METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH NOTABLES TO GATHER HERE

Conference Will Be Held in First Church January 17, 18 and 19, With Bishop Matthew Simpson Hughes Presiding.

ONE of the most important events of the early year in Methodist Church circles of the Pacific Northwest will be the conference to be held January 17, 18 and 19, with Bishop Matthew Simpson Hughes presiding and all the district superintendents of the area and other notables in attendance. The meetings will be in the First Methodist Episcpal Church.

Bishop Hughes will have as his guest his brother, Bishop Edwin H. Hughes, now resident bishop of Boston and formerly bishop of California. The visiting Bishop Hughes will give one of the principal addresses of the conference. He will speak on the opening evening.

Dr. Joshua Stansfield, pastor of First Church, will welcome the superintendents and all the prominent visitors. Ministers and laymen may attend the meetings.

W. W. Youngson, superintendent of the Portland district, will be among the speakers. Another who will participate will be Robert Hughes (no relation to the bishops), who will represent the Pacific Christian Advocate, of which he is editor. Superintendents will be here from all the districts of Oregon, Washington and all the area over which Bishop Hughes has supervision.

Bishop Edwin Hughes will stop here en route to Pasadena, where he will visit relatives. The choir of the Rose City Park Church will sing on the opening evening.

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Westminster Presbyterian Christian Endeavorers' third "at home" is scheduled for Friday, January 12, from 8 P. M. to 11 P. M. This has come to be an annual event in Westminster, looked forward to by all the young people of Portland who are the guests of the evening. The guests include the Christian Endeavor, Baptist Young People's Union and Epworth League members of the city.

The special feature of the programme this year will be the music by the Albany College Girls' Glee Club, which is coming to Portland for the "at home." This is a social event and there is no charge. Miss Effie Mae Baird, 834 Halsey street, is the president of the society.

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After a short rest for the holidays the Y. M. C. A. gospel team will start its new year's campaign with a rousing meeting Sunday night at the United Evangelical Church, Ockley Green.

This team has a strong appeal for the young people and short, gingery talks will be given by E. E. Swarztrauber, Henry Ford and Eugene H. Lederer.

Song services will be under the direction of Mr. Zimmerman and special solo by William Grier.

Christian Endeavor Union Workers at Banquet.

Third Congress Meeting Attended by 100 Young People and Work Is Discussed.

THE third congress meeting of the Multnomah Christian Endeavor Union was held Tuesday night, January 2, at the First Christian Church, Park and Columbia streets. A banquet was served at 6:15 P. M. and about 100 young people were in attendance.

After the banquet the meeting was opened with a short talk by David M. Jack, Multnomah County president, dealing with the "Campaign for Millions" and its outcome. Mr. Jack said that Multnomah County stood sixth with a fair chance of gaining a higher percentage by the next congress meeting. An appeal was made for all societies to call upon the union officers for information in relation to the "Campaign for Millions."

Efficiency Committee Reports.

The secretary, Miss Beatrice Brownell, read the report of the efficiency committee, by Miss Helen Orr, received at the congress in the form of a telegram. Miss Orr gave a report of her efficiency campaign, which netted 74 experts, and expressed herself as being proud of the outcome of the campaign. She is at work now in the effort to start several efficiency classes in the different societies throughout the city.

The lookout committee, under the direction of Emel Swanson, reported six meetings led, two conferences held, two installation services held, answered 122 telephone calls, made 149 telephone calls and wrote 72 letters. This department has been doing splendid work and is perhaps one of the most important in the union. Two new workers have been appointed to this department: Chester V. Jones, as scout division superintendent, and Roland Davis, as routing and dates division superintendent.

Miss Frankie Coykendall reported on the social committee. Her report dealt with the expert efficiency socials and other minor social work. Miss Violet Johnson made a report on the junior committee and gave out the fact that an expert class of seven members has been organized among the juniors, and she is making an effort to organize more societies of this kind. Report of the press committee was given by Miss Josephine Sandie. Miss Mildred McIntosh, of the introduction department, gave the following report: Twelve telephone calls made, four societies visited and several letters received and sent out.

Report of the missionary committee was given by Miss Ellanore Ewing.

Lloyd R. Carrick Speaks.

