

Temperance Column.

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE C.E.T.S.

Sermon at St. Paul's Cathedral by Rev. Canon Lloyd, Vicar of Newcastle.

"A land, which the Lord thy God careth for. The eyes of the Lord thy God are upon it from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year."—Deut. xi. 12.

Many learned and clever men have spent their time in disputing whether the book of Deuteronomy was written by Moses or no. We will not spend any of our time this evening in discussing the question. The Jews are more likely to know the rights of it than we are, and they tell us that it was written, or, at least, spoken by Moses; but for Christians our Lord at once decides the question, by three times, at least, recognizing it as the work of Moses. Whoever wrote the book, through it God spake unto His people of old whom He brought out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, a multitude of slaves, that He might make of them a free nation. And this is what He spake: "Know, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord he is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath. There is none else. Thou shalt keep His statutes and His commandments, that it may go well with thee and with thy children after thee." Trust in the living God, and choose His service as your guide, and it shall be your protection. A thoroughly strong, happy, and prosperous people shall you be on the earth. This is what God promised His people of old. This is what we must think of when we open the book of Deuteronomy, and see if it has anything to do with us. Religion in the days of old was not the narrow, selfish thing it is in danger of becoming in ours; not simply the saving each for himself his own soul, creeping somehow or other out of this world into a better without any real care or love for his fellow-creatures, or those he leaves behind him. Not only a personal matter between God and the soul, but a living, personal faith in the living personal God, who made the world and us who live thereon. Who gave us leave when He placed us here to replenish the earth and subdue it; to find out what He had stored up in it, and to bring out of his store-houses the treasures which lie hid there; who, having made the world, has not ceased to care for it, but, from the beginning, has regulated it by laws of his own appointing, which we call natural laws; and, having made us, still cares for and loves us, and has given us laws for our guidance which we call moral laws, which, if we keep, it shall go well with us, and if we break, it shall be at our risk and to our loss. Loves us as God only can love in spite of our dulness, and stupidity, and ingratitude, and selfishness, and crime. Loves us so that He came down from heaven and lived as one of us, and died and rose again, and has taken into heaven our human nature that He, who only could,

might bridge over the gulf of separation which our wrong doing had made between God and the work of His hands. Settle it in your minds that the promises and warnings in this old book are for us, and for our children, as surely as they were, to the Jews of old. That the Lord Jesus Christ is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath. There is none else. So shall our faith in God form an integral part of our family life, our politics, our patriotism. So shall we be a wise and understanding generation, and God shall prosper the work of our hands upon us. No Englishman could have read unmoved the account of last week's pageant at the opening of our great National Exhibition by our Sovereign Lady. It has been truly said there have been many industrial exhibitions in the metropolis and other cities of the United Kingdom, but never before has there been an Industrial Exhibition of the "Greater Britain." There have been international exhibitions, wherein all nations have been invited to take part. There have been also exhibitions most interesting and useful in their way, devoted to some department of trade or industry, but this is the first British National Exhibition pure and simple. There we may form a notion of the vastness of the empire to which we belong, as there has been no chance of forming before. The collection now on view, I venture to say, could be brought from no other dominion that is or ever was on the face of the earth, save from that of Great Britain, the domain which our countrymen began to build centuries ago, and to the strengthening of which the intelligence and vigor of multitudes of our countrymen are still being devoted. My brethren, what is all this for? Is it to promote the better acquaintance with each other of the divers people within our borders? Is it to give correct notions of the vast extent and commercial greatness of the empire, to show its wealth and its capacity for producing still greater wealth? Is it to stimulate the trade of our country, the depression in which is causing so grave anxiety in many quarters? Doubtless, some of all these will be the result. But surely there are other and deeper lessons than these to be learnt. The sight of the vastness of our dominions tells of a power for greater good than either commerce or industry. Power in a man or nation tells of opportunity. Opportunity involves responsibility. From whom did we receive the power? To the same do we owe the responsibility. Listen to a warning not altogether out of place in our country and age: "Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God in not keeping His commandments, and His judgments, and His statutes. Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied, then thine heart be lifted up and thou forget the Lord thy God; and thou say in thine heart, my power and the might of my hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou

shalt remember the Lord thy God, for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth." Ah, my brethren, has not this been practically forgotten? We talk of the resources of Great Britain as if we ourselves had made her what she is, and not Almighty God. History will over and over again prove the truth of Deuteronomy, that so surely as a nation forgets the living God and worships other gods, so surely as a nation forgets that her strength consists not in riches, but in virtue, so surely that nation will come to ruin and shame. This year, brethren, ought to bring home to us what God has done for us, and how miserably little we have done for Him. Nay, not only sins of omission, but sins of commission, are crying out against us. "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof," is engraved over the great marketplace of England's commerce. Engraved in terrible irony of what is often transacted beneath its roof!

(To be Continued.)

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