A CHRISTMAS TALK ON RELIGION AND WAR BASED ON THREE NEW BOOKS THE BALLAD WHAT THE GREAT WAR HAS

Some Men Have Been Made to Doubt a God Who Permits the Slaughter-Others See Divine Purposes at Work

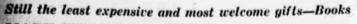
DONE FOR RELIGIOUS THINKING

to religious things. We are too busy it is wicked, but sometimes I doubt planning to "exchange gifts." Yet whether there is any God at all." after all this is the season when it is "You are not the only one who has most fitting to take account of stock doubted," I remarked. "There are in order that we may learn where we men who say that religion has broken stand. It was with some such thought down, and that we must either abanin mind that I welcomed Doctor Me don all our religious ideas or that we Fabre and his wife when they made must recast them so as to conform their usual weekly call.

marked:

"I can't get out of my mind the thought of the useless waste of life in Europe. Young men are killed and the girls whom they would have married must live widowed lives. The future is dark."

"Yes," said The Lady, "it looks Not only are the soldiers killed, but whole nations are suffering starvation. I was reading yesterday of the terrible conditions in Serbia and Poland, where women and children are dying by the thousand, with no succor in sight."



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and the book and any that letter writing is a let. The letters are charm-informal, guestly and brilling as a novel. Nay, it is to interesting as a novel. Nay, it is no interesting, for it is an action of things finat actually writing by an expert the art of description."

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IT IS not customary at the Christ- "I sometimes wonder why God permas season to give much thought mits it," said Mrs. McFabre. "I know

play.

versity."

conduct of affairs it is worth while."

two books I have been reading are not novels. One is, 'Do We Need a New

"Humph!" This from Doctor Mc-Cabre. "The extremes of breadth and

much confidence in what I said.

"If you describe it correctly it cer-

"But there are many persons not

"You would recommend 'The Genius

of Christ' to your people, or you ought

shaw, is a native Philadelphian, and

of his mother, who died here about

come a doctor of letters and a doctor

of laws, and has written several books,

ture The basis of his new book is a

series of lectures delivered to a Bible

class of college students. He has at-

tempted to approach Christ as a man

of genius and to interpret him by the

to man."

narrow-minded vicar, and it proclaims from Doctor Crawshaw's novel study. that there can be no salvation for the Did you ever think of Christ as a liter-

world until a new spirit enters the ary genius? Of course not. His art is 12 12

tor McFabre.

ordinary human standards. Yet he be-lieves that Christ was divine and the son of God, and the interpreter of God

"That is the right view," said Dov-

"We won't quarrel over questions of

including a history of English litera-

to the facts as we know them. Some When Mrs. McFabre was comfort. of them say that God is impotent and ably settled by the fireplace with her could not prevent the suffering if He Red Cross knitting in her lap she re- would, and others say that He would not if He could. Both seem to think



us of our faith in a righteous power ically a Unitarian. He is a man of fact there was in life. But Mr. Hankey finds that directs the affairs of men. There and fine religious spirit and no one that the war has made men see that are compensations, however, which we made any trouble for him, either in unliss, that working with other men ought not to overlook. I can see the his own church or in the association for a common cause is more important

'Tis man's perdition to be safe, When for the truth he ought to die. "Belgium did not choose hell as her the Rev. Edmund H. Reeman," I went fate, but she has sacrificed herself for on. "has little or nothing to say of while, a high ideal. I cannot think of the Christ, save to indicate that other re-fate of that little nation without gain-ligions profess to have had their divine ing a new respect for the divinity there man. Mr. Reeman is a deist and he ing a new respect for the divinity there man. Mr. Reeman is a deist and he is in man. France has been reborn in the throes of the conflict. England has risen from her sloth and has had a vision of a glory greater than that of commercial supremacy, and in the United States a miracle has been wrought. We have turned our backs on all that we have been taught for man are than one hundred years. We have entered a war on the continent of back places of the would have done have entered a war on the continent of have profound admiration for the interest of the places of the places of the profound admiration for the interest of the profound admiration for the interest of the profound admiration for the interest of the places of the places of the places of the places of the profound admiration for the interest of the places of the

damental teachings of Christ that we poses of the Infinite. Of course, Mr. are all the sons of God and brothers Reeman may agree with Mr. Wells and equal heirs in a common heritage. that God is not infinite, and if so there The man who should have said three may be some excuse for him. But years ago we would do all this would otherwise my remark about conceit must stand. His book will not appeal have been called mad." to orthodox Christians such as you,

"I had not thought of it in that way," said the clergyman.

