

Sunday Sermons

crimes? Where was their Christianity? They had not that excuse which was pleaded for the subjects of the German government that they have been kept in ignorance by the suppression of news.

One feels that all peoples have a sort of collective responsibility for the atrophy of Christian principles to which these facts point. We are driven to suppose that the moral fiber of the world had degenerated and Christian character and thought had everywhere fallen below the Christian standard.

We in England felt the wicked-

ness of the enemy governments, but it is always easy to condemn an enemy. Can we be sure that if we thought we had some special interests, trading interests, private friendships and so on, and like so many of the professors and clergymen in neutral countries who had been educated in German universities, we might not have been so biased as to have failed to give the proper moral judgment?

We have passed through vicissitudes of feeling since the war began. During its earlier months we were immensely cheered by the extraordinary gallantry of our young men. There has been nothing finer in British history than the way in which nearly the whole youth of the country came forward to serve their country. There has also been good reason for pride regarding their conduct in the war. From all I can gather there never was an army which reached so high a standard of good behavior under trying conditions as did the British army in the late war. Offenses there were, as there always have been, but their conduct was far better than that of the Duke of Wellington's soldiers in the Peninsula war, or that of the German, French and Russian troops in China at the time of the Boxer troubles.

But what was going on at home? Can we say that our people in England showed as fine a spirit in their attitude in domestic matters as did our soldiers fighting abroad? Has there not been much to regret in the treatment of the conscientious objectors, both by the government and by the bulk of our people? Personally, I have utterly disapproved of the views of these objectors—they seemed to me hopelessly mistaken, sometimes even perverse. But many of them were obeying their conscience, trying to carry out what they thought the gospel precepts enjoined, and they ought, being perfectly honest, however mistaken, to have received far more sympathetic consideration than was given to them.

Again, it was very painful to see the way in which many of the enemy aliens were treated. I happen to have a good knowledge of many of these cases, where people quite innocent, Germans married to English wives, with English children—men long settled among us, desiring to be English in every way and heartily in sympathy with us, men whose sons were serving in the war and dying in our cause—were treated with the utmost severity, not only by the government, but by private persons. Even now these unfortunate people cannot get employment. We ought to take that to our heart that we did not show that spirit of mercy which might have been expected from Christians.

Moral Slump Since the War. Now we have come to the end of the war and the soldiers are home, and what do we see? Those who have the best means of knowing tell us that two moral epidemics are visible all over England. One is an epidemic of crime, and especially of robbery with violence. There has been an increase in theft and all forms of dishonesty, theft on railroads, thefts in the postal service. The other epidemic is even worse. It is a prevalence of sensual vice,

such as has not been observed for many years. If there is a department of moral conduct in which Christianity has rendered an especial service to the world it has been in raising the level for human morals and in its treatment of sensual vice. When one reads of what sensuality was in the ancient world, and what St. Paul says of it in his own time, one feels how enormous has been the change to the modern world and how entirely that change is due to the influence of Christianity. Even when things were worst in the modern world they never sank so low as they had done in pre-Christian days. Whenever we see a falling back towards the thought and practice of that pre-Christian world, it is a danger signal which warns us of the need for guarding the higher conception of sexual relations which Christianity gave.

All these thoughts bring us back to the main thought—what can we do to make our country a Christian country? The more we feel what has been called "the bankruptcy of civilization," the more we feel that the only thing that can save the world is to return to the precepts of the gospel and try to bring our practice nearer to our professions. There is no light from any quarter promising moral dignity and purity and good-will among men except that which comes from the gospel. That is the light which lighteth every man, and that is the light which we must do our best to spread not only abroad but among ourselves. The precepts of the gospel are the one remedy for all the troubles we see around us at home and abroad. No nation has ever yet really tried to put those precepts into practice.

