

Thoughts For Our Time

By His Eminence Cardinal McGuigan
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In the building of the edifice of world peace there are two vital and essential elements whose significance we are most likely to minimize—the individual and the family. While we may be skeptical and even cynical today over the possibilities of peace through the United Nations, nevertheless we seldom reflect upon the power that lies within the heart of the individual person. But, in truth, order among nations will only be possible when we begin with the basic element of society—man himself. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link and I would like to say that society is only as strong as its basic unit—the individual person.

I have many times stressed that the problem confronting the world today is a spiritual lack or deficiency. Because man has lost his sense of Christian values which once motivated his life, he has become short-sighted. Men themselves are setting the obstacles which render impossible the realization of a world order. This is happening in innumerable ways.

I would like to point out simply one, and that is our changing attitude toward the family. Among the many problems pressing upon us, the preservation of our family way of life should claim our attention. For if the individual persons who unite in the edifice of world peace, the family is the foundation of that edifice. It is the only possible base upon which we may build a responsible society.

It is commonplace to say that our attitudes toward marriage and the family have greatly changed in the twentieth century. There have been many writers who thought they saw in those changes something good, but today they are not so confident in their views. Whether they admit or not that they were wrong in their ideas about marriage and the family, there is the terrifying evidence of a rapid-

ly mounting juvenile delinquency, a daily increasing number of young people without whose moral integrity, strength of character, a sense of social responsibility or an element of principle.

We have been inclined to blame our youth because we think that they should be otherwise. Insofar as they have today seemingly unlimited opportunities for education and self-development. But can we be so ridiculous as not to see that the blame must be placed further back? Are we ashamed to admit that the root of the weakness in the individuals lies in the home and, that is due to our changed conception regarding family life?

The truth is, matters have gone so far that they cannot easily be glossed over. The telltale marks of disintegration of the family have gone too far for that. The disintegration shows itself in many forms; first of all, in the attitude toward the marriage bond itself. Once, it was regarded as sacred. Today, it is a merely profane bond and it has become little more than a term. It has lost its binding power for many and thus is sundered more and more frequently by divorce. Similarly, the bond uniting parents and children has become weaker and weaker. Children separate from their parents earlier than formerly; if not physically, at least personally and spiritually. A cleavage between the beliefs, mentality and social attitudes of parents and children is an accepted fact.

Our changed conceptions of family life are evident in the ease with which we accept the loss of functions formerly performed by the family in religion, education and recreation. There was a time when the family was really a religious circle, where prayer had its place. Children were taught to ask God's blessings before meals and at least to say a daily prayer. On Sundays, the family went to

THE CENTRAL GUARDIAN

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THE PRESBYTERIAN Church in Canada, Central Parish. The annual congregational meeting of the Clyde River Church will be held in the church this evening Jan. 22, at 8 p.m. The annual congregational meeting of the Canoe Cove Church will be held Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 2 p.m. in the church. Service of worship will be held at Nine Mile Creek Church Wednesday evening, Jan. 23, at 8 p.m. Rev. Donald Nicholson, Minister.

A MUCH TRAVELLED OFFICIAL — One of Canada's top travelling salesman, engaged in selling Canada, is CBC Commentator John Fisher, brother of Dr. Fisher, veterinary surgeon with the Provincial Department of Agriculture here. He himself has lost track of his mileage, but in 1951 he was in 42 of the 48 states, across Canada five times, in Mexico and in Europe. On these trips he speaks about Canada to groups ranging in a size to a convention of 10,000 Kiwanians in Miami. Early next month he takes off on a route which will take him to Topeka, Kansas; Akron and Cleveland Ohio; Fargo, North Dakota, where he will speak to 3,500 farmers; Richmond, Virginia and Portland, Maine to speak to 3,500 teachers. In mid-March he has three speaking dates; takes off for two weeks in Europe; and is back in Montreal for further speaking dates in May. All this in addition to a three-times a week radio program. His outstanding impression of almost anywhere in the States is the number of people who come up to him and say: "I was born in Canada" or "My father was born in Canada." Seems ties with home are never broken.

church. The situation today is almost too pitiful to relate. Prayer within the home is unusual and family participation at church a rarity.

The same holds true for education and recreation. Where formerly the family was the foremost educational agency for the young, today its functions have shrunk enormously. The evil does not lie in the development of our educational system but rather in that the family which has the prior right and obligation to educate makes no effort at all to inculcate habits of virtue in the children. The tendency today is to expect the school, which should normally be the heirloom of the family, to do everything.

Formerly, the family circle provided the recreation for all. Now, movies, night clubs and the like draw everyone from home. The domestic circle is no longer a hearth or sanctuary but a first-class hotel. Is it any wonder then that our society is so unstable?

In the face of these facts, it is unfortunate that in Canada we note an increasing tendency not only to favor divorce but to increase the legal reasons for granting them. In other countries where divorce has been unlimited, there are, at present, attempts being made to restrict the severance of the marriage bond. They have found that with increasing divorce there is an increase in juvenile delinquency and other social evils.

