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The Reality of Experience

The subject of experience is receiving more attention to-day than perhaps ever before. It may be because the Christian faith has been so challenged by its enemies, both on speculative and practical grounds. There has been a great deal of speculation about Christianity during the war, and assertions of its failure. Mr. Chesterton's answer to it all is terse and effective: "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried." It has been said, too, that the doctrine of God has been out of relation with the facts of life. The soldiers when in France, they say, when repeating the Creed would say: "I believe in God the Father," but would absolutely refuse to use the word "Almighty." They failed to see how a Loving Father, if He were Almighty, could allow such a tragedy to take place as that which they were going through. Amid all this tempest in thought, this shattering of speculative ideas, some things have remained unshaken and undisturbed. Christianity has not been discredited, because men and nations got into trouble by rejecting it. The conception of God, both loving and almighty as disclosed by Jesus Christ, remains. He has not ceased to be Almighty because some have repudiated His infinite moral power. He has not ceased to be Father because some have deliberately run amuck with weapons to wound their brothers and sisters. The reality of Christian experience has not been ruined by the wreckage of its speculative experience of the good and beautiful can never be discounted by the appearance of the false or bad.

Experience has a strong evidential value in favor of the reality of Christianity. It witnesses to the reality of a Divine power in a man's life. It cries out to the whole world: "We know that we have passed from death unto life," and calls upon men and women to share that reality. Science and philosophy are both beginning to recognize the reality and value of the experience of life. It is something proved by life rather than by logic, and although it lies behind sense experience, and not obvious to the senses as are the facts of the physical world, yet scientists and philosophers are beginning to realize that man's upward thought can be met by God's descending revelation and love. In this connection Dr. E. Y. Mullins, of Louisville, has said: "Nobody now doubts the existence of God, and yet it has been bombarding the universe since and under the nose of science, space, and yet it was only discovered yesterday and already threatens to revolutionize science. Religious experience is the radius of the spiritual universe, which needs only discovery to revolutionize any man's thought as to life and destiny."

The reality of Christian experience is a clear proof of the Deity of Christ, and His presence in such an experience. No man has the moral resources to transform himself. Man may lay off certain evil habits, but he cannot of himself transform his life and character. The moral gravitation of man is not upward. As someone has remarked: "You cannot combine moral shadows by any sort of manipulation and produce moral sunshine." Christ answers the call. A moral transformation follows and man enters into a new experience.

The reality of experience is seen in the sphere of practical life. The great hymns of the church give voice to that reality. The Christian biography of the world gives conclusive evidence of it. Read the story of the lives of men like John Wesley, William Wilberforce, Francis Xavier, John Bunyan, Hugh Latimer, Dean Stanley, St. Augustine and innumerable others, and you will inevitably come to the passage which describes a spiritual crisis commonly known as conversion. The biographies of these great men have not been corrupted by attempts to deceive the public. They have merely recorded the definite practical experience in the lives of those men from which everything worthy dates.

Rationalism has no weapon with which it can overthrow the Redeemer's experience in the lives of men. History can produce many in all centuries of whom it can be said: "One thing I know that whereas I was blind now I see." Mr. Bradlaugh once challenged the late Hugh Price Hughes to debate on Christianity. Mr. Hughes quickly sent this reply: "Certainly. Nothing would be more pleasing to me, but as debates on conventional lines usually lead to nothing, let us hold a debate on new lines. I will undertake to bring one hundred diverse men and women to the platform of St. James' Hall, who shall witness to the saving work of Christ in their lives. You can cross-examine them as much as you like. But you, on your part, are to bring one hundred men and women who have been redeemed from a sinful life by your atheistic teaching." The debate never materialized. Mr. Bradlaugh was too wise to suffer a public collapse. He may have been clever in opposing theories of theology. He knew the value of running up against practical experience. The atheistic theory of experience is final. It cannot be gained.

Christ is the key to all religious experience. Christianity invites men into it, and people of the world are entering into it. People who differ in national characteristics, in mental outlook and in social status, are witnessing to its reality. The final test of any religion is the type of character it produces. When other religions or philosophies of religion produce their leaders—Augustines, Bunyans, Mullers, Livingstones, and Sam Hadeys, they will fight for the supremacy of Christianity and the reality of Christian experience, but not till then.

