OPEN LETTERS TO A FARMER

By Rev. M. V. Kelly, C.S.B.

(Continued from last week)

XVI.

The Unremitting Blight.

In my last letter I drew your attention to the decline in religious spirit and practice when people are given up to enjoyments and pastimes. But there is even a greater enemy of religion than this unintermittent love of pleasure and excitement. Nothing so blights every interest in a hereafter as the spirit of the world. There is no room for God in the heart of a worldly-minded man, and the actuating spirit of progress and success in city careers is this spirit of the world. There is the all-absorbing struggle for prosperity and gain, the pride of wealth, the ambition for distinction and honor, the craving for recognition, the aim to reach the first place, the readiness to make any sacrifice for the sake of a place in society. With these come subservience to the dictates of fashion, the vanity and extravagance which such aspirations necessitate, bringing up a family in idleness, marrying for position, even though the alliance be with the most irreligious and irreverent, a studious observance of caste, a more or less concealed contempt for the poor or humble, forgetfulness of their needs, the hard-heartedness that comes from lack of sympathy with, and understanding of, their sad and wretched lot, and a greater self-indulgence by consequence—all this but faintly describes the atmosphere surrounding that portion of a city population whose successes are held up as models for those who would strive to "make something of themselves" in this world. And because people of standing are actuated by this spirit, its influence extends to every rank and calling. In the homes and families of the struggling laborers there is a constant temptation to imitate; its presence cannot be altogether excluded from the minds of children in our primary schools. Nevertheless, this is the menace to religion which seems to give least alarm. Everywhere good old habits of simplicity, vigorous family traditions, longings for an eternal reward are gradually disappearing before this subtle, unsuspected, persevering enemy of Faith. Faber finds still another form of worldliness the most dangerous of all. It is the disposition, the habit of seeking one's own comfort. How seldom we feel called upon to warn the money-maker of the danger of surrounding himself and his family with every possible comfort that wealth can procure. Very often increasing wealth and social advancement give entree to what is called "high society;" of this the less said the better. Not long ago in a large city a young girl, having married into immense wealth, within three years formally announced her decision to have done with church-going. Many tried in vain to explain the astonishing perversion; meanwhile, women of some years acquaintance declared the explanation was quite simple. "No one who gives herself up to the life of society can continue a practical Christian."

Where Satan Holds Sway.

For one who has lived all his life in the country it is hardly possible to realize the thousand snares to entrap the young to be met with in every busy city. You hear of them now and then, but only by living among them can you understand how numerous, how ubiquitous, how seductive they are. It would be nothing less than foolhardy to suppose that your children could be immune from danger. Long, idle evenings, late hours of retiring, the street corner gatherings in parks and squares, the automobile, promiscuous company-keeping, the billiard hall and gambling den, public dance halls, the cafe chantant, the questionable theatre, the ever-present picture show, with the thousand other modern varieties of amusement; immoral and irreligious literature sown broadcast, sensational fiction and stories of romance, the language, the example, the acquaintance-making so frequently associated with employment in large factories, socialist meetings and organizations and meetings of many other movements founded on a false philosophy and false ideas of religion, the degeneracy of slum districts, the unmentionable resorts of sin and debauchery, the street acquaintances who lure the young in those directions, temptations from the example of elders—every city is provided with them all. Can anyone suppose for a moment that such conditions are without effect on the religious spirit of our Canadian young people. Can any Christian parent think of it without a shudder of horror? The father and mother who give up the innocence of a country home in quest of greater gain, or easier occupation, or opportunities of enjoyment, perhaps never realize the dreadful responsibility they are assuming in bringing their children so near those haunts of iniquity and degradation.

(To be continued).

Charles E. Bunnell is president of the farthest north college school of mines at Farebanks, Alaska. The college, which is situated in the Arctic Circle, has an experimental mine in operation at the foot of the school hill.

A Poem You Ought to Know.

The Solitary Reaper.

Wordsworth, the poet of Nature, went for a holiday into the Highlands, and this is one of several unforgetable poems he brought back with him.

