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A MESSAGE OF COMFORT

TO A SORROWING NATION
"COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE."

A Sermon Preached in Sydenham Street Methodist Church on Sunday Morning by Professor W. G. Jordan.

Speaking on the theme "A Message of Comfort to a Sorrowing Nation," on Sunday morning in Sydenham street Methodist church, Professor W. G. Jordan used as his text the words: "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God." Isaiah XL-1. He called attention to the fact that it was a national message given to the Hebrew people in one of their darkest hours, and while it has survived many centuries it still speaks with a fresh living voice. It comes from a poet-prince who expressed his teaching in picturesque forms and when his mind is stirred by a great idea often bursts into song. We do not know the man's name, and we are not sure of the exact place of his abode. The national situation that he faced is pretty well known, but his particular personal circumstances are vague. He is not dealing with any small local politics, but with a world-movement that has crushed his nation, and that drives him back upon great first principles. His wonderful prophecy was written in one of the most tragic periods of Jewish history, when the land was most desolate, the temple in ruins, and the tower of the nation captive in a strange land.

Here he gives the character of his commission, the nature of his message; he is called to comfort an afflicted, helpless people. He will write a "Book of Consolation," he will give comfort to those who are in distress and liable to despair.

This is a new note in Hebrew prophecy. The great prophets were very sensitive to their surroundings; they were in the best sense preachers to their own age. The preacher's business is not simply to repeat the knowledge and traditions derived from the past, he must apply the everlasting and ever-growing truth to new needs. The earlier prophets were heralds of judgment and in some cases messengers of doom; this man is the bearer of a new life. In their day the nation was prosperous, self-satisfied, arrogant, it needed sharp rebuke. But this prophet must meet a tragic sorrow and deep-seated skepticism. The nation has been mortally wounded in its patriotism and piety; its land, its institutions all lie in ruins. Man cried out: "Jehovah cares nothing for our fate and will not vindicate us as His people before the world."

How does the prophet meet this dark situation? Looking merely at the surface we might be tempted to say, by dealing tenderly, making his appeal with noble rhetoric and using sweet musical speech. True so far, but that is only the outward form which corresponds to an inward reality. To him in the hour of his people's distress there can be no comfort save in a great thought of God and a great call to service.

His message has rich intellectual content; it is what we call a great theology, its roots are in the past, but it is fresh and living. He is not concerned with small questions of material or difficult discussions concerning faith and works; there are to "social topics" for society is broken up and must be created anew. He is driven back to the beginning; it is not to man he looks but to God. Once again it had to be proved that if he nation is to be saved it must be by a great faith in the living God, and a true thought as to the meaning of human life.

The thought of this God he presents in the forefront of his message. He claims that the God of Israel created the stars that the Babylonians worshipped as gods. "Lift up your eyes on high and see who hath created these things." The God who made the world can make a new nation. He uses splendid words to show that no words can

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express the sublimity and strength of God. This creation is a living present process, the world still pulses and quivers with the power of His life. The prophet then turns to the movements of God in history, to the "God of our fathers known of old," and finds there—the same wisdom and power. Because this God is present His word ever manifests new power. "The grass withereth and the flower fadeth, but the Word of our God stands forever." Nineveh has fallen, Babylon is about to fall, but the new Jerusalem shall arise as a witness and servant of the Highest.

He falls back upon the faith that his nation is "elect," that it possesses a spiritual and imperishable treasure. But with him it is not election to favoritism, privilege and monopoly or mere national success. It is a call to service. Many of his people could not rise to his lofty height, but his thought was clear and his message powerful. This led him to a deeper view of the suffering; he saw that it was not merely penal or purgatorial, but also sacrificial; a discipline which prepared for higher service. He hoped that Israel might be of service to the great heathen world and his faith has been justified in the long course of history.

The word of comfort is still needed and it is true in these dark days that we can only gain consolation in sorrow and strength for new service by a faith that links us to God and to the fate of the world. Our little lives may have a larger meaning if linked to the life of humanity. We must lift up our eyes on high in the same spirit of reverence and faith and learn that in God alone is the source of our strength and the hope of humanity.

SPECIAL PENSIONS.

Are Attached to Those Who Have Won Decorations.

