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# Westminster Review

The Social, Educational and Religious  
Monthly of

## The Canadian West



**Our Ideal :**

Social Betterment, Educational Enlightenment,  
the Upbuilding—in City and Church and State  
—of Christian Government, and the Develop-  
ment of Spiritual Life

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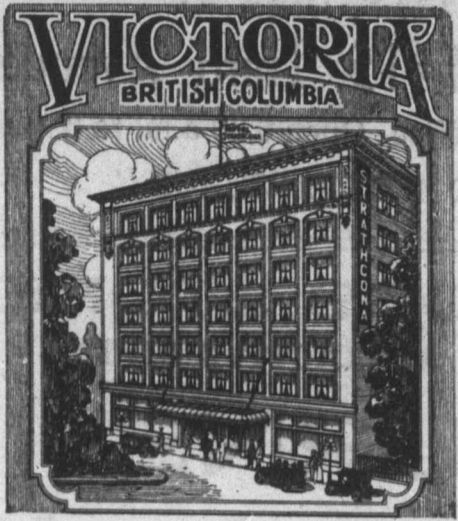
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D. A. CHALM

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# WESTMINSTER REVIEW

D. A. CHALMERS, Managing Editor      PUBLISHED IN VANCOUVER, B. C.

SUPPORTING SOCIAL BETTERMENT, EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS, AND RELIGIOUS  
LIFE. INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS.

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Vol. XII.

DECEMBER, 1917

No. 4

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## Editorial

### THE HALIFAX DISASTER

Though Halifax is as far, if not farther, by land from Vancouver as it is by sea from Britain, all Canadians, even in this Farthest West, will now realize as never before that the most gigantic conflict of the ages in which our Empire is involved may touch Canada at home ere victory is won. The effects of the appalling catastrophe at Halifax have indeed, for the time being, overshadowed the news from all fronts of the great war. And well they may: without any such warnings as are inseparable from war conditions, in a moment thousands were swept across the Borderland. The circumstances were such as to touch even the most callous who retain the power of reflective thought.

..... PLAYING AT POLITICS—OR FIGHTING THE FOE? .....

“Independent in politics,” the **Westminster Review** in ordinary times believes in “putting the man before the party.” But under the unprecedented conditions in which the Dominion election is being held there is one issue before the people before which all others together become secondary. If the Union Government is not returned at this critical juncture so as to ensure an uninterrupted supply of reinforcements for the Canadian troops at the Front, Canada will appear in a most unenviable light before the Empire and her Allies, and, what is more humiliating, in the eyes of her own citizen soldiers overseas she shall be disgraced. In the circumstances we look for a large majority declaring themselves for a Union Government,—not because this man or that is or is not to be connected with it, but because the winning of the war is the Empire’s—and Canada’s—first business.

### CHINESE GAMBLING IN VANCOUVER CITY

In recent weeks several Bodies and some public men and ministers have called attention through the press or otherwise to the gambling conditions tolerated in the Chinese quarter of Vancouver city. The instigation or support of some course or action that will remedy the evil is even more important than advertising it by denunciation, and we happen to know that the session of the Presbyterian Independent Chinese Mission, (which has several Chinese Associate members), early last month not only passed a resolution on the subject, but directed the Moderator to approach the Mayor and Chief Constable regarding the taking of practical measures.

Advertising this and kindred evils from the platform and pulpit, and in the press is one way of stirring public interest and activity towards their eradication; and is in every way to be commended so long as it is not timed so as to put on the alert or evasive defensive the powers behind such evils. Quiet work in strengthening the moral

forces and legal authorities in the discharge of their duty is even more to be welcomed and encouraged. Following that—if need be—there should be work by community influence upon legislators to ensure changes in the law so that pettifogging lawyers and “technicalities” may not be allowed to defeat—or even unreasonably delay—the administration of justice.

#### CITY COUNCIL AMENITIES

When accusations are made, especially in public, resentment rises readily in most men’s minds, but for the credit of the City of Vancouver we trust that such passages at arms as have just been reported in the press as having taken place at the Council Board between the two members who are now understood to be candidates for the mayoralty chair of 1918, will not be repeated. As the date of the contest approaches it is natural that the words and actions of Council members should have additional significance, because of their possible influence on the electorate. But Mayor McBeath, no less than the other councillors, may rest assured that with none but the thoughtless, indifferent, or easily-influenced citizens will any change of front by councillors or candidates on the eve of the election be allowed to cloud the impressions gained of character and conduct from the attitude taken or opinions expressed throughout the year.