Is it too much to warn that we stand at the cross roads with regard to our Canadian family life? No, it is too little. Many have already gone too far in the wrong direction. We are faced with the important question: Will we or will we not retrace our steps and return to a greater respect for marriage and the family? On our decision will ultimately depend the very life and death of our nation. It is truly a fateful decision.

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Abraham Lincoln pardoned Roswell McIntyre who was a member of a New York regiment of Calvary in the war between the States. Condemned to be shot as a deserter, McIntyre confessed to the President that he was a coward, but promised, if given another chance, he would prove his worth. Lincoln gave him this letter:

October 4, 1864.
"On condition Roswell McIntyre of Company E, 6th Regiment, New York Calvary, return to his Regiment and faithfully serve out his term, making up for lost time, he is hereby pardoned for any supposed desertion. This paper is his pass to return to his regiment."

That letter may be seen in the Army archives in Washington with the following words written across its face: "Taken from the dead body of Roswell McIntyre after the battle of Five Forks, Virginia, April, 1865."

The Dominion Department of Agriculture estimate that 40 per cent of the corn grown in this country is fed to swine, 10 per cent to farm horses, 15 per cent to poultry, while about ten per cent is used for human consumption.

Somewhere near the shore of Liverpool Bay, N.S., lies the body of John Mullins — that is, the body minus the ears. These were cut off and carried away by a group of strange seafaring men who captured Mullins when they found him snooping about the shore while they were digging treasure-chests from the sand. Buried up to his neck in the sand, Mullins was rescued by a search party from the very hole he had been forced to dig the previous night. When they dragged him from his prison cell they found a package tied to one hand. It contained money and a note which said the coins were in payment of John Mullins' ears.

It is possible to skate on ice because of the pressure of the skates and the ice a layer of water is formed, thus reducing the friction between the skates and the ice. The movement of glaciers down mountain sides is due to the same cause. Under the weight on the ice the lower layer melts and the ice slips down the mountain slope just as your skates glide over the ice.

If you held a sheet of iron only a hundred thousandth of a millimeter thick against a piece of writing you'd be able to read the page as easily as though you were looking through a piece of transparent glass.

In olden times people thought that tiny, fiery lizzards lived in the fire burning on their hearths. Others worshipped fire and built temples in its honor. For centuries lamps dedicated to the God of Fire were kept constantly burning in these temples, never allowed to go out day or night.

The custom of keeping a perpetual fire goes back thousands of years ago to a time when people had to depend on lightning for their fire. When lightning would strike a tree and set it on fire some brave soul seized a burning branch and carried it home or to the temple.

Later, primitive people discovered that they could obtain fire by rubbing one piece of wood against another. And the man who made that startling discovery must have been looked upon as a great inventor.

In time fire was started by means of flint applied to dry tinder. Today we have matches; and strange but true, in 1933 we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first match factory.

The modern cigarette lighter is fashioned after the flint, steel and sponge, or tinder of our forefathers. To prove it one has but to examine a lighter. What do we find? A bit of flint, and a piece

A Country Garden

Continued from page 2

clusters of decorative white flowers which grow at the base of the leaves and are short-lived. The flowers are rather similar in scent and appearance to the jasmine. The berries are red and about the size of a small cherry. The volatile oil and peculiar acid to which the aroma and taste of coffee are due do not develop till the berry is roasted. The leaves contain even more caffeine than the berries and in Malaya an infusion of leaves is often preferred to the use of the berries.

The nutmeg tree is found in India, Java, Sumatra, and the Philippine Islands. It resembles a pear tree and produces fruit when it is seven years old—at fifteen years it is most prolific and it continues to fruit until it is seventy or eighty years old.

The aroma from the nutmeg trees on the Spice Islands is said to be strong enough to intoxicate Birds of Paradise.

This very powerful nut is a most useful medicine for heart failure when rightly used.

The outer covering of the nutmeg is known as Mace and has very similar properties to nutmeg but is less strong. To dream of rutmeg is said to be a sign of impending changes.

There are many Bible plants suitable for Canadian gardens. Today we grow the almond, and in the southern states, the fig, the olive, the pomegranate and the vine; wheat is the staff of life for us, even as it was for them; the people of those distant times. The humble onion and leek, the dill, mint and rue of our present-day lives were also part of the everyday lives of the Bible people.

The plants which clothed the land of Palestine with a rich and luxuriant verdure also clothed the thoughts and speeches of the prophets and leaders of the land rich with imagery and poetry. These symbols through which spiritual ideas were presented can live again in growing green as we plant a Bible garden.

Morning Light
Have you ever HEARD the sun rising, in midwinter, through the woods? He comes with a faint, dashing, swinging sound of cymbals, melting the air with his beams. In the distance we catch the clatter of the cock, the sound of wood-chopping at farmers' doors, the baying of a house dog, the faint drumming of horses' hooves on the hard surface of the icy roads. But the thin and frosty air conveys only the finest particles of sound to our ears, with short and sweet vibrations. They reach us clear and bell-like, as though there were fewer impediments than in summer to make them faint and ragged. The jangling of icicles on the trees is sweet and melodious. And the stinging cold is an elixir to our lungs wafted into our souls like a midsummer haze purified by frost.