Call for Personal Discipleship. There seems to be a great call going out to us now to Christianize other peoples. To do this effectively we must begin by Christianizing ourselves. If the gospel is the only light, then it is according to the gospel that we must try to rule our own lives and induce others to do so. The best way to move others is to set an example by following these precepts ourselves. However zealous we may be for the diffusion of the knowledge of the gospel abroad, and however earnest our efforts, after all, the most vitally essential thing is that we should try to infuse a Christian spirit into the society in which we live. Let us by all means continue our efforts to spread the light abroad, but let it illuminate the individual life. It is from the individual in his inner life and his social life, it is from the individual heart and will that all improvement must proceed. The Kingdom of Heaven is within.

KERR-GIFFORDS COMING TODAY

Walter Kracke, manager of the Senators, has unearthed a dark horse from the bogs of the minors which may prove a thorn in the flesh of the Kerr-Giffords when they tangle with the Salem team on the ball diamond at Oxford park this afternoon. Kracke's dark horse is Jack Farley who is reputed to be some twirler. The new acquisition to the Senator roster, twirled on an all-army team with creditable success, and Kracke says he has the goods. While the Senator pilot announced last night that Farley would be out in a Senator suit, it is probable that Biddy Bishop will start on the mound in this afternoon's game. The fame of Biddy has spread and there are many of his admirers who desire to see him manipulate the saliva ball in a contest. Biddy claims that he is making a come-back, but there are many who believe that he is staging an impressive beginning—a sort of debut as a pitcher. Teams that have contested with the Senators on the local lot invaded Salem with an abnormal desire to wallop the Salemites but their hopes were cooked when confronted with the concerted attack of the locals. True it is, no "Babe" Ruth cavorts on the local diamond smashing home runs into Polk county, but the Senators have men who are dangerous in the pinches. They seem to have the knack of making bingles when men are perched on the hot corner dying with anxiety to puncture the home platter. The Senators have demonstrated their strength in several of the games in this regard. The many wins credited to the Senators is due to their ability to hit in the pinches.

Repeated successes in the Portland city league tells the strength of the Kerr-Gifford team. The Kerr-Giffords are now battling for the top rung of the championship ladder. They come to Salem touted as one of the best teams yet brought here. In Knudsen and McDonald, it is said, the invading team will present a formidable pair of battery men. Knudsen, according to the advance depot, has an uncanny delivery—one that has proved baffling to the city leaguers of the Rose City. When the Salem Senators were informed of his prowess the jaws jarred their confidence. However, some members of the local team were delighted to hear that they had a good pitcher to oppose them; nothing suits them better, they said, than to shatter the hopes of a climbing pitcher. Kracke announced last week that the Portland Beavers were probably to be seen in action on the local diamond sometime the latter part of this month. They have given him a tentative promise to play a Monday game in Salem during their second week of their final session on the Portland diamond. "King" Cole may be secured to work against the Beavers so that he may be given a good "once-over" by the coast league manager.

Irish County Officers Are All Sinn Feiners

DUBLIN, Aug. 5.—Nearly all the Irish county and district councils recently elected have now passed resolutions declaring allegiance to Dail Eireann, and their first meetings have been turned into Sinn Fein demonstrations. The new chairmen, everywhere outside of northeast Ulster, are Sinn Feiners. The Dublin county council has always been a moderate body. Now it has a Sinn Fein majority, has pronounced as its chairman a young professor of mathematics. At Sligo the chairman, a Sinn Fein M. P., announced that all their actions would be guided towards the most effective means of clearing Britain out of Ireland. This council, like most of the councils, has made Irish language compulsory on all candidates for office under the council. The councils have refused to send minutes of proceedings to the local government board, and will also refuse all information to the income tax department. None of the councils would make any provision for the payment of the compensation for outrage awarded against the localities by the courts. At Roscommon it was decided to stop the salary of the sheriff to punish him for allowing military to occupy the court house. In many places the Republican flag was floated over the council hall, and in some instances was then removed by the soldiers. In Mayo all the proceedings were carried on in the Irish language. So far, the local government board which used to be very prompt in dealing with the local bodies, has turned a blind eye to the results of the new departure. But sooner or later a conflict between the new powers and the old is regarded as inevitable.

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