

Lutheran Tidings

Volume VII

March 20, 1940

Number 16

IMMUNITY

Think you to escape
What mortal man can never be without?
What saint upon earth has ever lived apart from
cross and care?
Why even Jesus Christ, Our Lord, was not even
for one hour free from his passion's pain.
Christ says, "He needs must suffer,
Rising from the dead,
And enter thus upon his glory."
And how do you ask for another road
Than this—the Royal Pathway of the Holy Cross.

Thomas a Kempis.

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Our Need - God's Provision

Lenten Sermon by Einer Romer

God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.
II Cor. 5, 19.

Schiller, who is best known perhaps as the writer of William Tell, holds a place by common consent as one of the greatest poets of the world. His ideals in life were very high. His literary productions show a noble striving for a realization of the good, the beautiful, and the true.

After Schiller came Thorwaldsen, the sculptor. Thorwaldsen chiselled a statue of the poet showing him standing with bowed head. Some have thought that the sculptor made a mistake in thus picturing Schiller, and that he should rather have shown him standing with head erect, thrown back facing the world and heaven with open countenance, to symbolize his nobility of character, instead of, as he did, with head lowered in melancholy contemplation.

And yet the sculptor was right. For in Schiller's writings one finds also expressions of an unsatisfied longing, a note of sadness at the contrast between what we are and what we feel that we ought to be and would like to be. Inner peace and inner harmony he had not attained. In writing on happiness Schiller says sadly, "No one can become truly happy except by a miracle."

Schiller's striving to realize his ideals and the deeper yearnings of his spirit had failed. What was his trouble? Why could he not become truly good, beautiful and true in character when he strove so earnestly?

He strove in his own power and sought light by his own genius and by the wisdom of men. And all who like him strive by the power and resources of men, to attain inner peace, harmony, and true happiness will fail. Why do they fail? What is the insurmountable obstacle? It is sin, the sinfulness of our very being, our moral paralysis. Sin is the radical evil of mankind. We have fallen from our original happy estate, created as we were in the image of God. Our race has become a fallen race contaminated at its very source. We all suffer from this fatal malady. The real and basic problem of human life, both individually and collectively, is sin. Your greatest problem and mine is sin, and the sinfulness of our being. Still slumbering in the human breast is the age-old cry, pray tell us how can we become pure, spotless and truly good. In our own strength we are utterly unable to cope with it. To administer the forgiveness of sins to oneself, as some try to do, does not help. That only makes

matters worse, for forgiveness can come only from God.

It is good that there was One who saw our need and had compassion upon us. "Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." 1 Tim. 1, 15. And the Scriptures further testify, "To this end was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." 1 John. 3, 8. Jesus has come that he might restore us to peace and harmony with our God and ourselves and destroy the works of the devil, also as the results thereof have reached to us.

We cite here a passage from H. G. Knight touching upon this need common to all men regardless of race, station, class or culture.

"In the Dore gallery in London there is a large painting called 'The Vale of Tears'. A dreary, narrow, mist-covered glen, flanked by grim crags that no human foot could climb, is filled with sufferers of every kind, and every degree, a motley multitude with not one single happy face amongst them. The king is there with a wan look upon his face in spite of his purple robes and jeweled crown; the poet is there, a laurel wreath encircling his brow, but the life-blood welling from a wound in his heart, and the lyre lying neglected at his feet; the soldier is there, the priest, the hermit, the slave; the maimed and halt and blind; the miser, hungrily clutching his bag of gold, the poor wanderer shivering in his rags; the man of science with a learned folio in his arms, but a hopeless look upon his face; strangers from every land, the Indian, the Chinese, the African, the Esquimaux; the once gay votaries of pleasure; the haggard victims of sin; men prematurely old, and children wasted even in their youth; here, a dying mother convulsively grasping her child; there, a young husband and wife weeping over their first-born lying dead. No kind of human heart-wretchedness but is suggested by some figure to the eye.

"But, at the farther end of the 'Vale of Tears' there is a break in the clouds that shows a winding path leading up beyond the mists to a region where all is peace; and just in the center of the light stands the rainbow-encircled Christ, bearing His cross. He is looking down the valley of misery, beckoning with His hand to the weary and heart-broken there; and every eye is gazing upon Him, some with a wistful longing, some with a faint glow of hope, some too, with the tranquil joy of a heart that has found its rest. The great central figure in the picture is Christ. He carries His cross, and behind the cross is Heaven. It is a noble sermon to the eye."

Yes, God's solution for the problem of sin is the crucified Christ. "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself." Now, that He has become the Lamb of God sacrificed for the sins of the world the way to God is opened for the children of Adam. Now God can, for Christ's sake, pardon us sinful men and receive us into fellowship with Himself. "The wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom. 6, 23.

During the last world war a group of army chaplains were discussing how they could best serve the boys in the army. When the discussion had gone on for a while, one chaplain who had thus far been silent spoke up and said, "What we have heard may all be very well, and still, men, we have not yet mentioned the one important thing. It is above all our task to point these soldier boys to Jesus Christ, the only Savior of men."

Surely there are many things we can and should do for one another, and yet the best and greatest thing one man can do for another is to direct him to Christ the Messiah, who is the Way by which we may come back to God, find peace of heart, become His children, find the door of paradise opened to us, and without whose cleansing no man can be pleasing to God and inherit eternal life. "If I wash thee not thou hast no part with me." John 13, 8. He has redeemed us, as Luther

says, in order that we might be His own and serve Him in gratitude and love both now and forever.

May we then from the depth of our hearts ask God, according to His promise, by the grace of the Holy Spirit and for Jesus' sake, to work out in us a realization of our need of the Savior, a full surrender to Him, and enable us to rest in the finished work of the Redeemer.

Jesus has said, "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name; ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be made full." John 16, 24.

"On my heart imprint Thine image,
Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares and pleasures,
Have no power Thee to efface;
This the superscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation."

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Christ Pre-eminent

(A Lenten Meditation based on Colossians 1.)

