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"THE YEAR OF THE GREAT WAR."

1915 will go down in history as "the year of the great war," and what the end of the present terrible experience will be, no one can accurately foretell. It is evident that many and great changes will take place, both in national and international affairs, and much will depend on the attitude and experience of the Christian Church throughout the world as to the permanent gain or loss consequent on this baptism of blood and fire.

There is one fact that will continue—namely the insistent need of an ever deepening knowledge of the will of God as revealed in His Word.

A knowledge such as the apostle prayed might be enjoyed by the believers at Colosse. "In all wisdom and spiritual understanding." We feel sure his choice of terms here were not accidental, for leaving the element of inspiration out of the question, he might have prayed that they should be both rationalistic and philosophic in their approach to the documents claiming Divine authority—for was not the apostle trained along these two lines of mental discipline, as is indicated in the opening chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians, and also to the Galatians? But he prayed otherwise, for he then knew that the "wisdom of this world did not apprehend the wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1: 20-21), and that "spiritual truth must be spiritually understood" (1 Cor. 2: 14).

One of the immediate effects of the war is the re-appraising of German rationalism in connection with the interpretation of the Scriptures—a fact which had so largely swept over all the schools of higher education in this and other lands. We are

now being warned by scholars and editors, both in England and on this continent that the German scholars were not safe guides in these matters—a fact some of us felt to be true all the time.

The Canadian Churchman quotes with approval a recent utterance of Sir Robert Perks, a leading Methodist layman in England, who said: "Is it not time that our professors of theology put their German standard of ethics on the top shelves of their libraries, and took down the neglected Puritan and the Evangelical writers? For half a century we have heard nothing from these good men except wild praise of German theological research and German higher criticism. They have lumbered up their minds, bewildering both themselves and their students, with the highly speculative theories of these pseudo-erudite men. Many a young preacher has been driven to doubt and ineffectiveness by German theology. If the ministers will forget their German teaching they will be better preachers, more useful citizens, and will have truer conceptions of civil and religious liberty."

And then adds itself, "what is needed beyond all else is that we should determine to be as thorough in our work as the Germans, and at the same time realize that we are dealing with the deep things of God. The whole tendency of German theology is to minimize, and often ignore, the supernatural and the spiritual; and it is much to be hoped that one result of the war will be to bring us back again to the great fundamental realities of the Christian religion, which have been far too much overlooked in recent theological thought." To all of which we give our

heartily approval, for it has always been the contention of the Bible College, that any approach to the Word of God that ignores the spiritual and supernatural, and fails to emphasize the evangelical, is both unsafe and dishonoring to the Lord whom we profess to serve.

MR. J. CAMPBELL WHITE AND STUDENT VOLUNTEERS.

Mr. J. Campbell White of New York, the leader of the Laymen's Missionary Movement of North America, addressed a meeting of the Student Volunteers of Toronto in the Lecture Hall of the Bible College recently, and said in part:—

"I never think about the Volunteer Declaration without recalling what Paul said: 'I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians; both to the wise and to the unwise, so as much as in me is I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.'

"I am debtor and I will pay—debtor because Christ had given him everything, and what Christ had given him, he felt under obligation to pass along. Ever since 1890 I have thought very considerably about the following verse: 'We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.' Have you ever stopped to realize that God has a perfect blue print of your life? He has planned it to the last detail of perfection according to His own ambition, and He will tell you what that plan is if you really want to know. It is 25 years since I volunteered, and I can see how God put His hand on me in the beginning and sent me out to India, and after ten years He brought me home again, and year after year since then He has been showing me the way step by step. We must decide in the beginning that we are going to follow His plan just as He leads, only those who are determined to do so can ever discover what His will is.

"One command has come to me very frequently through these years, 'Pray ye the Lord of the harvest, that He thrust forth laborers into the harvest.' The Lord seemed to say if you pray everything else will come all right. He did not lay emphasis on organization, finance, mission study, etc., but pray. There is no use trying to persuade anyone to volunteer until they are willing to allow God to have His sovereign way in their lives.

"Don't put off being a missionary until you reach the field. An ocean voyage does not make as much difference as you think. There is no magic about a steamer to make

you a soul winner, if you are not one already. A strong, steady Christian life is a great thing, and this can only be had by feeding continually on the Word of God. As important as Latin and Greek and History and other things are, I do not believe anything is so important as a knowledge of the Word of God and how to teach it. I wish I had made a more thorough and painstaking study of the Bible when taking my course. During my ten years working with Mohammedan students, I found that the one way of impressing them most powerfully was by opening to them the Word of God. I have argued with a Hindoo two hours at a time and not been an inch further than when I began, but by the use of a portion of Scripture I have seen them convinced in ten minutes.

"Students, whatever else you do, know your Bible and how to use it.

"Never go out to the mission field thinking that evolution will save the world, unless you believe you have a Divine Message from God and backed by the Divine power, you had better stay at home.

"This war has taken hold of the hearts of the people in a way to think about God more seriously than they have for a generation. If God is calling the Church to a higher standard of service and a clearer vision of His will through the stress and strain of the times, and there is not a willingness to follow where Christ leads, we will have to get a different church in Canada and the United States, in order to evangelize the non-Christian world."

THE NEW POWER OF THE OLD GOSPEL.

One of our students was invited to conduct some meetings during the Christmas holidays in the northern part of the Province. He did so using, as he told us, the material he has been securing in the class room of the College, with the result that more than fifty young people were led to a public confession of Christ as their Saviour, and a number of others who for years had been living a nominal Christian life, were brought into the enjoyment of a life of fellowship with the Lord and a purpose to win others for Him. This was accomplished without any attempt at display or elaborate organization, but simply by waiting on the Lord in definite believing prayer for His power and blessing, and a setting forth of the plan of salvation as declared in the Scriptures: "The gospel is still the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."

