

Freedom And Christianity

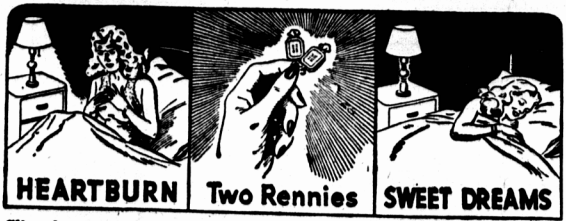
"Freedom's Crowning Hour" was the subject of the following timely sermon in St. James Presbyterian Church yesterday morning by the Rev. T. H. Bussell Somers:

"Live like free men, only never make your freedom a pretext for misconduct, live like servants of God."—1 Peter II, 16. (Moffatt).

One of the popular heroes of the First World War was Albert, King of the Belgians. To honour him, a book was published some years ago called "The Book of King Albert". Sir Owen Seaman wrote a poem in it entitled "Between Midnight and Morning"; a part of which reads as follows:

"Ye that have faith to look with fearless eyes
Beyond the tragedy of a world at strife,
And trust that out of night and death shall rise
The dawn of ampler life:
Rejoice whatever anguish rend your heart,
That God has given you a priceless dowry,
To live in these great times and have your part
In Freedom's crowning hour."

That was a noble sentiment but Sir Owen died in 1936 and even by that time he must have known that "Freedom's crowning hour" was yet to be achieved. It was not reached in the winning of the First World War nor the Second. Too frequently war, however inevitable and necessary it may be, contributes little if anything to the ultimate freedom. Too frequently it merely gives us a new set of masters and a new set of slaves. The fact is that freedom in the ultimate sense is not interpreted in terms of a victory of arms—it is interpreted in terms of the victory of the soul. Freedom is not achieved by merely removing this and that external restraint—it is not a matter of aply handling that which is without a man. It is a matter of attitude within a man. Because of



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Gospel of Freedom

Now, the writers of the Holy Scriptures were very cognizant of the problem of freedom. The Christian Gospel is a gospel of freedom. But freedom as interpreted by the gospel writers is a very different thing from what would appear to be the current conception of it. As a matter of fact, when one finishes reading what the New Testament has to say about it, he may wonder if he has been reading about freedom or a new type of bondage. It certainly does not interpret freedom as doing as one pleases, if doing what one pleases implies on the rights of others, or on the physical, moral and spiritual health of oneself. Freedom is seldom mentioned in the New Testament without a warning, as though it were a very dangerous thing. "Live like free men," it says, "only never make your freedom a pretext for misconduct; live like servants of God."

That just about sums it up, men and women. We are free, but we are servants, paradoxical as that may sound. We are free but not within the law. We are free not to do as we please, but to do as we ought. We are not so much free

penal Try to drive a car in that irresponsible way and see what happens! Try to build a house in that irresponsible way and see what happens! Our alleged humorist spoke of the marriage relationship as the "ball and chain"; but a wiser man has taken issue with him and called it the "anchor of the ship". The anchor is that restraint on freedom which keeps the ship from drifting on the rocks. To serve and love someone may seem like a tie at times but it just happens to be, men and women, it just happens to be the closest thing to divine freedom that you and I will ever have. We are free—but free within the bounds of responsibility—a responsibility that does not take away from our liberty but that it makes it sacred and secure. That is the first thing, then—freedom involves responsibility.

Christian Responsibility

But there is something else—freedom involves gratitude. There is something cheap and tawdry about a man who will abuse a right that has cost someone dearly for him to possess. Sometimes when I approach a man about his responsibility to the Church he will say, "Oh yes, I believe in the Church, I wouldn't live in a community without one—but personally I do not have much to do with it." He believes in God, yes, but not in a God who deserves his best in obedience and service. The Church is something he takes for granted but he wouldn't want to live in a community without it—he wants its services when trouble comes, he wants a minister to bless his marriage, to baptize his children, to give Christian burial to his dead—oh yes, by all means, but don't ask him for sacrificial support.

