

Canadian Churchman

Toronto, November 15th, 1917.

The Christian Year

The Sunday Next Before Advent, November 25th, 1917.

It is an interesting combination of messages which is brought before us on the last Sunday of the Church's Year.

The portion of Scripture appointed for the Epistle is from the Prophet Jeremiah, in whose writings we are reminded that even amid all the distresses and desolations of Israel, and where faithless shepherds seem to flourish, God has given His promise of a day when "Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely," under the rule of the faithful Shepherd, *The Lord Our Righteousness*, Who shall gather His scattered flock out of all countries, and shall feed them with the Bread of Life. The appointed Gospel gives a picture of Our Lord feeding the multitudes in the wilderness. In it we are reminded that God's promises hold for ever, and that at all times, even in the midst of the wilderness, cut off apparently from the source of supply, the Great Shepherd still feeds His flock, bringing bread out of His inexhaustible resources. A message of hope, therefore, is the closing message of the Church's Year. Things go wrong, men forget and wander, they are scattered on the hillside as sheep without a shepherd. "They went astray in the wilderness out of the way; and found no city to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them." But God's promises stand fast. Even in the midst of the darkness of Jeremiah's times we are brought back to the promise of the Lord God Almighty of that coming day when "A King shall reign, and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth." And in the Gospel we are shown how even in the wilderness during the time when we are waiting for the drawing near of that day of which Jeremiah speaks, that even now and here the Lord, the righteous Branch, comes to meet us, to feed us with living Bread, of which there is an abundance, "whereof a man may eat and not die."

We hear in this last Sunday of the Year the opening notes of the great Advent message. For does not the closing sentence of the Gospel bring us a message of His First Coming?—"Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that Prophet that should come into the world." And is not the Epistle full of His Second Coming? It points to that day when He, David's Son, shall rule in righteousness; and justice and judgment shall be executed upon earth. Advent, 1917, is ushered in amid perplexities and distresses enough. It is against such a background that the message of the Closing Year ought to shine with great brightness. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord . . . that a King shall reign, and prosper, . . . In His days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely." "The Lord liveth." "They shall dwell in their own land." "Whence shall we buy bread that these may eat?" St. Philip thought it was impossible, and St. Andrew thought there might be enough for a few. "And Jesus took the loaves, and, when He had given thanks, He distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down, and likewise of the fishes, as much as they would."

Editorial

LOYALTY.

We were told a few days ago of a man, prominent in political life in Canada, who is personally in favour of the Military Service Act but who, out of loyalty to the leader of his party, intends to oppose it in the coming election. And in speaking of this to another gentleman, who occupied at one time the position of Chief Magistrate in a large Canadian city, and who previous to the war was a follower of the above leader, we were told that there were many such. It is difficult to believe that this can be true, yet it is just one of the dangers we are facing at the present time and one of the things that must be taken into account.

In the present war there are too many Canadians who are still labouring under the delusion that we are fighting for England, that this is England's war, and that if Canada were not a part of the British Empire it would not be necessary for it to have anything to do with the war. Of course, since the United States has "gone in," it is not quite so easy for them to believe this, but even yet the truth has not gone home to anything like the extent that it should, that we are fighting first and foremost for principles.

We admire loyalty to persons and we should encourage it, but we should not overlook the fact that there is something higher and more enduring than human beings and that human beings do not always represent the higher things in life. Only in one person, Jesus of Nazareth, was there no conflict between the human and the divine, and loyalty to Christ means loyalty to the principles that He taught and vice versa. It is not necessary in this case for us to be disloyal to either. This is, however, the one great exception. In all other cases we must make a choice. We must decide whether, no matter what the circumstances or the consequences may be, we shall follow what we believe to be right principles, or not. We continually find, even in our closest friends, certain ideas or acts that are out of harmony with what we believe to be absolutely right. It is possible also that these persons may feel hurt that we cannot see eye to eye with them and will not follow them, but we can rest assured that if their opinion is worth anything they will respect us far more if we are true to our convictions. And if the leader of His Majesty's opposition is as great a man as his supporters in the past believed him to be, we can rest assured that he will not ask or expect any man to support him who believes that his position at the present time regarding the great issue before us, is not the correct one. The best interests of our country are best served when its electorate acts in accordance with what is felt to be right regardless of the feelings or wishes of any man or any political party. To act otherwise is to play the traitor.

Canada and the world are faced with one of the greatest crises in human history. Tariff laws and other questions that usually divide political parties are as nothing compared with the greater interests at stake. The highest loyalty demands that every man should vote with the knowledge that his vote is of vital importance and may be the deciding one. Let us bear this in mind and at the same time let us pray to God to guide each and every elector

by the power of His Holy Spirit. If this is done we have little doubt regarding the result.

We wish to draw attention to the advertisement on the front cover of this issue for a financial agent for the diocese of Toronto. Readers can assist by submitting names to Dr. Worrell. The strongest man possible should be secured.

The Order-in-Council prohibiting the use of grain, or any other substance that can be used for food, for the distillation of "potable liquors" must meet with pretty general approval. No matter what one's view's may be regarding the use of grain for such a purpose in times of peace, there is absolutely no excuse for it at present when the world is facing possible famine. One step more we hope to see taken, namely, the prevention of hoarding. Here again the United States has set an example which we may very well follow.

The Anglican Laymen's Missionary Movement is taking on a new lease of life and the Rev. W. E. Taylor, Ph.D., formerly Dr. Mott's able lieutenant in China, has been induced to accept the position of secretary. Dr. Taylor has displayed remarkable ability as a leader and organizer and this, coupled with his earnestness, ability as a speaker, and first-hand knowledge of conditions and needs in foreign lands, will enable him to render peculiar service to the Church in Canada. The laymen are to be heartily congratulated on their choice.

The King has appointed Sunday, January 6th, 1918, as "A special day of prayer and thanksgiving in all the churches throughout my dominions." He states that "the worldwide struggle for the triumph of right and liberty is entering upon its last and most difficult phase. The enemy is striving by desperate assault and submarine intrigue to perpetuate the wrong already committed, and to stem the tide of a free civilization. We have yet to complete the great task to which more than three years ago we dedicated ourselves. At such a time I would call upon you to devote a special day to prayer, that we may have the clear-sightedness and strength necessary to the victory of our cause." Doubtless this matter will be attended to by the various Bishops of our Church in Canada and it is to be hoped that it will be acted upon enthusiastically by Canadians generally.

The hand of death has visited the inner circle of those most closely connected with the Canadian Churchman, and removed from the Executive of the Board of Directors one of its most valuable and most interested supporters in the person of Mr. David Creighton. Unassuming in manner, he possessed a fund of experience, an enthusiasm and an openness of mind that were of inestimable value. Little did the other members of the Executive at its last meeting suspect that he would be taken from them so suddenly. In the twinkling of an eye, almost, the slender chord was broken. We shall miss his cheerful optimism, his kind and thoughtful disposition and his whole-hearted support. The Father whom he strove to serve faithfully has transferred him to that other world but he has left behind a memory and an example that will cheer and strengthen those who knew him. We extend to his sorrowing family our deepest sympathy and pray that God will give them the comfort and consolation that they need.