

### "As Others See Us"

In the September number of the "Church Gazette," the organ of that valuable English Society, the National Church League, we notice the following reference to our Church in Canada:—

There has been a controversy in the "Guardian" about the number of adherents of the Anglican Church in Canada, and the reason why they are comparatively so few. Archbishop Lewis, of Ontario, shortly before his death, stated that when he went out to Canada years ago the Church was second in number among the denominations, but that at the time when he was speaking it stood fourth. That distinctly means comparative retrogression. The reason undoubtedly is the attitude of many of the clergy, and, unfortunately, also some of the Bishops, towards their brother Christians outside the Anglican pale. The laity as a body cannot and will not assume that attitude; so they drift into Nonconformity. What is wanted there is what already exists in Australia—a branch of the National Church League.

It is always well to see ourselves as others see us, and for this reason we call attention to this paragraph. Whether the writer's diagnosis is correct or not, he has provided food for thought, and Anglican Churchmen all over the Dominion may well ponder what he calls "comparative retrogression."

### Changing Journalism

Mr. Robert Donald, the President of the British Institute of Journalists, recently spoke at the Annual Conference of that organization, and said that from the point of view of the reading public the newer journalism is preferable to the old, and that on the whole there has been a general improvement in the daily press in the last twenty years. Papers have been better written, more readable, more entertaining, more attractive, and quite as well informed. As Mr. Donald is the Editor of one of the ablest London papers, the "Daily Chronicle," he ought to know that of which he speaks, and we sincerely trust that his sanguine expectations will be realized. He is not unconscious of the way in which commercialization has possessed our press, and he is also quite frank about the danger of sensationalism. We only hope, and on this Mr. Donald does not give us any light, that in the future the character of newspapers will continue high and their sense of responsibility keen. In this connection we are particularly interested in an article which has just appeared in the Chicago "Inter-Ocean," which a veteran journalist, Mr. H. H. Kohlsaas, purchased about a year ago. He speaks in most unmitigated terms about the way in which the press has become "the distorters of facts and the deporters of thought," and in his crusade to combat this he aims at making his paper what it ought to be. Here is his warning:—

So long as its present editor retains control of the "Inter Ocean" it will continue faithful to Chicago, true to the higher traditions of journalism, alert and fair in printing the decent news of each day, sane and fearless in discussing the questions of the hour as they arise. But if the business men of Chicago, who have more at stake than the "Inter Ocean," fail to accord it steady and generous support, the temptation to stand from under may prove irresistible. And then journalism of the "itching palm and wanton eyes" will have its way.

Every lover of the pure, the true, and the good, and everyone who is also conscious of the marvellous influence of the press to-day,

will hope that Mr. Kohlsaas may be able to realize his ideal, and continue to provide a journal which will utilize its great power in guiding and inspiring its readers towards the highest good.

### The High Cost of Living

It is very rarely that we obtain a volume so full of interest and so serious as the recent Blue Book containing the Report of the British Board of Trade. Prepared by a leading authority, the volume possesses a profound and melancholy significance, for it proves beyond all question that ever since 1896 there has been a steady and persistent upward rise in prices all over the world. The cost of living to the British workman has risen between eleven and twelve per cent., although there has been an actual decrease in the rents of 1.8 per cent. The serious factor in the situation is that there has been no corresponding rise in wages; indeed, in some industries there has been an actual fall. All this makes an imperative demand for a thorough enquiry into this subject. In the United States the question is already occupying great attention, and it is certain to be faced before long in Canada. It constitutes an element that is absolutely vital to the true life and progress of the world.

## TO THE WORK

Rally Day has become quite an institution in our Sunday Schools. But why should it be necessary to "rally" in this way? It is thought by clergy and other workers among children that after the break caused by the summer vacation it is necessary to put forth a special effort on resuming work for the purpose of renewing interest and guaranteeing a good start for the fall and winter. In our general Church life similar feelings obtain, even though there is no congregational Rally Day. There is no doubt of the break in our Church work, due to the circumstances of the summer vacation. Conditions from June to August are such that it is quite impossible to continue the work of a parish without certain serious modifications. And this, perhaps, suggests the need of something special in the way of effort when work is resumed. During the present month people are nearly all back from their vacation, and the life and work of a Church tends to resume normal conditions. Plans are being announced for the work of the coming weeks, and clergy and laity are looking forward to their duties in connection with parochial organizations. It will, therefore, be well to consider afresh what should be in our minds as we face the future. What are the dominant characteristics that should influence Christian workers as they take up again their strenuous tasks?

