

for liquor \$2,500,000,000, nor have they told of the wasted lives and the suffering, and the sin, and the lost souls.

We may be very thankful that as a nation we are awaking to the value of our birthright, and to the fact that those who are successful must be temperate in all things.

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service. The regular work of the Church and of benevolence has been maintained. Two million men are in France giving their service to fight the battles of our country. Thousands of others are serving through the Y. M. C. A. and the Red Cross. At home men are giving their services in many ways and millions of women are working hard for the soldiers.

The people of this country have made a noble and loyal response to the calls that have been made upon them. The result is that many of us have come to think that we know what giving means. But before we settle down to self-gratulation, let us consider God's giving. In much of what we call giving there is some direct return to the giver. He who gives to the support of the Church receives direct benefit from the Church. He who gives a son to fight in this great war of the nations will have a better country, a better world to live in after the war is over than he would have if the sons of our homes and hearts had not been given.

God's great gift of His only Son to the world could bring no direct returns to Him. It was only a manifestation of His absolutely unselfish love. No gift has ever been given to man that meant as much.

As we contemplate this wonderful truth a picture is presented to the mind. Away up in the mountains is a lake of crystal pure life-giving water. From this there runs a stream down the mountain side, until it reaches a desert plain, through which it runs, giving life to the soil that it touches, making it to blossom and bear fruit. On its banks there sits one in royal robes surrounded by his followers. Out across the desert is seen a weary traveler, staggering under a heavy burden and almost overcome by the pitiless heat of the sun beating down upon him. He seems just about to fall, and, if he does, he will not be able to rise again.

The king speaks to one of his attendants and bids him go and meet the weary traveler, tell him that there is water in the river nearby, and aid him to come to the water. He goes and comes again with the suffering one, who lays down his burden, drinks of the sparkling water, and he lives, and becomes a servant of the gracious King.

The water in the lake is God's inexhaustible love. The river is the coming of the Saviour to the world as the channel by which God's love is brought to mankind. The desert plain is this sin-cursed earth. The burned and fainting traveler is the sinner carrying his load of sin. The King is the Father who loves the world and all of its sinners. His attendants are Christian people. He gives to them the command to go to each sin-burdened soul with the message that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

We cannot give salvation, but we can give our service and our money, which is the result of service, that we may tell others of the infinite gift of His Son who gives salvation to all those who put their trust in him.

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