

34TH YEAR

CHRISTIAN NATION

"**RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION.**"

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THE MARCH OF EVENTS.

For the Evangelization of Russia

A CALL has been issued for a Conference on Behalf of Russia, contemplating the devising of plans for the evangelization of the millions of people in that immense territory. The conference is to be held in the city of Chicago, at the Moody Tabernacle, from June 24 to June 28. A long list of names is appended to the call, indicating that earnest and prominent leaders in the Christian church are fathering the movement. The need is great and pressing. The proposal of those who issue the call is wise and statesmanlike in its grasp of conditions and its foresight to provide for emergencies. The call for the conference reads:

To the Lord's People Everywhere:

The Revolution in Russia has resulted in throwing open to the Gospel the largest country, with its largest population of white people in the world. There are 182,000,000 people in Russia, and yet there are not as many Evangelical workers there as in the city of Chicago alone. Many are eagerly waiting for the Gospel. When recently one of the leaders of the "Dom Evangelia" Mission in Petrograd, immediately after returning from Siberia, went with his choir and workers to the large square directly in front of the Winter palace, and conducted for the first time in the existence of that city an open air gospel service, large numbers of men and women assembled. After the message was delivered the people turned to the preacher and said: "Where have you been so long, and why did you not tell us this before?" "I was in Siberia," was the reply.

Never since the beginning of Christianity has such an immense population of our own white people become accessible to Missionary Enterprise. Our evangelization plan must embrace not only the hundred million native Russians, but also the seven million Jews, the twenty million Poles, the thirty million Ukrainians, millions of Mohammedans (Tartars, Kurds, Kirghiz, etc.), Armenians, Roumanians and Greeks, and besides these the Bulgarians, Servians, Croa-

tians, Montenegrins and other related Slavonic peoples.

The propaganda of Atheism and Materialism is already assuming awful proportions. There is no time to lose. The Greek Orthodox Church is rapidly losing its grip upon the hearts of the people, and before long large masses of simple religiously inclined Russians may be led astray into complete infidelity. Millions of the people are looking for something different. What is it to be? Atheism, or the Gospèl? If the latter, then, because of existing conditions in Europe, *America must assume chief responsibility* for meeting the need, else this greatest Missionary Opportunity of the Centuries may be turned into the most abysmal failure.

The greatest immediate need is the printing and circulating of at least a million copies of the Russian Bible, three million copies of the New Testament and a large supply of the very best Russian Evangelical Literature. Then several hundred Evangelists, Colporteurs and Christian Workers must be trained and equipped for service in Russia. Already one hundred Russians in America have offered themselves for soul-saving service in their native land and are now in training, and there are also hundreds of converted and educated men in Russia who have suffered for their faith and who now need to be rallied and encouraged.

As a very vital factor in the realization of a comprehensive Evangelization plan for Russia we must immediately undertake the thorough Evangelization of the Russian and other Slavonic people in our own country and Canada in order that they in great numbers, being converted and trained here, may return to their native lands fully equipped for effective service. Last but not least the united prayers of God's people everywhere must be offered up in behalf of these long neglected multitudes.

We feel that the time has now come for the assembling of Evangelical Leaders and those whose hearts are moved for a general meeting of prayer and conference. God seems to be leading very definitely in this direction. Accordingly we, the undersigned,

send out this invitation to all who are stirred by the Spirit of God to assemble for the First General Conference in behalf of the Evangelization of Russia to be held from June 24 to June 28 in the City of Chicago, at the Moody Tabernacle, corner North avenue and North Clark street.

Ministers and friends who find it impossible to attend, but who are moved to have some part in this work, are urged to arrange special prayer services during the conference week, and all Evangelical Ministers are requested to preach special Missionary Sermons on "Russian Mission Sunday," June 23. Material of interest in connection with the Evangelization of Russia will be sent to ministers, Sabbath School superintendents and Bible-class leaders upon application.

Any friends unable to attend, but whose hearts are stirred to take some financial part in this work, can send their gifts to Mr. A. M. Johnson (president of the National Life Insurance Company of the U. S. A.), the treasurer of the Conference, 29 South La-Salle street, Chicago, Ill.

