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Signs of the Times

AND ORIENTAL WATCHMAN

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The Armies About Jerusalem

BY F. H. LOASBY



OME has been called the—"Eternal City," but certain it is that for centuries Jerusalem has been known as the "Holy City," and not alone by the Jews, whose "Holy City" primarily it is, but Christians, and Mohammedans too, look upon Jerusa-

lem as a great religious centre, a name and sanctuary associated with the true God.

When we consider the comparative smallness of Jerusalem, it is astonishing what enduring fame has been attached to it. This, however, is no less true of the whole land of Palestine; for this small strip of land on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean occupies in history a place totally disproportionate to its size.

Its history, perhaps longer than that of any city in the world, has been a most eventful one, and the British soldiers who now stand guard over it occupy a place once held by Jews, Egyptians, Babylonians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Persians, Arabs, Crusaders, and Turks, in turn.

It is not surprising, then, that Jerusalem should form the basis of one of the most remarkable, as well as one of the most solemn prophecies ever written. It was given by no less a personage than our Lord and Saviour Himself, and was the outcome of the natural pride of some of His disciples

in the wonderful strength and beauty of the temple at Jerusalem.

The prophecy, found in the 24th chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel, warrants our most earnest study; for if the succeeding years place further back in time the date of the giving of the prophecy, they do but hasten the day of its fulfilment,—an event upon which hangs the destiny of every soul.

This allusion by the disciples to the architecture of the temple had evoked from our Lord the statement to the effect that there should not be left one stone upon another that should not be cast down. See Matt. 24: 1, 2.



MODERN JERUSALEM

The mention of such a calamity was enough to raise to the highest pitch the curiosity, and indeed the fears of any Jew, and the disciples were no exception. Thus, as they sat on the Mount of Olives, that ridge from whence they had a magnificent

view of the temple and its courts, the disciples made the request, "Tell us, when shall these things be, and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world." (See Matt. 24: 3)

It is evident from the foregoing words that what our Lord told the disciples regarding the overthrow of the temple, and with it the city itself, formed as it were the basis upon which He might build not only the prophecy concerning the overthrow of the Holy City, but also the overthrow of this whole world at the appointed time. Indeed, this prophecy, like many found in the Word, has a dual application, that is, the destruction of Jerusalem as a symbol of the destruction of this world. Hence it is quite clear from the words of the disciples when they said, "When shall these things be," that they referred to the overthrowing of the temple; then, following that, the momentous question, "What shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

Here, then, connected with the Holy City, is one of the most important prophecies to be found in all the Word of God. It concerns not only the overthrow of a city, but that greatest event of all history, the end of the world, and the coming of Christ as king. There is no evading that issue. The language is clear, emphatic; the words of the Saviour Himself.

A verse by verse study is perhaps not necessary at this time. One important point to notice, however, is this, that the prophecy divides naturally into two divisions. That is to say, from verse 1 to verse 14 is a general outline of the events which are to take place from the time that the prophecy was given by our Lord up to the time of the end of the world. Then again, from verse 15 to the end of the chapter is a more detailed account of the same occurrences, again culminating in the end of the world and the coming of the Saviour to receive His kingdom.

The Beginning of Sorrows

We have stated that the prophecy naturally divides into two parts,—the first division from verses 1 to 14 being a general sketch from the time the prophecy was given down to the time of the end of the world. Indeed, this is clearly seen to be the case when we notice the words of verses 4 and 5 which state that after the death of Christ many deceivers should come, professing themselves to be the Messiah. This was very quickly

fulfilled, and resulted in the death of many of the unfortunate Jews, as both history and Scripture clearly show. (See Acts 5: 36, 37. Acts 8: 9, 10. 2 Pet. 2: 1)

"Wars and rumours of war" are spoken of in verse 6. The Jews were soon to feel the ruthless and cruel hand of war upon them, even to their own gates. Famines and pestilences, earthquakes, all were to tell their story; all were to voice their warning. But not yet is the "end" of which the Saviour spoke. These are but the "beginning of sorrows" (verse 8) signs from which the faithful may know that the word of God is sure.

