

Lenten Meditation

From The Columns of The Times, London.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Human capacities vary greatly. They can in part be measured, tabulated, assessed, their probable development anticipated. Yet the element of the incalculable and unpredictable remains. The best scientific charts of human behaviour are no more than approximations. Any man's life is, in the last resort, unpredictable.

St. Paul put it differently when he wrote, "there are diversities of gifts." Here is an attitude to human capacities, which recognizes at once their mysterious provenance, in that they are gifts from God. A man may feel proud of his capacities; no man may be rightly proud of his gifts. To be greatly gifted is to have cause to be greatly thankful.

Jesus commended the steward who had made good use of the talents entrusted to him. He even admired the vitality and forthrightness of the unjust steward who used his brains for his own self-interest. He had no good word to say for the man who was sorry for himself because he had been given so little, and afraid to use that little, so that he went and buried it in the ground.

Whether they be great or small, God's gifts are intended for use. They increase in the using; in being given fresh to others they return a more valuable and more permanent possession than before.

The Christian knows the truth of this in regard particularly to those spiritual gifts of which St. Paul is writing in this passage. He knows that it is his responsibility to be a good steward of the manifold grace of God. He knows that he has nothing which he did not first receive. Any faith which he has is a response to God's activity; mediated, it may be, through the influence of a friend, a speaker, a writer, the home in which he has been brought up, the Church in whose fellowship he worships.

If he is entering into life, it is because of him who came to bring abundant life; if he is growing in freedom of action and thought it is because he has accepted that service which is an initiation into perfect freedom.

Yet, just because of the wonder of this experience, it is hard sometimes to recognize the validity of a Christian experience which has been slightly different. It may be more easy to respect and admire a religious tradition which appears widely unlike one's own than to countenance one which has many similarities but certain subtle differences.

The very fact of these differences appears to be not a denial but a criticism of one's own convictions. Yet if that feeling turns to self-criticism it may be creative.

BULLETINS FROM BIRDLAND

WINIFRED E. WILSON



HATCHING TIME

The majority of us are fairly well acquainted with Robins, their beautiful green-blue eggs, and their babies. Probably you have watched one of their big, untidy nests closely enough to know that Mrs. Robin, who is got as brilliantly coloured as her husband, lays an egg a day, and these hatch in the same order. The nestlings, all different ages, are born practically naked and quite helpless. Gradually down grows on them, and later feathers; but for some time they must remain at home and be cared for by the parents.

We are apt to think this is the pattern for all birds, but here we are wrong. It is so with many perching birds, but by no means all of them. A Red-winged Blackbird, for instance, lays an egg a day, yet does not start incubating until the whole clutch is ready. About the 12th day, all the babies come popping out of their shells, ready to start life as triplets, quadruplets, or quintets, as the case may be.

Birds of prey, as Eagles, Hawks, and Owls, are born either partly or entirely covered with down, and from there on, their story is the same as that of the Robin. The Great Horned Owl, and the Cuckoo (whose babies come naked) are two matters another way. Their eggs are not laid on successive days, consequently there is sometimes a difference of several days in the ages of the youngsters.

A great number of birds, including shore and water birds, are all hatched at once, born with little feathers, and able to look after themselves either immediately or very soon. These are known as "precocial." They come from eggs that are much larger in proportion to the size of the parent, because there must be sufficient albumen in them to care for the chick, that it may be far advanced when born. Newly hatched Killdeers (whose period of incubation is 27 days), Ruffed Grouse, and Woodcocks are all able to run around almost as soon as their down is dry. Little Sora, Rails, practically at birth, can swim and protect themselves. Ducks emerge from their shells, dry off, and in half an hour are ready to take to the water.

Perching birds remove egg shells from their nest when babies are born, that attention may not be drawn to the home; but parents of precocial chicks do not bother, as the family will not be remaining near. This seems to show intelligence, yet scientists say it is only instinct.

Have birds fixed flyways?

POWERFUL SYSTEM

LONDON. (CP)—The Anglo-United States council on productivity will study Britain's electricity system, considered among the world's best. A feature of the tour will be a visit to new hydro-electric stations in Scotland.

MATRIMONY WINS

VANCOUVER (CP)—Dan Cupid's arrows are reaching the pretty Chinese stewardesses who work on some of the Canadian Pacific Airlines flying to the Far East. Officials say an average of four a year are leaving the service to get married.

Card Of Thanks

I wish to thank the Doctors, Nurses and Staff of the P. E. I. Hospital for their kindness to me. Also the neighbours and friends for many acts of kindness, gifts, cards, and letters during my long convalescing.

Eric J. Saunders.

CENTRAL GUARDIAN

This column is reserved for news of local interest, but advertising of a new way nature may be inserted at five cents a word, strictly payable in advance.