Lloyd R. Carrick, state president, addressed the congress on the progress of the twin convention. Walter M. Harrington and Fred Nelson also made short talks on the convention. Mr. Nelson announced the poling rally to be held February 19. Miss Montague made an announcement of the "At Home" to be held at the Westminster Church, to which all young people are invited. Mr. Simpson, from the state of Washington, gave an interesting talk about his experiences among the logging camps of Washington and of his evangelical work done in these camps.

The evening was closed with a stereopticon lecture on "South America," by Miss Ewing, which proved interesting and educational.

Christian Life Warfare, Says Minister.

Rev. Harold H. Griffis, of First Christian Church, to Speak on "The Fight of Faith."

THAT the Christian life is essentially a warfare, Rev. Harold H. Griffis, pastor of the First Christian Church, will endeavor to show in his sermon this morning, the topic being "The Fight of Faith." In the evening Rev. Mr. Griffis will speak on "A New Year's Inventory."

The quartet choir will render the following selections: Morning—Anthem, "Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace" (West). Evening—Anthem, "Repentance" (Gounod). Contralto solo by Miss Dorothy Smith, "Charity" (MacDermid).

At the midweek service Thursday night Rev. Mr. Griffis will begin a series of devotional studies on "The Parables of Jesus in Their Application to Modern Life," the first study dealing leadership. Of these it will be possible to take only two, including that conducted by Dr. John H. Boyd, which is to come at 9:15 o'clock, after the other classes have been dismissed. Dr. Boyd's course is to consist of a series of travel talks on "The Capitals of the Great War," illustrated with lantern slides. The other leaders and their courses are: Mrs. Helen Ekin Starrett, "Contemporary Literature"; B. A. Thaxter, "Studies in Shakespeare"; Estes Snedecor, "Current Events Week by Week"; James F. Ewing, "The Historical Roots of the Great War." The courses are open to all who wish to spend Monday evenings in self-improvement.

The first meeting for registration and explanation of the courses will be held Monday, January 8. After the preliminary work is finished the classes will meet together to hear W. L. Finley, state biologist, give a lecture on "Bird and Animal Life in Oregon," illustrated with moving pictures.

The name of this new departure in church activity is the Monday Evening Club.

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In the recent election held in Oregon Conference of the United Brethren Church, the following members were elected as delegates to general conference: Ministerial—Superintendent, G. E. McDonald, of 590 East Taylor street, Portland; lay delegates, Professor E. H. Castle, of Philomath, and Mrs. W. O. Zeigler, of 1074 Belmont street, Portland. The general conference, which meets every four years, will be held at Wichita, Kan., in May. Important changes are pending at this session and it is looked forward to with great interest throughout the home and foreign fields.

Bishop Matthew S. Hughes, of Oregon

Robert Hughes, Editor Christian Advocate

Bishop Edwin H. Hughes, of Boston

Dr. W. W. Youngson, Superintendent Portland District

Dr. Joshua Stansfield, Pastor 1st M. E. Church

METHODIST-EPISCOPAL PRELATES WHO WILL TAKE PROMINENT PART IN FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE.

Sacrament to Be Observed at Services Today.

Morning Ceremony Is to Be of Special Importance in First Presbyterian Church.

TODAY will be a day of special importance at the First Presbyterian Church, corner Twelfth and Alder streets. At 10:30 A. M. Dr. Boyd, the pastor, will preach on "The Breadth of Christian Fellowship," and the sacrament of the Lord's supper will be observed. About 35 new members will be received into the full communion and fellowship of the church at this hour, and an opportunity is offered for the baptism of children. This is the annual mid-Winter communion service, and marks the high tide of the Winter's work. From now on all efforts and interests will be turned toward the Easter season.

At 7:30 P. M. a sermon of extraordinary interest will be preached by Dr. Boyd, his subject being "The Moral Duty to Be Intelligent." The thoughts covered by this sermon are most pertinent to the times and have a strong appeal for the thinking public.

The First Presbyterian Church is about to enter on special educational work in history and literature for those who wish to devote themselves to the study of these subjects.

This will be held Monday evenings in the church-house, corner of Alder and Thirteenth streets, during January, February and March. There will be five courses offered with competent with "The Parable of the Sower."

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Rev. W. E. Brinkman, pastor of St. James' English Lutheran Church, will speak this morning on the topic, "In Remembrance," and tonight on "Things of Incalculable Value."

