

or in Whom shall we seek to rest—while consciousness remains on this side?

“Art thou afraid His power shall fail
When comes thy evil day?
And can an all-creating arm
Grow weary or decay?”

The ways in which death may come to men, individually and in the mass, are so numerous, and calls are sometimes so sudden and unforeseen, that none of us can be assured that any lengthy period for reflection will precede our experience of “transition.” But if we have sized up this life fairly, we shall not be unduly depressed with the thought of passing into another and, we may trust, a higher school for education and experience. We may follow the faith and reasoning of such a gentle soul as John Greenleaf Whittier who, in contemplating the end, wrote lines likely to remain in the memory; and well worth repeating to oneself in the quiet or introspective hour—



“Do you feel at home?” “I am not sure.” Question and answer in some such form were probably not uncommon at the recent first district conference of the United Church of Canada held in Wesley Church, Vancouver. So far as general impressions go, the former Presbyterian members seemed rather few and far between among their former Methodist brethren, but no doubt the feeling of unity will grow with time.

The outstanding addresses delivered in connection with the conference included several from Rev. Dr. George C. Pidgeon, the Moderator of the United Church, whom we should now perhaps designate as the Right Reverend. By the conference members formerly of the Methodist and Congregational churches, Dr. Pidgeon would naturally be heard with more than the ordinary Presbyterian interest. But all who knew him during his years as Professor at Westminster Hall, Vancouver, and heard him preach frequently during that period, would not need to be reminded that he is a pulpit expositor never lacking in appeal.

Through introducing a matter which, we gathered, was not officially “on the programme,” Rev. Dr. J. S. Henderson, of St. Andrew’s

which the hurry and flurry of the crowded days almost deny us. To every one scanning these notes we commend perusal of the poem entitled “At Last,” beginning “When on my day of life the night is falling.” It is one of those pieces that may easily be memorized without set purpose, because of its appeal, its humility and its strong, yet (toward the Eternal) child-like, faith. Whittier’s words:

“I have but Thee, my Father,
let Thy Spirit
Be with me then to comfort and
uphold,”

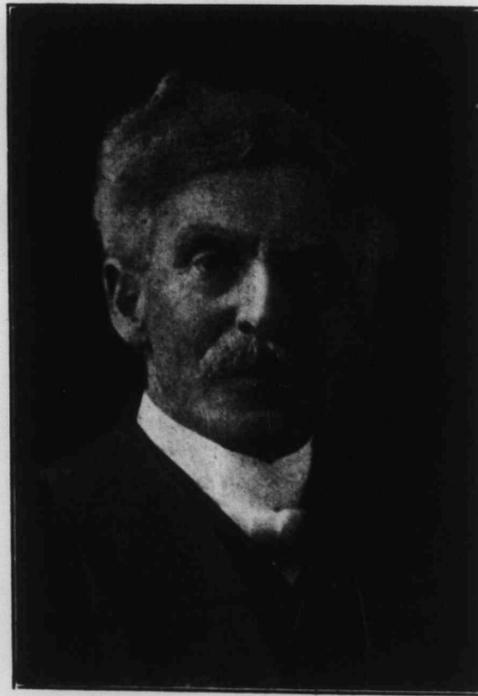
reveal a reliance on the Divine which all children of men have need to learn “then”—and some may add “and now.”

To be laid aside may let us look at life as from the balcony—looking upon it as if not of it. We repeat, it is well for everyone to see how insignificant he is in the scheme of things here. But the experience of being laid aside has another use:

it enables one to realize better how far, and in some cases perhaps it may be how little, friendly interest can be allowed to interfere with the daily round and common task in the lives of most of us. When laid aside it is well to know that this one called and that one phoned, and that not a few have otherwise made kindly inquiry as to one’s progress healthward. But ordinarily, we are all so busy, so crowded with affairs, that if folk happen to be of the type who are averse to personal publicity, or any action that savors of seeking sympathy, they or theirs may have passed beyond this Kindergarten School of life ere many of their circle of friends or acquaintances are even aware that they have been laid aside.

So, whether or not we have any “Church connection,” each growing soul alike does well to learn to make his or her own the prayer of a Seer of old: “So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto Wisdom.”

Kiwanian Dr. J. S. Henderson Conspicuous at First United Church Western Conference



REV. J. S. HENDERSON, D.D.

Church, Vancouver, came to the front at that first conference in a way that some folk may hold was second in historical importance to nothing else that came before the gathering.

In a brief speech Dr. Henderson related how a group of representatives of the Uniting and Non-uniting Presbyterians had come together unofficially and sought to find a way out of the present difficulties re-

property adjustment that would make unnecessary further legal action on either side.

Dr. Henderson asked the conference to approve of the course taken extra-murally, and, with very little discussion, the members welcomed and commended what had been done, and then gave it formal endorsement.

* * * * *

Since conference Dr. Henderson has resigned as senior pastor of St. Andrew’s Church, and, by the counsel of his medical advisor, will rest for six or nine months—as far, we suppose, as a man of his temperament can.

The doctor is recognized as one of the brightest among the senior members of Vancouver Kiwanis Club, of which, if we remember aright, he was formerly a director. It is, therefore, doubly fitting that we should find space for his picture in this issue, though the photograph was taken some years ago, when the cut was made for this magazine.

Dr. Henderson’s many friends will wish him refreshment in his holiday season and trust that he may yet do much more “community service” in Church or State, or in connection with both.