

What would you? we have asked. Well, was the reply, "we know that the guilty conscience of an astute government can always stimulate foreign war to distract attention from internal disorder and injustice; so, also, the churches too often blind us to their almost total neglect of national and domestic interests by a strange enthusiasm for missionary work in the foreign field. Let their charity begin at home, let them face the issues here, or their days as the source of inspiration, spiritual thought and leadership are gone forever.

The Present Outlook—An Opportunity For All.

The present temper of the world points to a complete reconstruction of the social fabric. The fever of unrest has taken possession of the nations and the ideal and function of the Christian church here in Canada, as elsewhere, is to work for its gradual alleviation and ultimate cure by a re-statement of the Scriptures in the light of modern experience. "We desire," say the people, we have recently questioned, "a world, an Empire, a country, in which moral forces shall prevail over material; in which, in all dealings between nation and nation and between man and man, the Golden Rule shall be observed; in which all shall have their opportunity to enjoy a share of the gracious and happy things of life."

Gospel of Unselfishness Needed.

Luckily, the free open spaces of Canada have hitherto released us from the more pressing industrial problems that loom so large upon the horizon of European nations. Here the Christian minister will find his chief difficulty in breaking free from tradition, as for instance, the notion held by so many individuals that—"When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there," must be there, whatever happens to my neighbor. In other words, he must preach the Gospel of unselfishness, self-surrender, tolerance, forgiveness, unity in the home, the church, the community, in national and international affairs of religious and secular concern, as in, for example, these all-powerful organizations, the Roman Empire and the Roman Catholic Church, and preach that unity ad nauseam.

A True Moral Basis For the Industrial World.

To enforce the arguments delivered in the pulpit, let him not hesitate to assume his historic and rightful position on the public platform at the head of his followers, zealous in the pursuit of all lawful enterprises that have for their object the denunciation of wickedness wherever it may be found. For the present, let his immediate object be the readjustment of social and spiritual conditions, the quest, if I may so express it, of a true moral basis for the industrial world.

Nor need they consider that quest a hopeless or interminable one. Christ's own assertion of the sacredness of human life is sufficient sanction for any and every effort they may make to establish the claim for liberty of development and for equality of opportunity and consideration and, though this is somewhat of a digression, the duty of mutual help and corporate service. This latter, the creation of a spirit of good citizenship, is surely one of their most important functions in the coming era in this country of Canada and can be best accomplished by an insistence upon the vital connection between the community and the individuals who go to compose it. What the private home is today, that will the City Hall be tomorrow

Human value, in short, and human comradeship may well be the text for countless sermons.

It may be that this brief discussion of the theoretical and practical training of the Twentieth Century ministers, during which it has been implied that a true conception of their ideals and functions would gradually dawn upon their own consciousness, will be found altogether fragmentary and inadequate. The failure, if such it be, lies to a considerable extent in the subject, in the permanent, yet apparently ever changing character of moral problems, in the necessity of repeating the seemingly old, stale and unprofitable in order to attain to anything new and valuable.

While it is true, therefore, that the ministers of the 20th Century must expect to meet old friends with new faces, it is impossible for us of this year and day to foresee every necessity in detail. We can only urge them in all earnestness to meet and overcome their difficulties when and where they occur and, as a necessary prelude, to auspicate all their undertakings with the old warnings of the church—Sursum Corda.

"Knowest thou not, O man, howsoever discouraged and vexed of soul, howsoever overborne by the anxieties, discomforts and perturbing visions of the hour thou mayest be, that to live is in itself a great thing, since life persists while the accidents of the hour, though dread, vanish away."

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