Behold her, single in the field,
Yon solitary Highland Lass!
Reaping and singing by herself;
Stop here, or gently pass!
Alone she cuts and binds the grain,
And sings a melancholy strain;
O listen! for the Vale profound
Is overflowing with the sound.

No Nightingale did ever chaunt
More welcome notes to weary bands
Of travellers in some shady haunt,
Among Arabian sands;
A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard
In Spring-time from the Cuckoo-bird,
Breaking the silence of the seas
Among the farthest Hebrides.

Will no one tell me what she sings?—
Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow
For old, unhappy, far-off things,
And battles long ago;
Or is it some more humble lay,
Familiar matter of to-day?
Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain,
That has been, and may be again?

Whate'er the theme, the Maiden sang
As if her song could have no ending;
I saw her singing at her work,
And o'er the sickle bending:—
I listened, motionless and still;
And, as I mounted up the hill,
The music in my heart I bore,
Long after it was heard no more.

"Big" Men.

To call a man "big" is to utter a challenge. Those who hear the word applied are aroused to ask, "What has he done?" It is useless for any man to insist on his own pre-eminence: his quality must be determined and his place assigned by others who have seen and appraised his work.

The "big" man is not the noisiest. His are often the "schemes accomplished in repose." He has great patience and can wait. It does not fret him to find other men arriving before him; as he is not puffed up over any success of his own, so, in the belief that all work is more important than the workman, he is glad that a worthy undertaking goes forward, whoever is honored and rewarded for it.

It is the little man who clamors for the credit, and must be advertised as the figure of supreme importance on the landscape wherever he appears. Petty claimants for applause and praise invite the amused tolerance of the truly great, who wonder why human beings should so perturb themselves over the trivial insignia of rank, authority and social precedence. What is any honor that man can bestow on man compared with the need of getting the world's work done?

The little man calls a halt in the middle of business to affirm his own consequence, when the real importance attaches not to him, nor to any other person, but to the affair in hand. In every sort of occupation the personal equation cannot be ignored; there is need of sympathy between the human factors, there is room for the amenities, and colleagues ought to be friends. But the thing to be done is impersonal, and it has no time to waste on the idiosyncrasies of those engaged in doing it. In every task that engages human collaborators, the man who is too sensitive for his own "rights" and too ready to discover grievances is a detriment, and all concerned would go further and faster without him.

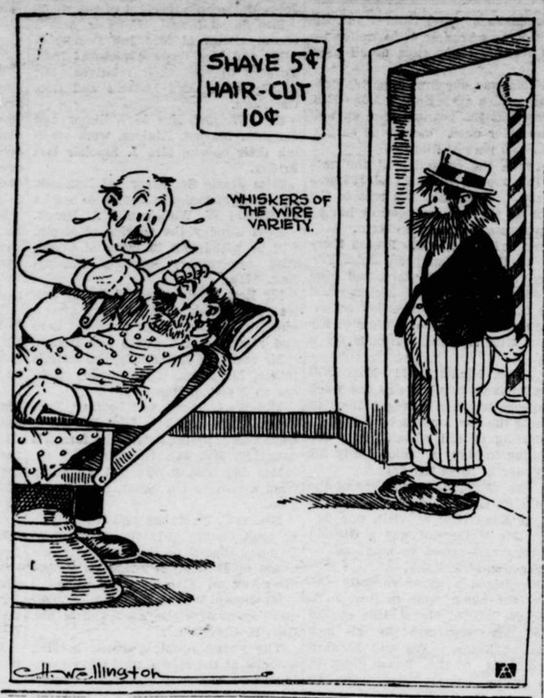
"Big" men are human and are lovers of their kind. They are sociable and affable. They do not care to wrap themselves in a veil of awful mystery and make themselves inaccessible. But they are too busily engaged in living life to the full to hold up traffic while they admiringly expound their own achievement. You can tell the "big" man, because he never tries to tell you how big he is.

Sweeping the Sky.

The fabled performance of the old woman of the nursery rhyme who "swept" the cobwebs out of the sky has a scientific parallel in the ability of aviators under some conditions to brush small clouds out of the sky by flying through them rapidly.

A fair-sized summer cumulus of fair-weather cloud may sometimes be dispersed by about twenty flights through it.

