

St. Oswald's Parish Magazine.

GRASMERE, January, 1909.

THE RECTOR'S NEW YEAR'S LETTER.

My dear Friends,

Another year has come to a close, and as we enter on 1909, we shall be wise people if we spend a few moments in silent retrospect, and consider some events which have been happening in the days which are passed.

The year 1908 has been one of international peace, although there are ominous storm clouds in the East. Yet, within our kingdom, there have been struggles over many problems which are of deepest interest to all true Christians — (1) the struggle with the enormous drink problem, (2) the strife over the education of children, (3) the more peaceable discussions of help to be given to our aged poor. On each of these I would say a few words.

(1.) All true lovers of their country will regret that nothing material has been done in 1908 towards the limiting of the evil influence of alcohol. A very drastic and, in many respects, excellent bill was introduced into Parliament but failed to secure approval. Yet, although the bill did not pass, the cause which was behind it is daily increasing in power. It is perhaps difficult for those who have no financial interests in the Trade, and who are hardly alive to the numbers of honest persons who have their little all invested in brewery and other shares, to realize the exact situation and position of many people, and to legislate temperately and without injustice to any. Around all Licensing Bills there must ever be a host of victims, some of whom alcohol will slay unless securely fettered, others, who having invested their money in the traffic, must suffer some financial loss greater or less for the general welfare of their brethren. Probably it was all for the best that a Bill which, whilst diminishing the public-houses, yet left untouched the clubs and grocers' licences, did not pass into law. The battle with this giant is drawn for the present, only, however, to be renewed in a more possible and complete form, and with a minimum of loss to all concerned. Meanwhile we may continue that personal influence and example which will best educate the average man into ways of sobriety. Brighter homes, better food, clearer thought, more Christianity, will do more than any legislation to change for the better a deep-rooted and complicated system which is surely a shame to civilization in its present form.

(2.) An Education Bill, which bewitched many of our leaders, was sprung upon us in October last, and, but for the determined stand of the House of Laymen, there would have been in the country worse and worse confusion and bitterness. It is difficult for those who are not intimately acquainted with the internal working of schools to realize how very hollow and mythical the religious difficulty is in the daily working of education in the schools. The truth of the matter lies in the sad fact that the vast majority of parents care but little what is taught in the religious way, so long as religious truth is taught; and are content to trust their managers, teachers and clergy to find acceptable teaching. Such being the case, it is our manifest duty to see that the purest and brightest Christian teaching is given, and for this reason we must insist that we have men and women to impart it who know its value and believe in it themselves. Whilst we deplore the too often meagre teaching of the Bible truths in some provided schools (sometimes the Bible is not even there at all), we cannot yield one inch on the teachers in our schools, built and maintained these many years by

those who gave of their substance on the distinct understanding that definite religious teaching would be always imparted to the scholars, being men and women who, as far as can be ascertained, are believers. A system which would open up the mastership of our schools to Roman Catholics, Unitarians, or even Secularists, may seem fair on paper, but could never be tolerated by those who rightly appreciate the Christianity at stake, even though we had one or two illusory "facilities" each week for the teaching by outsiders our precious Christian truth. The tone of the whole school would be changed were there in the seat of teaching authority one who was clever but might be all the time Christless. Our Nonconformist brethren would be wiser if they more often remembered that we have a vast amount in common with them, that we are not their foes, that we are seeking our "one Lord," and that we and they are engaged in a battle against a common devil, who comes to man with his offers of so-called liberty of thought and progress, which liberty when translated into plain terms means but mundane knowledge, alienation from God's communion, despair, and ultimate death.

(8.) An Act granting pensions to aged people comes into force on January 1st. It would be well if those who are nearing 70 years of age would bear in mind two fates—that a pension per week will only be granted to those who have lived honestly and laboured diligently, and that the 5/- per week will prove a welcome addition to hard-earned savings, but cannot be regarded as a maintenance of itself. The saving of money—thrift—is a wise and necessary policy. How far help from taxes to our aged ones will affect the help given to our younger and less aged ones remains to be seen. It is to be hoped that there will be no diminution of that voluntary charity which is so blessed to him who gives as well as him who receives. The sick, in our hospitals, the waifs and strays, the lost, the prodigal, the unemployed, those in mental and spiritual darkness, still need a brother's, sister's care, and whilst we may be taxed for the poor, there are still calls on private generosity which we cannot without loss neglect.

