

A Question by the Editor

Should a Literary and Home Circle Magazine Exclude "Religious" Articles?

An article could be written on this question. But we introduce this note now because the season makes it timely, and because throughout these fifteen years, we have, on different occasions and in different ways, had various suggestions put to us in that connection. The opinion of the editor of this Magazine is that, given congenial opportunity, it should be as natural and easy for men at all kinds of work to discuss certain aspects of "Religion," as to discuss business, politics or social questions.

There is reason to believe that some journalists and literary workers are apt to speak and write as if everything religious should be avoided in a periodical covering the social and literary field. But some measure of impatience with that attitude is justified when we ponder the elementary fact that genuine religion concerns not only the life that now is, but particularly the question of life's continuity. That being so, we cannot understand why any human being engaged in "growing a soul" should think there is any need for explanation or apology if a Magazine exercising practical interest in the life of a community, should

from time to time give place to expositions bearing on any phase of religion as it affects life. But in this connection, as in others, we shall welcome expressions of opinion from our readers.

Premier Bruce in Vancouver

An Impression: By Dr. A. O. MacRae.

Many moons will wax and wane ere Vancouver forgets the advent of that man of marked individuality, the Hon. Stanley Bruce, First Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.

The splendid spacious dining room in the new Hudson's Bay Company's Building accommodated upwards of a thousand guests. When the distinguished visitor entered with President Ditmars and several others, not a chair was unoccupied.

The effect of the entrance of the impressive figure, tall, striking, athletic, was instantaneous. Not only did the crowd rise as one man, but they cheered loudly and spontaneously. Then followed the time of eating and conversing.

After due satisfaction of the hunger instinct, the noted guest of the evening was pleasingly presented to the great audience by the President of the Club.

As the visiting Premier rose to his full height, the audience remarked the well defined features and the deep, clear voice. They expected to hear emphatic utterances. They were not disappointed. From the first word it was manifest his hearers had to do with a worthy descendant of a virile race.

There was no doubt about the position of this man: there was nothing of the platitudinous politician or the everything by turns and nothing long of the power seeker. A listener put it pointedly: "Here is a man who says what he means and means what he says." "We could do with a shipload of such men in the public life of this country." "He is such a contrast to the average politician in Canada." These and similar remarks give some idea of the impression made by this statesman from the Southern Seas.

There is no more intense Imperialist in the Empire than this Honorable

gentleman. While he loves his motherland, Australia, he keeps always before him the vision of a united people of British stock. He is so sure of the destiny of this people, that there is no hesitation as to his policy. He would weld the bonds of Empire by every means—social, sentimental, economic, educational. He would preach and teach Imperialism to old and young: he would have treaties between each and every portion of the Empire. He would above all arrange for a common basis of defence. Preparedness on every side and in every concern of the inhabitants of the far-flung Empire is his constant watchword.

He was tremendously aware of the competition of other countries. He would meet it by intensive education, the application of the latest results of science in business and industry. The establishment and maintenance of a board of Scientists to study trade and commerce from an Imperial standpoint is of prime importance in his estimation.

Imperial conferences to periodically review all movements already operating and to initiate new ones as occasions demand constitute an important part of this statesman's vision.

It makes no difference to this ardent Australian where it comes from or how it started, he is for it, if it means a bigger and much better British Empire. He would hold up both hands and give all encouragement for any advance in any legitimate or beneficial direction, but he is like the man from Missouri, he must be shown.

He received a hearty welcome, a hearty endorsement, and he richly deserved it. Such was the opinion of the representative audience, and especially, even emphatically, of those who think imperially.

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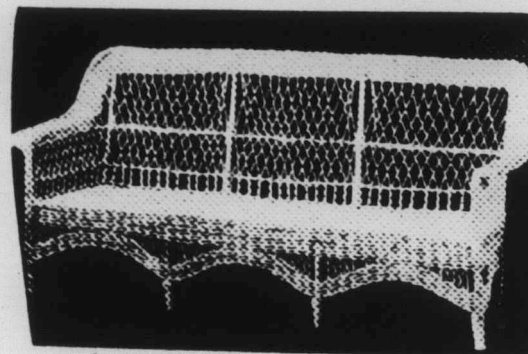
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