The Character of Christ is the ultimate reality of Christianity. He is the center of our faith, the hope of the world and the norm of every plan for the betterment and salvation of the individual and society. The enemies of Christianity have in every age searched for imperfections and flaws in Christ's character and teachings, knowing that to successfully impugn him would be to destroy the Church and the hope of his followers. What the foes of Christ realize concerning his central place in Christianity his followers should certainly understand.

Whatever values the Lenten Sermon has are found in the opportunities it provides us to renew and intensify our soul's inner experience of the Savior Jesus Christ. Paul realized that it is always possible for the believer to be "moved away from the hope of the gospel." It is so easy, by gradual steps, each undiscernible in itself, to crowd Christ out of His rightful place, the center of life and faith. The entire emphasis of the chapter of our text is on the centrality of Christ. Thus it is timely in this blessed season to consider what we should do "that in all things he might have the pre-eminence."

His Life Pre-Eminent

First to be remembered, and more revolutionary than it at first seems, is the realization that Christianity is not a system of theology or ethics or philosophy or economics. It is not a type of culture. Christianity is Christ! We cannot relegate him to a secondary place in our considerations. "He is before all things." In the daily life of the Christian he must have the pre-eminence. If he has any significance today, he is, as he has always been, the object of love and reverence, the incentive for hope and repentance, the very strength and inspiration, of a sinful and dying world. Everything resolves itself into the question of the character and place of Christ. To try to conform him to a philosophy of life is fatal. This was the error of Agrippa, the sad difference between the 'almost' and the 'altogether' being persuaded. It is the great sin of our time. Men do not feel able to deny Christ today. They simply put other considerations in the central place in their lives. They ignore him.

This is the crowning insult, it is the most effective denial. If our highest evaluation of Christ is that he had a beautiful philosophy of life, we are denying Him. If we put a low estimate on the power and responsibility of the Church in our lives, forgetting that "he is the head of the body, the church" we are denying Him. If we forget that the hope of the world which is come unto us is meant to bring forth fruit, we are limiting his power in our lives.

Notice how Christ is referred to in phrases which emphasize that he is alive. Christianity is the only religion that worships a living Lord, a present, vital force in the lives of his followers. When we remember this we are in a mood to hear his voice of invitation: "Behold I stand at the door and

knock." It is the invitation of the believer to the living Christ that matters! We need not open the door, it is true. But if we do he demands first place.

A young man at college was visited by his mother. She found a room crowded with coarse and suggestive pictures and other evidences that the surroundings were not what her son had been accustomed to at home. She said nothing, but when she returned home she purchased the finest copy she could afford of Hoffman's painting of the Christ. This she sent to her son, asking him to hang it in his room. Some time later she visited him again. She saw a complete transformation. All the other pictures had been removed. They had been out of place in the presence of the Christ. Where he is, he is pre-eminent. When he enters into your heart it is "that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

The greatest miracle in the Bible is the miracle of the Christ himself, and the way he is able to transform that life in which he is the center. "Christ in you, the hope of glory!" As he is in essence pre-eminent, so in us he must be pre-eminent.

His Cross Pre-Eminent

The worldling makes crosses of many sorts; he makes them of iron and of brass, of gold and of jewels, of wood and of tinsel. He does not make them to give meaning to his life nor to ornament his personality. He does not always know he makes them. He calls them bad luck, circumstances beyond his control, the bludgeoning of fate; he seldom realizes them as his handiwork. They have the power to crucify him. They are instruments of torture. With them he often tries to torture others.

Upon such a cross, made by the hands of men, but glorified beyond the imaginations of its makers, the very Son of God was crucified. Of this cross Alexander MacLaren has said, "The cross is the center of the world's history; the incarnation of Christ and the crucifixion of our Lord are the pivot round which all the events of the ages revolve." This cross is pre-eminent! Someone has said, "... in darkness there is no choice. It is light that enables us to see the differences between things; and it is Christ who gave us the light." How true! But we must remember that that light was revealed by the passage of the Son of God through the darkest day in history, the day of his crucifixion. Only when we remember that the cross was a horrible instrument of torture, a symbol of defeat and futility, an emblem of victory only for tyranny and entrenched selfishness and greed, only when we remember this can we realize how revolutionary was the event which made of such a cross the reminder of the world's greatest peace.

Throned upon the awful tree,
King of grief, I watch with thee;
Darkness veils thine anguished face,
None its lines of woe can trace,
None can tell what pangs unknown
Hold thee silent and alone.

Yet even here he is pre-eminent. Even the centurion felt that "surely this was the Son of God." Many have died on crosses before; many have died on crosses since. Only Christ's death was the Atonement, once and forever sufficient. Only the Cross of Christ became a source of spiritual life and peace. "Having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself."

Perhaps no mind can really understand how "He is the propitiation of our sins." Every heart that has accepted his sacrifice, however, can rejoice at the peace which his atonement on the cross brings. From how many hearts in all ages have come the thanks of a victorious faith, "In the cross of Christ I glory." We may think with awe and even with loathing of the many sacrifices the human race has made in a vain effort to remove the gnawing pains of transgression! And the end is not yet. But "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us." "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." So glorious has become the fruit of this

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Invaded Denmark

At 4:30 in the morning of April 9, 1940, German mechanized army units crossed the Danish border. Simultaneously German war vessels landed troops at various ports in Denmark. The day previously Danish pilots had guided three German ships, which they believed to be colliers, up through the mine fields to the port of Copenhagen. When the zero hour came a thousand German soldiers—hidden in the holds—went ashore and, soon reinforced by other troops landed from quickly arriving transports and war vessels, entered the city. A few minutes after the German army had handed the Danish Foreign Ministry a "memorandum" declaring that on the assumption that Danish military resources were not sufficient to repulse attempts projected by the British and French against Denmark's sovereignty, Germany had proceeded with the occupation of certain strategically important points on Danish territory.

