

International Relationships.

Delivered before the Annual Meetings of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland at Leeds, by Dr. Everett Gill, European Representative of the S.B.C.

THE question of "international relationships" is not one merely of diplomacy. It is many-sided. It involves financial, industrial, scientific, social and sociological, artistic, athletic, linguistic, religious and other relationships of the human family. For our purpose, I shall confine myself to the consideration of the last-mentioned—international relationships as regards religion.

Religion is regarded by many who are interested in international matters as a cumbrous and unimportant adjunct to human activities that might be well set aside as outgrown and useless. I think that we shall see that this is a quite superficial way of looking at the question.

EUROPE AND CHRISTIANITY.

Europe, until the settlement of America, was for more than a thousand years the second home of Christianity. Christ was born in Asia, but Asia rejected Him. I have never seen a satisfactory explanation of the fact that Christianity failed to establish itself in the East. Why was it that the religion of Christ that was of oriental origin and expressed in oriental terms did not meet a better reception in the orient? Why did Asia reject Him Who was one of them and could be so easily understood by them, while Europe accepted Him, though His moral conceptions and ethical standards were so opposed to the genius of occidentals. This historical and religious conundrum I leave to others to solve. I merely mention this strange and staggering fact.

The fact remains that the degenerate millions of the Roman Empire and the hordes of our heathen ancestry in the forests of northern Europe as well as in these Islands accepted Christ whom his fellow-Asians had rejected, and Europe became the second home of Christianity.

From the first, the Europeans, along with the rest, were tremendously concerned about dogmas and creeds, while the

Christianity that was developed was largely pagan. The Roman Catholic Church that had the destiny of Christianity and of Europe so largely and so long in its hands cannot evade the fact that its bishops and cardinals played diabolical politics, fostered wars and bloodshed, drowned freedom in blood and tears, and were guilty of wholesale crimes that can scarcely be charged to any of the great heathen religions.

Even the Reformation did not entirely change matters. Religious wars were fought with cruelty and bitterness, whole lands were devastated, millions were massacred or perished by famine or pestilence—and all in the name of Catholic or Protestant Christianity. I think that fair-minded men will admit that while immense improvement was made in life and morals by Christianity in Europe, its civilization has never been fully Christian.

But, what shall we say of America? Is America Christian? It would scarcely be appropriate for me to discuss that question. I can say, however, in general, that though there may have been some progress made in industrial relations and the war against alcoholism and the rights of the common man, no sane American would thank God for our moral superiority. There is a sting in the taunt of the Hindu Brahmin that Western nations dogmatize about Christianity but *do not live it!* The late and lamented President of the Baptist World Alliance, Dr. MacArthur, said to a small company of us a number of years ago after his world tour, that a Brahmin priest said to him that he could never believe in a religion that would permit the existence of a Tammany Hall. In our hearts we Americans feel the truth of these charges. For, we are only in part Christian.

The poignant fact is that Christianity is the religion of the white race, and we have only partially adopted it. Admitting that Christ has vitally changed the white man in relations with his neighbour, it has had but comparatively little influence upon his international and inter-racial relationships, *and this is the outstanding world-fact of the hour!*

THE WHITE MAN AND HIS FOUR BROTHERS.

The white man, with his Christian religion, comprises less than one third of the world's population, though he dominates for the present some three fourths of the earth's surface. He claims Asiatic Russia, the two Americas, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and as much of Africa as he can hold on to, and warns his yellow and brown brothers to keep off his grass.

As the result of his Opium Wars and other conquests following his world-trade, as well as his immigration laws and lynchings,

the white man has succeeded in arousing the bitterest and most far-reaching race antagonisms known to history. The tremendous upheavals and unrest in India, Egypt, Africa, China, Japan, and the Americas are not ephemeral phases of world-life, but are groundswells that will change the whole course of history.

What has caused this vast upheaval among the nations and races? The teachings of Christ is the cause. Missionaries and preachers in all lands have been proclaiming the brotherhood of man and the nations have taken these teachings at their face value, and they perceive that our missionaries, on the one hand, and our diplomats and business men, on the other, do not agree. That is, we preach one thing and practise another. The white-hot resentment of the white man's four brothers in yellow, brown, black and red against the wrongs and injustices done them and their fierce determination to have their fundamental rights in the affairs of the world and in their own lands, are the grimmest facts that the white man must face at the present hour.

There are approximately five hundred millions of white men in the world, over against one thousand two hundred million coloured people who are at present the white man's potential enemies.