Blaming the Wrong Party

Lieut.-Col. C. C. Barthelet, commander of the 75th Battalion, of Toronto, has resigned because no army accommodation had been provided for his regiment. The Toronto Star states on this resignation as an excuse to

attack the militia department for its parsimonious policy. If The Star would take the pains to hunt up the Hansards of last session it would find that one of the principal lines of attack upon the Government on the part of the Opposition, which it is now supporting, was for extravagance of the militia expenditures. Hon. Mackenzie King is still directing his fire on the militia department for the same reason. In his Prince Albert speech he attacked the Government because there were to-day 194 armories in Canada, which were being maintained in time of peace at great expense. Not a solitary one of these armories was built by either Union Government or the Meighen administration. Would he to-day close all these armories throughout Canada? Judging by the war record of himself and his party he probably would. However, he would soon hear from the militia and veterans of Canada.

Mr. King, as a contrast to the militia expenditures, said that there were only 25 experimental farms in Canada. The experimental farm policy was inaugurated in 1886 by the late Sir John Carling when he was minister of agriculture, four stations being established. From 1896 to 1911, when the Liberals were in power and Mr. King a Cabinet minister, this number was only increased by seven. Since 1911, when the Borden Government took office, thirteen additional farms have been started. Mr. King is also quoted in his Prince Albert speech as saying that the latest revenue figures show that out of a total of \$220,000,000 only \$200,000 had been spent in agriculture. If Mr. King is not misquoted he has made a statement which he as a member of Parliament must know is false. He sat in the House last session when the estimates were passed and the agricultural vote was some four millions. In addition to this vote there is a statutory estimate of over a million a year divided among the provinces for agricultural education, as a result of legislation passed by the Borden Government. Altogether five times as much is spent to-day on agriculture as when Mr. King's party went out of power in 1911. More money could be well spent in agriculture, but Mr. King's attempt to represent that the farming industry is being sacrificed for the development of the militia is a cheap political play and as easily exposed as his other charges against the Government.

As for The Toronto Star, it should devote its onslaught for the situation which exists in the Queen City in regard to army accommodation, upon its Liberal friends and not the militia department.

The Poet Laureate's Defense

The British poet laureate, Robert Bridges, is acting as defendant of the Oxford professors who recently sent an appeal for reconciliation to the professors of Germany.

His chief argument is that such a move will encourage the "moderate party" in Germany. Dr. Bridges holds that the saving of Germany is with the "moderates." That their influence is the one element which can clarify Germany of her militaristic and chauvinistic ideas.

If the poet laureate's first argument is sound, then this new Oxford movement may bring about the healing of the German nation. As yet, however, the world in general has had no opportunity of judging whether there is a moderate "party" in Germany. They have not raised their voice in protest of the things done by Germany during the war. Days, nor have they avowed since any sorrow for the brutal deeds which stamped Germany as "the common enemy."

It is to be hoped that Dr. Bridges and his associates considered seriously the effect of their action. It is also to be hoped that results will justify their effort to bring about a reconciliation between the professional men of two countries that wore their rue with such a difference.

The second argument, urged in favor of the overture, is that it is the capital Christian tenant—the greater offense, the more ugly the offender: the greater the need of forgiveness on the part of those injured.

The latter argument stands upon philosophy. It is admittedly a supreme philosophy.

The Oxford professors have shown the courage of their convictions. We can do nothing less than wish for a happy development.

Government Employees in Politics

The question as to whether Government employees should be allowed to enter politics, which has been raised by the dictum of President Hanna of the Canadian National Railway, is not so simple as it appears. At first blush the idea of refusing railway workers the right to become political candidates, even if they are Government employees, seems absurd.

There is, though, to-day an increasing desire to keep politics out of the Government service and to abolish all patronage. If workers for the public are to become candidates, then other public employees have an equal right to take part in political campaigns. If a boiler worker is entitled to run as a Labor candidate, other employees have the same right to enter the lists for the regular parties. The result would be that the civil service would be in danger of becoming a regular vortex of politics.

It is not so many years ago that a Liberal Government in Nova Scotia actually disfranchised all civil servants in that province. There was a time when Australia disfranchised public employees. The Commonwealth has restored the franchise, but distinctly forbids either civil servants or employees of the state railways seeking seats in Parliament.

With the extension of public ownership a new significance is given to this whole problem. It is not a question of keeping Labor out of politics, as is argued in some quarters, but a question as to the advisability of public servants sitting in Parliament and voting their own salaries and salary increases.

NOTE AND COMMENT

The man who is slave to himself is the super-bondsman.

Static electricity—A nervous man waiting in line to vote.

"Dynamic cheese"—A euphemistic synonym for Limburger et al.

The (seamy) chair—that's what many of us are putting out our hands for.

If one were to believe that caustic Dame Rumor, there is more "communitas" de-can-ted than has yet been tapped.

The Third Column

THE EASIEST THING.

