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## EDITORIAL.

### ACTS OF THANKSGIVING.

Since our last issue we have to thank His Majesty the King for his appointment of Sunday, March 23rd, as a National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving, and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York for the Forms of Prayer issued under their authority, to be regarded not as superseding, but as supplementary or alternative to those already issued on May 26th and September 8th, 1940.

Immense congregations of people attended the Services held throughout the country in a spirit of intense devotion.

### ACTS OF THANKSGIVING.

Provision is made for acts of thanksgiving in the following terms :

*Let us give thanks together for the mercies already vouchsafed to our effort.*

*For our confidence in the righteousness of our cause.*

*For the unity of the Empire.*

*For the vigour of our leaders.*

*For the deliverance of the past year.*

*For the unremitting watch and ward of our Navy.*

*For the signal victories of our Eastern Armies.*

*For the skill and valour of the Air Force.*

*For the defence services at home: the Home Guard, police, air wardens, fire fighters, doctors and nurses, and all men, women and children who have disregarded danger and discomfort.*

*For those who have endured pain and loss and refused to bend.*

*For those who have laboured to provide us with food and the tools of war, and will not be weary.*

*For the ready sacrifice of the whole people.*

The Thanksgiving concludes with the recitation of Psalm 136. In addition to prayers during and after an air raid and for shelter services there are some very short prayers for protection, for fortitude and for the dying.

The King and Queen, accompanied by Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret, attended a National Day of Prayer Service in a small church in the country.

Because of the bombing of St. Paul's Cathedral, the services there had to be held in the undamaged crypt. It was impressive to note the number of young soldiers, sailors, and airmen, some of them from Dominion and Allied countries, who were present.

We are all warriors in a cause we can submit to the judgment of the Unseen Power.

## PRINCIPLES IN PERIL.

The Pilgrims in the United States, in accordance with firmly-established custom, welcomed Britain's new Ambassador, Lord Halifax, at dinner in New York on Tuesday, March 25th, when the solidarity of the freedom-loving peoples of the world was symbolised in a striking manner at which his first speech in the United States was delivered.

The guests included distinguished representatives of Canada, Australia, India, South Africa, Poland, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, and Czechoslovakia.

The speech, inspired by a deep sense of responsibility, love of freedom and of humanity, has had a "great press," and has no doubt been read and welcomed by thousands of nurses throughout the world, as many newspapers have reported it in full.

### PRINCIPLES IN PERIL.

To quote a few words:—

"There seem to us to be certain principles that are essential to life as we wish to live it and to see it lived. These principles are now in dire peril, and we believe, therefore, that we are truly fighting for our lives, since life to us is worthless if the principles on which it is built are to be destroyed.

We do well to remind ourselves of what these principles are. They, like an iceberg of which the greater part is out of sight, lie deep below the surface of man's outward being. I would state thus what, in varying forms, is in many minds to-day; first, the religious principle of the absolute value of every human soul; second, the moral principle of respect for personality and conscience; third, the social principle of individual liberty.

This finds its expression in two ways: in the sphere of politics through equal opportunity, justice, and the rule of law; economically, through the direction of national effort to the creation of conditions that may bring some real security into the daily life of the humblest citizens; and, finally, the domestic principle of the sanctity and solidarity of the family, which is the natural development of the individual.

Unless we build on these foundations—religious, moral, social and domestic—we have no hope of finding the way of happiness.

It is only by slow process that man has learnt to apprehend these principles. They have come to him by Christianity and by other great religions. They have drawn vitality from the best of human thought throughout the centuries. For us they are expressed and protected by Democracy, and that is why we value it.

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