

BIRTHDAY THOUGHTS.

"We bless Thee for our creation." Thus has the Church taught each of us to regard our birthday, a day for which we should thank and bless Almighty God, our Heavenly Father. And the world, too, look upon such days as times of rejoicing; while the old familiar greeting, "we wish you many happy returns of the day;" shows clearly that the leading thought connected with birth is one of joy and happiness. And rightly so, for at such times our thoughts must naturally go back to that first birthday when "God created man in His own image," and made him to have dominion over all the works of His hand. Nor must our thoughts stop here; for in addition to all this honour, in making man the head and lord of creation, God, in the person of Jesus Christ, has forever united human nature with the Divine, thus exalting man to the highest position that any creature can possibly occupy. No wonder, then, that the Church has taught her children to say day by day, "We bless Thee for our creation." But there is another side to this truth, and that a very dark one. We cannot be blind to the fact that in many, many cases life seems anything but a blessing; sickness and misery are its accompaniments from first to last; it opens its eyes in the midst of wickedness and vice, and it closes them in death amidst the same surroundings. Nor need we go to the streets and lanes of the city; the houses of the rich and well-to-do are often occupied by those who have so lost touch with God's original design in the creation of man, that they devote their days to killing time, and often-times to dissipation and vice. Such as these cannot possibly with any degree of sincerity join in the General Thanksgiving so far as their creation is concerned.

But the sin of man has not altered or destroyed the purpose of God; and therefore we do well, at the anniversary of our birth, to recall to mind what that purpose is, and to stir up ourselves, that we may be fellow-workers with God, and not amongst those who, by yielding to sin and Satan, are doing their best to mar and thwart that purpose. God has blessed us with life that we may be channels of blessings, each in his and her degree, wherever our lot in life is cast. "For there is no man, however low in the social scale, who may not do something to make one little corner of human society the greener and brighter for his existence, and in relieving a little that sorrow and suffering which are the dark shadows thrown by sin upon a fallen world." In acting thus we are not only following in the footsteps of our Blessed Lord, who "went about doing good," but we are also so using our present life that we may be prepared for that still higher life, "the life of the world to come," wherein all the powers of the regenerate man shall be fully and perfectly exercised.

If then, from any cause, these words of thanksgiving have not hitherto come as the true expression of our heart, let us determine, God helping us, that our next birthday shall witness a change, that we will lay hold of God's purpose in creating us, and day by day see that our life in all its details is fashioned according to the commandments of God. And this being the case, there can be no more weariness of life, no more killing time, either by wasting the morning hours in bed, or by spending the day on a mere round of gaieties, for life will then be estimated at its true value, and will be wholly dedicated to the service of Him who gave it, and we shall walk 'before Him in holiness and righteousness all our days.'

A. B. C.

THE CREED.

"Then shall be said or sung the Apostles' Creed, the minister and people standing." After having heard God's word read in the lessons, we are called on to declare our belief in it. This is a very important part in public worship. It has a somewhat different character from the rest of the service. Each member of the congregation takes a more personal part in it. In repeating the Creed we say, *I*, for the first time, instead of *we*, and we do not address God, as in praise and prayer, but are making a profession of our faith before the Church. Creed, as I dare say you know, means belief. There are three Creeds in the Prayer Book, but this one which is appointed for daily use is the shortest, the simplest, and the most ancient. It is called the Apostle's Creed, because it contains the doctrine which the Apostles taught, and which they handed on to the Church (see Acts ii, 43); and the Church has by God's grace, and with the help of this Creed, "continued steadfastly" in this doctrine ever since Apostolic times.

The Apostles' Creed gives a short summary of all the vital truths of Christianity. By this I mean that to be *Christians at all* we must believe in all its "Articles." Any one who doubts or denies any of these forfeits his right to be called a believer in the Christian religion. You remember, that at baptism and confirmation, every Churchman and Churchwoman has solemnly vowed to "believe steadfastly" all the Articles of this Creed. It is very necessary for us to be constantly reminded of this solemn vow, and be called on again and again to make a public profession of our Faith. The Creed is to be repeated by all "standing." This is to express our readiness, if need be, to "stand up," and take an active part in defence of our religion. Long ago, when Christians were still in danger of persecution, it was the custom, in one faithful Church, for all the men to stand with drawn swords as they repeated the Creed, to show how ready they were to fight to defend this precious faith.

