

Ladies' Home Journal Patterns for Easy Dressmaking.

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CHRISTCHURCH.

asset or is it not? I tell you plainly, as the Commander-in-Chief of our armies and of the gallant men in our fleets, as the present spokesman of this people in our dealings with the men and women throughout the world who are now our partners, as the responsible head of a great Government which stands and is questioned day by day as to its purposes, its principles, its hopes, whether they be serviceable to men everywhere or only to itself, and who must himself answer these questionings or be shamed, as the guide and director of forces caught in the grip of war and by the same token in need of every material and spiritual resource this great Nation possesses—I tell you plainly that this measure which I urge upon you is vital to the winning of the war and to the energies alike of preparation and of battle.

NEEDED AFTER THE WAR.*

And not to the winning of the war only. It is vital to the right solution of the great problems which we must settle, and settle immediately, when the war is over. We shall need then in our vision of affairs, as we have never needed them before, the sympathy and insight and clear moral instinct of the women of the world. The problems of that time will strike to the roots of many things that we have not hitherto questioned, and I for one believe that our safety in those questioning days, as well as our comprehension of matters that touch society to the quick, will depend upon the direct and authoritative participation of women in our counsels. We shall need their moral sense to preserve what is right and fine and worthy in our system of life, as well as to discover just what it is that ought to be purified and reformed. Without their counsellings we shall be only half wise.

SPIRITUAL HELP NEEDED.

That is my case. This is my appeal. Many may deny its validity, if they choose, but no one can brush aside or answer the arguments upon which it is based. The executive tasks of this war rest upon me. I

ask that you lighten them and place in my hands instruments, spiritual instruments, which I do not now possess, which I sorely need, and which I have daily to apologise for not being able to employ.

AFTER THE WAR—WHAT?

With ecstatic joy the armistice was welcomed. As the harbinger of peace surely the Millennium is in view! Now is at hand a good time for the oppressed of earth!

But before the end of the war; before there could be peace demonstrations; before there could be a readjustment of world-matters befitting the Millennium, lo, Pestilence stalked abroad. And for his victims he has claimed many of what yet remained of the flower of mankind. Domestic, social, business, political life are alike disorganised. Who would have thought that States would have to add to their burdens the support of orphans and others disabled by Pestilence? How often are we confounded in presence of evils against which we believed ourselves immune! Why all the sorrow and distress that have befallen us as a nation, as communities, as individuals? That God has a voice in national as in individual life is referred to in His judgments on apostate nations in Deut. 8:19, 20, and the uprooting of a people from their own land for sins as truly ours as Israel's, sins positive and negative. "Therefore are my people gone into captivity" (Is. 5).

Israel was God's barometer, rising or falling according to His attitude God-ward. If we are to continue to be used as an ally of the Most High, surely it must be as we purge ourselves from our national sins, as, too our individual.

Of Pestilence God distinctly says, "I send pestilence" (2 Chron. 7:13). Can such disasters be averted? Have they been averted? Can they be averted by "Peace Congresses," by

"legislation," by civic efforts to stamp out disease? Assuredly not! We may cope with them but in one way: "If My people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

Woe worth the day if we ascribe to cause other than God the cessation of hostilities, and the departure of Pestilence. "Thou hast saved us from our enemies, and hast put them to shame that hated us" (Ps. 44:7). Alas! what do we find? Instead of responses to the call of prayer, humiliation, the putting away our sins, we find a people still bent upon their own will,—gain, pleasure, and these only held in abeyance through stern necessity.

Our many disasters and the fact that we have been perilously near defeat, coupled with our national declension from God, and our now surely undeserved victory, should have a sobering effect upon us, and drive us to our knees.

Will God put forth His hand in further judgments? Yes, when all shall eventually have been reduced to "peace and safety," and men are settling down to enjoy the fruits of their own labour, "then sudden destruction" (1 Thes. 5:3).

Warning upon warning may be sent till God eventually pours down upon this apostate world the full fury of His wrath in "The (coming) Tribulation." "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time; no, nor ever shall be." But between now and then there shall be certain caught up to meet the Lord in the air. Who are they? The "alive" in Christ, "and the dead in Christ" (1 Thes. 4:16, 17). Oh! reader, where will you and I figure in the portentous events close at hand?

GERTRUDE COCKERELL.