

Religion and Life

By Very Rev. George C. Pidgeon, D.D., L.L.D.
First Moderator of the United Church of Canada
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A writer of our own time has called St. Luke's account of the birth of Jesus "the world's greatest classic." It has a place in the hearts of all men peculiarly its own. Back of our children's enjoyment of their gifts is this precious story of the babe in Bethlehem who came to give new life to men.

The modern Christmas classic is The Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. We have taken its keynote for our title: "God bless us every one." Dickens illustrates this prayer by contrast and comparison. The genius of the novelist embodies great principles in characters and so lets us see those principles in action on fields with which we are familiar. Here Dickens depicts a number of fascinating persons possessed with the Christmas spirit and planning to express it in deeds of love. Best of all he lets us look at them through Scrooge's eyes. Scrooge is a miser, hard and heartless, grudging the faces of the poor. Steel can strike fire from flint, but not can spark of warmth or brightness can circumstances strike from that stony heart. No sharper contrast can be imagined than that between Scrooge and Bob Cratchit, the helper whom he kept under his heel, and the father of Tiny Tim in whom the spirit of Christmas reigned supreme. Tiny Tim has his own place in the world's heart because of the love that surrounds him and the sweetness of his response.

Changes Stony Hearts

The goodwill of the Christmas-tide can change even the heart of Scrooge, one of the best examples in fiction of the truth of God's promise: "I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and give you an heart of flesh." The spirit of Christmas takes hold of Scrooge and compels him to live over the scenes of his own past, in which the spirit of Christmas brought gladness to all, and the reflection of the Christmas spirit dried up the springs of gladness even in his own soul. Then Scrooge is shown scene after scene portraying the certain outcome of the course he is pursuing until he sees himself as he is and yields to the spirit of Christmas. Then

Scrooge becomes Tiny Tim's ambassador and pledges his heart and fortune to bring goodwill into every circle he can enter.

The spirit which finds expression in this story has its origin in the scenes described in the first two chapters of Luke's Gospel. Here, too, the characters give life to the story. They are a group of the pious in Israel who are earnestly awaiting the fulfillment of God's promises to His people and devoting themselves to preparation for the Messiah's coming. Zechariah, the priest and father of John the Baptist, is the doubter of the occasion. To him the good news seems too good to be true, especially the angel's promise that his family should have a part in God's new move for the redemption of humanity. Mary is a personality of irresistible charm. She had found favor in the sight of God. She was uniquely fitted by her own virtue and faith for the honor conferred upon her. She had entered into the very spirit of Israel's expectation. Her hymn, the Magnificat, has held its place through the centuries as the church's noblest song of praise. It shows her mind to have been stored with the psalms and prophecies of her race, and also that she had an inspiration of her own which foretold the future. It is a question that is much debated.

Some serious political thinkers say it is being much overdone and one day it will be found to have robbed the individual of many qualities, such as initiative, resourcefulness, independence, which have always been understood as helpful in the building of character. Be that as it may, and future historians will have to be the judges, the trend today is for more and more of it. So much so that we have the spectacle of a British Conservative Government being plainly unable, or unwilling, perhaps a little of both, to undo much of what their socialist predecessors had done in the way of tightening government control over almost everything they could lay their hands on.

This is, undoubtedly, the one big political and social phenomenon, democratically speaking, of the 20th century and no one can say now just what the ultimate outcome will be. We can only hope for the best. It is obvious nonsense, therefore, for anyone in our day to say he has no interest in politics. He could not escape it if he would for it is all around him.

Even the Church (I use the word as including all the churches) is today accepting the fact of political involvement in an over-all sense and not, of course, in a partisan sense. Wisely, too, as well as necessarily, for, since the hand of government is everywhere from the cradle to the vault, the Church may as well do what it can to have that hand influenced by the benevolent, refining discipline of religion.

Unselfish Soul

No picture given of Joseph in Luke. The glimpses given of Joseph's heart in Matthew 1:18-25 reveal one of the most unselfish souls in history. The shadow of what seemed an appalling calamity brought out of no one trace of meanness or self-consideration: in a sore trial he is found both just and gracious, strong and tender; and when the light of heaven dispelled his fears and revealed a priceless privilege instead, he proves worthy of the most precious trust ever committed to a man. As we have noted before, Joseph must have been a wonderful father in the everyday life of the home in Nazareth when fatherhood leaped to Jesus' mind whenever He thought of God.

