

St. Oswald's Parish Magazine.

GRASMERE, January, 1908.

THE RECTOR'S NEW YEAR'S LETTER.

My dear Friends,

Another year has come and gone, and in God's providence we are permitted to begin anew. May He who knoweth us by name look in mercy on the past and give us His grace in the future, that we may love the Lord our God and walk ever in His ways.

It is my custom in the New Year's Letter to briefly touch on some of the more interesting topics which confront us in State, Church and Parish.

State.—We live in days in which the rights of the many are being opposed to the privileges of the few. The sudden awakening of Labour with her 55 M.P.'s to her power, the growing discontent against the capitalist, and especially the capitalist who takes, quite carelessly, the cream of the results of Labour, the feeling that the minerals of the earth which human genius never created should be the property of all, these, and like subjects, have come in upon us with almost startling suddenness. We can only wonder that these questions have slumbered so long. Yet now that they have been raised, it is not for us to condemn the raisers of them as idle, or their demands as irrational and unreasonable. It is surely impossible for the Christian who thinks to be blind to the fact of the immense fortunes which are made, largely through the instrumentality of those huge businesses in which the capitalist sees nothing, and often cares less, for the actual producer. The days when master and servant worked side by side and loved and trusted each other are unhappily passing, and, year by year, the gulf between the men and their employer is in consequence getting wider. It is true that the lot of the working man has been in recent years vastly improved, but we can hardly deny the fact that the luxury and plenty of the very rich has gone up by leaps and bounds. A glance at almost any daily paper reveals figures of wealth undreamt of a few years ago. Ten persons died in 1907 leaving behind them a total of £34,138,000, and it is computed that 4,000 people pass away each year whose estates, taken together, are valued at 200 millions. Can we wonder that some are bent on drastic changes? May we not rather thank God that there are those (many of whom are true philanthropists), who are seeking ways and means of spreading out the vast wealth of this country and making capital of greater blessing to the masses on the verge of poverty and starvation. Our heart should, at least, go out to those who are seeking to abolish child labour, improve the dwellings of the working classes, and give help, outside the Union, to those aged ones who, having worked honestly and soberly and reared up children, deserve consideration in the days when the eye is dim and the arm feeble.

But if Socialism is to be a lasting success it must assuredly be salted with the Gospel of the Worker of Nazareth. Dr. Dale's words are well worth remembering, "Socialism says, 'What is thine is mine'; Christianity says, 'What is mine is thine.'" The difference is infinite. But the epigram needs correction. Christianity really teaches us to say: "What seems thine is not thine, What seems mine is not mine, Whatever thou hast belongs to God, and Whatever I have belongs to God; You and I must use what we have according to God's will."

A word on Temperance, for a Bill is promised in the coming year. We trust that it may be a strong measure, for the £166,425,000 spent last year on strong drink is at the root of nearly all the misery and crime and loss in our midst. We pay dearly for the 36 millions of revenue got from the sale of liquor. There is hardly a family which does not curse its deadly havoc. Let us pray that the Government may be strong and very courageous over this matter.

Church.—As members of the Established Church, the coming year will be one of moment to us. For we are on the eve of battles from foes without and foes within our borders. For the first time in history, on Feb. 27, 1907, the House of Commons passed by a majority of 108 a resolution in favour of the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of England both in England and Wales. But, alarming as is this resolution, it is harmless compared with those vigorous attempts which are being made by certain persons to revive those mediæval doctrines and practices which were cast off at the Reformation, against which the national conscience revolts. The question for us to decide, and that quickly, is not whether the Church shall be "High Church" or "Low Church," but rather whether it shall be Roman or Anglican, whether we prefer the Mass or the Lord's Supper, the free access of the sinner to his God or the Confessional, Gospel liberty or priestly bondage, the first century with its apostolic purity or the twelfth with its fictitious unity. If our Church be not true to herself and to her Lord, and to the history of the last 800 years, she has denationalized herself and merits the fate which will befall those who are faithless to their trust. The answer will be given in 1908.

Parish.—Turning to matters nearer home I feel it to be my duty to write very plain words.

Whilst there are many parishoners who are deeply loyal to their Church and ministry, I feel convinced that there are many who are unsettled in mind and are in consequence holding aloof from both the services and the support of those charitable objects which should be the outcome of all worship.