Assurances were given that Danish territorial integrity and political independence would be respected. Yet by noon on the first day our papers of the time reported that from 50,000 to 75,000 German troops were in Denmark, and within two days their numbers were believed to have been greatly increased. Obviously the Danes, with a population of less than 4,000,000, a frontier bordering on Germany, without natural defenses such as mountains or broad rivers, with only a small army and a smaller navy, could not have made even an effective gesture, when thus taken by surprise. Accordingly, though some fighting took place at the start and before the orders to cease fire could reach all concerned, the Government, relying on the assurances given, decided "under protest to administer the affairs of the country with due regard to the occupation that has taken place."

Thus Denmark—taken unaware—was treacherously overwhelmed, without the slightest excuse, in a few hours. At the very least the Nazi plan was to make her soil a base of operations for the execution of the German war designs, for the "duration," in total disregard of Danish interests. Only the day prior to the attack assurances had been given to King Christian in person that Germany had no intention of sending troops into Denmark. Moreover, on May 31, 1939, Germany had signed a non-aggression pact with Denmark for a term of 10 years. After this war broke out Chancellor Hitler in his address to the Reichstag of Oct. 6, 1939, referred to that pact and added: "Our relations with that country are thus directed towards unswerving loyal and friendly cooperation."

There seems to be current in the New Germany a strange understanding of the word "friend." The German General in command of the invasion explained, at the time, to a group of foreign newsmen that "we are not in an enemy country, but among friends. We are not here to kill Danes but others farther away. We are here to protect the Danes . . . The people may work on as usual, whether they are farmers, business men, industrialists, or what not." While not much news is leaking out, the little that has does not suggest that this undesired protection and proffered friendship has so far been to the advantage of Denmark.

It is true of course that, wholly apart from any deliberate design to interfere with the national affairs of the invaded country, Germany has gravely burdened Denmark by cutting off her access to so large a part of the markets of the world. Sweden also, though retaining full enjoyment of her sovereign rights, has been an example of a country so affected, since Norway was overrun by the Nazis. Automatically, Sweden, cut off from intercourse with a great part of her customers and habitual sources of vital supplies, aggregating some 50% of her normal foreign trade, is facing extremely serious dislocation of her economy.

Denmark's economy may be said to be framed around her foreign trade to a very unusual degree. When in the seventies and eighties of the nineteenth century the competition of the United States and Russia ruined her export commerce, then based on wheat, her people turned undaunted to animal husbandry. They developed a high quality export trade in butter, eggs, bacon and other animal produce which,

valued at about \$14,500,000 annually in the late seventies, increased to some \$250,000,000 in recent years. Deficient in natural resources, apart from her soil, Denmark quickly perceived and took advantage of the opportunity of her geographical position afforded her for the development of that trade. The facility and speed with which she could deliver to her best customers, Great Britain and Germany, large quantities of these products, freshly made and of excellent quality, gave her an advantage over her long-haul competitors.

It is true that of late years the multiplicity of tariff laws, quota systems, exchange restrictions, compensation agreements, etc., somewhat limited the scope of this geographical advantage. However, Great Britain, easily the best customer for the products of the cow, the hog, and the hen, began to feel the pressure of her Dominions for a share in the market for this lucrative business. New Zealand, a specialist in these and other livestock products, was particularly insistent. Great Britain accordingly reduced her purchases from Denmark to some extent, but still held her relative position as the leading buyer from the latter. In 1938, for instance, Great Britain purchased 98% of Denmark's exported bacon, 74% of the butter exports, and 72% of the eggs.

In normal years the products of animal husbandry and other farm activities contributed about 73% to the Danish exports, or about 80%, if goods manufactured therefrom are included. These exports represent about 68% of Denmark's total agricultural productive effort, the balance being sold at home. To produce these commodities she has had to import feed, fertilizers and farm machinery to extent of about one-fifth of the value of her agricultural exports. On the other hand, as she lacks the raw materials necessary for her diverse and efficient industries, she has been obliged to import them also to a value approximately three times that of her industrial exports. However, the Danes sell to their fellow countrymen for home consumption the production of their trades and industries to a value eight times that of the products which their farmers sell domestically. Clearly, therefore, Denmark's agricultural exports are the backbone of the Danish economy.

Consistently since 1934 the balance of trade has been against Denmark. But, owing mainly to the services of her modern merchant marine and her great "free port" distributing center at Copenhagen, and also to some extent to her investments abroad, the balance of payments has been in her favor, though not widely so. Here again, however, the value to her of a merchant marine and a distributing center, both geared to international trade, is axiomatically dependent on Denmark's relations with the world. Obviously a war between her two best customers would seriously dislocate such a delicately balanced economy. Great Britain normally took over 50% of the total Danish exports and supplied over 35% of the imports. The similar figures for the trade with Germany were about 20% and 25%, respectively.

However, not only did the invasion interrupt all trade with Great Britain as well as with the overseas world, but it also involved many other unpleasant consequences. During the course of the interview, above mentioned, the German General said that Denmark would remain a sovereign State, and that he had given instructions "to act here as they would at home." As his remarks were printed in the United States, he did not specify to whom he had given those instructions, but the presumption was that he had given them to his forces. From the point of view of the commander of an invading army this may well have been a guarantee of mild intentions, provided, as he postulated, that German interests were not interfered with. The Danes, nevertheless, might well have felt anxiety that the injunction to act as if at home would not be confined to the military conduct of the invaders. For Germany is engaged in a life-and-death struggle, and she has had to stand the strain of an economy which, for eight years, has been substantially on a war footing. Her generosity to a people completely under her control was not likely to interfere much with her desire to reap every possible economic and other advantage from her conquest, at least for the duration of the war, no matter how much formal respect she might pay to the fiction of separate sovereignty.

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Lutheran Tidings

PUBLISHED BY
THE DANISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF AMERICA

Office of publication, Tyler, Minnesota

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Lock Box 358, Tyler, Minn., and
25 Merrill Ave., Muskegon, Mich.

Published semi-monthly on the 5th and 20th of each month.
Entered as second class matter at the post office, Tyler, Minn.