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HOMECRAFT, 203 Great George Street, open daily. Call and see our suggestions for Easter.

ATTENTION COMMUNITY CONCERT MEMBERS.—Yfrax Neaman, Violinist, P. W. College, Monday, March 31st, at 8.30.

SCHEDULED FLIGHTS daily to Summerside and Moncton. Phone Maritime Central Airways Limited, 2061 or 540.

HEAR DR. LLOYD SHAW speak on the forthcoming Island Drama Festival over C. F. C. Y. Tuesday evening, at 7 P. M.

BACK FROM MAGDALENES.—Dr. Leo Frank returned by airplane Saturday from a visit to the Magdalenes. He reports the Islanders there have had a poor year for seals.

WE CARRY all types of supplies for both office and store, gummed tape, ledgers, adding machine rolls, rubber stamps, typewriter ribbons, pencils, etc. H. M. Simpson Ltd., 160 Richmond St., Charlottetown.

TWO PRE-EASTER PLAYS and specialties will be presented by the Teacher Training students of Prince of Wales College, in the College Auditorium, Wednesday evening, April 2nd at 8.30. Admission 35 cents. Students 15 cents.

RETURNS TO PROVINCE.—Mr. James MacPhail, Meadow Bank, has returned from a most enjoyable four months visit with nieces, nephews and friends in the United States. Enroute home he also spent a pleasant week with friends and relatives at MacDougall's Settlement, New Brunswick. He is now enjoying a visit with his daughter, Mrs. Stanley Murray, Mr. Murray and family at York Point before returning to his home in Meadow Bank.

IMMUNIZING CLINICS, conducted by the Department of Health and Welfare, will be held on Monday, March 31st, at Prince Street School 1.30 P. M. Rochford Square School 2.30 P. M. Tuesday April 1st, at Queen Square School 1.30 P. M. Notre Dame Academy 2.30 P. M. Wednesday, April 2nd, at Modjeski School 1.30 P. M. Parkdale 2.30 P. M. Thursday, April 3rd, Spring Park School 1.30 P. M. West Kent School 2.30 P. M. Infants and Pre-School children, from 3 months to 5 years will be protected against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

FUNERAL FRIDAY.—The funeral of the late Ardenus J. Jardine, formerly of Charlottetown and a retired railroad conductor, was held on March 28th from the Cutcliffe Funeral Home to Mt. Stewart, with services conducted by Rev. J. T. Irwin. The late Mr. Jardine was born at Head of Hillboro on March 19th, 1861, and passed away at the P. E. I. Hospital on March 26th. He is survived by his widow and one son and daughter, Mrs. S. S. Herring, Burlington, Ont., and Lt. Col. P. C. Jardine, Regina Sask. Another son, Guy C., passed away in 1939. Pallbearers were Henry Douglas, Arthur Coffin, William Doyle, Ernest Cameron, Ross MacEwen and Andrew Baginall.

Personals

The many friends of Miss Stella Morrissey, who has been residing in Tignish, will be sorry to learn she has entered the City Hospital for treatment.

PARKDALE W.I.

Parkdale W.I. held their regular monthly meeting in Parkdale Hall on March 3rd with an attendance of 26 members and one visitor. The president, Mrs. Frank Ross presided and reports were read from the different committees and from the convenors of the Scouts and Guides.

Plans are under way for making an applied quilt which is being designed by Miss Fraser and Mrs. Ross. It was decided that the Institute pay the entry fees for the group entries from the school in the Music Festival and that the group membership in the Drama

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

Oldest of the birds, as identified from fossils, were something between a flying lizard and a bird. They were covered with feathers and bear the name of chaeoptera. Relics of such strange creatures were brought to light in Switzerland in 1736, and are said by scientists to be remains of ancestors of the ostrich.

In some parts of Australia the annual rainfall does not exceed three to five inches. Feed remains green but a few weeks out of the year. It is cured by the sun and remains standing almost indefinitely.

Under Australia's forest conservation scheme the land down there will always have plenty of trees, for the holding of cutting licenses are carefully supervised to insure that they take only trees marked by the foresters for their use.

Had a similar law been in force in this province our forest resources would not now be so badly exhausted.

New South Wales can boast of having one of the most remarkable cities in the world. Its name is Broken Hill, and no other sizeable city is within 300 miles of it. Millions of dollars worth of silver, lead, and zinc from Broken Hill have enriched Australians.

A typical bee colony is made up of a queen, 100 drones and between 5,000 and 30,000 workers.

In 1949 more than 10,000 Canadian mothers came through the ordeal of childbirth without any medical care whatsoever, which adds up to about three per cent of all the births in the country for that year.

No wonder Canada's infantile death-rate is double that of Sweden and New Zealand.