"But we must think of it in this way if we are to retain our faith in tainly will not," said he. righteousness," said I. "I sympathize

righteousness," said I. "I sympathize deeply with all the bereaved. I cannot think without tears of the hundreds of thousands typified by Tennyson when he wrote:

Home they brought her warrior dead; She nor swoon'd, nor utter'd cry.
but when I take a broad view of the history of the whole world I cannot help thinking that the death of them to understand that there are garnest and singer souls in the world. these men is a comparatively small carnest and sincere souls in the world price to pay for the great benefits who refuse to be fenced in by any set that will accrue to future generations. formulas and have the audacity to that will accrue to future generations.

If I should say that the fact that it is permitted proves there is no God or that God is impotent I should be worse than the mother who curses God because her baby falls into the fire and Fabre. cause her baby falls into the fire and Fabre. is burned to death. Why, do you know. there has been more serious writing and thinking about God since this to," said I. "Its author, Doctor Crawwar began than in any similar period for generations. I do not mean mere he dedicates the book to the memory theological discussion, but serious searching after the truth and devout a year ago. Since he left here as a inquiry into the great question of a young man to enter college he has bespiritual power at work in the world. Mr. Wells spoke for tens of thousands of Englishmen when he wrote 'Mr. Britling Sees It Through,' and God the Invisible King, and they were Englishmen, who like Mr. Wells, had hitherto had no interest in religious things. I have just been reading three books that have grown more or less directly out of the war as Mr. Wells's books grew. One is a novel by J. C. Snaith, an Englishman. 'The Coming,' as it is called, has already attracted a great deal of attention and deservedly. It is an attempt to exdeservedly. It is an attempt to exhibit Christ as the prophet of human brotherhood and the redeemer of the world, through selflessness. It contains a scathing arraignment of the established church in the person of a contains a scathing arraignment of the contains a scathing arraignment of t

heart of man and dominates it. Hate so perfect that you never thought PETER PUTTER kills, but love makes alive. The here of it. Doctor Crawshaw analyzes the is an epileptic whose father was killed sermon on the mount, the parables, in war six months before the child was the brief addresses and remarks which born. His mother prayed that war make up the whole body of His say- What One Sports Writer might end, and prayed continually ings that we have and he concludes until the boy came. As he grew to that their literary form is the equal manhood she came to regard him as of anything that has ever been pro a sort of a Messiah, and the youth duced, if not superior to the best. He himself attempted to live the life of discusses the genius of Christ for Christ until he came to believe that | ideas and points out that He gave to he had possession of the truth which the world a revolutionary social philwould change the evil in the world osophy, a philosophy which has had nto good. He is made to have a remore effect upon men than any other markable influence over a large group ever propounded. When one comof persons not only through his own pares the Christian civilization with life, but through a great religious the civilization of other religious one must agree with hlm."

one of his characters, a man who had impress upon us the greatness of volume of poetry..."Songs of the Stable of crippled at Gallipoli, say that Christ as a worthy leader of mon. wart." He has a rare faculty of tell. one of his characters, a man who had impress upon us the greatness of civilization must not destroy Germany, There is nothing mystical about it. Inbut that it owes it to itself to help deed, he protests against the mysti-Germany. The man had reached this cism which produced Thomas a Kemtolerant view through the influence of pla's book and says that 'the imitathe hero. This is the spirit of the tion of Christ meant that men should book. There is no hope for the world cease to be men, while living under until the coming again of the spirit the inspiration of Christ will mean verse. As a newspaper man be of Christ. As a novel it does not that they should become men in the worked in four cities—Nashville, until the coming again of the spirit the inspiration of Christ will mean amount to very much, but as a study fullest and completest sense by strivin Coristian ethics as applied to the ling to become each in his own way "'Mr. Britling' did not amount to much as a novel, either," said The sion of the life force which he calls "That is true," said I. "The other shaw's study of the God-force which is

