

St. Dunstan's Red and White

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Editorial

Christmas.

Primarily the observance of Christmas was intended as an indication of reverence for that greatest of all acts with regard to its effect upon us—the coming of God Himself from Heaven to assume the lowly nature of man, and thus honor and dignify it. By that act the work of our redemption had its inception, and on Christmas Day we should endeavour to repay in some slight measure the debt of love we owe to God for His great love shown to us. Let us recall to mind the memorable happenings of that Day of days nearly two thousand years past, but still vividly present in the imaginations of all true Christians.

The Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, having completed the arduous journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, whither they went to enroll their names at the time commanded, and finding “no room in the inn,” were obliged to take lodgings in a stable. There, amid the cattle, and in a manger, was born our Blessed Saviour, and we should first thank the Divine Redeemer for making Himself man

for our salvation. We ought next to remember that the Babe was visited by some poor shepherds, that, like them, we may know and acknowledge Him as God. Finally, on Christmas Day, all should consider the marvellous reality of this fact, that the Child who was born of the Virgin Mary in the time of man is from all eternity the Son of God, so that we may worship Him as such and profit meanwhile by the silent lesson He gives us in the manner of His coming.

Jesus teaches us to eschew the materialism of the world and to value poverty and suffering, but this lesson of His humble birth is too often forgotten in the rush and turmoil before and during the Christmas Season, which brings with it in these days, unfortunately, many things utterly foreign to the sacred purpose for which the feast was instituted. Before Christmas, do many prepare for this holy season as they should? No, men are lost in money-making, women in an orgy of shopping and spending, children in anticipation of the good time on its way, and students—if their heads be not filled with examination material—in visions of the prospective pleasures of the holiday.

This does not apply to all, for a considerable number of thoughtful souls exist, but by many, little heed is given to the sick and needy around us. Surely here is an opportunity for everyone to do more of Christ's work for Him than has been done in recent times. The best of us, also, can improve our methods of celebrating Christmas Day itself, by passing it, not in pagan fashion, with excessive boisterousness, criticism of gifts, and forgetfulness of Christ, but in the true spirit of Bethlehem, of goodwill to all, remembering that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." We should engage in moderate merry-making, for Christmas is a joyful time, but must be mindful of the object of its observance, the honoring of the Infant Jesus, as may be exemplified by our devoting part of the day to Him, and to His children, the poor and helpless.

Ramsay MacDonald's Visit to America.

One of the outstanding events of world-wide interest during the year now fading into history was the visit, in October, of the Right Honorable Ramsay MacDonald, Prime Minister of Great Britain, to America. The purpose of his journey to our shores was to bring a message

of goodwill and peace to the New World, and to discuss the problems of disarmament with the United States of America. There is no doubt that, as a result of the Washington Conversations, Premier MacDonald and President Hoover made great headway towards the solution of many vexatious problems. They agreed to accept the Paris Peace Pact and to settle all disputes between them by pacific means. Thus the United States of America would still avoid becoming involved in European diplomacy, and Great Britain, as heretofore, would follow its principle of active co-operation with its European neighbors. The two men exchanged views on naval reduction and removed several hindrances which arose in former conferences. They proposed that the Nations which had participated in the Washington Naval Conference of 1922 should all meet again and try to agree on substantial naval disarmament. They ended competitive building between the two countries by deciding on equality of the two fleets. We await with interest the results of the January World Disarmament Conference, at which naval reduction will play a prominent part, and after which we shall be enabled to judge more accurately the merits of the Washington Conversations.

At Ottawa, Prime Minister MacDonald discussed with Premier King the various questions arising out of Canada's place in the British Commonwealth. The Dominion, as one of the signatories of the pact of peace, is now bound to the outlawry of war as a national policy. Therefore demilitarization of the naval station at Halifax, a project proposed by President Hoover, had to be talked over, although there was no doubt that nothing would be done, in view of the sentiment which would be aroused. The time and place for an imperial economic conference was considered, and there was an exchange of opinions between the two premiers as to definite plans for encouraging trade within the Empire.

Although Mr. MacDonald's visit to Canada was in the nature of a holiday, succeeding continual conferences accompanied by social activity, it served a worthy purpose in enabling our leading statesmen to hear from the Labor Premier himself the accomplishments of the Washington Conversations; it furnished Mr. MacDonald an opportunity to understand the Canadian point of view on matters of international importance, and indicated

that Canada is regarded as a nation of prominence in the world. The British Prime Minister was given full assurance of our co-operation in carrying out his aim of establishing world peace.

The Menace of Communism.

Today in Russia, or rather the Soviet Union, we see conditions similar to those of one hundred years ago in Europe, and it would seem that man has progressed but little since the days when Western Europe revolted against conservative rule and Count Metterinich, and secured for itself, in vain, liberalism and democracy. After the great revolution of 1918—a revolution that will take its place among the important ones of history—in which the Romanoffs were driven from the throne of Russia and the country declared a republic, we saw the people taking control of affairs. But, alas, as others in the days of old, they knew not how to rule, and, in their attempt to maintain that precious democracy, have now become as autocratic and tyrannous as the sovereigns they had but a few years previously deposed. The leaders became intoxicated with power. Law after law was passed. Only recently a decree has gone forth from Leningrad, declaring that all Soviet citizens, who are residing abroad and who refuse to obey the summons of their government to return, will be declared guilty of treason and will, when arrested, be immediately executed. Already two ambassadors have committed suicide rather than return home to live and be tortured under the rulers who hold power in their nation.

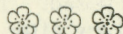
These cases of self-destruction are a direct result of the principles upheld by the party which governs Russia, the Communist Party—a party which knows neither God nor His natural law, and which teaches a code of morals that is a discredit to rational beings. Hence, Communism should not be tolerated in Christian countries and, in justice to the people, the government must protect the nation against those who attempt to spread Communist principles, and punish such persons with deportation. So let us equip ourselves that we may be able to combat this socialistic evil which is spreading throughout the world, let the conditions of Russia be an incentive to us, and let them urge us on to action, that our country may never become so low as to recognize Communism.

Change in System of Literary Awards.

At the end of the year the staff, members of which are not eligible to compete, will award a Literary D to each of the four students, (or to three or possibly five, according to the keenness of competition), who earns it by his total of points won. Two points each will be given for the best poem, for the best short story, and for the best article or essay in each issue, winners of which will be announced.

For every other published poem, short story, article or essay, one point will be given. As those who have already won a D are ineligible, these awards should furnish a great incentive to new contributors and to others who have striven for but failed to win them. We earnestly appeal to all these as well as to former winners to help "*Red and White*" out in its succeeding issues.

Red and White extends to all its advertisers, contributors, subscribers, and to the Faculty and Students of St. Dunstan's, sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



In the lexicons of youth, which fate reserves
For a bright manhood, there is no such word
As—fail.

—Bulwer-Lytton

