

# The Canadian Churchman

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**Publisher.**

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**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT.**

(December 13th.)

Holy Communion: 233, 238, 252, 297.

Processional: 379, 468, 573, 650.

General: 59, 307, 481, 540.

Children: 704, 717, 719, 724.

Offertory: 59, 600, 652, 670.

## The Outlook

### Bible Sunday

The Second Sunday in Advent, December 6th, is being increasingly observed as Bible Sunday, the day on which the Bible as a whole may be considered and its annual progress recorded. It would be a great satisfaction to realize that this day were observed universally, and the growth of the idea is a matter of great encouragement, for it must assuredly lead to a more earnest consideration of the Bible, and a more reverent study of it as God's revelation for human life. Even its amazing circulation during the last century gives the Book a uniqueness. It is not much more than a hundred years since Voltaire prophesied that in a hundred years the Bible would be an extinct Book; and yet, to-day the circulation numbers millions. Every fresh discovery tends to demonstrate more clearly than ever the trustworthiness of the Bible as the record of Divine revelation, and the supreme source of light and life. May the approaching Sunday lead still more definitely and widely to that use of Scripture of which the Collect for the Day speaks in familiar, yet ever-forceful language: "Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them."

### A Much Needed Message

It is recorded of the late Sir Arthur Blackwood, formerly Secretary of the British General Post Office, that he had framed and hung up in his room in the General Post Office these words:—

"Come to a man of business  
Only in hours of business,  
Solely on matters of business:  
Then go about your business,  
Leaving him to attend to his business."

Lord Fisher, when last in office, adopted the same method of warning off certain people

who are the terror of public men, for whoever visited him on business received, before admittance, a printed slip bearing the substance of the above warning. But the variation, said to be made by Lord Fisher, is worth noticing, and certainly seems characteristic of the man: "When you go to see a business man, go on business, and state your business in a business-like manner. When you have concluded your business, go about your business, and leave him to finish his business, and mind your own business." The counsel is capable of very wide application.

### The Christian Uses of War

At a recent address at a meeting for intercession, Sir William Robertson Nicoll thus stated what, in his opinion, are some of the uses of war. (1) It shows the grandeur of sacrifice, emphasizing the things that matter and indicating how easy it is to forget common mercies. (2) It teaches the nobility of courage, a virtue which the old Greeks considered to be the root of all other virtues. (3) It inculcates the power and blessedness of prayer, many soldiers in the Army realizing this for the first time. (4) It inspires the hope that this war will end war. There will always be revolutions until despotism is dethroned, and it is, therefore, essential to look forward to that time when God will usher in the day of permanent peace.

### "The Tie That Binds"

The drawing force of "our mutual woes" is manifesting itself more and more in connection with the war by uniting in heart both individuals and Churches. In a district of a Canadian city there is a regular Prayer Meeting, held in a Baptist church, to which all Christians are invited, the notice of which was given the other day in an Anglican church. A similar incident took place in another Canadian city, and it is a matter of great satisfaction that members of the various Churches are thus holding united gatherings to seek God's intervention in this terrible conflict. Yet another illustration of this fine spirit of unity is found in some graphic letters from a Methodist Chaplain at the Front, in which he describes his association with the Anglican Chaplain. The words are eminently worthy of record:—

Latterly it has been possible for one Brigade at a time to be relieved from the trenches, and come back to the shelter of Jury for a few days' rest; and to make room for them the Field Ambulance moved back to the little town of Serches. This was the opportunity Mr. Winniffrith (Church of England Chaplain) and myself had long desired, for it gave us the chance of holding services amongst the men, many of whom had not attended public worship since they left England. Our first full Sunday is a day that will long live in our memories—the early Communion, kneeling on the straw of a dimly-lit barn; the services in the open air with men of regiments and batteries; and in the evening a united service, at which the Rev. D. P. Winniffrith read the prayers, Colonel Crawford the lessons, and I gave the address. The congregation was composed of officers belonging to the Staff, Regiments, Batteries, and Ambulance, and an equally mixed assembly of men. Other services will remain a vivid memory—a week-night service in a cart-shed, lit by two hurricane-lamps, at which both Church of Eng-

land and Wesleyan Chaplains took part, and the address was given by that efficient Methodist local preacher, Lieutenant Grenfell, R.A.M.C.; another week-night service, in a deep cutting, where the men, sheltered from shell fire, overhead the boom of guns, but clear above that dreadful noise the music of the hymn, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine."

For all these things we are profoundly thankful, and pray that such unity of spirit will bear good fruit in days to come.

### An Unprecedented Step

The Emperor of Japan has sent a contribution amounting to \$25,000 for the foundation of an international hospital at Tokyo, which is to be conducted under the auspices of the American Church Missions. This splendid gift from the Emperor is intended to help forward the cause of international understanding. In making the announcement of the Emperor's decision the Japanese Premier spoke explicitly in praise of the United States, and of the labours for peace due to President Wilson and Secretary Bryan. It was further said that this effort to join hands in charitable and humanitarian work was a source of special satisfaction in spite of the sanguinary struggle now going on in Europe. This gift to a Christian institution is at once surprising and gratifying as a testimony to the influence of Christianity, even where it is not definitely accepted. The success of the undertaking is now assured, and it is planned to make the hospital the most elaborate in the Far East. All who love the cause of international peace, to say nothing of the Christian religion, will welcome this exceptional act of the Japanese Emperor, and will see in it a further incentive to prayer for that wonderful Empire and its people.

### Prayer Book Revision in England

It has been generally taken for granted that the present truce due to the war would apply to the matter of Prayer Book Revision, which divides Churchmen in the Old Country. But it now seems likely that those who are moving for Revision are making their plans to carry forward the proposals as rapidly as possible. It is difficult to believe that there can be any serious thought of plunging the Church into the bitterness of strife while the war is proceeding, but if this should be the case, the effort will result in infinitely more harm than good. Opinion is so acutely divided on this subject that it seems both necessary and wise to relegate the matter to the time of peace, when in quietness the whole subject may be considered afresh. It is impossible that the changes contemplated can become law without public discussion, because they include the legalization of ritual and practices which are admitted on all hands to be at present outside the ken of the English Church. Any effort to force these proposals through will certainly bring about what a prominent Bishop has described as "an Ulster in the Church." It is, therefore, sincerely to be hoped that the rumour is unfounded, and that the English Church will be spared the bitterness of controversy at present. Life is terrible enough without raising bitter opposition, which may well be allowed to sleep during war time. As a contemporary has well said: "In Church affairs, straight and open dealings are not only advisable, but imperative, and changes made during a period of intense obsession by a war cannot expect the ratification of the opinion of the Church and nation."