Subscr. price: 1 yr. \$1.00; 2 yrs. \$1.75; 3 yrs. \$2.50

All contributions to the contents of this paper should be sent to the editor.

All matters concerning subscriptions, payments of subscriptions, and requests for advertising rates should be sent to the business manager's Muskegon, Mich., address. Notices of change of address should be sent to Lock Box 358, Tyler, Minn.

Volume VII

March 20, 1941

Number 16

EDITORIAL

We will soon reach the first anniversary date of the fatal day in the history of Denmark. There is but little change in the status of Denmark today from that of the first day following the German invasion on April 9th, 1940. If anything, the clouds on the horizon are a little darker and the future a little more uncertain.

If, in some way, we could transmit to the people of Denmark the spirit of the prayers, the hopes and the good wishes of their many friends in America, it would undoubtedly cheer their hearts in the midst of all the gloom. We hope, indeed, that they feel assured of our moral support.

The article found in this issue, "Denmark Invaded", has been submitted from the office of AMERICAN FRIENDS OF DANISH FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. I can not refrain from commenting at this time on the splendid work carried on by this organization. It was indeed natural that immediately after the invasion of Denmark, a work was effected amongst our Danish speaking people endeavoring to give, in some measure at least, a moral support of the people of Denmark. But it was equally gratifying to learn that a large group of Americans, many of whom are not even of Scandinavian descent, are supporting this cause.

Permit me to quote from the fine contributions of encouragement given by only a few of the many members in this fellowship. **Dorothy Canfield Fisher**, well-known American author writes: "I have always considered Denmark as radiant ideal for democracy and for many years have done all in my power in speaking and writing to bring home to Americans the noble intelligence with which life is organized in Denmark to secure quality for all in the distribution of the truly good things of life."

Dr. Frank L. Eversull, President of North Dakota Agricultural College, Fargo, N. Dak.: "Out of the Great Northwest the Danes came. They brought with them their staunch beliefs in democracy, their love for the great out-of-doors, and their devotion to the God of their fathers. Truly, they became the Giants in the Earth. They developed communities rich in folklore and culture; they contributed loyally to the state; they expanded the meaning of democracy. America can do nothing better than to befriend that nation which has contributed so liberally of its people to the upbuilding of our own country."

We are tempted to quote many more of these statements made by leading Americans who cherish the spiritual and social contributions of the Danish people. Space will not permit this. We rejoice in the privilege of sharing the hope of a not too distant victory for Truth and Justice.

Holger Strandkov.

INVADED DENMARK . . .

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The meager news coming out of Denmark from time to time indicates, in fact, that in numerous important respects more emphasis is being placed by the Germans on the fictional aspect than on the substance of the sovereignty of the Danish people.

In the first place, practically the entire coastal region of Jutland—varying in depth from 10 to 30 miles—has been placed under the control of the German army. It is a penal offense, punishable with death, for a Dane to leave his country without a German permit. The Danish National Bank, presumably under orders, has had to redeem at a fixed rate of exchange (one Reichsmark equals two kroner) the credit paper which the German army of occupation issued up to Aug. 27, 1940. Thereafter, payments will be made in Danish currency, under just what arrangement does not appear. By the end of 1940 the "clearing account" at the Danish National Bank, covering goods exported to Germany, showed a debit balance against her of 412,000,000 kroner. This formed part of the now well established Nazi practice of endowing as many countries as possible with a stake in Germany's future by more or less compelling them to accept a creditor position. Since January, 1941, the amount of the clearing account balance has not been published. However, if statements appearing in a Copenhagen newspaper are to be credited, an account of the National Bank, designated "sundry debtors," which increased 38,000,000 kroner at the beginning of 1940 to 466,000,000 on Jan. 1, 1941, is really that of the German Government. Confidential reports received by Danes here indicate that this account represents an enforced loan by the Danish National Bank to Germany to cover the expenses of the army in Denmark.

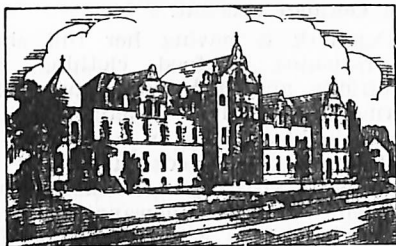
Whether this credit is, so far, Denmark's entire contribution to the cost of the German occupation, and whether additional amounts are paid directly, cannot be ascertained. But estimates of the aggregate of the German credits, both under the clearing account and under the "sundry debtors" account, etc., vary from 1,000,000,00 to 1,500,000,000 kroner.

About 17% in value of Denmark's imports in normal times have been cereals, cattle feed and fertilizers, almost all of which have been employed in developing her great trade in animal products. She is now cut off from many of her normal sources of these commodities. This is especially true of fodder. According to a recent news item in a Copenhagen paper no fodder imports can be counted on this winter. Should this prove to be the case, the predicament will be serious, and will only to a small extent be compensated by such expedients as feeding young heather to the cattle, as the resourceful Danes are now doing.

It had been estimated that the 2,250,000 cows, 3,000,000 hogs and 15,000,000 hens would have to be reduced by approximately 50%. According to the figures received here, the process seems well under way. By the middle of last December only two-thirds of the usual number of hogs were left. It was believed that further reductions will take place, with cumulative effect, since most of the slaughtering was of suckling pigs. Estimates of the milk production early last December indicated a decrease of about 27% from that of 12 months before. Further decreases were in sight, as more cattle would have to be slaughtered to match the fodder supply. The butter production also was reduced about one-third. The Government was obliged to forbid the making of cheese, or the sale of cream, with more than a prescribed proportion of fat, in order to protect the quantities of milk and butter available for domestic consumption, and to increase the enforced exports to Germany. The production of eggs had fallen by 39%, according to a statement published at the end of last November.

