

Religion and Life

By Very Rev. George C. Fidgeon, D.D., LL.D. First Moderator of the United Church of Canada (Copyright)

ST. PAUL'S IDEAL

There must be a destination for every pilgrimage. There must be a goal for every foot-ball match. There must be a winning post for every race. There must be an objective to be attained by victory, else the soldiers will have fought in vain.

My question is:—What is my aim in life? What will be gained by my success or lost by my failure? We must have a sense of direction if we are ever to get anywhere. Once there was a student playing football with his fellows who lacked that quality. He was strong and he could run, but he had no sense of the goal. He would get hold of the ball and tear down the field at top speed, but there was no guarantee that the ball would be nearer the goal when he was brought down than when he started.

Needless to say, he never made the team. His other good qualities counted for nothing because he never had any idea of where he was going or of what particular thing he was expected to do.

So it is in many a life. His one idea is to "get along," and if he is "getting along" nicely he thinks he is succeeding. But he has no definite object before him which his success is to serve. This was the type of failure which St. Paul dreaded. No success counted with him unless it served the object to which his whole being was devoted, namely, the extension of Christ's Kingdom in the souls of men. And so he wrote to one of his churches:—"Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it."

Well, I do not run aimlessly. I do not box as one beating the air; but I punnett my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others, I myself should be disqualified. To another of his churches he wrote:—"This one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Paul was always looking forward to Christ's Return, and to prepare the world for that consummation by bringing to the nations the good news of Christ salvation was the one and only object which he kept before him. Similarly every individual is called to attain an ideal and do some work peculiarly his own as his contribution to the common good.

This principle is also the law of the church's ministry. The late Harry Rylie once cross-questioned a young enthusiast on this point. "This young Christian was telling him of the success of the particular organization to which he belonged in the church. 'What for?' inquired Mr. Rylie. 'O well, the success of the different organizations make a successful church.' Again, 'What for?' the questioner persisted. In other words, what ultimate object is served by the success of a particular congregation?"

Is our ideal of a prosperous church one in which its congregation's affairs run smoothly, with a good attendance ample revenues, and a satisfactory increase in membership? It is not true that every organization must serve some purpose outside itself if it is to avoid the peril of becoming a parasite?

We recall one young minister's answer to this question. He believed firmly that the ordinary work of a Christian congregation should lead up to a special spiritual revival that would quicken the whole community. This meant that its weekly work should be done conscientiously, the Gospel preached continually in its purity and power, the activities of the different organizations adapted to the needs of their different constituencies and the pastoral care of the people faithfully taken. That would go on for years.

But, sooner or later, there should come a stirring of the Spirit among the people, an eager questioning about the things of God, and then steps would be taken to satisfy this now longing with deep and wide-spread effects. The Holy Spirit, given at Pentecost, has not left his church, nor has He ceased His activities. When God's "people are willing in the day of His power" the world will be moved as in the days of old, and the work of Christ's church lifted to a new level of grace and power.

Should not the Christian community in Toronto anticipate a movement upward of this character? Special efforts by several churches in Toronto and elsewhere have met with a warm response, and a deepened interest in the things of God is apparent. We have much to be thankful for, and with a new expectancy for the future, "the field is white unto the harvest."

IN MEMORIAM

MRS. J. A. MACLEAN The death occurred at the P. E. Island Hospital on January 2, of Mrs. J. A. MacLean, of Mt. Herbert, the former Edith MacDougall of Lower Newtown. She was a kind and loving wife and mother, and was always a good Christian, doing kind deeds for others. For several years she had been in ill health but remained cheerful at all times and attended the United Church in her community if at all possible. Her husband predeceased her four years ago. She leaves to mourn one daughter, Margaret, Mrs. Harold MacKinnon of Canoe Cove, and four sons, Wesley, of Lambeth, Ont.; Arthur, at home; James, in Marquette, B.C.; and Edson in Windsor, Ont. She is also survived by two sisters, Bessie, Mrs. A. E. Smith, of Charlottetown; and W. G. Smith, of Lower Newtown, and Harry A. of Charlottetown, and Herman, of Lower Newtown. Two brothers and two sisters predeceased her. The funeral was held January 4, and the interment was in Mt. Herbert Cemetery.

