

1 Chron. 16; 31, 34.

"The Lord reigneth. O, give thanks
unto the Lord"

Another Thanksgiving day
has come. Another year
has gone. We stand at the
close of the largest harvest
in the history of our country.
Every day has been filled full.
Some of have gathered
chaff, others good grain.
We have forgotten to a large
degree most of that which
filled our hearts and busied
our brain. Only one thought
it worth while to record
our every act and thought.

"O give thanks unto the Lord"

Probably nothing has been just as we planned. Many things were much better than we had hoped. Some things that we considered most precious and that seemed to be ours, fell from our hands and lie scattered by the pathway. Others lie still buried deep. These we will cherish and work to bring to life during the coming days of this new year. All things have worked together for our good & God's glory.

"O give thanks unto the Lord"

As is true every year, death has removed from our midst notable and needy men. The country lost a great statesman and friend in the death of ex-president Roosevelt. A man of action, fearless, unswerving and true to the highest ideals of real Christian Americanism. His articles written on nature, politics, science and history were always eagerly devoured. Had he chosen to live a less vigorous life he might have been in our midst today to tell us what to do to settle our industrial perils. One of America's greatest men was taken from us with the passing away of Roosevelt. He did good and has left a higher standard of civic responsibility for the rest of us to imitate.

The Christian world has also been bereaved of one of its sweetest evangelists, Dr. J. W. Chapman, who also died young. From one end of the British Empire to the other, Dr. Chapman went in search of souls. The United States could not hold him. He was looked upon as the spiritual director of the New Era movement in our church and in his true desire to further that work was he stricken down. A great prophet has thus finished his work and has left millions of servants richer and fuller because of his unstinted

and selfsacrificing service to the Lord. Let us thank the Lord today for the lives of these and many more just as strong but whose service was rendered in less conspicuous lights, men and women all over our land who fought bravely and won great victories on the battle fields, in the home and on the mission fields, whose names are not known to others than their loved ones but who are the real backbone of our liberties. The leader inspires but the battles are fought by just ordinary men and women.

As we review our past years, for this is the first Thanksgiving sermon that I ever had the pleasure of giving in the Institute, we note that there were times when clouds and darkness were gathered about us. The sensations were unpleasant for we are human but the joy was unbounded because the touch of the black clouds of darkness only gave us a sense of the real presence of our Lord. Clouds are not permanent. His love is unchangeable. Thanks unto His name His smile has cleared the skies, turning the ^{fleeing} clouds into magnificently colored background, as they piled up one on another as they fell back.

There were days when it took courage to face and to attempt to do the things we had to do. Great opportunities for services

3.

opportunities for service have come to us and with them the great responsibilities that oftentimes kill those of weak faith. We have tried to evade some of our responsibilities, instead of shouldering them in Christ's strength. But in the main we have met them face to face and have had grace given us to discharge them, probably not as others might have done them but we have done our best, and His strength has made up for our weakness for which we are grateful. We have known during the seven years and more of struggle what it is to suffer want, to be reviled, to be persecuted by friends and by enemies. Our work for a long time was misunderstood. Our best and fullest purpose is still not understood by many. Most of us have had to live in shacks, and see our treasured keepsakes destroyed by the rain and moth. This time seems fast disappearing. We may reasonably hope for better things before another Thanksgiving Day comes. We all feel the better for having had to go thru the mill of hard times. The best of all during the first years has been the consciousness that our God was reigning, ruling and directing all our affairs towards the great end of service and His glory. And this same consciousness of the Lord's guiding hand, I trust, may all our days be our richest

inheritance. There may come gold and silver for fine buildings and better equipment. There will be a much larger faculty from year to year and a large body of students but the experience that is maintained in a constant, habitual joy of God's real presence with us, has been, is and shall ever be our greatest delight. We can never be turned aside from Christian service so long as we practice the consciousness of His presence with us. If God ceases to be our chief delight, the imitation of Christ our great purpose and the Holy Spirit our spiritual power, may the buildings, however costly, be thrown to the earth and the faculty scattered to the ends of the world. We can go on without building but we cannot go on without God. I see a deepening of the spiritual life in you all, and I feel it in my own heart. This is our greatest work, the deepening of our own spiritual resources. May the coming years continue to deepen and quicken us all in a higher, more unselfish, more Christlike living day by day. The Lord reigneth. O give thanks unto the Lord.

We have much to be thankful for today. The great world war has ended. Our boys are now at home. Many ~~impossible~~ fields. The hoped for peace is an

4.

event yet to be brought about. A world peace is impossible until the King of Peace comes. There are today more wars in progress than ever before in the history of the world. This is natural. After a few years the probability is that most of the differences will become adjusted and a calm of political life be assumed again. Our greatest national gratitude should be for prohibition. Germany's army devastated Belgium, wrecked many homes, and slew millions of men. But all this compared to the curse, the desolation and evil of rum is nothing. This diabolic evil has been checked and is to have no legal protection by our country. The destruction of men and women, the wrecking of thousands and hundreds of thousands of homes, this awful work of the greatest curse of humanity that has brought discord, fear and death into otherwise happy homes is no longer to do its dastardly work under the protection of law. It is at last forbidden, an outlaw. This blessing is enough in itself to demand a whole day of Thanksgiving.

Delivered from one evil another presents itself. Foreign labor deprived of its drink and drunken in prosperity he feels that he can dictate terms. The immediate future is filled with trouble for every

liberty loving American. It grieves to see how little these men of European birth can appreciate government like ours. They have entered our land, enjoyed its blessings of liberty and reaped prosperity. Now these same ignorant and misguided horde of foreigners are bent on doing all in their power to overthrow the principles under which they have been lifted out of misery. Coupled with this is a tendency in certain parts of our country on the part of the real native American to forget God and to leave Him out of all their thots. To get more riches seems to be their great aim. In the face of this predicament I have asked you to remember that the Lord reigneth

Undoubtedly we as a nation need to be brought to our senses. The man in whom the destinies of our country lie, needs to be not only clothed and fed but taught the fundamental principles of our government one of which is the fear of God and service to our fellow men. The Bible the foundation of our liberties and secret of our success and progress must become the fountain from which all inhabitants of our land drink. Our country, our school our own lives are facing great perils. Let us be thankful

that the Lord reigneth and all things will come out for good. O give thanks unto the Lord.