

THE OLDNESS OF NEWEST SOCIALISM

The International Sunday School Lesson For July 6th is "The Church: Its Life and Work."—Acts 2:37-47; I. Thess. 5:11-15.

By William T. Ellis.

Full circle swing the wheel. All this is an arresting situation, and it will this week receive widespread study by millions of alert persons who follow the International Lessons, keen to discern the present applications of Scripture.

Yet here we come upon a picture of the first company of Christian believers, bent upon realizing complete communism—selling their individual possessions and having all things in common, and moving altogether in a mood of high spiritual exaltation.

To-day the Church is the world's best bulwark against the extreme of socialism, such as Bolshevism, which are being preached by radicals in Russia and elsewhere.

How are these two positions to be reconciled? Has the Church lost her gleam, and is communism right? Or is the Church right and are the Bolshevik theories wrong?

We look to the story for the answer. The Christian Church was, and is, the organization of the friends of Jesus. He established it to carry on his message and mission. He provided an initiatory rite, baptism, and a commemorative function, or sacrament, the eucharist, or Lord's Supper.

When Socialism Was First Tried. Life has its climatic moments, its transcendent experiences, by which all else is measured and dated. In such an upheaval, the pentecostal Visitation, the early Jerusalem Church came to self-realization.

Under the impulsion of the new emotion, they decided to pool their possessions. It was unthinkable to them that there should be social degrees or classes among the brethren.

Significantly, we hear little more about the economic aspect of this experiment in socialism. Had the zeal of the disciples carried them to impracticable lengths? Soon we read of Paul's taking up a collection for the help of the mother church at Jerusalem; the community had evidently gone on to the rocks economically.

At Stella, Amherst Island. Stella, June 30.—The heavy rains of Wednesday and Thursday last were gladly welcomed here as the hay and grain were burning up with the dry weather.

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Nearly Every Girl Can Make Herself Pretty and Attractive

SOME WHOLESOME TRUTHS EVERY GIRL SHOULD THINK ABOUT.

Probably you know just such a girl. Perhaps she is sixteen—good to look at, and pretty—quite interesting because she reflects the grace and charm that give promise of happiness to herself and others.

Form are incidental and transitory; the spirit is essential and abiding. Jesus himself laid down that principle. The world needed a scheme of communion less than it needed a new disposition of genuine brotherhood.

Because becoming a Christian is an individual, rather than a mass matter, and because the world ever has greater need of vitalized personalities than of new institutions, the stamp of Scriptural approval is not given to that first impulsive effort at Communism, other than to record the fact.

Institutions only incidentally mould people; people shape institutions. We find that into the early Church, even during the first blush of its experiment in communism, there crept into the fellowship those, like Ananias and Sapphira, who really did not belong within the Church.

Russia, like the rest of the world, as it comes under the sway of intelligent Christianity, will find itself developing a noble and altruistic individualism, wherein each is his best self in order that he may best serve others.

Good Will of the Good. Sometimes the church has become so institutionalized that she has represented classes, rather than the entire mass of mankind.

To great social and economic functions the Church is constantly fulfilling—though these, it must ever be remembered, are subordinate to her divine mission of leading men to personal salvation through Christ.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

MAJOR-GENERAL GEORGE G. MEADE



GETTYSBURG

Fifty-six years ago today July 3, 1863. The battle of Gettysburg was ended. Find another General. Answer to yesterday's puzzle. Upside down in smoke.

S. L. Pringle's; Rev. J. E. and Mrs. Lindsay and family, Ottawa, at W. Campbell, Coe Hill, Ont., to Miss H. Moutray's; Miss Retta Allen, Belleville, with friends; Mrs. B. Hill, took place at Bancroft, on Keill, Kingston, at Mrs. McMaster's.

The marriage of Edward Bruce Campbell, Coe Hill, Ont., to Miss Theresa Blanch Peters, also of Coe Hill, took place at Bancroft, on the 26th ult.

CAPE TRINITY

SHOOTING THE RAPIDS

A STREET IN QUEBEC

Behind the Better De

Beyond question, the tide of our times have set, strongly and steadily, in the direction of a radical riding on those tides are finite, private craft.

But let them be changes born of good will, and of a sincere desire for the welfare of all men everywhere. So long as change is closer to genuine brotherhood, it is to be welcomed and aided, whatever the cost.

Let us like the present, the Church, which is the great force in the world, should throw herself wholeheartedly into a realization of whatever is Christian in the day's social movement.

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IF IT'S IN SEASON, IT'S ON OUR MENU. We strive continually to improve upon our service and cuisine, but we frankly admit we can think of no way to better it. Fresh food perfectly cooked and served in a superb manner leaves nothing to be desired. Eat here and know why our restaurant is so popular. Grand Cafe. 222 Princess Street, Two Doors Above Opera House. Open from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. Peter Lee, Prop.

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