

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 VITAL REALITIES

One of the sparks from the anvil of a brilliant young preacher was his quotation of this comment on the course of study which a young student had followed: "He majored on minor subjects."

He had turned aside from those springs of knowledge out of which the central issues of life and thought flow, and had concentrated on themes which had no bearing on life or destiny. He thus refused greatness of mind and character and lowered his capacity for achievement.

"If only the would awaken!" is the longing of many parents as they try to turn the attention of youth from the trivial to the serious. It is quite true that "you can't put old heads on young shoulders." To expect young people in their teens and twenties to act as do men and women in their fifties and sixties is both ridiculous and mischievous.

And yet anyone's future career is decided by the turn given to life in youth. It is in early years that character can be moulded and ability developed and trained. One's nature is then adaptable; habits are formed that later become fixed; learning can be acquired on which our skills are based. Youth is the time for ideals. By diligence and purposeful effort dreams can be turned into realities, and as the years pass, they rise on stepping-stones of their dead selves to higher things. But if the passion for pleasure shuts out the aspiration to high attainment and achievement, and discipline and direction of life to a goal clearly defined is refused, then full self-realization becomes impossible and the blossom is blighted before it can be turned into fruit.

effort which bind the wedded pair more closely together; differences over trifles exasperate.

Henry Drummond once said that irritableness has more misery-producing power than even serious wrongs; it is petty meanness and selfishness that irritate. Hence the need of religion in the home. Worship together before we face the problems or take up the burdens of the day brings through the clouds a gleam of the ultimate and eternal, and from its viewpoint we can face in a new spirit the difficulties of the day.

Once a young man left a Nova Scotia farm and migrated to the far west to seek his fortune. He succeeded. When he married he brought his bride to the old home on their honeymoon and received "a Highland welcome." The next morning before dawn the bride heard a strange sound and asked her husband about it. He listened for a moment, and said, "They are at the books"—their way of describing family worship. When they met the family the bride expressed surprise at their habit of taking time to read the Bible and pray when they had to rise so early, and got this reply: "Ah! I'd never think of facing the dangers of the day without the armor of prayer." In homes like that true greatness is born and bred.

Jesus once called his critics hypocrites because they tithed mint and dill and cummin and neglected the weightier matters of the law—justice and mercy and faith. Then He added: "These you ought to have done without neglecting the others."

They too majored on minor duties and the result was the perversion of the spirit of religion. The prophets of the old Testament denounced the leaders of their time for offering to a just God ceremonial observances as a substitute for righteousness. They acted, says a modern writer, as if there were a fool on the eternal throne who could be blinded with the smoke of their sacrifices.

Is it not a weakness that often appears in religious people to stress the secondary to the exclusion of the primary? For example, all Christian churches are agreed on the central truths and principles of Christianity; they are kept apart by secondary issues and the traditions and prejudices which have grown up around them. When one looks over the subjects of sermons announced in Saturday's papers, often he cannot but feel that the preacher, commissioned to proclaim "the Gospel of the glory of the blessed God," is dealing with minor truths. In Christian life and testimony the great realities of the faith have the first claim on thought and action and should always be given the first place.

It was out of Robert Burns' experience and observation that these bitter lines came: "O Man! while in thy early years How prodigal of time! Mis-spending all thy precious hours. Thy glorious youthful prime! We are not thinking of the vices that eat like a canker; there are many who shun wickedness like poison who nevertheless waste their energies and opportunities in pursuits that bring them nowhere. They major on minor subjects and therefore fall short of the realization of their possibilities. The author of the book of Ecclesiastes may have been a pessimist, but he showed that he had a wise old head on his shoulders by writing: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, before the evil days come, and the years draw nigh when thou wilt say I have no pleasure in them." True religion aims at greatness as well as goodness and inspires achievement as well as personal purity.

The heads of a home which came perilously close to shipwreck, acknowledged to an older friend, "We never had any trouble about the big things: it was over the little things of life that we quarrelled." Great calamities and grave difficulties call out thought and

CENTRAL GUARDIAN

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

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NOTICE—The Windmill, 61 Grafton St., will be closed all day Monday and Tuesday for alterations. Open as usual Wednesday.

