

Thoughts for the Thoughtful

A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love.—Basil.

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Scripture is the best interpreter of Scripture and nothing is more necessary in the study of the Scriptures than patience. Lord Bacon's advice is good: "Read, not to contradict and confute, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider."

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The reply of the Apostle to all the postulates of the Pagan creed is simply, the Lord Jesus Christ. This name gathers into itself the entire refutation of the Colossian heresy, and it is the reply to all similar heresies, whether in the first or in the twentieth century.

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"Let us serve God in the sunshine while He makes the sun shine. We shall then serve Him all the better in the dark when He sends the darkness. The darkness is sure to come. Only let our light be God's light, and our darkness God's darkness, and we shall be safe at home when the great nightfall comes."—F. W. Faber.

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The spectacle of a suffering Redeemer is more potent over the hearts of men than that of the greatest conqueror or the wisest philosopher. At the foot of the cross, and there alone, is the problem of life adequately solved. While the mightiest empires decay and perish, the kingdom of the suffering Jesus endures throughout all generations. In every age, men and women bring to Him their load of sorrows, and are at peace.—S. W. Skeffington.

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One of the greatest needs of the day is that Christian men and women should realize for themselves, and exhibit to others, Christ's absolute sovereignty over them, as the supreme Lord of the conscience, the will, the affections, and the life; and should in this way prove not merely their love, to One who has redeemed them, but their surrender also, to One who, because He has redeemed them, claims them for Himself, and says, "Follow me."—Rev. G. H. Knight.

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As a model prayer, Nehemiah's is very valuable; and its persistency and patience are its valuable features. He prayed "day and night"; and waited patiently three or four months for the answer. But impressed as we are with this good man's prayer, we will not forget that first he "fasted," and then prayed. In other words, he made preparation for prayer, and an excellent preparation, too. We should prepare ourselves, at any rate, for our special efforts in prayer, and "fasting" fittingly opens up the way to the throne of grace.

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We talk so much, and we think so much more, of the trouble we have with others, that we more than half persuade ourselves that if everybody else were just right, we could get on easily in life; but the fact is, that more than half of all our troubles, even of our troubles with others, grow out of our own faults and our own failures, and not the faults and failures of other people. . . . Until we get rid of ourselves, or until we are lifted above all selfish thought of ourselves, there is continual trouble for us, however other people bear themselves.—Selected.

In Memory of the Late Canon A. J. Broughall

Sermon preached on Sunday morning, June 17,
in St. Stephen's Church, Toronto, by
Rev. T. G. WALLACE, M.A.

² Chron. 24: 16: "And they buried him in the City of David, among the Kings, because he had done good in Israel, both towards God and toward his house."

THIS verse refers to Jehoiada, the priest; it is the testimony of the nation to the esteem in which Jehoiada was held. He was honoured in death for the services he had rendered and the life he had lived; and the chronicler sets it down to serve as a reminder forever.

There are some vocations which give a man a special opportunity to do good. The rich man, for instance, has untold opportunities for service, though he does not always use them. When the community discovers a rich man who rises to the occasion, and makes wise and helpful use of his wealth, the people gladly pay him their tribute of honour and respect. The politician or statesman has splendid opportunity for serving God and the people; he does not always do it, but the community feels that no honour is too great to pay the politician who dies poor, who gives evidence that he has resisted the temptation to "feather his own nest," and to place his own interests first and those of the people last. A Priest has exceptional opportunities of serving God and his fellow men. The greater the opportunity, the greater the privilege; but men do not always realize this sense of privilege. Because a man has the opportunity it does not follow he will always rise to it. With the priest, as with others, when a man has been found to serve with a single eye to the glory of God and the welfare of men, citizens and churchmen alike are eager to pay him homage.