The policing of that vast territory known as the Northwest Territory, the wilds of the Yukon and Northern Quebec—approximately 3,000,000 square miles—the largest police precinct in the world—is covered by only 140 R.C.M.P. using ships, planes, automobiles and dog sleds. The 10,000 inhabitants, snowbound for about 10 months of the year, are mostly Eskimos and Indians.

Some inventions for which patents have been granted really stretch the imagination. There's a patented device to enable a man buried alive to signal persons outside. And a hat-tipper was patented for a fellow too lazy to lift his hat and be courteous.

The patent office is one branch of government which is not allowed to get into the red. When business gets dull, payroll and other expenses must be cut to the bone to preserve a margin of profit.

In our present calendar week days and month dates never agree from one year to the next. Quarters have 90, 91 or 92 days. Half years have 181, 182, or 184 days. Months range in number of days from 28 to 31, and a month may have five Sundays one year and only four the next, which is one of the reasons why the World Calendar Association of New York City urges adoption of a new calendar.

An electric company of St. Louis received a cheque for \$150 and a letter from a former employee, who wrote: "Here's my cheque for something I stole when I worked for your company many years ago."

Clarence Collins of Yarmouth, Maine goes in for pet seals—the coal black mammals known as hair seals and whose home ranges from the shores of Labrador to the shores of New England.

Collins keeps his pets in large tanks and says they are just about as hard to handle as human babies. The baby seals can be raised without their mothers providing one has the patience and the right kind of diet. Collins feeds his evaporated milk and raw eggs, and after they become accustomed to this fare, they eat at least double

Festival be paid.

Two cake sales are planned for the month of March. The lunch committee for the April meeting is Mrs. Frizel, Mrs. Found, Mrs. Edgett, Mrs. J. Gallant and Mrs. F. Gallant.

Knitting parties during the month of February were held in the hall, at Mrs. Edwin Cook's home and at the home of Mrs. Charles Swan. Interesting programs were conducted by the group leaders, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Hudson, Mrs. Burns and Mrs. Ross.

Included in the programs were demonstrations on table decorations, the making of mittens from old sweaters, making a quilt without using frames, and the making of hooked and braided rugs.

During March the knitting parties will be continued with the group meeting at the homes of Mrs. Millar MacFadyen, Miss Anna Love, and Mrs. Henry Douglas.

the amount one would expect them to consume.

Collins goes on to say, "that young seals crave warmth and companionship, and even in captivity will cry like babies if they do not get the attention they feel they deserve."

Female seals produce but one baby a year, a little helpless creature usually born on rocks.

In their natural habitat, the mother fattens the baby to nearly 50 pounds in four or five weeks. Then it rides around on Mom's back for a couple of weeks, when she takes it into the sea and teaches it how to swim.

Scarcity of housing accommodations in New Delhi, India, forced a refugee family to seek shelter in an old well. But that didn't keep municipal authorities from affixing a number plate to the well. This made the occupants liable to the housing tax. You just can't beat paying taxes these days.

Tarr Inlet, situated more than a half mile inside the Canada-Alaska boundary, is entirely free of ice the year round.

A self service plan is being tried out in one of England's largest clothing stores, whereby the store allows a discount of 7½ per cent to anyone who selects and fits the garment they choose.

The management believes the saving in salaries will make up for the discount. The store operates with a small staff and a few girls to rehang handled garments. The store's slogan is: "Seal yourself a new outfit."

Point De Roche Notes

Mr. Frank Kelly of the Savage Harbour Packing Co. is held up for material for his traps.

Mr. Bernie Feehan was a visitor to Charlottetown on March 21st and 22nd.

Mrs. George McCormack was visiting Mrs. Joseph McIntyre in Bideford on March 22nd.

Miss Nora Doyle was a visitor to Mr. Stewart on Wednesday, March 19th.

Gerry McDougall's family visited the home of Mr. Joseph McDougall on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. McCormack were visitors to Mt. Stewart on Saturday, March 22nd. Mrs. McCormack is at present teaching for Mrs. George McCormack.

Mr. Herbert Mullins, Tracadie, was a recent visitor to Mrs. Bernice Kelly.

Mary McCormack and Francis and George Feehan were visitors at the home of Jack Feehan recently.

Doug and Peter Doyle are busy cutting their summer wood.

Gerard and Ellwood Donnelly were visitors to Charlottetown recently.

Mr. Pius Feehan of Mt. Stewart was a recent visitor to his home at Point De Roche.

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Religion and Life

By Very Rev. George C. Pidgeon, D.D., LL.D.

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SPIRITUAL VALUES

Some years ago in a city of Eastern Canada a young man was arrested and charged with murder. There was no direct proof of his guilt, but circumstantial evidence pointed in his direction. He was penniless and friendless, and had no means of defense. A young French lawyer took up his case. A fee meant nothing to him; he provided the money necessary. He believed in the man's innocence and championed his case so effectively that he secured his acquittal.