Idea of God? by a Unitarian clergy- THE CO

man of Trenton, and the other is "The Do Genius of Christ,' by a Baptist clergyman who is the professor of English literature and dean of Colgate Uni-

J. C. SNAITH

"I do not know about the breadth," said I, "but I disagree with you on the said I, "but I disagree with you on the said I, "but I disagree with you on the matter of narrowness. It took a secular hand better. They remind me of a remark that Major Henry L. Higginson, of lar newspaper, the New York Sun, in the days of Charles A. Dana, to disagree with you on the said I, "but I disagree with you on the good and bad side of war has been written that Major Henry L. Higginson, of lar newspaper, the New York Sun, in the days of Charles A. Dana, to disagree with you on the good and bad side of war has been written that Major Henry L. Higginson, of lar newspaper, the New York Sun, in the days of Charles A. Dana, to disagree with you on the good and bad side of war has been written that Major Henry L. Higginson, of the second series of "A Student in Arms," by Donaid Hankey. "As tudent in Arms," by Donaid Hankey. The days of the soldier to yield to vicious influences when he is off duty. It is the gard to the question of Baptist narrowness. That newspaper disputed ing another subject. He said. 'I am willing to admit, for the sake of argument, that I could have made a better world than God did, but we must accept it as it is.' But they are not willing to accept it."

"I do not see how we can help it," alid Doctor McFabre.

"Are you conceited enough to believe that if it were left to you that you could better it?" I asked.

"Thank God! No!"

"I constratulate you, doctor, on your personally acquainted with a Baptist of individual personally acquainted with a Baptist of well and the first and consequently had not believe. I am "I constratulate you, doctor, on your personally acquainted with a Baptist nar. Treaction from the strain, Officers and men are subject to it. But he is personally acquainted narry disputed that the uniform does not change the assertion of a correspondent that newspaper disputed that the uniform does not change the assertion of a correspondent that newspaper disputed that the uniform does not change the assertion of a correspondent that newspaper disputed the student of a correspondent that newspaper disputed the sunder of men are subject to it. But he is personally exaded that the uniform does not change the assertion of a correspondent that that the that assume a subject to it. But he is personally exaded that the uniform does not change the assertion of a correspondent that newspaper disputed the assertion of a correspondent that newspaper disputed that the uniform does not change the distinctive tenet of the Baptist Church rescion of a correspondent that the essential man. Temptation is too much for the civilian also. Some soi the distinctive tenet of the Baptist Church rescion of a correspondent that the suaded that the uniform does not change the assertion of a correspondent that the suaded that the information are subject to it. But he is personally exaded that the essential man. Temptation is too much for the civilian also. Some soi the distinctive tenet of the Baptist Church research and asserted that that the suaded that the uniform does not "I congratulate you, doctor, on your personally acquainted with a Baptist modesty," said I. "The war is horrible clergyman, paster of one church for enough without allowing it to deprive twenty-five years, who was theologhand of God in what is going on as clearly as I can see you. You know what Emerson said?

of churches to which he belonged,"

"I am glad to hear that," said Doctor McFabre, but he did not seem to have self-sacrilice that is transforming him and promises great things for the future. "The book by the Unitarian-he is