We venture to suggest that the Mayor of the city would better consult his own dignity and still more the dignity of the city he represents, if he ignored such personal remarks as were reported to have been addressed to him the other day. Mayor McBeath has already been endorsed by citizens interested in moral well being and progress, and so far it is doubtful if any candidate other than Alderman Gale will enter the field. In that event we believe Mayor McBeath will be elected for a third term.

#### Notes and Comments

By REV. R. G. MacBETH, M. A.

#### THE HALIFAX HOLOCAUST

The colossal scale of the disaster in the old port city on the Atlantic seaboard has, for a time, dwarfed the war itself and thrust the ordinary questions of the day into the background. The full extent of the calamity is not known at the time of this writing, but we are aware of sufficient to be able to say that nothing in the history of Canada is at all comparable to this Halifax holocaust. The foreshore around the famous harbor became a funeral pyre in a few moments, and the fury of the winter blizzard added its quota to the unspeakable desolation. The cause of the explosion may not be definitely ascertained for some time, but in the meantime the duty of civilization is to ameliorate the suffering and the privation which are being experienced by the survivors. And it is good to know that the tremendous slaughter which has turned Europe into a shambles has not dulled the heart of the world to the value of human life. The loss of property in Halifax is vast in amount, but it is lost sight of in the presence of the mangled form of the smallest child that perished on that terrible day. We predict extraordinary efforts to alleviate the situation. While the cause of the disaster may never be traced absolutely to its source, it is safe to say that the importance

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of watchfulness and reliability in men has again been terribly emphasized for the world.

#### AN ANCIENT CITY

As age is reckoned in a new country, Halifax is an ancient city. It was founded in 1749 by the Hon. Edward Cornwallis in the days of the old rivalry between the French and the English, for it was begun as a rival to the French town of Louisburg in Cape Breton. It was named after the second Earl of Halifax, President of the Board of Trade and Plantations. In 1750 it became the capital instead of Annapolis, and in the wars of 1812 and the American Civil War, was much to the fore in connection with blockade-running. During a visit to Halifax a few years ago it was interesting to see the great iron staples in the rocks by the harbor, from which chains were stretched across to stop the old wooden ships. A bed of heather—a rare sight on this continent—is still flourishing where it was planted in that long ago. Dalhousie University, founded by the Earl of Dalhousie in 1818, and reorganized in 1863, is perhaps the chief distinction of Halifax. The city, while not given to booms, has solid citizens who will restore the shattered capital as the years pass.

#### CHINESE GAMBLING

The Chinese, like most other semi-heathen people, are much addicted to games of chance, and while we do not believe them to be sinners above all others in this respect, the question of gambling in Chinatown is much to the fore here and at other points in the Province. In my conversations with that remarkable man, the late Chief McLennan, not long before his lamented death, he declared that once the Chinese and others became acquainted with the effect of the Court of Appeal decision in *Rex vs. Riley*, the matter of gambling in the city would become an exceedingly serious problem. And he did everything in his power both in Ottawa and Victoria to have the law amended, but all in vain. What he prophesied has come to pass. Clever and unscrupulous lawyers of a certain class have not only made the Chinese aware of that legal decision but have helped them to form so-called clubs so as to evade the law. There are few things more distressing than to see police officers battering themselves against an evil practice which defies them because such practice is within the pale of the law. This law must be changed. It is notorious that gambling is rampant in Ottawa during sessions of Parliament, and if legislators there wish to rid themselves of the suspicion that they are not genuine in their efforts to enact a law that will suppress it, they had better make a decided move next session. In the meantime let us put the stamp of our strong disapproval upon gambling and upon every one who fosters that nefarious and destructive offence against morality and fair dealing.

#### ANOTHER WAR CHRISTMAS

Despite the fact that there is no other course open to us than to stop the mad dog of Europe in his murderous course, it is good to know that the opinion is stronger than ever that a state of war is an offence against the Christmas spirit. Some day "The Galilean" will conquer human sin and the era of peace will be ushered in for all time. In the meantime our hearts go out to the thousands and thousands of homes that will read the immortal Yule-tide lines of Tennyson with a new meaning in their own experience.

"At our old pastimes in the hall  
We gambolled, making vain pretence  
Of gladness, with a dreadful sense  
Of one mute shadow watching all."

