

FROM LITTLE TOWNS

[Editor's Note—The poem appearing below is reprinted from the Toronto Daily Star and recently appeared in that paper under the caption "Written at Milton, Ontario." From little towns like these do great men come.

Reared in an atmosphere of a small place;
And going out to meet the world's vast din
They carry in their hearts the truth
Of gentle thought and heartsome words and deeds—
The kindly sort of folks the whole world needs;

From little towns like these with quiet streets,
Where boughs bend over to embrace each other,
Where little boys are born and grow and live,
Closer indeed than many a real blood-brother
Where ties of boyhood play and work and tears,
Knit them together throughout all their years.

From a small town like these, serene and still,
Did Jesus come; and Simon Peter knew
The peace of quiet streets, and Andrew loved
The skies above his village clear and blue,
While James and John, the sons of Zebedee,
Were little fisher lads from Galilee.

From little towns like these, where love is near
And neighbors meet and pass the time of day,
Visit each other, share their simple meals,
Rejoice and ween together, sing and pray;
Where smoke from supper fires softly curled,
Our men have gone out armed . . . to save the world.

—EDNA JAQUES
480 Parkdale Ave., Ottawa.

Twenty Years Ago

From the Issue of the Canadian Champion of March 5th, 1925

Chicken thieves are busy again, John Lottridge, of Nelson, had 38 birds stolen one night last week. The Milton story of last Saturday's earthquake was about the same as that of other places. Some citizens did not notice it, while others were more or less startled. According to records compiled in Toronto since 1898 last Saturday's quake was only the fifth to be noticeably felt, and it was the most pronounced of the five. The carnival at the arena on Thursday evening was one of the best ever seen here. Some of the prize winners are as follows: Best National costume, C. Winn; best lady, Miss Laura Chisholm, Miss Mary Dewar; best gentleman, L. Servos, R. Pearen; best girl, Miss Clara Hardy; best boy, H. Baylis, M. Gowland.

BORN
MCKINNON—In Trafalgar on February 26th, 1925, to Mr. and Mrs. Ewart McKinnon, a son.

MURDOCK—In Milton, on Saturday, February 28th, 1925, to Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Murdock, a daughter (Corinne Rhea).

DIED
FORD—In Milton, on Thursday, February 26th, 1925, Christina McSachern, beloved wife of Thomas Ford, in her sixtieth year.

BESCOBY—In Milton, on Monday, March 2nd, 1925, Frank F. Bescooby, in his 52nd year.

Mother and Girl Manage Newspaper

"Babs" is Reporter, Book-keeper, Managing Editor of a Weekly Paper

MELFORT, Sask. (CP) — Frances Babington, is one of the two women in Saskatchewan to fill the position of managing editor of a weekly newspaper. Known to everyone in the district as "Babs" she does the reporting, keeps books, solicits advertising, and writes a weekly column for the Melfort Moon. Actually the Moon is a two-woman paper. Babs' mother Mrs. E. M. Babington, is the proprietor.

Frances was literally raised in the printing business. During her school days she worked as a printer's devil and on her father's death in 1940, she took over the editing and managing of the Moon.

Working with her as linotype operator and compositor is Charlie Hitchings, formerly of the Flin Flon Miner and Touchwood Times, and between the two of them they put out an all home-print paper every week.

Frances writes some editorials along with her weekly column and although she doesn't interfere with local affairs, will take a stand on any issue she sees fit.

She is so short that the shop is cluttered with wooden stools to enable her to reach the desks and various pieces of machinery.

Frances' only brother, Mike, now in the Canadian Army overseas, was on the staff of the Moon before he enlisted.

PETS LIVE IN LUXURY

NAPANEE, Ont. (CP)—A boarding house for 25 dogs and a Persian cat is run by Mrs. Ita McGuire, owner of a kennel near here. The animals were bequeathed to her by Mrs. Roger Shaw, Long Island millionairess, who left a \$100,000 trust fund to provide for her pets. On a salary of \$220 a month, Mrs. McGuire must provide 52 individual meals for her guests daily.

The Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY, MARCH 4th, 1945

JESUS TEACHES FORGIVENESS

Golden Text. — If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. Matt. 6: 14-15.

Lesson Text.—Matt. 18: 21-35.

Time—Autumn, A. D. 32.

Exposition.—I. Seeking Forgiveness for Self, 21-27.

Peter's question is exceedingly important and practical. It is a question with which we are all confronted experimentally. We all have those whom we forgive and scarcely have forgiven them before they offend again. How long shall they be permitted to keep this up? Peter suggested seven times as a possible outside limit. That is far higher than most of us go, but Jesus multiplied Peter's high figures by seventy, and said there is where you ought to go "seventy times seven." Here we have the perfect number, multiplied by the number of completeness, multiplied again by the perfect number. In other words, never cease forgiving.

