

Our Easter Messages.

(Continued from 7th page.)

REV. H. GODFREY.
The Souls of the Brave.

I am grateful to the Editor for asking me to write an Easter Message, because of the opportunity it affords of addressing a few words of comfort to the friends of those who have laid down their lives in connection with the great war. I want to speak directly to you as though I were holding a quiet conversation with you. This is Eastertide and you are wondering what is the message of Easter to your heart bereaved, what is the Easter Hope concerning the souls of the brave. They were instructed in the teaching of the Church in which they were brought up, and you often talked to them about personal religion and the claims of Christ, but they said very little in return. And although they continued to quietly observe the outward form, they never gave any evidence of vital relationship to Christ. At length they heard the cry, "Your King and your Country need you!" and sacrificed everything to obey that mysterious inward challenge to defend the honor of their country, the safety of their loved ones, in a word, to fight for the holiest things in life they knew. To-day they sleep peacefully in a strange land of blood-stained fields and desolate homes, or they lie beneath the surface of the deep sea.

On what ground scriptural or otherwise, you ask, dare we affirm that our brave boys, who showed no evidence of accepting Christ here, have, by laying down their lives, entered the blessedness of His Kingdom. In the first place, let me say, that there is one thing of which we are absolutely convinced, and that is the fact of the immortality of the soul. If a man die shall he live again? Instinct and reason, apart from Creed and Bible, help us to unhesitatingly answer yes. Some time ago a German theologian ventured on this prophecy, "For the religious consciousness of the present, the hope of immortality falls ever into the background and becomes secondary, so that one has no difficulty in prognosticating for this dogma an easy and natural death." This prophecy is about as mistaken and false as the anticipation that Britain will soon become a vassal state of Germany. The belief in immortality is a native instinct in the human soul. As far back as we can trace the records of history or archeology, the funeral arrangements of human life testify to a belief in the continuance of life after death. This war is altering many of our doctrines, some of them will have to go, but the last belief the race will let go will be the doctrine of the immortality of the soul. What we are witnessing to-day is not the death of, but the resurrection of that faith. Therefore the souls of the brave are not annihilated.

If not annihilated do they enter upon a life of highest bliss and service? A catechism of one of the churches affirms, "The souls of believers, at their death made perfect in holiness and do immediately pass into glory." But those of whom we are speaking were not believers in the conventional sense. How can such enter a life of "perfect holiness and immediately pass into glory?" Such a state is for those who are prepared for it.

If not granted perfect holiness and bliss, do they go out to an existence of eternal woe and punishment? Woe! Think of it! They sacrificed everything to obey the call, they laid down their lives in a great cause, they shed their blood to cleanse the life of this old world and because they had not accepted Christ in the conventional sense, some would dare to assign them to eternal doom.

A good deal that is said in the name of Evangelical Christianity reminds one of the saying of Bothe: "You dress up Christianity in a coat which turns it into a caricature and then you wonder indignantly why people turn their backs and scoff at it."

Of course there is such a thing as instantaneous acceptance of Christ and it may have been so in the case of your boy. A thought, a look, an attitude may be changed in an instant. Much may go before the act of instantaneous acceptance but, in the twinkling of an eye—between the call of the bugle and the clash of arms, or in the very act and crisis of death a man may surrender himself to Christ and by so doing pass out of death into life.

"Betwixt the saddle and the ground was mercy sought and mercy found. Yea, in the twinkling of an eye. He cried, and Thou hast heard his cry. Between the bullet and its mark. Thy face made morning in his dark. And while the shell sang on its path. Thou hast run, Thou hast run preventing death. Thou hast run before and reached the goal. Gathered to Thee the unhoused soul."

But suppose there was no instantaneous acceptance. Speaking for myself I am driven to hope that there will be a second probation after death, an opportunity for those brave souls who sacrificed so much for us here to surrender themselves to Him there. You ask me to prove that by quoting some passage of scripture, but such a hope is not built upon isolated bits of scripture, it can only be founded on the whole truth of the Bible and the character of God. But there is one verse of the New Testament which I will ask you to ponder over: "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15-13).

And if He said to a thief dying by His side, "To-day thou shalt be with Me in Paradise"; and if He will say at the last, "Come ye blessed of My Father," (Matt. 25.) to those who never knew Him, but succored the needy and comforted the sad, what will He say to those who have given their lives for home and country?

While we cannot make light of life's awful responsibility, nor evade retribution, we do know how far the loving spirit of God has gone with the soul of the fallen soldier. I would say to every poor, troubled mother to-day,—"Child, care more than you care, He will at any rate do for you

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boy the best that may be done for him. He will not forget him. Trust Christ with him.

