN ORDER TO ENTER THIS CONTEST

Send your answer at once: we will reply by return mail telling you whether your answer is correct or not, and we will send you a complete Prize List, together with the names and addresses of persons who have won the prizes in recent contests held by the publishers of this advertisement. Although these persons are entirely unknown to us, they are our references. An enquiry from any one of them will bring the information that our contests are carried out with the utmost fairness and integrity. Your opportunity to win a good round sum is equally as good as that of anyone else, as all previous winners of cash prizes are debared from entering this contest.

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