

SUPER-STRATEGY OF STATE

The International Sunday School Lesson for June 27th is a Review, "The Noble Life of Samuel."
By William T. Ellis.

What the press had widely acclaimed as the new and "big" and modern strategy of religion in North America has practically collapsed within the past two months. The InterChurch World Movement, which spent millions in an effort to raise millions, and which, with unexampled press-agenting, undertook to impose modern methods and efficiency and system upon the Church, is a confessed failure. It has been unable to raise more than half of its financial objective, and it has been repudiated by some of the great denominations.

Despite its endorsement by shrewd business men, despite the Rockefeller special train of speakers, who are eminent leaders in the commercial and political world, despite an elaborate organization so intricate that few could grasp its ramifications, the InterChurch World Movement must be written down a failure—although it has been by no means without results, some of them permanent; and although its objectives were praiseworthy.

A sudden creation by officials who had caught the contagion of the megalomania of "big business," the Movement and its makers have been rejected by the sober second thought of Christian people; although out of it, we hope, there may emerge a saner and more responsible leadership, a surer, more Scriptural basis of co-operation among the churches, and a return to the tested integrities of a Christian service, such as have alone brought success to the Church throughout the centuries.

Something like a crisis now results. There is danger that discouragement will take hold of the men who toiled to meet the world's present emergency through this huge new machine. The public at large may jump to the conclusion that because the InterChurch Movement has failed therefore Christianity has failed.

In truth, the very rejection of this elaborate organization by the Church is proof of the vitality and courage and independence of the great multitude of pastors and church members, who refused to be swept off their feet by this amazing adaptation of worldly methods to a spiritual enterprise; and who hold fast to the conviction that the supreme enterprise of the Church is not the raising of money. The mind of Christians has made itself felt.

New Leaders For New Times. Obviously, the present condition is the result of poor leadership; the huge bulk of organized Christianity was expected to follow the direction of a small group of men in New York, who undertook to lay plans for all the churches, afterward asking the endorsement of their plans by the churches. That the outcome of the InterChurch Movement must necessarily be the retirement of a considerable company of men from official positions in the general organizations attached to Christianity is a foregone conclusion upon which it is not pleasant to dwell. As they pass into private life, and more obscure positions, it should be without bitterness on the part of anybody; local congregations should be the gainers by this inevitable withdrawal from posts of prominence to the quieter spheres where most of the work of God is done; and where the vast majority of Christians find ample field for the exercise of all the qualities of Christian ability they possess.

These men are but going the Samuel way; may they show the Samuel spirit. The incident—for, after all, in the larger view, it is only an incident in the progress of the Church—sharply reminds us that the problem of every time is the problem of leadership. That is why we are considering it now in connection with this Sunday School Lesson Review. Samuel's whole life was bound up with the question of the leadership of Israel. He was called in early childhood to prepare to take the post of Eli, the leader who had been found wanting. In time, changed conditions, the effect of public opinion, forced Samuel out of his post of national leadership. Instead of becoming soured or cowering in his tent, Samuel was appointed by God to the task of choosing leaders for the new era; and he it was who anointed Israel's first two kings, Saul and David. Samuel was the Old Testament's best type of spiritual leader. His character and conduct were unblemished. He wanted only to find out the will of God, and do it. He was as courageous as a warrior, as gentle as a woman. His one law and guide was the word of God. His personal dignity lends him a quality of real grandeur; he was a gentleman, "without

fear, and without reproach." His personal griefs never affected his public duty. He remained serene and benign and public-spirited throughout all vicissitudes. His loyalty was not lessened, nor his spirit embittered, by his own relegation to a secondary position. He knew how to "meet with Triumph and Disaster, And treat those two imposters just the same."

A Glance Toward Japan. There is such a thing as super-strategy of state. It is the wisdom which looks beyond methods and personalities, and seeks to impart a new spirit to a nation or to the world. The skill with which the statesmen of Japan have revived Shintoism for their larger purposes might be called super-strategy. On a broader scale, it is what is most urgently needed in world politics at the present time, to avert impending demoralization and disaster. Financial and economic and military and political measures are well enough in their way; but they are all wasted effort unless the world gets a new set of impulses that will make it more brotherly and less selfish. In a word, the inspirations and inhibitions of Christianity must be set to work.

If Samuel were living today I have no doubt that he would busy himself for patriotic and religious ends. He would try to do for others what God did for him—begin with a call to childhood. To get a new order of world citizens we shall have to grow them. That is why, unheeded by the world, the Sunday School is the field of most important Christian strategy today. It is unusual for general religious conventions, denominational or otherwise, to give a single session to the work of the Sunday School; yet this is the most important department of all. One marvels that the strongest men of our day, men with a public mind, men with a sense of national and social responsibility, do not throw themselves, as do a few into the work of the Sunday School; for it would lay hands upon life while life is plastic.

Within a few months a World's Sunday School Convention is to be held in Tokio. This is a unique opportunity for the exchange of ideas in America to exert a really world-wide influence. The occasion, properly handled, by real statesmen, can contribute more to the equitable and Christian settlement of acute problems in the Orient than teams of diplomatic envoys, French, German and English as fluently as her native Dutch, and she also knows something of Italian and Russian.

