

FIRST WORLD WAR

Advertisements from

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AND
GENERAL CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE.

1918

The Articles



Contents of 1918 Articles

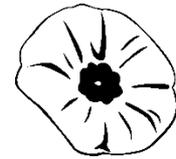
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Russia and Peace

THE demands made by the Bolsheviks were sufficiently rigorous. Very few expected an immediate and complete German acceptance. That, however, is what Russia largely believes has happened. There are other folk than Russians who appear to be of much the same opinion. But the main fact is that Germany agrees, with some reservations, to all the Russians ask. Russia asked in the abstract; Germany replies in the abstract. There is nothing she is unwilling to yield, if we read with a careless eye, with a desire to agree, eager to end the War on any show of satisfactory terms. The one thing that gives the Bolsheviks power in Russia is the unanimity of Russia in this one matter – the absolutely paramount duty of ending the War at once, on the best conditions attainable. All parties, from one end of Russia to the other, and those who are of no party, believe in this stern necessity, and are ready to follow any who will bring it to pass. Events, especially more recent events, demonstrate that fact. Now the Bolsheviks know quite well they have nothing to go on, save that. In all other matters they represent not one in ten thousand of all the populations. They have no real hold, no considerable party, and no prospects apart from that possibility, the possibility of bringing what all desire – peace. This falls in quite well with their aptitudes. From the first the Bolsheviks have talked very bravely to all kings and governors.

They have stood up to Europe in an amazing way, in the full assurance of the Marxian faith. They have not argued; they have testified, and that with a loud voice. Germany has taken them seriously. Somehow or another, nobody else seems to have taken them seriously. The fact that Germany takes them seriously ought to lead on a change of tactics; for most certainly they *do* speak for Russia in this one supreme problem of the hour. They speak for Russia with conviction, and Russia is looking to them eagerly. The duration of the Bolshevik rule probably depends on their success in the present negotiations. That means they will desire to succeed, will not be too eager to examine German exceptions, or to consider German conditions, in their final issue. They will consent to loss of territory – grave loss – under cover of shining phrases. Once let the Bolsheviks conclude a peace, and their difficulties begin, or culminate. But the peace will be made, and there will arise no party in Russia desiring to break off that peace, or to begin the War again on its own behalf. That is the outlook. Russia is too weary even to understand its own necessities.



Full of Thankfulness

An officer who is now breathing the air of liberty in Switzerland, after long, weary months in captivity, writes, on the first Sunday of the New Year: - "I cannot help contrasting with to-day the many Sundays I have spent in captivity, and it is with a heart full of thankfulness I look back, feeling that not only my own prayers, but the prayers of many others have prevailed, and brought me safely here. It is a glorious feeling to breathe God's pure air up in these mountains, away from the barbed wire of a Prison Camp and its attendant miseries. One is again experiencing what a joy it is to live and be free! Yet my heart is sad as I think of all my comrades left behind in exile. I pray that they may soon have the happiness I am enjoying after three and a-half years as a prisoner-of war. You will be glad to know that, after a thorough medical examination by the doctors, I am reported in good health generally, and it will not be necessary to undergo any serious operation on account of my wounds. They are already beginning to heal again, and I feel better in health every day. It took a little while for us to realise we were actually in a neutral country. It seemed so strange to go out into the streets, and hear the laugh and chatter of children again. Amongst all the British prisoners, both officers and men, with whom I have been associated in the various Camps I have been in, there is not one who would not bear greater hardships than at present rather than be released by an unsatisfactory peace.

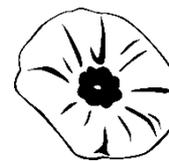
The spirits of all the British prisoners are bright and hopeful. All the things you have sent were most useful and acceptable, and everyone most grateful for them. After my return to the homeland, I hope to have the opportunity of publicly thanking the givers at some of our gatherings."



America

AMERICA is as interested in the German submarine as Great Britain. From some points of view, just now, she is even more interested. The sinking of the *Tuscania* is the first actual and tangible blow Germany has delivered upon America since America came into line with the Allies. How many hundreds of thousands of the American Army have already been carried across the Atlantic, and landed in France, it is best not even to guess. We have had sufficiently round numbers from more than one authority. Now we have the first tale of victims, and if the percentage were taken it is likely it is very small indeed, not enough to turn the issue of a local raid. All the same, our sympathies go out towards those who have given their lives for us, who sleep in our waters, and whose comrades and friends must to-day be mourning. America has begun to pay the price of her intervention in the problems of Europe. Before all is over there will be more to pay, if not at sea, upon land. America knew all that, knew, also, the grandeur of the destiny to which she found herself called. The world can never be the same any more now that America has intervened in Europe. Those who make gloomy prophecies on the future, and declare war can never cease from among men, forget what it means to have the whole wide earth brought so near to itself in all its parts. Granted any firm agreement among the free peoples, and the rest of the world must leave freedom to take its course.

