

ET BREV FRA PAST. JAMES PETERSEN TIL HANS FADER\*).

With the American Ex. Forces in France:

November 24, 1918.

Dear Father:

It is the understanding among all our soldiers of the American Expeditionary Forces that this day each one shall write a letter to his father. And since I have recommended to all the Troops whom I have addressed today, the fulfillment of this duty I must now practice what I have preached.

The occasion for this special letter writing is that the war is over. Not that we need to bring the news to you, for the words were flashed to America by radio while the heavens over here were still filled with the roaring of the last cannon. But we endeavor to express to you our own feeling and emotions in the presence of these momentous happenings.

That "the war is over," that it is won, is almost too good to believe. It is the first thought that comes to us in the morning. Sometimes when we awake it seems almost a dream or as a false rumor. Yet it is true, irrefutably, unchangeable true. Germany has been defeated, her militarism crushed and made powerless forever. And now there is no necessity of America maintaining a large army on foreign soil. Our task has been accomplished and we are going home, home to America, to our wives and children, relatives and friends, churches, vocations and everything dear to us. And that very soon, as fast as the boats will carry us over the waves of the Atlantic. We have only to be patient and wait for our turn in the process of demobilization.

The governing principle observed in regard to demobilization will be the order in which we sailed from the United States. As I was with the first 200,000 of the A. E. F. you may surely expect me home some time during the winter.

During my stay over here I have seen nearly all parts of France and also a portion of Italy. My work has been chiefly with the men at replacement Depots behind the lines. This has deprived me of the pleasure that some Chaplains have of being assigned to a single regiment, for months, thus knowing nearly all of their men personally. On the other hand, by the continuous change of personnel I have had a opportunity to meet many thousands of enlisted men and officers of nearly every organization. I have been privileged to speak a word of inspiration to troops before going into battle and a word of comfort to the wounded being sent back to Base Hospitals. And I have heard men of all classes discuss in public and private the vital subject of life and death before going into the jaws of death and upon their returning.

I shall never forget the evening of June 2, 1918. A number of troops had just arrived from America. I was addressing a large gathering of soldiers at an evening religious service. Suddenly in the middle of the service the bugle was sounded and orders given for every man to be ready for immediate action. I gave a five minutes talk on the text: "And They Stood Every Man In His Place Round About the Camp." (Book of Judges 7, 21). That night I had occasion to observe the resolute ness of American officers and enlisted men in critical moments. All during the night could be heard the rolling and clicking of shells, the purring of side cars and motor trucks and the marching of men. Hardly anything

could be seen for the pitch darkness of the night and hardly a word was heard except an occasional command from the officers in charge. No man knew much about what was going on except the par that he himself was doing, but that he knew.

We have never realized the importance of that night's accomplishment until recently when a Colonel arriving here from Washington, D. C., told us that our Depot would ever be remembered for the part that we played in turning the tide of the battle of Chateau Thierry, supplying in one night by trucks four million pounds of ammunition as well as fresh troops.

Especially during such times has it been my privilege to speak words of inspiration which I have reason to believe, has played some little part in the victory that our men have won. It is generally admitted that morale counts over fifty per cent in the winning of battle. (The very reason why Germany collapsed so suddenly. She had the guns and other material but courage failed her.) This is only another proof of the assertion that might is not always right, but right is always might. We have fought for a just and righteous cause, therefore we have been courageous and won.

On the other hand I have taken every occasion to remind the men that, great as it may be to sacrifice one's life for a righteous cause, that act in itself does not save a man's soul for eternity. The death of our Lord Jesus Christ for our redemption is the only basis of our salvation. And this truth is more readily accepted by soldiers than you would think. They will not in the presence of death be fooled by a self made religion. Thus you can imagine the opportunities of a Chaplain in time of war, that is if he wants to be a real man of God. I only wish that when I go back to civil church life again I may find men as approachable, and as receptive to the christian truths as has been the case with my soldiers.

It has been very interesting to note the change of the Christian soldiers' ideas regarding the church. At first many were laboring under the temptation to cast away their faith in Christianity altogether because as it was often said, "Germany is the seat of Protestant Christianity and now she has started this inhuman war, hence Christianity has failed." But the fallacy of this statement was of course soon realized. Though it be true that one of the largest churches of Protestantism was given a great impetus by Martin Luther and his little band of believers, even that church has long since ceased to be a German church. The great majority of the German people including the military leaders and the Kaiser had no religion, at least not Christian religion. Germany had been given her chance from the time of Luther, but because of her refusal God turned away from her as formerly St. Paul turned away from the Jews (Acts 13, 46). So then if religion has anything to do with the cause of this war it is rather the lack of it than the presence of it. This fact soon became clear to the boys.