The outburst of song recorded in these chapters is the richest contribution ever made to the church's praise. We need only to name the Magnificat, the Nunc Dimittis and the Gloria in Excelsis to realize their value. These hymns have never been surpassed or superseded; they have been the avenues of the church's praise through the centuries. The incidents recorded in these chapters have always been an inspiration to art. All the wonderful pictures of the Annunciation, of the Madonna and Child, and of the angels and the shepherds and of the presentation in the temple find their sources here. These stories and songs reveal a strain in Judaism which does not appear elsewhere in the New Testament and without it our religion would be immeasurably the poorer.

Jesus' Humble Birth

Jesus began His life on earth in humblest circumstances. This was not due to the poverty of His family, for the carpenter of those days was a man of standing in any community; it was due to the taxation decree which required that long journey to Bethlehem at a time when so many had to register there. It is probable that the stable in which He was born was a cave; if so, He began where the human race began with only the rocks for a roof and with the animals around them. He who chose to serve the poor, and who valued man simply as man had from the beginning no place to lay His head. He shared the lot of the lowliest.

His birth was nevertheless significant to earth and heaven. The angels greeted it with resounding praise, to them it meant "glory to God in the highest." To man it brought a promise of peace, and peace founded on goodwill. Never in the world's history was this message as deeply needed as it is in this Twentieth century. Subplots and hatred are driving the nations farther apart than ever. Treaties are less than "scraps of paper" as long as hatred burns in man toward man. From every side comes the appeal to the Church of Christ and every member in it to intervene and devote their powers to the cultivation of goodwill and peace. The urgency of the call is intense. Charles Dickens describes how this spirit of Christmas can change and glorify the intimate relationships of the home and family circle. Here every one of us can begin. The Christmas spirit appears first in the heart of the individual and then in his intimate relationships. From here it spreads outward. Cultivate it wherever man meets man, for on the field of the world nothing but this Christmas message and the Christian word of love behind it can heal the wounds of mankind. The prayer, "God bless us every one" can have an application as wide as humanity.

The Passing Scene

By Observer

It is a fact that the sphere of politics is held in derision in many respectable quarters today. One wonders why. The root word from which our modern word is derived had to do with citizenship and certainly there is nothing to be despised about that. We are all interested in anything that pertains to good citizenship and that is the fundamental function and purpose of politics. It is not only the so-called professional politician who is "in politics." For better or worse, for a good influence in matters of citizenship or for a bad one, we are all in it, for scarcely anything that happens in day-to-day living but is in some way or other tied up with some sort of political principle.

Moreover, no one among us can say he has no concern with politics in the sense the word is commonly used, the science and art of government, for there was perhaps never a time when government was so closely intimate with the affairs of the individual. At every turn today we are involved in the "government-citizen" relationship. Whether or not the concept of comprehensive government control that has developed in the last two or three decades will be a good thing, ultimately for the well being of society is a question that is much debated.

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Local Politics

One suspects that, when people talk indifferently about politics or disparagingly about politicians, they are thinking not so much about either the science or art of government as about some political pattern which seems to affect them where they are, in their own community. This is natural enough for it is, of course, here where most of us must exercise political pressure for good, if we are to exercise any at all.

It is right and proper that every citizen in a community, however small, should know something of the relationship between government and his home town or village, and be free to criticize that relationship whenever he may deem it to be necessary. This, in essence, is probably the foundation stone of the democratic structure, and it is a precious heritage. Taken for granted now, it was won by our forebears at considerable cost. It should never in any circumstances be tampered with. Always it should be encouraged by every available means.

Sometimes Abused

Sometimes, like all other good things, this privilege is abused, runs wild, and emerges into indiscriminate condemnation of anything and everything that executive government may do. This is dangerous to the cause of free and representative government and all legitimate means should be taken to deal with it.

It can easily be noticed that in this respect, as well as in other instances where unreasonable and negative criticism takes over the place that properly belongs to calm, dispassionate appraisal, the trouble can usually be traced to lack of knowledge and misinformation.

There is no critic so bitter as the one who is misinformed.

So far as our provincial affairs are concerned, there seems to be a lamentable lack of understanding between the electorate and the legislators. For a few weeks preceding an election political candidates are idolized or anathematized, as the case may be. Demands are made; promises, often rash, are given. Candidates talk a lot. Sometimes they say something. Sometimes they don't. Apropos of this, I pass along a story as it was told to me:

In a King's County constituency, during the last election two farmers sat together while the candidate talked for all he was worth. One of the men was very hard of hearing and could not catch the drift of the candidate's discourse. "What's the man talking about?" he inquired of his neighbour. "I don't know!" was the answer, "he hasn't said yet!"