ON "GRANT" RICE

Thinks of the Poetry of Another

Irvin Cobb says that the likely successor of James Whitcomb Riley is Crawford's conception of Doctor Brady Grantland Rice, just as others have said that the mantle of Mark Twain has easy chair with the manuscript in one fallen upon the broad shoulders of Cobb tailen upon the broad shoulders of Color, the man whom many regard as the best living American humorist. And while levers of Riley may not agree with his verdict, there is a great appeal in the verse of Rilee, which has become so familiar to the readers of the Evening

ing in rhyme the vital things of life and sport as the adult see and feels them, and to those who delight in reading virils verse the little volume will

pake an instant appeal. Rice is a southerner, but it was not until he was graduated from Vanderbilt University that he wrote either pross or verse. As a newspaper man be has

that they should become men in the fullest and completest sense by strive ing to become each in his own way "such men as he." And no one ought to read Mr. Reeman's desite discut to read Mr. Reeman's desite discut land that he began as a sports writer first, but it was not until he went back to Nashing both of the life force which he calls god without also reading Doctor Crawstan's study of the Godforce which is some times called man."

GEORGE W. DOUGLAS.

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Do WE NEED A NEW HEA OF GOLT By John L. Crawstan. Philadelphia: Godfor the Stalwart." The verse appeared hand H. Reeman. Philadelphia: Godfor the Stalwart." The verse appeared hand H. Reeman. Philadelphia: Godfor the Stalwart." The verse appeared hand H. Reeman. Philadelphia: Godfor the Stalwart. The verse appeared in the sports comment have been collected by him and now are a part of Songs of the Stalwart. The verse and the subtities of "Songs of the Stalwart." The verse and state Lawrestiv. New York: The Noals part and "Songs of the Drumitre. Songs of the Stalwart." The verse and to the Stalwart. The verse and to the Stalwart. The verse and to the Stalwart. The verse and to the Stalwart of Songs of the Drumitre. They are all excellent, both with reference to the metrical style and to the Root and bad side of war has been written the subtities of "Songs of the Drumitre." They are all excellent, both with reference to the metrical style and to the Root and bad side of war has been written the subtities of "Songs of the Drumitre." The author has crowded a great the both which was not been contained by the law to have the subtities of "Songs of the Drumitre." The subtor has crowded a great the both whit reference to the metrical style and to the head of the case very censisely when the subtities of the Stalwart. The work and the think and choose for blimself and to the case were consisted when the subtities of the Stalwart. The subtor has crowded a great the subtities of the subtities of the Stalwar he says: "You like Grantland Rice's prose stuff until you have read gome of his verses. Then you wonder why he doesn't write in rhyme all the time."

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"I'm soing home some day".
So moves the dream of all the roving world:
The seclers of far lands who've lost their
God's countless allens, by the current
whired
From out the harbor, and by tempest tossed
To unknown lands where they must ever And this is all that makes life worth the

This entires dream: "Some day I'm going hours."
Some of the very best verses are in ongs of the Drumfire." This is typical

Perhaps, among the fallen brave, we'll find
the grave is deep.
Hut what of it?
Perhaps in somber No Man's Land we'll
know our final sleep?
But what of it west God a death—and
each has got to pay—
Why not swing out with valiant stride along
the open way Adventure waits this
slee of Jugment Day?
So what of it?
Those who have read for two or three

Those who have read for two or three years and are still reading Grantiand Rice's column of sports comment in the self-sacrilice that is transforming him and promises great things for the future. There are other things in this book, but the two chapters on the good and bad side of war make it very much worth while.

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have entered a war on the continent of Europe. We have consented to a conserved as a conserved to a conserved t

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clouds above are vignettes of the scenes "That sort of writing always seems to me futile," said Doctor McFabre.

"And to me also, under ordinary circumstances," I admitted; "but in the present state of the world it deserves attention because Mr. Snaith makes one of his characters, a man who had impress upon us the greatness of the screen show a state of the state of the state of the war, if not because of it. Doctor Crawshaw's book admirably supplements Mr. Snaith's novel, for it is an attempt to one of his characters, a man who had impress upon us the greatness of next with a meditation succeeding it Then there is an account of some of the author's adventures in the West. And a Christmas wish concludes the volume There is variety enough here to make the book exactly the kind of a gift for which many persons visit the book stores.

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