Besides this overwhelming numerical majority of the non-white races the coloured races are far outstripping the white in birth increase. Wherever the white man goes among his coloured brothers in mandated or colonizing lands the white man destroys pestilences and famines that have hitherto kept down the rapid increase of the coloured races. An English gentleman told in London a little more than a year ago that since the English have "cleaned up" South Africa "the negroes have increased like rabbits." On the other hand, as every one knows, the white man is increasingly practising birth control. The result is that the white race is becoming relatively weaker numerically and the coloured races overwhelmingly stronger. Though the coloured races outnumber the whites now between two and three to one, the time may come when they will outnumber us twenty-five or fifty to one.

EUROPE AND WAR.

In the face of these grave facts what is the white man doing? He seems to be preparing for other wars as if nothing had happened. And, what has happened? As has been noted by current historians, the World War was a white man's war, and the most appalling disaster that ever befell the white race. More than ten millions of her best sons, potential fathers of a wondrous race were sacrificed in what has been aptly termed "a family quarrel," while the darker races looked on and wondered.

It was worse than suicide, it was a crime against our race, our civilization and our religion. Shall we repeat our folly?

TWO PLANS FOR WORLD SAFETY.

What can avert a world disaster of unexampled proportions? Some seem to think that there is no hope. Professor Ferrero, the distinguished Italian historian, who knows not only ancient history, but is, also, a keen observer of our own times, already foresees the militarized millions of China streaming over the western confines of that land and moving across the lands where the human race was born, to blot out European civilization and turn back civilization into another and worse "dark age."

One plan suggested by the chauvinistic writers of the day is to intensify race feeling and international hatred and increase armaments and unify the white race against the coloured races and defy them while we hold them down. Their plan is as foolish as it is unchristian and wicked. They would have us to sit on the seething cauldron of international and inter-racial hate to keep it from the inevitable explosion. But, surely the world must have learned that such problems are not solved by the sword or brute force.

The other plan is the only one that carries with it any hope. It is Christ's plan—that is, *to love your neighbour as yourself*. We must cease to think of these non-white races as peoples that we may use or exploit for our own gain. We must cease emphasizing our racial and national differences. We must cease talking of the "white man's burden" *and think of the white man's brother*.

Then, follows the inevitable corollary—that we must *Christianize the white man*. This is not humour, it is grim fact. No one desires nor is able to minimize the exceeding importance of missions to our coloured brethren in China, Japan, Africa, and the Americas. The sacrifices and labours of these saints of God have written their names deep on the pages of history. But, how sadly are their labours being nullified by the unchristian lives of their brothers in the homeland and many of the business representatives of our white lands in the homes of the coloured peoples.

THE WHITE MAN AND CHRISTIANITY.

As we noted at the beginning, by a strange providence of God the white man has become the custodian and propagator of the Christian religion. The coloured peoples are rejecting our Lord in many circles because they confuse Him with the aims of the business men of the West. If we would save ourselves for this world and that which is to come, we must become really

Christian. If we are to save our civilization, we must become more profoundly Christian. If we are to save our religion (I speak as a man), we must become more vitally Christian.

It would seem, then, that all efforts to evangelize England, America and Europe are of supreme importance. I count the pastors in our cities and villages who are giving themselves to Christianizing America and England and Europe are in the forefront of world missionaries. They occupy the strategic places in the Kingdom of God now. They are the only ones who, under God, can save the day.

THE CALL FOR EVANGELISM.

The greatest impulse that could be given to better international relationships would come from a sweeping and overwhelming revival of religion at home. Let us become so Christian that we shall never have strikes and lock-outs. Let us so follow the Lord in our daily and business lives that when we go abroad in business or to preach the gospel, other peoples will wish to be like us.

WORK IN EUROPE.

I cannot refrain from seizing this occasion to indicate the vast importance of helping those struggling groups of our brethren who live in Europe. They are, in many instances, better Christians than we are. They are, many of them, Apostolic Christians. Let us not despise them as they seek to extend the reign of Christ in a Europe that is only partially Christian. What more fundamental work for God could we do for bettering international and inter-racial relationships than by our helping to establish the pure gospel in Europe? I count this work of extending the gospel in Europe as of more final importance than the work of diplomats and business experts. Let us make of Europe and England and America a confraternity of peoples who love one another in the Lord, who will show to their less happy brethren the way to peace and prosperity in the great family of God. Let us pray for that day foretold by our own English-speaking Poet Laureate,

When the war drums throb no longer and the battle-flags are furled
In the Parliament of Man, the Federation of the World.