



St. Dunstan's Red and White

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Editorial

Easter We have reason indeed to exchange joyful greetings at this great festival of Easter. Fittingly synchronous with the reawakening of nature and the triumph of spring over winter, is this great spiritual rejuvenation, this eternal victory over death.

What a jubilee of praise and adoration must have burst forth from the heavenly choir when the Conqueror of the Cross

returned to His celestial home to sit by the side of His Father! What joy and thanksgiving should animate our hearts also as we assemble on that blessed morning to commemorate the great feast of the Resurrection,—the symbol of our Faith and the fountain head of all merit and grace!

Classical Education There is a very noticeable trend at the present time towards what is called practical education.

It manifests itself chiefly in an unappreciative indifference towards all classical study. A great many people would like to see Latin and Greek eliminated altogether from our college curricula, or at least made only optional requirements. With a mistaken idea that education is an acquisition and not a development of the faculties, they would give their children a course of instruction whose only criterion is its potential earning power.

The immense practical value of classical study as a developmental factor in education cannot be gainsaid. It furnishes the best possible field in which to exercise the mental faculties and to gain a power of independent thought. If accuracy of observation is the object, it can be obtained just as well in distinguishing the minutiae of inflectional endings, genders and quantities, as in counting the stamens on the Dandelion. If mental vigour in dealing with a complex question is sought, what can test it better than being presented before a Latin sentence of many clauses, moods, tenses and cases, each one of which must be co-ordinated in one correct way in its relation to the whole? If breadth of view is required, the mastery of a Latin lesson will entail an investigation of form, syntax, synonym, elegance of expression in at least two languages, history, geography and mythology. If originality of thought is the aim, it calls for a much greater effort to blaze a new path in a comparatively recent science, than in classical study and research where the ground has been covered by the scholars of many centuries. It is obvious, therefore, that classical study combines all the disciplinary and humanizing elements that appertain to study. It furnishes a solid basis for the study of special subjects,

awakes a cosmopolitan interest and fosters a proper appreciation of history, literature and all that makes for an intelligent and cultured life.

President Harding It is not easy to prophesy just how much constructive and executive ability President Harding will display in his administration of public affairs during the next four years. His past record furnishes little or no criterion, as he was practically unknown until 1916, when he was put forward as a possible "dark horse" candidate for the presidency. It is true that he was an unquestionable success as an editor and publisher. Under his management a small newspaper of Marion, Ohio, became one of the most widely circulated and influential papers in the State.

He has certainly no easy task before him in carrying out the comprehensive policy of the Republican Party. Many complex problems of reconstruction—the heritage of the war—present themselves for immediate solution. The League of Nations, the repudiation of which was, no doubt largely responsible for the sweeping Republican victory, will have to be very delicately handled that America may fulfil her world obligations without compromising her national independence. The Regulation of Industry and Commerce, International Trade and Tariff, and Taxation are also questions, the solution of which will call for political foresight and administrative ability of a very high order. He has a decided advantage at the outset, however, in having around him perhaps one of the strongest cabinets in the history of the United States.

Teachers' Salaries It is encouraging to see in the Speech from the Throne a forecast of legislation to better educational conditions in the province. We hope that both Government and Opposition will rise above all party affiliations and give this matter the consideration that its importance demands. No question of more paramount interest can engage the attention of our legislators, than to provide equal educational facilities for all the children in the province irrespective of their advantages of birth.

There is no indication of the nature of this legislation but we feel sure that it will mean a further increase of salary for the teachers. In spite of the recent addition to the statutory allowance, the inadequacy of remuneration still remains the crux of the whole question. Legislation relating to compulsory attendance and higher qualifications is of only secondary importance until such time as our schools are filled with a body of earnest, intelligent and experienced teachers who are contented with their lot and are not awaiting an opportunity to migrate to some other profession. With the present low schedule of salaries, we must expect to see a large number of our schools either closed or under the control of young, immature teachers, with very doubtful qualifications for the sacred task of training the future citizen of our province. It is useless to look for any high standard of efficiency until we are willing to pay a salary that will be an inducement to our young men and women of character and ability to adopt teaching as a profession.

Medical Inspection of Schools

The war has disclosed an amazingly low standard of physical fitness throughout the whole of Canada. Nearly fifty per cent of the men examined under the Military Service Act were found to be physically unfit for full service. In the majority of cases these suffered from disabilities which were not due to disease, but the result of poor nutrition, neglect of personal hygiene, unsanitary conditions of living and working, and of defects that should have been remedied in youth.

The Red Cross Society, with a full knowledge of these significant facts has launched a Public Health Campaign for the purpose of stimulating and maintaining public interest in this important work and of disseminating useful knowledge by demonstration, education, etc. The P. E. Island Red Cross has engaged a specially qualified Public Health Nurse who is now working in the Charlottetown schools, preparing the way for a thorough medical inspection. Any physical defects or causes of ill-health revealed by this examination, will be made known to the parents who will be advised to take the necessary steps for their correction.

This movement must indeed commend itself to the sympathetic support of all those who believe in the motto, "Mens sana in corpore sano." While the Red Cross has initiated this important work, it cannot be expected to carry it on indefinitely. A strong public sentiment must be aroused, so that our Local Government will be encouraged to provide for a permanent medical inspection of all the schools throughout the province. Every precaution should be taken so that no person will go out into the world handicapped by some physical disability that could easily have been remedied if it had been discovered in time.

G. K. Chesterton There is perhaps no greater English essayist living, than G. K. Chesterton, who is now on a lecture tour in the United States. The pungency and pithiness of his style and the originality of his viewpoint combine to make everything that he writes extremely fascinating. His epigrams and paradoxes, in spite often of their apparent absurdity, contain a great deal of truth. He is the mortal enemy of fads, one of the elements of which, he says, is illustrated by some people who guide their whole lives by the desire to avoid a draft. Among the many things that he designates as fads are Christian Science, Bolshevism, Marxian Socialism and George Bernard Shaw.

Those who have not yet made the acquaintance of his books have a treat in store for them. "Heretics" and "Orthodoxy" are rather dry titles, but the subject matter is as interesting as any detective story. His "History of England" is unique and has a true Chestertonian flavor. In his own words, "The only way to write a popular history would be to write it backwards. It would be to take common objects of our own street and tell the tale of how each of them came to be in the street at all. And for my immediate purpose, it is really convenient to take two objects we have known all our lives as features of fashion or respectability. One, which has grown rarer recently, is what we call a top-hat; the other, which is still a customary formality, is a pair of trousers. The history

of these humorous objects really does give a clue to what has happened in England for the last hundred years." In referring to the roving spirit of the English people, he says, "They are constantly colonists and immigrants; they have the name of being at home in every country. But they are in exile in their own country. They are torn between a love of home and a love of something else; of which the sea may be the explanation or it may be the symbol. It is also found in a nameless nursery rhyme which is the finest line in English literature and the dumb refrain of all English poems, 'Over the hills and far away.'"