Life. The summer vacation is intended to be of service in ministering to real life. "Come ye apart and rest awhile." The wear and tear of duty is known to all, and the summer rest ought to provide physical, mental, and spiritual recuperation. Change of air and exercise will have helped the body; new scenes and perhaps new avenues of thought will have supplied mental invigoration; while the opportunities of quiet in the past few weeks ought to have included not a little spiritual refreshment and reinforcement. Life is essential to service. As water never rises above its source, so what we do is never more powerful than what we are. Our Lord came that we might have life, and have it in abundance. Beyond everything else in experience, Christian service calls for the possession and expenditure of life. If our physical, intellectual, and spiritual vitality is not strong and vigorous, our service for God must inevitably suffer.

Light. A great part of the work of a Church is concerned with the "light and leading" associated with its preaching and teaching, and beyond all question this element should be strong, prominent, and helpful. The "Guardian" has just been writing on "The Difficulties of the Preacher," and says that it is a matter of common knowledge that the English Church does not enjoy a high reputation at the present day for the quality of its preaching. One explanation, the writer thinks, has been the depreciation of the preacher's office, which has obtained for a long period, and still obtains in certain circles. As a protest against undue exaltation of the sermon men have gone to the other extreme, and the result has been great spiritual loss. The "Guardian" pleads for a reasonable length in sermons, and argues that subjects of supreme importance cannot be adequately or sensibly, or, indeed, reverently dealt with in the space of ten minutes. "More and more thinking folk realize that serious themes need a moderate space of time for their development." The preacher is, therefore, urged to face the opportunity and to rise superior to all difficulties. He is intended beyond everything else to bring to his hearers "a vision of God on the road of their daily round," and this will mean thorough preparation and effective delivery as the outcome of genuine, strong, spiritual life. We would put in an earnest and urgent plea for the strongest and best preaching and teaching that we can obtain. Nothing would be of greater benefit to our Church in Canada.

Love. One of the most vital and prominent features of Church life is its evangelistic effort, its endeavours to save the lost. This can only be brought about by a spirit of genuine, self-denying, Christ-like love. A clergyman once wrote to a friend, asking him to look out for a Curate, and said: "I want a man whose heart is aglow with the love of souls." Evangelism is of the very essence of Christianity. It is the message of the New Testament—God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, and has committed unto us the ministry of reconciliation. Wherever our Church life is in any degree strong, it is found to be devoted to the cause of evangelism, and if we are not faithful to this function the Church will assuredly suffer. All vigour, progress, and blessing are bound up with the one task of reaching lost sinners with the Good News of God's Everlasting Gospel. The Evangel will prevail and overcome by the Blood of the Lamb, and the word of testimony (Rev. xiii. 11).

Labour. All our spiritual Life, Light, and Love are intended to be expressed in definite effort. We are to work among old and young, rich and poor; and the various classes and other organizations, together with pastoral visiting and personal dealing, should be permeated with the vigorous, fresh, glowing spirit of the Gospel of Christ applied by the Holy Spirit. As we think of the tasks before the Church, both at home and abroad, we can see the absolute necessity of the highest and strongest life and work. It is sad beyond measure to realize the truth of the words of the Bishop of Huron's Charge last year: "While our wealth has increased at the rate of nearly 100 per cent., the gifts of our people for religious purposes have scarcely increased 10 per cent." It is only by the influx of a fuller, richer, deeper spiritual life that we shall ever be able to accomplish the tasks awaiting us. Spiritual vitality is the fundamental and essential condition of all work for God; with it everything becomes easy, without it nothing is of any worth. And so, in view of the New Testament emphasis on Life, Light, Love, and Labour, we must give heed afresh to the apostolic word, "Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."