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ISLINGTON LODGE, SONS OF ENGLAND CHURCH PARADE

Members of Order Attended Divine Service at Christ
church Cathedral--Impressive Sermon Preached
by Rev. Edmund Hailstone, Chaplain of Order

The members of Islington Lodge, Sons of England, attended divine service yesterday afternoon at Christchurch Cathedral, where the chaplain of the lodge, Rev. Edmund Hailstone, B.A., curate of the Cathedral, preached a forceful and appropriate sermon in which particular reference was made to the problems confronting those engaged in the making of the Canadian nation and the duty devolving as consequences upon those of British ancestry. Materialism and a falling away from religion were noted as two of the gravest tendencies of the day.

Headed by the band of the 1st York Regt., the Sons of England marched to the Cathedral from their rooms at Church Hall, via Carleton, Queen and Church streets. The return march was via Church, George, Westmorland, Queen and Carleton streets. Before dispersing the members of the Society, led by the band, sang the National Anthem. The members of the lodge made an excellent showing in the parade, but marching on the back streets was made very difficult by the deep mud.

THE SERMON.

The text of Rev. Mr. Hailstone was as follows:

Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14: "Let the hear the conclusion of the whole matter; fear God and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man."

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil."

The sermon was as follows: There is something very solemn to the preacher in the thought of being called upon to preach an annual sermon before a society such as ours.

As your chaplain with this duty before me, the thought which found the uppermost place in my mind while preparing my address to you was this—that the annual sermon should mark a distinct turning point in the policy of life adopted by the members of the Sons of England Society—that it should inspire a new purpose into the life of every man in the proud position of being able to say that he is a Son of England, in good standing with our Society.

APPROPRIATE FOR TODAY.

As you will notice, I have chosen my text from a somewhat obscure and I fear, little read book of Holy Scripture—the book of Ecclesiastes—a book of which perhaps the divine light of inspiration does not shine so clearly as in such great prophetic works as those of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, nor yet with the brilliancy of the glorious revelation given to us in the records of the New Testament writers. But I did so of a very set purpose, because I feel that the book of Ecclesiastes, like the Bible as a whole, is indeed a book for all time and is never more appropriate than to the needs of today, when not only articles of faith but even standards of morality are being swept aside by the forces of agnosticism, materialism and worldliness. Indeed, the agnostic position—that vogue of declaring that man cannot tell if there be any God who controls the destinies of this world and therefore, his highest good is to act as if the world was his all, and that there was no "hereafter" to reckon in his "here"—that position, along with the intense disappointment inseparable from all life apart from God brought by it, is fairly summed up by the author in the well-known words, "Vanity of vanities—all is vanity saith the preacher."

PHILOSOPHER CAST ON EVIL DAYS.

This book, though little read by the ordinary Christian, has received much attention from scholars and has gathered round it quite an immense literature dealing with the question of who the author was and what his date. We may leave quite aside these questions and confine ourselves to a consideration of the book itself. From what point of view does the author write and what sort of a man was he?

Some have judged the book as the work of a Stoic, others as that of Epicurean. Some conceive it to be the doubting thoughts of the Sceptic, others view it as the nonchalant dictums of a fatalist or the sorrowing reflections of the pessimist. What shall we say? Surely that all such views are quite irreconcilable with those words in the last chapter which forms our text—that man's most perfect fulfilment of life consists in fearing God and being obedient to his commandments.

I think rather it is the writing of an enquiring mind—a philosopher cast in evil days, in a world with many points of similarity to our

own age—around him is oppression and injustice, the rich amassing wealth by crushing those who labor for them and the servants in turn attempting to raise themselves above that station in life to which they are called.

SIMILAR TO PRESENT TIME

One by one he explores each walk and manner of life 'under the sun'—and to each appends the judgment that all is vanity—emptiness—worthlessness.

"There is a grievous evil which I have seen under the sun namely 'riches kept by the owner thereof to his hurt and those riches perish by evil adventure' (Chap 5, 13, 14).

Again "I have seen under the sun folly set in great dignity and the rich set in low place. I have seen servants upon horses and princes walking as servants upon the earth." (10, 7)

The problems of his day were, after all, not so very unlike those of today when the world boasts of its multi-millionaires and at the same time labourers are throwing into disorganization a great country by strikes for more wages and higher positions.

ONE FINAL CONCLUSION

What are the conclusions which he draws from these anomalies of the world, these enigmas of life and irregularities of conduct which puzzle us so much.

His book presents as possible two strikingly contrasting solutions of the problems of life—one with which the book opens "Vanity of vanities; all is vanity"—that life is seemingly meaningless and has no ultimate purpose in it.—the other solution, expressed just as forcibly at the conclusion of the book.

"Fear God and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man" and the author does not leave us in doubt as to which solution he conceives to be the true one for he introduces the latter with the words: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments."

He has examined every manner of conduct 'under the sun'—a remarkable phrase occurring no less than twenty-nine times in the book—that is to say every mode of conduct considered from a purely worldly point of view and in each case finds no purpose in it—it is all worthless and profitless. "Under the sun"—that is apart from God—for no where is there a verse in which the author suggests that the things pertaining to God—his service now or the future life—in his nearer presence hereafter is vanity.

No, rather he gives us the alternative "to fear God and keep his commandments" with the assurance that this constitutes "the whole of man!" The original Hebrew text is stronger than our English version and omits the word "duty" declaring that the fear of and obedience to God is the whole of man—in doing these things that is, all man's faculties and powers find their true fulfilment and expression.