"The title for the Holy Spirit which Christ used in His teaching in the Upper Room has no English equivalent. Whoever it is used outside the New Testament it means Advocate. My Advocate is the man who pleads for me in a court of law. It means this in I John 2:2: 'If anyone does sin we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous.'"

In the Upper Room Jesus characterized the Holy Spirit by that title, and used it in a far wider sense. The word means literally, one called to the side of another to help him in whatever way he needs help, his comforter in sorrow, his defense in danger, his helper in difficulty, his support in weakness, his counselor in perplexity. It is not only a few of the words used in translation.

This Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, came to take Christ's place in the lives of His people. He is the Creator Spirit, the Giver of life in Christ. It is by His power that men are born anew—that transformation of character which only the figure of the New Birth can describe adequately. It is He who releases men from the power of sin and makes the slave of sin a free man in Christ.

We have seen many cases of men, whom years of evil habit had left helpless before temptation, set free so completely from that temptation that it made no appeal to them. He endows the believer with power. For example, it was by the power of the Holy Spirit bestowed on him in a burning experience that D. L. Moody moved the world. Whenever the Church of Christ rises to a full realization of the meaning of this divine gift she becomes a life-giving agency, raising men without number into the new life in Christ.

Here is a fact that startles us—in St. John's writings judgment appears side by side with grace. What Luther called the "little God" we find in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." This is followed immediately by the words: "For God did not send His Son into the world that He might judge the world but that the world might be saved through Him."

Yet judgment is the inevitable result of His coming when men reject His love. That is to say, the sinner who refuses God's offer of pardon and life adds to his many transgressions the sin of rejecting the Son of God and the salvation He provided at such tremendous cost.

Now our Divine Advocate and Helper is sent to put the resources of the Kingdom of God at the disposal of our faith in our moral

struggles and spiritual activities but the world neither sees Him nor recognizes Him. But the world that ignores Him cannot escape His judgments.

"When He comes," the sacred record says, "He will convict the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment."

"To convict" means to expose its evil so clearly that it cannot but acknowledge its guilt.

The church when possessed by the Divine Spirit cannot but echo His judgments on the world's evil. In the first draft of the program for the next meeting of the World Council of Churches there is complaint that the church has become reconciled to the world, that it has compromised Christ's moral principles and is failing to bear His witness against destructive sin.

Historically the church has stood strongly against the wickedness of each age. The best way to show up a crooked stick's crookedness is by putting a straight stick beside it; when the church holds before the world the perfect example of the Son of God she pronounces against everything opposed to Him.

One of the chief reasons for the church's unpopularity is her demand for chastity and for the sacredness of marriage. Her doctrine that each person is an end in himself or herself and never to be made the means to the ends of others requires the church to insist that no man should ask his wife to give herself to him unreservedly and finally without giving herself to her to the same extent.

And vice versa. That same principle condemns the sin of exploiting a fellowman economically by denying him a fair share of their joint product, or politically by taking from him his rights as a citizen. In the same way it condemns war for imposing by violence the will of one group on another.

That law of the supreme value of persons to God also condemns any system which profits from the means of human degradation, such as the liquor traffic as it now is established in Ontario. The supineness of church people in the face of its innumerable evils amazes one who recalls the church's attitude and actions in days gone by.

We cannot have the positive without the negative. The means which God provides for salvation deepen our guilt when we trample them underfoot. So it is that the Holy Spirit who is sent to give eternal life to all who accept Christ as Saviour and Lord becomes the Judge here and now of all who deny His authority and oppose His will.

Yet judgment is the inevitable result of His coming when men reject His love. That is to say, the sinner who refuses God's offer of pardon and life adds to his many transgressions the sin of rejecting the Son of God and the salvation He provided at such tremendous cost.

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IN MEMORIAM
In loving memory of Husband and Father, W. A. White, Milton, who departed this life March 31st, 1948.

Deep in our hearts lies a picture, More precious than silver or gold. 'Tis a picture of a dear Husband and Father, Whose memory will never grow old.
Fondly Remembered by Wife and Family.

IN MEMORIAM
—In loving memory of our dear Mother,
MRS. D. W. MacDONALD who passed away March 31st, 1950.
Fondly Remembered and Sadly Missed by Son John, Frances and Family.

IN MEMORIAM
..In fond and loving memory of our dear Husband and Father, Philip Morrison, who departed this life March 31st, 1949.

Ever Remembered and Sadly Missed by His Wife and Family.

IN MEMORIAM
In loving memory of a dear Father, David MacDonald, of O'Leary, who passed away March 20th, 1951.
"Not just today, but every day in silence we remember."
Son, Reginald and Family.

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