It's hard, sometimes hard to keep plugging along. When the game isn't going your way. There are times, without doubt, when your hope flickers out. You think it is useless to play. But just keep in mind that the battle's not lost. Until all of the fighting is through. Make a contest of it, do not lie down and quit. For quitting's so easy to do.

The way of a man in all struggles of life is to play to the end of the string; He may feel that defeat he is shortly to meet. But he'll fight till the last bell shall ring. The cowards and quitters drop out of the fray. Ere ever the finish is due. They haven't the heart to go through with their parts. And quitting's so easy to do.

It's easy to flinch and it's easy to whine. When foes that are stronger assail. When your pathway is barred and the going is hard. That's the time it is easy to fail; But while you've a chance don't give way to despair. To yourself and your purpose stay true. Make a battle of it, do not lie down and quit—That's the easiest thing you can do.—By Edgar A. Guest.

HENRY THE GREAT.

I have a hat that cost a pile—hat prices high have soared—and I take off that treasured tile, and bow to Henry Ford. Like many patriotic gents, the House last session when the estimates were passed and the agricultural vote was some four millions. In addition to this vote there is a statutory estimate of over a million a year divided among the provinces for agricultural education, as a result of legislation passed by the Borden Government. Altogether five times as much is spent to-day on agriculture as when Mr. King's party went out of power in 1911. More money could be well spent in agriculture, but Mr. King's attempt to represent that the farming industry is being sacrificed for the development of the militia is a cheap political play and as easily exposed as his other charges against the Government.

FOLLOWING DISCREETLY.

Judge—What do you do? Prisoner—I follow construction work. Court—Sergeant (examining hands of prisoner)—That's correct, your honor, but he hasn't caught up with it yet.—Kansas City Star.

HOW HE GOT AROUND IT.

Irate Visitor: "Mr. Editor, I've been told that you have printed in your sheet that I am the greatest swindler the world has ever known." Editor: "No, sir! Nothing in my paper contains only the latest news."

LITTLE BENNY'S NOTEBOOK.

THE PARK AVE NEWS.
Weather: Days shorter, nites vicia virtue.

Speaks. Maud Jonson is getting fatter and thinner, but the fatter she is the madder she gets when somebody calls her a female Puds Simkins. Slaters. Mr. Sam Crosses tuff cuzzin, Mr. Pussey Miller, finished his visit. Mr. Cross and went home last Saturday, which while he was leaving several members of society fainted at the corner and gave 3 cheers to show they weren't afraid of him or anybody like him. Among those cheering was Mr. Benny Pota. Mr. Sid Hunt, Mr. LeRoy Shooter and Mr. Charles (Puds) Simkins.

POPE BY SKINNY MARTIN

I don't mind going on a trolley car. And I like to go on a train. I love to go on a merry go round. But going on an errand is pain. Intriguing Facts About Intriguing People. Sam Cross gets more bad marks in arithmetic than any 4 fellows in the class put together and he wants to be he's harder on rubers on the end of pencils than anybody else in the hole school. Lost and Found. Found—Bag containing 4 sour balls. Owner can have bag and 2 sour balls providing they are still left. See Artie Alexander.—By Lee Page.

A Ladder Against the Sill

Sunday afternoon, October 27. A residence on Wellington street—a footstep—a hurried investigation—an open window—a ladder against the sill—the thief had disappeared!

Fortunately, the owner heard him.

Next time—nobody home—bearer Victory Bonds, debentures and valuable documents are stolen—probably lost forever.

Are you holding your bonds for a burglar?

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Letters to the Editor

HARD ON HOTEL.

Editor Free Press: If the new hotel is built according to present plans, London is going to be afflicted with another architectural horror. A drawing of the new building is exhibited in the window of Smallman & Ingram's. It is nothing but a Tecumseh House suffering from general hypertrophy or elephantiasis, with the addition of a few pillars near the roof; placed there, I suppose, to support the sky. A hotel, factory or a purely commercial building, it would not be so bad, although certainly inferior to the new Holeproof hosiery. It is a relief to observe that the new university buildings promise to have some character and are not going to be a meaningless waste of bricks and mortar or stone and mortar, like the new hotel.

Is it not strange that in the States or Canada no law has yet been passed to compel people to submit plans for a new building, to a civic committee, or a town planning committee, who would place the ban on all buildings which have nothing to recommend them from a purely aesthetic point of view? It is against the law for one citizen to hit another citizen in the eye with a brick. Why, then, should we allow that same citizen to hit people in the eye with a building, thereby causing more or less pain and discomfort, not to one person but to thousands, and not for one day but for 50 years or more?

