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Clouds O'er Canada

ALONG THE WAY By Rev. Donald A. Lord, S.J.

The war clouds hang over Canada, and when you cross that border and realize how close Montreal is to Albany and Toronto to Buffalo, the war seems less remote. Around the barracks in Toronto young soldiers in service uniform with their packs and equipment loaf and wait for whatever the next thing is that will happen. I was a little surprised to find the Canadian regiments often wear kilts. There's a regiment of kilts that is presently in Scotland; but more surprising is a regiment that is from the Irish, despite the fact that its officers wear kilts.

The one question every reporter asks you is "What's the United States going to do?" They are very sure of our sympathy with the democratic countries, but wonder what we are going to do about it. Already war has hit them personally. Wheat is selling badly across the continent for the ships; the result is the "East Apple" has become a slogan of the country; apples that used to go by the shipload to England now are sidetracked while munitions and wheat and wheat take the rails, and the apple growers face a terrible loss. Sugar is already rationed, two pounds to a customer. There's a heavy tax on coffee, as a result of all soundings of a little like the days we know during the first World War—wheatless, meatless, sweetless.

An odd phenomenon is the reported desire for conscription. One of the reasons why it is everywhere is: "The Jews are not enlisting." One chap put it this way: "For years, now, the Jews have been raising the roof about Hitler. Now we're going to get him and though the Christian boys are enlisting by the thousands, the Jewish men are not. I guess you need conscription so that everyone will get it." There is no war enthusiasm; just that dull, passive, grim-faced determination to finish this thing once it finishes them. One priest told me that many a young fellow has come to him with these questions: "Is this a just war? Is it my duty to go? Have I a right to stay out?" And on the answers to those questions, without any sign of emotion, they make their decisions.

Asked pointblank what he wanted, England, I was told, had replied that it wanted aviators and planes. But, they also told me that had been the response that the requisite 25,000 men, all they could train at one time, had at once enlisted, and there were no further posts for this present. And as we drove around Montreal, one of my Canadian friends looked out of the car and said: "I suppose if the thing lasts long enough they'll come bombing us. We'll make a target, a good target. Not a defense in sight."

I wonder if they'd come bombing some day south of that border too, and if we'd see our cities one bit better prepared.

With a Bow of Respect Recently I expressed a doubt about the value of the Gideons in the Gideons, and said that I had never in a hotel noticed one of their Bibles that showed signs of use.

A very courteous letter from one of their brethren explains that position, and I am happy to present it. "It" he writes, "you could sit in our main office for one day and open the mail; I believe you'd get outstanding evidence of the value and power of the Word of God... in such public places. We have placed over 1,000,000 copies of the Bible... throughout the world, and today have more calls for Bibles in such places than we are able to supply through lack of funds."

A Tempest in South Africa You probably missed the event for it certainly made an impression on the rest of the world. But South Africa got quite excited when a Calabrian was declared to honor the landing of Huguenots some 200 years ago. One stamp struck for the occasion shows: "The rising sun behind the darkness of the night, symbolizing the restoration of the Gospel after the false doctrines of the middle ages, surrounded by a brilliant cross in the heavens to commemorate the sacrifices of the reformed churches of France."

We might take this seriously, except for the fact that there isn't a Huguenot left in the whole of South Africa, and the only thing that remains to honor them is a lot of bread stacked for them. They may have been a rising light, but they were certainly a dark lot. The incident was second grade. It was a young hand who said: "I was a young hand when I was a young hand, and I was a young hand when I was a young hand." The incident was second grade. It was a young hand who said: "I was a young hand when I was a young hand, and I was a young hand when I was a young hand."

Literary Signpost Books of Inspiration

I was recently requested to assemble a list of Catholic books for inspirational reading. It is a pleasure to present the following titles: My Mind a Kingdom, by George Thomas... gives the diary of a young man who keeps his spirit in order through analysis has knocked him down.

St. Bernard on the Love of God, translated by Terence Connolly radiates the soul of a great Saint whose soul was but a dim reflection of the Eternal Fire. Fire on the Earth, and This Way to Heaven, by Paul Hanly Furley... show us people, as when for us, how to spread the fire of Christ over our cold, dark world.

In Christ Jesus, by Raoul Plus. Christ in His Brothers, by Raoul Plus. Radiating Christ, by Raoul Plus. There can be no true or lasting inspiration in the Christian life apart from Christ. For the Christian, Christ is his life. Do you remember that always-lovely text from the Breastplate of St. Patrick? "Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ under me, Christ on the right of me, Christ on the left of me, Christ in lying down, Christ in sitting, Christ in rising up; Christ in the heart of everyone that thinks of me; Christ in the mouth of everyone that speaks to me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me."

A Cheerful Ascetic and Other Essays, by J. J. Daly... shows how the necessary disciplines of a good Christian life are not rights but things of the soul. The School of Love and the Meaning of Life, both by Archbishop Goodier... give the sum and substance of Christian living in simple and appealing language. What's So Good About It? by Ernest Dimmet... lifts the lantern of Christian philosophy to some fundamentals of life.

