

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

FEBRUARY, 1954

THE REGISTER.

Baptisms.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

Kenneth John Joss, 2 Main Street.

Douglas Blair Catton, 2 Main Street.

Deaths.

"Christ, the first fruits of them that are asleep."

Dr. Robert D. Forrest, M.B., Ch.B., 1 Craignethan Road, Whitecraigs.

Elsbeth Katherine Anderson, The Craggan, Ayr Road.

John Forbes, 4 Ashtree Grove.

CAN WE RISE TO IT ?

On the first Sunday of 1954, and just before announcing the text for the morning sermon, Mr. Mackay made every one sit up and take notice when he quoted from the lesson, 1st Timothy, 6th chapter, "We brought nothing into the world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out." The discourse which followed was helpful and searching, and no excuse is made for again bringing it to attention.

The text, "O, Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust." Paul in this 6th chapter is giving advice to Timothy, his deputy in Ephesus, and counselling him how to instruct slaves. There would be all classes of the community in the Church there and it would be a wonderful experience for a slave to come into Christian fellowship and be treated with affection and regarded as of real value in the sight of God. He must not, however, become restive in his social conditions. It took many centuries before, under the influence of Christianity, slavery was abolished. Timothy is enjoined by the Apostle to tell the slave to submit to his economic state and render the best service that he can to the Glory of God. It is so in our own life. We do not find the ideal conditions that we would desire in the world, or even in the Church. Far from it. We must do the best that we can in the circumstances. "Let as many as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and the doctrine be not blasphemed." Alfred Tennyson, the poet, was overwhelmed with grief at the death of Arthur Hallam, his bosom friend. One day he heard the Voice of God calling him to rise out of his sorrow and do his best in life. He wrote in that hour his finest poem, "In Memoriam."

"Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring happy bells across the snow.
The year is going, let him go,
Ring out the false, ring in the true."

In the next verse Paul portrays the same situation of slavery with a slight difference. Suppose both the slave and his master are members of the same Christian Church. They worship together. They partake at the same table the Sacrament of Christ's Death. Such a slave might be tempted to take advantage of the relationship and not render such diligent service. His master is forgiving and generous, as a Christian should be. "And they that have believing masters let them not despise them because they are brethren." We live in a world where the sense of responsibility is not so strong as it was, and where men, alas, take an advantage where they can do so. Such, however, should not be the case with Christians. The Church is the leaven that is to leaven the whole lump, and must set an example, refusing to take any unfair advantage in life.

That brings Paul to speak of good and bad teachers in the Church. The good teacher is one who brings before men Jesus Christ and His words. The bad teacher one who spends his time arguing. That again leads Paul to speak of Timothy's audience especially those outwith the Church. The heathen would regard religion as something that should bring material gain. It is here that Paul brings in the text—"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we can carry nothing out"—a humbling as well as a challenging thought. He goes on to say that the love of money is the root of all evil, not money but the love of it. Then he turns to Timothy and addresses him as a man of God, enjoins him to tell these things. He is a little afraid that Timothy will fail in his duty. "I charge you, before God who quickeneth all things." God will be at his side to strengthen him. "And Christ who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession." As Christ stood fearlessly before the Roman Governor, so must we stand bravely before the world and witness for God in Christ. A sacred trust had been given to Timothy. He had been made Bishop of Ephesus. Even so, God has given to us a sacred trust. There is some realm in life over which we have been placed. "O, Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy charge. Fight the beautiful fight of faith, lay hold on the life that is eternal." "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we can carry nothing out."

IN MEMORIAM.

Dr. Robert Forrest.

Dr. Robert Forrest died at a city infirmary on Saturday, the 2nd January. Those who were present at the service in the infirmary chapel and saw the large gathering that was present would realise the high esteem in which he was held. The Superintendent and the Matron as well as other doctors were present. He had served faithfully as an eye specialist for over thirty years in the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow. He was well known also in the district of Whitecraigs in this connection, and had a large number of private patients. Dr. Forrest belonged to a family which for some generations has been, and still is, connected with the medical profession. In recent years his health deteriorated and he was compelled to restrict his work. He was a man endowed with great mental ability, and one who had developed this to a high degree of proficiency in the delicate work of ophthalmics. In his private life he was a man of a very kindly nature, and possessed of a pawky sense of humour. To his widow we extend to-day our deepest sympathy. Herself a graduate of medicine, she entered sympathetically into all his work. "The people that sat in darkness have seen a great light. They that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

Mrs. Macfadyen.

The members of the congregation will be sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Macfadyen. She was the mother of the Rev. Godfrey D. Macfadyen, minister of this Church from 1923 until 1931, a man greatly beloved as preacher and pastor. It was only my privilege to meet him once when he came to conduct a preparatory service for Communion in Sherbrooke Church and came round to the house after it. I had, however, the pleasure of meeting his mother on several occasions, and found her to be a lady of a most gracious personality. She was a minister's wife and her husband served at Latheron in Caithness and at Aberchirder. One incident will serve to illustrate her life.