The Holy Communion will be administered at 11 A. M. There will also be reception of new members into union with the church at the morning service. Each member is requested to bring a special communion offering.

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Central Presbyterian Church will celebrate communion service this morning, when new members will be received into the church.

An invitation has been extended to and accepted by Multnomah Camp, No. 77, Woodmen of the World, to be the guests of Central Church at the evening service Sunday, January 21. The Woodmen, their wives and families

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Rev. Alexander Beers, pastor of the First Free Methodist Church, East Ninth and East Mill streets, plans to commence 1917 by giving the best service possible. The morning sermon for today is regarded by the pastor as one of the most important to Christian people, the subject being "The Bible Christian, or Christianity Standardized." In the evening the theme will be "The Three Crosses."

Mrs. Beers will conduct the young people's meeting at 6:30.

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Young women from J. J. Ross' Sunday school class of the First Presbyterian Church will have charge of the Y. W. C. A. vesper service Sunday afternoon at 4:30. Special music will be given. Short talks will be given as follows: "Child Welfare Work," Mrs. I. M. Walker; "Work of Open Air Sanitarium," Miss Mary Campbell, superintendent; "Mission Bands," Mrs. F. L. Phipps, and social hour, 5:30. All girls are welcome.

The Rev. Thomas Jenkins, of St. David's parish, is preaching during the month of January a series of sermons on the following topics: "Jesus Christ the Door—of Opportunity," "Jesus Christ the Way—of Fulfillment," "Jesus Christ the Truth—Infallible," "Jesus Christ the Life—Eternal." The night sermons will be on "Some Lessons of the Epiphany."

First Unitarian Society to Celebrate Anniversary.

Fifty-First Annual Meeting Will Be Held Tuesday.

THE golden anniversary of the Church of Our Father (Unitarian) will be an event of this week. The First Unitarian Society will hold its 51st annual meeting on Tuesday evening. In addition to the general reports the meeting will be in the nature of a 50th anniversary of the life of the society, which received its articles of incorporation in July, 1866. Preceding the annual meeting is the usual annual church supper which will be served by the women's alliance assisted by the Young People's Fraternity.

Professor Joseph Schafer, head of the department of history in the state University, will speak at 7:45 tonight at the open forum held in Unitarian chapel, Broadway and Yamhill street. His theme will be "Historic Ideals in Recent Politics." He proposes to consider, among other points, the land problem and our National isolation. The question will be open for general discussion under the five-minute rule.

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Dr. A. L. Hutchison, pastor of Piedmont Presbyterian Church, will take for his theme tonight the film "Intolerance," now showing in the city. Service at 7:30. In the morning at 11 o'clock the Lord's Supper will be commemorated as fittingly introducing the New Year. New members will be received at this service. Tuesday evening at 6:30 the "Men's Community Club" will hold its first 1917 meeting and dinner. This is to be an open meeting at which the women are expected to be present. The men of the club will prepare and serve the dinner. The programme will consist of music, an open parliament on our city public schools and the proposed "tenure of office" bill to come before the Legislature this Winter. Superintendent Alderman, members of the School Board and members of the teaching force of the city will be present to discuss the subjects.

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Rev. E. P. Lawrence, of Roswell, Idaho, will preach morning and evening this Sunday at the Kenilworth Presbyterian Church. Lawrence is pastor of the Sterry Memorial Presbyterian Church of Roswell, where he has had a successful ministry during a number of years.

Oregon Endeavorers Plan for Big Convention.

One Section Will Meet in February at La Grande and One at Salem.

THE Christian Endeavorers of Oregon will hold their annual convention in February. This year it will be in the form of a "twin convention"—the Eastern Oregon section at La Grande, February 16-17-18, and the Western Oregon section at Salem the following Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Each section will have practically the same speakers and as much the same programme as possible. The committee to handle the convention has been divided into three parts—the Central committee, Salem committee and the La Grande committee.

Walter M. Huntington is the general convention committee chairman. He heads the central committee, with headquarters in Portland. Clinton Ostrander, of the Salem Y. M. C. A., heads the Salem end of the work. Mr. King manages the La Grande end.

Good Speakers Obtained.

The committee has been fortunate in securing speakers. Daniel Poling, associate president of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, is to come from Boston, Mass., expressly for the Oregon convention. C. C. Hamilton, field manager of the Christian Endeavor World, will also be one of the speakers. Miss Louella S. Dyer, president of the Washington State Endeavor Union, will be present from Seattle.