All inquiries and communications regarding the Conference should be addressed to Rev. Jesse W. Brooks (superintendent of the Chicago Tract Society), chairman Conference Executive Committee, 440 South Dearborn street, Chicago, Ill.

"Covenanters and the War"

WE expect to publish an article on "Covenanters and the War" next week, that will include a letter from Rev. Wm. Dick, M.A., editor of *The Covenanter*, Belfast, written on April 2, 1918, giving all the references of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod in Ireland to the question of enlistment of Covenanters in the Army and Navy; a letter from Rev. A. C. Gregg, B.D., editor of *The Reformed Presbyterian Witness*, Loanhead, Edinburgh, written on April 20, 1918, giving the action of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod in Scotland on the military oath; and other material of interest to the Church.

The Last, Mighty Conflict

BY REV. J. C. M'FEETERS, D.D.

The Latter-day Covenant is clearly outlined in prophecy. The Church, by this notable transaction, will prepare for the service and sacrifice immediately confronting her. Out of the Covenant other events of extraordinary interest will arise. Moral issues, important and appalling, will succeed each other with terrific momentum until the final crisis is reached.

This information is furnished by the Apocalypse. The Apocalypse is God's telescope, bringing the distant into view. Many blink at the telescope, but never look through it. However, the Holy Spirit says, "Blessed is he that readeth the words of this prophecy." The Book of Revelation gives a mountain-top view of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The paragraph on Armageddon reflects the present condition of the world as a mirror reflects one's face. Who will mistake the war's place in prophecy while reading Revelation? Surely this blood-bath of the nations is the winepress of the wrath of God.

The storm of war will subside, and freedom will be saved. Autocratic power will have received its death stroke, and will perish from the earth. Babylon, the Great, the capital seat of all autocracy, will be utterly destroyed. Babylon, the Mystery, including imperialism, militarism, papacy, and the whole progeny of illegitimate power, will be annihilated. The world will be emancipated from tyranny, and the human mind exalted to its native sovereignty. "They shall hate Babylon, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire."

The great sacrifice of blood, now flooding the altar of liberty, will be generously rewarded. The rights of all people will be protected and guaranteed, the whole race will be ameliorated. From the moral viewpoint the war will be a success. The nations will be co-ordinated in government, and united in a universal league. The ten kings will be of "one mind."

The nations, however, will fail to reach the real objective; peace with God, and right relation with Jesus Christ. Their regime will still be secular; they will be governed by principles merely humanitarian. The authority of Jesus Christ will not be recognized; his rights as king will be negated, and his place in civil government refused. "The rulers will give their power and strength unto the beast." The animal will yet be dominant in the administration of law; no conscience toward God; no respect for Jesus Christ. Civic rectitude will be far from true righteousness. The abyss between the national code and the law of God will be deep and wide.

Jesus Christ is the standard which God has set up for nations; to this standard they must come. The nations will fail to reach this ultimate in the war; therefore the war will be a failure, an unpardonable failure. The fight will be on again; the next time will be worse; the crisis of all crises will then be upon the world.

The Latter-day Covenant will prepare the emergency. The Church, by her marriage-covenant, will gloriously and heroically exalt Jesus Christ, her King, in the eyes of the world. This new attitude of loyalty will be the beginning of a great revival. True loyalty prepares for the immeasurable outpouring of the Holy Spirit; showers, open flood-gates, rising rivers overflowing their banks. When Jesus is exalted the Holy Spirit will do his greatest work. "Out of the heart shall flow

rivers of water." Such will be the revival accompanying the Covenant. And what then?

The Covenanters, animated by the one great principle of the Covenant—the kingship of Jesus Christ—will urge his royal claims upon the world; will plead, entreat, remonstrate, fulminate, thunder the terrors of judgment, and reveal the wrath of God against sin. The kingship of Christ will be the lightning point of all truth and all testimony. His authority will be pressed upon public conscience with the vehemence, that knows no reserve of self or of sacrifice. The Church will assume her proper attitude in the presence of the Lord and of His enemies;—faithful at any cost. Then will she be effective, progressive and victorious; she will be as "terrible as an army with banners." Seldom has the Church been terrible in the world; but the day is at hand.

