

11 "That ye may all be one" John 17 ÷ 21 ÷ 22

The other day a young woman was giving her side of the problem of her forthcoming marriage. Her husband to be was a U. S. Citizen and his occupation was of such character that his bride, a Canadian, had to become a U. S. citizen before they were married. This required a special Act of Congress as well as detailed research into the bride's antecedents, forebears etc.

The girl was very loathe to give up her Canadian citizenship. To such an extent in fact that she had written rather a sharp letter to the State Department of the U. S. A. When the opportunity afforded she asked my opinion. At the time everyone was talking at once and I'm afraid my opinion was rather rough and off the cuff as to speak. Later I realized what I might have said so I sat down and wrote the young woman.

The gist of my letter is my address to you this morning.

II What are boundaries and what does citizenship mean.

Man is more than constitutions
Better not beneath the sod
Than be true to church and state
And doubly false to God. James Russell Lowell

The times in which we live and the speed of communications have literally wiped out physical boundaries. Air waves know no boundaries. Natural resources lie under them or over them. You and I if we have the means and our passports are only twenty four hours from the farthest spot on this globe. It matters more now just what citizens of this earth, this microscopic speck of the universe, we individually are than what citizens of any country we are whose boundaries are delineated by man.

A country can so enclose itself with boundaries that its people cease to realize that there are other peoples within a stone's throw that are equally entitled to their share of the earth and its resources and also living under conditions of restrictive boundaries.

TIF.

We live in an era of change and decay. Change in attitudes toward our fellow man brought about by the decay in the national life of peoples of many nations. And this change and this decay is no respecter of boundaries. Yet amid the breakdown of confidence in governments and change in attitudes of peoples within the boundaries of those governments a new growth can be discerned.

This growth is still very young. Like the fresh growth of a hardy plant to the casual observer, it is nothing more than a young shoot pushing its way through hard baked soil. But it's there and it is the growth of an idea or an ideal that must be nurtured if mankind is to survive our own self destructive tendencies. That it is taking place among our young people gives us hope.

The growth I speak of is the growth of the idea that the riches of life are not worth the getting, or the having, if it means that they are got by means of greedy oppressions, legalized stealing, the so called "well being" of one third of a society built upon the degradation of the other

IV two thirds. Work or position obtained by monetary power or political persuasion have little attraction for a generation begotten by an affluent society whose actions financially, ~~and~~ politically and socially seem to say "we wish you'd never been born!"

Here can be no brief held for those whose methods of destruction and decimation have brought horror and disgust to all peoples. Again this social upheaval knows no borders, ignores all citizenship, yet touches all the world's inhabitants. But there can and must be recognizance by an older generation that in a country of 26 million population with larger land area than the U.S.A., there must be reason in the attitude of so many of our youth when they say "what's the use?" "Why get an education?" "There are no jobs" Boundaries do not restrict thought and thought is being passed along every highway in Canada this summer. ~~The purveyors of this thought~~
So many of them They are just wandering around the world. They read of surplus foodstuffs yet nearly all are hungry. They read of other young people in other lands who starve alike. They share with

others of this kind what scraps of food, money & clothing they possess. They thumb-ride but never beg unless one would call thumbing a ride begging.

This movement is crossing frontiers, boundaries, both physical and social. So when a young woman asks what do you think about my giving up Canadian Citizenship for that of another country" I said, off the cuff, "I don't think you should be coerced into doing that, but it seems a choice between doing that or giving up the man you love!"

On reflection I realized that we are fast approaching a choice, all humanity on this globe, as to whether we will be bedevilled by boundaries with all the conflicting and constraining regulations or whether humanity the world over will use the world's natural resources wisely and well for the good of all the world's people as God ordained to Adam and as Christ admonished his disciples "that ye all be one." We are, God is and the world and all that therein is belongs to him.