For four years I have remained silent and studied to be quiet, hoping that the change in the ordering of Divine Worship which I felt prompted to make in the interest of the parish would be forgiven me and that the soreness which all changes cause in certain quarters would disappear in course of time. But, unfortunately, I have been mistaken in so thinking. The parish history of the past year has been but a continuation of a policy adopted by a few during the past four years. For within a few days of my Induction, in December, 1903, an attempt to weaken my legitimate authority as Rector began, which has continued to the present time. I certainly think that it has been characterized throughout by a perversion of facts, a lack of straightforwardness, a silent yet persistent disrespect towards my personal wishes, coupled with suspicions of my public actions, and an idle gossiping which has done much to breed coldness towards all Church work, if not actual opposition to reasonable improvements. There certainly has been a lack of sympathy between those who should have been workers together for the common good, and an altogether remarkable regard for personal considerations when the good of the body as a whole was at stake. Newspaper articles, anonymous letters, threatening postcards, with a lawyer's letter in addition, have been features of the last four years, and I learn that the Bishop of Carlisle has been carefully posted up with *ex parte* statements, newspaper cuttings, and letters carefully marked "private." Needless to say the people who are never seen in Church and who probably never were seen there have a keen interest in an agitation thus worked. It is quite time that these matters were carefully considered by us all, before further complications arise. The harm they do to me is nothing compared with the damage done to true religion of which Church people are the custodians. If we have any regard for God's glory, and the peace of this parish, we shall unite in seeking to put down this spirit of unkindness for which Grasmere has for many years been somewhat notorious, and we shall try to follow after that charity which thinks of what is good rather than what is evil, remembering that "the work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance for ever."

Believe me, dear Friends, Yours faithfully,

J. H. HEYWOOD, Rector.

(For other local information see end of Magazine.)

CHRISTMAS, 1907.

The Church was beautifully decorated by many kind helpers who deserve our praise and best thanks. The services were hearty and well rendered, especially the new *Te Deum* which had been carefully practised. An absence of men at the 5-30 service rather militated against the beauty of the Carols, but they were finely sung on the evening of 29th by a full choir. The attendance at the Holy Table at 7-0 was larger than in previous years, though there was a slight decrease at 8-0 and noon. There were, however, 107 communions made on that day.

As in many former years Mr. and Mrs. Danson presented beautiful gifts to each child attending the day schools, and every youngster in the village was made glad by the generosity of these ever true friends.

On 26th, the Sunday School had their treat and over 100 sat down to an excellent tea. For the third year in succession the Moss Grove Party came forward with that Lancashire heartiness and generosity which has on so many other occasions made them so warmly appreciated in Grasmere. This year they give us a little play entitled "Curly Locks," acted by the young people of their party. The warmest praise is to be accorded for the excellence of this performance. A beautiful box of sweets was presented to each scholar and after the distribution of the prizes (names next month), by Mr. Bramley, all went home delighted about 7-0 p.m.

THE GRASMERE PLAY.

"A Will and a Way," a drama of Westmorland village life, will be acted in the Grasmere Hall, on Tuesday, January 14th, and Wednesday, January 15th, at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7-30. And on Thursday, January 16th, and Saturday, January 18th, at 3 p.m. Doors open at 2-30. Ladies are requested to kindly remove their hats. For tickets and plan of hall apply to Mr. Sam Read, Bookseller, Grasmere. A part of the proceeds will be given to Meathop Sanatorium, a part to the County Hospital, Kendal, a part to the G.F.S. Lodge, Carlisle, and the remainder to the Home for Waifs and Strays, Ambleside.

GRASMERE CLOTHING CLUB.

Amount put in, £47 17s. 7d.; Bonus, £9 1s.; Amount subscribed, £6 16s.; Number of subscribers, 18. Mrs. Jefferies will re-open the Clothing Club on Monday, January 6th, 1908.

HYMNS FOR JANUARY.

5th.		12th.		19th.		26th.	
M.	E.	M.	E.	M.	E.	M.	E.
58	512	79	290	80	177	78	281
72	76	261	75	260	535	297	537
321	179	178	186	520	219	436	228

Offertories in December, £9 5s. 9d.

Communicants in December, 173.

Rainfall in December, 14.20 inches.

Rain fell on 23 days.

Total rainfall in year 1907, 90.79 inches.

Rain fell on 238 days.

Greatest fall in 24 hours, 3.04, March 19th.

Baptism.

December 8th. Jessie, daughter of Frederick Ernest and Elizabeth Philipson.

STOCK - TAKING SALE.

R. P. HUNTER'S
ANNUAL SALE
OF
ODDMENTS
AND
REMNANTS

ON

SATURDAY, Jan. 11, 1908,

AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH.



R. P. HUNTER,
Market Place,
AMBLESIDE.