

IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD

What the Church Folk Are Thinking About and Doing. Religious News From Elsewhere

THE NEW PATRIOTISM.

The International Sunday-School Lesson for July 4 is "Paul's Second Missionary Journey—Antioch to Philippi." Acts 13: 36; 16: 13.

By William T. Ellis.

The passing of the spirit of Jingoism is an evidence of the changing spirit of our times. These first days of July in the United States are flavoured by memories of the Declaration of Independence, and in Canada by the observance of Confederation Day. Once it was common to hear at Fourth of July celebrations in the States the most blatant spread-eagleism; but this bellicose strutting and crowing barnyard fashion has given way to a more serious and dignified mood. The best patriots are feeling keenly their obligations as workmen, citizens, and they are studying their relations to all other nations. The American spirit is expressing itself by a new, frank facing of the day's internationalism. Canada never held so truly national a gathering as that which met in Toronto a few months ago to consider Canada's missionary policy with respect to herself and the whole earth. America's Christian manhood is likewise to come together next spring in a meeting that may easily take rank with the great history-making assemblies of the nation's formative period.

The springs of patriotism go down to the depths of the spirit. It is easy to speak of country and of God in the one breath. There is a straight line connecting the patriotism of the year 1909 in this new western world with the Sunday-school lesson of the day. For the latter teaches a gathering in most Christianity in Europe. The great historic step was made which carried the Gospel out of Asia into the land which was for nearly twenty centuries to remain its strength and center. Doubtless on the journey from Troas to Neapolis, nobody paid particular attention to an inconspicuous little Jew and his small band of companions who, day after day, were seen in earnest converse upon some serious theme. Yet that was a greater day for Europe than when Xerxes, or Philip of Macedon, or Augustus marched their legions over this edge of Europe. So today is the inspiration to see, as he leans over the visitors gallery at Ellis Island, and watches the stream of immigrants passing before the inspectors, and wonders which of these unkempt, big-eyed boys carries in his cloth bundle a new epoch for America.

A Travelling Teacher. Philippi, whither Paul was bound, is now a heap of ruins, scarcely headed by the obscure Turkish village near its site. Most of the names of places, and the places and customs themselves, that become familiar to Paul's ears and eyes have passed away. Still the air is rent with the echoes of shots and shrieks of awful massacre of men and women throughout the region, traces of whose unkind, big-eyed boys carries in his cloth bundle a new epoch for America.

It had been a half dozen years since Paul had made his first missionary tour throughout the Balkans. Now he was setting out again on the same long hard journey, that would consume two or three years more. As mere travel, would such a journey be worth while? Our restless age is ever emphasizing the pleasure and profit to be gained in itself. No lives are more wasted than those which are spent in wandering up and down the face of the earth, flitting from spot to spot in an endeavor to stimulate judgment. Travel for a great purpose is supremely worth while; but travel for travel's sake soon becomes a weariness to the flesh. Paul was sustained by his journeys by the consciousness that he was bent on a great mission.

that the Bible characters are all free from human frailties. Paul chose, instead Silas, and they went together through Syria and Cilicia and back to Derbe and Lystra and Iconium, strengthening the faith of the churches and delivering the decree of the council at Jerusalem. It is an important missionary work to look after the existing churches as it is to plant new churches in unreached regions. At Lystra, Paul added to his company young Timothy, the son of a Jewess mother and a Greek father, who later became dear to the apostle's heart and a power in the church.

The Conquering Company. What varied armies have marched over the same historic ground that was traversed by this little band of bearers of good news! The imagination is stimulated by a contemplation of the scenes made most memorable by their association with these evangelists. For one man with a great message means more to history than a great army. It is not good for a man to be a paragon of his day. It was to conquest that this band went—even as sensitive friends who go to the steamer to bid farewell to their missionary representatives sometimes catch a vision of fear-of transformation to be effected by the labors of these men and women.

Since this is designated for study as a missionary lesson, it is well to remember as a practical missionary method, that it is not good for a man to go out alone as a missionary. The consensus of expert missionary judgment is against placing of one or two persons in lonely interior stations. It is better to establish a considerable force in the missionary compound, and to work out from this base. I have seen an important hospital in Peking closed simply because the Mission Board of one of the great American agencies had inadequate staffs to man it, and when one doctor fell ill the work stopped. The new interest in missions will call Boards more rigidly to account for their methods of administration. It is better not to try to occupy so many places than to occupy each inadequately. Paul did his missionary work in association with a variety of comrades, even as the present-day missionary propaganda presents many fronts to the world.

It is worth noting that this was a Spirit-guided company of men. They took counsel together, of course, and yet ultimate decision in all their new fields of service. They belonged to the end of the Divine Spirit. When the Spirit bade them hasten through Asia without preaching they did so. Their power to win resided wholly in their willingness to obey. They knew their selves to be men under authority, and it was in loyalty to that Voice that they found success.

