

# The 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.

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.**

(May 10th.)

Holy Communion: 253, 256, 260, 386.

Processional: 440, 636, 650, 664.

Offertory: 165, 388, 577, 583.

Children: 708, 709, 730, 751.

General: 19, 25, 171, 390.

## The Outlook

### War in Mexico

There is only one thing that is reassuring about the Mexican trouble and that is the attitude of the President of the United States of America. Peace with honour, we have no doubt, is his sincere desire. But it is a tangled situation. The last straw seemed extremely light but the camel had quite a hump on. For ourselves we find it difficult to see any satisfaction in a formal salute from a man whose control has not been formally recognized. There is considerable doubt as to whether Huerta has confidence enough to accept the efforts of the three South American Republics, no matter what be the attitude of U.S.A. The situation promises to change rapidly and before these words are in type the affair may have assumed entirely different proportions. But we must say that we wish the issue had been larger and clearer before a Christian nation had taken offensive measures. As it is, the U.S.A. has a wolf by the ears.

### The Power of the Gospel

It is sometimes said in these days of badly-filled Churches that the Gospel has lost its power of appeal, that the multitudes are no longer to be attracted by methods which have been useful in the past, and that it is only by some new form of treatment and some more modern presentation of truth that we can hope to see a return to the habit of Church-going. Now it must be sorrowfully confessed

that the pulpit is often not the drawing power that it ought to be, and that the hungry sheep look up in vain for food. If Churches were conducted on the principles of business houses an enquiry would soon be made in.o the lack of success, and if certain methods were not producing good results other methods would at once be substituted. A striking testimony to the power of the Gospel has just been given in the great Mission conducted by Dr. Chapman and Mr. Alexander in Scotland. They started work in centres which were admittedly hard to influence, and crowds who refused to go inside recognized places of public worship flocked to their meetings until there was no building large enough to contain them, and for hours thousands of people waited in the winter's cold to make sure of admittance. All theories about prevailing indifference to religion are destroyed in the face of facts like these, and the popular opinion that the ordinary man is not interested in religion is set aside by such clear testimony. This being the case, surely the lesson is that the Gospel should be proclaimed with all fullness and clearness in our pulpits, that conjecture and speculation should be made to cease, and that even ethics should be constantly proclaimed in relation to the vital power of the Gospel. If only an end could be made of theories and essays, and the truth as it is in Christ Jesus proclaimed out of loving hearts and earnest souls, the land would no longer be barren, but would bring forth fruit to the praise of God. Let us, therefore, be more convinced than ever that the Gospel is God's power to salvation.

### The Place of Music

For some considerable time the problem of Church attendance has been discussed in the United States, and the conclusion seems fairly unanimous that fine music is not particularly successful in attracting "the man in the street." This, perhaps, is because he likes to take part in the singing rather than listen to others. It is a great question whether any large number of worshippers are really interested in anthems and other musical productions in which they do not join, while, on the other hand, it would seem as though congregational singing was never more popular than at present. A little while ago we heard of a Church where it was said that special attention was going to be devoted to the music, so that if the present preacher should leave, the congregation might still be maintained. We question both the wisdom and the power of such a policy, and we still maintain that Church attendance is infinitely more likely to be guaranteed by the character and power of the preaching. The spirit of pleasure and amusement is becoming more and more dominant and the craving for novelty more and more keen. What is needed beyond all else is a revival of spiritual religion, a deepening sense of the realities of the world to come. When these things obtain among us there will be no need to think of attracting people by music. Christ alone will "draw all men unto Him."

### Principles, not Personalities

Whenever a writer or speaker indulges in sarcasm or personalities it is a sure sign of weakness, and when either of these features is seen in connection with religion the question becomes much more serious. Differences of opinion are inevitable among Christian men and discussions will doubtless continue till the end, but if ever a religious writer permits himself to indulge in cynicism, sarcasm,

and personal references it is at once recognized that his case is weak and his attitude hopeless, to say nothing of the poverty of his own spiritual life and character. Let us by all means discuss and controvert what we believe to be untrue, but let us deliberately limit ourselves to arguments based upon facts. The Spirit of Christ is probably nowhere more evidently seen than in our treatment of controversial matters, and while we are called upon to advocate good, and right, and truth, we must never forget St. Paul's words about "speaking the truth in love."

### Social Service

The first chapter of Social Service and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew is found in the familiar words, "He first findeth his own brother Simon and brought him to Jesus." It is worth while remembering this in days when Social Service is being made a watchword. Andrew did not bring Simon to the club, or the concert, or the institute, or the Church parade; he brought him to Christ. All our work is futile, and even dangerous, unless that be its purpose and direct result, and we must never forget that Andrew cannot bring Simon to the Master until he has first been there himself, and can say, "We have found Him." It is impossible to bring spiritual help to people by the hand of sympathy unless we ourselves have first of all experienced the love and grace of a personal Saviour.

### Two Teetotal Navies

The United States Secretary of State, Mr. Daniels, has issued an order, to take effect next July, prohibiting the use or introduction of liquor on ships or in navy yards. The order was prompted by the frequent court-martial punishment of officers who had learned to drink in the navy. Quite recently the Secretary had to approve the dismissal of a drunken officer, who had learned to drink in the officers' mess on cruise, the wine being provided by individual subscriptions of the officers. The Canadian navy is already "teetotal," and it is, therefore, a great satisfaction to know that two navies of the world are on the side of temperance. It is much to be hoped that other countries will follow suit, for no one can doubt for an instant the peril to the navy of alcoholic liquors and the entire uselessness of these beverages. Slowly, but surely, temperance principles are making their way.

### Version of the Bible

The Rev. T. H. Darlow, of the British and Foreign Bible Society, lately read an interesting paper at the meeting of the Victoria Institute, London, England, on "The Character of the Bible inferred from its Versions." It is sometimes overlooked that nearly every reader of the Bible in all parts of the world is dependent on a translation of some kind, and it is a fact of far-reaching significance that "some book, or books of Holy Scripture have now been published with a religious or missionary purpose in quite 600 distinct forms of human speech." And amid all the verbal changes implied by these multiplied versions the essential word of God in the Bible is not affected, and the vernacular rendering in every country is valuable beyond price. Mr. Darlow called attention to one point which seems to us of special interest and importance, that "perhaps there is no example of a people once Christian which has ever abandoned faith so long as its people have possessed the New