According to information which has reached military headquarters from Ottawa, the winners of war decorations are to have special pensions. The pension attached to the Victoria Cross is ten pounds a year, with an additional five pounds a year for each bar added to the cross. If the soldier is killed before the award is made, no pension is granted. If he is killed after the award is made, one year's grant goes to the man's estate as a gratuity, and no pension is to continue after a soldier's death. The gratuity of twenty pounds goes with the D.C.M., with an additional twenty pounds for each bar added to the decoration. If the winner of a D.C.M. is granted a pension, the gratuity will not be issued, but in place of it an extra sixpence per day will be added to the pension. If the pension is a temporary one, a proportion of the twenty pounds will be paid to the man or to his estate in case of death. The same conditions attach to the winning of the Military Cross. The above pensions or gratuities apply only to private and non-commissioned officers, and not to officers, but in case a man wins any of the honours he is later granted a commission, he receives the awards upon promotion. The gratuities are to be paid in England by the chief paymaster of the Canadian forces, but will be recovered by the Canadian officials of the "War Office" Government. In any instance where a winner of any of the above decorations has returned to Canada without receiving his award, application should be made to the district paymaster, from where it will be forwarded to the proper authorities.

RESUMING UNIVERSITY COURSE

He Lost a Leg and Portion of an Arm.

Driver Harvey Wilson, Carleton Place, went home from Kingston for a week with his mother and his grandfather, Robert Morgan. Harvey, many will recall, dropped his studies at Queen's University when he was called to arms. He lost a leg and a portion of an arm through a shell that killed his horses and several companions. After many months in hospitals he recovered sufficiently to endure the journey to Canada. He is still under military care, though resuming his university studies. In a few months he expects to have the pleasure of a new bone in his arm to replace the one destroyed by the enemy. In appearance he is stout, strong and sterling, and he views his future unembarrassed by his handicaps.

Nervous Headache

Was the Source of Much Suffering for This Kingston Lady Until Her Sister Told Her How to Restore the Nerves and Banish Headaches.

Mrs. S. Topliffe, 64 Union street, Kingston, Ont., writes:

"A few months ago I was suffering from nervousness, headache, sleeplessness and a general run-down condition. While visiting my sister, who was using Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, she persuaded me to try it, saying she was sure it would help me. I secured a box, took it, and continued the treatment until I found myself greatly benefited and able to sleep quite well. From the benefit I have derived, I would recommend it to anyone suffering from nervousness and run-down system."

"I have also used some of Dr. Chase's Ointment, and find it a very good ointment to keep in the house."

If you have been reading the reports published in this paper from day to day of cures effected by Dr. Chase's Nerve Food you will have some idea of the great good it is accomplishing.

In fact it cannot fail to benefit, even in the most extreme cases, because it works hand-in-hand with nature, and cures by supplying the elements from which blood and new nerve force are created.

This building up of a depleted and worn-out nervous system must necessarily be slow, and for this reason a little patience and perseverance is necessary.

A condition which has been months or years in development cannot be overcome in a day, but you need have no doubt of the final result if you use Dr. Chase's Nerve Food regularly and persistently. 50 cents a box, 6 boxes for \$2.75, all dealers or Edman, Bates & Co., Ltd., Toronto. Beware of substitutes, as they only disappoint.

Canadian Casualties.

Killed in Action—W. Teske, Buckingham, Que; F. Tappin, Chandos.

Accidentally Killed—Lieut. K. Anderson, Lindsay.

Wounded—A. N. McGillibon, Vankleek Hill.

Ill—Lieut. H. T. Roger, Westboro.

Missing—E. G. Wurtels, Ottawa.

Great Clearing Sale.

Provost, Brock street, has made a great reduction in ready-made clothing and gentle furnishings to make room for his spring goods. Special value in boys' overcoats from 5 to 10 years, in blue and gray, at \$3.50 each—could not be bought wholesale for the above price.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO

A hen owned by C. H. Clark laid a very peculiar egg. It embraced two perfectly formed eggs.

H. Grimshaw, of the St. Lawrence Hotel, has received a couple of cute monkeys from New York. Capt. Noonan started on a drive to Ottawa to-day on business.

Buy Furs Now

At the recent large sales of Raw Furs, the prices have advanced materially on practically all furs, and this means that all furs for next season will be advanced in price.

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