Picking Tomorrow's Leaders. This notion that Samuel today would be in Sunday school work haunts me. He was the prophet whom God chose to pick out the men of leadership and power. He found a king—the greatest the world has known—in a ruddy-faced boy who was tending his father's sheep. He saw the real bigness of bulking, giant Saul; and, later, the real littleness that he developed. Samuel would be one of that sort, whom we occasionally meet in the ministry and in the teaching profession, who are ever on the lookout for young people of possibility. These men place less reliance upon organization than upon life; they would rather send out one boy of power into the world's service than establish the most modern of smoothly-running church machines. The best work of all is the creation of workers. To teachers and mothers and preachers it is given to fill the Samuel role of being king-makers.

British statesmanship has more of this impersonal quality of producing or nurturing the fit man for the nation's service than the younger nations have acquired. The case of Colonel Lawrence, "the uncrowned king of Arabia," is in point. His government stood behind him in the expression of his unique gifts. It is super-statesmanship to find and develop the man who will be the shaper of opinion and events in the long tomorrow. Let us have inciters and inspirers and trainers of the Christian leaders of the future. Especially is there need that wherever a person shows an aptitude for new kinds and spheres of service, he have the appreciation and encouragement and support of all who are charged with responsibility for the work of the Church. I have known more than one pioneering worker in the field of religion who has left the Church disheartened because his unconventional and progressive spirit encountered only criticism and discouragement in the Church.

One of the most striking and praiseworthy expressions of this initiative of recent days was the great mass meeting of Southern Baptists on the steps of the Capitol at Washington, upon the occasion of the denomination's national convention there. That was real Christian leadership, as the massed delegates declared, in the ears of Congress and of the Country, that the Church has a voice and has a conviction upon all that concerns the peace of the world and the welfare of mankind. What if the person who originally proposed that dramatic and sensational and unconventional meeting on the Capitol steps had encountered only cold water as he presented his project? Fortunately, he was met in the Samuel spirit.

Shall we not pray, daily in private, and upon all the public gatherings of the church, that in this grave hour there may be sent Samuels to lead the church and the world into paths of spiritual wisdom? Even now let us pray:— Almighty God, King of the Ages, Ruler of nations and of the hearts of mankind, look in mercy upon our world today, so sorely smitten, so blindly erring, so sorrowfully stum-

bling. Give unto us ears quick to hear Thy voice, and spirits ready to obey Thee in all things; that being true followers of Thee we may humbly lead our fellow men into ways of wisdom and paths of peace. Overwhelm us now with a sense of spiritual values. Make us wise with the wisdom that is for two worlds. Teach us to touch the spirits of men, and especially of little children, with the touch that turns toward Thee. Though we be not ourselves called to posts of leadership, grant unto us the boon of guiding and ministering unto those whom Thou wouldst anoint and call to lead their fellow men. Amen.

Skeletons for Sale. This is not really as gruesome as it sounds. The most essential impediments of the medical student is a skeleton, and at the moment there is a considerable dearth in the latter commodity.

Before the war, medical men and students of Great Britain used to purchase the material required for carrying out anatomical examinations from Paris. Now, for some unaccountable reason, the supply has been greatly decreased, and, unhappily, the profiteer has also stepped in. Four or five guineas was the utmost asked for a complete skeleton in pre-war times; now the price is at least ten guineas. A certain humor is lent to the situation by the appearance in medical journals of advertisements asking the loan of a skeleton for a short period! It recalls the savoury conversation between Bob Sawyer and his fellow-student, Benjamin Allen, at the breakfast-table, when Dr. Digby Delites were regaled with details concerning the competition for the possession of a skull at "Bar's."

From Another Angle. "Do you think you can get me out of this scrape?" the company promoter asked his lawyer.

"How much would it be worth to me?" retorted the lawyer promptly. "Suppose we say two hundred pounds?"


"And you made ten thousand pounds out of the deal? No, sir. I don't see the slightest chance of getting you acquitted for two hundred pounds; but—ahem!—we might view the matter from another angle."

"What do you mean?" "Looking at your case from a thousand pounds' angle, I don't see the slightest chance for you to be convicted."

The Modern Craze. Jones: "We're pretty careful these days. Saving to buy a house!" Joyce: "What does your wife think about it?" "Oh, great! She thinks we're saving to buy a motor-car!"

A Gifted Queen. In addition to a knowledge of Malay, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands speaks French, German and English as fluently as her native Dutch, and she also knows something of Italian and Russian.

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COLEBROOK HAPPENINGS

Remains of Late Miss Jane Riddle Laid at Rest.
Colebrook, June 22.—Chas. Ball and wife, of Vennachar, visited at C. N. Garrisons recently. The remains of the late Miss Jane Riddle were laid to rest at Wilton. Deceased was a life-long resident of Colebrook and will be greatly missed. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Lakins, on June 11th a girl, D. D. Garrison arrived home from the Kingston General Hospital, Friday, and seems much improved. Mrs. Wagar, Enterprise, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. G. D. Lucas.
Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Keyes and daughters, spent Sunday in Kingston and Collins Bay. The F. J. Garrison Well Drilling Company completed this week, three wells, having an aggregate daily capacity of 700,000 gallons of water for the Bowes Milk Products Co., at Sydenham, Ontario.
Mrs. G. A. Shangrow and Mr. and Mrs. A. Galbraith called on friends in Wilton recently. Miss Sigsworth spent the week-end at Andy Galbraith's. Norman Boyce spent a few days in London, Ont., this week.

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