I suppose he never asked himself just what it costs others to maintain the Church so that it can meet and serve his dire needs. I suppose he never stops to realize what a heritage of faith he received from his ancestors and in whose indifference and indolence he is making it a cheap and unworthy thing for his own children to receive in return. Considerations of this kind place bounds around our freedom and lead us to realize that if the price paid for our liberties is not to be wasted, we have obligations of gratitude we dare not shirk.

And what about our country? I am proud to be a Canadian—and I am sure you are too. But that does not mean that we can go about boasting "This is a free country" and do just as we please. For there are memories that come back to us, especially at this holy season of Armistice—days that place bounds beyond which we dare not go—memories of the price, the awful price that was paid in blood and sweat and tears by those who bled and died in the fields of Flanders, beneath the burning sands of Africa, on the brown hills of Italy, in the orchards of Normandy, on the banks of the Rhine, and in the depths of the sea where the ever-surgings waters sound their holy requiem. They died in fox holes, in burning planes, on sinking ships that you and I might enjoy a free Canada. There sacrifice was gallantly made because of their faith in decency and righteousness and justice and the moral ordering of this world. It was a demonstration of what God said the blasphemous Nebuchadnezzar would learn, when He pulled him down from his throne and turned him out to eat grass like the ox. "That the heavens do rule." These men "arrayed in a most tremendous" met and overthrew a conspiracy and assault upon the body and

soul of mankind. They "Put aside Today, And all the joys of their Today, And with the toil of their Today Bought for us Tomorrow."

Clarifying Power

"They loved not their lives unto death." Believe me, the memory of their sacrifice places insurmountable barriers around all our freedom. If, remembering what they have done and what they have given that we might live in freedom, we prove unworthy or indifferent, we have no right to be called men. What happens to them in our memory? We do not pretend for a moment that they were perfect; we knew their faults on earth. But these faults now seem to have fallen away. We understand them better than when they were with us on earth. Our love for them remains, yes, it grows. That is to say, death has a cleansing and a clarifying power. That is to say, Death is not dead. It will be the saving grace of this generation if there are still souls who, burdened by man's depravity, strive now for a realm of "pure manners, nobler laws," still souls who, agonizing over needless poverty, yearn for a commonwealth; still souls, who, tortured by the folly of hatred among men, are resolved by God's grace to live in positive and indistinguishable goodwill.

They cannot describe the city of their dreams. They cannot prove that they have seen it; they only think that they have seen the gates. They understand now why the Biblical pictures of heaven are all in the negative: "There shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain." And the gate of it shall not be shut at all by day, and there shall be no night there. And the city hath no need of the sun, for the glory of God doth lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. They understand and press forward on their pilgrimage in the footsteps of those whom they have loved long since and lost awhile. Their testimony is taken that God hath prepared a city where there is no thirst without water, brethren; there is no hearing without music.

So, in the worthiest enjoyment of this blood-bought freedom we walk by faith rather than by sight; by the soul's surmise rather than by the mind's logic. There is no courage in walking by sight; there would be only shrewd prudence. Meanwhile God takes our will for the deed, if stumbling on the journey, we struggle to our feet and press on, and, with John Massfield, we can say:

"Therefore go forth, companion, when you find
No highway more, no track, all being blind,
The way to go shall glimmer in the mind.
Adventure on, and if you suffer,
I'll swear
That the next venturer shall have less to bear
Your way will be retrodden, make it fair.

Only one banner, Hope; only one star
To steer by, Hope, a dim one seen afar.
Yet naught will vanquish Hope, and nothing bar.

All that has been imagined from of old
Is, but more glorious thousand-fold,
The people lightens, and the clay is gold.

And you, the gray thing dragging on the sea,
Go as a man goes in Eternity,
Under a crown of stars to destiny."

This is the pilgrim's heroism, this is the stuff of life that makes worthy memorial, this is freedom's crowning hour. "Live like free men."—Live like servants of God.—Amen.

CHARGED WITH ARSON
BRIDGEWATER, N.S., Nov. 4 — (CP) — Basil Leslie of Bridgewater was arrested here today on a charge of arson and remanded for hearing Nov. 10. The charge resulted from an investigation by police and S.S. Wright, provincial fire marshal, into a Nov. 2 apartment house fire.