"Through all the depths of pain and loss
Sinks the plummet of His Cross:
Never yet abyss was found
Deeper than that Cross could sound."

When I hear of a careless boy as he charges into battle, "putting up what he can remember of a little prayer," not for himself but for the dear mother at home in case he should die; when I see him steadfastly facing death for the sake of duty, or comforting the last moments of a dying friend, I know that God is near him.

When I read of a man killed because he rushed out amid a hail of bullets to bring in a wounded comrade, I feel that such deeds are done under the influence of the Spirit of God. When I read of a boy who at home was indifferent to the demands of Christ, who, as he lies upon the ground, his blood flowing, as he knows for a great cause, exclaiming just before death: "This is the best thing I have ever done!" I also seem to hear the voice of Christ who died for men, saying, "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15-13).

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Back From the West.
The S. S. Prospero, Capt. J. Kean, arrived back from the western route yesterday, bringing a large freight

and a few passengers. The Prospero will now lay up for her annual overhauling and be made ready to resume the northern service May 1st. The Portia, which is now in first class condition, will take up the western route, leaving here Wednesday next.

BANKING OPERATIONS.
All the banking fleet along the South West Coast are back with their spring trips. Practically all were well fitted. The last to reach the home port, Harbor Breton, on Thursday last were the Ormate, 500 qts.; Lizzie M. Stanley, 500 qts.; Francis B. Smith, 300 qts. On the whole the spring catch was exceedingly good. Most of the schooners are refitting now for the Grand Banks voyage and some vessels will be ready to leave within a few days.

SALT BULK FOR FRANCE.
Some fish exporters to the Westward intend sending shipments of cod in salt bulk to France this season. Messrs. Patten and Forsey, of Grand Bank, we understand, will send the first cargo and one of their fish carriers is now loading. A new purchase they made recently will also load for the French market shortly.

Obituary.
WM. SAVIN, JR.

There passed to the Great Beyond at 7.30 o'clock Thursday evening, Mr. Wm. Savin, Jr., at his residence, Temperance Street, after an illness lasting

five months. Mr. Savin was for upwards of twenty years employed in the Anglo-American Telegraph Service where he was held in high esteem by his co-workers. He was well known to the general public as an obliging official, often inconveniencing himself to oblige others. His wife, a Miss Davis, of Fox Harbor, P. B., predeceased him a few years ago. The telegram joins with the general public in offering deepest sympathy to the sorrowing relatives.

A Soldier's Thanks.
The following letter was received by Miss S. Duffitt, Gower Street East, from a soldier in Hospital at London, thanking her for a pair of socks which he received from her. The socks among others were knit at the Presbyterian Hall.

C. I. Ward,
King George Hospital,
Stanford St.,
London, S.E., 26/3/16.
Dear Miss Duffitt,—I am wearing a pair of socks knitted by you, for which many thanks. They were issued to me from the gift store of this hospital to go to the King's Tea Party. Naturally you want to know what I have been doing, so will give you a brief account of my part in this war. Arrived in Belgium (at Ostend) on the 8th October, 1914 from South Africa, where my regiment was stationed before the war. I have accounted for some of the Huns in the 1st and 2nd battalions of Ypres, Neuve Chapelle and Loos, besides the usual periodical

turns in the trenches when nothing is doing. I have been wounded twice, and now am in hospital with what is known as Shell Shock. I was blown up by a mine and buried for 7 1/2 hours about 20th January last, and am now just beginning to walk a little, although I have very little use of my legs. Again thanking you for the socks, which I shall remember as being one of the presents sent me to give comfort to those "doing their bit."

Yours very truly,
(Sgt.) HENRY DAVIDS,
1st Royal Dragoons.

News From Gulf
More Encouraging.
On Thursday night a wireless message was received by Mr. J. S. Munro from Capt. Wm. Bartlett, of the S. S. Viking intimating that he had got on board all the old seals killed in the early part of the week and was now on the hunt for another patch. He gave his catch as 6,400 young harps, 600 bedlamers, 2,500 old harps, a total of 9,500, equivalent in weight to about 15,000 ordinary pelts. This latest news from the Gulf put a more encouraging phrase on the voyage in that territory in as much as the Viking has a saving trip now and the outlook is yet bright. The Ranger, it is supposed, is also getting a good share while the Diana was accounted for a saving load a fortnight ago.

