

Prophecy and the New

Prophets for the Present Day.

A Fourth of July Sermon.

By Rev. Samuel W. Grafflin.

"Happy is that people whose God is the Lord"—Psalm 144:15.

ONE hundred and thirty-seven years ago some sturdy patriots whose love of liberty was greater than their love of life affixed their names to an immortal document at a time and under circumstances which meant death should they fail of their high purpose.

The date—July the fourth—has become our great national holiday, and at its celebration flags will fly and cannon boom, children will sing patriotic anthems and statesmen make set speeches praising our past and promising us a peaceful future.

But what of the prophet of God? What of the stern champions of righteousness? What of the successors of those fearless preachers of truth whose fierce philippics and barbed reproaches roused the conscience of the infant nation and fired the hearts of those who rocked the cradle of righteous revolution? Where are the "prophets of the present day?"

As we recall the great events and mark the onward march of history, as we attempt an orderly review of man's most worthy efforts to attain greatness in government and national life, three thoughts arise, thoughts which have their roots in the very ground of history and whose development must, in a measure at least, answer the queries of a multitude of anxious hearts.

First: Is national existence possible apart from nation righteousness? In answer to this question all history, sacred and profane, issues a thunderous no!

The epitaph of every nation that has passed, leaving its bleaching bones upon the cheerless desert of defeat, but emphasizes the eternal truth: "The wages of sin is death!"

No hand can long survive the sickness of national sin. Sin rusts the warrior blade. Sin makes the chariot wheels of progress and civilization to drag in ever-deepening mire. Sin sings the sentimental justice to sleep, and thus the nation falls and falls.

Second, the prophet patriots of the past. And are we not in sorest need that once again the chosen servants of the Lord should rise with ringing challenge to rouse the nation to its need of holiness, of education and of public spirit, of national ideal and wisdom?

From time to time some rumor trembles on the breeze, and men discuss the possibilities of war. Fears of invasion are roused with dread of unpreparedness, and all of this in terms of shot and shell, of ships of steel and weapons of defense. But not one word is heard concerning that greatest source of national reproach, the weakness that is the fruit of sin.

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They loved their nation and they loved their God and lived and died that they might cry aloud bravely, the sins that damn a nation's life.

Third, prophets for the present day. Amen!

Evangelistic Work at Race Tracks and Seashore.

English Workers Leading Efforts at Ascot, Epsom Downs and Other Courses.

Several religious bodies committees are this summer making a study of possible evangelistic efforts at race tracks, at seashore resorts, and at exhibitions held later in the season.

These committees are borrowing methods obtained in England, where such outdoor work is carried on without cessation.

At the recent running of the Derby on Epsom Downs, where Miss Davidson, a suffragette, tried to stop the king's horse and lost her life, Rev. Dr. A. C. Dixon, formerly of Brooklyn, and nine other English outdoor workers, and upon results of the study of conditions this summer may come real work next season.

The preachers and workers, men and women, speakers and singers, begin their work on the trains and in the buses when people are going to the race courses.

Regular staffs are maintained for Ascot, Goodwood, Epsom Downs and other famous courses. The day before the great events prayer meetings are held by the evangelists together.

The preachers and singers admit they meet with many rebuffs, but claim that results follow in encouraging numbers of cases of the study of conditions this summer may come real work next season.

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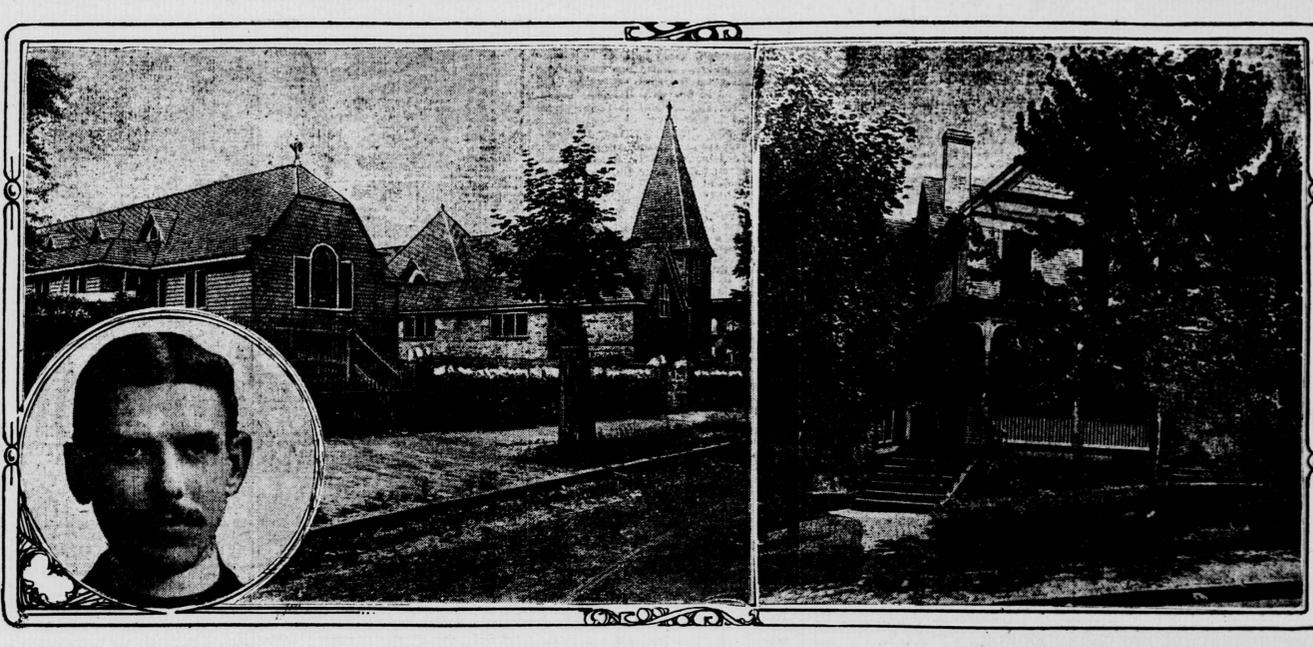
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Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Anacostia, to Welcome New Rector Tomorrow.



REV. WILLIAM OSCAR ROOME, JR.

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL RECTORY

Rev. William Oscar Roome, Jr., is to be ordained to the priesthood of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 13th and V streets southeast, Anacostia, tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Bishop Harding will officiate at the service, at the conclusion of which Rev. Mr. Roome becomes rector of the parish in succession to Rev. Dr. W. G. Davenport, who has resigned on account of ill health.

It is expected that a large attendance of Episcopals from various parishes of the city in addition to many friends of the church will be present.

July 2, 1910, Mr. Roome, then a candidate for holy orders, was placed in charge of the Chapel of the Redeemer, a mission of the cathedral at Glen Echo, Md. Upon his ordination to the diaconate, October 8, 1911, St. Andrew's Church, the vestry of St. Stephen's parish elected him the assistant minister of that parish, and he assumed the duties of the position November 1, 1911.

Mr. Roome was elected and called to the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Anacostia, by the vestry last April, and assumed charge as a deacon June 1, in anticipation of his advancement to priest's orders.

The Emmanuel Episcopal parish shows over 300 families connected with its church, having a communicant list of 150 names.

Rev. Mr. Roome in other denominations will attend the service.

The sermon to the candidates will be delivered by Rev. George Elake Dudley, rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, while Rev. J. Dimon, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and Rev. Dr. Davenport, who has been made rector emeritus of Emmanuel Church, will assist during the service.

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