At first glance it seems a hard saying, but as we continue to look at it, we see it is a most sweet and gentle saying, for if He bids us do this to others, He certainly will Himself do it to us. The parable that follows emphasizes this gracious truth. I need then never fear again to go to Him, saying, "Forgive me," no matter how often or how seriously I have sinned. If my heart hesitates, I hear Him whispering, "Until seventy times seven" (Col. 3: 13; Eph. 4: 32; 5: 1). The form of Peter's question suggests that Peter took it for granted that he would have to forgive others, but that it did not occur to him that he himself might be the offender and that others might have to forgive him.

Reckoning a talent roughly at \$1200 the king's debtor was twelve million dollars in debt. And this is a picture of each of us. We are hopelessly in debt to God, and we have sought to pay (Luke 7: 42; Ps. 120: 3; Ezra 9: 6; Ps. 40: 12). It is not before an abstract law, but before a person, that we are guilty (Ps. 51: 4). If we could only be brought to realize how great our unpaid debt is that is freely forgiven us, we would surely not find it hard to forgive others.

The debtor was "BROUGHT" to the king: We as sinners do not come into God's presence of our own accord, the Spirit brings us there (Jno. 16: 7-9). Verse 25 pictures God's dealings with us on the ground of law (Gal. 3: 19). But it is only to bring us to sue for mercy and grace (Rom. 3: 19-24; Gal. 3: 22-24). The demand of just payment brought this debtor down upon his knees, and that is where the full demand of law brings each of us if we are wise. And yet this debtor fancied he could ultimately pay his debts if he only had time. This is true to human experience.

When first awakened to a sense of our sins, we still fancy we can pay sometime. We think we can atone for the past sins by future good works. It is only after a while that it fully dawns upon us that we can do nothing at all, that salvation must be not only partly but wholly of grace (Eph. 2: 8, 9). When we do realize that, and that God does not ask us to do anything (Rom. 3: 2; 4: 5), our consciences are purged from dead works (delivered from the burden of our self-efforts to atone for sin) to serve the living God (Heb. 9: 14). In verse 27 we have God dealing in grace, just as it was before all law. "The Lord" does not extend the time of paying the debt, but fully remits it. God never mixes law and grace (Gal. 5: 2-4; 3: 10; Rom. 3: 28; 11: 6). The basis of grace is nothing in us, but something in God, His own compassion. The CONDITION upon which God deals in grace is in us, viz, that we acknowledge our hopeless indebtedness and sue for mercy (cf. Luke 18: 13, 14; Rom. 10: 12, 13).

II. Refusing Forgiveness to Another, 28-35.
The one who had just been forgiven a twelve-million-dollar debt went right out and tried to violently exact a debt of seventeen dollars from another. That seems incredible, but it is a scene enacted every day. God has forgiven you debts whose greatness defies computation, and you go out and exact the paltry debts your fellowmen owe you. How many are harboring grudges over some petty slight or offence! We should all meditate long and deeply over this parable. His debtor acted toward him as he had acted toward his own creditor, but he remembered nothing and had no mercy.

The outcome is startling. "His lord called him." If we will not listen to the cry of our debtors, then we shall hear the voice of our creditor. God freely offers forgiveness for all our indebtedness, but if we truly accept it we will prove it by freely forgiving others. If we do not forgive others it proves that we have despised the proffered mercy of God. We are now back on the law basis, and we shall be delivered to the tormentors till we pay "ALL THAT IS DUE." That we can never do, so our torment will be everlasting. There is no mercy for the man who shows, by refusing mercy to others, he has despised it for himself (Jas. 2: 13). The only way to learn to be merciful is by believing in the mercy of God (1 Jno. 4: 19).

Reporters Tell of A Ravaged Europe In Wake of Battle

Reporter Says Clothing Lack Dire in Yugoslavia—Greeks Forced to Rebuild Towns with Bare Hands

WASHINGTON (CP)—In Yugoslavia there is so little clothing that women were seen in the fields wearing nothing but a loin cloth . . .

In France the former 12-hour trip from Paris to Nice takes nine days. There is no heat from one end of Europe to the other and very little hot water for the sick, the wounded and the just plain tired . . .

Reports are dribbling back to America via specialists who are making hurried trips to Europe to start ironing out the trouble that came in the wake of battle. Perhaps the most dramatic tale is that of Greece's 3,000 burned villages. The story of Domvrina tells the story of all.

Domvrina lies 60 miles northwest of Athens. Its 2,600 villages took to the mountains in September, 1943, when the Germans burned their town and dumped dead into their wells. The villagers are back now. They share their few saws, hammers and axes. They carry water from the next village while they clean out the wells.