Strength Out of Suffering, by Frances Pastoroli... tells how our talented and brilliant artist added to her stature after sickness wiped out her fondest ambition. The Vocation to Marriage, by Bede Jarrett... its original title, The Heart of God, gives a clue to its treasure of love and encouragement for homemakers. The Friendship of Christ, by Robert Hugh Benson.

Well, that is the true Christian spirit, and it should be the foundation of all inspiration. Christ in the music that I hear, Christ in the poems that I read, Christ in the faces that I see. A Primer of Prayer, by Joseph Mohr... Only in prayer can we learn the deepest secrets of inspiration. Meditations for Layfolk, by Bede Jarrett... The revealed truths of God are the most beautiful of all. He lives, but they will not inspire us if we do not spend time with them, at least a few minutes a day. Self-Improvement, by Rudolf Allers.

But Not Expedient

By REV. JAMES M. GILLEN, C.S.P., Editor, The Catholic World

Strange how often a principle newly discovered turns out to be as old as human thought. "Nothing new under the sun," said Solomon and the adage seems to apply to philosophy and ethics as well as to manners and morals. One of our branches of knowledge is really modern—physical science and its consequent mechanical invention. The gas engine is relatively recent, and the automobile, the airplane, the machine gun, the bombing plane and other "modern improvements."

Corridor. This is my field. I planted these crops and I have the right to harvest them. Surely it is the right, but it would have been suicide to use it. Similarly, there is nothing in the natural law or in the law of nations (if any law of nations remains) to prevent an American manufacturer of firearms or explosives from loading his stuff on a ship—American or other—and shipping boldly out of New York harbor for Ireland or Southampton or Boulogne. COMMON SENSE.

Speaking absolutely and theoretically, he has the right. But suppose he and his ship and his goods and goods are blown up by a German U-boat. Suppose also that the American senator who is so zealous for rights insists that our Government send out airplanes and battalions to fight the American who was only exercising his right. Suppose we send the ships, and after them a million men, two million, ten million to vindicate one man's rights. Suppose we send after them millions of men billions of dollars. Suppose half the men and all the dollars remain over there. Suppose, suppose, suppose, but it is not the question. It is history. Recent history. And history is prophecy, if you know how to read it.

Mr. Clapper goes on to say that he has an encouraging consideration for the rights and for the welfare of the country as a whole. Most persons have enough common sense to know that the American, neutral right will be stepping upon both sides and cannot physically be exercised in full. Speaking of common sense, we know how to apply common sense to a problem. It is an international problem, some people say. "Ah but it is not so simple." But it is simple until you have an axe to grind or a bill to make a complicated problem of it. Millions of words will be spoken in and out of Congress, about neutrality, but it is not the question. The question is plain enough. If we insist upon our rights we shall go wrong. If we suspend our rights we shall still be right.

Any one can think of a thousand other things a man has a right to do, but would be crazy to attempt. A Polish farmer might have said when Hitler's mechanized army burst into the

By Post to the Apostles and His Friars, by Helen Walker Homan... help to establish cordial speaking terms between us and a lot of grand saints. Let it be mentioned for the sake of the record that of course we take the Bible for granted, and such well-tried favorites as The Imitation of Christ, by Thomas a Kempis, and The Introduction to the Devout Life, by St. Francis de Sales.

Mr. Clapper repeats just the other day something St. Paul had said some time ago. He said that he had been the respondent for a syndicate of newspapers, was answering a United States Senator who had insisted that American citizens have a right under international law to trade with belligerents. Yes, certainly, says Mr. Clapper, we have the right but it may at times be better not to exercise the right. Which, of course, is precisely what St. Paul says in I Cor. vi. 12, "All things are lawful to me, but all things are not expedient."

Mr. Clapper illustrates. "Theoretically the senator has a right to walk about on the public streets of Washington. But if he encounters a bullet, he might be considered for the value of his life. The question is plain enough. If we insist upon our rights we shall go wrong. If we suspend our rights we shall still be right."

Finally for people with a Ph.D. or an M.A., or even an A.B., books like the following will give an appeal: The Unknown God, by Alfred Noyes... sleuths for the Divine in modern philosophy and art. The Life of All Living and The Divine Romance, by Fulton J. Sheen. Providence, by Reginald Garrigou-Lagrange.

Convert's Comment

We open these few paragraphs with prayer for PEACE. I think our men who might be sacrificed again as they were in the last war, as other men are now being sacrificed in Europe, sacrificed foolishly and unnecessarily. Think of the children of these men homeless and desolate because of the ambitions of an anti-Christ. These but for the grace of God might be American children.

Even if you should not be of a religious turn of mind still you are able to understand cold logic. You would not go into the home of your neighbor and interfere with his actions. We, as individuals, feel that we must look first to our own imperfections. This is true also of nations. Let us first find and maintain perfection in our own country. This nation is over-run with propaganda. We are in duty bound to protect our own people first. This can only be done by fighting the anti-Christian forces in our own nation. George Washington said "NO FOREIGN ENTANGLEMENTS." In other words WE SHOULD MIND OUR OWN BUSINESS.