### For Union, Victory, and Clean Government

SANFORD J. CROWE, CANDIDATE FOR BURRARD DIVISION

By D. A. Chalmers

"His life was gentle; and the elements  
So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up  
And say to all the world, 'This was a man.'"

Many people whose acquaintance with Mr. S. J. Crowe prior to election time may have been limited, would read with satisfaction of his nomination as a candidate for the Dominion Parliament: for there are some men with whom even casual contact and occasional conversation begets confidence and the assurance that they will stand for what they believe to be right, regardless of the favour or frown of "party, sect or faction." Such a man is ex-Alderman Crowe.



Sanford J. Crowe

his eastern Canadian home, knew what it was to work with his hands, and, like his father before him, he learned the building trade. Following the injunction "Go west, young man, and grow up with the country," he, still in his 'teens, came to Vancouver in 1888. The building trade was booming and he made a success of his contracting work. If thereby he amassed some capital, anyone meeting him may form the opinion that, as in the cases of many other men, his progress was due in considerable measure to hard work and application, combined with characteristic care and shrewdness. Until we reach the ideal socialistic stage, towards which this terrible war may indirectly help the world, there will be danger of differences between Capital

As we believe he is to be a Vancouver representative in the new Dominion parliament, a few details, gleaned by the way, of his career, may be of interest. Several generations ago his father's stock came to Canada from Scotland by way of the north of Ireland, and his mother's family (Fulton by name) came direct from Scotland. When it is known that Mr. Crowe's father was an elder in the "Auld Kirk" — a Canadian branch of the Established Church of Scotland — it will be understood that he inherits Scottish caution and deliberation so far as church connection is concerned; but he is an adherent "in good standing" (which involves regular "sitting") in St. John's Church, Vancouver.

While still a lad, albeit a hale and "husky" one, Mr. Crowe, in

and Labour. Meantime the open-minded student of affairs may hold that Labour Unions, no less than Capitalistic "Combines," are at times tempted to play the tyrant. It needs no very intimate acquaintance with Mr. Crowe to lead one to infer that he is of the type who would finish a job himself rather than suffer it to be halted or hindered by trade or labour organizations of any kind. And citizens who (next to support of the soldiers and the Empire's cause) put clean government in the forefront, can, we believe, count on Mr. Crowe being in Parliament a servant of the people always ready unflinchingly to support measures making for social betterment.

We understand Mr. Crowe retired from the contracting business about nine years ago, and that he has now property and other business interests in the west. Recognizing that "absence of occupation is not rest," and evidently believing that personal freedom from business or professional cares only increases a healthy citizen's obligations towards public service, he has found other work since leaving the Vancouver City Council—in which he served for seven years up to 1915. He has been president of the Vancouver Exhibition Association for four or five years, and he is the city's representative on the Vancouver and District Sewerage Board. As a director of the Returned Soldiers' Association he has rendered notable service in an unostentatious way. Even those who are rarely able to be at the railway station when the returning men arrive, must have heard of Mr. Crowe's unfailing attention in welcoming the men, and of his services by car and otherwise.

The mention of the soldiers recalls the fact that he has had two sons at the Front and that one of them (21 years of age) paid the supreme sacrifice at Courcellette in September, 1916. The second boy enlisted when he was only seventeen, and has now been about two years in the service. He joined the University Battalion (196th) but was drafted into the 47th in France. We do not believe, and we are sure Mr. Crowe does not, in any undue emphasising in public of such practical connection with the war front. In Canada, as elsewhere, men and women of British stock who have not near relatives in the Empire's service—or passed Beyond from it—must now be few and far between; and many of those remaining must, we surmise, be wishing that they themselves were fit or free for the fuller service overseas. For as an eastern Canadian verse writer asked in a contribution to last month's "Review":

"O! where in all the future will you find a grander task,

Where will a year of man's short life count more than here and now?"

As Mr. Crowe has been nearly thirty years in Vancouver, he has spent practically all his adult years in the west. That in itself would be no reason to commend him as a representative in the Dominion Parliament. But when a man's intimate knowledge of the conditions of a community and province is supplemented by a personality not only strong to support all measures for the winning of the war, but set on maintaining and fighting for square dealing and clean government, we are confident a very substantial majority of the voters will make sure that Mr. Crowe is sent with the other Unionist candidates to represent the Terminal City at Ottawa.

