

"THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."

We have to offer our very sincere thanks to the Editor of the *Daily Sketch*, and to Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P., for permission to reproduce the following inspiring article "*The Truth Shall Make You Free.*"

THE FREEDOM OF THE SOUL OF MAN.

We are fighting, not for any material gain but for the Freedom of the soul of man. Only on this basis can a new life and a better world be built. So this message is vital.

The Anglo-Saxon race has the love of Freedom in its blood, and whether we trace its story in these islands or follow its fortunes to the Empire, we are never allowed to forget that, whatever else is surrendered, Freedom must be defended to the last ditch.

It has been part of our mission and destiny to guard the lamp of Freedom, and when it flickers low, as it does to-day, it is our duty to replenish the oil and trim the wick.

Wordsworth wrote: "In our halls is hung Armoury of the invincible Knights of old: We must be free or die, who speak the tongue That Shakespeare spake; the faith and morals hold Which Milton held."

J. R. Green wrote: "The people of England are the people of a book and that book is the Bible."

Book of Freedom.

The Bible has that appeal because it is itself a book of Freedom. Its stories and its teaching strike that note of liberty, so dear to the hearts of Englishmen.

The Old Testament—the book of Freedom—is full of stories of deliverance from slavery and oppression. Israel's deliverance from the bondage of Egypt is a major example.

In the New Testament—THE book of Freedom—Jesus refers over and over again to the Law and the Prophets—"I am not come to destroy but to fulfil."

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

This Freedom is the result of a right understanding of the Character of God. It is because the Bible contains the Truth about God that it is the Book of Freedom.

The Dignity of Man.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock." We must open the door from the inside.

There is no need for fear of want, or tyranny, or any other evil thing, if only we will do His will.

Only on Freedom—and we are fighting the war, not for any material gain, but for the Freedom of the soul

of man—can a better life and a new world be built. It all depends on knowing the truth. "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." The Truth shall make you free.

It was the teaching of Jesus Christ which pointed out for the first time the dignity and significance of each individual, and thereby banished slavery from the world.

Inspired by the teaching of Jesus Christ, Wilberforce brought about the abolition of slavery in the British realm; and later, under the same influence, slavery was abolished in America. Under Hitler it has revived in German-occupied territory.

Is it any wonder that we who fight for Freedom to-day derive our inspiration from the Greatest Teacher the world has known?

If it were not for the teaching of Jesus, there is a possibility—a probability—that you and I might be slaves to-day.

"Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves." So said William Pitt, in the House of Commons, on November 18, 1783.

Nearly 1,950 years ago a Child was born in a stable, because there was "no room for Him in the inn."

For nearly 2,000 years there has been distress of nations because men, of all classes, will not make room for Him in their hearts.

He told us to Seek First the Kingdom of God, and then "all these things" (clothing, food and drink) "shall be added unto you." This saying is True.

Abroad, our men to-day are giving their lives to remove the shackles of tyranny from the world. At home we are passing Bills in Parliament, each one fastening yet another shackle of State control on to our people. We are putting the cart before the horse.

Christ said: "For what shall it profit a man, if he

shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

If proof were needed, look at Germany and her approaching doom. It must not, shall not, happen here!

Let all those, in every class, who practise voluntary absenteeism, who are not putting every ounce of brain and muscle into the cause of Freedom, who did not report for duty on Christmas Day on the L.P.T.B. and thus put thousands to trouble and inconvenience, remember the words of the Psalmist: "Ye fools! when will ye be wise?"

It IS more blessed to give than to receive.

He died on the Cross to set men Free. Let us make certain this time that He did not die in vain.

We have been given another chance, perhaps the last. Let us take it—or the consequences.



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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)