Card Of Thanks

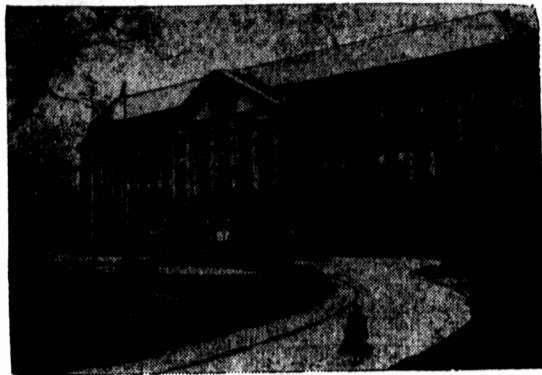
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur MacLean, Mt. Herbert wish to thank all those who sent messages of sympathy during their recent sad bereavement.

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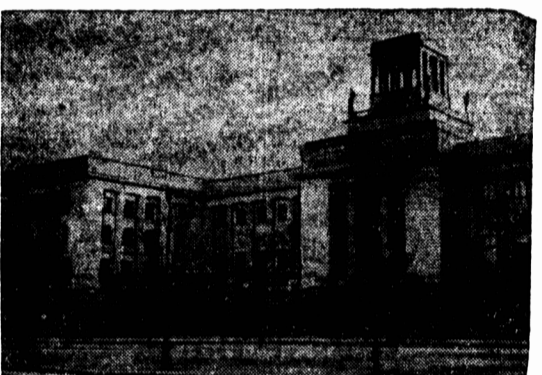
MRS. SARA B. GILLIS 1940 - 1954 Wood Islands, Jan. 25th Lovingly remembered by her daughter Pearl.

Big Four's Meeting Places - - -

After wrangling for 10 days, the Big Four have agreed on sites in Berlin for the Foreign Ministers Conference. The Allied Control Center in West Berlin will be used for the first and third seven-day periods. The Soviet Embassy, on Unter den Linden, in East Berlin, will be the host for the second seven-day period. Main topics of discussion are expected to be German unity and a treaty of independence for Austria.



First week, Big 4 to meet in Allied Control Building, West Berlin



Second week, talks will move to Soviet Embassy in East Berlin

Pleasant Grove News Tyne Valley Notes

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Corrigan and family visited Mrs. Corrigan's mother, Mrs. Fred Hughes, Charlottetown, recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Saunders and son Paul, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Caswell, Pleasant Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. Terrance Lamphier and Helen recently visited their daughter, Mrs. Leslie McCabe, Stanhope.

Mrs. Parnell Curran was a recent guest of Mr. and Mrs. John Myers, Stanhope.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Caswell and son, Joe, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Murray, Little York.

An enjoyable evening was spent in Pleasant Grove Hall where a shower was given in honor of Miss Marion Murray of Toronto. The gifts were opened by Misses Margaret Lamphier and Luella McCabe and the names and verses read by Mrs. Dennis Saunders.

Miss Lorraine Morrissey, teacher at Covehead Road, visited her sister, Mrs. John MacDonald, recently.

Mr. Don MacDonald, Charlottetown, was a recent visitor to Pleasant Grove, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. John MacDonald.

Miss Mary Morrison has returned to the Assumption Convent, Tracadie, to resume her studies, having spent the holidays at her home in Pleasant Grove.

Mr. Edward Morrison has returned to St. Dunstan's, having spent the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Morrison, Pleasant Grove.

Misses Shirley Curran and Celia MacCormick, Pleasant Grove, spent a pleasant holiday in the city.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Watts and family have moved to Charlottetown where Mr. Watts is employed at Canada Packers.

Mrs. James Lawless, Pleasant Grove, visited her sister, Mrs. George Mill, City.

Mr. Don Lawlor and son, Dick, were in the city recently.

Messrs. Charles and Alfred Morrison, Pleasant Grove, have resumed their studies at St. Dunstan's, having spent the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Morrison, Pleasant Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wyatt, Pleasant Grove, are spending the winter at Marshfield.

The many friends of Mrs. Garfield Clow, Pleasant Grove, are pleased to see her home from the P. E. I. Hospital.

The many friends of Mrs. Les Clow are sorry to learn of her illness at her home in Pleasant Grove.

Misses Anne and Mary Morrison, Messrs. James, Norbert and Hubert Morrison attended the hockey game at the Forum.

