

Religion and Life

By Very Rev. George C. Pidgeon, D.D., LL.D.
First Moderator of the United Church of Canada
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LIFE'S CHARIOT RACE

Those who remember the novel, "Ben Hur" will recall the interest that centred in the chariot race. That vivid description was once a popular recitation, and rarely have we heard anything from the platform that could be compared with it. But of equal interest in the story is the preparation for the race—the skill and care with which the hero trained his team. He was determined by the speed of the slowest horse. The team had to be kept together if it hoped to win, and therefore the driver's task was to quicken the pace of the slowest and to slow down the others so that they might move as a unit, particularly in the final effort of the race.

Now here is a principle far-reaching in its application, and there is much to be said both for and against it. How far should the effort be kept up? To what extent should society be deprived of the special services which only first-rank ability can give in order that he may keep step with the second rank and third rank worker in the group to which he belongs? And to what extent should real genius be kept back from the exceptional qualifications which he alone can acquire and the distinction and reward which he alone can win?

In his parable of the Talents, Jesus drew a parallel between the man entrusted with five talents and the man entrusted with two talents. The two-talent man was commended because he had made two talents more, and the five-talent man was commended for having made five talents more. But the five-talent man would not always be commended if he had made only two talents more, because, as Jesus said in another connection: "Everyone to whom much is given, of him will much be required; and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the more."

For example, in the professions such as law, medicine and the ministry the bulk of the work will always be done by the two-talent man—that is, the men of ordinary abilities who make an extraordinary use of them. It is always exceptional need calls for the service of the exceptional man, and progress in the profession depends on his discoveries and achievements.

On the other hand consideration for the weaker is required with ever more exacting care. An army is drilled to move as one man; the initiative of the individual soldier may on occasion save a situation, but if it carries him away beyond his comrades he will lose his life and they will be deprived of his leadership. He will always be a problem hard to solve how far men must be held together and in what situations the individual is expected to develop and use his powers to the utmost.

An English educationist recently criticized our educational system on the ground that the pupils are promoted in classes. The brilliant student, who is able to move forward much more rapidly than his fellows, is thereby denied the opportunity to advance as rapidly as he can and is held back from the full development for which his character and ability qualify him. The daily papers told us recently of a high-school student who left the Province this year, and who found, every time he entered his class in mathematics, that he was 100 pages ahead of them in his work. We shall have to leave our educationists to decide about the merits of the system; evidently it did not prevent that student from real attainment; but the principle that each man is required by every law of God and man to cultivate his powers to the utmost and to prepare himself for the highest

service possible in his line is clear and cannot be too strongly emphasized.

Labor unions sometimes decide the amount of work each man is allowed to do in a day. They protest against the tendency of employers to judge what is to be expected of the average man by what the exceptional worker can do, and so they set the standard at a point which all can reach easily. It is up to the unions to justify their own regulations and we refrain here from judgment. At the same time no such regulation can abrogate the divine law that determines each man's duty by his ability. Modern science has harnessed Nature's forces for the service of man; the first result of their use must be the easing of the burden laid on the toiler. At the same time, the obligation of the talented in any sphere of service, to give his generation the best service of which he is capable is rooted in the will of God who made us what we are. "My utmost for His highest," is Christ's law of life.

Church courts are now in session and in every forward movement proposed, consideration has to be given to those who feel unable to advance with the speed of the majority. For example, in discussions of Church Union and in all other social reforms, the deep spiritual movements, and while the patient and charity which Christ inspires is always necessary, His call to advance must be obeyed when it comes.

Strange But True

By F. M. MacArthur

Two hundred pounds of ice from Mendonhall glacier were shipped to New York City last year to chill the cocktails served at the annual banquet of the Explorers Club. The dense blue glacier ice is longer lasting than ordinary ice.

Looking for a big gold strike for the past fifty years—and not hanging from the days when hunting the rainbow's end and the pot of gold—was the experience of David Ryan and Ernest Corp. So of the society merely went through last December the pair threw the sponge and returned to civilization.

Corps, an Englishman, hiked the thousand miles of mountain and fear of the Great Spirit into the bad lands from Edmonton to Dawson in '98. Ryan, an Australian covered the same trail in the same manner. The pair met for the first time in 1907 and together prospecting the Yukon country for 43 years.

They sold their claims last year and boarded a Canadian Pacific Airliner for Vancouver, B.C. where they now live in peace, and no doubt often dream of the Big Strike they never made.

Soon after the bur seal pup is born he swims away and is not that seen again for two years. Then it comes back to the place of its birth every year during its life-time. Where they migrate to nobody has yet discovered, and strange but true, the bur seal changes his bluish-tinted land nowhere in the world except on the Pribilof Islands.