—AND THE WORST IS YET TO COME



Many Mine Records Are Held in Canada.

Canada has many production records to her credit and this is especially so in the mineral field. The world's largest amber mica, plumbago, nickel, asbestos and other mines are situated in Canada, while during the war many other minerals were in such great demand that individual mines overcame all handicaps and met the acute needs with a promptness that was of very material help in providing war materials. One of these latter minerals was molybdenite, the sulphite of molybdenum. The metal, molybdenum, finds its greatest use as an alloy for steel, which it strengthens and consequently reduces the weight required. In electrical work molybdenum replaces platinum to a large extent at a much reduced cost. It is extensively used in radio work.

Before the war there was practically no production of molybdenite in Canada, with the exception of a few tons of ore taken out on possibly two occasions. A few promising deposits and numerous occurrences of the mineral were already known, and the war demand led to the active development of the better known of these and the systematic prospecting of numerous occurrences of the mineral. The close of the war quickly cut off the market that had been developed and left large supplies of the mineral on the hands of mineral brokers and consumers in England. Prices at once declined and Canadian operations ceased.

In the peak year of 1913, Canada became the second largest producer of molybdenite. Most of the output came from a deposit near Quyon, on the Ottawa river in Quebec, about 30 miles west of Ottawa. This mine for some time was the world's largest producer. Since the war many experiments have been made in the making and testing of commercial molybdenum steels. These have proved the value of low molybdenum alloy steels, a fraction of one per cent. of the metal being used for structural and engineering purposes where great stresses and strains are involved.

The export demand for molybdenum is reported to have improved to such an extent as to warrant the re-opening recently of the Quyon mine. Enquiries are being received from the United States and Europe for supplies. The concentrates from the above mine range from 90 to 96 per cent. molybdenite, while what is recognized as standard and the grade upon which the market price is based in New York is 85 per cent. The increasing number of commercial uses being found for molybdenum as a result of research and investigation may be expected to create a greater demand for the metal and a more general mining of molybdenite throughout Canada to meet the demand.

Salving Sunken Ships.

Between 8,000 and 10,000 ships, of which nearly 6,000 are British, it is estimated are lying on the ocean bed. These sunken ships are reckoned to account for about 15,053,786 gross tons, and their estimated value is $34,033,900—at pre-war shipbuilding rates.

With their cargoes, the ships below the sea are worth a fabulous amount—experts put the figures at $6,001,014,400 roughly.

There is need for the ships as well as their precious cargoes to be raised, and there is small doubt that the salvage engineer will be kept busy for years hence.

Ships of less than 2,000 tons can usually be raised bodily by means of pontoons; ships above such a mark require often more ingenious handling.

Pontooning is employed whenever possible for salving sunken ships; the second method is for ships to be pumped and floated, which means that divers must go down, locate holes, and mend them with plates, before the ship is pumped free from water and raised again.

In a third method compressed air is used to force the water out of the ship at the bottom of the ocean.

An American has invented a salvage submarine which can have its door open below water without letting water into the ship. A European salvage company, too, have a patent under-water ship which carries several divers, and is a complete repair-shop fitted with telephones and searchlights.

History of Empire Depicted at Wembley.

The Empire pageant is the crowning glory in Wembley's world of wonders. As a spectacle alone, it would be incomparable, but it is more than a spectacle, it is a recreation of real events out of which came the Empire of today. Round about the vast stadium are buildings typical of the lands they represent, and in them are displayed natural and manufactured products illustrating diversified resources of the Dominions and dependencies. All of these depict the strength and extent of the edifice that has been reared, but in the stadium itself are seen men who made all this possible, the great discoverers and conquerors who planted the flag in near and far off lands, pioneers of the Empire who built in all continents, and from whose courageous enterprise has come the magnificent achievement of which the exhibition speaks.