The Men Who Hear Calls.

This was a band of idealists and dreamers, who, regardless of the hardships by the way, pressed on towards new fields of service. They belonged to the endless train of visionaries in whose hearts God has put the pioneer spirit. These men who hear calls

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to the new and undiscovered regions have ever been the champions of history's enlarging sphere. To them all new discoveries are owed. They are like Columbus, adding new continents to the world's dominions. Some types of men work best in well-worn grooves. They like the accustomed ways and the voice of human direction over them. Others are forever dreaming of new ways of doing the old service. They are the inventors, the explorers, and the captains of civilization. It would be a sad day for mankind if ever this divine fire departed from the hearts of men.

Paul, standing on the edge of Asia, saw "a vision a man on Europe" and heard his voice calling "Come over and help us." It was the sensitive soul's perception of the spiritual needs of an unevangelized region. The Macedonian call has become a shopman's more familiar with this incident than with the actual facts of to-day's missionary conditions, believe that the heathen to-day are calling even as did the Macedonian man of old. There are one or two non-Christian lands which are like unto Macedonia in that their call for the better things of the Gospel is articulated. In the main, though, it is a call of need rather than of desire that is heard from the mission field.

When Paul finally got to Philippi, instead of eager, waiting multitudes he found only a praying woman ready to hear his message. Perhaps he experienced something of the shock of finding himself not wanted and not considered which has come to hundreds of missionaries since, as they reached the land of the military. Ordinarily the missionary is not desired, but he is needed none the less. It takes a deeper vision and a higher courage to do service in these conditions than to go where one is welcomed with open arms.

The Christian Church is not engaged in the business of giving men what they want, but of giving them what they need. The twentieth century is vexed with clamorous appeals for many things. In their social unrest men say they want a new order of politics, a new kind of economics, a new kind of social relationship. This is their expressed desire, but their real need is for more of the brotherly and unselfish spirit of Jesus in their hearts.

The New Patriotism. Down by the river bank of Philippi Paul found a woman merchant, a devout proselyte. It may have seemed a bit of irony to him that his first convert in Europe should not be a European, but an Asiatic. Lydia was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, but she was the best friend of God. The first converts and final defenders of a faith are usually women. This prosperous business woman was baptized with her whole household, and with hospitality which characterizes simple Christian faith she welcomed the band of evangelists to her home with an urgency that would not be gainsaid.

So began the career of Christianity in Europe. With that bit of outreaching endeavor on the part of Paul we see prefigured the history of Christendom. For the Christian nations are pioneer nations. Stagnation begets pagan peoples. The ships that sail all seas mostly fly Christian flags, and the commerce of the world is done almost exclusively by Christian nations, or by nations that have lately come under the impulse of Christian sentiment. Now because the Gospel was so early born in Europe, Europe and her child America, are bearing the Gospel back to Asia.

The new patriotism is milder than the older jingoism. It is saner, but it is stronger. No longer do we hear the cry "My country, right or wrong," but, from all quarters, the conception of our nation's welfare for the world's sake is scholarly sentiment. To-day that over the flags of Christian nations, at the mast heads of their ships, as well as in the realm of metaphor, there flies the flag of the Cross. The best patriotism is that which gives its best possession for the welfare of all nations.

A LIFE FOR THE LAND. Three Comments Upon the Christian Endeavor Topic For July 4, "Patriotism That Counts." Neh. 4: 6, 12-15. By William T. Ellis. All patriotism that is patriotism counts. If it does not count it is not patriotism. If the virtue of patriotism exists it is its life by its fruits. This high and holy passion—one of the three noblest sentiments implanted in the breast of man by his Creator—does not always display labels and badges and flags, or in any wise noisily proclaim its existence; nevertheless, it is effective in the determination of ideals, in the regulation of conduct, and in the inspiration to public service. Like the qualities of honor and temperance and love, patriotism effects its first results in the fibre of the character.

Any person who would defraud the nation by evading custom duties, by shirking public tasks, by tawdryly representing his liabilities to taxes, or by rendering less than full market value in every transaction with the government, must be enrolled somewhere outside of the rank of patriots.

In the enjoyment of liberty's prizes men are tempted to shrink liberty's pain. For the great rights which this western world possesses under the law may be maintained only by the constant watchfulness and service. The peril of self-government is the indifference of the majority to the obligations of citizenship. Men who would be among the first to leap to the defense of their rights, foreign invasion view with indifference the usurpation of their rights by professional politicians and by unscrupulous corporations.

Love thou thy land with love far brought. From out the storied past, and used within the present, but transfused Thine future time by power to thought. Love thou thy land. —Tennyson.

The man who throws a banana skin upon the sidewalk is a distant cousin of the capitalist who steals a public service franchise.

The poet is often a more useful patriot than the major-general.

To help the children achieve a happy, healthy and wholesome life is to perform one of the far-reaching ministrations of patriotism.