She retired latterly to Innellan and lived in a large house on the hill above. One day some children brought to her a sailor they had found wandering about and said to her that they had told him that Mrs. Macfadyen would put him up for the night. She took him in; gave him a hot meal; put her best sheets on the bed in her principal guest room. She did not lock the door either in his room or her own, although the house was full of valuable things. In the morning she gave him a good breakfast, and he thanked her for her great kindness. She found that he had never slept on the bed but on the floor, being afraid to soil the sheets. As he was going away she quietly said to him, "I felt that the Lord sent you." To her son and daughters—especially we remember Mrs. Martin who kept house here to her brother—we extend our deepest sympathy.

Elspeth Anderson.

Elspeth Anderson, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Anderson, the Craggan, Ayr Road, died on Saturday, 9th January, aged 15 years. There is something very poignant about the death of one so young. Words are very poor vehicles to express the deep sympathy that has filled the heart of the whole congregation during these months and weeks. We cannot understand these dispensations of God; and there is no use trying to do so: one day we shall know even as also we are known.

In a very real way Elspeth was prepared to be with Christ in a degree remarkable for her years. She was older than her age, and filled with a truly beautiful spirit. Her thoughtfulness for others was, in such a young girl, something to make one marvel. Her unselfishness shone like a star with increasing brightness as the shadows deepened in her illness. Her sick bed became a hallowed place where she ministered to those around her. She taught us in her short but beautiful life that God is love, and that he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. As Christ completed in shortest years His divinest task, so in her station it may be said of her.

We believe that there was mercy mingled with this cup of gall. It was a constant fear that she might have become blind. In the normal course of her illness it might well have been so, but the fear was graciously disappointed. Nor did she suffer any pain. When one on New Year's morning said that he was certain that this one would be happier than the last she replied, with almost a mild rebuke, "but I have never been unhappy." It was a most thoughtful action on the part of the Girl Guides to write a letter in turn to her every week. To her father and mother, and Alastair, and also her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Macduff, who occupied such a large place in her affection, we offer our deepest sympathy.

"He liveth long who liveth well;
All other life is short and vain;
He liveth longest who can tell
Of living most for heavenly gain."

Mr. John Forbes.

Mr. John Forbes, 4 Ashtree Grove, died on Friday, 22nd January, in his 65th year. A native of Banff, he came to Aberdeen when his early years were passed. He became a master joiner and later was appointed foreman of a large building contracting firm. He was present at the erection of Newton Place Building in the Main Street, Hazeldene House and Faside. He was a man endowed with an alert mind, and also by a very kindly nature.

Mrs. Forbes is a very gracious lady who has taken a keen interest in the Old Folk's Association of the district. To her and her family we extend at this time our deepest sympathy.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

A successful session with an improvement in attendances is very encouraging.

The Work Party got busy in October, and an appeal was made to members to contribute some article of clothing or toys for the Christmas Box which is sent to Hamburg to the Orphanage for Jewish children. The response was as splendid as in past years, and by the end of November a fine box was packed and sent off, in the hope that it would arrive in good time for Christmas.

We had one film night in November which showed us how dogs are chosen and trained to be Guides for the Blind. It was a most interesting film but unfortunately it was very short, which was disappointing.

The meeting on 9th November was one for Bible Study. Miss Watt, one of our own members, very ably led us in our study, and all felt that it is good to get together from time to time for this purpose. It binds the members closer together in a deeper fellowship and it is profitable for us to learn more of our Bible.

Miss Sheila Calder is a well-known figure in Guild circles, and we were fortunate in having her as our next speaker. Miss Calder is a fluent speaker and inspires reverence and great interest in her audience. She spoke of our duty to the Church as Guildswomen and put some very searching questions to us. Every one felt inspired and helped by Miss Calder's address.

On 30th November Mrs. Thom gave us a very interesting talk on some of her impressions of life in Australia. In imagination we travelled far that night, and we were very grateful to Mrs. Thom for a most interesting evening.

7th December was Members' Night, when the main business was the giving of reports by the members of the various committees in Guild work.

Mrs. Buchanan, the President of the South-West Council, was our guest on 14th December and she gave us a very helpful talk about the aims and the wider scope of the work of the Woman's Guild. With her first-hand knowledge of how the work is planned and shared out, among the Councils and Branches, Mrs. Buchanan made us realise what an opportunity was ours to play an important part in our Guild, by being really interested and by keeping ourselves well-informed about all that is taking place. By her gracious manner and her kindly, friendly talk she won us all over and we spent a very enjoyable evening.

After a break for Christmas and New Year the new session of the Guild was opened with a Work Party. This session we are working for the Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill and the response to an appeal for workers was very encouraging and gratifying.

On 18th January we had a most enjoyable evening when Rev. Stanley C. Munro gave us an Exhibition of Pictures in colour taken by himself on a journey from Glasgow to London at the time of the Coronation. The slides were most beautiful and Mr. Munro finished by giving us a coloured film of scenes at the Coronation.

A delightful feature was the undercurrent of humour which enlivened the running commentary with which we were regaled.

The meeting was an open one for men and women.

THE CHOIR.

It can be said that the Choir's reputation is growing, but there is a great need for more members. What a difference it would make should there be other two tenors and a few more sopranos. It would be a great incentive to expand quickly the repertory of first-class church music, which the Choir is slowly building up. The Organist is expected to perform his duties in a satisfactory manner. It is surely the duty of the membership to try to influence all whom they know to be musical to rally to our Organist's aid and thereby assist with the Church Praise and give him every encouragement and assistance.