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G. J. DESBARATS,
Deputy Minister of the Naval Service.
Ottawa, January 8, 1918.
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WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS PLEASE MENTION THE GUIDE

The Deeper Life

The Uncertainty and Certainty of Faith

By Rev. S. G. Bland, D.D.

On my return from a brief trip to Chicago and some of the leading eastern cities of the United States I do not think that I can do better than to pass on to the readers of The Guide two of the most helpful messages that I heard.

One was given in the historic Mount Vernon Methodist Church, Baltimore, by Dr. Lyon Hough, appeal, full of passion and fire, to the spirit of adventure in this great crisis in human affairs. The supreme test of men and nations, Dr. Hough declared, was the willingness to take a risk for a great idea. An age in which prudence had come to be regarded as the chief virtue was now superseded by an age in which nothing could save the world but courage. Dr. Hough spoke nobly of the "deep crusaders' passion" that was throbbing down deep in the hearts of the boys in khaki, even when they seemed most unwilling to betray it, and appealed to fathers and mothers to make the adventure easier for their sons by their own adventurous spirit, and it was good to a Canadian hearer to be told of the Canadian mother who, with one boy fallen and the other lying wounded in the hospital, could write to him "hurry up and get well that you may strike another blow at the Hun."

The other message was quieter, but it was thoughtful and comforting. It was given in the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, by the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Jefferson, whose books are well known to ministers especially. The text was, "But He Himself knew what He would do." (John VI. 6).

Dr. Jefferson told how, during the week while depressed over the news from Europe, these words, that as far as he knew he had never specially considered, had come to him with great comfort, and he felt he must try to share the comfort they had brought to him with his congregation. He sketched quickly but vividly the occasion which led to them—the interest of the crowds which carried them into a lonely place without provisions, and the perplexity and helplessness of the disciples. But Jesus did not share the anxiety of the disciples, "for He Himself knew what He would do," and when the disciples yielded to Him the little they had, then came the miracle.

Dr. Jefferson found a parallel in the world situation of today. Never were men so perplexed and bewildered and anxious. This war had been a succession of surprises. Never had human sagacity shown itself so helpless to read the future.

This great convulsion had not been foreseen except by the few who planned it. At the outbreak the British fleet was at Kiel; diplomats were scattered; 100,000 Americans were in Europe. The victory at the Marne, by which the apparently irresistible German advance was hurled back, was a surprise. The revolution and the ensuing collapse of Russia had been foreseen by no one. No one had foretold Italy's partial collapse. And in the special war task in which Americans were most confident the United States could not fail, she had so far in a great measure failed. A year after she had entered the war the production of ships and aeroplanes was deeply disappointing.

As none had foreseen the war so none could declare its duration. The great leaders like Lloyd George frankly confessed their inability to forecast the future. No man on earth knew what was to be the course of things. One thing only seemed certain. It would be the unexpected that would happen. Things that are in no man's programme would come to pass.

Man knew not how long the war would last nor how it would be brought to an end. But God knew. God had not forgotten or forsaken His world. Jesus said that if a man who had one hundred sheep, lost just one, he would go out into the wilderness and seek that one sheep till he found it. God would not be more careless than men. He will not let His World stray into the wilderness and perish. "He will save it. This is not the first time the world has got into a difficult place but God has always extricated it before and He will extricate it again."

Some years ago an ocean liner was steaming up one of the most treacherous waterways in the world—the lower St. Lawrence, when a dense fog settled down around her. Progress seemed impossible till the pilot climbed to the mast-head and found he could overlook the fog and discern the familiar land marks. Then confidently the engines began to throb again.

The sweetness and the support of simple faith are going to be known again. A new age of faith is being born.

And very beautifully it seems to me these two messages set forth—the two elements in faith—the uncertainty and certainty—the sense of risk and the sense of safety. Nowhere in the world today is there such comradeship as in the trenches and nowhere is there such faith, faith that often passes into fatalism but fatalism is just faith hushed beyond the mark and it is very close always to a fighting and suffering faith.

Slowly but surely the shrewd, practical, worldly-wise spirit is giving place to the spirit of the little child. Slowly but surely standards of well-being and success are changing. The age of the calculator, the astute manipulator, the ecclesiastical and political manager is passing. The age of the prophet, the adventurer, the man of dreams and visions is coming again.

It may be that the medieval age will lose its distinction, age of faith as it has been called. The twentieth century too, will be called the age of faith but a faith more deeply and truly Christian than the faith that gave us matchless cathedrals, and Joan of Arc, and Francis of Assisi, and Bernard of Clairvaux, but also feudal castles, trials by torture, persecution of witches, Jews and heretics.

The various rules and regulations made by the Board of Grain Commissioners have been collected into pamphlet form and printed by the department of trade and commerce. These rules and regulations are a supplementary to the Canada Grain Act and showing what is being done to regulate the grain trade all over the West. Any farmer who would like to get a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Grain Commissioners should apply by letter or postcard to the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Ontario.

Any farmer who has not a copy of the Canada Grain Act can get it free by applying to the same department.

Blind cultivating saves a lot of work in keeping potatoes or corn clean. Set the two horse cultivators shovels to throw in and go over the rows so as to leave a ridge of soil over the row. Then when the field is harrowed the tops of the ridges will be scraped down, the lumps will go first, leaving only fine soil where the plants will come up and the harrow will catch any weeds that start in the row. The cultivation can be continued till the corn or potatoes are up several inches. This saves labor in keeping the rows clean.—N.D.A.C.

It Pays

But

First

There can be no question. A garden properly planned and provided a quarter during the whole of the pleasure of the table and especially this critical period of our history when every ounce of food counts. The simplest garden for the farmer is one of about half an acre. It can be worked in a strip say 300 feet so that it can be cultivated with light one-horse tractor is the most in the garden. The garden can be every few days, order but in an hour if done.

\$40 Surplus

The selection southern aspect and makes the than otherwise. fall plowed in crops an early is impossible the amount of acre lot as so soil, the cultivator lots would produce than others. In nature of soil at the attention of acre I planted and filled in the ers' \$1.00 collection sufficient to supply and sold over from garden is collection is also advise the pure of each.

Make a small seeds as cauliflower and marrow a danger of frost in straight rows apart and allow that they have. Much of this crops in one lettuce, and will be off by is ready to plant thing is many taken direct from under makes a wood ashes frequent sprinkled. The droppings strongest fertilizer good sprinkled just before cut.

From my basket use 50 bushels of car and 20 bushels barrel of red cabbage and toes to plant.

From a fine half acre—than five acres the home as delicious fresh at any price national standard something to daily one has for several pay aspects it pays well.—W.

Speaks

Seco

From many seems to us to and economic kitchen bill t class vegetable ducts of one, longer ago the