

AS LIFE LOOKS FROM EDEN

By William T. Ellis.

*The International Sunday School Lesson for May 4th is "Man Made in the Image of God."—Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7-9; Eph. 4:20-24.

Like escaping from the noise and stench and contentions of an Oriental city, to a hillside whence may be seen, in all their vast and eternal grandeur, the snow-crowned peaks of storied mountains, so is the turning from the babble and strife of the day's news to a contemplation of the sublime story of man's creation and of his primary purpose in existence. There is a widespread tonic effect bound to follow the study this week of the story of human beginnings by the millions of Sunday school members of the world. While we are talking about making over the universal social order, let us consider the one essential factor, which is man. Nobody will be the worse, and everybody will be the better, for a little hard thinking on this subject. We see life and we see it whole from the standpoint of the Garden of Eden.

When machinery gets seriously out of repair, it sometimes has to be sent to the maker to be made right. Suppose we look upon our jangling, creating, thumping, mal-adjusted state of affairs as a bit of machinery that needs repairing by the Maker. Society is merely people in the mass. It is the multiple of one man. Most of its defects are in its individual parts. The whole mechanism will work well only after the personalities which comprise it have been made right. Our day's supreme issue is one, whether it be the League of Nations or the latest neighborhood strike, and that issue is personal to people. When "all men's good becomes each man's rule," then we shall have the perfect day toward which the world has been so bloodily, blindly groping.

Getting Down to Bed Rock.

Small boys pass through a period where in they believe that a horse-hair, if left long enough in a bottle of water, will turn into a snake. As we grow older, we are almost equally credulous concerning the capacity of human beings to grow into what they were not. The delusion that society will evolve itself into a new order dies hard. It matters not that the scientist who has followed the race back, through excavations and archaeological records, declares that for a 11 the period of known history man was as man is. He has not essentially altered in more than five thousand years. Still a host of intelligent folk believe that humanity, like Topsy, "just grewed," and that it will continue to grow until it reaches perfection.

We are not accidentals. Man came not by chance, a mere prank of cosmic forces. He was created. God made him. Before he was a thing of flesh, he was a thought of God. The inscrutable councils of eternity sat in deliberation upon his advent. Here we have the greatest truth of all concerning ourselves and our times—God had a hand in our making. And that hand has never been removed from man. If we know anything at all about a Supreme Being, it is that his chief interest in this earth is in mankind.

So the Garden of Eden viewpoint is that before there was man there was a God; and that man, because God was; and that the Maker of man has proprietary rights in him; and that the Almighty, who began the race of man still stands by to see it through. We anchor a sustaining faith for troubled times in the very character of the Omnipotent.

Reshaping the Scheme of Things.

Old religions, such as Paul discussed on Mars Hill, did not get much beyond the point that we are God's offspring, and that he has sovereign rights in us. That is basic, and not always remembered. Sometimes we weave such an intricate fabric of religious beliefs that we lose sight of the elemental fact that there is a God, who made us and that we are his, "the sheep of his pasture," as the Psalmist says.

Losing sight of God's creation rights, we set about undoing or revising his work. What is bringing nations to crash to-day? Whence springs this turmoil that resounds

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To keep the liver active, and your bowels moving regularly is the only way to get rid of the constipation and the distressing sick headaches. Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills will do this for you by stimulating the sluggish liver into manufacturing sufficient bile to act properly on the bowels, thus making them active and regular.

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Milburn's Laxa-Liver Pills are small and easy to take, and do not gripe, weaken or sicken us so many pills do. Price 25¢ a vial at all dealers, or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn, Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

from Germany and Russia and contending parts? Why are statesmen more affrighted by Bolshevism than by militarism? Is the answer not simple? Men fancy that, as Omar sings, they can "Grasp this sorry scheme of things entire, And reshape it to our heart's desire."

Flouting God, his nature and his law, they are attempting to build Babels that will outwit him and overcome his purposes. Anybody who has seen Bolshevism at work in Russia, as I have, can understand why it has repudiated Christianity, and the centuries-tested Ten Commandments. These expressions of the Divine will run counter to selfishness, hatred, greed, lust, idleness and power. God must be dethroned, before Bolshevism can have its way with the world. Instead of calling men back to the beneficent provisions of the Creator for man's welfare and social solidarity, it bids them spurn the tested integrities, and give free reign to all the baser impulses of self-indulgence.

