

St. Croix Avis.

75TH YEAR.

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DE AY.

"Today, if ye will hear His voice, harden not your heart."—Psalm XCV. 7, 8.

TODAY AND TOMORROW.

At a public meeting a minister related a circumstance connected with a young lady of his congregation which should be a warning to others.

Having heard that this person was dangerously ill, and knowing her not to be prepared for death, he resolved to visit her. He accordingly called at the house, but she positively refused to see him, or any one who would speak upon the subject of religion. Her mother was from home at the time, and he saw none of the family. However, feeling the weight of her soul upon his mind, he determined to return the following day. The mother received him kindly, and said she would speak with her daughter, and if possible gain for him an entrance to the chamber of sickness. But no argument prevailed with the invalid, and the disheartened minister was obliged to leave the house, feeling that one within its walls was fast hastening to the verge of life, and toward an awful precipice, and yet he was not permitted to point her to the Saviour.

In the stillness of the night, however, she (the invalid) called her mother to her bed-side, and said, "It was kind of Mr.—to take such an interest in me, and I have scarcely treated him well. Perhaps I will see him tomorrow." "Perhaps I will see him tomorrow," repeated the minister, and added, "Days and nights have passed since then, but not for a moment have these words left me, nor do I think they will till the day of my death, for on the

tomorrow those eyes were closed, never more to look on an earthly object."

Jesus does not say tomorrow, but "today if ye will hear His voice." Today Christ is our Intercessor, Tomorrow He may be our Judge.—Contributed.

FOOD FOR STARVING EUROPE

The appeal of the supreme council of the peace conference to the United States on behalf of starving Austria and the statement of Herbert Hoover on the measure of help which Europe needs from America may at first sight seem partially contradictory. But on closer examination it becomes evident that Mr. Hoover, surveying the larger field and explaining how its wants may be supplied, does not say one word to indicate that the situation of the Austrian republic is anything less than desperate. Trustworthy reports from all sources agree on the terrible results of lack of food, clothing and fuel in Vienna since imperial Austria dropped her shattered sword.

Republican Austria is not very much more than Vienna, which cannot obtain food enough from the small agricultural area attached to it. The Austrian delegation at Paris states that in the city alone the deaths from starvation in 1919 raised the number of deaths over those in 1918 by 150,000, and the lowest estimate, that of Prof. Pirquet, is 100,000. The average weight of boys of one year is 41 per cent below the normal level. In the streets 20,000 children are begging. Sir William Goode says that the doctors can do nothing to prevent the icy winds from literally destroying them and Sir Thomas Cunningham, the British military representative at Vienna, says that "fats and warm clothing, in addition to ordinary food, must be provided for children if they are to be saved." It is a piteous state of affairs, and half rations will entirely exhaust Vienna's food by the end of this month.

But help is in sight. At Trieste there is a store of 20,000 tons of food, and more will soon be available for conveyance to Austria. Mr. Hoover forestalls anxiety on this subject, showing that there will be no delay by negotiation of United States loans for the distressed portions of Europe, no loan being requisite, and that by means of credit all that is necessary will be done. Some dozen cities in central and southern Europe, he says, need breadstuffs on credit from the grain corporation to prevent actual star-

vation. Of course, the credit will be given. Vienna, Belgrade, Prague, Warsaw and the others will receive the food for which they ask, and pay for it when they can. Their ability will begin to return when peace is declared and industry and commerce revive. Mr. Hoover's words are significant: "Aside from some secondary measures by our government, the problem is one of ratification of peace," with resumption of "ordinary business processes." That problem, we trust, is about to be solved.—*Boston Herald, Jan. 8th.*

A Proclamation

By the Governor of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

BY virtue of the authority vested in me I do hereby set apart February 12, 1920 and proclaim it a public holiday within the Virgin Islands of the United States for the purpose of observing LINCOLN'S Birthday.

J. W. OMAN,
Governor.

Government House, St. Thomas,
V. I., January 31, 1920.

Executive Order No. 9.

THE following additional Regulations governing the sale of bay rum promulgated in pursuance of law, will be effective within the Virgin Islands of the United States on and after February 1, 1920:

Bay Rum shall be sold only on delivery of a permit issued by the Police Department.

Applicants for permit must satisfy the Police Department that the applicant will not use the bay rum for beverage purposes.

Section 4 of Executive Order No. 2, dated July 7th, 1919, wherein such sales were authorized upon the buyer's prior delivery to the seller of an application to purchase, is hereby amended accordingly.

J. W. OMAN,
Governor.