The people of God were to be afflicted, hated, killed. "Many shall become offended and shall betray one another." (verse 10) "The love of many shall wax cold," (verse 12) But it is "he that shall endure to the end" that shall be saved." (verse 13) Plainly, this testing time refers not only to those who among the Jews may have been the faithful believers of the Christ; it refers also and perhaps more fully to the young Christian church struggling into being; for "the Gospel of the kingdom" (*i. e.* the kingdom to be set up at the time of the end of the world and the second coming of the Christ) is to be "preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come." (verse 14) "End of what?" we may ask. Why, the end of the world; for is that not the very thing of which the disciples were enquiring? In other words, "When shall these things be," that is, the overthrow of the temple; and then, "the signs of Thy coming and of the end of the world?"

Now, commencing with the 15th verse, we have a more detailed, and hence more instructive and important sketch of the same events. To a study of these most important matters we now invite the attention of our readers. Here we read: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, then let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains." (verses 15, 16)

At first glance these words seem difficult of comprehension. A comparison with the Apostle Luke's narrative of the same events, however, will make the matter quite clear. Here the Lord Jesus tells His disciples: "When ye shall see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, know that the desolation thereof is nigh." Inasmuch, however, as Matthew 24 speaks of the "abomination of desolation,"

when referring to the Roman armies which, of course, were the armies soon to surround Jerusalem, it is instructive to note the reason. We recall that in spite of the many failures recorded in the history of the Jewish people, they were, at that time at least, the chosen people of God, hence haters of idolatry. But the armies soon to appear round about Jerusalem were those of the idol worshipping Romans, who carrying the devices of their gods upon their banners, often set them up in the camp as objects of worship. These things were an "abomination" to the Jews. Thus,

a hurried withdrawal from the city. This provided the opportunity of escape from the doomed city for which the believers of the word of the Lord Jesus were looking, and as history records, they took the opportunity and fled. This corroboration of Bible prophecy by history, occurring many times in the Bible testimony, is a most important fact, overlooked many times both by the friends as well as by the opponents of the Christian religion, but is nevertheless one of the strongest proofs of the Divine origin of the Holy Bible.



THEIR HIRED MAN

"This know also, that in the last days men shall be lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." 2 Timothy 3: 1, 4.

when the Roman armies appeared outside Jerusalem as its desolators, the "abomination of desolation" had truly come.

Our Lord had given the command that when Jerusalem should be encompassed with armies the inhabitants who believed His word should flee to the mountains (Matt. 24: 16). To the ordinary mind this command might well appear difficult to carry out; for to flee from a closely invested city would not be an easy matter. But in the opening stages of the siege the Roman army of occupation, suddenly feeling itself unequal to the situation owing to the unexpected stubbornness of the Jewish resistance, made

Jerusalem fell and with it the Jewish nation: for it was not long after that the Jews were scattered throughout the world. So today we find them; a people without a country, a nation without a flag. Thus was a prophecy definitely given, definitely fulfilled. It behooves us to heed the lesson of the destruction of Jerusalem. It is the prophecy of the destruction of this world.

Signs of the End

The intervening years of trouble and tribulation, spoken of in verses 21 to 26, we may pass over without comment, except to state, as all students of history well know, that the

greatest period of tribulation endured by the people of God was that under the rule of the Papacy, or Roman Catholic Church during the time of its power, and extending to, and terminating in, the capture of the Pope in 1798 by order of Napoleon, whereby the papal chair was left without an occupant for the space of two years. It was to these days of tribulation, during which the blood of Christian martyrs was poured out like water, that the Lord Jesus undoubtedly refers when He speaks of the "tribulation of those days" in verse 29, toward which we will now turn.