The rivalry has been, first of all, in ideals. A dominant ideal is appearing. America will arrive in spite of the submarine, and, with the advent of America in her power there is another foundation. The grandeur and hope of this is behind the American resolve, apart altogether from the evil Germany has already done to America. Any further losses America may suffer on her journeys will but settle and establish her will. We have abundant evidence, all through her history, of the quality of her strong soul when once aroused. Besides, we are bone of the same bone, flesh of the same flesh, and know America in knowing ourselves.



Allotment

The Cult of the Allotment

THE allotment meets us everywhere. Last year I allowed myself to be persuaded to take one, and I am glad now for many reasons that I did so. It has not been a case of leaving the proper work of a minister to grow potatoes; rather, I have found it a valuable auxiliary to my "proper work."

One thing my allotment has done for me; it has given me a point of contact with many men with whom I should never have become acquainted except through my garden. I do not think I could ever have got anywhere near to them otherwise. This cult of the allotment is really a very fine thing. It enables a minister to meet men on their level; he becomes in their eyes a man among men. I am not now left in "splendid isolation" lest I should "talk religion" to them; we have some things in common. I am unfeignedly pleased when Smith tells me that my "Earlies" are as good as anything he has seen; whilst, on the other hand, it is no less real a pleasure to be able to say that his opinions are "much further on" than mine are.

A minister has thoughts at times searching and salutary, in his allotment, and this is one of them: The minister of the future will have to be more than ever "a man amongst men." I do not mean that every minister must become an allotment-holder; but I do mean that he will have to know how the people live, what they are thinking, enter into their struggles, ambitions, duties, difficulties

and rights, and speak in a language that they can understand.

What golden opportunities the allotment gives for a quiet thought! Do not all great souls have their garden hours and garden suggestions? How much England needs the prophetic vision, ideal, and conviction expressed in the words of Isaiah, "For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth: so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations." Tennyson in his "Vision of Sin," speaks of "an awful *rose* of dawn." But a greater than all is here, and as one thinks of the War which has made the allotment so necessary; the War whose toll of our bravest, dearest, and best no man can tell; it comes to us that in the life of Him there was a place "where was a garden, and oftentimes He resorted thither with His disciples."

A while ago I picked up a book which deals with garden difficulties. There is a chapter dealing with Weeds, and in the opening words the writer sounds the note of a sane optimism. It is this: "*The ground that will grow weeds will grow something better if you convert the soil.*" The point is obvious. Would that every preacher, teacher, and Christian worker addressed himself to his task with the same wise hopefulness. Private B. was a born leader, but when first I knew him he was leading his comrades in the wrong direction. One night he came to see me, and in my study gave his heart to Christ. Thenceforward he made himself felt for

good among the men, and through him I was able in my work as “Officiating Clergyman” to reach many in that Camp, who up to then had been inaccessible. The ground that had grown weeds grew something better when the soil was converted.

Again, “*Moss and toadstools and fairy rings usually accompany a poor condition of soil.*” So says the writer on “Weeds.” I leave it to the experts to decide the *pros* and *cons* of that statement, but I know the thing is true in the garden of the soul. When the Galatians fall of in their spiritual allegiance, then the “beggarly elements” flourish again. When prayer wanes, poverty of life and power ensues. When we “run thin” in devotion and inward attachment, then the weeds of censoriousness, carping criticism, and complaining thrive. When churches cease to be aggressive, they cease to be attractive. When the power to them ceases to be attractive. When the power to convince and convert has departed, questionable amusements, sensational advertisements, pitiable endeavours to “draw” make their appearance. Such growths always denote a poor condition of soil.

“*It is of course, dangerous to hoe out the weeds directly in the rows; these should be pulled out with the hand.*” There are some excellent people in the Church who are too fond of using the heavy implement in their weeding for God. They are lacking in the finer touches of life, and in their efforts to uproot the weeds they injure some of the most promising shoots of God’s own planting. Perhaps some present-day critics of the Churches would do well to think of that peril.

