

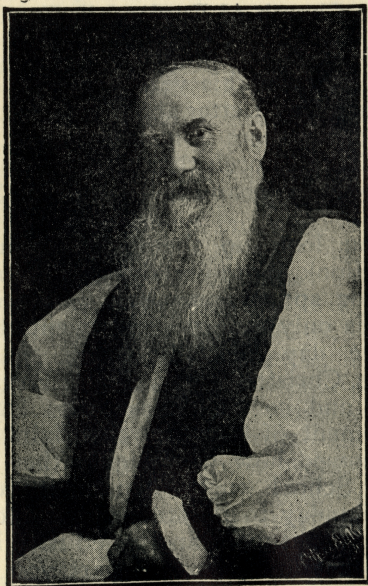
Children's Day

OCTOBER 20th, 1929

A Personal Letter to the Members of
Our Sunday Schools

from

The Primate of All Canada



General Board of Religious Education
of the Church of England in Canada

Church House, 604 Jarvis Street
Toronto 5

See Note on Last Page

Children's Day Letter from the Primate

Bishop's Court,
Winnipeg, Man.,

October, 1929.

To the Members of the Sunday Schools
of the Church of England in Canada.

My dear Boys and Girls:

It is my turn this year to write you the Children's Day Letter and I do it with great pleasure, for there is no department of the work of the Church that I am more keenly interested in than that of the Sunday School.

If you look up the Calendar in your Prayer Book, when certain days are marked down for special purposes, you will find that it is only a very **great** event that has a whole day specially given to it—for example, Christmas Day, Easter Day, Whitsunday and so on. Those who have the management of our Church affairs, therefore, showed how very highly they valued Sunday School work when they devoted a whole Sunday to thinking about and praying about that work and called it Children's Day. What an important part you should feel that you play in the work of the Church when you see on the Calendar in large letters "**Children's Day**"—your **own** day! You will not find Archbishops' Day or Bishops' Day or Clergymen's Day, but in October, every year, that beautiful season when we are garnering God's abounding gifts to us

from nature, from the field and the garden, we have Children's Day—the day when we older people are asked to think about the Saviour's work among the children, whom He seemed to care for **specially**. It was He Who said, when speaking about the sphere of His work among men: "The field is the world, the good seed are the children of the Kingdom." Children and young people, trained for God and the Church in our Sunday Schools, may be the **seed** from which will grow the future workers in the Kingdom of God upon earth.

In view of the fact, then, that Children's Day is **your** day, may I ask you that you endeavor in every way in your power to make it a **great** day in the Church's year—a Red Letter Day. You can do that in various ways. In the first place you can do it by making sure to be present yourselves at your Sunday School and at the special services of the day. In the second place, you can do it by bringing as many of your chums and companions along with you as you can. In the third place, you can do it by seeking out some boy or girl who, for any reason, has not formed the habit of attending Sunday School and persuading him or her to **begin** the habit. In that way you will not only increase the strength of your Sunday School but, with God's blessing, you may be the means of bringing someone nearer to God in Christ in the paths of our holy religion. In short, use the day for all that it is **worth** and all that it is **meant** to be. Remember, also, that it is the G.B.R.E., through the General Synod, that **established** this Children's Day and that it will be your duty on that day, as always, to support the

work of the Board by generous contributions to its funds and by commending its work and its publications. Please do not forget that it is our **own** Board—an organization of our **own** Canadian Church, and that for that reason we ought to be loyal in our support and use of what it provides.

I do not wish to make my letter too long, but I cannot close without a few words bearing upon the cultivation of your spiritual lives. My dear young friends, the **object** of the Sunday School is to bring you, through the Church, to **Christ** as your **only** Saviour and after you have definitely accepted Him as such, to help you to keep close to Him and grow in grace. How are you to do that? First, by never neglecting your private prayers, morning and evening. The story is told of a young Scottish officer who went grievously wrong in the Great War and it was thought that it was the temptations of the army that caused his falling into sin. When he returned home, disgraced, he went into his bedroom, followed by his broken-hearted mother. Pointing to his bedside, he said, "Mother, it all **began there** when I gave up saying my private prayers. It was not the **war** that did it. It was my neglect of the sweet and simple piety which was the anchor of my life."

Don't neglect your private prayers, therefore. That is my first point.

The next means of keeping straight and true to God is through the **worship** of the Church, and here let me say something which I have often thought of saying. It is this: Do not let your Sunday School take the place of your Church. When I have

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