From the stadium the Empire looks down upon its splendid and heroic history. There is a great theatre of land and sea, of plain and mountain, and on to this vast stage come men and women of old time, kings, queens, courtiers, soldiers, statesmen and party adventurers. The Cabots set forth upon their quest and find Newfoundland, Jacques Cartier sails up the St. Lawrence and rears a cross at Stadacona; Champlain follows and Laval, and New France comes into being. There is a parade of honor when the "two great and victorious armies of Wolfe and Montcalm" march together. The United Empire Loyalists come, and there are successive scenes of the political and industrial development, making up the story of Canada. Australia and New Zealand histories are treated similarly, and, thanks to the enthusiasm of a huge army of volunteer performers, it is all done with a wonderful appearance of reality.

But perhaps the most striking of all the pageant is that of the Empire's heroes. It is the final. Into the theatre ride and walk great captains who have fought in all Britain's wars for centuries by sea and land. De Leon is there with his crusaders, Cromwell and his company of Ironsides, Marlborough, Wolfe, Clive, Drake, Grenville, Blake, Hawke, and the Iron Duke with the eagle nose and short side whiskers. They are all there riding and marching out of history into a new day; all save one. Britain's super-hero, Nelson, the captain of captains. He comes, but not in life. The body of "The greatest sailor" is borne upon a state barge, and is placed on a funeral car with stately ceremony. High officers carry Nelson's banner and trappings and a military excort follows the car, while a great company of heroes are marshalled round about. A bell tolls and at intervals a gun is fired. The body is borne to St. Paul's, and the ceremony changes into a thanksgiving for the glorious dead. It is an unforgettable epic, superbly staged and profoundly impressive.

By Locust Post.

While the district mounted patrol of the Krugersdorp (Transvaal) police was at work destroying large swarms of locusts on the north-western boundary of the West Rand at Middelvlei, a constable noticed one locust which seemed to have a white body.

He gave chase, and on capturing it found tied round its body a piece of paper bearing the following pencilled message: "26-5-24, Christiania. Boere doen julle beste.—J. du Toit." ("Farmers do your best.")

The distance between Christiania and Middelvlei is more than 200 miles, and the locust despatch flyer must have covered the distance with a swarm about a mile long in twenty-four hours, which included a rest overnight.

Over one thousand domestic servants have left England for Canada already this year.

Natural Resources Bulletin.

The Natural Resources Intelligence Service of the Department of the Interior at Ottawa says:

The sea herring is a comparatively small fish, yet it is one of the most important of the food fishes of Canada. On both the east and west coasts large catches are secured. On the east coast Nova Scotia last year took 8,256 tons, New Brunswick 12,166 tons, Prince Edward Island 2,554 tons, and Quebec 8,245 tons. British Columbia produced 65,000 tons.

The British Columbia coastal waters are, however, Canada's greatest herring fishery. They are found along almost the entire length of the coast, but particularly around Vancouver Island they are very plentiful.

A large packing industry has been built up for what is known as "Scotch cured" herring, which consists of cleaning, salting and packing the fish in barrels. Six thousand barrels of this pack were put up in British Columbia last year.

The Orient is the chief market for herring, which, to meet this demand, are dry salted only. Last year fifty thousand tons were put up in this manner for China and Japan. This 50,000 tons represented approximately 700,000,000 fish. It is claimed by fishermen that the supply of herring is ample and that there is no likelihood of depletion due to the large takings.

Of the 1923 catch of herrings, 35 tons were used fresh, 5,005 cases were canned, 22½ tons were smoked, 37,139 tons (net weight) were dry salted, 21,721 barrels were pickled, 165,133 barrels were use das bait, and 72,465 barrels were used as bait, and 72,465

The herring is but one of the many commercial fishes for which the fisheries of Canada are famous, and in point of value, when freshly caught, brought a revenue to the fishermen of $1,620,449, or a little under one cent. per pound.

Photograph shows Mr. F. W. Field, who was presented to H.M. the King at St. James' Palace, London, recently, and appointed as His Majesty's Senior Trade Commissioner in Canada and Newfoundland.

Eggs As Coins.

Money is not the only form of currency existent, though it is the only form internationally recognized. Norway sometimes uses corn for coin; the Fijians use whales teeth; while chocolate, coco-nuts, and eggs, are employed in the interior of South America. There are parts of New Guinea where the natives pay their bills in slaves!

GAME RESOURCES OF PRAIRIE PROVINCES

HUNTING AREAS NOT WELL KNOWN AT PRESENT.