What Are We Here For?

Dissect not only Bolshevism, but most of the current social radicalism and "liberal" thinking, and you will find at bottom the idea that human beings are merely physical creatures, whose material comfort and carnal appetites are supreme. Of course, this is a Garden of Eden fallacy, but it swings into power recurrently through the centuries. Nowadays, as with the Greeks, it is cloaked in pleasing sophisms. We talk about the sanctity of our impulses, our right to self-expression, our untrammelled nature, our freedom to obey our desires and to flout all conventions as mere man-made restraints for inferior beings. It all comes to the same thing: we want to do as we please, regardless of hurt to others, and we do not care to please God, whose beneficent laws are born of his omniscience and good will. Still more plainly put, this radical conception of life reduces us to the level of unrestrained animals, and would end in making the world a jungle.

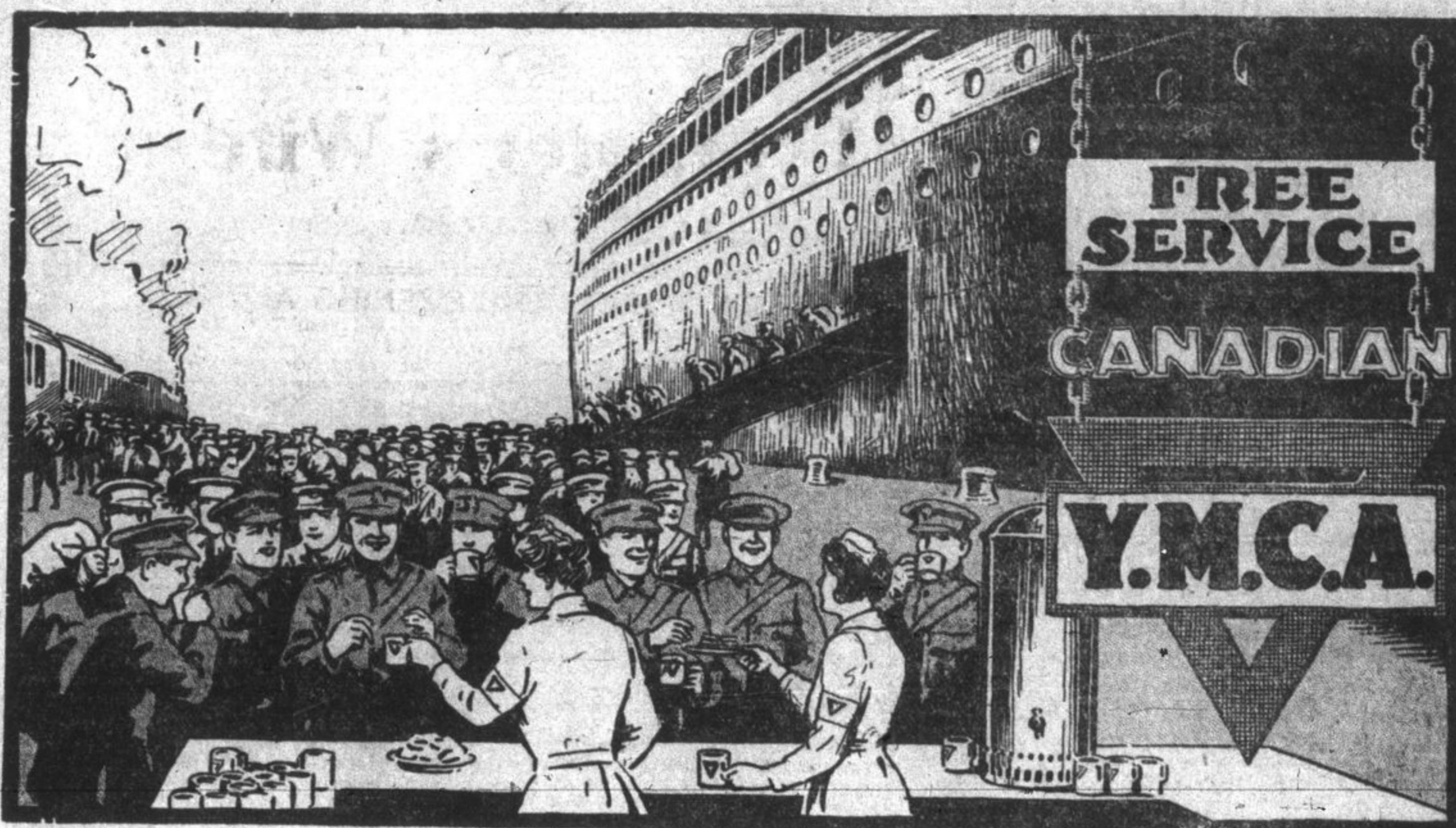
Dead against this drift rises the majestic and man-ennobling declaration of our lesson. "God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him." Again, "Man became a living soul." There is the clarion word for our befuddled times. Man is man at his best when he is likest to God. The highest aim of life is to fulfill the divine design of the Creator, in whose image we have been formed. From the beginning there has been a divine destiny for the race. We all have Godlike potentialities. What is best in us—as we know of a surety that it is what is best in our mothers and wives and friends—is that which savors of God, which pursues truth and loves holiness and which has standards of honor transcending common practice. "We have bodies; we are souls." In those hours of illumination, when we best know our best selves, we perceive that godliness, with its corollary, the subjugation of fleshly passions, is the true aim of man.