We read in verse 29: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken." Matt. 24: 29. Here we have definite signs, which are to mark the second coming of the Lord Jesus to this world, and the end of the world, just as truly as the Roman armies gathered around Jerusalem marked the end of the Jewish capital.

When were these signs to be expected? In reply we may say that, as stated above, a study of the history of the trials of the Christian church will readily convince us that "the days of tribulation" spoken of are the days of persecution which ended by the suspension of papal supremacy in 1798. It is immediately after the period of tribulation that the startling signs spoken of in Matt. 24: 29 were to take place.

Now let us notice briefly what these signs were. We read that "the sun shall be darkened." That is to say, not an eclipse, or what we would term a natural phenomenon, but something extraordinary, something not to be explained by the text-books of science. That such an event did take place the records of the past furnish proof.

Webster's International Dictionary, edition of 1914, says: "Dark day: especially May 19, 1780, when a remarkable and unexplained darkness extended all over New England."

Herschel, the great astronomer, wrote: "The dark day in Northern America was one



NOV. 13, 1833 AT NIAGARA FALLS

of the wonderful phenomena of nature which will always be read with interest, but which philosophy is at a loss to explain."

This same verse gives us definite signs of the moon withholding her light, and the falling of the stars. These too, are matters of history, for we read as follows:

"The darkness of the following evening was probably as deep and dense as ever had been observed since the Almighty first gave birth to light; it wanted only palpability to render it as extraordinary as that which overspread the land of Egypt in the days of Moses. If every luminous body in the universe had been shrouded in impenetrable shades, or struck out of existence, it was thought the darkness could not have been more complete. A sheet of white paper, held within a few inches of the eyes, was equally invisible with the blackest velvet."—*Our First Century*, by R. M. Devins, p. 94.

Of the falling of the stars the celebrated astronomer and meteorologist, Professor Olmsted of Yale College, says: "Those who were so fortunate as to witness the exhibition of shooting stars on the morning of Nov. 13, 1833, probably saw the greatest display of celestial fireworks that has ever been since the creation of the world, or at least within the annals covered by the pages of history. . . . The extent of the shower of 1833 was such as to cover no inconsiderable part of the earth's surface, from the middle of the Atlantic on the east to the Pacific on the west; and from the northern coast of South America to undefined regions among the British possessions on the north the exhibition was visible, and everywhere presented nearly the same appearance."—*The American Encyclopedia*, edition 1881, article "Meteor."

We invite your most earnest consideration of the 30th verse of this chapter. "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

There is no denying that language. It does not say that the Lord Jesus shall appear in the hearts of His people, or that His coming is a spiritual coming, but it states plainly that after the events above described He will come so that all the people living at that time shall see Him come. The events have been fulfilled which lead up to His second coming; we live in the days of His appearing. We set no date, we claim no knowledge of the exact day. We go no further than the Holy Bible which says, "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: so likewise ye, when ye shall

see all these things, know that he is near, even at the doors." Matt. 24: 32, 33.

But this we do say,—The day of His coming is at hand. The signs have appeared; the time is ripe for the event. The Lord Jesus said that the tribes of the earth shall mourn. Will you be among the mourners? There were many mourners in the time of the destruction of Jerusalem, for they heeded not the message; many to-day heed not. Let the story of Jerusalem teach its lesson to those who will believe. We stand today, not waiting for the end of an earthly city; not waiting for the sign of the armies round about Jerusalem. We stand to day, the signs fulfilled, waiting for the next great move, the most decisive and most momentous of all history,—the appearing of the Son of God and the end of all things earthly. May the eye of faith detect His signals and the heart of trust respond.

Is the End Near?

BY G. W. PETTIT

FOUR thousand years before the advent of Christ into this world, men had learned through the inspired record that a Saviour was to come. The day long looked for by seer, peasant, and king, at last arrived. It was the dawning of a new revelation to the human race. The Christ did not appear in royal robes and the usual display of eastern rulers, but came as a humble servant of the people. He allied himself with their every need. The uplifting of the poor, the outcast, the lame, blind, and afflicted, was his chief work. It is said of him, "He went about doing good."

