

APR 17 1907

The Newest Wave in Christian Thought

PERMANENT COLLECTION
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

At the great International Congregational Council, held in Boston, June 29—July 6, Dr. Charles E. Jefferson, Lyman Beecher lecturer at Yale, made one of the principal addresses, on "The Broad Horizon in Missionary Work." He began by saying, "I wish to fly over technicalities, denominations, races and entanglements, carrying you high enough to see the world-work of the church in its full dimensions. Our work is God's work, and Christ's work—to bring a lost world back to God, to get the mind of God into the mind of mankind, to build the will of God into the common life of all nations." Then, further on, he said, "Life from top to bottom is one. We cannot be Christians in our homes and pagans in our politics. The Golden Rule is for all nations. The Great Commandment is for all people."

This is what millions of men are thinking if they can only get some one to say it for them. Dr. Jefferson touched bed rock. "Is Christ divided?" Why should a man think for a minute that he can serve Christ in his home and Apollyon in politics? Yet there are myriads of Christians who are right at heart but who have never been led to consider the inherent obligation which rests upon them to carry their religion to the finger tips of social and civic life. Howbeit, when the mind of God gets into the mind of mankind, it will irradiate, we may be sure, in every direction, and the will of God will find expression in the common life of every nation. We have been neglecting the moral and spiritual welfare of the great corporate personality called the state. We have been leaving that to politicians. But politicians, since they are at least wise enough to know that a "kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation," have been satisfied to leave such delicate tasks as the extradition of demons to the tactics of Beelzebub. With what results we need

not stop to say. But it is certainly high time that the spirit, the essence and the principles of genuine Christianity should be carried through and past the individual, the home, and the church, right into the very heart of the state, so that the first purpose of both national and international assemblies of the world around shall be to honor Christ, and do his will "in earth as it is in heaven." "The Golden Rule is for all nations, the Great Commandment is for all people."

Nor is the other side of this vast problem being lost sight of. There is a movement on foot to get the teachings and love of our blessed Lord so thoroughly ingrained in the hearts of men that they will not only carry the elements of righteousness into every phase of political activity, but go on to complete the process by writing the Name which is above every name into our fundamental law. And what a splendid consummation that would be—Christ in the hearts of our citizens, one and all, their "hope of glory," and



then, as a consequence, a public profession of that stupendous fact in our Federal Constitution!

Is it all a dream? Very well, but everything of any moment in all the past has been little more than a feathery dream at the outset. Dreams of this description never vanish, never fade, always brighten, and finally, though oftentimes when least expected, pass on out into the realm of realization.

“Onward with ceaseless motion,
The life-stream flows to the ocean,
While we follow the tide, awake or asleep,
Till we see the dawn on Love’s great deep,
And the shadows melt and the soul is free,
The river of dreams has reached the sea.”

WITNESS COMMITTEE

119 Federal Street

Pittsburgh, Pa.

