

THANKSGIVING

(Continued from last issue)

II.

We are not thankful that sin yields its power among men. But we are thankful for a Saviour Who "hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities." His love is strong enough to forgive sin; His blood is sufficient to cleanse from its pollution; His power is sufficient to make us conquerors of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

We are not thankful for sickness or poverty, but we are thankful for grace to acquiesce in them if this is His will for us, and for the opportunity to prove to the confusion of hell and the delight of heaven that no "tribulation, or distress . . . or famine, or nakedness . . . shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

We are not thankful for the illiteracy of so large a portion of the human race, but we are abundantly thankful that it need be no barrier to the kingdom of God.

We are not thankful for crime. But we are thankful for the Christ who can and will redeem the criminal, and for the love that will lift him to the level of a saint.

We are not thankful for the wars of the nations with their hate and revenge, their cruelties and destruction, but we are thankful for the Prince of Peace Who, when all the world thought he was beaten and must capitulate, won out, once and for all against the prince of this world to his eternal undoing. What a victory was that. And how great is the grace which extends the day of visitation for the people of the earth and continues the mission of the Holy Spirit, the Ambassador of heaven, to convince the world that "the prince of this world is judged" and to woo men to the heart of God the Father. That glorious victory is the pledge that in this bloody battle against evil, righteousness, and truth, and justice will eventually triumph! Praise God!!

We are not thankful that the United Nations are engaged in the most perilous and destructive war the world has ever seen. But we may thank God that through these awful afflictions our people may find their way through disaster and humiliation to that genuine repentance which seems possible to nations only after they have explored wrong to its bitter end. And we may well thank God, further, for the sense of divine destiny, the conviction that we are called of God (though all unworthy) to strive and suffer in the sacred cause of Christian civilization.

We are not thankful for the defeats or failures which have attended the efforts of the Church, or for the coldness and indifference of millions of her members. But we are thankful for churches and movements which, though human and therefore imperfect, still retain the ideal of New Testament Christianity and are striving by night and by day to bring Christ to the hearts and homes of men.

And we do thank God for that vast army of redeemed souls, in every nation where the gospel of Jesus has been preached for a witness, who at the cost of love and friends, money and honour, and even life itself, are witnessing a good confession,—in many cases and in many nations "resisting unto blood, striving against sin." Their names are written plainly in the Lamb's Book of Life and, in steady procession, they are ascending the rugged heights to the New Jerusalem, hav-

ing overcome "by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony."

III.

To write thus, one needs not to wear any rose-coloured spectacles of blind optimism. We simply apply that principle which sees in every dispensation, however dark, the hand of Redeeming and Conquering Love, the power of the bleeding Lamb. It is the principle which "in everything" gives thanks! Without it the soul must shrivel and die! Without a thankful spirit one can never be rich though he possess all, for he is not the master of his possessions. Without the spirit of faith and thanksgiving the heart is cold and perverse. Devoid of thankfulness the mind is dead to all the higher obligations of life. "Thanks-giving" will issue in "thanks-living." No life is so drab, no heart so dull as that which lives in a small world where self is both the center and the circumference. Poor soul—such an one is an object of pity rather than of scorn!

Now, there are dark days in store for all of us. Over the brook lies our Gethsemane. Beyond that stands the Judgment Hall with its misunderstanding and treachery, its betrayal and brutality. Out yonder, Golgotha raises its significantly skull-like brow, and up that dreadful height a rough-hewn cross must be borne. Yes, the redemption of the world demands a death amidst the sickening scene of a taunting multitude for whom we have wept and prayed, sought and served. The complaining soul sickens and faints at the thought of it all. But the thankful heart sees the possibilities of grace where dulness and sloth see only the passion of the godless.

In other words, thanksgiving is an expression and an interpretation of faith. It acknowledges God. It glorifies Christ. It exalts the work of the Spirit within. It transfigures life. It transcends time. It transforms death. It transmits blessing. It transmutes sorrow into other and higher values. It is the only normal life for the Christian. "For all things are yours; whether . . . the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come, all are yours and ye are Christ's, and Christ is God's. (I. Cor. 3:21-23). Only unbelief can break continual thanksgiving in the heart of the child of God.

SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT YOU

How it would help in the work of the day,
As we pass by, on the busy highway;
To have someone say, without much ado,
You know, "I've heard something good about you."
When you've bestowed comfort to those in pain,
Or cheered one who's lost, to take heart again;
It helps when you're weary to hear someone say,—
"I heard something good about you, today."
When you've suffered the undeserved kick,
And harsh words around you fall fast and thick;
A friend comes and says when you're sure feeling blue,
"You know, "I've heard something good about you."
And when I have covered the last rugged mile,
I know there is someone who will give me the smile,
And say from a heart so kindly and true,
Come in, "I know something good about you."

—William Barnes Lower

Temperance Column

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 1:20.

WHAT THEY SAID BEFORE REPEAL

"The saloon will never come back."
"All we want is light wines and beer."
"We must have repeal to stop the young people from drinking."
"This terrible crime wave! Wipe out prohibition and we will stop it."
"The revenues from the sale of beer alone will enable us to decrease taxes."

INSURANCE LOST BY DRINK

More than \$200,000,000 worth of life insurance is lost each year to widows and orphans in the United States on account of drinking habits. The statement is based on data submitted by companies that wrote more than 80 per cent of all life insurance in force in 1938. Out of 5,600,000 applications for policies, 20 per cent were rejected or rated, because of evidence regarding drinking habits. —American Business Men's Research Foundation, Chicago.

DRINKING WOMEN ARRESTED

The F. B. I. says that fingerprint records show that the number of women arrested for drunkenness increased 35.4 per cent, and for driving while intoxicated 38.3 per cent in the first half of 1941 as compared with the first half of 1940. The number of men arrested for drunkenness increased 33.35 per cent, and for driving while intoxicated 21.1 per cent in the same period.—Second Quarterly Bulletin, 1941.

THE RECORD OF BEVERAGE ALCOHOL

- Recognized as a poison by all leading scientists.
- Increases death rate by 80 per cent over normal, and shortens life expectation of average man by eight years.
- Responsible for 22 per cent of admissions to hospitals for the insane.
- Involved in 40 per cent of cases of social diseases.
- Involved in 60 per cent of all highway accidents.
- Responsible for 37 per cent of pauperism, 45.8 per cent child destitution, leading to juvenile delinquency.
- Responsible for 90 per cent of cases of cruelty to children.
- Diverts 3,018,000,000 pounds grain from food supply.
- Hoards sufficient sugar for five years' distilling.
- Employs 750,000 potential soldiers and defense workers.—Christian Advocate.

The United States Chamber of Commerce and the American Association of School Administrators announce a campaign to encourage the religious and moral training of youth as part of a five-point program designed to aid in solving the current educational problems. They feel that "there has been too little appreciation that an intelligent belief in God is the greatest obstacle that dictatorship has to overcome."—Selected.

Singing can be religious, but warbling—it speaks for itself.

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