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Hello, Little Ones,

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Post Office, Lindsay

SERMON AT ST ANDREW'S

Rev. Mr. Macmillan Talks on the War and Municipal Matters

A WEEK OF DISASTER—WITHOLD CRITICISM—WORDS OF SOBERNESS—THE HOUSE OF REFUGE—THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION—THE BY-LAWS—THE NEXT COUNCIL.

A very large audience filled St. Andrew's church on Sunday night to hear the talented pastor discuss the duties of the hour with regard to municipal matters. Mr. Macmillan's sermon on these subjects was prefaced by a brief, but pointed reference to the status of the war in South Africa.

The following are characteristic sentences from the pastor's opening prayer: "O God thou art Caesar's God as well as Christ's. Thou rulest in the state and controllest nations in righteousness as King of Kings."

His utterances on the war were to the following effect: "If we have lessons to learn O make us humble and contrite learners. Deliver us from the temptations of war. Be near the widow and orphan in these days, and at the graves of the multitudes of men who die. In thy wisdom and loving kindness bring this war to an end, but not till righteousness, judgment and mercy shall have come."

The past week has brought three disasters to the British arms in South Africa. It is a time for us to be calm. We should withhold our criticism and extend our sympathies to the generals and soldiers engaged. It is not for you and me who are separated by half a world from the scene of conflict and know nothing of the details to offer criticism of the men at the front. Only the grossest and most imbecile blundering could justify any word of censure. There is no reason to doubt the ultimate result. The parallel that has been drawn between the southern states and the Boers is apt. At first the South won, but like the egg-shell they were strongest at the outside and when once pierced, collapsed. The Boers will likely do the same and soon the flag of Britain will float over Africa from Cape Town to Rhodesia.

The present crisis should have a religious value. There has been a danger of becoming drunk with the pride of empire. Reflect on the jealousy and detestation with which England is regarded by continental powers. There must be some foundation for that. No nation can be the favorite of Heaven longer than it obeys the heavenly commands. God cares for no man's skill, lineage or history. It would be well for us to sing "Soldiers of the Queen" less, and "The Recessional" more. A short time ago the papers laughed at the Boer soldiers because they attended prayer-meetings on the yeld before they went to fight. On Sunday they were at divine service. On that same holy day the English were at the theatres hearing stage girls sing rapid songs and give trifling performances. Even in Canada we are falling from our appreciation of religious exercises in our national life. Thanksgiving day is given over to a foot-ball match, while the churches are forsaken. The Boers may oppress the natives, but we must remember that while the natives live among them there are no half-breeds of whom we find such great numbers when English or Americans mingle with the natives. That fact says much for the Boers.

While we admit that England is right in this war, we cannot forget that England did not help the Armenians, although their grievance was not a matter of franchise and taxes, but of mutilation, rapine and murder. Let us humble ourselves that this reverse may take away the lust of conquest, the pride of race and the self-complacency of power.

LOCAL TOPICS.

Speaking of municipal matters the preacher said: People ought to believe that a minister has a right to speak of the moral aspect of all things that pertain to a community. We should vote as well as eat and drink, to the glory of God. All the days are God's days. On one of them we are to worship and on the other six serve God in other ways.

I shall speak first of all of the House of Refuge. I wish to thank the people of this town for the large majority they gave in favor of the Refuge at the last vote. For some reason—probably a very good one—the scheme has been laid over by the county council. It cannot die. Christianity did not perish when Paul's head was struck off. It stands for generosity against hardheartedness. Consider the abysmal inhumanity of hundreds who can regard the old and poor, who in hardship and disgrace are herded in the common jail. Some people who are too good to go to church, turn their relatives, who are old, into the street. Not long after the last vote an old man was burned to death in Somerville. There is no other side to this subject and one needs a cool day on which to converse with the objector. I do not admire the attitude of some of our county politicians. They believe the Refuge a good thing but for fear of the people who elected them they refuse to support it. When did a representative become an errand boy or slave? When did it come to pass that a man must smother his convictions for the sake of a cushioned chair in the county buildings? We shall not be satisfied until comfortable roof and wall enclose God's poor in this county.

THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION

The plebiscite of 1898 brought in new era in the temperance movement. The vote varied in the different provinces. Down by the sea it had a large majority, in Manitoba it was five to one in favor, in Quebec it was against, in Ontario it was indecisive.

There are two extremes. People who say that although prohibition had a 90 per cent. vote it would be unsafe to adopt it, hold one extreme. People who demand prohibition on a small majority hold the other. I take ground different from either. I am probably speaking to many

who voted against prohibition at the time of plebiscite. You likely say "Prohibition is a false and dangerous method of dealing with the question. Let us educate, limit licenses, and honor and by moral suasion bring the public to such a condition that drunkenness will be at a minimum." I am willing to adopt your plan for the present, always retaining the right to adopt prohibition when it is advisable.

If we are to adopt that method we must secure better treatment for our drunken class. The newspapers are not ready with their editorials on this subject yet, but the present way of sending men down for 30 days and turning them loose to get drunk again is a failure. Our jail system is all bad anyway. With regard to the class I speak of it has two defects: It is not punitive enough and it is not curative enough. The sentence should be of indeterminate duration and, while the man is there he should be treated by physicians for the disease of drunkenness. Our place of confinement should have hospital wings so that moral suasion and medicine could go together for the reformation of the victim.