Thomas Carlyle says, “A safe stronghold our God is still, A trusty shield and weapon,” – and a certain type of Christian’s chief use of God appears to be

as a “weapon.” How different the spirit breathed in that prayer of the Apostle for the Philippians – “that your love may abound in all knowledge and discernment... that ye may approve the things that are excellent.” O for more of this discerning love! What blessings would result!

“*There are other weeds which are not so easy to get rid of. Such weeds take a great amount of labour to thoroughly eradicate them.*” So there is nothing for it but perseverance and plod. When my friends and I took our allotments, what a problem of weeds confronted us. How many times we filled and emptied that wheelbarrow! And how many times we straightened our backs and resisted that tired feeling. But we had vision of the time when “King Edward,” and “British Queen,” the “Duke of York,” and “Arran Chief” would have dominion over all the land. And so it came to pass. Wherefore, let us, to whom the Great Master has given allotments in His field, “not weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.”

E. Barraclough.

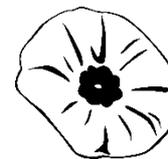


Victory and Submarines

THE most important point in the Prime Minister's speeches at Edinburgh was the frank avowal and claim that the submarine has ceased to be a vital factor in the German offensive. It remains to be seen what reply the German War Lords will make to this claim. In the meantime there need be no hesitation in accepting the Prime Minister's interpretation of the position. The Allies are sinking more submarines than the Germans are building. There is some slight confirmation of the fact in the latest German reports. It will be found in a careful reading of von Capelle's speech that the German Admiral took his stand on estimates at least five months old. To build much on that is not wise, but this slight indication, taken in conjunction with the fact that the British Prime Minister makes the claim that the Allied line of destruction crossed the German building line just about that period, confirms the Prime Minister – not that any confirmation is necessary. On the other side of the account it is claimed that the Allied shipbuildings are exceeding the German sinkings. Taking the two together, the result works at both ends, leaving the Allied position doubly sure. Should this continue for another three months, the Germans themselves will know what is in store for them, what the boasts of their oppressors amount to. Three months will be good enough, but allowing half the period, there should be in Germany some consciousness of the way they have been tricked into accepting a policy, glorying in a hope, that has turned against them

with every darkness following, labouring up to their undoing.

The announcement marks a turning-point in the history of the War, a turning point toiled for by those who knew most with more anxiety than burdened the crisis of any campaign yet fought on land. Germany was right when of the opinion that success in starving out Great Britain meant the whole War won. Germany was right when she made her attack upon Fleets, staking most at the sea. Here was the possibility of a decisive factor; Germany was confident she was well-informed in the estimate she made of her own power to employ that factor successfully. She spared nothing, either of horror or effort. Her fair name was put in pawn, her very existence. The submarine was to win all her Armies had failed to win. Where Germany was wrong was in the methods she used, as in the estimate she formed of her own resources. Germany was wrong, too, in the opinion she had formed of the Allied power of resistance. There never was a weapon yet invented to which there was no reply. The Allies took a long time finding that reply, and it was neither simple nor speedy, nor any great invention, nor any dramatic stroke. Sheer sea-craft and patience brought the victory. Whatever may come of the new land offensive, the Allies now know they can hold out until America arrives, and that America will arrive. This is indeed good news and leaves the issue of the War even more secure than before the defection of Russia.



Retrospect

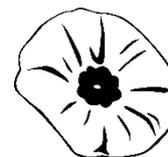
THE Allies begin the fifth year of the War very much where they began the first. They are fighting over the same ground; the Germans are in retreat. But there the analogy ends. The Germans have spent the greater part of their strength, and the Allies are now bringing to bear upon the battle-lines of four years ago the overwhelming strength of the United States. The Allies have schooled themselves in the difficult and deplorable arts of war. Behind the ranged Armies are the ranged, rationed, and disciplined people of all the Allied nations. Germany was organised for the War from the first, had taken forty years to perfect that organisation. The Allies have organised during four years, and the while have held the wolf by the throat. Not even yet are the Allies at the top of their strength, and the Germans are in retreat. During the years the Allies suffered first because of their unpreparedness, their inexperience, their lack of cohesion. Each nation had learned to enjoy the blessings of peace rather than to enjoy the anticipation of war. The Russian Revolution – hailed at first as the greatest blessing the War had brought to Europe and the freedom of mankind – deceived all hopes; and the Russians falling out of the conflict left Germany free to tackle the West as she had always longed to tackle it, without a single fear as to her Eastern frontiers. Germany recognised the opportunity and launched her bolt at the earliest possible moment, because she feared what America might carry across the Atlantic.