Denmark's foreign trade for the first year of the war, ending Aug. 31, 1940, was valued at 1,500,000,000 kroner of exports and 1,535,000,000 kroner of imports. These figures, showing a balance of 15,000,000 kroner in favor of exports, do not appear out of line when compared with the same figures for earlier years. However, the price index for the foreign trade goods indicated that the prices of imports increased much more extensively than did those of exports. For August, 1939, the import price index was 113, that of

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Grand View College

The school years rolls on. Another Studenterfest can now be recorded as a past event. To those of you who have not attended a Studenterfest at Grand View for many years I might say that this is becoming more a home coming for former students than it has been in past years. I have been told that years ago Studenterfest was a festive occasion celebrated to give the winter students a hearty send off. In those days, I am told, there were sometimes as many as one hundred winter students and perhaps thirty regulars. This year there were only four winter students and there were seventy-seven regulars.

As a result of this change, which has come about over a period of years, Studenterfest is now known as the annual homecoming for former students. This year many of them came back but there were also many here who have not attended at any time, but are friends of the school. We had one hundred and forty overnight guests and on Sunday afternoon the banquet tables served two hundred and fifty.

Harold Knudsen's gym teams gave exhibitions on Saturday afternoon and these were followed by a very fine exhibition in folk dancing.

At four o'clock that afternoon nearly every alumnus present had been summoned to the auditorium, where the first meeting of the newly-formed Grand View College Alumni Association was held. The tentative constitution, which had been written last year, was amended and ratified. The officers elected to head the organization are Helge Thomsen, Tyler, Minn., President; Harry Jensen, Minneapolis, Minn., Secretary; and Herluf Nelson from Ringsted, Iowa, was made treasurer. The latter two have served in their respective jobs since last May when the first group met to form an organization. Harold Knudsen was president until now and he deserves a hand for the effort and zeal he showed in order to make the new undertaking a success.

On Sunday morning the Rev. E. D. Nielsen preached the sermon in the Luther Memorial Church. The theme for his sermon was, "The power of the spirit to invade earth and man." The Luther Memorial Choir, under the direction of Miss Sylvia Schmidt, sang "The Heavens Are Telling."

Before the lecture on Sunday afternoon, President A. C. Nielsen gave a

short talk in recognition of the bust, "Icelandic Girl Noel", and told about the life of the sculptor, Christian Warthoe, who had presented his beautiful work to Grand View College.

When he had finished talking everyone present arose in expression of appreciation to Mr. Warthoe.

This was followed by a concert given by Miss Laura Ibsen's various singing groups. The concert was beautiful and rightly deserves more praise than can be given in this column today. Miss Ibsen played a piano solo and Verner Hansen played a selection on his violin.

At the banquet short talks were given by Helge Thomsen, former president, C. Arild Olsen and President A. C. Nielsen.

In the evening the gymnasium was packed to capacity as the students presented Henrik Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler." Each member of the cast played the assigned part well, and to those of us who had never seen an Ibsen tragedy it was certainly an experience which shall long be remembered.

Professor Otto Hoiberg of Askov, Minn., in an address to the attendants of "Studenterfest" on March 16, pointed out the dangers as well as the opportunities of the cultural diversities in the United States.

Cultural diversity first presents a great danger, and secondly affords real opportunity. The chief tendency is to misunderstand the neighbor because he is from a different cultural background. This is not serious in a totalitarian country because here "my Greek neighbor and I" must take orders from the same Hitler, but in a democracy where he and I must solve problems together that danger becomes imminent. Such misunderstanding is based on world wide tendency for man to regard that which is different as wrong and inferior. "We must get away from this tendency."

One method to overcome this is to try to view and judge others in the light of their respective cultural backgrounds. Many of these "crazy" and "wrong", become reasonable and logical when viewed in the light of their cultural setting.

During the first world war a high pressure campaign was conducted to eliminate all foreign cultural traits, languages, customs, manners, etc. It was not realized that such efforts toward "unity" might divide rather than unify our people. It was not realized that suspicion, force and intimidation have never been effective weapons in the realm of human spirit. During the war a superficial uniformity was achieved at the expense of real unity.

We should concentrate on fundamentals and not waste our time in a vain and culturally questionable effort to hasten elimination of foreign customs and languages in America. Democracy gives one the right to be different.

The opportunity arising from a cultural diversity consists of our chance

to draw from the wealth of cultural values brought to America by dozens of nationalities.

The greatest contribution that Denmark could make to American culture would be to plant the folk school in American soil. Grundtvig and Kold broke away from educational tradition in both spirit and structure and established a free school dedicated to the task of building young men and women devoted to the fundamental values of life. We Danish-Americans must make this contribution to the United States of America. "So far our records at Ashland, Nysted, Solvang and Danebod have not been impressive." These schools have, thus far, failed to take root in American soil. This does not indicate that the folk school has no place in America. "If we keep alive in our hearts, the philosophy and ideals of the folk school, a new education will someday arise in America."

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CHRIST PRE-EMINENT . . .

(Continued from page 122)

tree that we may even cling to this cross, and say with the poet, Susan Curtis,

Dear Lord, forgive my sinful, foolish fears,
And give me daily, straightening grace,
I pray,
And one thing more I ask with humble tears,
Take not my cross away!

How glorious a beginning of hope was the death of Christ, the pre-eminent sacrifice. What an ocean of love was poured out for us sinners. Only the whole love and devotion of our hearts can respond to the sacrifice, "that we might walk worthy of the Lord . . . fruitful in every good work." This cross is not placed on us to burden us, it is given us as a blessing.

His Challenge Pre-Eminent

The pre-eminence of Christ and his cross constitute a challenge incomparable with anything else life has to offer. Christianity with no Christ and no cross is nothing. It is not the result of a better doctrine than the world had before, it is the result of a perfect character, a character perfect because Christ is the Son of God. And here is the challenge incomparable. Addison has said that a few persons of an odious and despised country could not have filled the world with believers, had they not shown undoubted credentials from the divine person who sent them on such a message. Christianity is not the work of men, it can have come only from God, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Christ challenges his follower to the completest self-abnegation conceivable. The Christian cannot think of one day a week

being holy. Every day given him is from God, holy. A follower of Christ cannot feel he has done his share in giving a tithe of his possessions and income. Every good thing, coming from God, must be dedicated to God. His own life, consecrated to God in baptism, must be worthy of the Lord in all pleasing, strengthened with all might. An allegiance with mental reservations may be acceptable to men and men's organizations, but not to God.

