

The Adventure of Living

The Barnacles of Life.

Those of us who have been lucky enough to get down by the sea may have had the opportunity of seeing some boats pulled up either in a dock or on the shore itself and men busily engaged in chipping off a hard crusty substance from the hull. Actually it is a form of sea life and can encrust a boat so thickly on the underside that her speed in the water is very much impeded so much so in some instances the speed and usefulness of the vessel is cut down by half.

Watching a boat being cleaned one morning the thought struck me that much of our life was like that boat. Well encrusted with barnacles. The thought was not original. The boat was drawn up in a dry dock on the Ptomac river and I had wandered down there early one morning to watch fruit being unloaded for the early morning market. My attention was drawn to other things, among them this boat being cleaned. An old man sitting on a pier piling offered a chance to pass the time of day and he explained to me much of the activity and life going on round the docks. Pointing to the boat being scrubbed free of barnacles he said "You've no idea how those critters can slow down the speed of the finest boat, and they keep piling on no matter what they do. Makes an awful lot of work but a boat sure sails free without 'em." Then this bit of philosophy came out. "Young fellow, a man can gather an awful lot of barnacles in his life and they sure do stick." I was not just sure how he meant that whether he was referring to the work of cleaning up a boat or whether he referred to life and lives in general. After passing years I am sure he meant the latter.

Barnacles we acquire.

Lack of Faith

Greed. - I want! Not have I earned.

Self Satisfaction. - Everything is well with me.

Falsehood. - These goods aren't up to much but advertising will take care of that.

Indifference to others. - Why should I worry about them. They never think of me like an idiot.

A mired boat will gather more barnacles than one on the sea. Lies up gathering barnacles.

*Life. An
Adventure*

A New Spirit in The Adventure of Living.

Anyone who is fond of reading can obtain plenty of material in whatever line of reading he fancies. The difficulty seems to be in sorting out the "isms" from the "doesms". In much of the material we read the difficulty seems to be to "relate" to something. It seems to be more and more difficult to "relate" to really useful work in a society that is demanding more wages for less hours of work and correspondingly less production of necessary services and goods of durable quality. Please note the durable quality. It has become almost a cardinal sin to build or make anything that will last, or outlast the generation that makes it. We are told that we face times of change, that things are changing so fast that we cannot keep up. In other words our markets get so saturated with goods that cannot be sold at a profit that it profits no longer to make them. So something is turned out and super-advertised to fill the vacuum for the next little while people continue to become bored with the very thought of surpluses and wonder whether the effort is worth while.

*Our Present
Prospect.*

Into this scene is being thrust a new idea and that idea is beginning to take hold of men's minds and imaginations. The idea is not new only the form in which we now recognize it is new. Humanity in all its forms has had it for the eons that it has taken man to develop to his present stature. It is the feeling that we are a part of Something or Someone outside ourselves. For centuries mankind has felt that this Mystery governs everything we do. The advent of Christ in the world fired men's imagination as never before. His death dampened that imagination briefly only to have it flare up stronger than ever after Jesus' resurrection. Then came Pentecost when the disciples received the Holy Spirit and went into the hostile world to fearlessly proclaim an Idea.

Mystery

In the chaos which we find ourselves in this so-called modern day we find the Idea still alive, not only alive but growing. In another Pentecost we are finding a New Spirit of Living. Slowly but surely mankind is finding that within his own incompetence to handle everyday problems that beset him he is turning more and more to Someone outside himself. A power unseen but ever present. In every phase of our work and living. As the latter becomes increasingly more complex so does That Power increasingly manifest itself.

*A New
Idea
Pentecost*

Science has provided us with so much to make our lives and tasks easier. To take the drudgery out of work, to make work more interesting, more worthwhile. In other words many of us find that the sense of achievement gives a new impetus and interest in the Adventure of Living. True we often

Science

become bored with our achievements. Could this be due to the fact that we selfishly keep the means to ourselves instead of sharing them with others in the Kingdom? We are promised that what we share will be multiplied in return that the bread that we cast upon the waters will return to us many fold. We have been afraid to practice that.

Slowly the idea takes hold that we must give ourselves with any gift. The Gift without the Giver is bare is not an idle cliché. Slowly the Idea comes to us that after all we are but stewards of our material possessions. That we should share those material goods of life with others who seem to do no work in this world, seems foreign to what our instincts tell us is just. But were those instincts not nurtured by centuries of scarcity when the family or tribe existed by sheer hard work and vigilance. When a few more mouths to feed might mean even death.

Men are beginning to look beneath the surface. They are not liking what they see but a few are facing up to the facts and the outcome is not being pleasant for anyone nor is any nation escaping. In men's minds is growing the Idea. Propelled by the achievements of science knowledge is coming that man no longer need suffer deprivation and ignomy at the hands of his fellow men due to his inability to obtain work. His methods of taking from society what society has withheld from him, may not be commendable, but at least affluent society as we recognize it has had to face the indisputable fact that it must share, or all perish; causing yet another civilization to disappear from this earth.

Through all this and difficult of discernment works the Mighty Spirit of God. Each individual is being questioned every day "Where do you stand?" "The God is Dead" men are not even worth listening to. Their assemblage of words may be impressive, their indictments not without basis of truth but God is not dead he is very much alive, keeping watch above his own. All he asks is that each one of us look to him and try to see his presence in every single aspect of our daily living. Each day he offers us a new Pentecost a chance to work with Him in the world to find with Him a New Spirit in the Adventure of Living.

Selfishness

The gift of ourselves

Restless Society Protesting

Individual questioning?

Indictments derived from man's deeds as evidenced in the world around us