

### The Ministers' Corner

#### CHRISTIANITY AND CIVILIZATION

By The Rev. J. Alfred Nansen

Orators and journalists delight in recounting the blessings and benefits of civilization. But many writers and journalists have a very inadequate conception of civilization. It is so general in its character that its essence is difficult to discover; so complicated that its problems can scarcely be unravelled.

While some have been heralding the blessings and benefits of civilization there have been others who have raised the question as to whether civilization after all is a good or an evil. One writer laments that advancing civilization teems with mischief for man. But this writer has a wrong conception of civilization. He goes on to define it as "The multiplication of artificial wants and of the means and refinements of physical enjoyment." If that were all there is to civilization undoubtedly its advancement would be an evil.

I like the definition of C. S. Henry, Ph. D., formerly professor of the Philosophy of History in the University of New York City. He writes, "Civilization is an improved condition of men resulting from the establishment of social order in place of the individual independence of savage or barbarous life." The history of civilization is the history of the PROGRESS of the human race toward the realization of the highest ideals of humanity, thru the extension and perfection and purification of social relations. Civilization is progress. Has Christianity contributed anything to progress? We must determine upon the meaning of progress before we can proceed with our investigation. I think this is pointed out clearly by Guizot in his "History of European Civilization." His text book was written nearly a hundred years ago but there has been nothing produced in more recent years which is as sane and logical an investigation of the subject. He says, "The two leading facts which together constitute civilization are the progress of society and the development of the individual." Then "Progress as it applies to civilization has both a social and an individual aspect.

The progress of society is assured by carrying to higher perfection the relationships between men by means of external organizations and institutions. The development of the individual is dependent upon stimuli to moral and intellectual effort. Has Christianity contributed anything to these? Guizot denies that Christianity has contributed anything to social progress but says that it has contributed much to individual development. He was right when he said, "Christianity has been one of the greatest promoters of civilization because it has changed the internal conditions of man—his opinions, his sentiments; because it has regenerated his moral and intellectual character."

I disagree with him when he said, "Christianity in no way addressed itself to the social conditions of man. It attacked none of the great evils, none of the gross injustices, by which the social system of that day was disfigured." He must have forgotten that there cannot be individual development without a reaction upon social conditions. Perhaps had he written his book in the twentieth century he would not have made the assertion.

Christianity, in recent years has concerned itself greatly about social conditions. It has attacked the evils by which society was disfigured. And many of these evils have been eliminated from our social life. The abolition of the curse of alcoholism was just as praise-worthy. The attack upon the social evil gives promise of a better civilization. Christianity, as an institution, organized in many capacities, is stimulating the progress of society by extending and purifying social relations. It was divine wisdom and infallible tact which caused the Teacher of Galilee to throw out great principles of social relations instead of immediately attacking single handed the social evils of His day. These principles have taken hold of the minds of men and are bearing fruit.

Let us see how Christianity has addressed itself to the world on the two great subjects which have to do with civilization.

1. What about social relationships? Read the Sermon on the Mount and watch for social implications! What was the purpose of His parables? Note how He exemplifies the meaning of brotherliness and neighborliness in his story of the good Samaritan! See Him, the Jew, mingling with Publicans and sinners! Hear Him urge the woman taken in adultery to return to her

friends and sin no more! No wonder that men like Berle and Rauschenbusch and Peabody are giving their time and talent to a fruitful proclamation of the social applications of the Gospel of Christ! The Golden Rule calls for more than negation, it demands positive brotherly conduct. The institution of the church has been the hope of a better social world for it is the champion of right social relationships. In it the social teachings of the Gospel are made manifest. Christianity has stimulated the progress of society.

2. Has Christianity also addressed itself to individual development? The Galilean Teacher came preaching a Gospel of repentance. It was a call to a changed attitude; a new viewpoint. Individuals were challenged to leave the normal, drifting way of life and struggle onward and upward; to put away lying and deceit and boasting and pride; to think noble thoughts, study diligently, labor industriously and live unselfishly. The Christian must become a new creature; must be born again. He must not live unto himself but for others. He must not be selfish but must make his life contribute in usefulness and service.

Everywhere Christianity exerts a vigorous push to advancing civilization. It stimulates social progress. It develops the individual by supplying the needed stimuli to moral and intellectual effort. A process, vast and silent, is leading to a consummation too great for the mind of man to measure. It has been adequately expressed only in the idealism of the Teacher of Galilee, Christianity is the greatest promoter of civilization.

### CHURCH NOTICES

#### ST. PAULS EVANGELICAL GROVE STREET CHURCH

The Rev. Wm. Grotefeld, Pastor  
Sunday, August 7th, 1921.  
9:30 a. m. Sunday School.  
10:45 a. m. Morning Worship.  
7:30 p. m. Evening Worship.  
Union Service on M. E. Church lawn, Maple avenue near Main st. Everybody Welcome.

#### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Arthur Spencer Phelps, Minister  
God has been infinitely good to you, why not meet Him in His Sanctuary Sunday? In some one of the churches of Downers Grove, you will find the kind of a service which pleases you and congenial friends to welcome you.  
Sunday, August 7th, 1921.  
9:45 a. m. Bible School. The atmosphere is cheery.  
11:00 a. m. Morning Devotional Service. "The Recompense of Sacrifice."

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Prompt Attention

Ladies Especially Invited

Lekachas & Orfanos

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6:30 p. m. Christian Endeavor. Leader: Geraldine Lacey.  
7:30 p. m. Union Open Air Service on Methodist Church lawn. Wednesday, August 10th, 1921. Midweek Prayer Service.

