

Canadian Churchman

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Hymns from the Book of Common Praise, compiled by Dr. Albert Ham, F.R.C.O., Organist and Director of the Choir of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

(August 29th.)

Holy Communion: 247, 254, 263, 452.
 Processional: 49, 382, 488, 664.
 General: 15, 420, 480, 482.
 Children: 709, 711, 712, 720.
 Offertory: 398, 417, 503, 621.

The Outlook

Has Christianity Failed?

War between Christian nations is said to be a proof that Christianity has failed, and the taunt is coming not only from men of no religion, but even from Jews. These latter must have forgotten (or, perhaps, they do not know) their own Bible and history. Did the teaching of the Old Testament break down because the Jews became unfaithful and idolatrous? It is not Christianity, but the lack of it that has caused this war. The rejection, or even neglect, of the Gospel is the real explanation of the conflict, for only on a very small scale have the truths of Christianity ever dominated national life. The Bishop of Southwark aptly expressed the truth when he said: "Our Christianity breaks down only because we are not nearly Christian enough."

True Preaching

The Dean of Canterbury recently delivered an address to theological students and gave them some advice which was particularly appropriate to the subject of modern preaching. He did not know why one class of men should claim the right to compel other people to listen to them for thirty minutes while they discoursed on every subject under the sun, for the people were often better judges of these things than the clergy. Congregations come to church as sinners who know that they are not what they ought to be and wish to be better than they are. They come to hear the Gospel and by the grace of God to be helped to do what is right, and the Dean forcibly pointed out that this help must necessarily be placed in the background if clergymen discuss questions of politics, literature and sociology. For the

purpose of bringing about right conditions and creating true Christian preaching, Dr. Wace dealt with the duty of Bible study as the one way in which preachers might get into the true atmosphere of their calling:

By devoting time and thought to the New Testament it is possible to live in the thoughts and spirit of our Lord and His Apostles, and a man who does this carries with him into all his work some of the radiance of Divine love and sympathy. The English Reformers recognized this, and in their Ordination Service a place is given to Holy Scripture that it did not possess in the Mediaeval Church. Much of the shallowness of present day preaching, and a great deal of its ineffectiveness, arise from the ignorance of the preachers of the message of the Bible, which is the sole source of our knowledge of the life and teachings of our Lord and His Apostles.

Whether for the preacher's own spiritual life or for the proper teaching and inspiration of his hearers, nothing can make up for daily, definite and direct study and meditation of Holy Scripture.

When Will Universal Peace Come?

There are two extremes to-day, the militarist and the peace-at-any-price man. The former would settle everything by war; the latter will not allow war under any circumstances. But both positions are set aside by an appeal to fact, and it is this that gives point to the following words from the Ottawa "Citizen":—

There will be war so long as the nations are not made up of sincere Christian elements, and the day of universal peace, when every man and every country will refuse to shed the blood of others, will come only when the battle between evil and good, between error and truth, which has raged since the dawn of history, will cease—when every inhabitant of the earth is Christianized in fact as well as in name. The intelligent advocates of international peace expect to abolish war from the earth just to the degree that the great religious institutions expect to abolish sin or to eradicate human passions from human character, and no more. A sinless world will evolve as the result of individual regeneration and not otherwise. Until then a world without war in some degree is hardly possible.

This is as true as it is refreshing, and we commend it to those who vainly dream that this war is going to end war. The only thing that will end war is the peace of God in every heart.

Simplicity and Perfection

It has been pointed out that the most perfect things in nature are the least complex. Man has to use tools, while God can build with the simple forces of nature. The astronomer, in giving an object lesson of the solar system, makes a model, which is worked by machinery, but when God created the sun, moon and stars, there seems to have been practically no effort. Man governs by law, but God by love, and so it goes on, step by step, into the realm of spiritual things. Man lives largely by organization, while God emphasizes the importance of the organism. Our Lord's teaching was associated with the simple principles of life, love and faith, and the fruit of the Spirit is equally spontaneous. Then, too, in our own day the most perfect ecclesiastical machine tends to become the most corrupt,

and perhaps it is a special danger of religion to become strong by merely human methods, the institutional Church, the missionary banquet and the organization of all sorts of religious effort. There is a sense in which a man who is thinking of parochial work needs to beware of "a well organized parish," for machinery tends to occupy too prominent a place and we are only too apt to forget the simple life and quiet power of the Holy Spirit. In all our service we must aim at emphasizing simplicity and spirituality as opposed to complexity and the emphasis on mere organization. There is a very real sense in which the old words are as true as ever: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts."

The Panama Missionary Conference

It is well known that at the Edinburgh Missionary Conference in 1910 the work of missions in Latin countries was not included, and this, with other reasons, makes it absolutely essential to face the needs of this great field. And so a Conference of the missionary agencies and of the Churches at work in Latin America is to be held at Panama in February, 1916. A committee has now been constituted representing practically all the missionary agencies and the Evangelical Churches at work in this field, and this committee is arranging for the proposed Conference in Panama to be followed by sectional Conferences in Lima, Santiago, Buenos Aires, Rio, Havana, and Mexico City, and probably in San Juan, Porto Rico. A corresponding committee had been organized in Great Britain. Many considerations indicate the timeliness of such a Conference, and the present world situation has taught us all the one supreme lesson, namely, that without Christ and His Gospel, purely believed and faithfully obeyed, no science, or culture, or trade, or diplomacy will avail to meet human need. We are glad to notice that our brethren of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States are to be represented at the Conference, an important point in view of the Episcopate and Missions of that Church in South America. The Conference will do much to further the interests of pure religion in what has been truly described as "the neglected continent."

"Soundness"

Much is said about soundness in the faith, and many men are often questioned and rejected because they are regarded as "unsound." There is no doubt about the importance of soundness in the faith but, as St. Paul tells us, there are other things besides, including soundness in charity and patience (Titus 2:2). It is only too possible to be sound in the faith and yet to be far from sound in charity or patience. But since charity is greater than faith or hope, the prime importance of soundness in charity is beyond all question. So, without lessening our belief in the necessity of a sound faith, we shall do well to give as much attention as possible to soundness of charity and patience. And when we remember that the word "sound" means healthful, conducive to moral and spiritual health, we shall be all the more anxious to be "sound" in every respect.

Why Evangelize the Heathen?

Reasons for world-wide evangelization are many and weighty, but the problem is not without its difficulties, and for this reason the issue of a booklet on "The Spiritual Condition of the Heathen," by the Rev. H. W. Frost, of the China Inland Mission, is very