Our schools and colleges are full of the most vile anti-Christian teachings. There are the teaching of Atheism and Agnosticism. Our children are in danger not because of what Hitler and Stalin are doing in Europe but because of the propaganda which is being spread here; because it is considered smart and sophisticated and clever to believe there is no God. SMART is one's immortal soul. SMART is respect for the Christ who has given us our very being. SMART is to endanger the souls and lives of future children. We trouble at the thought of an individual who would take such a chance.

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LIGHT IN A DARK WORLD



Diocesan Recordings

With their same leader at the helm, the Rochester Branch, National Catholic Women's Union, or as it is better known, the Catholic Women's Federation completed 23 years of existence this week and solemnly marked the occasion with church services and banquet. To the hurried, those who have not the time to spend a bit of time pondering the achievements of the Catholic lady this is just another anniversary. The fact that it is a silver anniversary makes but little difference, silver, gold or platinum, the value of this organization would be lost upon the indifferent but it is not lost on those who know why the organization was founded, what it has accomplished over a period of 23 years and the personnel comprising it many of whom have been with it since the founding.

An organization is bigger than an individual member. When an individual becomes put out and is put out of an organization and takes unfair and underhanded means of trying to retaliate, he soon is found out and the organization benefits in the long run from such activity. All the members of a Catholic lay organization which is supervised by a priest or priestess are concerned. This has recently been proved when an organization was severely criticized in circulars to merchants, and organization members were falsely accused and the instigator finally confessed that what had been put on the circulars was untrue. For a time the organization came under a cloud which some persons but now that the truth is out the organization goes forward stronger than ever before.

The Virtue of Trust, by Paul de Jaeger... Self-discipline without utmost trust in God and cooperation with Him in our souls tends to become a mere fuss and sterile routine. Religion and Health, by James J. Walsh... This famous Catholic doctor has been crusading all his life to show people the intimate relation between religion and health. The Space of Life Between, by Bede Jarrett... between what? Between being a child and a grownup... when things are going well, the space of life between... when one is too old for the youngsters and too young for the oldsters... adolescence, with its gracious dream and its awkward promise. Fr. Jarrett was good enough to write a book of inspiration just for them. The Evening of Life, by Emile Baudard... The aged, too, needs their word of encouragement to help them see the compensations of old age. The Splendor of the Saints and A Bedside Book of Saints, by Aloysius Roche... show with spirit and humor and insight how the saints are models of inspiration when we study them as mirrors of Christ.

As "Mission Sunday" comes again the Recorder's thoughts go to the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of Maryknoll where a few years ago, the then Father James Anthony Walsh, co-founder, was Superior-General. On a visit there at that time, the writer, learned of the simple greatness of him who had founded this first foreign mission society of priests and sisters in the United States, who later became a Bishop. Bishop Walsh had implicit faith in the spreading of Christ's gospel in fields afar. He might have been a bit concerned when funds were low but he never lost faith in Providence and benefactors sprung up whenever his priests and nuns needed funds to carry on. We all wish the zeal of Bishop Walsh for the missions, the Church would have no difficulty providing the material means. If we all had the faith of Bishop Walsh, Heaven would be stormed with prayers for the missions which would bring Christ's consolation to many now in darkness.

Five Years Ago

From October 16, 1934, Edition "That Christ's Church stands and will stand to the end of time" was lesson the world should learn and the lesson forgotten brought to attention on occasion of centenary of St. Mary's Church, Rochester, declared His Excellency, Archbishop Hickey at the Solemn Pontifical Mass marking the centenary Archbishop Mooney celebrated the Mass.

Catholic Evidence work, or street preaching as practiced by Catholics in England, was the hope for future of the Church in Oklahoma, the Most Rev. Francis C. Kelly, Bishop of Oklahoma City-Tulsa, told the Mission Unit at St. Bernard's Seminary.

WHY?

De Catholics Pray To the Saints? Adoration is due to God alone. Catholics do not pray to the Virgin Mary or to any of the Saints in the sense that we offer them divine honor or adoration. We do, however, think of the Saints as our brothers in Christ and special friends of God; we do pray to them in the sense that we ask them to pray for us to be our intercessors at the throne of God's mercy, and to obtain for us all the graces that we need to reach our final destiny with them in Heaven.

Their rooms renovated following a fire the previous March, members of the Canandaigua Council Knights of Columbus held a reception to mark the reopening of their club quarters. Actual 100th Anniversary of founding of Holy Family Church in Auburn was marked by a Sociality program. Organization of the St. Thomas Study Club devoted to a study of religious questions, took place at the regular meeting of St. Patrick's Holy Name Society, Elmira.

Diagnosis of Protest

Protest has become an important factor in the dissemination of news and views at this time in the European world. The center of interest for those who would protest is not what cannot come over the other waves, but what is said at the present writing. One is that the protest is unsubstantiated. Broadcasts must be substantiated, and seen by many as an attempt to mislead.

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