

C-221-5-6  
C.2

# Northern Messenger

W Bronscombe 18130 1/2 08

VOLUME XLIII. No. 15

MONTREAL, APRIL 10, 1908.

40 Cts. Per An. Post-Paid

'The "Northern Messenger" is a marvel for the price.'—Archibald Lee, Grenville, Que.

## Mary's Gift.

(From Tennyson's, 'In Memoriam.')



the TERRA COTTA by GEORGE ZINWORTH

Her eyes are homes of silent prayer,  
Nor other thought her mind admits.  
But, he was dead, and there he sits,  
And He that brought him back is there.

Then one deep love doth supersede  
All other, when her ardent gaze  
Roves from the living brother's face,  
And rests upon the Life indeed.

All subtle thought, all curious fears,  
Borne down by gladness so complete,  
She bows, she bathes the Saviour's feet  
With costly spikenard and with tears.

### A Personal Religion.

One of the difficult things for men to realize seems to be their personal relation to God—that God cares for them as individuals, and that they owe him a love and a service which shall be real and practical.

When, some years ago, in the British naval manoeuvres the "Camperdown" was sunk by her sister ship, the sailors struggling in the water had no trouble to realize that the boats which were put out by the vessels of the fleet were there to save them. Each one knew his personal safety was sought, and where one had a shipmate in the boat, who called his name and sought him, it had a special meaning, though that sailor knew his friend would be seeking others even though he were not in need.

So Christ seeks us, and calls us by our name, and day after day labors for our salvation. His love is personal and real, and reaches down to everyone.

But it asks a return in love and service. The story is told of a young officer, dying of consumption, a good enough fellow, who lived up to the ideals and standards of his set, not immoral, honest, brave, everything a man could be, except that Christ had no place in his life. He kept on planning for the future, and had no special dread of death, relying on his 'record.' One day a clergyman friend talked to him about his soul. His reply was to point to his spotless life. His friend turned to him, 'Jack, what have you ever done or not done that would have been different if you believed there was no God? Or,

I'll put it differently: What have you ever done or not done for the sake of Christ your Saviour? If your life has been moral, hasn't it been godless?' 'I see it now,' he replied. 'Leave me and let me think about that question.' It brought him to Christ and the feeling of a real personal relation to his Lord.

Morality will not answer. The standard of heaven is so high above our standard that our own lives would make a poor showing.

What is our relation to Christ? What are we doing for his sake? What are we not doing because He disapproves? The intimate relation with our Lord, the personal relation, is what we need, giving him love and service in return for the great salvation he is offering us and for the love which he bears to us.

Our religion is a personal religion, and our love must be a personal love for the Christ of Galilee.—The 'Lutheran Observer.'

### A Pastor's Experience.

'I knew a pastor,' says Dr. Bradt, 'who placed the great needs of the world before his people, and then asked the church for \$1,000, where before they had given \$100. He was met by the board of trustees and told that he must not press this upon the church, otherwise his own salary would have to be lessened. The pastor said, "Very well, brethren, if you will not join me in this, then stand by and see the salvation of the Lord; this thing is going to be done at whatever cost to myself, for I am convinced that the cause of Christ and the life of the church demand it." And it was done. At the end of

the year the church had raised almost \$1,000 for foreign missions, paid off its debt, paid the pastor in full, paid all other expenses, had money in the treasury, and had added 100 people, by conversion, to its membership. Besides this, the board of trustees and everybody else in the church was converted to the missionary idea, and the church took front rank, not only as an ideal church for foreign missions, but as an ideal church in every other good work for God and man, and has grown from a little church of thirty-five members, a few years ago, to one of the leading churches of the denomination.'

### 'Is My Heart Stopped?'

Spurgeon started up once at night in great fright. He had just dreamed that his heart had stopped beating. His watch was within reach and, on looking at it, he discovered that it had stopped running, apparently at the very moment when he had had the ugly dream. His own explanation, which was probably the correct one, was that the moment the watch stopped his ear had noted the change and brought on the dream. And the great preacher, with that readiness which always characterized him for using common things as illustrations of great truths, seized upon this incident and said: 'How I wish every Christian, whenever he feels the works of piety are not carried on by him, would start up in fright and say: "Is my heart stopped?"' There is another truth which the story illustrates and that has to do with the sensitiveness of the soul to duty. What