

Religion and Life

By Very Rev. George C. Pidgeon, D.D., LL.D.
First Moderator of the United Church of Canada
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THE TRUTH THAT A KING DISCOVERED

There is one saying in the Book of Daniel that stands alone in its influence on the course of history. One has difficulty in recalling any other as influential apart from the sayings of Jesus Himself. It is the answer of three young men to King Nebuchadnezzar, the conqueror of conquerors in his time. The king had commanded them to conform, as everyone else had done and conforming meant doing some things which their religious convictions forbade, and this is their reply:

"O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O King. But, if not, be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." (Daniel 1:16-18).

In most cases in history the martyrs were men and women loyal to their earthly sovereign in every other respect. Early Christians served the Roman Emperor with deeper devotion than any other class of his subjects in all spheres where he had rightful authority to rule, but when he demanded worship as a god, no Christian could obey. It is the old story—those who fear God know no other fear, and supreme loyalty to Him makes every rightful allegiance more binding. It was this truth that King Nebuchadnezzar discovered in the dramatic way described by Daniel.

Out attention was directed to this story by another of Sir Leonard Woolley's discoveries in the ruins of Ur of the Chaldees. They were studying the work of Nebuchadnezzar in restoring an ancient temple. "The small five-chambered sanctuary was a thing apart." Its rooms were very small and could hold but a few people at a time. This drove the archaeologists to the conclusion that they were designed for a secret ritual, only the priests being allowed to enter as they waited upon the twin deities.

This ancient tradition was completely set at naught by Nebuchadnezzar. "He swept away those private sanctuaries and all the rooms around them." There is no doubt that the remodelling of the building implies a change of ritual but how can this be explained? The author finds the answer in the story of the Three Children in the Book of Daniel. "The gist of this story is this, that Nebuchadnezzar made a great image and set it up in a public place and ordered that at a given signal everybody was to fall down and worship it.

"The Jews, who seem to have lived hitherto undisturbed in the land of their captivity, were by this order given the choice between idolatry and disobedience involving death. What was there new in the king's act? Not the setting up of a statue, because each king in turn had done the same; the novelty was the command for general worship by the public. It was at that point that Shadrach, Meshek and Abednego took the stand that has inspired the ages.

Nebuchadnezzar was doing what many a ruler had tried since—to use the power of religion to unify his motley empire. The rock on which his enterprise was wrecked was the conviction held by a few of what was due the living God.

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PRE-NUPTIAL SHOWER—Mrs. Donald MacLean, entertained at a shower at her home, 30 Pownall Street, last week for Miss Ruth Hughes whose marriage to L. A. C. Maurice F. DeCoste takes place at St. Dunstan's Basilica, Thursday morning. Miss Hughes received many gifts.

Personals

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Leeman have returned to their home in Franklin, Mass., after having visited in Hampshire, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Davis Ward.

Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Blase, Jamaica Plain, Mass., and Mr. Richard Hickox of Somerville, Mass., have returned to their homes after spending a pleasant vacation with relatives in Springfield. They were accompanied on the return trip by Mrs. Cecil Mallett, North Granville.

Hurricane Edna's Destruction In Charlottetown



Maritime Electric line gang replacing poles at Richmond St. break Barter's Film Lab.



Linemen doing a splice on power wires near Sterns Laundry. Barter's Film Lab.



Light pole broken off at end of Brighton Road, entrance to Victoria Park. Barter's Film Lab.



A complete shut-off on Richmond St. East. Barter's Film Lab.



Clearing away an old one on Gallows Hill. Barter's Film Lab.

NEW GLASGOW W. I.

The September meeting of New Glasgow W. I. was held at the home of Mrs. Elmer MacDonald on Sept. 6, with a large attendance. The president, Mrs. R. L. Dickieson, was in the chair and the meeting opened with singing the W. I. Ode and repeating the Creed in unison. Roll call was answered by 14 members.

The sick committee reported and Miss M. E. Campbell stated that she had visited the school after it had been cleaned and that the work had been satisfactory. The following committees were then appointed: Sick, Mrs. Vince Deveaux and Mrs. Leith Dickieson; school and program, Mrs. Earl

Houston and Mrs. Chalmers Laird; lunch, Mrs. Harland Hill and Miss M. E. Campbell.