I now come to speak of the manner of enforcing the law. It is wholly a question of police. The enforcement of the law against some offences is a matter of public opinion and police, but in the case of liquor it is all police. If they will they can effectively enforce it. There are some laws that do not need to exist for any other purpose than to name and execute the penalty. The mob would mete out justice on offenders who murder, rob and commit rapine; other offences require officers. If no officers met the train coming across the lines, not many people would pay duties on their goods, but when he is there they pay readily. It is all a question of the officer. So it is with the liquor law. If they act, the law will be enforced, and if not, it will not. You say it is hard to enforce it. Yes, every man's work is hard when he tries to do it and ten times harder when he does not try.

My opportunity of knowing whether the law is enforced or not, is limited so I shall not speak with certainty, but I shall say that I have had on four occasions a chance to see whether the law was kept. Two of these were in the town and two outside in the county. In all four the law was not kept. These may have been the only cases in which the law was broken, but it would be unnatural to suppose so. You have only to go along Kent-st. between 11 and 11.15 at night to get the idea that the hotels are not closing according to law. Why do I say these things? Why does no hotel-keeper worship in this church, although I speak on this subject hardly once a year? I will tell you why I speak of it. Because I can take you to a house where the stove is cracked, there are no carpets, lamps without oil, broken dishes and a loaf of bread with a chunk pulled out of the end, whether by a man's hand or a cat's mouth no one can tell. I can show you furniture bearing the scars of a knife, aimed by a drunken husband to kill his wife. He is good and kind when sober. There is no house in town in which boys are growing up, that has not anxious parents. At that age boys are all a little reckless and wicked. Perhaps it is a good thing; it may give them experience and character, but there is no reason for that great, brilliant, remorseless, conscienceless thing—the saloon—to aid in their ruin.

CIGARETTES

Boys are smoking cigarettes in this town. In the evenings, especially around the station, you see them, scarcely as high as this pulpit smoking cigarettes. They are sold against the law. Cigarettes have been called nails in a boy's coffin. Why are they worse than cigars or pipe? Not because of the bad tobacco nor even the paper around them, but because of the way in which they are smoked. A cigarette smoked as a cigar would be no smoke at all. It is because the smoke is inhaled and destroys the delicate lung tissue, that cigarettes are so hurtful. In Oregon their sale is prohibited. Have we known of any prosecutions for the illegal sale of cigarettes?

THE BY LAWS

Do you expect me to speak of the by-laws. They are two. I will only say: Vote on the questions and not on what somebody may say. It is a poor hound that forsakes the game for an herring. Do not be influenced by any consideration, but the effect of these projects on the future of the town in which you expect to spend your life. I have watched the water works discussion and have not noticed that the big question of public ownership has been discussed. It seems to have been the small matters that have received attention. When I have asked you to vote on the measures pure and simple I shall leave the question of policy to the public platform.

PERSONNEL OF COUNCIL

I want to say first that the members of our council should not be subjected to petty, malicious criticism. It is a shame that scandal should be aimed at men in public position. Let the integrity of our public men be habitually impeached and we have ushered in the era of rogues. People are more given to criticize public than private matters. Likely because they feel a sense of ownership and right to talk, without any sense of responsibility. It is none of their business and yet they have property rights that incline them to find fault. We are always ready to talk of the Lindsay mud, forgetting that the very mud on our streets, is a result of the splendid soil on these townships.

When shall we be free from these nasty personalities? Why can I not differ from you without descending to that manner of attack? Can we not discuss principles and measures and omit attacking one another? Were we born so early and have learned so little that we are not aware that the most sincere men differ? Then there is the anonymous letter course. Such a letter is justifiable where only logic or mathematics is concerned, but as soon as evidence is presented and statements of feeling people are made we might as well

have a photograph in the witness-box as a nameless letter in the newspaper.

The men who have served this town have been honest men. There may have been an exception or two but these have always been kept in check by a good majority in council. Those who serve us are busy men. They get no pay; let them have honor. Corporations—that is monied concerns—are said to have no souls, but I will tell you that a corporation of citizens is a far more soulless affair. No government is possible without respect for government. Paying councillors has been tried and is now declared a failure by the city of Toronto. Compare the Congress at Washington, respected by nobody, and the British House of Commons, an example for the world. The one is paid; the other voluntary. Perhaps they represent the two systems. No, not money, but honor, should be the reward of public service. We must frown down foolish criticism and pay that respect and deference to our representatives that Paul did when he apologized to his enemies for having spoken boldly to the High Priest.

The town council or school board gives a man a better scope for his ability than a seat in parliament, for there he is only a political figurehead. He votes when and how he is told; he has no chance to exercise his individuality or intelligence or sagacity or business ability, but in our local bodies he has. Probably a man can be more useful in these than in parliament. Finally let us do away with reviling each other. Probably every man but yourself is a better man than you take him to be. In politics we shall never get rid of bribery until both parties come to believe that among their opponents is a large body of men who detest bribery, and quit constantly making charges of corruption. We must have charity before we can have successful rule.

Device for Dressing Fowls.

The illustration shows what the New York Tribune calls one of the cleanest and most effective ways to pick the feathers from a fowl and keep them clean in the operation. A barrel has a hole made in one side, as shown, and below it is tacked a leather lip or spout. The dotted line



FOWL PICKING DEVICE.

shows the position inside of two supports, between which the fowl is laid while being picked. The head projects from the opening, and all blood drains into the pail inside the barrel. As the feathers are plucked they fall into the bottom of the barrel, and are thus entirely unstained. The picker sits on a box or stool at one side of the barrel. If more room is desired within the barrel, saw off the top down nearly to the middle, thus giving a larger opening. Hen's feathers do not bring a large sum, but they should always be saved, either for home use or for the sum which they will bring, which is really clear gain.

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