Party "regularity" is responsible for most of the present political irregularities which do hurt to the city and the State.

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This our day. A strong body of young men have taken up the duties of citizenship in a quiet, careful, thorough-going manner that has effected results. Some of these have gone into public life; all of them have made themselves a force for righteousness. They may fairly be rated as one of the distinctive achievements of the Christian Endeavor movement.

The flag is stained by every dishonest life beneath it.

The best patriots are they who serve their time in most helpful ways. There is no higher expression of citizenship than the incultation, in a neighborhood or in a nation of those great ideals of individual character and social service which we group under the name of religion. The Canadian churches have proved their loyalty to the flag as well as to the Cross by their imperial conception of ministry to the newer portions of the country. They have set themselves, in noblest man-fashion, to the task of carrying the offices of the church to the very limits of pioneer settlement. Wherever runs the law of the land there also goes the sweet and uplifting message of the Gospel. In so doing, the nation is helping to conserve the Canadian type, and to mould the expanding populations into the characteristics of reverence for law, for order, for thrift, for education, and for religion.

The new patriot is not a tingo. His horizon has broadened. To him, interest in all the nations of the earth is an expression of his patriotism. For he knows himself to be not only a son of his own land, but also a brother of all men.

The battles which the twentieth century patriot must fight are harder than those waged on bloody fields.

For he has to go forth against entrenched greed, inert ignorance, deadly class hatred and complex and subtle social problems which tax the best trained brain and the stoutest heart.

NEWS AND NOTES. The Moody Institute, Chicago, recently dedicated a new men's building.

The famous Buddhist temple in Shiba Park, Tokio has been destroyed by fire.

Baptists throughout the country are displaying considerable interest in the call of Rev. Dr. Cortland Myers, of Brooklyn, to succeed Rev. Dr. P. S. Henson as pastor of Tremont Temple, of Boston.

The McCormick family, of Chicago, have increased their gift to the Presbyterian theological seminary which bears their name to the extent of fourteen thousand dollars a year for ten years to come.

The Japanese Government has given recognition, which means official standing, to all the mission kindergarten training schools in Japan. The famous Hiroshima Girls' School, of the Southern Methodist Church, which is the scene of the book, "The Lady of the Decoration," has also been given government recognition.

In a recent issue of "The Interior," of Chicago, George W. Louttit, formerly first reader of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, at Fort Wayne, Ind., makes the specific charge that the Christian Science leaders in Boston purpose to keep secret the death of Mrs. Eddy, and to declare that she has been translated, like Christ and Elijah.

A curious by-product of the Chinese revival is reported by Dr. Woodbridge, editor of the "Christian Intelligencer," a Southern Presbyterian paper print-

ed in Chinese at Shanghai. Native Christians are writing articles upon the revival, and one article submitted had twenty-five thousand Chinese characters. Another article was fourteen feet long.

The formation of a Canadian Presbyterian Brotherhood is under consideration in the denomination. It was recommended by a large conference of Presbyterian men who gathered in Toronto in connection with the national missionary congress. The Assembly's Committee on Moral and Social Reform was urged to arrange for a Brotherhood convention next year.

An Austrian Presbyterian preacher in Baltimore, Rev. Barclay Vanek, has received from Emperor Franz Joseph, the Golden Cross of Merit—the only one ever received in this country—and a gift of twenty-five hundred dollars in money, because of his service to Austrian immigrants in America.

A radical departure in Y. M. C. A. methods has been the calling of a successful pastor, Rev. Dr. Clarence A. Farbour, of Rochester, one of the best known Baptists in the country, to membership on the force of international secretaries. The aim is to help draw closer together the Christian Associations and the churches. Dr. Farbour will also assist in the preparation of courses in text-books for Association Bible classes.

By the recent passage of the British Children's Act it has become illegal in England for mothers to drink at public bars accompanied by their children. No child under the age of fourteen may now be permitted at the bar of a public house under any conditions. Tobacco may not be sold to anyone under the age of sixteen, and policemen must confiscate cigarettes, paper and tobacco found on anyone under the same age. The act also provides separate juvenile courts and

separate places of detention for child prisoners. Pawnshops may not do business with children under the age of fourteen. Summarizing the act, "The Congregationalist" adds: "The effect is to put the children of the poor, and all children of charitable institutions, under inspection by agents of the government."

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Though many guests be absent it is the cheerful man we miss.—African Proverb.

We prepare ourselves for sudden deeds by our reiterated choice of good or evil.—George Eliot.

You never know what life means till you die: Even throughout life, 'tis death that makes life live.

The most hopeless barrier to strife is the steady indifference of a man who knows he has work to do, and who goes on doing it irrespective of anybody's opinion.—Agnes Repplier.

If any man would be first, he shall be last of all, and servant of all.—Jesus.

That man is great, and he alone. Who serves a greatness not his own. For neither praise nor self. Content to know and be unknown. Whole in himself. —Owen Meredith.

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