The Son of God lived among men a little over thirty years. He fully vindicated the nature of the Father and His kingdom, and man had a new revelation of the nature of God and His rule. On the eve of His departure from earth to the Father He promised His friends that He would return. We see in this the sympathy often expressed when a dear one leaves the home. It has the human, yet divine personal touch that further shows the char-

acter of both Son and Father. It is expressed in these words: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also." (St. John 14: 1-3) He knew their troubled hearts and saw they longed to be with Him continually. This was not to be their privilege yet, so He said to them on this occasion: "I will come again, and receive you unto myself that where I am, there ye may be also." This wonderful promise has not yet been fulfilled.

As the ancients read of Christ and of His work and great sacrifice which He was to make for the human race they longed to see Him. They looked for nearly four thousand years. He did not fail them; He came. They saw in Him what they could not see without the life lived among them. He went to the "Father's house" and for another two thousand years the believers in Him have been looking for



"THE ROCKET," FIRST ENGLISH LOCOMOTIVE

the happy day when the promise made of his return would be fulfilled.

A Remarkable Century

Many signs of that return have had their fulfilment in the past hundred years of the earth's history which Inspiration foretold long before the first advent of Christ; and many of these signs Christ Himself repeated to His followers when He was here with them. The prophet Daniel, referring to a time when the book written by him would no longer be a sealed or closed book, said, "Seal the book even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased." Dan. 12: 4.

The prophet here tells us that "the time of the end," (a space of time just before the end of the world) will be notable for an increase of knowledge and for the wonderful

way in which men will run to and fro. The intellectual and material progress of the last century makes it an age of wonders and marks it as unique in the history of the world. Let us illustrate it by the matter of transportation. From the days of Adam until one hundred years ago, in spite of all the intellectual giants of the past, there had been but little improvement in the mode of travel. The nineteenth century dawns and steam and electricity are harnessed and as by magic they transform all the earth. Could we number those who at this moment are travelling by sea and land we would find them millions. For instance, in the month of October, 1917, five million fares were paid to the tram company in Bombay alone.

The Printing Press

The printing press is another good illustration of modern invention. Why was not the art of printing discovered before the Reformation brought intellectual and spiritual freedom to Europe? There is no difference in principle between the modern lead type and the raised letters found on the lead pipes of the Romans. For three centuries after printing was known there was but little improvement. But within the last 100 years we see such vast improvements, that we now have the great octuple presses printing, folding and wrapping many thousand newspapers an hour. Why this marvellous improvement in the last century?



"THE CLAREMONT," FIRST STEAMBOAT

Universal Education

But all this would have been of little benefit if the masses were unable to read. Divine Providence has at the same time interested men in universal education, first in the Occident then in the Orient. The increase of knowledge spoken of in the text in Daniel's prophecy is further shown by our new vocabulary with such words as steamship, railway train, tram, telegraph, telephone, bicycle, motorcar, wireless, aeroplane, etc, and also by the modern educational systems which have developed.

Gospel to All the World in One Generation

Let us now turn to the words of our Saviour in the New Testament to learn the bearing of all this on the imminence of Christ's coming. In answer to the request for a sign of His coming, Jesus, among other signs, said this gospel of the kingdom should be preached in all nations for a witness, then the end should come. (Matt. 24: 14.) One hundred years ago this seemed impossible. But God has set his hand to do all His Word has prophesied, and now we see that within the last one hundred years the walls of intolerance have been broken down, opening doors into every land; the burden of souls has been laid upon the church, and the facilities provided for a quick work. Bible societies have been organized and streams of men and money are now flowing out into all the world. The most useful and most highly perfected of modern inventions are assisting in giving the Gospel to all the world. These facts are not mere coincidences but the all prevailing presence of our God is moving in the majesty of His power to finish His purpose. It will be done through the united agencies which God hath set in motion to fulfill His holy word. The way the gospel is going and the way God has been preparing the world for a quick



THE MODERN BATTLESHIP

work are only evidences of the nearness of the end of all things and the coming of Christ. We are in the special generation pointed out in prophecy. Truly this is an age of wonderful increase of knowledge.