She had her longed-for opportunity; but the opportunity has turned out a temptation, and to the lasting undoing of Germany. Probably the effort Germany made on the defection of Russia will leave her so spent that there can be nothing for her save to renunciation of her ancient policy, her warlike density, and all that has made her a menace and a horror to the world she might have adorned and blessed. But the great fact, the true sign of the hour, is that at the opening of the fifth year of the War, Russia having failed the Allies, and Germany having had the one chance all her military students have dreamed of but never dared to hope for – Germany is in retreat.



The End in Sight

AT last we are able to believe the end of the War draws on. We may be inclined, in the heat and grandeur of this hour, to hope for too much, and to hope for it too soon. Germany is yet capable of a great deal of harm. Dying, she may die hard. Much depends on Turkey and Austria. What attitude they may take, and what action may supervene, will have immense influence on German policy. It is to be hoped there are yet in Germany men able to recognise the signs of the times, men strong enough to take action in view of the future. Only the event can decide for us. But, in any case, the end draws near. If nothing happens on the side of Turkey or Austria, a great deal may happen on the battlefields. We talk of the winter months, of the winter weather, as putting an end to all military activities. We have no need to take that for granted. The winter has not yet come, and coming, it may find a difference in the temper of the Allied Armies, their commanders, and their methods of warfare. But the long anguish offers hope of relief, and relief at no very dim or distant date. There let us be content, and devoutly give God thanks.



Peace Proposal

IT is with all these things in mind that we are best able to appreciate the proposals of the new German Chancellor. The appeal to President Wilson, and the acceptance of the conditions President Wilson has laid down, is a dramatic stroke. It is best to maintain, as calmly as possible, a just sense of proportion. Peace! – the very word is a gospel. But peace must be just, stable, and universal. Germany knows the War is lost. She has nothing at all to lose by a new attempt to gain peace, and she has a great deal to gain – like the rest of the world. But are the grounds for hoping this new attempt will fare better than the others? Germany has made great advances. Belgium is to be restored, and Germany speaks of an “indemnity.” That is a great advance indeed, and there are others upon which information need not be given again. Has Germany gone far enough? President Wilson, in his speech of Sept. 27, said some very plain things it may be useful to recall. “They (the Central Powers) have convinced us that they are without honour and do not intend justice. They observe no covenants, accept no principles but force, and their own interests. We cannot ‘come to terms’ with them. They have made it impossible. The German people must by this time be aware that we cannot accept the word of those who have forced this War upon us. We do not think the same thoughts or speak the same language of agreement.

It is of capital importance that we should also be explicitly agreed that no peace shall be obtained by any kind of compromise or abatement of the principles we have avowed as the principles for which we are fighting. There should exist no doubt about that.” These are grave words, deliberately uttered, and President Wilson will stand by them in the letter and in the spirit. The German terms, as at present available, it is greatly to be feared, come short of these demands. They are too vague, and, above all, they do not give any sufficient evidence that the seat of power in Germany has passed over from the Kaiser and his War Lords to the people of Germany themselves. It is still “the Kaiser” – he “gives,” and the people take what he is pleased to give. That is not as President Wilson said it must be before serious talk can take place.

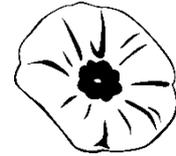
MOREOVER, the plea for an armistice is all the better appreciated, from the Allied side, in light of what has been said above on the military situation and its possibilities. But, if Germany really is in earnest, if there is a change of mind, and she is at least willing to live at peace with the rest of the world, there is an example she might well follow – the example of Bulgaria. Bulgaria has proved herself. Germany is in occupation of large tracts of France and nearly the whole of Belgium. Even at this hour she is burning and destroying in her retreat fair and beloved cities. It is brutal and incomprehensible.

Let Germany at once say she will evacuate all her conquests, return them unharmed, get her behind the Rhine, and there await the judgment of the world – then the world will know that indeed her heart is changed. The internal government of Germany is primarily an affair for Germans. It must take some time for Germany to cast off her military tyrants. But retreat to the shelter of her own frontiers will prove that their power is finally repudiated. The advantages of a long rest for talk are so obviously on the side of Germany that there should be some signing that the talk is to be about real things, and touching actual and universal issues. President Wilson's prompt and clear reply to the new Chancellor's Note is a definite intimation that there can be no armistice till the German troops are withdrawn from Allied soil, that there must be no equivocation or doubt regarding the German acceptance of the terms contained in his address to Congress on January 8, and that guarantees of good faith will be required. It is now, above all other days, in the many days of our sorrow, that we need to see things steadily, and to see them whole; it is passions, and refuse mere beguiling, however dear to our hearts and our hopes. We hold in our hands the future of the world, and that future must not be betrayed by our weariness, or because we have endured incredible griefs, and can no more. We cannot forget what Germany said when she began to talk with Russia, nor what the settlement was. There can be no more of *that*. The Allies are not as helpless as Russia was.