"HELPERS TOGETHER."

What can I do to help the Bible College?

You can pray for the nine instructors and 300 students, that the truth they teach and learn may be translated into living service for Christ and His Church.

You can tell some young man or woman, that there is such an Institution, where they can fit themselves for Christian service, without cost, so far as the instruction is concerned.

You can come to some of the day or evening classes, which are always open to visitors, and so be able to speak from personal experience as to the quality and character of the work being done in the lecture room.

You can become a sustaining member of the College by contributing to its maintenance, and so help those in charge of the work to continue to carry it on.

You can write for a catalogue that will be sent on application, giving full particulars as to course of instruction, dates, etc.

You can "pass along" this copy of the Recorder to some one who might be interested in its contents.

BE A HELPER.**FINANCES.**

In common with all institutions of this kind the Bible College is feeling the effect of the present financial stringency, by the fact that many of our friends find themselves unable to contribute to its maintenance as they have done in other years. On the other hand some of our friends have been thoughtful enough to increase their gifts, feeling there would be need of such under the circumstances.

One wrote our Principal recently, saying:—

"With pleasure I enclose cheque for the Bible College, being an extra \$50.00, owing to the exceptional times we are passing through.

"We rejoice at the manifest tokens of God's blessing on the work, and are sure that your efforts and those of your earnest and able co-adjutors will have Divine blessing and approval. After all the "Seed" is the word, and the better grip and understanding of the word we have under the Spirit's guidance, the more useful will we be to the Master."

It should be remembered, however, by all friends interested in sustaining this work, that the absence of their gift, however small, is necessarily felt by our Treasurer, for when it is remembered that the entire expense of the year's work in the instructing of

over 300 students is covered by \$7,000.00, there can be no room or place for reducing our outlay. The fact is, we should materially increase it. Thus far we have been able to meet all our liabilities, but will need an increased income before the end of our Session in April, so as to provide for our half-yearly obligations.

If you have not contributed to the College thus far this year, do so now, even if your gift has to be reduced in amount, the expression of your co-operation and fellowship is of great value to us.

THE TORONTO BIBLE COLLEGE FROM WITHIN.**An Appreciation.**

Many thousands of people pass the doors of the T. B. C. daily, but comparatively few have any idea of what is taking place within its walls. In this sketch we would invite the reader to step inside the College and make an inspection for himself. Let us introduce to you the College from within, and show you something of its Work, its Aim, and its Spirit.

There is always one point from which a great painting must be viewed, if we would catch the thought of the painter. You cannot understand the fact until you get his angle of vision.

We must possess this key, we must use this light, if we would see the T. B. C. in its right proportions.

The Prayer Life.

A right understanding of the devotional spirit of the College will furnish the needed key.

At 8.30 each Monday morning a body of students gather for an hour's prayer and testimony. It is invariably a happy time. How encouraging it is to hear different ones tell of the Lord's goodness, and relate experiences of His unflinching love. On Thursday mornings before the regular lectures begin, an hour is spent in intercession for missions, and every other morning of the week half an hour is devoted to waiting upon God, while on two mornings of the week, at noon, a further half hour is spent in prayer on behalf of special branches of our work. It doesn't grow wearisome as some who do not understand real prayer might suppose, it rather becomes an increasing delight. In these seasons of quiet retirement something takes hold of the spirit of the students which influences and governs their lives. Intimate contact with the Infinite, enlarges and expands the soul, and broadens its vision; communion with the High and Holy One has a purifying and elevating effect upon the lives of all.

The Intellectual Life.

This is the key to our College life and activity. Everything is approached from this point. This devotional spirit rules in the studies in the class room. The aim of the course of studies is to make the Bible an accessible and usable book to the ordinary student—to take the precious ore contained therein, and help the students to beat it out into a strong sword for defensive and aggressive warfare in the Kingdom of God. Every book of the Bible is taken in succession and outlined and analyzed and paragraphed, and the hard passages are explained. Lectures are also given on such vital topics as "The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit," "Christian Doctrine" (embracing all the great themes of our faith), "Prayer," "Bible Introduction," together with such valuable auxiliaries to Bible Study as "Homiletics," "History of Christian Missions," "Personal Dealing with Souls," "New Testament Greek," "Elocution," and "Vocal Music," etc. It is a strong and practical course, and the diligent student graduating from this College has a mighty weapon within his grasp.

The Missionary Life.

The devotional life also expresses itself in a strong missionary influence, which permeates the College. A large percentage of every year's class is preparing for the foreign field. Every Wednesday afternoon there is a meeting of the Missionary Society, and on Tuesday mornings at 8 a.m., before the regular sessions, the students meet in groups for the thorough and systematic study of missionary conditions and problems.

The Evangelistic Life.

Again, the spirit which is born and fostered in the prayer life manifests itself in the ringing note of evangelism which characterises the College.

The students are organized as an Evangelistic Band, and conduct services every Sunday night in various Churches and Missions of the city.

A weekly meeting is held at Yonge St. Mission and at Christie's factory. Hospital visitation is conducted, cottage prayer meetings held, and S. S. teachers supplied to various Churches and Missions of the city, including the Central Prison.

These are some of the outward expressions of the inward life.

There is nothing in the conduct of this College that savors of the crank or the narrow zealot. Neither is there anything soft or flaccid about it. It is a living organism, full of strong, vigorous, healthy life.

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