While matters affecting the Province as a whole are sometimes discussed, the main emphasis is on purely local issues. This is not altogether unfortunate.

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THE CENTRAL GUARDIAN

This column is reserved for news of local interest, but advertising of a new nature may be inserted at five cents a word, strictly payable in advance.

NEW REVISED hockey schedules at Jack Cameron's.

JIMMY'S TAXI—Phone 525.

COOK'S STUDIO for perfect pictures.

CRASWELL for Better Photographs.

KENWOOD, Canada's National Overcoat at Jack Cameron's.

HOWARD MACINNIS FOOTWEAR at 175 Queen Street.

EVENING GOWNS AND EVENING SKIRTS arrived at The Fashion Shoppe.

KROY WOOL hose for men, the ideal Christmas gift at Jack Cameron's.

DIES IN U.S.—Word has been received of the death of Dr. John E. Gillis, formerly of Darlington, P. E. I., on December 15th in Somerville, Mass. The late Dr. Gillis was in his seventy-third year, and is survived by his widow, the former Margaret MacLeod of Darlington. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Gillis of P.E.I. Funeral was held on December 18th, and burial was in the Puritan Lawn Memorial Park, Peabody, Mass.

AT ROTARY — "The Voice of a Passer-by", the beautiful story related in Browning's "Pippa Passes," was the subject of an eloquent address at the Charlottetown Rotary Club on Monday by Rev. Canon E. M. Malone. Two of Charlottetown's most distinguished musicians, Mr. and Mrs. Royal Raymond, entertained the club with a superb rendition of "The Holy City" and "Cantique de Noel". Rotarians P. W. Turner and R. H. Rogers were chairmen. The following guests were present: Rotarian Douglas Bustin, Port Arthur; Messrs. R. A. Parker, A. Allistair MacLeod, T. D. DeBlois, George Wood, George Reynolds, W. E. Cotton, Charles G. Rogers, Arthur Avarid, and Cadet Walter Conrad.

Personals

The many friends of Mr. Robert Stevenson, North Winsloe, are sorry to hear of his illness.

Mrs. E. C. LePage, Charlottetown, left on Saturday morning to spend Christmas with her sister, Mrs. Leslie Andrews and Mr. Andrews in Concord, N.H.

Mr. W. Chester S. McLure, M.P., who spent the week-end at home with Mrs. McLure and his daughter, Miss Lena McLure, leaves on return to Ottawa today.

Mr. and Mrs. Newman McLellan and daughter Dorothy left on Friday to spend Christmas in Oshawa, Ont., also visiting friends and relatives in Toronto.

QUEEN SQUARE SCHOOL

- Honor Roll for the month of December.
- Grade X.—1. Pat McWade; 2. Eugene Wynne; 3. Bernard Connolly.
- Grade IX.—1. Gerard Cheverie; 2. James McQuarrie; 3. Pat Landrigan.
- Grade VIII.—(Mr. Callaghan)—1. Garnet Steele; 2. Pat Connolly; 3. Merrill Rush.
- Grade VIII.—(Mr. MacDonald)—1. Parker Lund; 2. James Lee; 3. Ian P. MacDonald.
- Grade VII.—(Mr. Bradley)—1. Vernon MacDonald; 2. Billy Gillis; 3. George Trainor.
- Grade VII.—(Mr. McGuigan)—1. Kimball Blanchard; 2. George MacDonald; 3. Stanley Doucette.
- Grade VI.—(Miss Francis)—1. Charlie Smith; 2. Noel McCormac; 3. Donnie McCormac.
- Grade VI.—(Miss Welsh)—1. Allan Murphy; 2. Gerard Wynne; 3. Michael Hughes.
- Grade V.—(Miss Clarkin)—1. Harry Callaghan; 2. Jeff Cantwell; 3. John Leightizer.
- Grade V.—(Miss Butler)—1. Winston Cheverie; 2. George Pineau; 3. George Dolron.
- Grade IV.—(Miss Macdonald)—1. Colin MacMillan; 2. Stanley Que; 3. Billy Blanchard.
- Grade IV.—(Miss Heslian)—1. Frank Callaghan and Dermot Handregan; 2. Blair McCabe; 3. Paul Egan.
- Grade III.—(Miss Doyle)—1. Bobby O'Rourke; 2. Michael Callaghan, David Lawlor, Jimmie McLean, Paul McGonnell.
- Grade III.—(Miss MacDonald)—1. Francis MacDonald; 2. Barry Bevan; 3. Phillip Livingstone and George Monaghan.
- Grade II.—(Miss Walsh)—1. Sherry Wildish; 2. Bernard Murphy; 3. David Coburn.
- Grade II.—(Miss Vessey)—1. Harvie Dennis; 2. Dennis Boudreau; 3. Richard Chinery and Dennis Richard.
- Grade I.—No exams.