Oregon has had no centrally located endeavor convention for about two years, so large delegations are expected at these conventions. Salem expects 600 Endeavorers. La Grande will entertain about 150 delegates. The La Grande convention will be the first Christian Endeavor convention ever held in Eastern Oregon, so it is looked forward to with much interest.

Last year's convention was held at Grants Pass, and this convention is expected nearly to double the size of that one.

Special Trains to Run.

Mr. Huntington, in charge of the transportation, has arranged for at least three special trains to leave Portland for the Salem convention. One will leave Portland Friday night, one Saturday morning and one Saturday at 6 o'clock P. M. There will also be a special train to Salem from Southern Oregon.

The First Christian Church of Salem has been chosen as the convention church. It is centrally located and is convenient.

Many features have been planned for this year's convention. The convention will conduct its own Sunday school, with the different Endeavor leaders as teachers of the classes. All day Saturday will be given over to conferences. Saturday night will be devoted to banqueting.

All delegates will be cared for by the Salem and La Grande Endeavorers, who have already begun preparations.

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The subject at the First M. E. Church, South, this morning will be "In the Beginning," with reference to time and other things. Reception of new members and baptism of children will be a part of the programme. The sacred concert last Sunday night was a musical treat and it is the plan of the music committee to have another as soon as it can be arranged.

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Rev. R. W. Farquhar, of Aberdeen, Scotland, and who has filled pulpits in London and South Africa, will preach at Vernon Presbyterian Church, both morning and evening. The morning sermon will be appropriate to the new year and the theme will be "Leaves From Abraham's Diary." In the evening the subject will be "Drifting From Christ."

Convocation to Meet at Good Shepherd Church.

Northern Episcopal Session Will Open Thursday Morning in Portland.

THERE will be a meeting of the Northern Episcopal Convocation in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Graham and Vancouver avenues, Portland, January 11. The opening service will be on Thursday at 8 P. M. and will be in behalf of the church pension fund. The clergy are requested to bring vestments and to sit in the choir. Special speakers from among the lay members of the diocesan pension fund committee will speak by appointment of the bishop.

The offering at this service will be for the convocation expenses. Convocation will convene Friday morning with a celebration of the holy communion at 8 A. M. followed by breakfast furnished by the women of the parish at 8:45 A. M.

After the saying of matins at 10:15 A. M., the morning session will be devoted to considering "How to Increase Attendance at Evening Prayer on Sundays," presented by Dean McCollister and discussed by speakers under a five-minute limit.

Luncheon will be served at 12:30.

The afternoon session will be at 2 o'clock to consider the subject, "What Can Be Done to Meet the Missionary Crisis in the Diocese (a) Financially, (b) Co-operation in Services?" The clergy outside of Portland will have their traveling expenses paid and will be entertained while at convocation.

Rev. John Dawson is dean and Rev. Frederic K. Howard is secretary.

New Pastor to Be in Pulpit at Westminster Today.

Dr. Edward H. Pence Will Be Welcomed by Presbyterian Congregation at Morning Service.

DR. EDWARD H. PENCE, the new pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, will be in his pulpit this morning, and will be welcomed by his congregation. Dr. Pence has been in charge of the Fort-street church at Detroit for about 17 years.

He is one of the leading men of his denomination. When Dr. J. H. Boyd was in Detroit he and Dr. Pence were great friends. Rev. J. M. Skinner, of Rose City Park, is another Portlander who knows Dr. Pence and will welcome him here.

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At the White Temple Dr. James S. Kirtley will occupy the pulpit. His morning topic will be "The Path of Victory" and in the evening he will speak on "Bodily Benefits of Faith in Christ." The Temple Quartet will render "The Lord Is My Light" (Salter), and as a morning offertory, "He Knows the Way" (Briggs). In the evening the anthem, "The Radiant Morn Is Passed" (Woodward), and as an offertory, "God of Our Fathers," by DeKoven.

Sunday Church Services

ADVENT.

Advent Christian, 458 Second street, near Hall street—Rev. J. S. Lucas, pastor. Preaching, 10:30, Sunday school, 12; Loyal Workers, 6:30; preaching, 7:30; prayer meeting, Thursday evening, 7:30.

ADVENTIST.