In Bethel, Alaska, you can see a movie for a fish. The theatre accepts fish and fur pelts in place of money.

Most of us can recall stories about the bison of the Western plains searching themselves against the telegraph poles, and knocking them down almost as

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ACADIA ALUMNI MEETING Tuesday evening, November 4, 8.30 in Charlottetown Baptist Hall. Speaker Dr. F. W. Patterson. All Acadia friends welcome.

fast as the company could put them up, and sometimes cutting off continental messages.

Now that the bison have gone the Canadian National Telegraph Company officials are scratching their heads trying to cope with an army of rabbits that are chewing their telephones to shreds along the Alaska Highway. May be something about the chemically treated posts that attracts the rabbit tribe. If so the problem is to offer the little beasts a different kind of diet in a less expensive form and at least be eliminated from the preservation of replacement poles. "It wouldn't take long," they point out, "for a pair of rabbits and their progeny to eat their way through the company's entire budget in telephones!"

There are 10 active volcanoes in the Aleutian Islands.

We read of curious customs and strange religious rites in far-away lands yet fail to realize that right here in Canada the Chilkoits and other Indian tribes of our Northland were so fierce that they were greatly feared by the early white settlers. "Growing Old Together." Then a sing-song followed, accompanied by Mrs. W. E. Stevenson at the piano. A three-tier birthday cake baked by Mrs. F. W. Cutcliffe and decorated with candles was then presented to Mrs. Bertram. The cake was cut by Mrs. Bertram and Mrs. Hyatt Haslam. A delicious lunch was served by the ladies and this very enjoyable evening brought to a close by singing "Blest Be The Tie That Binds."

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Long-Time W.M.S. Member Honoured On 75th Birthday

On Monday evening, October 27, Mrs. John Bertram was guest of honour at a surprise party held at the home of Mrs. N.A. Cutcliffe, Fredericton, the occasion being the celebration of her seventy-fifth birthday.

The party was arranged by the members of the Pleasant Valley Ladies Aid and Auxiliary of W.M.S., of which Mrs. Bertram has been a faithful member since coming to reside in Fredericton. She was also a former member when she resided in Pleasant Valley several years ago.

Mrs. Bertram joined the Auxiliary of the W.M.S. in Highfield sixty-three years ago and has been a continuous member since that time. This is a record of which few or possibly none on P. E. I. can equal.

When all the guests arrived Mrs. Leslie Weeks spoke briefly. Mrs. Harry Weeks read an address and Mrs. F.W. Cutcliffe presented Mrs. Bertram with a lovely vase. Mrs. Bertram thanked everyone in her usual friendly manner, then all joined in singing "For She's A Jolly Good Fellow."

Miss Amy Howatt then entertained everyone by rendering several piano solos. Mr. Leslie Weeks sang a very appropriate song to Mr. and Mrs. Bertram, "Growing Old Together." Then a sing-song followed, accompanied by Mrs. W. E. Stevenson at the piano. A three-tier birthday cake baked by Mrs. F. W. Cutcliffe and decorated with candles was then presented to Mrs. Bertram. The cake was cut by Mrs. Bertram and Mrs. Hyatt Haslam. A delicious lunch was served by the ladies and this very enjoyable evening brought to a close by singing "Blest Be The Tie That Binds."

IN MEMORIAM

MRS. MARGARET MacSWAIN

There passed peacefully away to her eternal rest, at St. Peter's Bay September 8th, 1952, after an illness of four months, Margaret MacSwain, in her 90th year, widow of the late Norman MacSwain, Mt. Hope.

Mrs. MacSwain will long be remembered by her family and friends. She lived an active and useful life of service and was noted for her warm hospitality, broad sympathy and love which expressed her truly religious character.

She is survived by three daughters, Hattie (Mrs. G. H. Perry) who came from her home in Alberta to visit her mother in August; Florence (Mrs. W. W. Anderson) of St. Peter's Bay, and Mary (Mrs. L. S. Cox), Morell, and two sons, Sterling and Sheldon on the homestead at Mt. Hope.

Left to mourn also are two sisters, Sarah Harriet and Mary Macdonald of Allston, Mass., and twenty grandchildren, five great grandchildren, whose lives were enriched by "Grandma's" unselfish devotion.

Her husband, one daughter, Margaret (Mrs. E. H. Anderson), a brother, Allan J., and a sister, Florence (Mrs. A. R. Marolin) predeceased her.

"Blessed be Thy name, Oh Lord, for the love of all these years, and blessed be Thy name that with tender loving kindness, Thou hast opened to her a world of broader love."

We have seen the chamber of falling strength, the fountain of the sweetest influences, and quietness and pain, having a singular privilege of access to the eternal and there is no feverish gloom in this last summons, only a glad deliverance, only the going down of the sun, sure to rise on the morrow.