Man to be Without Excuse at that Time

Evidence of the end is thus multiplied so that man would be without excuse in that day. "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matt. 24: 36-39). The warnings were given then as now, but not being heeded they were overtaken in destruction. "So shall it be" we are told in the days of the coming of the Son of man. Man then saw the signs of the approaching storm which broke in the flood which engulfed the race; so today God holds out sign-boards by which men may know of the end. Men in that day recognizing that God has left them without excuse will cry for rocks and mountains to fall on them and hide them from His approaching glory. (Rev. 6: 14-17). Reader, where will you stand?



MODERN MALLET-COMPOUND LOCOMOTIVE

Editorial Notes

Palestine for the Jews

Mr. Balfour has sent the following letter to Lord Rothschild in regard to the establishment of a national home in Palestine for the Jewish people:—

"I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to and approved by the Cabinet:—

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

"I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation."

A large number of Christians are looking forward to a time when the Jews will be reinstated in their former home, Christ will be accepted by them as the Messiah, and a reign of righteousness ushered in about which will be clustered many of the events mentioned in the Old Testament prophecies and the Apocalypse.

That many Jews will return if the opportunity be presented we can but expect, but that the Jews will be reinstated in Divine favour as a nation and Jerusalem become again the centre of Christian activity is a theory contrary to all the testimony of the Bible.

The Jewish nation ceased to be God's people when they rejected the Messiah. All the prophecies pointing forward to a restoration can only apply to the spiritual Israel in which are included all who have accepted and lived the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ,

"For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect." Rom. 4: 13, 14.

"If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Gal. 3: 29.

The Trend of Church Federation

In the Los Angeles (America) *Times* Emily de Kenson Howe tells of a prediction made by the Rev. W. W. Simpson, the eminent missionary who spent more than twenty five years in China. The gist of Mr. Simpson's prophecy is that the present war will terminate by revealing the great anti-christ predicted by the apostles Paul and John. This anti-christ will first appear to the world as a great deliverer, through a mighty movement among men; but when the mask is thrown off, a religious persecuting despotism will be revealed in its true character.

We recently read a still plainer second to this in an article by Mr. C. H. L. Mercer in *The Christian Patriot* (Madras) of Nov. 10, 1917. In commenting on a sermon at City Temple, London, by Canon Henson who looks forward to "a reconciliation" between the churches of Christendom "which shall embrace all the members of the Christian family," Mr. Mercer says:

"This simply means the reunion of Christendom in apostasy, for we can be sure that the Church of Rome, having stamped her apostasy in doctrine and practice with the seal of infallibility, cannot change, so if there is to be any union with her it must be by the apostasy of Protestant churches. . . . The idea that this reunion of Christendom will be for God's glory is a delusion of Satan. It is a pet scheme of the devil to destroy God's saints, so the Bible says."

We know nothing of the authors of the above predictions but we do know from a careful study of God's Word that their forecasts are true. We add:

"When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result."

This hierarchy is symbolised in the Apocalypse by a beast having two horns like a lamb. (Rev. 13: 11) It will lead the world in a persecution of all cherishing liberty of conscience. Some may laugh as they read these words quoted in the foregoing paragraphs, but recent events point to just such a condition in the near future. If some may not believe, we invite them to save the last quotation especially and prove it to their own satisfaction when they see it fulfilled.

A Paradox

In an exchange we read the following regarding the family of missionaries who

were recently drowned on their way to India.

"How we shall miss them! But our loss is their gain, for they surely are a happy unbroken family enjoying the presence of our Jesus for whose return we are longing and praying."