Fortunately the town's houses were of stone, so some walls still stand. The villagers are making "homes" by constructing lean-tos in the corners of their stone houses. The whole family works. They walk up the mountains to cut logs and carry them back, in their hands. But before Domvrina started on homes the men got together and rebuilt the church, the school and the olive oil press on which the town depends for its income.

Faithful Teachers
No one begs, not even the children. And somehow, in the mountains, teachers have kept up their teaching so well that now even youngsters who were infants when their families fled can read.

In Yugoslavia visitors found Belgrade still so near to the battle front that partisan army trucks drive in with wounded and quarter them with any civilians who have bed space. They saw one courageous Russian soldier who had thumbed his way back from the battle front with a bad leg wound. He was set out on the curb, and Belgrade civilians got him to the hospital.

In Cair, some 27,000 Yugoslav refugees have set up shops and are busily turning out shoes, rugs, and clothes to take home. They even turned a wrecked Allied bomber to some good. The men salvaged every inch of metal and turned it into hammers, screws and nails. In Luxembourg, when the Germans surged back in December, populations of whole villages walked together out of the war zone. Now they're going back to ghost cities.

The job ahead for the doctors, in all the countries, is stupendous. Malaria has hit as much as 75 per cent. of some Greek and Italian villages. People are suffering from scabies, trachoma, weak hearts, tuberculosis. Malnutrition marks thousands. If it hasn't gone too far, doctors can repair the damage. But in that Yugoslav camp in Africa they keep eight babies in a room apart. They don't resemble human beings anymore. Nothing can be done for them.

Shipshape Quarters For Wrens on Land

Trappings from Peacetime Liners Add Nautical Atmosphere For Girls
ESQUIMALT, B.C. (CP) — Wrens who serve at H.M.C.S. Givenchy here are surrounded by sea-going atmosphere both on and off the job. Moresby House, their quarters, is decorated with brass ship's lanterns and tables which used to be seamen's broad boxes and chests of drawers whose slight tilt proclaims them salvage from Pacific liners.

It all started when Canadian liners changed into war paint and had to get rid of their peacetime trappings. Furniture, galley equipment and gear of all kinds was stored away in large salvage depots. Enterprising naval officers spotted usable pieces of furniture, requested them for the Wren quarters, and got them loaned for the duration.

The girls, organized by their unit officer, Lieut. Nora Allan of Toronto, used spit and polish and paint to make the pieces of furniture, silver and ornaments into shining collector's pieces. Tilting mirrors on their swinging bases remind more than one Wren of peacetime voyages and even coat-hangers in the cupboards bear the stamps of famous ships of Pacific ocean lines.

BORN BY ROADSIDE
SAINT JOHN, N. B. (CP)—Mrs. M. B. Waddell of Moss Glen, N. B. harnessed a horse to the family sleigh and set out for the hospital. Realizing she was losing the race with the stork, she stopped along the roadside, gave birth to a baby daughter, turned around and drove home.

Commission Studies Reforms for Ceylon

More Complete Self-Government Possible for Island Colony

LONDON (CP)—A three-man commission soon will go to Ceylon to study constitutional reform leading to more complete self-government in that island, one of many similar steps likely to result from wartime developments in colonial areas.

Chairman of the commission is Lord Soulbury who held various ministerial posts in the House of Commons when he was Herwald Ramsbotham; and the other members are J. F. Rees, vice-chancellor of the University of Wales, and F. J. Burrows, president of the National Union of Railwaymen.

"Ceylon is, I suppose, constitutionally the most advanced territory in the dependent Empire," said Commission Secretary Tafford Smith in a broadcast.

"It has a state council, or parliament, elected on universal adult suffrage . . . and this council is in almost complete control of the island's internal affairs. Except for such matters as defence and foreign relations, and the existence of certain reserve powers which the Governor rarely uses, the people of Ceylon are thus to all intents and purposes self-governing."

Now the British government has decided that the time is ripe for a further step on self-government for Ceylon by removing some of these reserve powers; and it will be the commission's job to decide which should be dropped.

"What is decided for Ceylon will naturally have important repercussions elsewhere," said Mr. Smith. "Colonial constitutions are in the air nowadays — Jamaica and the Gold Coast have just had new ones, others are under review."

For instance, an African has been appointed to the Kenya Legislative Council for the first time; Ratu Sukuna, a native has been appointed secretary for Fijian affairs with a seat on the Executive Council; local government has been reformed in Cyprus in preparation for re-establishment of a legislative council; provincial councils have been promised restoration of responsible government in internal

HALIFAX (CP)—A brief drawn up by 11 Nova Scotia Forestry experts and submitted to Hon. J. H. MacQuarrie, lands and forests minister, urged better management and a completed survey and inventory of the province's forest resources.

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