

From Lloyd's Weekly News, Dec. 24, 1916.

Christmas Messages to "Lloyd's" Readers,

Sir William Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine,
Oxford.

There was a famous paradox in antiquity — a grain of wheat falls noiselessly to the ground, the same thing happens with the second, the third, the fourth, and so on, for the thousands of grains that make up a bushel. But collect the grains again, and drop the whole bushel, and, behold! a great noise. It seems difficult to explain how the sum of many thousands of silences could result in one great sound.

The silent unit, the single grain, will win the war. In this world's crisis it is the spirit of the individual worker — in trench or camp, factory or farm — that keeps the mouth shut, the heart fixed, and the hand steady.

The call is for silent sacrifice, of time, of habit^s, of comforts, of friends, and of those dearer than life itself — the sacrifice of sanctification in the old Hebrew sense. It has come. Do we not feel in our hearts of hearts that only a rich anointing of the spirit of the Fathers could have so stirred the Empire from the centre to the circle? My blood was thrilled the other day by the Honour Role of the Consumers' Gas Company of Toronto — 386 men at the colours ~~for~~ from one corporation, of whom twenty-five have been killed, ~~th~~ thirty-seven wounded, and eight taken prisoners! Why? The answer is in the words of the Prophet-Poet of Greater Britain:

" Because ye are Sons of the Blood, and call⁴³
me Mother still."

Let this message be heard above the din of battle and the clash of machinery, the silent unit will win — " In quietness and in confidence will be your strength."

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13, NORHAM GARDENS,
OXFORD.

Dear Dr. Cushing,

I have spent the
afternoon copying extracts from my diary
It may be finished tomorrow. I was
reminded of the enclosed, which perhaps
you have not seen. At any rate here it
is. Shall likewise send a copy to
Marshall - he is going to help with
a new ed. of Counsels & Ideals is
he not. Tell them not to be
impatient. We have all their
requests for reprints, but I simply
had to ^{first} make out the 10 files
for the last series of the reprints
to go to libraries in W. O.'s list.

Lady Asler is back from Flanders
Thank goodness she had a fine
morning for the visit
to the cemetery. She never thought
she would see such destruction &
desolation as she found at Nieport
and Ypres. She says she is
anti-german - but not on
account of her own loss.

Good luck - we know
how enthused you are. Nothing
like having one's heart in it is
there.

Yours ever
A.M.