A Deed of Bravery

The deed that secured for the Rev. Archibald W. Harrison, B.Sc., B.D., the Military Cross, is thus described in the "London Gazette," among the many stories of brave deeds which have won recognition for gallantry and devotion to duty in the field: - "There were many wounded lying out among the corn. He went forward during an action in very flat and open country continually swept by the enfilade fire of enemy machine-guns, and helped to bring them back, and assisted in attending to them in the Regimental Aid-post of the Battalion. His devotion to duty and disregard of danger were conspicuous examples to all ranks."



Exit War!

A column for young men and young women.

Dear Young Methodists, -

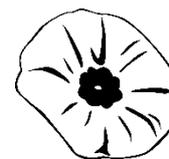
The War is over; it ends in chaos and ruin for the wicked nation that has poured out on the world the flood of death. I came up to London yesterday from the country, and on my journey fell into conversation with a young subaltern on his way to Austria. He said he had lost six brothers in the War. To-day I travelled with two other men, and the three of us, strangers, began to talk. One had just lost his eldest son. Another said that when War began he had three sons and eighteen nephews; now he has two sons and seven nephews. These men were disappointed because we had not marched through Germany and made that land suffer as France has done. They execrated the German nation. And so, I think, the War ends with Germany loathed and cursed by the vast majority of men. These are dangerous passions that are now inflamed. We must be careful they do not warp our judgement. Before us lies the infinitely difficult task of re-building the world, and hatred will not help us.



Judgement

THE Kaiser has abdicated, and is already a fugitive from his country. The Terms of an Armistice have been signed and fighting stopped at eleven on Monday morning. It will not begin again. The two events go together. It was impossible the War should end save in this way. The Kaiser stood for all the Allies were fighting against. He remained nakedly before the mind of President Wilson when he made the memorable declaration at Mount Vernon that the set purpose of the Allies was "the destruction of every power anywhere that can separately, secretly, and of single choice disturb the peace of the world." The one remaining power holding that dreadful prerogative is now destroyed. There is an end of Germany as Germany has been in the past. Surely gratitude and worship are the first emotions, gratitude to God and worship before the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth. The sense of triumph is not supreme. What is there to boast, as we think of all this mighty achievement has cost? Boasting is excluded. Every house shelters its wounded, or treasures the memory of its dead. We have passed through long agonies of irreparable loss and inexpressible grief. The joy that remains is the joy that we have not laboured in vain, neither spent out strength for naught. The vengeance of God has overtaken "Babylon the Great, which hath made all the nations to drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornications."

In awe of the final collapse, so dramatic, so complete, mean and trivial thoughts, presumptions and vain imaginings, cannot be permitted to exalt themselves over-much, in any decent and reverent mind. We glory in those who have delivered us – living and dead; we give thanks for those who stood by us in the hour of our calamity. For the vast gathering of the Armies and Navies of the world – on the right side and in the right temper, for the supreme goal – we may be permitted to glory in the Giver of every good and perfect gift. But it is a day of peace, chastened in heart, strong in will, and confident in hope, not a day of vulgar triumph. We must not be German in our triumph over Germany. That red star has set, and there is no fellow in the firmament.



Surrender of the German Fleet

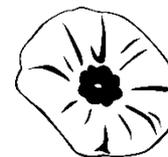
The German Fleet has peaceably entered into the refuge provided for it. Surely, in the history of the world, never was there the like ignominy brought upon any malefactor – so proud, so high – by the inevitable process of things. The Germans made war on land, and failed. They made war at sea, and failed. The great ships built and boasted through an entire generation, immediately they challenged open combat, were driven back to port, and only escaped entire destruction by the fickle chances of weather. Foiled in open warfare at sea, the Germans set themselves to secret, cruel, and utterly ruthless destruction of anything on the surface of any ocean they might reach. The whole world was outraged and stricken. Then, after long anxiety and shocking sorrow and devastation wrought, once more Germany failed. The Allies survived and prospered. The three stages of Germany's confusion and dismay passed on remorselessly to this fourth and last stage. In the meantime her Armies had been finally outfought, and were making for home in the best order they could. At home all was as they never thought it could be. Hunger and nakedness, exhaustion and divisions came upon them. The throne had nothing under it, no support about it. Having built upon prestige of arms, and supported itself by military success and the hope of it, these things having gone, the throne fell. The only way out for Germany was "peace at any price." Her military powers made hurried estimates of the position, and

