

LIFE PROBLEMS

We speak about great things, great events, great opportunities, but life itself is the greatest of all. That is something we all have. Events, time, circumstance, are incidental compared with that. No matter where this life is found there are marvellous possibilities in it. What we each need is a true thought about Life itself. The closing words of Morley's Life of Gladstone are striking and worth more than a passing thought in their suggestiveness. These words were one of the statesman's own expressions, "Be inspired with the belief that life is a great and noble calling; not a mean and grovelling thing that we are to shuffle through as we can, but an elevated and lofty destiny."

With a thought like that in our hearts there is little doubt but we can both be and do something.

Choosing a Partner

This subject has been suggested as a good one for me to say something about. It is a very serious one, anyway, but I suppose not more so than some others I write about. I have never just carefully

divine guidance. Perhaps this gave rise to the saying that a good wife is from the Lord. Follow the whole story through for yourself as found in Genesis 24th.

Choose, then, a partner of true worth, of good habits and associations; one of great modesty, yet firm for the right; one that is progressive and ready to learn; one that is willing to adapt himself or herself without repining to the emergencies of life; and above all, one who believes in the "faith" once delivered to the saints: the sanctity of the home and marriage ties. Details can be worked out afterwards, as they say, but be sure of fundamental things.

Party Politics

Is it safe to have anything to do with party politics? This is a question often asked. The system of government by party seems to be here to stay for a while, at least. There seems to be no other way. When looked at from a broad standpoint, as we ought, party politics is not a bad thing at all, but a good thing. Men will differ in their views about

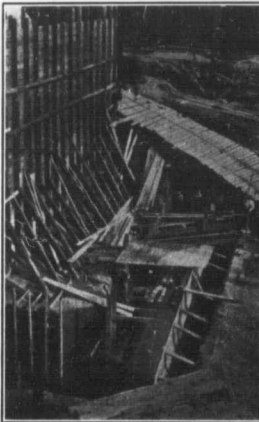
is anxious to know the truth he will be perfectly willing that the question should be discussed from all sides. The trouble is that some men look upon party politics as a very profitable business. They want to get in and get a hand on the country's till. To differ from them is to oppose their "business," just as Paul opposed the makers of images at Ephesus. Don't be frightened by this bugaboo of party politics. Get some principles and work and vote with the party that favors them in a way that commends itself to you.

The Need of an Architect

"You should not think of building a home without employing an architect." That is the way the advice reads about getting a nice home—which is a very practical life problem.

If we think we will try building without an architect there are a good many chances to one that we will go wrong. We may have a good outlook and a poor foundation, or vice versa. We may provide good material and have it poorly put together. The architect is our protector against fraud, as well as our best adviser.

In the building of character there is still greater need of an architect. Houses perish; character is eternal. We should build on stone rather than on sand, that is, on immovable principles rather than on shifting politics. Our adornment should be that of the heart, inward graces, rather than outward display. Under the



DOWN IN THE ASH PITS.



PLACING A COLUMN.



LAYING FOUNDATIONS.

attempted to set down my belief about this particular matter. Choosing a partner for life is a question that concerns practically everybody.

A typical case in this line is found in the story of Isaac and Rebekah. Of course we can eliminate from the situation the things incidental to the age, and ask what are the fundamental teachings. Bear in mind that more space is given to this than to the account of the creation of the world. That looks, by the way, as if life problems were comparatively of more practical importance than knowledge about the making of the world.

In this case choice was made of one of the same race, religion, and culture. There was some advance probably in the case of Isaac, but in the main this was the true. They went about the selection in a deliberate, prayerful way, seeking

things. Some will hold that reciprocity, for example, with the United States, is a good thing, and some will hold equally that it would be a bad thing—for the present, anyway. There is surely nothing wrong about holding opinions opposed to each other about this. In the course of discussion on these views they are submitted to searching examination by the public, and the truth is the better arrived at.

What is to be deprecated is resentment and bitterness arising because this one or that one differs from us. Let us agree to differ, and still keep ourselves open to learn from each other. Another objection here is when people say that such a question belongs to party politics, therefore don't say anything about it. What right has anyone to monopolize a public question and say to you or me, "You must not talk about that now"? If he

guidance of Christ, the great Architect of life, our characters will rise in beauty and strength, and fulfil a glorious purpose in the eternal order of things.

A National Spirit

The most of my readers are, I assume, young Canadians, and as such the makers of to-morrow. What is our greatest need in Canada? What will the future be? The future depends on the ideals of the present. We must get ideals, hold them high where we can see them, then strive with all our might to work them out. We are fighting for Canada as old Israel fought for Canaan. Foes resisted them on every side, but, first, God was with them. They set their hearts to worship and serve Him. They had courage in their hearts, they obeyed God, and they fought for their country—God's country.