



# The Oxford Group

BY REV. C. H. DICKINSON

*Minister of The American Presbyterian Church  
of The United Church of Canada*

The Editor, Montreal Daily Herald:

The Oxford Group made very plain for us certain primary religious experiences which some of us have not successfully put into simple language. We have used ecclesiastical terms which too often have had an artificial ring, and those listening to us have not felt the reality of the experience we were endeavouring to declare. Sometimes the formality of our worship has caused it to be regarded as "something to be gone through," but not as a vital expression which we cannot help making because we feel that way.

What impressed me first about The Oxford Group was the naturalness with which they spoke of spiritual realities. Experience of the presence of God, if real at all, is surely to be hoped for in the daily intercourse of life, not alone behind stained glass windows. And that experience yields to the simplicities of conversation without losing its spiritual majesty or its inspirational power.

The use of "quiet times" is, to me, also highly commendable. It is courageous counsel for life in our time when the mind of the efficiency expert controls our days and nights, and when speed records are coveted awards. But "listening in" to spiritual voices may be rewarded by more than "static."

Finally, the theme of "surrender" in the spirit of "courageous humility" I regard as the most hopeful theme in religious thought. "Pride goeth before a fall" always. Self-defence behind conventionalities does not shut out forever the light of truth. Sooner or later we must be "honest" with ourselves, and yield every obstinacy in submission to the highest good. Peace is the reward,—internal peace of mind and harmony of life; social peace born of unconquerable goodwill, world peace which can prevail only in allegiance to a world ideal.

C. H. DICKINSON.