With real pertinency, the Lesson Committee has clinched this teaching by one of Paul's ringing words to the Christians in the degenerate city of Ephesus, surrounded by the same downward forces that now surround us. "But ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus; that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

The Man and the Woman.

If all the jests in the current press were to be tabulated, it doubtless would appear that most of them have to do with love and marriage. In a great time, with evidences of spiritual illumination and rebirth on every hand, it is nevertheless true that there is a great and growing cynicism and flippancy with respect to the holy passion of love between man and woman, and to the institution of matrimony. The practice of many men and even of nations has been a defiance of the Christian teaching of chastity and monogamy. Love has been esteemed a light thing. Even in this, however, there has been a glaring inconsistency. Peoples that pander to human lust, still sacredly guard their own daughters from the ideals which they practice themselves. And even the most abandoned man or woman cherishes the hope that some day the miracle of real love, with the consequent joys of home, will kindle a fire in the cold ashes of his heart.

I who write these lines am travelling in the ancient, weary and worn-out regions of earth; where the cup of self-indulgence has been drunk to the dregs. And the lees are bitter. If history has any power to teach the wise, this lesson should be learned to-day, that "Righteousness exalteth a nation," and that "There is a way that seemeth right to man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Out here amid the burnt-out and backward peoples, the worst sufferers in the world, one gets a new devotion to our Anglo-Saxon, Bible-taught ideals of home and chastity of love. What is written in the first chapter of Genesis is written also in the ruins of the nations that have spurned the divine command. "Male and female created he them." God made man for woman and woman for man—one man for one woman, and one woman for one man. Therein is completion and symmetry of existence to be attained. There are no other joys like home joys; no other success equal to the creation of a Christian home, with children's laughter resounding in its walls. Our times have turned thumbs down against the acquisition of vast personal fortunes as the standard of success. Let us instead proclaim the building of homes, filled with children reared



"They're Coming Home!"

The Y.M.C.A. will keep its chain of Service unbroken to the end!

Four and a half years of war—anxiety—separation—and now they're coming home! Help to make their home-coming happy. Help the Red Triangle maintain its chain of service unbroken until the last man is discharged.


Nation-Wide Appeal


Red Triangle Campaign

\$1,100,000 May 5th to 9th

The Red Triangle has been with the Canadian Army from the first—from Valcartier to the Rhine. During demobilization we have maintained full service to the soldiers both in Canada and overseas, and we will continue to do so until demobilization is completed—if you help us.

But please note that for the military work in Europe this year you are not asked for further contributions. The gradual liquidation of assets overseas will suffice to maintain full service while the soldiers remain. The war work you are asked to support this year is for the soldiers coming home.