Central, East Eleventh and Everett streets—P. C. Hayward, minister. 10, Sabbath school; 11:15, church service; prayer meeting, Wednesday, 7:30; Young People's Society, Friday, 7:30.

Tabernacle, West Side, Knights of Pythias Hall, Eleventh and Alder—Sabbath school, 10; preaching, 11; preaching Sunday evening, 8.

Montavilla, East Eighteth and Everett streets—J. F. Beatty, local elder. Sabbath school, 10; preaching, 11, Young People's meeting, 4; prayer meeting, Wednesday, 7:30; Helping Hand Society, 1:30 Tuesday.

Lents, Ninety-fourth street and Fifty-eighth avenue, Southeast—D. J. Chitwood, local elder. Sabbath school, 10; preaching,

(Concluded on Page 11.)

CHRISTIANITY OF PRESENT DECLARED INCOMPETENT FOR TASK

Dr. Boyd Says Church Does Not Realize Importance of Era and Problems That Face It in World War.

The Tragedy of Spiritual Discernment.

Jesus answered and said unto them, When it is evening ye say, It will be fair weather, for the heaven is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today for the heaven is red and lowering. Ye know how to discern the face of the heaven, but ye cannot discern the signs of the times—Matthew xvi:1-3.

BY REV. JOHN H. BOYD.

I AM going to speak to you this morning concerning certain religious conditions at the close of this year of unrest due to political discussion and foreign warfare. My message is suggested by an intense conviction that I have that the most insistent duty resting upon you and me at the present hour is to open our eyes to see and to try to understand the meaning of the great events occurring around us.

Dr. J. H. Boyd.

There are just a few great eras in the history of our race when events are so enormous and so vital that out of them are generated influences which transform the civilization of the world and give new direction to human movement. All life becomes transformed under the touch of these influences. Such a time, we all believe, has come upon our generation. There have been other eras like it. Such a one was that which gave birth to the religion of Jesus Christ, and the consciousness of the Man of Galilee is surcharged with the momentousness of the hour in which he lived and all the writers of the New Testament understood that some stupendous meaning lay within the commonplace events of that hour. Such an hour came with the activity of Martin Luther and the great-souled monk himself believed, when he saw the horror of the warfare which had broken out and all the earth trembling in the presence of the stupendous upheaval, that the very end of the world itself had come upon that 16th century.

The generation living in the latter part of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century understood that it belonged to an era of new birth. When the King was sitting listening to the cannonading in the City of Paris, a courtier came in and told him that all Paris had uprisen and that the Bastile had fallen, the King dropped his head and said "This is a revolt." The courtier said, "Nay, sire, this is a revolution!"

Present Is Full of Meaning.

And far away, up among the English lakes, that quiet-souled poet who lived nearer to nature than all others, understood the meaning of the French revolution, and you find him writing like this:

Blessed was it in that dawn to be alive,
But to be young was very heaven! O times
In which the meagre, stale, forbidding ways
of custom, law and statute took at once
The attraction of a country in romance!
Not favored spots alone, but the whole earth,
The beauty wore of promise.

Now I say that the men and women of these transforming eras of the past were conscious of the stupendous meaning of the hour that was upon them. And it is the supreme duty of you and me, children of the early part of the 20th century, to open our eyes and try to see the meaning of that which is occurring around.

Not only is this warfare altogether the most stupendous in magnitude and the most horrible in its waste and slaughter, but the vibrations of it reach into every part of the world, unlike any other cataclysm in the history of mankind. There is not any interest or relationship in all the world, there is not an obscure community nor an humble individual whose life is not in some way touched by the awfulness of this event.

We know perfectly well that on one side of this warfare lies a world that is now dying and on the other side, in that dawn for which we are earnestly yearning this morning, lies another world with other interests and other thoughts and other ideals. The world is being transformed under our very eyes!

We ourselves in America, remote from the warfare, have passed through a year of political controversy, where the very foundations of our Government and of democracy and the ideals and interests of our public life have all been opened up and scrurtinized and our minds have been saturated through long months with the most momentous problems which have ever confronted us as a people and a Government.

And no sooner is the issue of the election made known than we come out, not into places of quietude, but into places of larger restlessness and anxiety. One morning the President sends a letter of significance to the nations at war. The next morning brings the declaration of a Cabinet officer that we are rapidly drifting toward war; the next morning the chief of the staff of the United States Army declares that 3,000,000 of men are needed at once to meet a possible combination of enemies that may invade us!