I greatly fear that there is not very much of this ardent spirit in our congregations now; and yet, we are all enlisted in Christ's army, and have all received a commission to be His faithful soldiers, and to "fight manfully under His banner." The Holy Apostles thought it a glory to suffer shame for their Master's name, and they gladly died that they might hand on to us His precious faith. We are not called on to do such great things, but yet, it is an all-important question for each of us, Do we think our Belief worth fighting for? Or, is it precious to us? Could we imagine dying for it?

The Apostles lived and died to bear witness to the name of Jesus, because they knew that there is no "salvation in any other," for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."

BEAUTY is not confined to youthfulness, neither is it the exclusive monopoly of those who are upon the hither side of middle age. There is a slow but steadily growing beauty which can come to maturity only in old age. It is the fruit of noble hopes and purposes; it is the result of having something to do, something to live for, something worthy of humanity.

MARRIED.

WALTERS-WESTGATE.—At Boston, on July 30th, by the Rev. A. E. George, Mr. Chas. L. Walters, of Montreal, to Miss Carrie V. Westgate, of Cote St. Paul.

DIED.

MCPHERSON.—On August 4th, at the Pictou County Asylum, Stellarton, N.S., Archibald McPherson, in his 74th year.

WILLIAMS.—At Lakeville, Carleton Co., N.B., after a lingering illness, George Frederic, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac P. Williams, aged 19 years 3 days, leaving a large circle of relatives and friends to mourn his departure.

WHITE.—At Westville, N.S., Sydney Edgar, son of E. Proctor White and Maud M. White, aged 1 year and 7 months.



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Bishop's College, LENNOXVILLE.

Michaelmas Term—Lectures begin on September 13th.
Matriculation and Examination for Reid Scholarship.
TUESDAY, SEPT. 11th, at 9 A.M.

BISHOP'S COLLEGE SCHOOL,
REOPENS ON
SATURDAY, SEPT. 1st, 1888.

For Full Information concerning College and School apply to the Secretary, the office, Bishop's College, or to

Rev. Thos. Adams, D.C.L.,
PRINCIPAL AND RECTOR,
Lennoxville.

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SAULT STE. MARIE CANAL.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tenders for the Sault Ste. Marie Canal," will be received at this office until the arrival of the eastern and western mails, on TUESDAY, the 23rd day of October next, for the formation and construction of a canal on the Canadian side of the river, through the Island of St. Mary.

The works will be let in two sections, one of which will embrace the formation of the canal through the Island; the construction of locks, &c. The other, the deepening and widening of the channel-way at both ends of the canal; construction of piers, &c. &c.

A map of the locality, together with plans and specifications of the works, can be seen at this office on and after TUESDAY, the 9th day of October, next, where printed forms of tender can also be obtained. A like class of information, relative to the works, can be seen at the office of the Local Officer in the Town of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Intending contractors are requested to bear in mind that tenders will not be considered unless made strictly in accordance with the printed forms and be accompanied by a letter stating that the person or persons tendering have carefully examined the locality and the nature of the material found in the trial pits.

In the case of firms, there must be attached the actual signatures of the full name, the nature of the occupation and residence of each member of the same; and further, a bank deposit receipt for the sum of \$20,000 must accompany the tender for the canal and locks; and a bank deposit receipt for the sum of \$7,500 must accompany the tender for the deepening and widening of the channel-way at both ends, piers, &c.

The respective deposit receipts—cheques will not be accepted—must be endorsed over to the Minister of Railways and Canals, and will be forfeited if the party tendering declines entering into contract for the works, at the rates and on the terms stated in the offer submitted.

The deposit receipt thus sent will be returned to the respective parties whose tenders are not accepted.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any tenders.

A. P. BRADLEY,
Secretary.

Department of Railways and Canals,
Ottawa, 8th August, 1887. } 16-8

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