

Canadian Churchman

Toronto, November 8th, 1917.

The Christian Year

The Twenty-fourth Sunday After Trinity,
November 18th, 1917.

One of the remarkable things about St. Paul is his earnest and constant prayers for others. His letters abound in words like those in today's Epistle—"praying always for you," "for this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will." It would seem by his frequent reference to his prayers for others that he thought he could do as much for the cause of the Gospel by praying as by his other labours. He very evidently made it his deliberate business to pray for others. He attached to intercession the importance and dignity of work. It was something he had to do for the Gospel, just as travelling, preaching, founding Churches was part of his work, so was praying for those who made up his congregations. By this method he reached cases he could not otherwise reach at all. Indeed, he often prayed for people he had never seen. This passage in the Epistle to the Colossians is typical of St. Paul. We think of him as the Master Missionary, as the tireless traveller, organizer, writer and preacher; and so he was, but behind all this there was going on continually of set purpose, as deliberate, and as methodical as his other work, the great work of intercession. He would probably have attributed his success in the other directions to his unwearied prayers on behalf of others.

There is an excellent illustration of the value of intercession in the Gospel for the Day. "While Jesus spake these things unto John's disciples, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped Him, saying, My daughter is even now dead; but come and lay Thy hand upon her, and she shall live. And Jesus arose, and followed him." The ruler's prayer is a prayer of earnest, beseeching intercession. Notice the instant response—"And Jesus arose and followed him." His prayer is heard at once. In the midst of the feast in St. Matthew's house, breaking off in the middle of His discourse, for it was "while Jesus spake these things . . . behold, there came a certain ruler," He rises at the voice of prayer and follows the anxious father. This is a picture of God's attitude towards sincere intercessions. He is ready to listen, and to co-operate.

The combined lesson of the Epistle and Gospel would, if reflected on, startle and amaze us to think how remiss we are in praying for other people. St. Paul, with his great burden of duties, takes it for granted that he must constantly pray for his converts. And St. Matthew shows us Christ at once going out from the house in answer to the ruler's agonized request for his child. This message for the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity ought to send us to the task of intercession. Let us go about it as part of our work for the Church and the world. Let us put method and care into this great task. The War with its Honour Rolls has done something to remind us of the privilege and value of praying for others with deliberation and definiteness. The method should be extended over the whole field of our life's interests.

"Happiness is a by-product of work well done."

Editorial

MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

A few days ago we had an opportunity of listening to an informal address on the above subject by a member of the medical profession who has made a special study of this department. Both the address and the discussion that followed made a deep impression on our mind as it did on the mind of every one present. It made us feel not only the seriousness of the subject, but also the lamentable ignorance that prevails on what is doubtless one of the gravest questions facing any community.

Mental defectives are divided into three classes—idiots, imbeciles and morons. The first class was described as helpless and in the main, harmless; the second as unable to guard themselves against physical dangers and in intellectual power equal to children of the ages of from three to seven years. The third class forms by far the majority of mental defectives and is the one usually spoken of as feeble-minded. They are not necessarily defective physically and often show good memory power although they are usually equal in mental capacity to children of from seven to twelve years of age. The judgment and reasoning faculty are lacking but such persons are, as a rule, unrecognized by school teachers and the general community. They are, however, cunning, and it is estimated that 25 per cent. of adult chronic criminals belong to this class. It is estimated also that 60 per cent. of the prostitutes belong to this class, and it was found by actual count that 51 per cent. of the mothers of illegitimate births in the Toronto General Hospital were mentally defective. The Juvenile Courts are full of the offspring of these persons and in our public schools, yes, and in our Sunday Schools, other children are being contaminated by them.

One of the outstanding facts in connection with this whole subject that must be borne in mind is that up to the present absolutely no cure has been found for this disease. This means that as yet "once feeble-minded is always feeble-minded." So far as causes are concerned, heredity is largely responsible for its propagation, the sins of the fathers being visited in a terrible form upon the children. Along with heredity, or, going further back to the root of the trouble, alcohol and the diseases arising out of impurity are largely responsible.