The Crown
Some will say he told us nothing new which is quite true. It is just as true, however, that he gave new life and meaning to ideas and

of steel, the tiny wheel. The mid-geet wick socked in gasoline, takes the place of tinder.

The Maritime Provinces have produced some very big men not only physically, mind you, but mentally and spiritually as well. Every community can boast of its "Big Alec," or Big Johns or some big other name. But here I use the word "big" as it is applied to the physical.

Charlottetown had it big Bill Powers, a giant of a man who

The Passing Scene

By Observer

Mr. Churchill's Speech

In a physical sense his voice is not quite as strong as in other years, and no wonder. It is just as vibrant as ever and just as fascinating to his listeners. His personality remains what it has been for half a century, charming, magnetic. He is still the same Mr. Churchill who for quite a while now has been recognized as the spokesman for free men everywhere, a living symbol of the courage that fights on, whatever the cost. When he speaks, the world listens and ponders.

Greatness
I sat by the radio with a note book in my hand, realizing, as millions of others must have done, that in the words which came over the air waves and, still more, in the mind which gave them birth and in the soul which inspired them, was greatness such as falls across the common ways of life only rarely. When the time comes for him to lay down his burden, as come it must to even the greatest of mortals, when the word "covet freedom" will wonder if they will ever see his like again.

Honesty
Many people, perhaps, were a little disappointed that the man who has his finger on the pulse of the world divulged no secrets and uttered no prophecy. But even here his forthright honesty shone in splendour. "When I came here ten years ago," he said, "I could not tell. Today, I do not know." It would have been easy for him to speculate widely and to promise profusely, but that is the play of lesser men in which Mr. Churchill will have no part. No one knows better than he that the crisis of our time is too serious for idle speculation. If he is to lead once again the moral forces of world law he will do it, as he did it before, not by calling men to easy tasks but by helping them to face up to heavy ones.

He is able to see perhaps more clearly than any other living person "the strange clouds that move and gather on the horizon." He hopes, as we all hope, that these clouds will scatter harmlessly away before they drop destruction on the earth, but he will not cheerfully predict the course of events simply to allay temporarily the fears in men's hearts. That expedient thing to do, but Mr. Churchill has never loved expediency for its own sake nor even for the sake of a passing satisfaction.

He has learned in his long and distinguished career, a career which has influenced governments and peoples of every race and tongue, that, while expediency might lull men into a false security, it can never save them nor keep their spirits free.

Some will say he told us nothing new which is quite true. It is just as true, however, that he gave new life and meaning to ideas and

TRY OUR SEEDS
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Arthur Vesey
York,
P. E. I.

icals we have long held in honour, for his skill in the art of phrasing has not abated. His conception of the Crown as "separating pomp from power" will, it is safe to say, be added to the intangibles by which we are sustained. Men will quote it for generations to come just as they will find delight in another phrase bearing on the place of monarchy in a democratic process of government. "If a great battle is lost the government is blamed or even driven from office. If a great battle is won crowds cheer the king."

When he spoke of Canadian "clasp[ing] with one hand the traditions of the Crown as 'separating pomp from power' will, it is safe to say, be added to the intangibles by which we are sustained. Men will quote it for generations to come just as they will find delight in another phrase bearing on the place of monarchy in a democratic process of government. "If a great battle is lost the government is blamed or even driven from office. If a great battle is won crowds cheer the king."

Old And New
No one can listen to Mr. Churchill when he is away from his domestic political fireside without sensing a blend of the old and the new. He thinks back to the past as well as forward to the future while, at the same time he views with amazing mental alertness the many sided pattern of the present. And always he has at his finger tips some choice excerpt from the pages of history with which to put some simple truth in living shape. Thus, he quotes Edmund Burke: "People will never look forward to posterity who never look back to their ancestors."

Much In Common
In many ways, notably in his

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COUGHS
COLDS
strike take
BUCKLEY'S MIXTURE
It's SUGAR FREE

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Card Of Thanks
The relatives of the late Chas. A. Carr, Marshfield, wish to thank those who sent flowers and for many acts of kindness shown in their bereavement.

IN MEMORIAM
In loving memory of John R. MacFadyen, Kensington, who passed away January 22nd, 1950.
Fondly Remembered by Wife and Daughters.

IN MEMORIAM
In loving memory of MRS PETER McDONALD who departed this life six years ago today, January 22nd, 1946.
Fondly Remembered by Her Husband.

IN MEMORIAM
In loving memory of John R. MacFadyen, who passed away January 22nd, 1950.
Two years have passed since that sad day, when one we loved was called away.
God took him home, it was his will,
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Ever Remembered by Mother, Brother and Sisters.

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