**\*National Responsibility at This Crisis  
A MESSAGE FOR EVERY ELECTOR**

By W. H. SMITH, B. D., Ph.D.

There was a time when human interests were largely individual and personal. The laying of the foundation of a new country calls for individual effort. The pioneer must be woodsman, farmer, builder, roadmaker, doctor, banker and minister all in one. The aggressiveness and success of this type of activity creates a standard of conduct which appeals to many as the one road to greatness. To conquer and reign over all opposition contains many elements of great value in every type of society. But as a country becomes settled the individual becomes more socialized and institutions take the place of the pioneer. The larger life flows through channels which exist apart from any individual effort. The result is that the common aims, sympathies and ideals become the standard of action. The worthy pioneer type has passed into the community life in which all share responsibility and make their contribution to the higher ideals of the race.

The trend of modern life has been growing in social emphasis. This has been well called the age of the social consciousness. No man liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself. We stand and fall together. Wealth, labor, culture, business, governments are rapidly becoming universal in their higher relations. The ideal of humanity has become the standard of values by which all worthy citizens seek to mould their individual attitude.

**PRINCIPLES, NOT PARTIES, AT STAKE**

The war has served to call attention to the value of corporate and national interests as distinguished from the interests of the pioneer of the earlier days. It is not a question of any one individual now fighting his way to victory. It is not the question of any one class in any one nation fighting its way to victory. So far as the Allies are concerned it is not even the question of any one nation fighting its way to victory. It is the question of all the nations banded together to achieve the victory of certain great principles which contain the promise and the power of conferring upon all the nations of the world the higher blessings of real democracy. We are all involved in this awful struggle. Our interests are all at stake. Our own lives and liberties are all imperilled. There rests upon each a definite responsibility to these higher values.

The great danger in the present conflict is that individual and sectional interests may become so powerful that the common interests of humanity may be sacrificed. Germany has been able to do great things because all her resources and aims are directed by one idea and method. There is no question in Germany concerning the conscription of men and wealth, no question as to the part the individual shall take. This is all handed down from headquarters, and the people as individuals have no voice in determining their attitude. This has been Germany's greatest asset in the prosecution of the war. On the other hand the Allies have had to contend with the varying and per-

\*Notes of a sermon preached in St. John's Church, Vancouver, December 9th, 1917, and published by request. Text: Matthew 5:14-16. "Ye are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

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sistent moods of classes and factions. Democracy has rightly claimed the privileges of independence, but has failed to recognize the responsibilities involved in true democracy. The result is that party and sectional activity has been our weakness and may yet defeat our aims. Russia, once great in the field of action, is now a helpless mass, the outcome of individual liberty without the sense of individual responsibility. Ireland since the beginning of the war has so pressed her individual claims that a standing army has been necessary to prevent open disruption with the Empire. Quebec has so pressed her individual view point in Canadian ideals and methods that the situation today is decidedly critical from the standpoint of unity within the Dominion. The same tendency is rampant in all the Allied lands, and each aspect of it is a festering sore exhausting energy and hope which are so vital in an undertaking the success of which means the birth of a new world order.

#### THE TRAGEDY OF DEMOCRACY.

We in Canada are facing a critical situation on account of the same tendency to achieve individual success at the expense of national efficiency. This is seen in the fact that many have taken advantage of the Empire's agony to amass great fortunes. That our men should defend the Empire and lay down their lives for the financial consideration of one dollar and ten cents a day with the added compensations for special classes, while men at home who supply these with food and munitions should become millionaires seems to me the tragedy of democracy. The same tendency is seen in the fact that some corporate interests have taken a similar advantage to press successfully their claim. Labor in some cases has been a source of weakness. That the sources of supply should be imperilled and our men left unsupported is a tragedy which will long stain the annals of a devoted army of self-sacrificing toilers. Capital in some cases has also been guilty. To control food prices, thereby denying to many the necessities of efficient service, is not only lacking in humanitarian instincts, but breathes the ideal of the highway robber. That the lives of many have been made bitter by such extortion and that the germs of social revolution should not only be planted but appear above the ground is but the universal operation of fundamental principles in society. The same tendency is seen in the fact that some party interests are taking advantage of the war to achieve individual successes. This is most disastrous. Today Canada is convulsed by party issues. If the chief thing in Canadian life today were the adjustment of party politics this election campaign might well be fought out by the people along the lines of their respective convictions. If, however, the chief business of Canada is to support the Empire in its fight for the rights of humanity, or to make the world safe for democracy, then in Henry Drummond's phrase, there is a moral obligation to keep first things first. It is not a question of either party scoring a victory, but it is a question of how the people of Canada as a people can best accomplish the one task to which we have pledged our honor and our existence. When we have shattered the military tyranny which threatens the world we can adjust our internal affairs. If Germany should win we shall have no Canada to govern. If there should be a compromise so that Germany's military system still lives, then it is idle to imagine we can develop our free institutions. Our policy will be determined by the military aims of Germany.