"Saviour in Thy tender keeping we have left our mother sleeping."

GREAT PRINTER
William Caxton printed the first book in England in 1477.



PROJECT APPROVED—Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, (seated left) signs for Canada and A. O. Stanley for the United States as the International Joint Commission

approves an order authorizing the two countries to launch a \$450,000, 000 St. Lawrence river hydro project. The two are co-chairmen of the Commission, which met in

Montreal. Standing, left to right are: commissioners Eugene Webber, U. S.; George Spence, Canada; Robert B. McWhorter, U. S., and J. Lucien Dansereau, Canada. (CP Photo)

BULLETINS FROM BIRDLAND

By WINIFRED E. WILSON



WINTER HOUSES

It is not significant that birds which make open nests of grass, twigs, and so on are mostly ones that migrate, while those that bring up families in cavities are more likely to winter with us? Because of our severe winters, those that remain here sometimes like to retain the houses they had for nesting purposes early in the season. Hairy Woodpeckers continue to use the holes they excavated at breeding time, taking shelter there when the cold is intense. Occasionally they even gouge out new winter homes.

The English Sparrows, which are always permanent residents, and those of the Starlings that stay throughout the year try to find ledges, however narrow, on our buildings where they can make a few bits of dead grass or rubbish remain in place. There they sing, and during the worst weather, Ruffed Grouse dig tunnels in the snow and crouch in them during a storm. Although Chickadees occupy hollows in trees or posts during the nesting period, in winter they may seek out the old well-protected nests of Crows or Phoebe, or even a chink in some building. Our Flickers are a species of Woodpecker that migrates. Some of them, however, do not go far enough south to entirely escape cold weather. We are told that these, to avoid the frost, frequently hole the holes in vacant cottages in the northern states and take refuge there. Others have been known to seek shelter in church steeples.

Screech Owls, themselves no good at house building, are always entirely dependent on holes left vacant by competent workmen, or cavities they are able to find in old, decayed trees. Woodpeckers are wonderful carpenters, and turn out exactly what Owls need. So the Screech Owls, which spend the entire year where they are born, often bring up their families in wooden structures chiseled out by Woodpeckers, and afterwards keep them as living quarters. They are not averse also to taking possession of a cranny in one of our buildings from October until early spring. There in winter they rest in daytime and come out at dusk to forage.

For several years, now, this habit of roosting in a shelter by day has been found useful to the bird watcher. In a section of Ontario bounded by London, Toronto, Oshawa, and Chalk River barrels have been fastened to trees in localities known to be favoured by Screech Owls. These birds have taken a fancy to the man-made shelters. All Owls swallow their prey whole, and afterwards discharge in the form of pellets, the remains that cannot be digested.

IN MEMORIAM

MRS. HARRY C. STUBBS

The death of Mrs. Harry C. Stubbs, formerly Marjorie White, of North River, occurred at Arlington, Mass., on October 27th. Mrs. Stubbs was, some years ago, well known in Charlottetown, where she was a member of the staff of the Royal Bank of Canada.

Mourners are her husband, Mr. Harry C. Stubbs of Arlington; a daughter, Mrs. William C. Allen, of Arlington; a son, Captain Harry C. Stubbs of the U. S. Air Force, at present stationed in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and four sisters, Mrs. Samuel Stewart of Brookline; Mrs. Melvin McLeod of New Glasgow, P.E.I.; and Mrs. Fred McLaughlin and Mrs. Wesley Bell of North River.

The funeral was held from Christ Episcopal Church in Cambridge. Services at the church and at Mt. Auburn Cemetery were conducted by the Rector of Christ Church, the Rev. Gardiner M. Day.

STANHOPE SCHOOL

The following is the honour roll in examinations held during the month of September at Stanhope School:

- Grade X—1. Harry Kiely; 2. Edith Misener.
- Grade VIII—1. Lois MacCallum; Grade VII—1. Hilda Chappell; 2. Barbara MacMillan; 3. Laura Misener.
- Grade V—1. Gladys Chappell; 2. Linus Misener.
- Grade IV—1. Audrey Douglas; 2. Archie Chappell.
- Grade III—1. Doris Chappell; 2. Ronnie Johnston.
- Grade II—1. Irene Ellis.

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Role Of Museums In Education

Miss Frances E. Johnston, recently returned from the International Seminar, "The Role of Museums in Education", sponsored by the United Nations Educational, scientific and cultural organization, will tell about the Seminar at an open meeting in the Art Centre, 2nd floor of the Market Building on Wednesday, November 5th at 8:15 p.m. Everyone interested will be welcome.

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The Neighbors By George Clark

"We could strike for a bigger allowance, but we haven't anything to stop doing."