

## Thoughts for the Thoughtful

The time to begin is *now*—to-day.

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Every noble life leaves the fibre of it forever interwoven in the world's work.—Ruskin.

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Talent and cleverness are common enough but sincerity and trustworthiness are great but rare virtues.—Thoreau.

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Nothing dissipates cobwebs like active service and we all occasionally weave cobwebs of some sort or another.—Bishop Thorold, D.D.

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The strong argument for the truth of Christianity is the true Christian, the man filled with the spirit of Christ. The best proof of Christ's resurrection is a living Church, which itself is walking in a new life, and drawing life from Him who hath overcome death.—Christlieb.

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And this also is one of the great dangers of the spiritual life; that a little carelessness, a brief infidelity to our high calling, or a passing indulgence, suddenly demolishes what long and patient toil has been building up. It is like the taking out of a pin or a ratchet that lets all we have gained run down to its old condition.—Marcus Dods.

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This is the message of the Risen Lord to men. He has become the link between us and all that is highest and best. We know that He has overcome all evil and left it behind. We know that Christ must ascend to the highest, and yet we know also that He will not enter where we cannot follow. We know that His love binds Him to us as strongly as His rights carry Him to God.—Marcus Dods.

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There is an honour in business that is the fine gold of it; that reckons with every man justly; that loves light; that regards kindness and fairness more highly than goods or prices or profit. It becomes a man more than his furnishings or his house. It speaks for him in the heart of everyone. His friendships are serene and secure. His strength is like a young tree by a river.—Anonymous.

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One thing I do believe—more surely than the evidences of the senses, for they may be imposed upon—more surely than those self-evident axioms upon which mathematical truth is built, for these axioms are only spun out of the human mind, and not external to it. I do believe that God is true. I do believe that whenever God makes a promise, He will assuredly fulfil it. I do believe that if you or I come under the terms of the promise, He will fulfil it to us.—Dean Goulburn.

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God is girding every man for a place and a calling, in which, taking it from Him, even though it be internally humble, he may be as consciously exalted as if he held the rule of a kingdom. The truth I propose then for your consideration is this: "That God has a definite life-plan for every human person, girding him, visibly or invisibly, for some exact thing, which it will be the true significance and glory of his life to have accomplished." Many persons, I am well aware, never think of any such thing. They suppose that, for most men, life is a necessarily stale and common affair. What it means for them they do not know, and they scarcely conceive that it means anything.—Bushnell.

## Pastoral Letter

From Bishop of Saskatchewan to the Clergy of the Diocese.

Bishopsthorpe,

Prince Albert, 8th June, 1917.

MY DEAR BROTHER: I ask your attention to the following letter. Please read it thoughtfully; do not then put it away and forget it; but see how you can best carry out the requests contained in it, promptly and faithfully. You have learned that the Synod will not meet this Summer. (1) Because of the expense to the delegates and to the Diocese, taken in connection with the fact that we are called to exercise the greatest economy in every way. (2) That it hardly seemed right or wise, when we are calling upon the farmer to put all the time that is possible into his fields and farm work, that we should call him away for a week in that important period of early June. (3) That it seemed almost sure that there would be a very small lay attendance; and a Synod composed almost entirely of clergy does not fulfill the proper idea of a Synod. On my submitting my decision and action to the Executive Committee they approved.

### Mission of Repentance and Hope.

It is all the more urgent that you should press on with the work that lies to hand. The reports as to the National Mission in England would appear to show that while it has succeeded in some places and with some people it has failed to bear expected fruit in others, and to reach other people. The same may probably be said of the Mission of Repentance and Hope in this diocese. The failure may perhaps be partly due to faulty preparation or methods, partly to want of faith and earnest prayer, partly to the materialism of the day and to the hardness of the human heart; and through all of these causes, to lack of power in the Church. But the truth still remains that the opportunity and need are both present, that God answers prayer, that the Holy Spirit has power to convert men's souls and to revive the life of the Church, and that the presence and power of the Holy Spirit is promised to the earnest believer. Thank God that there are in some places and people in the diocese evidences of quickening of spiritual life, some increase of the number of praying people and bands, some advance in Christian life, some cause for joy and gratitude in the hearts of the faithful, whether clergy or laity. Let us thank God and take courage. In these days of call to everyone to do his or her best to contribute to the success of our Arms and those of our Allies we should surely do our very best also for the cause of Christ and of righteousness; and I call upon you to continue tirelessly, and at some sacrifice, to use every effort to win souls for Christ, and to establish His Kingdom in righteousness.

The Mission of Repentance and Hope was to be continued and extended till all has been done that can be done. Keep this aim and effort before your people in your visiting and preaching. Urge more regular and universal Family Prayer, with intercession for our Empire, our Arms, the Church, a bountiful harvest, and above all a spiritual awakening through the power of the Holy Ghost shed abroad. Gather your people—even if only a few—for worship and intercession and Bible reading on week days. At the same time keep before them the appeal that has been made for more liberal support of the Church, the absolute necessity

of increased contributions, the opportunity of this increase just now on the part of the farmers, and the truth, so plainly expressed in the Bible, that we are not absolute possessors of our time, money, etc., but that we are stewards for God, and have all things given in trust to be used in subjection to His Will, and for the general good. And I most earnestly exhort you to set your face against every kind of secularization of the Lord's Day, and to teach, warn and plead with your people to keep it holy, avoiding all labour and pleasure-seeking on that day. With many others, and doubtless with you, I deplore the unwise and, I believe, wrong action of some in authority in Church and State who have countenanced Sunday work on the farm and in the garden, under plea of national need and war-time necessities. It is only the thin edge of the wedge—further inroads on the Holy Rest-Day will follow, and once allowed it will be very difficult to return to the old godly ways. The result is already manifest. People work in their gardens instead of gathering to worship God. There is no need of it. Men and horses cannot profitably work seven days in the week. The blessing of God cannot be expected on work that is done contrary to His command, or on a people that deliberately puts that command on the shelf for the time. Similarly I urge you to oppose in every way, and to condemn as un-Christian, all so-called Sacred Concerts and Entertainments on the Sunday for Belgian Relief, Red Cross, Recruiting purposes, or other patriotic objects. They cannot be justified but are absolutely against all God's teaching.

### Recruiting.

Without going into the vexed question of Conscription, I may say that I believe that conscription or compulsory service is the best, perhaps the only solution of the question as to how to obtain the men necessary for filling the terrible gaps made in our Canadian regiments, and for bearing our share in winning the war. And I think that the Clergy may well exhort their congregations to accept and obey cheerfully the measures which our responsible rulers may determine upon. But meanwhile, without waiting for the enforcement of this, I think you may well lay before your young men the serious duty and responsibility of considering carefully and honestly the question as to whether they ought not to volunteer for national service of some sort, leaving the rulers to say how and where that service is most wanted. In the past probably some have gone into the army who might better have stayed on the farm. At the same time, many have stayed at home who might and should have enlisted.

### Economy.

I have less hesitation in asking you to preach economy in food and in spending. The government has for some months been calling upon us for this, and it is to be feared that many have disregarded the call. Many are practising economy because they cannot help it; they have not the money; but of those who have the money I fear many continue to waste both food and money selfishly, heedless of their duty to the nation. Do not think it outside of your duty as a Minister of Religion to set this before your flocks. But first consider what economy means, how it is best practised, and what good ends it serves, that you may set it before them intelligently, and in a way to win their response.

### Production.

If we are to waste less we are also to produce more. There is said to be a shortage of various foods throughout the world, and if we are to avoid great distress and suffering, if not famine, we must produce more than we have been doing. This means that there must be