

The Archbishop took his text from Ecclesiasticus XLIV v 14 which had been read in the special lesson for the day:

'...Their bodies are buried in peace, but their name liveth for evermore...'

Today, we are still in confusion, strife, perplexity and restlessness which are the legacy after terrible convulsion, but from those things they are far removed. They might be witnesses and, in ways they cannot tell, keep them in their endeavours to finish the work for which they died. Their name lives for evermore most *surely* (unclear) in the hearts of those who loved them, but lives also in this beautiful church which is in itself, in every part a shrine of hallowed memories.

The whole church is a noble memorial, and I cannot but refrain from saying how pleased I am to have with us a chaplain¹, now Dean of Bristol, who with undaunted zeal, raised the greater part of the money which makes this memorial possible. It has been a very high privilege to him to dedicate this place to God. Here, assuredly, for all time, their name liveth. Could we then, by equal assurance that their names are still living – as they ought to be, in their remembrance of their fellow countrymen? Were there not signs that their memory was fading? If that were true, there *could* (unclear) be many reasons. It could at least be understood that a whole generation has arisen which could scarcely remember that great and awful time. Men who had survived said little about it – they shrank from speaking of their experiences to those who could not even imagine them – and sometimes shrank from recalling it to themselves. It might be that the increasing speed and distraction of the present day makes it difficult to keep memories fresh. To that must be added the bitter disillusionment of their high hopes that were then aroused of their *coming into* (unclear) a better world. Of one thing there could be no doubt, there was then in their midst a strong tide of service and self-sacrifice which had lifted the nation to a higher level than had ever before been reached.

Cecil Spring-Rice wrote; *' I vow to thee my country...'*, in these latter days there are people to whom such words seem almost irksome. If so, the fault is in them, not in the words, for they express the spirit, which, in those years, has given a new nobility to the British race. It is almost well that the completion of this Chapel should have been delayed for twenty years, so that after this lapse of time, in spite of the disillusionment and cynicism, we can only again register our resolve that these men shall not be forgotten. God forbid that any should desire such another dire catastrophe that the same spirit should be stirred again. What we need is to find other ways in which that spirit may keep up the level of our common life.

Some might apply that spirit in various ways, but others to the task of securing for the mass of the people larger opportunities of the full and satisfying life which surely God willed for his people. He could show them a more excellent way – the way of loyalty to the Kingdom of God; truth, goodness, brotherhood, justice and peace. It is only the coming of that kingdom in their hearts that could bring peace among the nations, and among their own people, *breaking* (unclear) down the barrier of selfish intent and opening up the way to a fuller life.

The Coronation² is a noble reminder of the fact that all their varied loyalties to their country are united and strengthened by their loyalty to the person of their King.

¹ Refers to The Very Reverend H.W. Blackburne D.S.O., M.C

² King George VI was in the congregation. His coronation was on May 12th, 10 days after this service.