GORA FOR SORE GUMS

GORA is a pleasant saline that brings immediate relief in itching, sore and swollen gums. It soothes and enables both mother and baby to enjoy undisturbed rest. Use at all drug counters. Or mailed on receipt of price by Professional Products Co., Equipment Ltd., 5 Sydney St., Saint John, N.B.

FAMOUS SPIRE

Tallest spire in England is the spire rising from Salisbury cathedral, reaching 404 feet from the ground.

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur THE PLOUGHMAN POET

One hundred and fifty-nine years ago, Robert Burns, the Ayrshire bard, passed from this earthly scene to join the immortals. Born in a clay cottage, he grew up to the life of a farmer, later to become the ploughman poet of Scotland. Never was a man more lauded and acclaimed for a short period of his stormy and chequered career, and never was a genius more neglected during his few later years. But no sooner the old earth enfolds his remains than every son of Scotland mourned his passing with a deep and genuine grief.

Today all lovers of song in general and Burns in particular, master of the English Lyric, so that now after over a century and a half after his untimely death he has risen to an elevation in the affections of his countrymen, and indeed of men everywhere, which has no parallel in the annals of literature. Peer and beggar alike, the man of culture and the humblest workman embraced him in their heart of hearts. In short, whenever men of British birth or descent are found there are the admirers of Robert Burns, animated by a warmth of admiration which is unique. The warmer, doubtless, because of his imperfect life, and because he alone among men held the magic wand that imparted so much happiness to mankind.

The greater poets—if one can name a greater poet—left the impress of their minds on their countrymen, but none of them has leavened the thought and speech of the great mass of his countrymen so thoroughly as poet Burns, for he was essentially one of "the people" in birth, breeding and instinct, which is why he has been taken more closely to humanity's bosom than any of them. Again, Robert Burns was the great champion of brotherly love and the oneness of man. And in his masterful poem, "A Man's a Man For 'A' That", the poet has expressed his firm conviction that all men are created free and equal, a conviction which since his day, has gained millions of adherents. One might put it another way by saying that "A Man's a Man For 'A' That" is the greatest expression of democracy in poetry and therefore placed Burns a full century ahead of his time and age.

The heart of Robert Burns glowed with sympathy for every living creature and for everything that came under his keen eyes, and who sees not even the mouse, "Wee Skeelit, cowrin beastie," torn from its nest by the plow, nor the crushed daisy, without a pang of regret, recognize in Burns, a munificent benefactor. The poem, "To A Mouse", is said to be one of the most perfect expressions in the English language of romantic sympathy, for the lower animals. Indeed all of the poet's lyrics are a combination of strength, understanding of his subjects and beauty of structure. Especially are his love songs among the very finest in the English speaking world. Who among us has not thrilled to "Auld Lang Syne", "Should Auld Acquaintance Be Forgotten", "My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose", or "Highland Mary"?

There's an indefinable quality in the songs of Robert Burns that few other poets have been able to capture or emulate. This great man who could touch the heart-strings of all men, this bard of language, this farmer genius, whose songs gushed from his heart like rain from a water spout was a strange mixture of virtue and vice as indeed most men are, but all too often has his virtue forgotten his service on the side of purity. It ought not to be forgotten that the poet found much in the muse of his day that was actually obscene and he made it presentable everywhere. The urge to write poetry came to Burns at a comparatively early age and the wonder of it is how a mere lad who had to do the work of a man at 15 ever found time to play with rhymes. As the poet reached his late teens this passion for the muse increased and we read some of his best poems written at this period of his life. But alas, other passions assailed the poet. The passion for the sex was perhaps the strongest in his nature, and for several

Mr. Chester MacDonald spent the week-end with his father, Mr. Peter MacDonald. Chester has been stationed at Chatham, with the R.C.A.F. but expects to be transferred to Quebec.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred MacKinnon and family, Summerside, spent a few days recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred MacDougall.

Miss Freda Williams, Summerside, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Williams.

Mrs. Leaman Campbell is spending some time in Summerside at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Campbell where their mother Mrs. Laura Yeo is confined to bed with a severe attack of the "flu".

Miss Estelle Newcombe entertained a number of her school chums to a birthday party on Saturday afternoon Jan. 16.

