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Meeting at Lanier Library

The Thursday meeting of the Lanier club was one of unusual interest. Mrs. Dexter, the president, announced that the third of this month marked the hundredth anniversary of the birth of our patron poet, Sidney Lanier, and that she had asked Miss Lois Wilcox to read one of Lanier's poems. Miss Wilcox gave a brief account of Lanier's short stay in Tryon and how he was befriended by members of the Wilcox family. She then read "A Song of the Future," one of his shortest poems but expressive of his unflinching faith in the realization of all good.

The speaker for the afternoon Dr. Charles Sewall, then addressed the club on the subject of "The Faith of Democracy." Passing over briefly the things for which Democracy stands as a form of government, he centered his thought on the Declaration of Independence, in its much disputed statement that all men are equal in the sight of God, and therefore entitled to freedom and the pursuit of happiness, or opportunity for development. Democracy is the only form of government that even aims at such an ideal; and while it is yet to be realized it contains the essence of our faith. Democracy then becomes in truth, a matter of faith, faith as defined in the New Testament: "the substance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen." Only in a Christian atmosphere can the good life be lived, the true end of man be attained.

Quoting from the instructions given to the Nazi youth, the speaker then showed how they are being taught the exact opposite of the Christian faith. They are told that the individual is nothing in himself; he exists only for his race and the state. Man claims no right to existence as a child of God; he is a mere tool in the hands of his masters. There is not room in this world for two such opposing ways of life, says Dr. Sewall. We must realize that we are fighting for something far

deeper than freedom or our way of living. We are fighting for all that makes life worth living at all, for a faith that affirms the undying worth and dignity of the human soul.—Contributed.

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