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C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

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## THE PEACE RUMORS.

Rumors of peace have too often proved il- lusionary and hopes of it have been too often disappointed, that confidence in their reli- ability will only be felt when the Boers lay down their arms and peace is officially proclaimed. Though yet again hopes may end in nothing. The peace the whole empire longs for is surely coming nearer day by day. The recent engage- ment, in which our fellow-countrymen conducted themselves with a coolness and we may well feel proud of, and in which so many have laid down their lives or been wounded, will make peace all the more welcome should it come immediately. The utter hopelessness of the Boers ever getting what they are standing out for, has long ago deprived the struggle largely of the character of war in the ordinary sense, and makes it appear now as only justifiable bloodshed and waste. Yet we must remember what the Boer believes himself to be fighting for, his country, his home and national independence. In this light his very tenacity of purpose and stubborn courage entitle him to our re- spect, or even in some regards our ad- miration. They are the same qualities which in like circumstances we would shew ourselves, and be ashamed of our- selves if we did not. Because then he has exhibited qualities which we respect or admire, and because we are the strong- er, we should treat our foe when beaten with magnanimity. Still more as a pro- fessedly Christian nation should we so treat him and seek to win him to alle- giance by kindness and consideration. We should remember that if we have suf- fered much in blood and treasure the Boer has suffered more; and that if we are entitled to sympathy because of what we have suffered he is more entitled to it. If peace would be welcome to us, much more should it be welcome to the Boer.

If we have suffered and lost much he has suffered and lost vastly more. Whatever he may eventually gain when he accepts the situation and settles down, or his children into loyal and peaceable British subjects, the empire and we as Canadians have gained no little through this strug- gle.

To say nothing of the territory added to the empire and the prospective wealth, there has been revealed to ourselves and to the whole world, a unity of interest, a love for British institutions, and a loyalty to our form of government that may be- fore have been believed to exist, but which probably nothing but war could have so fully called forth and established beyond dispute. It has evoked and dis- played loyalty on the part of Canadians, greater we fancy, than we were ourselves were aware of, and raised us to a place in the affection and confidence of the mother country such as we have never before held. Should peace now come, it will be our part to lend assistance as eagerly and enthusiastically to repair the havoc wrought by war, and establish the most friendly relations between the conquered and the victors in every part of the em- pire. And Canadians can do much in this direction. We are a nation compos- ed in the main of two different, and in the past often hostile peoples, and yet now we live in peace and unity, enjoying practical independence, the most ample liberty under British laws; so that those who once fought with each other, now fight side by side for the same king and country. There is no reason why this should not eventually come about in South Africa as it has done in the Dominion. Every Canadian, and there are sure to be not a few, who, after the war remains and settles in South Africa will be a great help in bringing this about. The forty female teachers who have gone from our shores to help in the greatly needed work of educating the Boer children, will have it in their power, and will be sure to use it, to do a truly patriotic work for the em- pire and be messengers of peace and goodwill to the Boers.

When peace comes there can be no ex- ultation over a fallen foe. The Boer has shewn qualities which entitles him to our respect, and which may by proper treat- ment be turned to good account for the uplifting of Africa. We can afford to be generous, and by the largest generosity compatible with national safety, we may conquer him more readily than by arms. With peace will come great responsibil- ities and great opportunities to promote the wellbeing of the Boers, and of the natives, of the empire and of the world even, by the extension of the language and the civil and religious liberty and good order which follow the flag where- ever it is carried, and beneath whose folds the most diverse peoples in every clime have found shelter, peace and conten- ment. The rivalry in arms in the most distant parts of the empire to plant se- curely the flag in South Africa, will we trust be followed by the nobler rivalry to bestow upon the conquered and kindred

people all those blessings which we most highly prize and have been purchased for us at a great price.

## SILENCE IS GOLDEN.

It is universally conceded that we are living in an age of rush and incessant task. Secular business is pushed at a headlong rate all the week, and sacred work as well has caught the restless spirit of the day and is often also marked by haste and hurry. Social claims, the craving for excitement, the demands of pleasure, societies and organiza- tions for every conceivable purpose, and meetings without end, make up our busy lives, and for most people leave no time or opportunity for quiet rest and time to think. And yet there never was more need for these very things, time to be at rest and to think. Even small fractions of time would be prized, could they but be found, to devote to quiet and thought. We like the idea and the practice, we confess, of some churches which have their places of worship open during week days, so that those who have nowhere else to go, or whose business will allow a few minutes breathing leisure now and then, may turn in there and for a short while rest brain or heart. But where this is not done or cannot be, some little time might be left on other occasions, say on Sabbath, or during the period of worship, when those who desire it, might have a little silence, and an opportunity for communion with their own thoughts. Even so little as this would be prized, and found helpful. And once that time could be got in our churches, and many a one was better pre- pared to worship by the few moments which could be obtained to collect their scattered thoughts and lift them upward.

But now in very few churches can even these short precious moments be secured of perfect, undistracted quiet and silence. If one sets out to be in church a short time before service begins, you are sure to find the organist there, and the time and at- tention which might be given to silent, helpful thought and heart preparation are filled up with the steady flow of music from the organ, which, while it may possibly be for some an aid to worship, is to most utterly meaningless and simply a distraction. Wherever the blame for it lies, it would ap- pear as if nothing were so much dreaded in the house of God, and during His worship, as a few moments of perfect stillness and silence.

While the offering is being made af- ter the first part of public worship was end- ed, there were once a few moments for silent meditation and preparation for the sermon; but that time, too, has now been laid hands on by the organist, and the devout worship- per has been robbed even of these few precious moments of grateful silence or prayer. And when the service is ended, and the mind solemnized—awed, it may be—or roused to searching or uplifting thoughts, and the desire is to go away silently, cher- ishing sacred or tender feelings and aspirations, the amen of the benediction has hardly been more than spoken, when again the organ breaks in upon your thoughts. Were this done always in a strain corresponding to the tone and spirit of the sermon it would not