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CENTRAL GUARDIAN

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A. PICKARD & CO. are unloading cars of Welsh hard coal, Springhill and Albion coal.

TONIGHT at 8:30 Louise Roy, great Canadian soprano, sings at Prince of Wales Auditorium. Admission at door, adults 75 cents, students 25 cents.

MENT'S QUICK LUNCH - Monday's Special, Chilled Tomato Juice, Fresh Meat Pie with Vegetables, Rolls and Butter, Tea, Coffee or Milk. 55 cents.

WEEK OF PRAYER SERVICES will be held in the Hunter River Church on January 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th. First Service in the United Church Tuesday, January 26th. All are invited to these services.

WINNER IN ICE SPORTS. In the list of ice sport winners in Saturday's issue, Robert Coffin should have been listed for second place in the six-year old girls and boys race, instead of Rupert Coffin. The annual Prince Street School event took place Friday evening.

Years ago he was the petted and sought after darling of scores of bonnie lasses.

His unhappy love affair with Jean Armour decided him to flee Scotland for Jamaica. How to pay his passage was the \$64 question. So he published by subscription a volume of his poems. They were widely acclaimed and instead of Jamaica, Burns ended up in Edinburgh where he was too often winced by the highest society. After the flattery and cheers had died down Burns returned to the country with about \$2,500 which came from the second edition of his poems. He married Jean Armour in 1788.

It was during his residence on his newly purchased farm that he wrote, in a single day, "Tam o' Shanter". For a time he composed and wrote a number of beautiful songs. But high society and the idle rich who gathered around him affected by his brilliant wit and magnetic personality had an evil effect upon the all too easily led poet. In the winter of 1794 his health broke, and in the following summer he was called to join the immortals. That was 158 years ago, and now the world cherishes with undying love the memory of Robert Burns.

There's an indefinable quality in the songs of Robert Burns that few other poets have been able to capture or emulate. This great man who could touch the heart-strings of all men, this bard of language, this farmer genius, whose songs gushed from his heart like rain from a water spout was a strange mixture of virtue and vice as indeed most men are, but all too often has his virtue forgotten his service on the side of purity. It ought not to be forgotten that the poet found much in the muse of his day that was actually obscene and he made it presentable everywhere.

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Kelly's Cross and Vicinity

Mr. Austin Carragher, Miss Edith Quinn and Mrs. Francis MacDonalld were recent visitors of Mr. and Mrs. James Quinn, Lot 65. The Misses Anita Murray and Rosaleen Flood, took part in the Island Jamboree, Saturday night and all were pleased to hear them. Joseph Coady and Adrian Smith

visited the home of Thomas B. Cusack and spent a pleasant evening. Messrs Owen Carragher and Stephen Smith, were recent visitors to Charlottetown, on business. Mr. Edward MacDonald and Francis, were recent visitors to Charlottetown. Miss Imelda Stordy, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Francis Flood, Charlottetown. S. U.

BURNS Anniversary Concert P. W. C. HALL, TUESDAY, JAN. 26th at 8.15 p.m. Under the Distinguished Patronage of His Honour Lt.-Governor T. W. L. Prowse and Mrs. Prowse; Premier A. W. Matheson and Mrs. Matheson, and His Worship Mayor J. D. Stewart and Mrs. Stewart. Tickets available at: Harry A. MacDougall, Wendall Phillips, Toombs Music Store, Rendezvous Restaurant. Admission 75c; Reserve Section \$1.00

Boosters Minstrel Revue Prince of Wales Auditorium TUE., FEB. 2 and WED., FEB. 3. Tickets on sale at Old Spain, Hughes Drug Co., Johnny's Mayfair, Fred Lambros and Giggey's Pharmacy. Adm. 50c

Efficiency "Our new Home Office Building has been planned with the prime object of enabling our staff operations to be performed with maximum efficiency and economy. The saving will be reflected in the net cost of insurance to our policyholders for years to come." From President's address at Annual Meeting, January 22nd, 1954. Insurance \$169,733,059; Annuities \$ 7,167,060; Assets-\$181,676,122; Surplus Funds-\$13,750,950. Crown Life Insurance Company. R. C. MacDONALD, LL.B., C.L.U., Superintendent, Maritime Branch Office 14 Church Street, Moncton

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