PRESENT APPLICATION

How then do the arguments of the writer of this book apply themselves to us, who are sons of England—men with the blood of our British ancestors flowing in our veins?

We are placed in a land far removed from that of our forefathers—we are set in the midst of a young and growing nation—in the land of Canada endowed as it is with a splendid heritage. Not only does our land embrace a great expanse of country, is watered by magnificent rivers and covered with extensive and valuable forests, both most fertile in soil and rich and choice in mineral deposits, but beyond all this it has the privilege of being part of the greatest empire the world has ever seen.

Behind this young and growing nation lies all the accumulated glory and wisdom of our British forefathers, men who made the name of Britain respected throughout civilization.

Who can say what may be the future of such a richly endowed nation?

DUTY OF THE CENTURY

But it is now—in the very century in which we are living that the future history of this country is being formed. We, brothers are set here either for the rise or fall of Canada. As Britishers, holding an outpost of that great Empire, God has given us a mission—a work to accomplish for Him. There is, I think a Divine opportunity given to a society such as ours—the Sons of England—to assist in upholding those high religious principles—the fear of God and the keeping of his commandments—which we believe have made Britain the power she is in the world of today and can alone do the same for young Canada.

ROUSING MEETING AT WOODSTOCK

Woodstock, N. B., 31—A fitting climax to the largest and most enthusiastic convention ever held in this county was the big demonstration tonight in the Hayden-Gibson theatre. A vast audience assembled crowding his big house to the doors. It not take brass bands, ice cream or beer to attract the people. They were there to listen and cheer the candidates and others who took part in the speech-making and every one present was astounded at the relations made over the corrupt and dishonest combination now in control of the province.

It was a meeting of honest voters of every shade of politics and voting Conservatives present are no longer in doubt of the peculiar methods of the government of Mr. Flemming in his Valley Railway deals. Andrew McCain was chairman of the meeting and his few remarks elicited much applause. It goes without saying that Mr. McCain is one of the popular men of this county and well versed in provincial politics. He will be heard during the campaign in different parishes.

Mr. Wheeler, a life-long Conservative, made an excellent speech and ably presented his views on his present attitude and reasons therefor.

Messrs. Upham, Smith and Shaw each received an ovation and the audience in no unmistakable way showed their appreciation of the ticket selected by the convention. Mr. Upham riddled Munro for his false statements made in regard to the vote in the Valley Railway bill in which he tried to show that Mr. Upham had voted against the project. Mr. Upham's statement was clear and concise, and his statement that he was proud to support and amendment to have the work commence simultaneously at all the different points was received with the greatest demonstration of approval.

In references to the canvass being made in reference to the land in junction, etc., Mr. Upham stated that in so far as he was concerned the road could have his land absolutely free if the company would agree to government operation of the road. So far his offer had not been accepted.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Shaw spoke eloquently and were received with great favor, both prophesying that Mr. Copp would be the next premier.

The speech of Mr. Copp had telling effect, and his pleasing references to the candidates were received with cheers. He said he was returning Mr. Flemming's visit made in his county recently. He went into the question of the audit act, the increase of the public debt and the Valley railway, showing the utter absurdity of the government's position in regard to their motives.

Mr. Flemming came in for a scathing arraignment for his misrepresentation of the position on the Valley railway, as reported in the St. John Standard. He showed Flemming's shilly-shally position and conclusively proved that he had no idea of building to Grand Falls but was a tool of the C. P. R.

Calls for Mr. Carvell brought from this gentleman a spirited speech and his exposure of the shameful connection of the Flemming government with the C. P. R. The story of his putting an injunction on the railway was only another illustration of the vicious canvass being conducted by Flemming and his tribe. He branded this canvass as a deliberate falsehood.

WATER AT HIGHEST POINT.

The river on Sunday reached the highest point reached this year but is falling today. It is expected that the booms will be able to stand the combined strain of logs and freshet.

IN ADVANCE OF PARTY.

Mr. A. P. Knightbridge, representative of the London Financial News, arrived in the city this morning. Mr. Knightbridge is the advance of the party of British manufacturers who are to tour Canada during the summer. They are to be here on the 14th inst. Mr. Knightbridge is making the necessary arrangements. He interviewed Publicity Agent McDade and also Mr. W. W. Hubbard, secretary for agriculture.

Miss Alta Adams went to Woodstock this morning to spend the holiday.

RELIGIOUS SIDE

The mere fact that as a society you come this afternoon within the walls of this sacred building—the Church of your forefathers—witnesses to the fact that there is a religious side as well as a social and beneficial side to the work which the Sons of England are called upon to do.

We stand, as a society, do we not, for the religious principles of Old England quite as much as for its national glory and interests? But my brothers, face squarely the deep problems of life of today in Canada and reason them out and I shall be very surprised if you do not come to this conclusion; that there is danger set on every side, that the

(Continued on page seven.)

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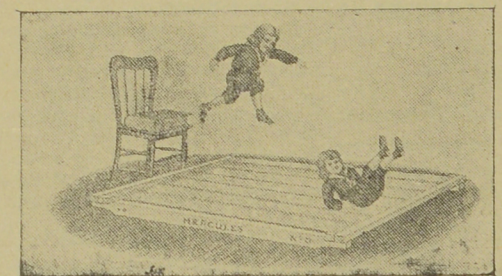
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