LAUGH at "The Family Album" Monday, November 10th, 8.15, in North Rustico Hall. Presented by Central Royalty Glee Club, under direction of William Rogers. Sponsored by Hunter River and New Glasgow Glee Clubs.

The Crosses

Row, on row, on the hill side
The crosses are gleaming white,
And the men who sleep there so peaceful
Have died, in the cause for right.

They fought for the call of freedom
And our country from tyranny,
They rest in their graves so far away,
That we may have liberty.

They heed not the noise of the explosion
Or the dark cloud that seems so near,
They have done their part, they have paid the price
For home and loved ones dear.

But that monster! war, rules once again,
And we hear the battle roar;
While the measured beat of our soldiers' feet,
Go marching by once more.

Those little white crosses are calling to you
Comrades, who march again,
Take up the task, we have left undone
And we have not died in vain.

On this day of remembrance
We our wreaths at the cenotaph lay;
In silent prayer, our thoughts go out
To our pals of yesterday.

Sleep soldier sleep. Thy war-torn days are o'er,
The poppies shed their petals on your bed,
The Lark will sing to you a lullaby,
Rest soldier rest. A cross is at your head.

And under each little white cross there lies
A Father or Brother or Son,
They shall rest on their laurels until that great day
When the Master shall say, well done.

—Mrs. Edgar Gillespie
76 Douglas Street.

QUEBEC, Nov. 9—(CP)—The Quebec Government intends to crack down on rent racketeers by force tenants to buy unneeded furniture at high prices.

Premier Duplessis announced Friday during a press conference amendments to provincial rent control laws will be introduced at the next session of the Quebec Legislature to halt forced sale of furniture to tenants.

Amendments will provide that a tenant who has been forced to buy furniture which they would like to keep, true value of the furniture will be established by rental administrators.

Mr. Duplessis said rent control will be extended for another year. It was due to expire April 30 next. Quebec moved into the rent-control field in May, 1951, when the Federal Government abandoned its rent regulations.

ANGLO RUSTICO SCHOOL

Following is the report for Anglo Rustico for the month of October:

Grade X—1. Alma Craswell and Marie Nunn; 2. Lorne Stevenson.

Grade VIII—1. Marjorie Hooper; 2. Billie Nunn.

Grade VII—1. Norma Parkman.

Grade VI—1. Sandra Buntain; 2. Charles Stevenson.

Grade IV—1. Hazel Parkman.

Grade III—1. Clayton Nunn.

Grade II—1. Marilyn Stevenson.

Grade I—Allie Craswell.

Highest average: Alma Craswell and Marie Nunn, 93%.

Perfect attendance: Lorne Stevenson, Marjorie Hooper, Sandra Buntain, Charles Stevenson, Marilyn Stevenson.

Teacher: Jean Carr.

PASSED TEST

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (CP)—A commercial traveller charged with driving under the influence of liquor was acquitted after a lengthy court session. It was testified the accused won a snooker tournament before his arrest and witnesses told of his skill and judgment.

HIGHFIELD W. I.

Mrs. Sidney and Mrs. Perley Taylor were hostesses to the Highfield Women's Institute for their October meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting were read, approved and signed, also the treasurer's report. Roll call was responded to by 12 members and one visitor.

It was moved by Mrs. Weeks and seconded by Mrs. Holyroyd that all outstanding bills be paid before the annual meeting. It was also moved and seconded that the Institute sponsor the Boy Scouts and Wolf Cubs, and that \$25 be given to these troops to purchase the necessary requirements. It was decided to hold a rummage sale in the near future.

Mrs. J. Rodd was appointed to purchase two bottles of capsules for the school children. Mrs. Good, reporting for the hall committee, stated that several repairs, such as fixing window panes, new furnace pipe, etc., were required. It was suggested that she should get in touch with Mr. Stockman and have him make the necessary repairs. The sick committee reported that cards and flowers had been sent.

