

It is the hope of the editor that the "Canadian Churchman" shall play no insignificant part in this work, and be in reality, as well as in name, a paper for members of the Church of England in this part of the Empire.

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"Spectator."

Those who remember the "Canadian Churchman" of some four or five years ago will readily recall the weekly article contributed by "Spectator." It was never dry or heavy, and whether you always agreed with what was said or not, you read it. Moreover, it was one of the first things you looked for, as you were certain to find in it something that set you thinking. We are naturally delighted, therefore, to be able to announce the return of "Spectator." He is full to overflowing of ideas, and has strong convictions regarding the work to be done by the Church, both during the war and afterwards. We feel certain, therefore, that this announcement will be welcome news to our readers.

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Serial Story.

We have received the right to publish in serial form the story entitled "A Turn of the Road." This was written by Mrs. Plumptre, of Toronto, who needs no introduction to our readers. We believe that this story will prove a very acceptable feature of the Churchman.

Mrs. Plumptre has, moreover, kindly consented to supply one article each month on some topic of live interest to the Church. The first of these appears in this issue and deals with a subject that ought to be considered very carefully by every Canadian. It reveals a serious situation that ought to be dealt with without delay.

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Editor's Thanks.

The editor wishes to thank the large number of clergy and others who have sent him letters of congratulation and good wishes since undertaking his new duties. These are deeply appreciated and are a source of great encouragement for the future.

He wishes especially to thank the Rev. Dr. Tucker for his kind words by way of introduction, although had he followed his own wishes in the matter this article would not have appeared in this issue. Even an editor must sometimes submit to "the powers that be."

SONS OF MINISTERS.

The following prominent men in England are sons of ministers: Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Birrell, Lord Curzon, Mr. C. H. Roberts, Mr. Robert Monro, Sir John Simon, Lord Moulton, Lord Parker, and Mr. Justice Bailhache.

THE PULPIT.

"The pulpit, therefore (and I name it filled With solemn awe, that bids me well beware With what intent I touch that holy thing) Must stand acknowledged, while the world shall stand,

The most important and effectual guard, Support, and ornament of virtue's cause. There stands the messenger of truth. There stands The legate of the skies; his theme divine, His office sacred, his credentials clear. By him, the violated law speaks out Its thunders, and by him, in strains as sweet As angels use, the Gospel whispers peace. He 'establishes the strong, restores the weak, Reclaims the wanderer, binds the broken heart, And, armed himself in panoply complete Of heavenly temper, furnishes with arms Bright as his own, and trains by every rule Of holy discipline, to glorious war, The sacramental host of God's elect."

—Cowper.

Spectator

Comments on Matters of Interest from Week to Week.

The decision of the Government of Ontario to banish liquor from the province for three years, is easily the most significant and important thing it has done since the province began. The lead which Russia gave the world at the very outset of the war has had a powerful influence upon the nations of the earth. No country has since felt comfortable in tolerating that which is striking a deadly blow against the efficiency of their armies, and if Canada as a whole is still faint-hearted it is gratifying to know that several provinces have put themselves on record. The necessity of limiting the freedom of soldiers in respect to the use of liquors was at once apparent, and equally apparent was the injustice of discriminating against them in the matter of liberty, while the stay-at-home was not molested in this respect. The only thing to do was to impose the same restriction upon soldier and civilian alike. And now the men and women who stay comfortably at home are called upon to endure this hardship of living without intoxicants while fellow-citizens are facing German guns in their defence. Is it too much to ask, or shall we still hear of liberties invaded?

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For more than a month the Canadian and British people have been resting apparently in a false security. They have been assuming that the German-drive against Verdun has been a failure and the check to the enemy has demonstrated the long-awaited supremacy of the Allies. The effect of this attitude is not to spur our people on to renewed effort but to ease the consciences of those who are trying to find some excuse why they may not participate in the sacrifices of this war. It is a mere assumption to presume that the enemy has failed at Verdun. All that can be said is, he is delayed in reaching his objective and is apparently paying an enormous price for his progress. We have not been informed regarding the price that is being exacted from the French, but it is safe to say that it is such as makes it uncomfortable to contemplate. Day by day our arch-enemy is creeping up to and around the fortress that should have been the first objective of the war. In avoiding it and trampling down Belgium he forsook the good-will and respect of all neutral powers, and goes down to posterity as the nation of super-brutality. Unless the Allies show some unforeseen power it would look to the writer as though it is only a question of time until Verdun is reduced. At all events, it is no time to comfort ourselves with the idea that everything is going all right without us. Every man that is fit and can be spared from home duty is needed at the front. And it is well to remember that a man in time may save nine.

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A great crisis, such as this war has precipitated, reveals many things. It reveals depths of patriotism and heroism where we least expected them, and, alas, it reveals the superficial character of much that was supposed to be loyalty. It holds up our faith to the sunlight and in shame we are confronted with our moth-eaten manhood. It brings before us the gallant army of young knights who have girded on their armour and gone forth to conquer the foes of their country, leaving behind them homes, and business, and friends, and all that men cherish. It uncovers the men who stay at home because it is safer and far more profitable to do so. They are making munitions to sup-

ply the army, but they are making them at a handsome, if not outrageous, profit, and know not the meaning of sacrifice. They are carrying on the business of the country, a factor of great importance, but they cheerfully gather in the fruits of their labors, with swelling bank accounts and grudgingly aid the families of the brave fellows who stake all on their country's defence. The day is coming when so many homes in Canada will be directly represented in the battle line that it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for this type of citizen to live in this country. Five hundred thousand men is the minimum set by our government as a contribution necessary to meet the Empire's peril. It is also the minimum necessary to exalt the soldier to his proper dignity in the eyes of Canadians and cause him to be treated with justice if not with generosity after the war is over.

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Probably the most painful revelation is the revelation of the apparent breakdown of our religious instruction. The expectation that free men would rise to their duty in the time of necessity has been shaken. The elect will do so, but they are not so numerous as to ensure the safety of a nation when threatened by a really powerful foe. The enemy won't wait until the process of persuasion and illumination has done its work. In a distressing number of cases this process will never succeed because the appeal has no foundation upon which to rest. Duty and sacrifice and service stir them not. Tell them of pleasure and profit and you have their ear at once. Tell them of wounds and hardship and glory and they say, "Someone else will go." One of the deep, broad and indelible lessons of this war will be our renewed faith in the message and sacraments of the Church for the salvation of humanity. It isn't less but more faith that is needed. It isn't a thinned-out philosophy of ethics, but a deep, warm, personal communion with the Divine. The message of the Church has been in many respects a selfish message, and a selfish faith is the forerunner of selfish faithlessness.

THE ETERNAL GOODNESS.

J. G. Whittier.

I walk with bare, hushed feet the ground
Ye tread with boldness shod;
I dare not fix with mete and bound
The love and power of God.

Yet in the maddening maze of things,
And tossed by storm and flood,
To one fixed stake my spirit clings
I know that God is good.

I know not what the future hath
Of marvel or surprise,
Assured of one, that life and death
His mercy underlies.

And if my heart and flesh are weak
To bear an untried pain,
The bruised reed He will not break,
But strengthen and sustain.

And so beside life's silent sea
I wait with muffled oar:
No harm from Him can come to me
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care.

When men do anything for God, the very least thing, they never know where it will end, nor what amount of work it will do for Him. Love's secret, therefore, is to be always doing things for God, and not to mind because they are very little ones.—F. W. Faber.