The degrading effect of bad architecture on the community in general is hard to estimate. In Italian cities one often hears a poor peasant or workman whistling grand opera airs as he goes along the street. Good music has been their environment ever since they were children. Not only are they familiar with opera, but the classical music of the mass has also its uplifting effect. Similarly, if people are brought up in an environment of beautiful scenery, of good architecture, they get to appreciate these things.

There has been a discussion about employing American architects. I do not know who is the architect of the proposed new hotel, but if we cannot get anything better in this country I would suggest trying a Japanese or Indian or Kaffir architect. Even the symmetrical huts of the South American Indians and some other tribes are far superior from an artistic point of view to many examples of the modern skyscraper. There are a number of modern hotels and educational buildings in the States possessing character, dignity, refinement and grace, and there is no reason why London cannot in her new buildings have something at least as good as Mitchell's drug store, the Patricia Theater and several school and commercial buildings that have been erected; some of them many years ago.

A community without art is a community without God, for such a lack implies that the people do not recognize that there is an ideal world where all that is evil or degraded or sordid or unlovely exists. If we believe that, we will do our best to make our environment reflect in some degree the beauty of nature, the Divine harmony and symmetry.

A short time ago there was exhibited in a well-known London picture shop a wonderful statue of Maline's cathedral, France; beautiful as a dream of Paradise, with a loveliness almost unearthly, which spoke of a kingdom not of this world. We cannot build like that, for we have not the religious faith which inspired such marvels as Rheims and Salisbury Cathedral.

Let us insist that our public buildings shall at least express all that is best in modern culture and civilization; not all that is worst.

CHARLES LUSH.
London, October 28.

AN EXPLANATION.

Editor Free Press: The contractors who did the plumbing for the new building of the Holeproof Hosiery Company of Canada, and who are now doing the plumbing for the new Medical School, have called my attention to an article in a local paper on October 22.

These people have done the plumbing in both of these buildings in strict accordance with the Toronto by-law and in strict accordance with the by-law which it was proposed to enforce in this city. In justice to the owners of the above buildings and to the contractor, I think you should make plain that no matter what is the general condition of the plumbing in this city, the plumbing in the two above mentioned buildings is first-class in every respect.

I feel, as consulting engineer for the owners of both of these buildings, that I should call your attention to this matter and I believe that Mr. James Young, the city plumbing inspector, will heartily agree with me.

I believe that Mr. Buchanan, general manager of the Public Utilities Commission, and who is superintending the work at the new Medical School, will also be glad to bear me out in stating that the plumbing work done at that building is first class in every respect and is a credit to the board of govern-

On Monday We Commence Taking Orders For Making Skirts To Your Measure, Including All Trimmings, For \$2.68



All Skirts tried on before finishing to insure satisfaction. It is some time since we have been in a position to offer our customers special-price skirtmaking. The offer now comes when most appreciated because of the difficulty generally to-day in having materials made up, owing to the scarcity of dressmakers' helpers. Many ladies have been eagerly waiting, and undoubtedly Monday morning at 9 o'clock will see a great number of orders taken. We advise early placing of orders, because there will be a limit to the number of Skirts to be made. Here are the particulars:

Wool or Silk

Select any price material you wish from the stock, comprising Serges in many weights, Fine and Heavy Twills or Wool Tricotines, Gabardines, Santos, Amazons, Broadcloths, Fancy Plaids, Check and Stripe Golf Skirtings, Tweeds; in fact any fabric in the stock, or if you prefer a silk skirt, choose a plain or fancy. There's no limit to what price you wish to pay or kind of fabric you select from.

You have a selection of four skirt styles, each showing a model made up. Newest fashions and lines for young and old, comprising One-piece Skirts, gathered across back, neat set-in pockets, button trimmed; another model in two-piece style; also the pleated model, for plaid or plain materials, is very smart and economical for quantity of goods. For the stout figures you will find an exceptionally neat Skirt, imparting the proper lines of to-day's mode.

Select your style, buy the necessary quantity of goods, have your measurements taken, and for \$2.68 we will make and supply all trimmings. Every Skirt will be tried on before finishing to insure satisfaction.

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Walnut Finish Chiffonier, one-quarter off, sale price \$48.50
Fumed Oak Chiffonier, one-quarter off, sale price \$37.50
Quarter-cut Oak Chiffonier, one-quarter off, sale price \$37.50

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Walnut Vanity Dresser and Bench, half price, sale price \$78.00
Walnut Vanity Dresser, one-third off, sale price \$105.00
Genuine Mahogany Dressing Table, one-quarter off, sale price \$60.00
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Walnut Dressing Table, one-quarter off, sale price \$60.00
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