His challenge then, is pre-eminent because it asks complete surrender. It is pre-eminent, however, for a much deeper and more significant reason. In the 20th and 21st verses we are told that Christ died to reconcile men to the Father. The primary meaning of the word reconcile is to restore to friendship, to bring back to harmony, to cause to be no longer at variance. God made man of the dust of the ground, but He breathed in to his nostrils the breath of His own Life: Man became a living soul. How sadly man fell from the image of God in which he was made! He separated himself from his Creator. Only by accepting the sacrifice fully and freely made by Christ can man be again at one with his Maker, reconciled through the blood of the cross.

"We are made partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ, by the effectual application of it to us by His Holy Spirit," says the Westminster Catechism. The challenge is for the return of the Prodigal, for the resumption of the image of God in which we were made. The soul, which has its source in God, can find no peace until it is reconciled to Him. The profoundest meaning of the Atonement of Christ on the cross is the at-one-ment of the believer with his God, "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

May we join William W. How in his beautiful Lenten prayer:

Lord Jesus, when we stand afar and gaze upon Thy holy Cross,
In love of Thee, and scorn of self, O may we count the world as loss!

When we behold Thy bleeding wounds, the thorny path that Thou has trod,

Make us to hate the load of sin that hung so heavy on our God.

Give us an ever-living faith to gaze beyond the things we see;
And in the mystery of Thy death draw us and all men unto Thee.

"... that in all things He might have the pre-eminence."

Eilert C. Nielsen.

— :: —

INVADED DENMARK . . .

(Continued from page 124)

exports 110. For September, 1940, the corresponding indices were, on the other hand, 209 and 156. Thus the

import prices had risen by about 86% and the export by only 42%. Moreover, the volume of the turnover was substantially reduced, especially as to imports. The foreign trade position of Denmark at the end of the first 12 months of the war was, accordingly, not as strong as the above quoted figures appear to indicate.

Germany has naturally played the leading role in Denmark's foreign trade since the invasion. The figures given out on Dec. 1 last show that the Danish imports from Germany rose 50% in value, and the export increased 150%. But here again the much larger increases in the prices of imports must be borne in mind if an approximately accurate picture of that end of the situation is to be obtained. There are, moreover, indications that Germany is exacting from her small neighbor not only quantities of milk and butter, but also of fruits and vegetables badly needed by the Danes for their proper nourishment.

Denmark has also had during 1940 barter agreements with Italy, Finland, the German "protectorate" of Bohemia-Moravia, Switzerland, Russia, Sweden, Norway, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia. There have also been small exchanges of commodities with France, The Netherlands, and Belgium. With the exception of the arrangement with Sweden, and to a very limited extent those with Bohemia-Moravia and Yugoslavia, the agreements provided for a balanced exchange of commodities. They cover an aggregate exchange value of about 130,400,000 kroner, plus 9,000,000 kroner liquidated through a clearing account with Sweden and 2,200,000 kroner settled with Bohemia-Moravia through the German account. These totals do not, however, make up to any very substantial extent for the loss of as large a part of the Danish foreign trade as has occurred since the invasion. The extent of the shock sustained by Denmark's economy as the result of this loss is evidenced by the fact that though wages have not increased the cost of living has risen more than in any other belligerent or occupied country.

In spite of the energy, resource and inventive faculty so repeatedly displayed in the past by the Danish industries, they have been hard put to it to find substitutes for the materials of which they are now deprived. Yet by dint of effort, with substitutes and ersatz materials, as well as new activities in new directions, the November, 1940, production index registered a loss of only 21%.

The unemployment problem appears to be assuming serious proportions, in spite of the fact that it was expected by German sources that about 50,000 Danish workers would be "soon" employed in Germany. It would seem that these workmen are allowed to send part of their earnings back for the support of their families, but that this is accomplished by the German authorities requesting those of Denmark

to pay the amount and charge it to the German account.

Denmark is having her full share of rationing of food, clothing, gas, electricity and fuel. Wool and cotton garments as well as underclothing are unobtainable. There is a scarcity of certain vegetable seeds. Hot water for bathing is virtually a prohibited luxury, since the fuel allowance for heating and cooking is only 20% of normal. Long distance transportation has been reduced to a minimum, not only because of restrictions on the use of oil, gas and fuel, etc., but also because of the reduced ferry service between the islands. For example, there is only one ferry a day open to passengers, in each direction, between the island of Zealand, on which Copenhagen—a city of 1,000,000 inhabitants—is situated, and Fuen, the large island lying between Zealand and the biggest part of Denmark—the peninsula of Jutland. The shortage of railroad rolling stock is also serious, due to the difficulty of securing the return of freight cars sent to Germany with goods.

The Danes are facing the manifold problems presented them in ever mounting proportions with courage and resource. A small people, but homogeneously composed, they have had a long record. Their first king, recognized by history as a somewhat shadowy figure, but known to have founded a dynasty, died about 936. In the very old days they had a bad name for ferocity, and the appeal in the ancient litanies of western Europe, "A furore Normannorum libera nos," was intended to apply to them. It seems probable, however, that they were merely mass immigrants seeking refuge from floods and famine and reacted only in kind to the demonstrations of inhospitality with which they were confronted by the inhabitants of sunnier climes, who knew no quota systems, though there was then plenty of room for all concerned. At any rate, when given a chance they soon proved themselves capable of assimilating culture, and contributed to it. For instance, social and political stability was the outstanding characteristic of the Danish groups originally established in England. They originated the jury system.