This was true of Jehoiada. His position was one of great influence, the times in which he lived were full of difficulty and danger. King Ahaziah was slain by Jehu, and Athaliah set out to destroy all the children of the royal family. Jehoiada's wife, the king's sister, stole Joash, the king's son, her nephew, and saved his life. For six years the tyranny of Athaliah was endured. Then Jehoiada formed a confederacy, deposed Athaliah, crowned Joash king at the age of seven, and under the direction of Jehoiada the government was carried on. You will see that he played no small part in the affairs of the nation, but the chief point is, he rose to his opportunity, and used the privileges of his position to further the worship of God and the well-being of the people. He could have prostituted his office to selfish or even to ignoble ends. He resisted all temptation to serve only himself. His blameless life, his upright statesmanship, his conscientious devotion to duty,—these earned him a high place in the regard of the nation. They buried him with great honour because he had done good in Israel, and whenever we find a man of this quality it should be our duty and our delight to honour him in life and in death. Such men are scarce; such men should be appreciated.

We are gathered to-day under the shadow of a great sorrow; we mourn the departure of the former rector of this parish,—a man of holy life and of high sense of duty. He served the Church with a single eye and it was only natural he should be carried to his grave on Tuesday last "full of years and of honour" amid widespread evidences of respect on the part of the Church and of the general public.

We have had to face experiences like this frequently of late. The war has made us familiar with the strains of the Dead March.

This congregation has lost many brave men, many valuable lives. Not many weeks ago we noted the loss of one who was officially connected with us in the important capacity of churchwarden (Lieut.-Col. Geo. T. Dennison, Jr.). We must not allow familiarity with these sad experiences to make us callous. The loss of one who was for over fifty years the rector of this parish is a loss that cannot easily be repaired. In the midst of many losses this is our greatest loss. It is only fitting that I should give expression to our sense of sorrow; it is only fitting that we should pay a sincere tribute of affection and respect to the memory of our late Rector, Canon Broughall. Like Jehoiada, he played his part both as a citizen and as a priest.

As a citizen, he stood for what was best in the life of the community. For many years he was prominently identified with the work of charitable relief in the city, and he was an important office-bearer in the House of Industry. His own efforts in that direction (and those of his wife) are too well remembered in this city to require comment from me, and such was the spirit of the late rector and his wife that nothing was ever more distasteful to them than to have their good deeds advertised. As an educationist, also, he played an important part. As Lecturer in Classics in Trinity College, as one of the founders of Bishop Strachan School, and in many other ways, he manifested his interest in the educational life of the community, and his influence was always healthy and uplifting. How much the community owes to men like Canon Broughall can never be accurately told on this side of the Judgment. If we want to put the self-denying spirit of his citizenship to the test we have only to look at the splendid record of his family in this war, beginning with his eldest son, who, being unmarried, was in a position to resign his parish and go overseas. Eleven of his grandchildren are on active service, and three of them have already died for the cause. In all cases they gave up good homes and excellent prospects,—truly a magnificent record; one of which any family might well be proud.

But we are even more interested in him as a churchman and a parish clergyman. The distinguishing characteristic of Canon Broughall's churchmanship was, I think, its sanity. He was never the victim of extremes; he was never given to display and noise. He never lost sight of the dignity of his office. He never sought cheap popularity. We used to speak of the solidity of the Anglican Church. The Canon was a representative of that tradition—a man of learning and refinement, as we used to say "a gentleman and a scholar," and a man of great spiritual attainments.

No doubt it was the beautiful spiritual influence of his home that led three of his sons to take Holy Orders, and all three are successful parish clergymen. It was in his home the work began that made St. Stephen's so great an influence in the religious life of this city—an influence felt not only here but far beyond this city to the farthest bounds of Canada. I remember the first time I met Canon Broughall many years ago, I thought him stern and distant. I am glad I lived to correct that impression; he was most gentle, simple, lovable—firm when the circumstances needed firmness, but one of the most gentle and sympathetic of men. Strangers little guessed how humble-minded he was. For some time after my appointment as rector he did us the great honour of taking part in the services, he did so as long as he was able. Although he was in every respect my senior, he would always try to step back into second place, and it required all the determination I was able to muster to insist on his taking his rightful place of seniority as long as he shared in the services of this church.