In dealing with this subject, one of the first difficulties faced is not only ignorance but sentiment, the attitude of "hands off," or "mum's the word." Almost nothing has been done to educate the general public, to secure adequate legislation, or to segregate those who are afflicted. Sentiment stands in the way with hands up and asks why these poor creatures should be isolated from the rest of the community. For their own sake, as well as for the well-being of the whole community, it is vastly better that this should be done. Moreover, it has been found that 51 per cent. of 2,000 cases examined had come from lands across the Atlantic, which shows conclusively the need of greater care in the matter of immigration. If Canada is to be flooded with immigrants after the war closes, and no greater effort than heretofore is made, not only on this side of the Atlantic but at the ports of departure, one can say most devoutly, "God help Canada!" In addition to this there must also

be a vast increase in the means of diagnosing suspects.

One more point that must be recognized and emphasized is the absolute need of a medical certificate in the case of marriage and greater stringency in the matter of issuing licenses. Here, again, sentiment must be contended with, but a mawkish sentiment that allows disease to increase its brood at will ceases to be sentiment.

We have been able merely to indicate the dangers facing us and necessary lines of action. We shall probably return to the subject at a later date but in the meantime we do urge upon our readers the importance of a study of the situation and the need of action.

* * * * *

The close of the present calendar year is drawing near and it is well that the various parishes and missions take stock of their position in relation to their missionary apportionments before it is too late. Let us not forget that we are responsible in the sight of God for the proper support of the work we have undertaken and nothing less than an honest effort to meet this responsibility will suffice.

* * * * *

We have entered upon the last week during which exemption under the Military Service Act can be asked for. The Government has given a fair chance to every man to show just cause why he should not be sent overseas and little consideration should be shown towards those who wish to be exempted and fail to take advantage of the opportunity provided. "Procrastination is the thief of time," and it can also be the thief of important privileges.

* * * * *

The success of the Germans and Austrians in Italy should be sufficient proof that the war is not by any means over. It is, of course, impossible for one not in close touch with the inner circle to grasp the real significance of what has taken place. It certainly looks anything but encouraging, but we can hope that it will not prove so great a disaster as it appears. In any case, it should serve to strengthen our resolve to see the thing through no matter what is may cost.

* * * * *

The death of the Rev. Dr. Carman, former General Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Canada, removes an outstanding figure not only in Methodism but in religious life generally. A man of strong personality and of great administrative ability, he made his influence felt far beyond his own denomination. As Bishop in the Episcopal Methodist Church in Canada at the time of Union, he became one of the two General Superintendents and later the only one. In recent years he found himself out of sympathy with some of the advocates of "higher criticism," but we are inclined to think that his conservatism served as a wholesome antidote.

* * * * *

The recent Convention of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, held in the United States, was a very great success, there being a registration of 1,420 delegates, representing 32 States. In spite of war, 106 senior and 34 junior chapters were chartered or revived during the past year. This is most encouraging and it makes one hopeful that the work will be revived in the near future in Canada. It would find ample work in connection with the boys of the Church and would be an almost ideal organization for dealing with returned soldiers, if one of their number could be secured as secretary.

YEAR

ars only, will purchase Policy in The Insurance Company ment Life Plan at

y years the Insur- or, and a paid-up for \$1,000. The r the Policy will nless, as may be hese profits have l of each five-year

ars the Policy car- es; and at the end e Policyholder so ct may be sur- total Cash Value n excellent return n the twenty years cost nothing. full details will be

Vest Life Company INT "C." WINNIPEG

REAL PIPE (not Read) ORGAN THE FINEST IN BUILDING ing two-manual and pedal. Entirely British made. 900 supplied. Highest quality. IN CO., LTD. nt, London, Eng.

Principal, f Interest

r financial journals estate mortgages essentials of a con-safety of principal st.

inds for investment his most desirable t directly available. ecurer all those ad- in the bonds of this e based on upwards dollars of carefully s on improved real may be had in de- dred dollars. They ch Executors and r authorized by law

id. copy of Annual lars.

ermanent orporation

... \$ 6,000,000.00 ... 5,000,000.00 ... 38,264,787.81

, TORONTO ED 1855

E BANK DA ORIGINAL CHARTER 1854

estly recom- subscribe to Victory War mation and it any office.

Branches and Connections throughout Canada.