The industrial world is all anxious and restless and our own community stands at this hour before an ominous situation.

Effect on Religion Considered.

What does it mean? It means that we are in the presence of awakened and active forces such as no generation for over 100 years has seen. It means that something of stupendous import is occurring, when all the fountains of the great deeps are broken up, when everything is becoming fluid, and the recrystallization of the future will give to the world a new aspect.

We are concerned this morning not with the industrial aspect of this question nor primarily with the political, but let us think for a moment of the religious aspect. What does this mean to Christian faith and the infinite significance of the religiou of Jesus Christ?

Indisputably the last two years have seen a stupendous accession of religious thought and religious feeling. There can be no question about that. Those who are habitually religious have found their piety and their earnestness deepened. Those who had been careless and had dismissed the concerns of religion from their minds find themselves strangely turning to thoughts of the Divine and wonder at the stirrings within their own soul and heart.

This is so marked in the nations that are at war that it constitutes a virtual revival of religion. In Scotland and England a new literature is growing, profoundly spiritual, sweetly and tenderly consolatory. There, amid the bruising of myriad hearts and the desolations of homes and that awful fear and anxiety resting upon them, the heart is trembling toward the Eternal as the needle turns toward its kindred north. The heart of the people is turning in that direction.

Religious Literature Increases.

A letter from a friend of mine in the East during the past week, a publisher, tells me that religious literature is increasing more rapidly than all other literature. And it is literature for the laity. The common man and the common woman of the pews are turning to religious books of a deep, earnest and most serious kind.

I do not forget for a moment the thoughtless and materialized atmosphere that lies over the prosperous East and Middle West. I do not forget the questionings which go on within men's souls, but what I am trying to say is that unquestionably, in connection with the industrial and political unrest, and all the vibrancy of this awful world upheaval of warfare, men are feeling their souls. From mysterious deeps there is welling up something from out of the center of their nature and they are turning toward new thoughts and new considerations, asking old questions over again. The soul of man is astir in the land!

In other words, beloved, there is the possibility of a vast spiritual revival which will recover to humanity a lost sensibility of the soul, when old realities that have lain covered up or which have been deliberately dismissed from the thought and the interests of life, may be recovered.

That is the situation of the hour in which we are now standing. Now I am going to ask a wonderfully significant question: Is organized Christianity, is the Church of Jesus Christ as we know it, aware of this spiritual phenomenon? Has it its eyes open? Is it trying to see and to know this great reality and to understand it? Is it getting ready, is it preparing to respond to the stupendous responsibilities and opportunities of the hour?

H. G. Wells, in the current number of the New Republic, answers my question with an emphatic no. Recognizing the deep, profound, infinite movement within the souls of men, he yet says that in England and on the Continent the Church of Jesus Christ is not seeing and is not understanding. He cites this as proof of what he is thinking: That the bishop of London (Bishop Ingram, one of the really great souls of the world) made an address at Tower Hill recently and the whole address, says Mr. Wells, was taken up with a discussion of the necessity of his having a larger income than $50,000 a year for the necessities of his see. He made another address in Piccadilly more recently still and the subject matter of that address was the sex problem. He dealt with such things as are being represented in the moving picture shows and theaters in the problem plays and in the cheaper novels of the hour. Then the bishop speaks of the decline in the birth rate—himself a healthy celibate.

This was his message to the English people at this great time! When their hearth were bowed down with an infinite burden of anxiety, when millions of hearts are riven with sorrow, with souls anxious and yearning because of their sons upon the fields of Belgium and French warfare! Yet one speaking as a representative of the church discusses the budget of his see and the problems of sex!

Church Declared Silent.

The other specification of Mr. Wells concerns the Vatican. Note this: The only church which claims to have any direct, authoritative voice to speak in behalf of Almighty God has been absolutely silent concerning the moral issues engaged in the war of Europe. With treaties broken, cities burned, women violated, children killed and starved and innocent citizenship destroyed by the violence of fiendish war, the Vatican has sat silent—not a pronouncement upon the moral values concerned in the war!

The Pope, the vicegerent of heaven, the vicar of Christ, the representative of the Eternal Righteousness and Love, has been absolutely mute in the presence of it all, when muteness was high treason against right and love and human brotherhood! I agree with Mr. Wells when he says that it's the most stupendous abdication of noble function known to the history of mankind!