The advocacy of Christ's kingship, by a Church fired with love for her King and zeal for His cause, will rapidly create sentiment. The world will become terribly agitated. The reign of Christ will be the dominant thought everywhere. Then will the Lord Jesus appear, in public confidence, as the mighty Conqueror. "Behold, a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True; and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." How vivid the representation of the triumphant Warrior! Thus will the Latter-day Covenanters, by bold and vigorous testimony, bring the Lord Jesus Christ into view, making him prominent in the presence of an astonished world and antagonistic nations.

The testimony of the Church will be verified by providence. The King will vindicate His heralds by His own military operations. Behold Him going forth in terrible majesty. He wields a sword, and with it smites the nations; He rules them with a rod of iron, and breaks them into shivers; He is clothed with a vesture dipped in blood; the letters of gold on His sash read, King of Kings and Lord of Lords; He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. Fearful demonstrations of God's anger against sin will corroborate the testimony of the Covenanters.

Anger against sin! What sin? There is only one sin in Gospel lands; the denial of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the root, the sum, the climax of all guilt, where shines the light. "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin." No sin draws the lightning like that of denying Christ. Jesus has a rightful place in the government of nations; His exclusion means their perdition.

The European nations have had their Gospel day. The Gospel is God's imperial message: "Kiss the Son; Honor the King; Confess His Name; Obey His Law." They have persistently refused; therefore the light has gone out; the sun is turned into darkness, and the moon into blood; Aceldama is now the name of Europe. And all the blood now flowing in torrents will not wash away the incorrigibility nor teach the nations to repent.

The rebellion against Jesus Christ will continue after the war. Appalling thought! Scarcely credible! And the rebellion after the holocaust will be more than rebellion. If such a sacrifice of blood and treasure results not in repentance, it will result in defiance.

The sin, however, will yet be wiped out. The cost is no question with God. God spared not His own Son, and Jesus Christ spared not His own life, in the fight against sin; nor will they spare any thing needed to destroy the defiant rebellion now in operation against the royal

Son of God. Righteousness must be sustained by the Almighty, and attained by the nations, at any sacrifice. Better that civilization perish, than that Christ, the King, be ruled out of civilization.

The Covenant people will keep close to Jesus Christ in His controversy with the nations. They will advocate His rights with aggressive spirit; will display the nerve of soldiers; will mercilessly interpret divine judgments. Their testimony will turn into impeachment, and impeachment into a verdict of guilt.

The Covenanters will meet the usual reward for their heroic services—persecution. Then will be days of great tribulation. The persecution will develop into a diabolical attempt to extirpate the Church, and blot out the Name of Jesus from under heaven. "And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army." The last mighty conflict will be a war against Christianity. The destruction of the Church has ever been the devil's ultimate objective.

The seer has spared us the shock of the battle; but he has given a view of the field after the fray. The broad area is covered with the slain. Here lie kings in their blood-soaked robes; generals in crimsoned uniform; veterans decorated for valor on many fields; horsemen beside their fallen horses; regiments, battalions, armies, great multitudes, mingled and mangled beyond recognition. Here earth has witnessed her most tragic drama Golgotha excepted.

This is the theater where death has had his most voluptuous dance, keeping step to the music of shrieks, and curses, and groans, arising from these lips, now so silent and pale; here he has had his most gluttonous orgy, drinking the warm, red streams that flowed from these gaping wounds.

But whence the overthrow of the hostile army? One of the prophets has furnished the information. He exclaims, "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat; for there will I sit to judge all the nations." King Jehoshaphat led forth his army to meet a powerful host, that attempted to invade and destroy his kingdom. But ere he had formed his battle-line, an unaccountable mania seized the enemy, and they slaughtered each other. As the battle of Megiddo is the Scriptural type of Armageddon, so the Valley of Jehoshaphat is evidently the type of the last crucial conflict on earth.

The beast and the false prophet are taken, and cast into the Lake of Fire; secular government, the bane of the nations, and false religion the blight of the world, disappear forever. The devil, too, is taken, and sentenced to a term of 1,000 years in the darkest dungeon.

The victory is decisive; Jesus Christ is glorified; the world is glad; the millennium begins.

"And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia; for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."

God's goodness and kindness never appear so rich and attractive as when seen in contrast with the ingratitude and wickedness of man; and man's sin and iniquity never appear so black and hateful as when set over against the mercy and grace of God.