New committees were appointed as follows: School, Mrs. MacFarlane, Miss Callaghan, and Mrs. MacLeod; hall, Mrs. Diamond, Mrs. W. Rodd, Mrs. McFarlane, Miss Villett; lunch committee, Mrs. John A. Holyroyd, Mrs. Diamond (sandwich), Mrs. Hurry and Mrs. Kennedy (sweets). The place of the next meeting was undecided. The meeting closed with "The Queen."

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Eisenhower's Entry Into Politics Begins At White House



After 20 long years, a Republican once again inhabits the White House, in Washington, D.C., the first since Herbert Hoover moved out of the White House in 1932. The 34th President of the U.S., Dwight D. Eisenhower, made a spectacular entry into politics after a 40-year military career, causing a Republican landslide that cracked the "solid south" and broached Democratic defences across the U.S. Eisenhower ousted his opponent, Governor Adlai Stevenson of Illinois under a coast-to-coast swell of votes matching in volume that given Hoover in 1928.

To Crack Down On Rent Rackets

OSLO, Norway—(CP)—Norwegian and Dutch scientists are studying the practical possibilities of using atomic power to fuel merchant vessels. Information in this field will also be exchanged with French scientists.

QUAKE-PROOF BRIDGE

LONDON—(CP)—Two British firms have been awarded a \$4,000,000 contract to build a 3,520-foot bridge across the harbor at Auckland, N.Z. The specifications call for the structure to be resistant to earthquakes.

ATOMIC ENGINES

COMPLICATED TONGUE

The Bulgarian language is allied to the Russian with addition of modern Greek, Albanian and Turkish words.

MERMAID SCHOOL

Report of Mermaid School for the months of September and October:

Grade X—1. Louise MacEachern; 2. Mary McKenna; 3. Basil Lacey.

Grade IX—George Mutch.

Grade VIII—Deanna Matheson; 2. Ada McKenna; 3. Rudolph Spin.

Grade III—1. Henk Spin; 2. Linda Matheson.

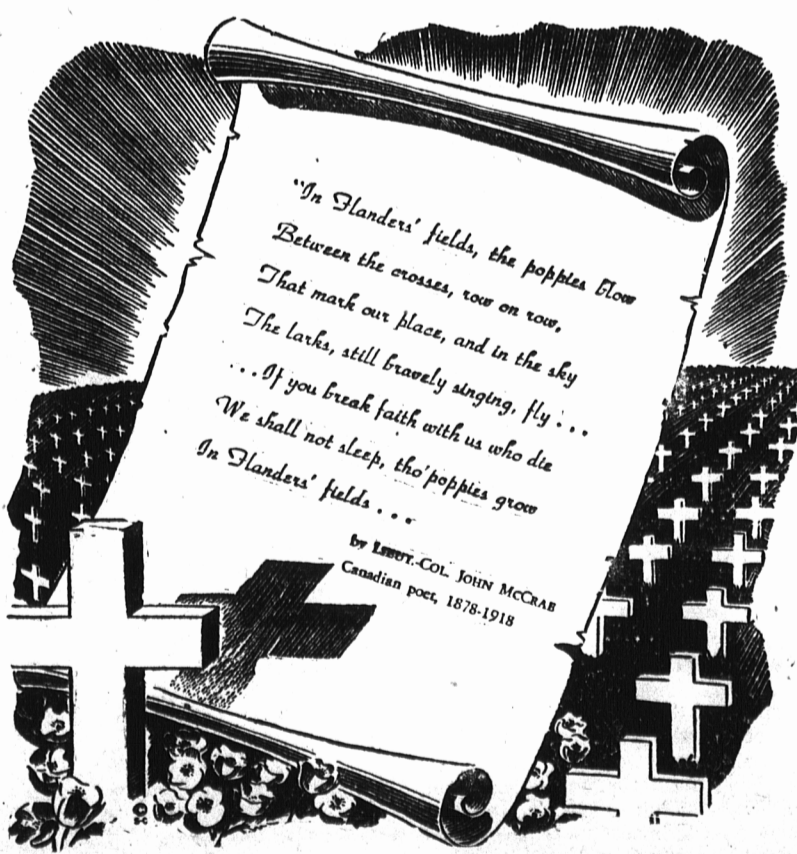
Grade II—Margaret Lacey.

Grade I—No tests.

Alice McCarthy, teacher.

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