Then came the idea that though there were some "ideals" in the church which ought to be preserved, the church as it existed was all wrong and this war would completely revolutionize it. It would be our duty to get everything on a new basis and into a new system after our return from the great war. But the reality of the war has had a healthy effect upon the soldier's thinking. He has come to realize that the fault lies not in the Christian religion itself, nor in the present system of churches (though in the latter there may be room for improvement considering the human element in the organization), rather in

his own heart and mind and life. This is of course only my own observation but I believe it to be generally true. I believe that the Christian soldiers will return with the desire to serve God more sincerely than before. I think that the church members who come back from the war will be less superficial than before. I believe that the men will take more active part in their church and not leave it all to the ministers, women, and children. And I also believe that a great many men who have never had serious thoughts before will seek the church or at least will be more receptive to its influence.

And one thing is certain, we will come back and love our home country more than ever after living under these conditions a year, more or less, we will, as I have heard many a soldier express it, feel like kissing the first spot of American soil that our feet tread on.

I think this will be sufficient for my "father's letter." Likely it will be my last letter to you before I am on my way to the land where the home fires are burning and where I hope to see you once again.

Your loving son,  
James C. Petersen,  
1st. Lieut. Chaplain, United States Army.

De sidste Tider.

I min Ungdom gif der gennem Kirken en Forventning af Herrens andet Komme. Den apostoliske katolske Kirke (Irvingianerne), som ogsaa i Danmark byggede Kirker, bidrog dertil. Pastor Trandberg var stærkt grebet baa- de af deres Forventning og af Embederne. Der var en Tid, de første Aar, jeg var i New York, hvor Forventningen traadte stærkt frem i flere Kirkeføle. Den Gang, syntes Guds Ord, var der kun saa Tegn. Det nærmede sig mod Reformationsfest, og i den politiske Verden var der Kro, Krigsryk til Krigen brød ud i lys Lue, fattede hele Verden i Krigsbrand. Da tyktes det mig Tegnene traadte stærkt frem over- alt, som Herren har sagt, der skal gaa forud for hans Komme. Jo flere Tegn, der blev, desmere Taus- hed, syntes det mig. Man talte over- alt i Verden og i Kirken om, hvor- ledes det vilde se ud, og hvilken Ordning der vilde blive efter Krigen, uden ret at agte paa Herrens Ord: se, jeg kommer snart! og hede Menighedens Bøn: ja, som Herre Jesus!

Selv den apostoliske-katolske Del- tang, men for dem var det Led i Skabet, de troede fra Herren. Men da jeg undrede mig, led det for mig; ogsaa det hører med til Tegnene. Da Brudgommen trøvede, flumrede de alle — Komme og — og søv ind. De daarlige, siger man, nej, Jesus siger alle. Matth. 25, lige til Anfriget led. Er Anfriget ved at lyde nu? — I den senere Tid er der mere af Forventningstønen gennem Fortyn- delsen, og det ene Skrift udkom- mer efter det andet hvor der slaas paa Forventningens Strænge. Sver- meryrret skrifer og med Avisbefendi- gelse, med Taler og Skrifter.

— Ud fra Guds Ords faste Grund begynder der at lyde Afsørsord i Tale og Skrift, som man her agte paa. — Paa dansk er lige ved at komme til Julen et lille Skrift om de sidste Tider af Pastor J. S. Kildsig. Af Trandbergs Disciple er maaske Kildsig den, der bedst har forstaaet Synet paa de sidste Ti- der, og forstaaet Trandberg. Det vidner den Levnetsbeskrivelse om, Pastor Kildsig har udgivet af Trand- berg, der i sin Skorthed vist er den bedste Livsfilddring, vi endnu har af denne mærkelige Mand. Kun det savner jeg i den: Trandbergs Syn paa Embederne, der væsent- lig nærmede sig baa de den angli- fanse og apostoliske-katolske Opfat- telse. — Pastor Kildsig har været saa venlig, at lade mig læse Skrif- tet om de sidste Tider, før det lig- ger færdig for Offentligheden, og ved dets Fremkomst vil jeg gerne hende Dyrkerfomheden paa det. Der er flere Ting i det lille Skrift, jeg synes er upperligt og klart fre-

vet. Det gælder især det fra det profetiske Ord, der alt er opfyldt. Det, vi saar midt i, og det, der skal komme, er mindre klart for mig, og mit Syn falder ikke helt sammen dermed. Jeg synes, jeg ser klart ud fra Herrens Ord gennem Historiens Vidnesbyrd, hvorledes Profetierne er og bliver opfyldte; men staaer for Vedkommende spør- gende: hvad gør Du min Herre? hvad kommer der? —

