

# 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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## WITH EACH NEW VICTORY MAN ENLARGES HIS SOUL

The laymen in science who attempt to understand the discoveries of modern scientists find themselves encompassed with wonder. We live in an entirely different universe today from any that our fathers knew — immeasurably vaster, and with powers inconceivably greater. Astronomers tell us that light travels 186,000 miles a second and that light-years are the units of measurement. They tell us that there have photographed nebulae so distant that it takes their light 50,000,000 years to reach us, and that these nebulae are of such a size that our solar system would be lost in them without making a serious difference in them. This means that in comparison our sun is only a small star and our world a tiny ball swung out into space. As we read their estimates and figures we ask the age-old question: "What is man?" And what can his life signify in so wide a setting?

Our history is but a speck in recorded time. And the tiniest insect that flies in the sunlight is greater in comparison with its surroundings than man is in relation to the universe he has discovered.

It helps us to find that this same question was asked in ancient days in the smaller universe which they knew. In Psalm 8 we read:

"O Lord, our Lord,  
How majestic is Thy name  
in all the earth!  
"Thou whose glory above the heavens is chanted by the mouth of babes and infants,  
"Thou hast founded a firmament because of Thy foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.  
"When I look at Thy heavens,  
the work of Thy fingers,  
the moon and the stars which Thou hast established; what is man that Thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that Thou dost care for him?"

Principal W. R. Taylor, who gave us the above translation, comments: "It is clear in this strophe from the use of the first personal pronoun that the psalmist was in the first instance a private human being, and the soul of the psalmist as he stood alone before his God under the starry and clouded heavens, overpowered by the sense of man's littleness over against such evidence of the divine greatness and might."

More Than Body

But man is more than body. Physically he may seem less than nothing in comparison with the universe around him, but his mind can comprehend all these wonders of creation. So the Psalmist continues:

"Yet Thou hast made him little less than God, and dost crown him with glory and honor.  
"Thou hast given him dominion over the works of Thy hands;  
"Thou hast put all things under his feet."

Man is mind. He has discovered the mind which created the universe around him, and he has discovered the laws that govern the movements "of worlds and worlds hanging ever on God's hands."

In his study of those laws he knows that he is just "thinking God's thoughts after Him." At the other extreme, he has discovered energies in the atom, an object far too small for his eyes to see, yet containing forces which, if released, could wreck the world.

Man is will. Not only has he discovered these powers in nature but he is harnessing them to his chariot and making them serve his ends. When mentioning the thought of all these things being "put under man's feet," the Psalmist mentions as examples, sheep and oxen and the beasts of the field, but now we see the forces of nature subjected to man's will.

Men like Abraham, Moses and Paul in ancient days discovered not only a Creator's mind and will behind all that is, but also a heart.

It is a stupendous thought, but they found it true, that the God who made the worlds desires to enter into fellowship with the men whom He made in His own image.

In generation after generation, the Divine Spirit has communicated with men, revealed His love, and honored them by calling them into His service. This privilege awaits every one of us if only we will come unto Him that we may have life.

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# Notes Marked Increase In Provincial Revenue Figures

That the Provincial revenue now stands at \$3,903,000 was pointed out by Mr. T. R. Cullen (L. Second Kings), speaking on the budget debate in the Legislature Thursday. Comparing this with 1928, he said that the total revenue, provincial and Dominion, was \$2,139,000.

Mr. Cullen said this marked increase in revenue had been effected by the Government who followed a program of expanding the primary industries. He did not agree with the Third Kings member who stated that the Province should have been paying off a portion of its debt during the war years. He felt that the assistance given the basic industries was more warranted.

He made note of the fact that the Province had a deficit for the past year but explained that this could be expected with the extensive road building program and large expenditures in public health and rural electrification. "I sometimes wonder if the salaries on the Island were raised in comparison to other parts of the country, if we could not go to Ottawa with a real claim," he said. He agreed with other speakers who voiced the opinion that more revenue is needed and said that Ottawa was the place to get it.

Mr. Cullen urged the Department of Industry and Natural Resources not to consider lightly the raccoon nuisance in the Province. He said that not only did these animals cause serious losses to the poultry farmers but inflicted serious damage on the grain crops. As a means of eradicating them, he suggested that the young boys be offered a special prize for the largest number of "coons" destroyed. Another opinion offered was that organized hunts by sportsmen could be organized with a prize involved.

Speaking on the Disabled Person's Act, Mr. Cullen said that he hoped Ottawa would not be too tough in qualifying the applicants for this form of assistance. He remarked that the new Treatment Centre was a wonderful addition to the health of the province. "If there is a larger number of our people brought back to health and happiness, then the cost of this building will be justified," said Mr. Cullen.

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# Eastern Guardian

"SAWING lumber in Thompson's mills every day. Run by Campbell Brothers.

"HOME AND School meeting tonight, new school, 8:15. Debate between grades 11 and 12.

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# Dr. Gencheff Addresses Cerebral Palsy Group

At their regular monthly meeting held in their rooms on Cumberland Street, on Tuesday, March 14, the Cerebral Palsy Parents' Group had Dr. Gencheff as their guest speaker for the evening.

An interesting and informative address was given by Dr. Gencheff and many questions on this condition were answered.

The doctor told his audience that the condition now known as Cerebral Palsy was recognized as early as 1852. It was then known as Little's Disease, after the name of the doctor, who made a study of it at that time. Contrary to popular belief, this condition is not uncommon.

Many children are born each year with Cerebral Palsy, and it ranks second to Poliomyelitis as a crippling disease of childhood. There are four main types of Cerebral Palsy: Spastic; Athetoid; Ataxic; and Tremor and rigidity.

The chief cause of this condition is injury to the brain during the birth of the child. Other causes are: inflammation of the brain, blood clot and injury during

Although the child has sustained a brain injury it does not necessarily follow that he is mentally retarded. In fact, about 68 per cent of these children have an average mentality and are capable of being educated and becoming useful citizens.

It is sometime difficult to estimate the mental ability of these children, especially in their early years. The cerebral palsied child cannot express himself as a normal child can and some may not appear to be as bright as the normal child, but it is wrong to come to the conclusion that they are of inferior mental ability.

A true estimation of a child's intelligence cannot be given the first time he is seen by a doctor. The child must be observed for a

time and in addition his behaviour in the home noted, before a doctor can say with certainty that he is mentally retarded. In cases where the child is of good mentality the condition is by no means hopeless. However in order to obtain the best results these children should have the services of specially trained personnel to help them in their long, slow fight against their handicaps. A physiotherapist is needed, who will advise the parents as to the exercise to be given, or better still, personally carry out the program of exercise at a centre specially designed for these children.

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# Getting Up Nights

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