PHILLIPS
MILK OF MAGNESIA
LAXATIVE
SO GENTLE FOR CHILDREN
SO THOROUGH FOR GROWN-UPS

CORNWALL-YORK POINT W.I.

The Cornwall-York Point W. I. met on December 3rd at the home of Mrs. Cleve Roberts. The meeting opened with the "Institute Ode" followed by repeating the "Creed" in unison.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Roll call was answered by twenty members and communications were read and discussed.

The secretary was asked to write the Public Utilities Commission regarding increase in electricity flat rates for community buildings.

School and sick committees then gave their reports, and a discussion was held on reopening the hall. Mrs. Fulton Sanderson was asked to see about talent for same.

Mrs. Waldron Lowther kindly invited members for the January meeting, with roll call to be answered with a New Year's resolution. Each member was asked to take some article of food for the adopted Institute in England.

Mrs. Hazen Howard reported that the sewing club was to begin in January. Collection was taken and amounted to \$1.48. Four new subscriptions for Institute News were accepted.

It was then moved by Mrs. Hazen Howard, seconded by Mrs. Wendell Dockendorff, that \$5, usually given for charity treats at Christmas, be used locally this year. The sick and shut-ins to be remembered also.

A successful auction sale then took place, conducted by Mrs. Reginald MacEwen, and amounting to \$8.20.

Meeting closed with the National Anthem and a delicious lunch was served by the York Point ladies and a social hour spent.

Perfection ICE CREAM

FOR Yuletide entertaining or a delicious home treat there's nothing so nice as Perfection Neesle Rode or Fruit Roll—two wonderful new flavors. Your dealer has them.

CLASSES RESUME

UNION COMMERCIAL COLLEGE

Royal Bank Bldg.
on
MONDAY, JANUARY 7
New students accepted.
NIGHT CLASSES ALSO RESUME on January 7, at 7 P.M.



EARLY BIRDS CATCH THE BEST

Clever new versions of "dress-up" cottons in Piccolay prints, plaids and dark plain brocade cloths. . . These will go places and stay at home! Sizes 12 to 20.

8.95

The darling of the Southland—the "Sweater Dress" made of soft as silk cotton cross barred with satin AND with a neat little knit wool holer in the self same colors. . . Sizes 12 to 20.

12.95

The gal who always has the smartest summer wardrobe, confesses that she picks her cottons early, early in the season. Here are our Earliest Cottons—certain to delight the choosiest! They're the brand new styles, the tried-and-true successes at the smartest winter resorts. Come and be among the Early Birds! Catch these lovely Cotton Dresses right up!

LADIES' WEAR **HOLMAN'S** LITTLE SHOP
Summerside Charlottetown

IN MEMORIAM

In fond and loving memory of Mrs. George P. Clapp, who passed away at Bay Fortune, December 26th, 1950.
Fondly Remembered by Husband, Daughter Ruth and Ladies Aid Society.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of Mrs. George MacLennan, who passed away on December 23rd, 1950.
One year has passed since that sad day.
When one we loved was called away.
God took her home, it was his will.
Within our hearts she liveth still.
Ever Remembered by Husband and Family.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of my dear Father, Mr. Charles E. Paul, who departed this life on December 26th, 1950.
He is not dead, he has only gone before us.
His life to us, will always be a guide.
To live and love, and make life's pathway brighter.
Until we too, shall cross the Jordan tide.
Ever Remembered by Daughter Mildred.

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of George Harris Inman, who passed away December 24th, 1948.
Friends may think we have forgotten.
When at times they see us smile.
But they little know the heartache.
Our smile hides all the while.

IN MEMORIAM

If all the world was ours to give
We'd give it, yes and more
To see the face of one we loved,
Come smiling through the door.
Ever Remembered and Sadly Missed by Wife, Daughters and Son.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of JOHN GORDON EVANS who passed away December 26th, 1950.
Ever Remembered by Wife and Daughters.

MORSE'S
Selected ORANGE PEKOE TEA