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THE NATIONAL MISSION OF REPENTANCE AND HOPE.

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER.

Dear people of the Diocese of Worcester,

Our Archbishop has summoned us all to make a serious attempt to recall ourselves and others to a better knowledge of God, and with that view he desires that a Mission shall be held over the whole of England at the close of the Autumn.

For this to be of use, we must begin to prepare without delay, and I am calling together an Evangelistic Council of Clergy, Laymen and Women, to advise me as to our course. Very shortly they will meet and you will hear more. But I may now foreshadow part of what I hope will be done, and write to you so that the precious weeks of Lent may be used for the purpose.

First of all, the call is to bring into our daily lives a fuller and more real recollection of the Majesty of God, and of His ownership over us, for I am sure that the meaning of God's message in the Gospel has not been understood by the majority of people, as far as it affects their common conduct and daily life. We have not understood, or at all events, we have not acted upon the fact, that the intention of religion is to mould the lives of men and women after the image of God, and to bring us all up to our best, and that the religion of any one of us fails, however much we may profess and call ourselves Christians, unless it begins to have that effect upon our lives. With these thoughts in our hearts let us apply ourselves at once to a recovery of a better position in three respects.

I. First, in making new and continued efforts to bring worship into daily life and daily life into worship.

Let us make public worship a matter of strict obligation. Let us see in it the way in which, regularly and consistently, we can witness to our Christianity before God and one another.

Let us make private worship the very atmosphere of souls, until we understand what S. Paul meant by "Pray without ceasing."

Let us jealously keep one day in seven as the Lord's Day, in joyful communion with God and with one another.

II. Secondly, let us agree to bring our religion

into daily life by recognizing that the Majesty of God requires that His people shall live in holiness and righteousness, or, in a word, that our life in the world shall be in accordance with our Christianity. Too often and too far we have allowed the things of the world and the advantages of the world to crowd God out.

There is a fault which we may well remember, the tendency in most of us to persuade ourselves that we are better than we are, and to conceal the worldliness of our lives both from God and ourselves. One of the greatest efforts in our preparation for the Mission may be in our determination to know what we really are, and, in consequence, what changes God is calling for.

III. Thirdly, let us undertake to ponder in what ways we can live up to the fellowship one with another to which Christianity calls us, under the great ruling Majesty of God. What are we doing for one another? What use are we by word, and example, and service to the souls of other people, and to those human lives which are being lived around us? Is our religion a selfish religion? Is our natural reserve, or our tendency to look after ourselves, hindering our practical love for those for whom Christ died? These are some of the questions we must now ask—each one for himself.

There has been a hard spirit brought on by competition, desire to succeed, and desire to be safe, which has got hold of England, even in religion, and we must now try to soften and look for the spirit of fellowship.

Such are some of the leading considerations which I ask the Diocese to set their minds to without delay.

And why should we do this? Some may reply "we are all of us doing our best for the nation. We are serving in many ways the sailors and soldiers, their wives and families; or we are giving our time to munition work, or relieving others who can go to the Front." Yes—but there are deeper questions even than those which surround our policy or our campaign. We have to ask what the Majesty on High means this world to learn, through its terrible experience of anxiety and death. We have to look for the love and the yearning call which lie behind the visitation.

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No godly person can, I think, doubt first that all these things are a call to mankind to make a better world, and second that history tells us that if those who are called will not listen, their place is free to those who will. There is a spiritual war going on as well as a temporal war, and the spiritual one has the deeper and the wider effects. Let him hear who has ears to hear.

I would utter this as my profound belief that those who will not strain every nerve to bring back the nation to holiness and righteousness are not true friends of the Empire, and will miss taking part in the surest way of bringing us to honour and peace.

I now leave the subject for the present, but very soon I shall be asking every organization in the Diocese, every Parish and every person to be doing their part in preparing for the Mission of repentance and hope.

Your faithful Bishop,
HUYSHÉ, WORCESTER.

Hartlebury Castle,
February, 1916.

A Pastoral from the Bishop on the subject of the National Mission will be read in both churches on Sunday, March 12th.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Corpl. L. H. Sparrow, writing from Malta to the Vicar under date February 1, says:—"I have had a good stay at Malta and am feeling all the better for it. I have met G. Evans; my word it has made a man of him. I think he is sure to be 6ft. tall and he is looking well with it." With an eye to business, Corpl. Sparrow adds: "They will soon be pea-picking here and have got their tomatoes planted out, and we have had young potatoes and carrots for a long time. It's rather funny to see the way they plant things out here, anywhere between the rock where there is any soil."

The following articles made at Wickhamford during the winter have been distributed among the troops:—

48 pairs of socks
36 " " mittens
10 " " cuffs
2 belts
15 shirts
14 mufflers

Of the above, 12 pairs of socks, 2 pairs of mittens and 9 shirts were sent to the Maple Leaf Club, a home for Canadian soldiers established in Charles Street, Berkeley Square.

The Vicar wishes to express his thanks to those four members of the choir—Messrs. T. H. Knight, G. E. Jones, C. Knight, and R. Pethard—who voluntarily put in a good day's digging in the Vicarage garden on February 8th.

W. Moisey, who recently resigned the post of organ-blower at Badsey after 6½ years' service, has made and given to the church a fretwork hymn-board. The board, which is of oak, is a very creditable piece of work and will prove a most useful accessory. The old board has been removed into the transept.

During March, Sunday Evensong at Badsey will be at 6.

On Lady Day the celebration of Holy Communion will be at Wickhamford. Members of the Mothers' Union are urged to make a special effort to be present.

THE REGISTERS.

BADSEY—BAPTISMS.

Feb. 20.—Arthur Edwin Emms.
" " Edwin Lawrence Clarke.
" " Arthur Edmund Stewart.
" " Christine Mary Tidmarsh.
" " Grace Margaret Arkell.

BADSEY—BURIALS.

Feb. 21.—Jerry Sharp, aged 66 years.

CONFIRMATION.

On January 17, in the chapel of Hartlebury Castle, by the Lord Bishop of Worcester,
Philip John Bayliss.
Ellen Julia Bayliss.

OFFERINGS FOR THE MONTH.

		Badsey.		Wickhamford.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Feb. 2.—Sick and Needy	...	1	3		
" 3.—Church Expenses	...	1	8		
" 6.—Sick and Needy	...	1	0	1	3
" 6.—Church Expenses	...	19	9	4	6
" 10.—Church Expenses	...	1	3		
" 13.—Diocesan Fund	...	2	1	3	
" 13.—Church Expenses	...			7	4½
" 17.—Church Expenses	...	1	11		
" 20.—Sick and Needy	...	3	11	3	0
" 20.—Church Expenses	...	11	5½	3	8½
" 27.—Sick and Needy	...	0	6		
" 27.—Church Expenses	...	15	1½		
" 27.—Diocesan Fund	...			2	9
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		£4	19	£3	9
		1		9	3
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