## SITUATION CRITICAL! STAND UNITED FOR VICTORY

It is well to bear in mind how critical the situation is not only from a military point of view but from an internal point of view. There can be no doubt that the Allies had and still have the necessary resources for victory. The weakness has been within our own ranks. Russia goes down. Others are trembling. Within the Empire are many discordant notes. Murmuring, complaints, jealousies, greed, party strife, all reveal dangerous possibilities. The psychology of a nation teaches profound possibilities and altogether sudden developments. In almost the twinkling of an eye France leaps into the frenzy of the Revolution. Russia does it now. The United States break into civil war over a principle. Religious wars have swept Europe again and again. In these days when old foundations are being broken up, and wild fancies fill many minds, and suffering and agony lead to despair, anything is not only possible, but wisdom suggests that the situation be faced ere it is too late. The one question is a moral and spiritual one. Can our national life stand up to this ordeal strong, clear and triumphant? Can our people face their tasks in hope and confidence? Can we throughout the Empire stand united for victory? Can Canada finish this war with the courage, optimism, self-sacrifice and idealism which marked its opening? Or shall we divide, grow commercial, become selfish, and then turn our backs upon the liberties of the world?

## HOW VOTE?: EACH ONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

What can each do. One thing. Remember our blood-bought privileges. Let your light shine. Each can develop the heroic spirit. There is an obligation resting upon each. It is that he and she will give every ray of light, every aspect of truth, every particle of energy toward the building up of a worthy spirit. I am not concerned so much with the material side of our life as with the moral and spiritual. This is a costly business. If men are not patriotic and willing to pay the price then the country will be governed and its ideal determined by others who have selfish ends to serve. Our Lord calls us to righteousness and service in the interests of the highest. We need a noble life as the first requisite in the discharge of our national obligations. I am not concerned with party so much as with principle and character. Every man must face his own responsibility. Every man is under obligation to make his contribution to the life of humanity. It is not my business to say how any man should vote. That is every man's sacred privilege, and he alone must decide. It is my business to declare that every man is under obligation to act in the light of truth, of righteousness, of God, of eternity, of the judgment. This applies to every party and every question. Each man must decide the way by which he can best let his light shine. I do not judge any man. Every man judges himself by what he does. It is our people recognize the obligations in this struggle, if they seek to promote the glory of God and the good of the Empire and the world, if they stand for the highest against the lowest, Canada will develop a type which will worthily endure until the Kingdom of God dominates all our activities.

## SHALL WE KEEP FAITH WITH HEROIC DEAD?

There is one consideration which comes with unique force. It seems to overshadow all others. We have sent a large army to the front and the record of its valor will shine undimmed as long as the name of Canada lives. We pledged that army our support. We told

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the men they were doing the right thing. They were fighting for something so precious that we believed they were justified in dying to defend it. On account of our differences of opinion and our failure to maintain the high standard, that army is rapidly wasting away. According to reputable men who have returned, before many months our army will disappear from the front. And what then? Shall we say our dead heroes made a mistake in dying for Canada? Shall we say we made a mistake in sending them? Shall we say we prefer our commercialism to idealism, our party successes to national victory, our cowardice to the heroism of our dead? That is the situation in my judgment. The one thing to be desired is the speedy and successful maintenance of our national honor and our loyalty to fundamental principles of brotherhood. When Calais had been besieged King Edward offered to spare the city if six of the leading citizens were delivered to him. When the proposition was made instantly the first man arose and offered to put the halter round his neck and go to the king. Others followed and the six heroes went out and the city was spared. When such spirit fills our Canadian people the glory which shines in the spirits of our dead and living heroes at the front will shine in every heart. Is it worth while seeking such a type of Canadian life? Whatever be the party affiliations of our people they ought not to be an end in themselves but a means by which the highest and best be speedily and worthily achieved. The war is gathering up into its critical movements. Let our lives be lived in the light not of our immediate differences of opinion but in the light of what we have done and what we ought to do, and then measure up to the standard which will remain unashamed when life's judgments are unveiled. The English poet has voiced the thought of the nation:

I will not cease from mortal strife  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
Till we have built Jerusalem  
In England's green and pleasant land.