A letter from the Red Cross was read about forming a Home Nursing Class and this was postponed for the present. A motion to send \$10.00 to the Iron Lung Fund was carried. After some discussion it was decided to have a celebration for the Institute members and their families in the form of a dinner. A committee to arrange for this was appointed: Mrs. R. L. Dickieson, Mrs. Leith Dickieson, Mrs. Foster Sellar, the secretary and the treasurer.

Roll call for the next meeting will be answered with telling school memories. It was decided to get a gift for a small child in the P. E.

I. Hospital. The naming of the wild flower emblem for each Province was read by Miss Elsie Laird, and a reading was given by Mrs. Foster Sellar and Miss M. E. Campbell. Refreshments were served by the hostess and committee in charge.

GOOD GOATS

VANCOUVER, (CP)—Mrs. Andrew Clark, 70, a goat farmer since 1918, swept the field in anglo-nubian goat classes at the Pacific National Exhibition with her herd of 40. She started handling goats after goat's milk saved her daughter's life during the 1918 influenza epidemic.

Royal Canadian Dental Corps Ass'n Elected

OTTAWA, (CP)—Lt.-Col. H. R. McLaren of Ottawa was elected president of the Royal Canadian Dental Corps Association at the organization's seventh annual meeting here Saturday. Lt.-Col. J. E. Merritt of Halifax was elected vice-president, Lt.-Col. D. W. Henry of Montreal second vice-president and secretary and Lt.-Col. G. K. Clark of Ottawa treasurer.

EGG BONUS

WINDSOR, Ont., (CP)—Mrs. Don Bazien bought a dozen eggs at a chain store here. She got her money's worth. Every one had a double yolk.

HUNTER RIVER UNITED CHURCH W.M.S.

The Sept. meeting of the Auxiliary of the W.M.S., met at the home of Mrs. Fred Smith. The president presided and opened the meeting with hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers" and prayer by the members in unison. The program in the Missionary Monthly was followed with Mrs. MacLeod as leader, assisted by Mrs. J. E. Andrews and Mrs. Orville Sellar. Hymn, "Once to Everyman A Nation" was sung and prayer was offered by the leader. The president read the introduction of the study book, "The Church of India." Mrs. Montgomery will be leader of the first chapter for the October meeting. Hymn, "All People That On Earth Do Dwell" and the Benediction closed the worship period.

Sixteen members and two visitors answered the roll call. Fifty-three home calls and seventeen hospital calls were reported and seven books read.

A reading on Christian Stewardship was given by Mrs. Cousins. Mrs. Bowman reported the sale had been sent.

The W.M.S. (special service) was discussed. It was decided to have it on Sept. 12, with special music by the Cherry Valley Choir. Members were reminded that subscriptions for the Missionary Monthly are to be passed in at the October meeting, which will meet at the home of Mrs. Ripley. Roll call word will be "Thanks." The book of numbers will be the study.

An encouraging financial report was given by the treasurer. Mrs. Cousins, Mrs. E. Bernard and Mrs. LePage will be on the

lunch committee. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Lunch was served and a social hour spent.

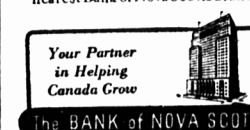
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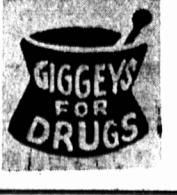
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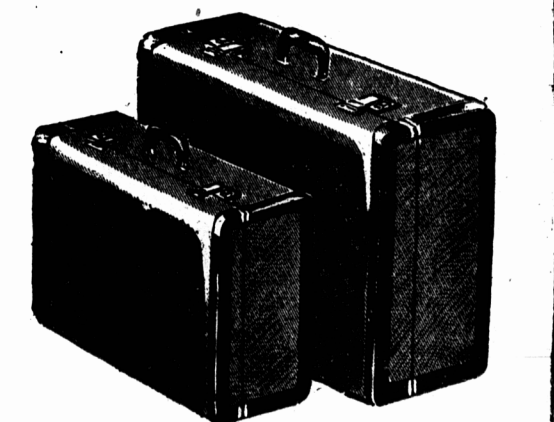
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