Turning for one moment to our favoured Grasmere, thinking of our privileges as a prosperous village, and comparing our state with other places where troubles are more acute and surroundings more degrading, may we not ask ourselves whether we are individually and collectively all we ought to be in God's sight? Our outward acts of communion may have been more frequent, our financial results may have improved, but is there not yet lacking much of that better part, much lacking in our faith, our hope, our love, much to be desired in village tone and morality, much that is deficient in our desires after progress and holiness, in our being spent and spending for others rather than in receiving and being received.

Grasmere is the playground of so many, but it is our workshop, the little Nazareth, far removed from big centres so to speak, in which the characters of the sons of God are to be formed, and from which ought to issue streams of life and blessing to the world. God forbid that it should be said of us as was said of that little narrow, stagnant village of Palestine, "Can any good come out of Nazareth?" It is by the infusion and exertion of individual earnestness, piety, and zeal, received by the study of the Divine Word, by the quiet attention to daily duty, by the love of progress, by the cult of spiritual power, and of those things which are god-like, that our village may become, what by its surroundings it ought to be, the vestibule of the Kingdom of Heaven.

With my best wishes for the New Year to you all, will you take as your motto for 1909 these words: "Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."—1. S. Peter 2, 13.

Your sincere friend and Rector,

J. H. HEYWOOD.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>2nd S. after Xmas. M. Hymn 91. Repetition. Collect and card. Lesson VI. A. Church.</p> <p>1st S. after Epiphany. M. Hymn 92. Repetition. Collect of the Epiphany. Lesson: The Epiphany. A. Hymns 96, 154. Repetition. Card. Lesson VII.</p> <p>2nd Sunday after Epiphany. M. Hymn 98. Repetition. Collect and card. Lesson VIII. A. Mission.</p> | <p>3rd S. after Epiphany. M. Hymn 182. Repetition. Collect of Conversion of St. Paul. Lesson. Epistle for same. A. Hymns 153, 170. Repetition. Card. Lesson IX.</p> <p>4th S. after Epiphany. M. Hymn 173. Repetition. Collect. Lesson. Gospel. A. Hymn 172, 222. Repetition. Card. Lesson X.</p> |
|---|---|

GRASMERE CLOTHING CLUB, 1908.

Members, 71. Amount put in, £44 4s. 8d. Bonus, £9 14s. 6d. Amount subscribed, £7 6s. 0d. Number of subscribers, 19. Mrs. Jefferies will reopen the Clothing Club on Monday, January 4th, 1909.

Baptisms.

Nov. 27th. (Privately.) James, son of James and Sarah Annie Palmer.
Dec. 6th. Doris, daughter of Thomas Mounsey and Mary Sanderson.

Burial.

Dec. 14th. John Hodgson, aged 77.

Offertories in December, £9 3s. 11d. Communicants, 195.

Rainfall in November, 8.84 inches. Rain fell on 21 days.

ST. OSWALD'S BAND OF HOPE.

The first meeting of the Band of Hope for this winter was held on Monday, November 23rd. The result of the *Diocesan Examination* was announced. The highest possible marks were 120. Kathleen Peel, 95 marks; Bruce Langhorn, 85 marks. Both these gained first class prizes and certificates. Certificates were also given in the following order to Robert Just, Margaret Woodburn, James Green, Charles Wilson, Charles Coward, Peter A. Sanderson. Eight prizes were given by the St. Oswald's Band of Hope at the end of last session for the best papers in answer to questions on the course "The Body and Temperance," and were gained by M. W. Borwick, Bruce Langhorn, Kathleen Peel, Felix Green, Maggie Woodburn, Charles Coward, Robert Just, Charles Wilson. Any new members will be welcomed.

"A Daughter of the Dales" will be acted in the Grasmere Hall on the 11th and 12th January at 8 p.m., doors open at 7-30; and on 14th and 16th January at 8 p.m., doors open at 2-30. For tickets apply to Mr. Sam Read. A part of the proceeds will be given to Meathop Sanatorium, a part to the County Hospital, Kendal; a part to the Myddleton Street Shelter, Carlisle, and the remainder to the church building fund at Winsorton, Cape Colony.

STOCK-TAKING SALE.

R. P. HUNTER

WILL COMMENCE HIS

ANNUAL SALE

OF

ODDMENTS

AND

REMNANTS

On SATURDAY, Jan. 9



BARGAINS will be OFFERED in EVERY DEPARTMENT.



R. P. HUNTER, Market Place, Ambleside.