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Graham Farnell Speaker
Session Conducts Service
J. D. G.

Last Sunday at St. John's United Church was Conference Sunday and in accordance with the expressed wish of the Conference chairman, the Session took charge of the service in the absence of Rev. John M. Smith. Mr. Alan Prouse led in the devotional exercises, assisted by Mr. William Kinrade in the reading of the scripture lesson and prayer, and Mr. Graham Farnell conducted the sermon meditation period. His subject "The Master's Touch" was the theme of the service throughout, with the scripture Matt. 14: 22 to 33; telling the story of Jesus walking on the sea, and how, when Peter followed, became

afraid, and was sinking. Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught him. The saying, touch of the Master.

Very often in scripture and hymnary is Jesus referred to as the Master, the Master teacher, the Master physician, but particularly the spiritual Master. "One is your Master, even Christ"; "Master, it is good for us to be here"; "Good Master, what shall I do?"; "The Master is come and calleth for thee." Then there are the masters too in all walks of life, music, art, all achievements reaching highest in perfection of knowledge, accomplishment, yet often is the finishing touch of love and discernment. And the touch suggests the hands. What a multitude of varied uses are theirs and how blessed their achievements. Dr. Helen Keller, born deaf, dumb, and blind, yet through her hands, was able to learn like others and become a great blessing to mankind, encouraging so many to overcome their handicaps. How much was the encouragement derived during the dark days of the war, from the simple V sign for victory, of the fingers; and how great the strength and faith to trust and persevere, given us by the late King's Christmas message, "Put your hand in the hand of God, and step out into the dark; that shall be to you, better than a light, and safer than the known way." Then the hands of Jesus, put out to bless the little children; to touch the eyes of the blind and restore the joy of sight; to heal the deaf and the lame; to give ease from pain, and comfort in any distress. Yet even to change the strong doubt of Thomas, to perfect belief, even by just a look at them. How great is the touch of the Master's hands.

Mystery Wolf Is Nearly Extinct in US

The true wolf of nursery tales and folklores is nearly extinct in the United States. Once abundant over most of this country, it has been pursued ruthlessly because stock raising is almost impossible where it exists in numbers. A few still persist in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Oregon, and they are killed there whenever reported. Great numbers, however, exist in certain parts of Canada and Alaska.

This dreaded, pack-hunting creature has given way to two close relatives that are less formidable nuisances—the well-known coyote of the Western plains and the red wolf of the lower Mississippi valley.

Considerably closer to the true wolf than the coyote is the red wolf, a scientific form which is little known outside its immediate habitat in the lower Mississippi Valley.

The true wolf once covered most of the northern hemisphere. It has vanished long since from most of western Europe where, in medieval times, packs used to invade villages.

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The Master's Touch

It was battered and scarred and the auctioneer thought it scarcely worth his while to waste much time on the old violin. But held it up with a smile. "What am I bid, good folks?" he cried. "Who'll start bidding for me?" A dollar, a dollar, now two, only two. Two dollars and who'll make it three? "Three dollars once, three dollars twice. Going for three"—but, no! From the room far back, a grey-haired man came forward and picked up the bow. Then wiping the dust from the old violin, and tightening up the strings, he played a melody, pure and sweet, as sweet as an angel sings. The music ceased and the auctioneer, with a voice that was quiet and low, said, "What am I bid for the old violin?" And he held it up with the bow. "A thousand dollars—and who'll make it two?" Two thousand and who'll make it three? Three thousand once, three thousand twice. And going and gone," said he. The people cheered, but some of them cried, "We do not quite understand—What changed its worth?" The man replied, "The touch of the master's hand." And many a man with life out of tune, and battered and torn with sin, is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd. Much like the old violin. A "mess of pottage", a glass of wine A game,—and he travels on, He's going—once, and going twice, He's going,—and almost gone! But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd, Never can quite understand, The worth of a soul, and the change that's wrought, By the touch of the Master's hand.

Mr. Prouse's story to the boys and girls followed the theme. It told of Antonio, clever with a knife in his hands, fall to the love of music yet unable to sing, his home too poor for a musical instrument. He heard of a violin-maker, and went to his home, even in his rags. They tried to turn him way but he persisted that he wanted to make violins. The violin-maker heard him, and called him in, and heard his story. "What is your name?" "Antonio Stradivarius, and I want to make violins." The old maker taught him how and taught him patience; he already had the love of music in his heart; with these and the touch of his hands, he became, as we know, the master violin-maker.

The choir sang "The radiant morn". Mr. V. A. Stein sang, "Prayer perfect".

Erratic Sun

Why doesn't the Sun rise and set in the same direction all the year around? The axis on which the Earth rotates every day is not at right angles to the plane in which it revolves about the Sun, but tilted about 23.5 degrees. Between March and September the northern hemisphere leans towards the Sun, so we see it far north in the sky. It rises in the northeast and sets in the northwest. Around December, however, the northern hemisphere leans away from the Sun, which is then seen far to the south, so it rises in the southeast and sets in the southwest. At the equinoxes, about March 21 and Sept. 23, the Sun is directly over the Earth's equator, and neither north nor south, so it rises due east and sets directly west.

Lonely Life

George Lush, 50, is the only white man still trapping fox for the Hudson's Bay Co. in the trackless muskeg of the northwest territory. Often Lush sees no one in the five months of the trapping season. He lives in a three-room frame cabin on the Big River. For recreation, Lush reads old magazines and plays solitaire (doesn't cheat himself). He took in a radio several years ago, but the batteries went dead for lack of charging. He has a clock that doesn't work. When the photographer visited Lush, the trapper had lost track of two days. He has only one complaint about his life: "The Arctic's getting too crowded. Maybe I won't stay much longer." Meanwhile, he goes about his lonely business as a trapper.

Uranium Alchemy

There are two main centers in the United States where uranium ore is turned by modern alchemy into fissionable "heavy atoms." At Oak Ridge, Tenn., natural uranium is converted into gas and driven through porous baffles to separate U-235, the isotope used for the atomic bomb. At Hanford, Wash., huge nuclear reactors turn uranium into plutonium, an unstable element which does not occur on earth naturally.

Source of Zinc

For 70 years, the richest source of zinc in the United States has been a 30-mile crescent of prairie country at the junction of Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma. During World War II, this region provided about a third of the zinc needed for American shell casings and other munitions. There are still about 66 million tons of zinc ore remaining in the field, the Bureau of Mines estimates, although much of it is of a low grade.

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Baby Lobsters Travel For Great Distances

The life story of a lobster that leaves home as an infant is being unfolded by marine science. The Florida spiny lobster, or sea crayfish, may travel many hundreds of miles from the place it is spawned to the sea bottom where it grows to maturity.

The discovery expands earlier scientific concepts and knowledge of crustaceans, a family that supposedly does little ocean traveling—until a member is unlucky enough to walk into a lobster pot.

Instead of staying home, tiny spiny lobsters have been found drifting in the warm, bright, blue swath of the Gulf Stream off Miami, together with hundreds of other kinds of microscopic sea life lumped under the general name "plankton."

The scientists believe these lobsterlings may have come from waters around the West Indies, far to the south. If this be so, lobsterlings spawned in the Miami area probably travel far to the north before settling down.

Old Story

The jingle, "Mother, May I Go Out to Swim," is fourteen-hundred years old and comes from a jest book of the sixth century. A favorite of children in the nurseries of medieval castles, it continues to be popular among English-speaking peoples. For every man of the present time who knows the classic Beowulf, there are at least five-hundred who know the jingle.

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