Siden 1898 har Kejser Wilhelm staaet for mig som en antifikkelig Skikkelse, da han i Jerusalem var med at bryde sine Fædres Skon- traft om Jerusalems evangeliske Bispedømme, og ved den tyffe Kir- kes Indvielse optraadte i Ornat som Overbiskop. Fra min tid- ligste Ungdom har jeg delt Biskop Grundtvig og Biskop Kirkegaards Syn paa de 7 Sendebreve i Naben- baringen. — Pastor Kirkedal har siden udførligt fremlagt samme Syn i Profetiens Lys. — Jeg tror med dem: Dypakira er den anglikanske Menighed, og Sardes den tyffe. Re- formationsfejterne, Krigen, det som vel er en Jamten efter Jesu. Bøn Joh. 17, i den tyffe-angelske Del i Amerika, har endmere vist mig: „Levende, men død.“ „det, der vil dø,“ og „det, der skal styrkes før Død.“ — I et Skrift jeg har i Tryk, har jeg fortællig berørt det. — Pastor Kildsig mener, vi staaer endnu overfor Antikrist med hans Komme, og naar Herren har frukt ham, da 1000 Aarsriget. Guds Ord har meget, som tyder derpaa. Ud fra Guds Ord kommer for mig spørgende om ikke Herren har frukt saa vi end mere nu kan sige: „Opfødt dit Hoved af Kriksenhed.“ Udførelsen af det kommende er endnu dunkelt for mig; men jeg agter paa Jesu Ord: giver Agt paa Tegnene, vær rede. For mig personlig: „kommer Døden fremend Du“ da følger Du mig gennem Skuggedalen i Guds Paradis; men ogsaa det, at kunne sige med Bru- den: „I Sky jeg dig skal følge!“ Det er et Skrift til at sætte Tan- ker i Bevægelse, og saa at søge i Guds Ord; derfor vil jeg gerne anbefale det ved Fremkomsten. En- lig eller ikke enig i alt med Pas- tor Kildsig: Saa er det vist, vi staaer overfor nye Tider, hvor meget af det gamle er forbigangen og hvor gennem alt Herrens Ord ly- der: Jeg kommer snart! før alle Ting nye! Waag! bed! vær rede! Læs det lille Skrift og „Tag Vi- belen frem.“ Der staaer om dem, der „annemmede Ordet i Verden, de ransagede dagligen Skrifterne, om disse Ting havde sig faaledes. Ap. Gr. 17, 11. Det er, hvad vi skal gøre. Ikke mindst i Tider som disse, midt i Tidernes Tegn; thi

Du er ej bunden Af nogens Mund og Ben, Men ransag selv fra Grundten Den Vej, hvor du gaar hen.

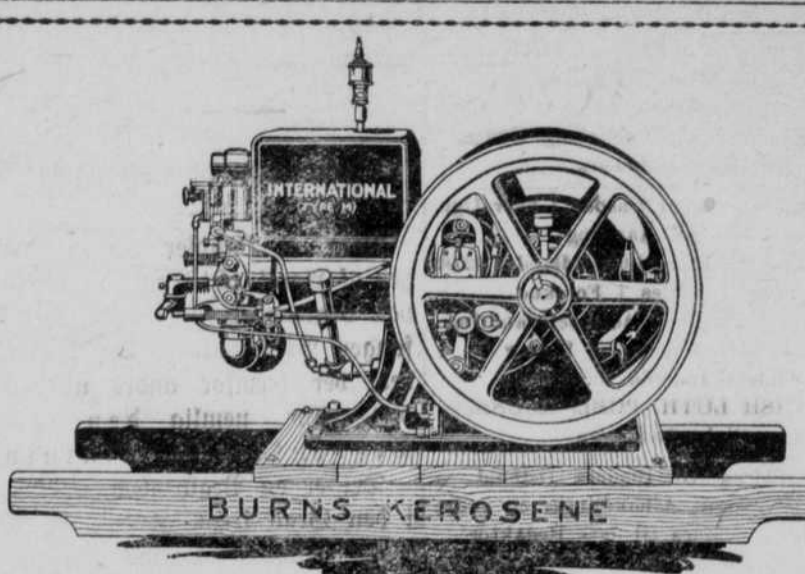
For Frelseres Kirke, Abovent.  
N. Andersen.