Large and Varied Resources Are Protected Against Dangerous Depletion.

A very general impression exists that the game resources of Canada are confined to the heavily timbered provinces of the Eastern Dominion, which is a long way from being the actual truth. The attractions of the Prairie Provinces to hunters and sportsmen are not so well known because the subservient phases of that territory are largely overshadowed by the renown it has achieved in agricultural production and because this area is not to anything like as large an extent visited by sportsmen from other countries. As a matter of fact few areas have greater or more varied attraction for the sportsmen, certainly no agriculturally producing area. Very many contemplating settlers totally neglect this phase of Western life, which not only offers them engrossing sport when opportunity offers but is to the farmer a valuable supplement to his larder.

That the game resources of the Prairie Provinces, whilst found in an agricultural area and belonging in a peculiar manner to the farmer, are sufficiently attractive to lure sportsmen from elsewhere is evident in the annual record of one representative province in this regard. In Manitoba last year 10,158 game bird licenses and 1,801 big game permits were issued by game wardens, and the returns from these licenses show that 527 deer, 389 moose, 48,232 prairie chickens, 28,028 partridge, 1,359 grouse, 752 wild geese, and 188,969 brant and ducks were shot. The Government revenue from these licenses amounted to $31,533.

Varieties of Game and Fish.

Even in the more settled districts of the Prairie Provinces (in fact, many game birds increase with settlement), the prairie chicken, partridge, and wild duck are to be found in large numbers. Though the wild goose makes merely a halt in the agricultural areas on his way to and from the big lakes of the far north, sportsmen and farmers always take a certain toll in the spring and fall migrations. In addition there are ptarmigan, plover, woodcock, snipe, rails and coots. All these are essentially the property of the settler, one of the assets of the homestead, his sport as occasion offers, and his provender.

The fishing is scarcely less elaborate and attractive. A partial list of what the Prairie Provinces offer in this line includes pickerel, gold eyes, pike, whitefish, lake trout, perch and a variety of trout. The lakes and streams in this wide area are so excellently distributed that no farmer is at any distance from a source of fish supply and this is a regular article of his diet. Fishing through the ice in the winter months is equally profitable and ensures a seasonal supply.

Big Game in Alberta and British Columbia.

As indicated in the license figures there is a variety of big game hunting on the prairie. Moose are to be found in most of the wooded districts of the Western provinces, remote from actual farming settlement, whilst deer are to be found even where agriculture is being followed, and are plentiful beyond these areas. In the winter months coyote hunting frequently offers entertaining and profitable sport. Real big game shooting is offered by the mountain section of Alberta and British Columbia where the mountain sheep and goat and the grizzly bear abound.

The game resources of the Prairie Provinces are not only large and varied, but precautions are taken against a dangerous depletion. Bags are limited to within reasonable limits, and where it is found necessary restocking takes place. A few Chinese pheasants, for instance, introduced years ago, were for years protected, until to-day they are found in some numbers over a large area. The Hungarian partridge was also introduced to the region, and, under years of protection, has thrived and multiplied to a wonderful extent. Manitoba made further importations of this game bird last year from Czecho-Slovakia.

Wembley's Fiery Fountain.

In the Scientific Section of the British Empire Exhibition is a fiery fountain.

Issuing from a rock is a stream of water flowing in a graceful curve on to a glass flower, and thence overflowing into a mossy pool. As the stream of water touches the flower it appears to catch fire, and the flower is illuminated. As you look the color changes from fiery white to fiery red, then from fiery red to vivid green, but the water that flows over the flower is colorless.

As it falls on to the bank below it again shows a brilliant iridescence. The exhibit was prepared by the Manchester College of Technology, and a good deal of work and a great number of experiments were made to bring the device to perfection.

The heart of a Greenland whale is ten a yard in diameter.

Delegates are shown following the opening session of the great allied conference at the foreign office, London. In the front row are: Mr. F. Kellogg (American Ambassador); M. Theunis (Belgian Premier); H. Herriot (French Premier); Mr. Ramsay MacDonald (British Premier); Signor De Stefani (Italian Finance Minister); and Baron Hyashi (Japanese Ambassador).

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