In the last 100 years or so the Danes have repeatedly demonstrated against difficulties which would have daunted most peoples, such a high degree of resource, energy, tenacity of purpose, technical ability, social maturity, organizing and cooperative powers—always within the democratic process—as to merit as high a place as any people among the most effective and soundest civilizations in the world. It is hard, if not impossible, to jar them off balance. The prosperity they had obtained was due to their producing goods of excellent quality, rendering useful service and dealing fairly and rationally among themselves and with the rest of the world.

Observations

—By Bundy

Restoration.—A few months ago we read this significant United Press news item: "The French government annulled a 39 year old law forbidding members of religious orders to organize for teaching or other purposes without specific approval by the state." We wonder if Germany has anything to do with this order. We noted that at about the same time Free Masonry was outlawed and this order has long been denounced vehemently by Hitler in his book "Mein Kampf." Sometimes we wonder why even democracies should allow half pagan religions to flourish alongside the christian churches. Can governments endure when they are divided in their loyalties to different God's?

Niemoller.—Some time ago newspapers carried the astonishing information that Martin Niemoller had become a Roman Catholic and that he was about to be set free.

Unless Roman Catholicism has taken advantage of the weakened mental and physical state of Niemoller I can by no stretch of imagination conceive him making a compromise with an institution that has sanctified the swords of a Mussolini and Franco. In his last sermon in the Dahlem church in Berlin N. said: "We have no more thought of using our own powers to escape the arm of the authorities than had the apostles of old. But we are no more ready than they were to keep silence at man's behest when God commands us to speak. For it is and must remain the case that we must obey God rather than man." pp. 222-223 "Here Stand I."

Later we have been informed that the newspapers had stretched the matter and that perhaps a well known institution was attempting to begin a hasty propaganda. We could hardly believe that a man even in a confused mental state, such as could be the case in a man who has stood both mental and physical abuse for a long time, could have forgotten the words spoken when he said: "In the cross the ear of faith finds joy and comfort."

God, A Dictator.—God is not a dictator in the sense that He will force us to save ourselves. But in another sense He is a dictator. He says that there is only one way for man to be saved. There is only one set of moral and cosmic laws. Disregard them and we hear God saying: "I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, punishing children for the sins of their fathers, punishing those who hate me down to the third and the fourth generation, but showing kindness to thousands of those who love and obey my orders." (Mof-fat).

People living under a democratic government have no more liberty to break these laws than have the people living under a totalitarian government.

District Meeting in California Pasadena March 28-30

Ansgar congregation in Pasadena invited all members and friends of our work to a district meeting to be held in the church there March 28-30, inclusive.

We begin Friday night at 8:00 with a service of worship. The president of our synod, Rev. Alfred Jensen, will participate in the meeting, as well as the pastors of the district.

Please register with Rev. J.K. Jensen, 199 So. Sierra Madre Blvd., as soon as possible.

Jens Kr. Jensen **Enok Mortensen**
Local Minister District President

Missionary Dagmar Miller's Itinerary in Iowa, District 4

Newell, March 23.

Moorhead, March 25.

Des Moines, April 15.

Kimballton, April 18.

Oak Hill and Exira, April 20.

Waterloo, May 6.

Fredsville, May 7.

Cedar Falls, May 8.

Svend Kjær, Dist. Pres.

OUR CHURCH

Mrs. Jeppe Jensen Jørgensen, Troy, N. Y., observed her 100th birthday anniversary on February 26th. She has through many years been a faithful member of the Danish Lutheran Church in Troy. Consequently the members of the Troy church had arranged a very fitting birthday party for Mrs. Jørgensen in the church parlors. Greetings were read from President Roosevelt, Governor Lehman and many others. The mayor of Troy presented a bouquet of roses. Many old friends greeted Mrs. Jørgensen on the occasion.

The Luther Memorial Church in Des Moines, Iowa, has recently had a beautiful model of a ship suspended from the ceiling in the center of the church. The ship has been named "Hjemad".

Charles Terrell, theological student at Grand View College will preach in the church at Clinton, Iowa, Sunday, March 23rd. Rev. A.C. Kildegaard will preach in the Racine church on that Sunday.

Dr. Joseph Simon of Vienna, Austria, is on a lecture tour in many of our churches here in the mid-west. He is of Jewish descent and consequently had to flee from Austria when the Nazis marched into his country. He fled to Denmark where he previously had spent some time after the first world war. When the Nazis marched into Denmark he was again compelled to make his exit although he loves the

Danish people, and he was recognized by them as a scholar and was at the time serving as a teacher at the Askov Folk School. We heartily recommend his lectures to all our readers.

Mrs. Else Aaberg, wife of Rev. J. C. Aaberg, Minneapolis, died Monday, March 17th at the Fairview hospital; funeral services were held Thursday, March 20th. Mrs. Aaberg had recently consulted specialists at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

Ronald Jespersen, a senior in the theological class at G.V.C. will fill the pulpit at Kimballton, Iowa, on Sunday, March 23rd, in the absence of Rev. Alfred Jensen, who is in California on a lecture tour.

Corrections: We apologize for the error in the last issue in the invitation to the 65th Anniversary in Dwight, Ill. Rev. Aaberg's name was badly misspelled. It may be well at this time to ask contributors to our paper to write as plainly as possible. And whenever it is possible to submit manuscripts in typewriting and preferably double-spaced.

Another mistake appeared in Dr. Ernest D. Nielsen's article. The printer had dropped a line from the second sentence in the article. It should read: "I am not thinking of the respectable sinners among the Pharisees and scribes and their modern contemporaries, but of the sinners whose sins are unmistakably clear to themselves."

NEWS BRIEFS

Gutzon Borglum, the well known Danish-American sculptor, died March 6th in a Chicago hospital. He had been ill but a short time. Mr. Borglum has given most of his time the past 14 years to the greatest of all his sculptor projects, the Rushmore Memorial in the Black Hills in South Dakota. Reports are that Mr. Borglum had completed the faces of the four presidents, Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt, when he left the project on February 1st. His son, Lincoln Borglum, who has been his assistant, will complete the project.