Now will the indictment hold with our American Christianity? Have we been silent? Are we failing to discern the signs of the times? Are we talking about financial budgets and sex problems in the midst of an hour when the great soul of humanity is turning itself and stirring after the lethargy of past decades?

I will not answer my question by specifications, but by asking another question. Have you, my hearer, ever attempted to conceive of the church faithfully declaring its essential message and performing its supreme function and have you ever tried to formulate what that message would be to the world? If the church could see the essence, could discern the signs of the times and speak to the great heart of the age in which it lives, what would be the message that that awakened and purified and ennobled and faithful church would send forth? I have tried it. And if the church had discernment it would do four things:

First—It would discover and declare the actuality of God, the great enfolding spiritual Infinitude, so far as we can know him, and would point out his relationship to the world and interests of men as made known in the revelation of Jesus Christ. Let your mind rest upon that for a moment: If the church could conceive and understand the essence of its high office, it would proclaim the actuality of God and point out the meaning of his relationship to man's life as revealed in the work of Jesus Christ.

Effect of Ideal Pointed Out.

Second—It would note the influence of that sense and knowledge of God upon the spirit and the character of the individual man and recreate an ideal of individuality so large, so winsome, so strong and compelling as to set all the fires of noble yearning burning in men's hearts to fulfill themselves according to the revelation of God in Jesus Christ.

Third—It would show the effect of such character and such thinking and such relationship and such sense of God, upon the actual life of men, the relationships of the commonplace world, to neighborhood and business and family life, until a programme of high, noble, redeeming conduct should be marked out with an ethic, clear, ennobling, according to the mind of Christ, until every soul of man would hear ringing through the profundities of conscience the duties of life according to the relationships which we sustain to God and to one another.

Fourth—It would mark out the final issues of our individual living and our social movement. Where are we going? Toward what are we to aim? What are we to accomplish? What is to be the final denouement of history? Where is the world moving? And when we once saw the end of life and caught afresh the idealism of Jesus and saw a kingdom of order and peace and brotherhood, it would become the supreme passion of the soul to realize that kingdom, to bring it to pass.

Bickerings Must Be Forgotten.

Imagine a church which would drop its petty ecclesiasticism, turn away from its infinitesmal struggle after mere livelihood, quit its bickerings and controversies and discharge into the souls of men the tremendous message of God and of life and of brotherhood and of destiny! What a world it would be! What a church it would be! What magnificence and splendor in its vast scheme would be revealed! Such is the high calling of the church of Jesus Christ.

Now my question is answered by contrast. You know that the church of today is a petty, little thing that is dealing with creedal distinctions, orders of clergy, forms of baptism, miserable, contemptible rivalries upon the village streets, with overcrowding in city centers until the thing in the eyes of the world is contemptible in its smallness. Men and women, followers of Christ, are small minded in their thinking. The infinite measurements of the great task and meaning of the age is unrevealed to the consciousness of the followers of Jesus Christ.

I say it with all deliberation, my hearers, that the Christianity of the present hour, as organized and as taught, is incompetent for the task of divine largness which this awful age is thrusting upon us! Did you catch my sentence? I am willing to repeat it: That the Christianity of the present hour is so small in its thinking, in its organized life, that it is incompetent for the magnitude of the vast task which the changes in the world are to impose upon it.

I stand here, with the old world dying around us and the new world coming through the gates of birth, with all freshness and glory, coming toward us with hands stretched out with opportunities, and I say this: That men and women who live in large times like ours, when God is approaching through the judgment and smoke of warfare, when the human heart is stirring tremendously in the unrest of the hour, men and women of thought and of feeling and of earnestness and of action, as we are, ought to be infinitely larger than we are—ought to have a deeper discernment of the signs of these great times and a stronger passion to meet the responsibilities and opportunities which lie before us.

My exhortation is that when you pass through the gates of tomorrow the prayer may be upon your lips that God with take each of you, a child of the 20th century, born in an era when the world is remaking, and make you large enough to see and broad and deep enough to feel the infinite, divine significance of the present hour and strong enough to do your part in the great tasks before us.

The Bible

"Owned is riches
Studied is wisdom
Trusted is salvation
Loved is character
Obeyed is power."

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