

July 13, 1916.

# Canadian Churchman

Toronto, July 13th, 1916

## The Christian Year

The Fifth Sunday After Trinity, July 23rd.

"When they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes." In these words the Evangelist describes the surprising success of the Apostolic fishermen from the moment when they took as the directing Partner of their work the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. All night, without Him, they had toiled in vain. Through the weary hours they had "plied the watery task." They had practised every artifice known to the simple fisher-folk of the lake. They had manifested an almost heroic patience. Briefly, they had done their best. And the result was—nothing. But Christ steps into the boat. At His word they thrust out a little from the shore. At His bidding they launch out into the deep. At His command they let down their nets for a draught. And immediately, without use of artifice or cunning device, the object is attained, the task accomplished. "They inclosed a great multitude of fishes."

The meaning of this mighty acted parable is obvious. No less plain is its application to the Church of the present day. For if there is one note which has characterized recent Christianity more than any other, that note is a depressing consciousness of futility. We work, but the results seem so utterly disproportionate to the effort expended. We elaborate our organization; we modernize our methods; we compass sea and land to make one proselyte; we engineer "revivals"; we preach "mission" sermons; but we are not effective fishers. We do not catch men. We toil long and arduously, and we take—nothing.

But if the vanity of S. Peter's fishing, before he received the Master on board, reminds us of our own inefficiency, the Apostle's subsequent success also points out the right road to victory. Mark what he did. He first of all took Jesus into his boat, and then he yielded to Him the captaincy. In other words, S. Peter manifested in relation to Jesus Christ two things—receptivity and surrender. And at once futility fled. The victory was won.

Now these two, receptivity and surrender, are precisely the needs of the modern Church. We need to take time, to be quiet, to listen, to open our hearts to the entrance of the Divine Guest. But receptivity includes more than passivity. It comprises an active seeking, an invincible quest. "If with all your hearts ye truly seek Me, ye shall ever surely find Me. Thus saith our God." Because the blessing of the Presence is so incalculable, it is only granted as the consummation and reward of an all-consuming desire.

And we need the grace of surrender. Christ can only give us of *Himself* as we yield *ourselves*. Surrender spells uttermost obedience and obedience spells sacrifice. There must be a readiness to lose all in order to gain all. Our religion in the past has been far too comforting and comfortable. It has feasted gladly upon the pardon won by the Cross: it has turned its back upon the challenge of the Cross to all human life—the stern message that struggle and obedience and surrender are necessary for all; that there is no gain without loss, no prize without sacrifice, no efficient service without suffering, no life without death. We have understood that on the Cross of Christ something was achieved for us. We have failed to grasp that the Cross signifies also something that must be accomplished in us—even a death to self that we may live to Christ that so Christ may work through us upon the world.

Receptivity and Surrender! There lies the pathway to power! Dare we pay the price?

## Editorial Notes

### Our New Governor-General.

It has been announced that the Duke of Devonshire is to succeed the Duke of Connaught as Governor-General of Canada. Canada has, on the whole, been most fortunate in the men who have filled this position and judging by the opinions of those in a position to know, the new Governor-General will maintain the standard set by his predecessors. He comes at a critical time, when wise counsels and an abundance of tact and commonsense are needed. He comes, moreover, to a land of tremendous possibilities, and while it probably means considerable sacrifice on his part, the opportunities placed within his reach for serving the Empire are unsurpassed elsewhere. The appointment has been received most favourably both in England and in Canada, and he can rest assured that members of the Anglican Communion in Canada will support him loyally in everything that tends towards the highest welfare of the Dominion and of the Empire of which it forms a part.

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### Men for the Ministry.

The letter in the Correspondence columns of this issue from "A Canadian Soldier" is deserving of more than ordinary notice. The young soldier who wrote the letter is at present in England recovering from wounds received at the front. The history of past wars bears out what he says and the suggestion that he makes re preparing for such a possibility should be acted upon at once. There is no question regarding the need of men, and there could be no better material for the purpose than the men who have faced death in the trenches and have seen the value of Christianity at such a time. We earnestly trust that steps will be taken at once to take advantage of the opportunity.

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### Sons of Clergy at the Front.

A large number of the sons of our clergy have enlisted and several have made the great sacrifice. It is only fitting that special reference should be made to these in the columns of our Church papers, but it is not an easy matter to get the information that one requires. We shall be deeply grateful, therefore, if any of our readers who can, will give us their assistance in this matter. Where it is desired that a picture be inserted in the Churchman it will be necessary not only to supply a photo, but also the cost of the engraving which for a small picture would be not more than one dollar.

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### Summer Schools.

Four Annual Summer Schools in Eastern Canada, under the joint auspices of the M.S. C.C. and Sunday School Commission, have been held, and on the whole have once more been a great success, so far, at least, as one is able to judge. The aggregate attendance was 379, the largest number being at Port Hope. There were many, both last year and this, who thought that these schools should not be held during war times, as to do so would be incurring unnecessary expense. We are thankful though that those in authority did not agree with this and we fail to see how any person interested in the work of the Church can consistently suggest a curtailing of its efforts even during the war. If the work it is doing is interfering with the successful prosecution of the war, there is something wrong either with the Church or with the war. If, as we believe, on the other hand, the truest interests

of both are in harmony with each other, the work of the former should be prosecuted with the utmost energy. The example of the members of the Church in the Motherland in responding so generously to the various missionary appeals should be a lesson to us in Canada. War at any time is a challenge to the Christian Church to increase its efforts, to examine its methods, and to cleanse itself from everything that is interfering with its work. The Summer Schools are proving of inestimable value in unifying the Church and in deepening the spiritual life of those who attend. Year by year they are reaching out to a wider constituency and are training a band of missionary and Sunday School workers who are a most valuable asset to the Church.

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### Commercial Language School.

The British Chamber of Commerce has established a language school in Shanghai, China, where members of the staffs of British firms doing business in China can obtain a knowledge of the language of the country. This is only one more indication of the important place that China is going to occupy in the commercial world. With her tremendous material resources, particularly in coal and iron, combined with the equally tremendous human resources, she has a great future ahead, provided there is brought to bear upon this combination the moral force of the Christian Gospel. The above emphasizes another fact, namely, the need of better provision in China itself for language study on the part of missionaries. Much can be done in this country by way of preparation but the best results come only when the student is living in the midst of those speaking the language. Moreover, the missionary should be provided with skilled native teachers who are specially trained for this work. Progress is being made in this direction but much still remains to be done.

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### A World Policy.

The probable fruits of the present war is a question that is being discussed by several prominent writers in England. Lord Rosebery in a preface to a recent book by Mrs. Humphry Ward, asks the question, "Will this terrible convulsion, when it has subsided, bequeath war or peace as its heritage?" and it undoubtedly is, as he adds, "a question on which depends the future of the human race." Emphasis is laid upon the spirit of fellowship and of endurance produced by the war, and also upon the fact that the relations of capital and labor, of employer and employee, will unquestionably be different as a result of the new conditions under which they are living and the new angles from which they are compelled to view their differences. The idea is becoming clearer day by day that if we are ever to escape from the horrors of war it must be through a broader and more comprehensive treatment of the problems of life. As another writer has said, "The great need is for the development of a world policy based upon knowledge and understanding and dealing with international life as a whole." To accomplish this we must begin with the individual, not, however, as an isolated unit but as a member of this great world family and in the work to be done there is no institution that has greater possibilities than the Christian Church. It touches the most vital point in life and has in its possession the only message that is pure enough, noble enough, unselfish enough to bind humanity together in one great world brotherhood. And it is a message for nations as well as for individuals.

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