Et Ord fra en Hlesvigst Kvinde.

Ogaa i Aar har — væsentlig — nordflesvigsk Kvinde sendt Julegælfen til deres Mand, Sø- ner og Brødre ved Fronten. Der rinder Graad under Vinjerne, thi Døden har været i Hjemmene. Da man græder med, naar man læ- ser, hvad de skriver, bevæges dybt og glædes inderligt ved at høre, hvorledes Trøsten fra Gud fader under alt dette tunge finder Vej til deres Hjerte.

Af det lille Heite skal vi tillade os at bringe en Hilsen skrevet af en Kvinde. Det havde vi ikke tænkt, at I, vore søre Dreng, skulde være ude i den gruelfige Krig i Julen 4 Aar i Aad. Havde vi tænkt det fra først af, saa havde vi vel ikke fun- net bære det. En Kvinde, som be- søgte mig meget under mit lange Sygeleie, har en Gang, mens jeg var saa forkrævet at se ud i min tilfyneladende trøstesløse Fremtid, spurgt, om det var i Dag, jeg slet ikke kunde komme over, om det var Smerterne nu i denne Ti- me, der var mig ganske ulidelige. Da da maatte jeg svare nej. I Dag kunde jeg let holde det ud, til i Dag havde jeg Kraft,

Fortsettes paa Side 6.



De Motor Modeller International Co. nu fabrikerer giver enhver Landmand Anledning til for en rimelig Pris at købe netop den Motor han trænger.

De kan nu faas i forskellige Størrelser fra 1 til 15 Hestekraft. Vor „International Type M“ kan faas i 1½, eller 3 eller 6 Hestekraft Størrelser. Alle vore Modeller endog de mindste kan drives ved Kulolie eller anden billig Brændsel og enhver af dem kan frembringe større Kraft end den fastsatte. Som alle International Maskiner er vore Motorer lavet af de bedste Materialer. De vil gøre god Tjeneste i lang Tid og kan drives billigt.

Enhver Landmand som ønsker en god Motor til en rimelig Pris vil staa sig ved nøje at undersøge vore Modeller. Dersom De kan bruge en 1½, 3 eller 6 Hestekraft Motor vil M. Modellen bringe Dem behagelige Overraskelser.

Om den lokale Forhandler ikke har vore Motorer paa Lager kan han skaffe Dem en. Hvis han endnu ikke har omtalt dem, da skriv til os om yderligere Oplysninger.

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ROSENKRANSEN

af Florence L. Barclay. Paa Dansk ved Past. N. P. Madsen. En ny Ud- gave af denne fortrinlige Bog er nu udkommen her. Den er paa 356 Sider, indb. i smukt og solidt Helshirtings- bind med Titel i Guld paa Ryg og Forside. En Anmelder i Danmark udtaler sig som følger: „Rosenkransen er egentlig en vidunderlig Bog — vidunderlig skøn. Forfatteren behandler et enestaaende Problem, og det er behandlet med Mesterhaand. Det er i Sandhed en Digter, der har skrevet denne Bog; det viser den Poesi, der aander ud fra dens Blade, og det viser de dybe og mesterlige Skildringer af alle de Sjæls- tilstande og Forviklinger, som det mærkelige Emne fremkalder og ifølge sin Natur maa fremkalde hos de to Hovedpersoner. Det er en værdifuld Bog, skrevet i en ren og ædel Aand og saa interessant, at den sikkert vil holde Læseren i Aande, lige til han naar den sidste Linie.“ Pris: \$1.00 portofrit. Danish Luth. Publ. House, Blair, Nebr.

DANA COLLEGE

BLAIR, NEBRASKA. Vinterterminen begynder 3. December. Følgende Kursuser: Akademisk To Aars College Normal Forretningskursus Pro-Seminarium for vordende Præster Musik. Skriv efter Katalog. L. A. LAURSEN.

\* Pastor Petersen anmoder os om at optage dette Brev, som han har anmodet os om at optage de forrige, paa Engelsk.