May we not revise this in the light of the new vision of this war?

I will not cease from mental fight  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
Till we have built Christ's brotherhood  
In every heart in every land.

### A Noteworthy Book on Paul

The time is fully ripe for a new treatment of the work and influence of Paul the Apostle. Since the chief books were written in English a great change has come over our thought about the religious world in which Paul moved. In regard to the religious life of the Jew which Paul presupposed, and in regard to the religious interests of the Greco-Roman world to which Paul spoke, we have come to possess rich funds of information not utilized in the earlier interpretations of Paul.

The work of Dr. Charles and others has laid bare to us the general way of thinking which was expressed in the apocalyptic literature of the Jew. It is most misleading to say that the Old Testament gives to us the religion which formed the atmosphere of Paul's childhood. The actual religion of his day can only be recovered from the popular

religious writings of that age, and these writings are dominated by the peculiar outlook which centred in the hope of a Divine invasion of the world order with a resulting new age under Divine auspices. Meanwhile demons possessed great reality for the devout Jew, and no exposition of Paul can be adequate unless rooted in his general view of life.

The other factor which must be recognised is the prevailing cults of the Greek and the oriental world. In the guilds for private celebrations or in the more public rites under municipal direction there was promoted a sincere yearning for an actual redemption from existing evils. This quest for redemption frequently centred in the search for immortality and this immortality was achieved by some form of sharing in the life or experience of some God who was thus known as Lord and as Saviour.

Now it is obvious that these two elements when fully recognized are bound to involve some fresh appreciation of many of Paul's thoughts and phrases. How far do these religious forces influence his actual thought and to what extent do they provide a form of expression in which his own deep religious life flowed forth? No earnest student, no honest student, can ignore the questions thus presented. And it is a great boon which has come to us in Professor Morgan's book\* in which the whole religion and theological system of Paul is carefully reviewed in new light.

No one familiar with the problems will fail to welcome the extreme delicacy and devout sympathy revealed in every chapter of the book. Fortunately, too, the ordinary reader who knows nothing of the mystery cults and little of Jewish Apocalyptic is not left to grope through meaningless references to things unknown. An adequate account is given of this religious world which is presupposed by all Paul's writings.

The absence of dogmatic prejudice is most marked. In no instance is there a trace of theological interests influencing exposition. Rarely does the expositor allow himself to pass judgment on the permanent value of the religion which he expounds. Were it not for the ambiguity of the term one might say that the whole treatment is marked by a most conservative spirit. Criticism of the best kind is here at work, enabling us to recognise under forms which are not of this age great aspirations and experiences which have been fruitful beyond measure. Quite rightly does Professor Morgan dispel the illusion which comes with the first superficial contrast of Paul with Jesus—the religion of Paul is intimately rooted in the historical life and influence of Jesus of Nazareth.

Every sincere expositor who has felt himself held in a deadly dilemma by the evident presence of elements in Paul which he cannot accept, will find new freedom as he is able to do full justice to the apostle without involving the gospel in a tangle of categories which have little meaning for our own life.

It is doubtful if there is any work in English which can be ranked with this of Prof. Morgan's. Timid devotion will be able to explore with re-assurance, while the intrepid explorer will learn cautious verification and acute discrimination.

ERNEST THOMAS

\*The Religion and Theology of Paul. The Kerr Lectures for 1915, by W. Morgan, D.D., Professor of Theology in Queen's College, Kingston. T. and T. Clark, Edinburgh.



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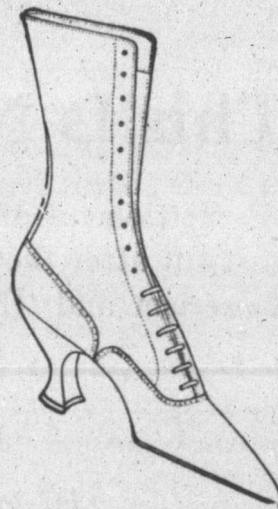
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