



MR. AND MRS. HERTER ON CRUTCHES

Both U.S. Foreign Secretary Christian Herter and Mrs. Herter were on crutches when they were greeted in Ottawa by External Affairs Minister Green and Mrs. Green. Mrs. Herter chipped a bone in her left heel while cottaging and will be on crutches several weeks. Mr. Herter used a single light aluminum crutch which he has carried for two years because of sometimes painful arthritis of the hips. (CP Wirephoto)

RELIGION AND LIFE BY VERY REV. GEORGE C. PIDGEON, D.D., LL.D. First Moderator of the United Church of Canada

WRONG-DOER'S PROSPERITY LASTS ONLY FOR A SEASON The Book Reviews these days are full of lists or books for holiday reading. So I suggest to you for your Bible readings this summer the Book of Job in the Revised Standard Version or in some other modern translation.

Hardly a week passes in which a minister is not asked: "What have I done to deserve this?" "Why do the good need to suffer?" or "What is the meaning of the Book of Job?"

Now I cannot say to you: "Here is the explanation," but let us discuss it.

The virtues of the patriarch, Job, and his family are painted in bright colors in the opening and closing chapters of the book. Job is depicted as one who is rich and powerful, and therefore able to do good on a large scale.

He goes far beyond everything that law or custom could require of him, particularly in his treatment of the poor. He is both good and gracious, winning as well as righteous.

Then suddenly and without warning dire calamity falls on him and sweeps away everything that his heart desired. This was followed by an attack of a loathsome disease.

His friends find him in the depths of his misery and try to comfort him. But to the sufferer their consolations taste like salt.

The reason is their assumption that affliction is the consequence of sin. This arouses Job's fiery indignation; he knows that he is righteous and affirms it passionately.

THEY TRY The body of the book is composed of a series of speeches in which the friends try to get him to acknowledge his sin and the sufferer responds by vindicating his righteousness.

I remember well my first thoughtful reading of the Book of Job. I approached the speeches of the Almighty with high expectancy, and was disappointed.

The book is a poem — as pure poetry one of the greatest in all literature. It deals with a problem close to every life — the affliction of the just.

The problem arises out of our doctrine of a personal God who is all-powerful, and at the same time, wise and loving. He is the Creator who made and who rules all things, and at the same time our Father.

It is easy to understand why wrongdoers should reap what they sow. But why should the righteous suffer?

As an academic question, it is puzzling, but when it comes home to the believer in the form of personal affliction, it raises questions for which there is no answer.

Yet, in the Bible, the question arises again and again. The 37th Psalm puts the affliction of the good side by side with the prosperity of the wicked, and points out that prosperity gained by wrong can last only for a season.

In the New Testament the problem comes to a head in the suffering of Christ, and the redemptive value of suffering for righteousness sake is revealed in the Cross.

NO ATTEMPT What is the poet's solution? He doesn't attempt to explain. Instead, he affirms that no sufferer can understand "why." All he can do is trust the wisdom and love of God, in whose hands all things are held.

Isn't this where we all must rest: What the New Testament adds is that Christ comes to us in our sorrows and puts His shoulder under our load. St. Paul does not mean to say in Romans 8:26 that "all things" will of themselves "work together for good." He knows the stern facts of life too well to rest in such an easy optimism.

What he does say is that "in all things God co-operates for good with them that love Him." He never promises His child exemption from the woes which are the common lot of human beings, but he does assure us that He will never leave nor forsake us.

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The deeper and darker the valley through which we must pass the clearer the Presence of our Divine Companion. He who brings His people to the valley will lead them through it. He knows the end from the beginning and sees in advance every step we must take.

STAND CONDEMNED In the end the righteous sufferer is vindicated and restored. Job's friends who had tried to convict him of sins which he did not commit are condemned.

As a contribution toward the solution of the problem of the suffering of good people, the book of Job demonstrates that you cannot account for all suffering by assuming that it is, always a penalty for some sin. Sometimes it is; often it isn't. We cannot understand. Our minds are too small to contain a mystery so wide and deep.

But what we can accept as a certainty is God's presence and sympathy with us through it all.

PIUSVILLE

Miss Audrey Gallant has returned from Toronto, Ont., where she was employed, to spend the summer holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dorice Gallant, Duvar.

Miss Jean Doucett, Tignish, is spending a few days with her sister, Mrs. Bobbie Gallant, and Mr. Gallant, also Mrs. Nelson L. Gallant, Piusville.

Misses Zena Gallant and Bernadette Blanchard, who have been employed in Charlottetown, have recently returned to their respective homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Chaisson and children, Toronto, are spending their holidays with Mrs. Chaisson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter F. Gallant, Piusville, and Mr. Chaisson's parents in Tignish.

Sincere sympathy is being extended to the family of the late Joseph LeClair whose death occurred on Sunday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Felix Arsenault, Woodstock, after a lengthy illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Alton McIsaac, and children, Hebron, were recently visiting with Mrs. McIsaac's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Corcoran.

Miss Ariene Corcoran employed in Charlottetown, is vacationing at her home in Piusville.

Miss Cheryl Corcoran is spending a few days with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Alton McIsaac, Hebron.

Mr. Terrence Gallant returned from Montreal where he was employed to spend the summer holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dorice Gallant, Duvar.

Miss Marie Pineau, Montreal is spending her summer holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Urban Pineau.

Mrs. George Barnett, Elmisdale spent Monday July 5th with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Warburton Murray, Piusville.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold MacGregor and daughter Bonnie returned to their home in Truro, N.S. after attending the Ross - MacGregor wedding.

