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## OPEN LETTER TO SENATOR KEY PITTMAN

by ARCHDEACON F. G. SCOTT of Quebec

DEAR MR. PITTMAN.—The advice you gave to Britain to surrender to Germany on account of her unpreparedness, has been scorned by the British Government, who have emphatically denied your statement of the case, and have proved conclusively the country's readiness to meet the enemy's attacks at any time. All this is very satisfactory, but, as a native-born Canadian, I feel that something was missing from the official summing up of our resources, which, from the nature of the case, could not find a place in a parliamentary report. It is that imponderable force called will, idealism, morale, which in times of crisis grips the heart of a nation and carries it to victory. I have been so moved, Mr. Pittman, by your lack of understanding of British character and outlook, that I have taken it upon myself to write to you this open letter.

I am not a soldier; I am a clergyman. My business is not to kill and destroy but to build and spread the Kingdom of God, for the coming of which we all pray. My calling is to set forth Christ and His principles — truth, mercy, love and the brotherhood of man. Just in so far as we try to follow those principles is our life worth while.

Now, when we British people hear that Hitler has set up the State as the only ruler of the bodies and souls of men, a ruler to be blindly obeyed and ruthlessly followed, we recognize a principle of evil, so gross, so false, so enslaving, that our whole nature rebels against it. When we read of the remorseless cruelty of the Hitler-made machine, with its blood purges, its concentration camps, its Gestapo police, its persecutions of Christians and Jews, its attacks upon smaller nations, our blood boils and our backs stiffen, and we feel that the foundations of our civilization and Christian religion are confronted with an enemy determined on their destruction.

We are Britishers, every man, woman and child of us. Whether in Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand or the Isles of the Sea, we are Britishers. That does not mean that we are all of British blood. Some of our most loyal supporters are the Hindu princes of India and Mohammedans of Egypt and Arabia.

When I say we are British, I mean that we are people with a national inheritance of liberty and civilization acquired through difficult centuries of past effort. Naturally, we are proud of the wide sweep of our magnificent possessions and the glorious hope of a great future. But we are prouder still that there is a conviction at the base of every true British heart that our God-given empire is a God-given opportunity to help on the cause of the weak and oppressed, and to bring to mankind, as a whole, the type of life which is ours and yours also, and which both our nations feel most completely approximates to the principles of Jesus Christ, who gave His life for the salvation of mankind.

No true Britisher could sit on one side of a safe wall and hear on the other brutal aggressors torturing, starving or murdering human beings, without his climbing the wall and fighting for the defence of the weak and helpless. This sense of duty runs through all grades of British society, from the statesmen who guide the helm down to the humblest seaman in our merchant marine.

I think, although you are chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the noble nation to the south of us, you have not quite grasped the fact of this vision which uplifts the citizenship of every British boy, and fills with courage mothers who realize from the first, that the babes at their breast may one day be called to tread the path of Calvary in the cause of mankind. It is this principle at the root of our character which has been the secret of our national success.

When, some Sundays ago, our beloved King asked for the prayers of our Empire to go up to our Heavenly Father for the obtaining of victory, and a righteous peace, not only were our churches thronged, but from synagogues and mosques and Hindu temples, earnest prayers ascended to the one Father of Mankind. The significance of this fact, beyond and above our possessions of Navy and Air Force and Army, gives us promise that, if there is a God in Heaven Who loves righteousness, our cause will prevail.

Britain has waged many wars in the past but this war which was not of our making as is proved by our unpreparedness, is different from all that have gone before. Never did we engage in a struggle so purely and so solemnly and so determinedly, as this crusade for liberty and true civilization.

The narrow selfish outlook of Colonel Lindbergh, who as long as his own skin was safe could close his heart to the cries of women and children under the brutal advance of armoured cars and the groans of strong men under the lash of oppressors in hideous concentration camps, literally made us revolt and turn sick.

If I read your letter aright, you would now counsel the Government of England to move to this Western Hemisphere, bringing the British navy with them to be a glorious defence to Canada and to your own country in her manifest unpreparedness. No, no, Mr. Pittman! The British Government is not going to follow the humiliating action of the Government of Bordeaux. Millions of brave Frenchmen all over the world are thankful for that fact. We are ready and determined and satisfied that even if the whole British Empire were laid waste by inhuman legions of mechanized force, our cause would still prevail and our martyred races would kindle such a light among mankind as would bring the world one day nearer to the Kingdom of God.

Perhaps, Mr. Pittman, when you were young you went to Sunday school, and read the Bible story of the Babylonian king who set up an image of gold and commanded all the nations to fall down and worship it. Perhaps your teacher held up for your admiration the three godly young men who chose rather to enter the burning fiery furnace than to be untrue to their Divine Faith. Perhaps you remember that they escaped the flames unscathed and that with them in the furnace was "one like unto the Son of God." It was their sacrifice which brought a glorious vindication of the cause of Jehovah.

Hitler has set up an idolatrous worship of the Golden Image of a totalitarian state. You would have us, Mr. Pittman, bow down before it in submission, if not in worship. Britain will never bow down, even though she sees before her the fiery furnace, heated seven times its wont. We may not, alas, come out unscathed, but in the trial we shall have with us "One like unto the Son of God."

Sincerely yours,

FREDERICK GEORGE SCOTT.

Quebec, June 28, 1940.

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