

A CRISIS AND A CALL.

No one can have followed the course of Sunday history since the war began without feeling that the times are fateful for our weekly rest day.

Military Activities, many of them unnecessary, have tended to dull our sense of the fitness of things with respect to Lord's Day quiet and conduct.

Manufacture of munitions and kindred supplies for the army has accustomed us to the whirr of machinery and the activity of labor in the place of historic Sabbath stillness.

Transportation, pleading justification by the burden of an unprecedented harvest, the scarcity of labor, limited ocean tonnage and general military necessity has trespassed far upon the day. To dislodge it later will be a herculean task.

The newspaper, boldly entered our day in the first weeks of the war; as a Sunday publication it failed to maintain its early foothold. Nevertheless the sale of newspapers is pushed on Sunday in our border towns, at railway stations, and other places.

The business of amusement, boldest and most shameless of all, disdainful of high plea of patriotism and philanthropy, has most vigorously assailed by excursion, concert, fair, etc., the integrity and sanctity of the Lord's Day, and has strengthened itself in aggression by influential patronage.

These constitute the Crisis.

It is a time of peril to the Individual, the Home, the Church, the Nation.

The Call to all and it summons us to clear discernment, wise speech, strong persuasion, higher example.

Particularly now is the call imperative for the support of the Alliance in its great defensive measures.

A Canadian Minister now in the United States said, "Were I to come back to Canada, such has been my observation of Sabbath desecration that I would support the Alliance as never before."

If we fight, we must have the sinews of war. With the end of our year in sight we appeal to our friends. We require \$11,000 by November 30th. Our means, too, should be made more adequate in keeping with the growing demand.

Will you contribute generously this year, and will you persuade your friends to do likewise?

Please do it now.

Address the Treasurer,

DR. C. J. COPP,
633 Confederation Life Bldg.,
Toronto, Ontario.

"History, and especially Scottish history, has shown that the Lord's Day, in its rest from work and in its opportunity for worship, has proved an estimable boon to mankind. It has maintained righteousness and morality and safeguarded and promoted true religion."—The Lord's Day Advocate.

When I started in the Christian life the devil tried to shame me. Later on he tried to scare me, and still later he wanted to talk the matter over with me, but I told him I wanted nothing more to do with him.

A. W. McCALLUM.

TOTAL PROHIBITION IN FRANCE.

The French Premier asked the chamber of deputies to grant the government permission to solve by degrees "all questions of interest in regard to the national defense which the laws are too slow to regulate." He said, "A particular grave question which can be regulated only in wartime, the solution of which involves the life of the country and its salvation, is the total suppression of the consumption of alcohol." The use of alcoholic beverages is to be prohibited throughout the entire country, including the army. If alcohol is a menace to the life of a nation in times of war it is equally a menace in times of peace.

STARTLING INFORMATION.

Of the 2,543 counties in the United States, 2,047 were dry before the election, November 7, when 491 more counties were added, leaving only 355 wet counties in the entire nation.

The dry states are Maine, Kansas, North Dakota, Georgia, Oklahoma, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Idaho, South Carolina, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska and South Dakota. In addition Florida, Wyoming and Utah elected legislatures and governors pledged to immediate statutory prohibition. These states will be in the dry column soon. With a majority of the states dry, why delay submission of the federal amendment?—Western Christian Advocate.

ONLY A WORD.

Only a word of anger,

But it wounded a sensitive heart;

Only a word of sharp reproof,

But it made the teardrops start;

Only a hasty, thoughtless word,

Sarcastic and unkind,

But it darkened the day before so bright,

And it left a sting behind.

Only a word of kindness,

But it lightened one heart of its grief;

Only a word of sympathy,

But it brought one soul relief;

Only a word of gentle cheer,

But it flooded with radiant light

The pathway that seemed so dark before

And it made the day more bright.

Only a word of evil,

Unheeded perhaps by some,

But hereafter that word brought forth its fruit.

For it caught the ears of one.

Only a word of purity,

Noble and good and true,

But it sank to the depths of many a soul,

And for good, zeal sprang anew.

Only a word for Jesus,

A word of His wondrous love,

A word of His pardon and mercy,

That pointed the soul above;

Only a word, but God's angels

Greatly rejoiced that day;

For by only a word the Shepherd found

The sheep that had gone astray.

—New Zealand Outlook.

THOUGHTS ON CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY.

By S. C. Brooks.

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not." This promise is especially given to those who call upon the Lord out of a pure heart, and are earnestly contending for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints.

Let us notice, by the light of God's word, what will be the effect produced in the Church, if, as individuals, we sustain that relation to the Saviour as is made our privilege by a sacrifice perfect and complete. God hath called us unto holiness; and, by being in possession of this, we are placed alone as the recipients of the abundant fullness of the power, and as willing subjects to receive and obey the commands of God. As Moses pleaded and agonized with him upon the mount until the will of God was revealed, so is it our privilege and duty, as children of the Father, to test the promises and hold sweet communion with Him who hath said, "I will answer thee." If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with the other, &c. We fear there are comparatively few who are determined to know only Jesus and him crucified; who refuse all engagements where Christ is not honored, and forsake societies in which the Spirit of the Holy One will not enter. "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, touch not the unclean thing," is the positive injunction. All must be abandoned that does not receive the fellowship of God, and where the blessed Holy Ghost will not rest with sweet complacency.

Let the work which God hath assigned us be our chief delight and employment. Daily let the consecration be complete, and the soul find new joys while pleading alone in prayer. "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Unto such, God will be manifest, his will revealed, and power given to accomplish the command; and if God is willing to make his power known in vessels of weakness, and through them put to naught the wisdom of this world, let such an honor destroy self-righteousness, and bring us meekly at the feet of Him to whom praise, honor and glory alone is due.

If our own nature is thus subdued, and brought into close union with the divine nature, "a little one shall become a thousand, a small one a strong nation; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." "Go work today in my vineyard" is the command given to all. Each has a talent which must be employed for the Master. "To him that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance;" but, if not employed, from him shall be taken, and given to the faithful steward. Dear reader, be vigilant and untiring in your efforts. Soon will an account of your stewardship be required; and, though your zeal may have produced but little good, remember God will not reward for your usefulness, nor the good you have done, but for the determined effort to save souls, and build up the Church of Christ. "He that soweth and he that reapeth shall rejoice together."—Guide to Holiness, 1867.