Mrs. Jane LeCair and son William and Mrs. Jean Nicholson returned to their homes in Boston, Mass., after spending two weeks with relatives in Piusville and Burton.

Mr. and Mrs. Justin Corcoran and daughter Aileen, East, Royalty, spent the past weekend with relatives in Piusville and also attended the ordination of Father Gonzaga Gallant.

Miss Rita Gallant returned to her home in Piusville after being employed in Emerald Junction.

Miss Linda Gallant, recently left for Moncton, N.B. where she will be employed.

Mrs. Nelson L. Gallant, Piusville, recently spent a few days with her daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Allie Gallant, Mimmingsh.

Mrs. Anthony Blanchard has entered the western hospital, Al-ber-ton for treatment.

Mr. Francis Gallant, Toronto is spending his holidays with his

MISCOUCHE

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cotton and family of Halifax recently arrived in Miscouche and have taken up residence here.

The sacrament of Confirmation was administered to a large number of boys and girls on Tuesday at St. John the Baptist Church at Miscouche by the Most Reverend Malcolm Mac-Echnera, Bishop of Charlottetown.

Nova Veno, R.N. who was employed in Montreal, recently arrived in Miscouche where she is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Veno.

Fay Williams of Toronto arrived in Miscouche recently where she is visiting relatives.

Iris Gallant recently returned to her duties at the Charlottetown Hospital after having spent her holidays in Miscouche at the home of her parents.

Thelma Arsenault is visiting in Miscouche at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Arsenault, and also her sister, Mrs. Emmanuel Poirier.

Blair Gallant of Montreal is a visitor to Miscouche, the guest of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis MacMillan.

Little Kendra Linkletter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Linkletter of Summerside, is visiting in Miscouche at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Steele.

Ernest Gallant of Montreal recently visited at the home of his sister, Mrs. D.H. Gallant, Miscouche.

Tony Poirier has returned home after having spent some time at the Prince County Hospital where he received treatment. DM

OIL PRODUCER Venezuela, the oil-rich South American republic, had a population of more than 6,000,000 in 1957 compared with 3,600,000 in 1940.

Polio Seen Epidemic

By JIM THOMS Canadian Press Correspondent ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CP)—Eastern Newfoundland's polio outbreak was considered to have reached epidemic proportions Sunday as the province's 13th case in a week was reported in the Trinity Bay region.

Chief medical officer Dr. A. McDermott said he believes Sunday night the outbreak was considered an epidemic of virulent poliomyelitis. As recently as Saturday, Dr. McDermott said he would not describe it as an epidemic.

There have been four new cases since Thursday.

Pres. W.M.S. Meeting Held

The annual meeting of the Women's Missionary Society of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Montague, was held at the home of Mrs. Heath Stewart with a large attendance of members and guests.

The devotional leader was Mrs. Chester MacLure, who opened the meeting with call to worship. The theme was "The Fruit of the Spirit is Gentleness" and was read by the leader. The scripture was read in unison followed by a session of prayer.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. A. F. MacKenzie; vice president, Mrs. Gavin Hicken; secretary, Mrs. Marion Hume; treasurer, Mrs. H. E. Nelson; message secretary, Miss

Northern Affairs Minister Revises Arctic Statement

OTTAWA (CP)—Northern Affairs Minister Alvin Hamilton said in the Commons Saturday that he may have been "not too precise" with information about gas and oil exploration activity in the Arctic islands.

He was responding to a charge by J. W. Pickersgill (L-Bonavista - Twillingate) that one or other of the statements made last May by Prime Minister Diefenbaker and Mr. Hamilton on the subject was "manifestly not true."

On May 6 in Montreal Mr. Diefenbaker had said 86,500,000 acres on the Arctic islands were being developed under exploratory permits. On May 11, Mr. Hamilton had said in the Commons no permits had been issued.

"If you want to quibble over that," said Mr. Hamilton, "you can make me out to be in error." But the fact was that "work is being done under these applications for exploratory permits just the same as if the exploratory

permits had been granted."

At another point Mr. Hamilton said: "When you ask for precise terms there are actually no permits granted. An application for a permit has been received, priority has been established and in the meantime, for those companies who want it, there are exploratory licences for them to go ahead."

He said 10 or 12 companies are "actually doing preliminary work just the same as if they had exploratory permits."

Mr. Pickersgill said it was not a matter of quibbling. One of those statements had been a direct contradiction of the other.

Now Mr. Hamilton admitted the prime minister's statement was incorrect. It "was certainly misleading the public." The prime minister had been "trying to blow things up."

With heavy sarcasm, Mr. Pickersgill went on to comment on the modesty of Mr. Diefenbaker in this same Montreal speech. The prime minister had said his government accomplished more in two years than any other government in history.

The prime minister had been trying to bolster up his speech "with these money statistics."

RESPONSIBLE TO PUBLIC Mr. Pickersgill said "the prime minister has the responsibility to the public to inform the public accurately, carefully and precisely."

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In a day marked by frequent vocal explosions, Mr. Hamilton said requests of provinces wishing federal aid for bridges in connection with roads to resources will be given consideration by the government.

This was his reply to heated Opposition demands for general application of the policy under which federal funds were contributed for a bridge in Prince Albert, Sask., home town and constituency of Mr. Diefenbaker.

Alexis Caron (L-Huff) and Mr. Pickersgill urged that the government also participate with Ontario and Quebec in building a bridge across the Ottawa River here, which they said is badly needed.

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