We wish to be enlightened as to how we can still be looking for the return of our Saviour if we are admitted into his immediate presence at death. Would it not be better to desire death? And if the righteous dead are already in heaven, of what use is the resurrection?

The Apostle Paul says to the contrary, "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we that are alive, that are left, shall *together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.*" (1 Thess. 4: 16, 17,

In no place in the Bible can proof be found that man has an immortal soul, or that their reward is received at death. Those who cherish this teaching in the face of plain Bible texts are but preparing themselves for the overpowering deceptions of Spiritualism which are even now taking the world captive.

The Review

Recent Events of World-wide Interest

Russian conditions still occupy a large amount of the world's attention. The downfall of the moderate party, the separation of church and state, confiscation of all church lands, abolition of privileges of the clergy, seizure of estates of the bourgeois, civil war, assassinations, and famine, have followed in rapid succession as in the French Revolution; and lastly word has come that a formal peace has been arranged between Russia and Germany. Russia's ultimatum to Rumania has also complicated the situation.

The nationalisation of American railways is an event which cannot be overlooked, involving as it does about 30,000,000 pounds sterling. It is *said to be* only a war measure. It remains to be seen if this is so.

The Labour situation throughout the principal countries of the world is deserving of

the closest study. Strikes in England, America, Austria, Australia, and lately in Spain, Portugal, and Germany continue to embarrass their respective governments. The power of Labour is undoubtedly growing, as evidenced by the text of speeches during the last month.

Further shortage of foodstuffs is bringing two meatless days in England, 7 ounces of bread a day for the inhabitants of France, a wheatless and a meatless day for American citizens, with further restrictions in the use of sugar and other principal articles of diet.

The sinking of the *Goeben* and *Breslau* destroys the principal portion of the Turkish navy.

Mr. Lloyd George and President Wilson have definitely stated the war aims and peace terms of the Allies.



The Duties of Parents Regarding Sex Hygiene

By MARY C. McREYNOLDS, M. D.

SO delicate a subject must be treated most guardedly; so vitally important a subject should be conscientiously studied and intelligently understood, not only by every parent and teacher, but by every young man and woman who has come to the age of adolescence.

Prominent among the instructions given ancient Israel are the statutes regulating the relation of the sexes, both before and after marriage. In this relation is bound up so much of the happiness or grief of individuals, so much weal or woe to posterity, and so much even of the destiny of nations, that the Creator of the human family might well give most explicit instruction to His children concerning the matter.

Few realize how early is the stamp given to the life, how soon may be formed habits that will strengthen self control or give free rein to passion. Such influences for good or ill may become active even during the prenatal life of the child. The work of training begins with infancy. "The mother's work begins with the babe in the arms." "To parents is committed the sacred trust of guarding the physical and moral constitution of their children."

Lesson of the Flowers

The first lessons may be given from the flowers. All life originates from the seed; and in every flower the secret of the seed formation is revealed. The delicate arrangement of the stamens and the pistil, protected by the encircling corolla of petals, is a fitting symbol of the house circle, which guards that most sacred function, the one nearest kin to the work of creation, the reproduction of human beings to inherit the eternal kingdom of God. The attention of the tenderest mind may be called to this simplicity and beauty; the com-

parison may be left for later years, when, in his contact with other children, the child will need the safeguarding of more explicit teaching.

Useful Work

"Provide useful work fitted for young hands." Nothing will be a more sure source of evil than indolence. We remember with gratitude one family of early acquaintance. The three children, all boys, entered into the work of the "family firm" as young as five years, earning, tithing, and spending their own money under the wise counsel of prayerful parents. The home was very humble, a log house only; but each boy had his own private corner, and a bed by himself. We have never seen cleaner, purer minded, stronger men than developed under this regime.