What We Are Doing for Returning Soldiers

On every troop ship a trained Y.M.C.A. man is on duty. He carries a supply of literature, writing materials, games, a magic lantern and slides, a gramophone and records. In some cases he has a piano or an organ.

He takes charge of the entertainment of men, organizes concerts, lectures, sing-songs, religious services, sports and games on ship-board. He helps and advises, explains the government plans for re-establishing soldiers into civil life, stimulates sociability and wholesome good cheer.

At Ports and on Trains

When the transport reaches Halifax, St. John or Quebec, The Red Triangle welcomes the soldier back to Canada. Free canteen service awaits him on the dock, with hot coffee, or tea, cold drinks, eatables and cigarettes. Reliable information is furnished. Facilities for telegraphing home are at hand. If the men have to wait for trains, the Y.M.C.A. is there to organize entertainment.

Every troop train leaving the ports of debarkation has on board a Red Triangle man. He distributes cigarettes, candies, and other eatables, reading materials and games—free of charge. He furnishes needed information, and helps, by entertainment, to make bearable the monotony of the train

journey. Every one hundred dollars subscribed provides these facilities for one troop train.

In each of eleven big Canadian Cities stretching from coast to coast, where soldiers are held over, or where they may have

business, the Y.M.C.A. maintains a fully equipped Red Triangle Club, where soldiers are provided with comfortable board and lodgings at nominal rates. Here they may meet to talk, play or read, write letters and make themselves at home generally.

At every dispersal centre in Canada, the Y.M.C.A. maintains its Red Triangle service, with free canteen, reading and writing facilities and information bureau.

In Military Hospitals

In each of the military hospitals in Canada, in the military camps and barracks where men remain on duty during demobilization, the Y.M.C.A. place a trained man in charge of full Red Triangle service, providing entertainment, recreation, instruction and social stimulus.

Besides the work for the men returning, your support is asked for the maintenance of four Red Triangle Secretaries and auxiliary staff with the Siberian Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Every returned man is offered six months' full membership privileges free, in any local Y.M.C.A. The National Council is aiding the local Y.M.C.A.'s to meet the cost of dormitory accommodation; bathing facilities and other privileges and the employment of special secretaries in connection with local service to these men.

For Soldiers' Wives and Children

Out of the Red Triangle Fund \$175,000 will be set aside for the Dominion Council of the Young Women's Christian Association, who are looking after soldiers' wives and children coming to Canada. Y.W.C.A. secretaries help mothers on boats, and render to the women and children a service similar to that which the Y.M.C.A. does for the men. Y.W.C.A. restrooms and refreshment service welcome the soldiers' families at the ports of arrival. The sick are attended, children cared for, and the women folk cheered with the kindly word and the helping hand. At the big railway stations the Y.W.C.A. representatives are there to help, comfort, advise and direct. And in certain cases, where money is lacking, funds are provided to complete the journey. The budget of the Dominion Council, Y.W.C.A. provides also for the extension of its many forms of service among Canadian girls.

For Coming Men of Canada

The Y.M.C.A. asks your support for a greatly enlarged programme of service to Canada's boys this year, as the most valuable reconstructive work that can be done to repair the awful war-wastage of Canada's man power (60,383 dead and 156,796 wounded).

The Red Triangle will be carried to the boys and men of the towns and villages and the open country this year, upon a plan of county organization.

You are asked to help construct the manhood that will reconstruct Canada.

For Soldiers of Industry

Something of what the Y.M.C.A. is doing for the soldiers in khaki, will be done this year for the army of workers in Canada's industrial plants. A programme of social activities and recreation will be promoted under the guidance of trained Y.M.C.A. men.

The Y.M.C.A. is establishing Red Triangle service also for the men and boys in the "front trenches of industry"—workers in isolated industries like lumbering and mining.

Help the "Y" Finish its Work for the Soldiers

National Council, Young Men's Christian Associations of Canada

The Red Triangle Campaign is under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency, the Duke of Devonshire, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., P.C.

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Charity never begins at home while house cleaning is going on. The chronic talker and thinker are never found in the same room. Spare the rod and you miss half the pleasure of fishing. Revenge is a gun that kicks harder than it shoots. When a girl makes an assignment of her love her sweetheart is immediately appointed as receiver. A saint must be sane to be a saint.