The outstanding sport event at Grand View College each year is the annual basketball game with Dana College, Blair, Nebr. and the rivalry between the two schools is keen. The game was played lately at G.V.C. and the G.V.C. boys won by a substantial score.

A new Religious Journal which will discuss the responsibilities of Christians in the present critical world situation is now being published by Prof. Reinhold Niebuhr. The paper, "Christianity and Crisis" will be is-

sued twice monthly. Yearly subscription rate, \$1.50.

Eighty-two of the most prominent religious leaders in the United States have signed a joint statement supporting ex-President Herbert Hoover's plan for feeding the starving small democracies in Europe. Never has a more representative group of American clergymen united in expressing an opinion concerning a humanitarian crisis.

Norway: The following reports on the Church situation in Norway were issued in Stockholm on February 16: The tension between the Quisling government and the Church seems to be taking a sharper form. A week ago on Sunday, police headquarters issued a decree forbidding the reading from the pulpit of a pastoral letter sent out by all the Bishops. A number of subordinate members of the police headquarters omitted, however, to pass this decree in to the local police officials, so that the letter was after all read in a number of Churches. A decree was also issued whereby all religious services in Churches and mission buildings were placed under the supervision of the police together with the Hirden (the youth organization of the Quisling party.) The pastoral letter of the Bishops begins by pointing out the growing disquiet with which the clergy and religious leaders of the country have observed the development of the political situation in the country towards violence and anarchy. "Frankly and fearlessly the Church must take action against happenings in the national life which are in contradiction with the doctrine of the Saviour. It is our duty to declare plainly that what is now happening in Norway is not in harmony with the Christian faith and Christian doctrine." The missionary societies, the Salvation Army, and other free religious organizations have in a joint declaration declared that they support the action of the Bishops. The Joint Christian Council of the various Churches and religious groups which was formed last autumn has called Christian people in a circular distributed throughout the whole country to stand fast together in this hour of Norway's trial, in which an immense attack against Christian convictions is being prepared. It is also announced that the well-known Christian author Ronal Fangen is still in prison.

Earlier reports that Dr. Kagawa has retired from public life have not been confirmed. The National Christian Council Bulletin of Japan of January 1941 writes that "during the months of November and December Dr. Kagawa was engaged in special meetings in connection with Churches in the Osaka-Kobe area . . . His other meetings were majored on re-vitalizing the faith of the Christians and fortifying them against this day of difficulties. From January 12 to March 10 Dr.

Kagawa, as spear-head of the Nation Wide United Evangelistic Movement, will conduct a series of meetings in 20 of the Churches of Osaka. After that he is scheduled to leave for Formosa and will spend the remainder of March in special campaigns in the chief cities and centers of that region."

Contributions to the Santal Mission

General Budget

Eng. S. S. Offerings, Tyler, Minn., \$30.76; Eng. S. S. Mission Boxes, Tyler, Minn., 30.29; Danish S. S. Mission Boxes, Tyler, Minn., 11.31; Mrs. L. Henningsen, Solvang, Calif., 2.00; Johanne Lundsted, Westwood, N. J., 5.00; Dan. Ladies' Aid Mission Boxes, Grayling, Mich., 12.04; Dan. Ladies' Aid Mission Boxes, Askov, Minn., 1.76; Our Savior S. S., Omaha, Nebr., 30.00;

G.V.C. Students' Christmas gifts, Des Moines, Iowa, 15.25; Mrs. Sondergaard Mission Box, Dwight, Ill., 1.80; Dan. Ladies Aid, Wilbur, Wash., 15.00; St. John's Ladies' Aid, Hampton, Iowa, 7.00; Askov Ladies' Aid, Askov, Minn.,

10.56; Kirsten Paulsen, Chicago, 25.00; Mrs. Ottomine Schack, Chicago, 1.00; Alice Jensen, Minneapolis, Minn., 3.00; Kronberg Y. P. Society, Marquette Nebr., 5.00; Dan. Luth. Congr., Dwight, Ill., 30.09; Y. P. Mission Society, Lisbon, Ill., 5.40.

Chris Riber, Dwight, Ill., 50.00; Mrs. J. C. Evers, Clinton, Iowa, 5.00; St. John's Congr., Clinton, Iowa, 33.00; St. John's Ladies' Aid, Clinton, Iowa, 12.36; St. John's S. S., Clinton, Iowa, 4.76; Bethania Congr., Racine, Wis., 10.00; Bethania Congr. S. S., Racine, Wis., 12.80; St. Stephan's Congr., Chicago, 18.00; Trinity Congr., Chicago, 14.35; Dan. Luth. Congr., Gardener, Ill., 5.00; Fox River Ladies' Aid, Newark, Ill., 20.16; Anonymous, 20.00.

In memory of James Ibsen, Viborg, So. Dak., Mr. and Mrs. Jens Ibsen, Dooley, Mont., 5.00.

Support of Children

Bethania Ladies' Aid, Ringsted, Ia., 10.00; Dan. Luth. Ladies' Aid, Dwight, Ill., 25.00; total \$487.69; total since Jan. 1, 1941, \$1,348.68.

Great is the need in India.

Acknowledged with sincerest thanks.

Dagmar Miller,
Hampton, Iowa.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER

In order to accomplish our goal of "A Church Paper in Every Home" we are sponsoring a spring drive for new subscriptions to Lutheran Tidings.

Until May 10 we are making this unusually low offer for one year for new subscriptions.

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CONTINUED PROGRESS!

* HIGHLIGHTS OF 1940 FINANCIAL STATEMENT *

Gain in Life Insurance in Force \$ 5,174,741.00
Gain in Assets 1,414,525.07

Paid to Policy Owners in 1940

For Death Claims \$213,754.00
To Living Policy Owners 517,523.68

Total Paid in 1940 \$731,277.68

Benefits Paid Since Organization \$ 5,974,294.52
Total Life Insurance in Force 74,888,463.00

Ratio of Assets to Liabilities 111.31% Ratio of Actual to Expected Mortality 28.03%
Net Rate of Interest Earned 4.05%

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