After the British seized New Amsterdam it was named New York for its new master, the Duke of York, brother of the British King.



AGAIN! C.C.M.

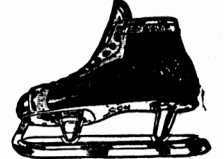
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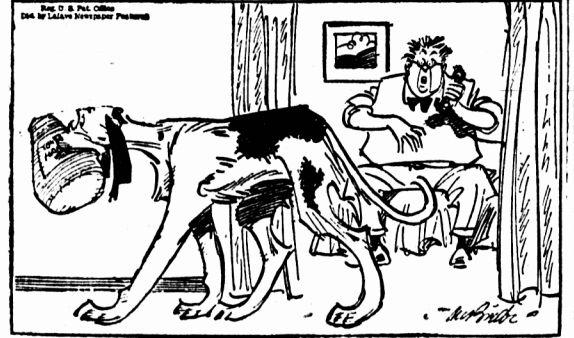
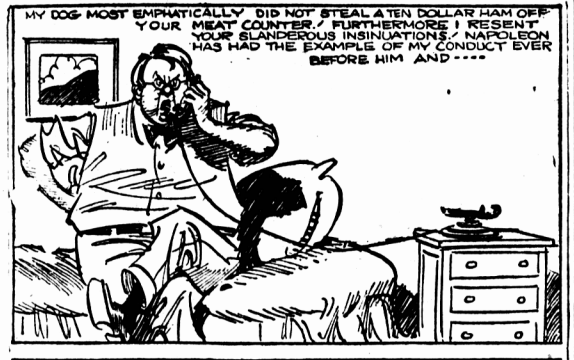
HEALTH LEAGUE MEETING
TORONTO, Nov. 7—(CP)—R. H. Bishop of Toronto Saturday was re-elected national president of the

Health League of Canada, which concluded its three-day annual meeting here. Willard James, also of Toronto, was elected vice-president and chairman of the board of directors.

EDMONTON, — (CP) — A single vine yielded 18 clusters of grapes in the north Edmonton garden of D. W. Taylor. The vine produced only two clusters last year.

Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford MacBride



MY DOG MOST ENTHUSIASTICALLY DID NOT REFUSE TO ACCEPT YOUR MEAT COUNTRY, FURTHERMORE I RESENT YOUR BOUNDLESS INSULTATIONS. NAPOLEON HAS HAD THE HONOUR OF MY MIND BEFORE HIM AND...

The neighbour said to him one day, "You know the fact is, Newton, I have been in chains all my life, bound hand and foot by the faith which other people had in me. First, there was my little mother—as sweet a soul as ever lived—really wonderful to me in all sorts of ways. Some things I simply could not do while she was alive—I never felt free to do anything that would hurt her feelings. Then there was the old minister in our Church at home. He knew me from a boy and believed somehow that I was a dependable sort. Last but not least, there are my wife and our two little daughters. They have the odd idea that I am a first-rate fellow—and there you are, you see. Some things a man can't do when others are going to be horribly disappointed and hurt by it."

Which type of person awakens in the morning with the more unfeeling soul? The one who operates in the irresponsibility of doing what he pleases, or the one who is operating within the bounds of a sacred responsibility?

"Three workmen fashioning a cross
On which a fourth must die!
Yet none of any other sized.
And why? And why? And why?
Said they, "This is our business,
Our living we must earn.
What happens to the other man
Is none of our concern."
Try to do business in that irresponsible way and see what happens!

Player's Please Double-Fresh!

BECAUSE THEY'RE

1. PLAYER'S ARE FRESH BECAUSE they are made to stay fresh by rigid moisture and temperature controls in Canada's most modern cigarette factory.
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Say "Player's Please". Mild or Medium. Smoke the cigarette that's fresh from the factory...! fresh at the store... double-fresh for you!

Cook Tip and Plain
REMEMBER—
Player's "MILD" WITH "WATERPROOF" PAPER
DO NOT STICK TO YOUR LIPS

DAIRY SHOW

THE COW: DON'T FORGET I'VE GOT TO BE ON MY OWN FEET BY 1952!

REVENUE

NEW DEFENCE EXPENDITURE

CRIPPO

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