Graduates at Edinburgh University.
Mr. Andrew Wilson received a letter from his daughter, on Thursday, who is a second year medical student at Edinburgh University, saying that Mr. Chester Harris was called as a Bachelor of Surgery and Bachelor of Medicine at the graduation ceremony, that recently took place. The Rev. Chester Harris, B. A. (Sackville), M. B., Ch. B. (Edin.) is a son of Mr. Samuel Harris, Grand Bank. Mr. Harris is a member of the Newfoundland Methodist Conference and for some years did secret work. He has had a distinguished and successful University career both at Sackville, Canada and Edinburgh, Scotland. To the clergyman-doctor and his father we extend congratulations.

Private Arthur Batson Wounded.
The friends of Arthur Batson whilst regret to learn that his father, Mr. H. G. Batson, of English Harbor, Trinity Bay, has received the following telegram from the Adjutant General at Ottawa, dated April 15th:—
"Sincerely regret to inform you \$0.013. Pte. Arthur Richard Batson, infantry official, yesterday admitted 23rd General Hospital, Etaples, France, April 8th, gunshot wound in head, and further particulars will be sent when received."

Private Arthur Batson whilst residing in St. John's was employed in Ayre & Sons dry goods department and left here for British Columbia about six or seven years ago. He enlisted with the 31st Battalion at Calgary, crossing with the Second Division and was sent to Flanders in September last. He has recently been transferred from the ranks and sent on Scout duty, and probably while doing his "bit" near that much fought over ground, received his wound.

From Private Jensen.

Editor Evening Telegram.
Dear Sir,—Will you please give me space in your paper so as to explain something which happened at George St. Methodist Church, after my lecture there Tuesday night. Mr. White-way, who moved a vote of—thanks, read a letter from a friend of his re something I had done at Ypres. I just want to say that anything I did at that fight was small in comparison with deeds performed by all the boys in that great battle. My reason in writing this, Mr. Editor, is to let my friends know I am not spouting about myself, and that we fellows who come back, if we wish to talk about anything should talk about boys still out there, whether from Terra Nova or other parts of our great empire.
Yours truly,
Pte. P. J. JENSEN.
St. John's, April 20th.

"Guessing Competition."

Five (\$5.00) Dollars will be given to the person forwarding us the correct date of the month that the last steamer will arrive from the sealfishery.

CONDITIONS:—When forwarding your guess to us you must enclose the outside green wrapper obtained from a bottle of Stafford's Liniment. In the event of one or more persons forwarding us the same date the one that we receive the first will obtain the prize.

This Competition will close on the arrival of the last steamer. Stafford's Liniment cures Rheumatism, Lumbago, Neuralgia and all Aches and Pains. For sale in over 500 stores.

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McMurdo's Store News

SATURDAY, April 22, 1916.
Dyola Straw Hat Color is simplicity itself to use and can be applied to straw hats old or new by those who wish to renew or change the color of the straw. One of two coats put on will be all that is necessary. Dyola Straw Hat Color can be had in the following shades: Navy Blue, Dark Green, Dark Brown, Blue, Tan, Cardinal Red, and Purple. Price 25c. a bottle.

We have some nice Perfumes, and boxes of Willard's Chocolates suitable for Easter Gifts, which will repay inspection. Come and look them over, a wide variety in stock.

Gower St. Easter Service.

The Gower Street Sunday School will hold an Easter Service in Gower St. Church to-morrow afternoon, commencing at 2.45. The energetic superintendent, Mr. W. H. Peters, promises a very successful gathering, and has got the promises from scholars, teachers and officers that during this week, they will deny themselves of some luxuries and give the same to the cause of Christian Missions. Each scholar, teacher and officer was provided with a special envelope for that offering. The chairman will be the Hon. R. K. Bishop, and an address will be given by Miss Bradbury, teacher of the Methodist College. Solos will be rendered by Miss Mitchell and Mr. P. J. King. Mr. King will sing "When the Trumpet Shall Sound." The exercises by the Primary Department in charge of Miss Belle Butt, will be varied and interesting, and a large gathering is expected to greet the superintendent with his staff of officers, etc.

No Celebrations.

His Excellency the Governor is in receipt of a telegram from the Secretary of State, intimating that it is the wish of His Majesty the King that, on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday, as last year, no dinners, reviews, salutes or other celebrations should take place.

Cape Report.

Special to Evening Telegram.
CAPE RACE, To-day.
Wind N.E. strong, weather dull; no vessels sighted to-day. Bar. 29.27; Ther. 44.

Stafford's Liniment is sold in over 500 stores. Save the outside Green Wrapper. See advertisement.—mar31,tf

GEORGE ST. A.B.C.—There will be a special Easter service to-morrow afternoon at George St. Adult Bible Class, at which Rev. N. M. Guy will give an address. His subject will be "The True Easter Message." Mr. H. Courtenay will render a solo and special Easter hymns will be sung. Visitors will receive a hearty welcome. Service starts at 2.45 sharp.

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