evidently were in no frame of mind to judge wisely or to direct efficiently. Nothing was possible save immediate surrender. It was frightful to contemplate; only feared some worse thing. Self-respect had failed them. The future was haunted by ghosts of dead things shepherded there from the past of Germany, the hundred battlefields of modern Europe and the silent spaces of the sea. So the Armistice was concluded. Now it is being executed. The Armies get them home, and not with much credit as they go. The Fleet has had to play the most ignominious part of all – a part to break the hearts of men for whom the traditions of the sea have any charm, affinity, or power. The British sailormen looked on with awe – not unmixed with compassion. Never was so bitter a cup given to drink. The German Fleet, from the first, never had a chance. Mishandled at every point, ill-built in view of what was to happen, withdrawn to ignominious shelter by the cowardice or indecision of those in command, dismantled to further their criminal ends, at last the German Fleet was appointed to take the world to witness that Germany had failed utterly everywhere, and, it would appear, for ever. The consummation of these strange eventful histories the eastern seabords of Great Britain have witnessed during the memorable week that has passed. Words fail, and the imagination itself is baffled before the wonder and strange disquietudes of God's outstretched hand.



The New Responsibility of Women

The extended franchise consists almost entirely of women, who are now admitted to the rights of citizenship. Things have moved quickly during the period of the War. Rights that were denied to demand, have been yielded to heroic service and brave sympathy. Woman is no longer in the category of the ox and the ass, and all the other things that are *his*. She counts as a man's equal. Will she count in the Nation for Righteousness? She is the Exchequer of the Nation, the Queen of the Home, and the Mother of the People. These must surely be her first and chief care, and where these are cared for will be well. Christian women must lead their sisters to the heights of vision. Their eyes must be opened their minds instructed. Domestic questions have their roots deep down in principles and laws and policies. Interest must be widened, intelligence deepened, and sympathies quickened if the womanhood of the land is to exercise worthily this sacred trust.



The Bereaved

To how many will the festival of Christ's Birth recall those who cannot return, and dim eyes that look with love upon those who yet remain. The most familiar guest, and the most intimate presence of this Christmastime, in thousands of homes, will not be seen by any eye, nor heard, nor touched. Yet we shall all of us be aware of them, hardly aware of any other, though the room is full; we shall not hear any voice as we hear their voice. We shall not be able to escape the hold they have, nor free ourselves of their occupancy. Why should we try? We know them now and now they know us. Surely herein is a great possession – all the barriers are gone down. What seems like the worst barrier of all, the barrier of mere absence, is only in form and not in substance. It cannot leave the world today poorer, meaner, or less joyous, that we have increased our possessions, and our fellowships among them that dwell in the better world. It has been said there is "no truer insight into life, or one that takes account of a larger number of human facts, than just this – that life is contrived in order to bring each human being once at least to the dust before God, to reduce each of us once at least to some extremity from which faith in God, and in the Christ of God, is the only way to escape." Those who stand by the one grave that holds all the world for them know what that saying means. Those who have found no grave to mourn over, whose beloved lie they know not where or how – these, above all others, are, indeed, in that blessed and last

"extremity from which faith in God and in the Christ of God is the only escape."

But how great is that escape, that victory, when it does, indeed, overcome the world. A good deal that has been said to comfort the bereaved has been of no consolation at all. There was no intimacy, no assurance, no definite hold on the life to come, on reunion or hope for resumption of the interrupted fellowship. Newspaper consolations and the patriotic solace did neither assuage nor illuminate. It is only in Christ Jesus that we attain any relief, and find the possibility of an untroubled heart. Deep calleth unto deep, and He is the Daysman. Death and the loss of those we love is a very great and a very solemn intervention of God. There is no consolation, no light, no hope in small ideas and temporary expedients. When our Lord would prepare Him for His going away, and sought also to prepare His disciples He permitted their presence in His prayers; and these were among His words; "O Righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee, but I have known Thee, and these have known that Thou hast sent Me. And I have declared unto them Thy name, and will declare it; that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them." Those were the last words in the "Upper Room." They were, and remain for ever, the foundation of the first – "Let not your hearts be troubled."