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## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT.

(February 21st.)

Holy Communion: 258, 318, 319, 507.  
 Processional: 342, 377, 378, 383.  
 Offertory: 110, 259, 421, 564.  
 Children: 92, 696, 721, 726.  
 General: 112, 249, 446, 667.

# The Outlook

## A Hundred Years of Peace

Christmas Eve marked the completion of a Century of Peace between America and Great Britain, the treaty being concluded at Ghent. Before the treaty was ratified the United States proposed to Great Britain that the two Powers should not only make peace, but provide for it by individual disarmament on the lakes between the two countries. To appreciate this fact it is well for us to recall that the frontier line between Canada and the United States which it was then proposed to defend by a scrap of paper is nearly four thousand miles long. Of course, there have been times of friction, but all differences of opinion have been so far settled, and now this long frontier line is without a single fortress, without a single soldier, and without a single shot being fired for a hundred years. The treaty has not crippled England or America, for peace is not inconvenient, since it means welfare and prosperity with security. For a hundred years a rich stream of traffic has run between England and America, and, while there has been an incessant interchange of criticism and banter, intense competition and keen rivalry, yet for all this time the two countries have not tasted the dreadful medicine of war, and as a consequence they are the healthiest and most vigorous nations on the face of the earth. The celebration of the Centenary of Peace in February, 1914, ought to be regarded as one of the greatest opportunities for emphasizing the essential nature of national Christianity. As it has been well put by a Canadian writer, the supreme achievement which North America can show the world is a national boundary line across which in a hundred years neither nation ever once launched an army or fired a gun. In the light of Europe's well-described "colossal failure," we do well to remember that both for indi-

viduals and nations the issue is clear: Spirit or Flesh; Belial or Christ; this Man or Barabbas.

## "Dynamic" or "Static"?

The war has proved beyond all question that the most elaborate fortification\* is powerless against the latest siege gun. Together with this has come a return to the use of the bayonet, which many were inclined to regard as a useless survival of old days, when men fought hand to hand. This means that manhood has triumphed over mechanism, and, while an army fighting against a fort is likely soon to be victorious, the same army fighting against active and mobile troops in the field is practically powerless. Further, it is clear that aggressiveness and the offensive afford enormous advantages, because the aggressor can strike when and where he wishes. So that a writer on the war has described it as "a victory of dynamic over statics." All this illustrates Church life and work. The true measure of victory depends upon aggression, not defence. All our church societies and organizations will count for very little apart from definite spiritual effort for the conversion of those around. The victorious church is the aggressive church, and we have too long contented ourselves with mere defence against intellectual, moral and social encroachments. The time has come for the renewal of aggressive preaching and effort on behalf of the lost. In other words, the individual Christian and the Christian community must be dynamic, not static.

## Millennial Dawn

The visit of the so-called Pastor Russell to Toronto last week is a reminder of one of the modern movements which easily attracts and deceives those who are spiritually and scripturally unaware of danger. Under a number of very innocent titles the movement headed by Russell has been making progress for several years past, but it is a marvel that anyone can be deceived by the efforts made on its behalf. It seems that there has been a very distinct secession from the movement lately. The seceders say that Russell taught them for years past that by October, 1914, all those who fully adhered to his doctrine would have "passed beyond the veil," either by death or translation. But October has gone by, and even Russell himself has not fulfilled his prophecy, and it is, therefore, not surprising that many who regarded him as a prophet are on the lookout for a new oracle. Those who are likely to be led astray by seeing Russell's sermons published (as paid advertisements) in the daily papers should write to Mr. Charles C. Cook, 150 Nassau Street, New York City, for information about Russell and his teaching. The man himself is utterly discredited, and his teaching concerning the Bible, our Lord, Salvation and the Future Life, is utterly opposed to the plain teaching of the New Testament. It is simply marvellous to note the effrontery shown by the leader of this movement, and the claim made to accurate Bible interpretation. A little consideration should suffice to show that the movement really denies the fundamental truths of the Bible and at the same time dishonours our Lord and Master.

## Prayer for Students

Sunday, February 28th, is appointed as the Universal Day of Prayer for Students, and the authorities of the Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. have united in appealing for co-operation in the observance of this day. It is hoped that some references may be made to it in pulpits, but in any case that members of our Canadian

Churches will join with Christians in all parts of the world in the united intercession. The circular calling for the observance of the day rightly points out that never has there been such need for united intercession as at the present time. The serious consequences of the terrible war are already being felt in every country, and nothing less than the overruling working of God in answer to prayer can bring about true peace and harmony. The Student field presents a splendid opportunity for calling attention to the claim of Christ, and the more we can unite in prayer for these men and women, the more we shall be assured that our Lord will be the Saviour and Master of those who by their position in colleges and universities must necessarily take a leading part in the life and progress of the world. Those who desire to have the circular giving full information about thanksgiving and intercession can obtain either from the Y.M.C.A. or the Y.W.C.A. in their district. It is much to be desired that we shall all unite in prayer for our Students that in them and through them the God of all grace may be glorified.

## The Psalms in War Time

Every reader of the Psalms will by this time have discovered a new sense of oneness with their writers, for the conditions of the last few months have brought that part of the Old Testament wonderfully near. Only six months ago many were discussing certain Psalms which are called "imprecatory" or "vindictive," and urging that they should be omitted as unsuitable for Christian readers. But we hear little of this sort of thing now, and many tender-hearted people do not find it at all difficult to use certain Psalms without any self-reproach. Even the Twenty-third Psalm, most familiar of all, speaks of a table prepared "in the presence of enemies," and in the few Psalms which are usually regarded as imprecatory, it is significant that supplication, trust, and thanksgiving are equally prominent. A writer on this subject calls special attention to one Psalm, and his words are worthy of serious consideration.

In this connection it is hardly possible to refrain from mentioning one Psalm, the fifty-fifth, in which all these features occur, and which is a strikingly exact representation of present-day facts. Horror, impatience, the sense of a gross injustice, the aggravation of the situation by the fact of kinship with the enemy, the putting forth of the enemy's hand against such as were at peace with him, the profanation of a covenant, the heart set upon war—all these appear in this Psalm with photographic exactitude; and through it all is the assurance of the ultimate triumph of righteousness and the comfort of casting the burden upon the Lord. It is a Psalm for daily reading in these times.

When the war is over we believe that many an Old Testament passage will have had fresh light shed upon it, and perhaps as never before we shall understand the statement of the Psalmist that "the Lord is known by the judgment which He executeth."

## "THROUGH GOD"

By the Rev. Prebendary Webster, M.A.

"Through God we shall do valiantly, for it is He that shall tread down our enemies."—Psalm lx. 12. Through God! How much these two words may mean! A recent article on the Trafalgar Day celebrations in a London daily newspaper spoke of Nelson as the one

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