#### S. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Hugh M. MacWhorter  
Priest-in-Charge

August 7th, 1921. Eleventh Sunday after Trinity.  
9:45 a. m. Church School.  
8:00 p. m. Evening Prayer and Sermon.  
During August the 7:30 and 11:00 a. m. Sunday services will be omitted as the pastor is supplying these services at Grace Church, Hinsdale.

#### FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

Library Hall

Sunday Service at 11:00 a. m. Sunday School at 9:45 a. m. Subject: "SPIRIT."  
Wednesday evening Testimonial Meeting, 8:00 p. m.  
Reading Room open Monday and Friday from 3 to 5 p. m.  
The public is cordially invited to attend the services and to visit and use the reading room.

#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The Rev. Arnold H. Kehrl, Minister

#### ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. Eneas B. Goodwin, Pastor

Sunday—  
8:00 a. m. Mass and Sermon.  
9:00 a. m. Bible Study.  
10:00 a. m. High Mass and Sermon.  
8:00 p. m. Compline, Benediction, Sermon.  
Week Days—  
8:00 a. m. Mass.  
Saturday Evenings—8:00 p. m. Benediction.

#### FIRST EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Rev. J. Alfred Nansen, Pastor.

Sunday, August 7th, 1921.  
Bible School at 9:45 a. m.  
Morning Worship at 11:00 a. m.  
Y. P. A. at 7:00 p. m.  
Open Air Services at 7:30 p. m.

on the M. E. Church lawn. Mid-Week Prayer Service, Wednesday, August 10th.

This service will be followed by a meeting of the Church and Parsonage Trustees.  
Visitors Warmly Welcomed.

#### UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH OF EAST GROVE

Rev. J. C. Nansen, Pastor.

Sunday School 10:00 a. m. Church Services 11:00 a. m. All are welcome.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Gilbert H. Newland, Pastor

Sunday, August 7th, 1921.  
Sunday School 9:45 a. m. Morning Worship 11:00 a. m. Subject: "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree."  
Epworth League 6:30 p. m. Leader: Sempar Paratus Class. Subject: "Thy Will be Done With My Pleasure."  
7:30 p. m. Community Vesper Service on the Church lawn. Speaker: Rev. R. W. Schloerb. Subject: "The Rhythmic Life."

#### ORDINANCE NO. 5

An Ordinance Making Appropriations in and for Downers Grove Sanitary District, located in the County of DuPage and State of Illinois, for the Fiscal Year from May 1, 1921, to April 30, 1922.

WHEREAS, at an election held on the 9th day of July, A. D. 1921, within the boundaries of the Downers Grove Sanitary District, in accordance with the Statute in such cases made and provided, the electors of said District authorized a levy of one-third of one per centum in addition to the levy of a like amount now authorized by law, for general corporate purposes, and also voted in favor of issuing bonds in the sum of \$75,000.00, THEREFORE

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Board of Trustees of the Downers Grove Sanitary District:

Section 1. That the following sums, or so much thereof as may be authorized by law, be and the same are, hereby appropriated for corporate purposes of the Downers Grove Sanitary District, as hereinafter specified, for the fiscal year commencing May 1, 1921, and ending April 30, 1922.  
Election Expenses ..... \$ 500.00  
Court costs incurred for the organization of the District 300.00  
Salaries of the Board of Trustees ..... 300.00  
Attorney fees ..... 1500.00  
Engineering services ..... 4000.00  
Clerk's office expenses, stationery and supplies ..... 500.00  
For the care and maintenance of the disposal works 2000.00  
Contingent fund ..... 566.66  
For interest on bonded indebtedness ..... 6750.00  
Total ..... \$16416.66

Section 2. All unexpended balances of any item or items, of any general appropriation made by this ordinance, may be expended in making up any insufficiency in any item or items in the same general appropriation and for the same general purpose, or in a like appropriation made by this ordinance.

Section 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

WILLIAM BENDER,  
President of Downers Grove Sanitary District

Passed August 2, 1921.  
Approved August 2, 1921.  
Published August 5, 1921.

Attest: DAVID HARRY JENKINS,  
Clerk of Downers Grove Sanitary District

(State of Illinois )  
County of DuPage )  
I, David Harry Jenkins, clerk of the Downers Grove Sanitary District of DuPage County, Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an Ordinance duly and regularly passed by the Board of Trustees of said Downers Grove Sanitary District on the 2nd day of August, A. D. 1921, as the same appears in the records of said Board; that the original, of which the foregoing is a true and correct copy, is entrusted to me as clerk of the said Downers Grove Sanitary District for safe keeping, and that I am the lawful keeper and custodian of the same. I do hereby further certify that the publication hereof is made in accordance with the law and the direction of said Board of Trustees.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the corporate seal of said Downers Grove Sanitary District, this 3rd day of August, A. D. 1921.  
DAVID HARRY JENKINS,  
Clerk of Downers Grove Sanitary District (SEAL)

Section 2. All unexpended balances of any item or items, of any general appropriation made by this ordinance, may be expended in making up any insufficiency in any item or items in the same general appropriation and for the same general purpose, or in a like appropriation made by this ordinance.

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President of Downers Grove Sanitary District

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DAVID HARRY JENKINS,  
Clerk of Downers Grove Sanitary District (SEAL)

### CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our sincere thanks to our friends and neighbors for the sympathy shown to us at the sickness and death of our beloved husband and father.  
Mrs. Joseph Mrkvicka and Children.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Eichhorst of Woodstock, are spending a few days with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Downer.

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