Good music in the home sheds a subduing influence upon growing minds. The benefits of plain, wholesome, palatable food cannot be overestimated. The appetite developed for spiced foods and condiments calls for strong drink also. This is the foster mother of prostitution, which brings such fearful physical and mental disease in its train. This fact being recognized, liquor free towns are sought out as locations for modern universities.

Answering Questions

With lessons of self-control must be given that knowledge of the physical being which will develop due respect for the body and reverence for its functions. Proper questions should also be met and prayerfully answered—*by the parent*. If parents consent to the pernicious idea that such things "must not be mentioned," they may be sure that Satan's agencies will not only arouse questions, but will provide answers—and lead the children into soul and body destroying vice.

Know for yourselves what your children are reading, and reject not only the bad, but that class of literature which throws a false light over life, and stimulates an animated

imagination. Avoid any manner of dress that will obstruct the return flow of blood, either by tight bands or by exposure, and thus cause a congestion of the delicate organs, in time arousing undue and untimely excitement of the sexual sense.

As the children near the age of adolescence *separate* and very careful instruction should be given concerning the organs the Creator has given them. Every function should be understood, and every undesirable impulse controlled. Dr. Rosenau says: "Experiences in childhood and infancy exercise a controlling influence upon the sexual life of later years. The practical application of this is, not that children are to be brought up in seclusion, but that there is no higher duty of parents than to establish such relations with their children that sex difficulties can be discussed and straightened out before they give rise to permanent moods or trends. Hypocrisy and false shame are not natural attributes of the child; and when we create them, we raise a barrier behind which much damage may take place without our knowledge. In childhood and adolescence there must be established the closest bonds of sympathy and understanding between parent and child. Wholesome, frank communication and sensible consultations at that time regarding sex quandaries, may save a child or young

adult from disaster later on." — "*Preventive Medicine and Hygiene*," page 306.

The Proper Standard

Educate to the single standard. Teach young men to be as pure and chaste as they demand that their sisters and wives must be. The hazards of an impure life are terrible. Diseases of the very worst type have their origin here. Their victims make up a quarter of the inmates of the insane asylums. These diseases bring woe to the suffering wife and innocent children who are contaminated by the very man who has promised to protect and honor them. It is needless to say that there is no law written in any human being that requires such great hazards of happiness and life to meet its demands. There is no reason, physiological or otherwise, for the life of any young man to be other than chaste and controlled. Those who argue for such "necessity" are laying the foundation for wretched bodies, ruined homes and a weakened nation.

When intelligence replaces ignorance, when conscientious education lifts the satanic pall of false modesty which has enshrouded the study of sex hygiene, then shall we have a nation the "price of whose virtuous women is far above rubies," and its young men will be "more precious than fine gold," even more precious "than the golden wedge of Ophir."

An Island Inhabited by Rats

THERE is a curious situation in South Georgia, the big island that lies in the South Atlantic a thousand miles due east of the lower end of South America.

Thirty years ago it became the base for the Antarctic whale fisheries, with the result that every year a thousand or two dead whales, stripped of their blubber, were turned adrift on the shore.

Also, sundry rats landed from the whaling ships. Now the rats own the island. There

are millions upon millions of them. They have all they want to eat—fresh killed whale in summer, cold storage whale the rest of the year. They have worn well traveled roads all over the island, which they keep open in the winter as tunnels under the snow. And they have killed off every living creature in fifty thousand square miles, except the whalers who come in summer, and an occasional bird.—*Every Week*.



Jesus Christ of Nazareth Will Come Again

We Believe It—

1. Because the Holy Bible prophesied great persecution to precede the final years of earth's history. Matt. 24: 21, Dan. 7: 25, Rev. 13: 7. The Dark Ages are not forgotten. The horrors of the Romish Inquisition, the massacres of the Waldenses and Huguenots and Dutch Reformers are bloody facts known to the world.

2. The Bible foretold: "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened." Matt. 24: 29. Also Joel 2: 30, 31; 3: 15, Isa. 13: 10, Amos 8: 9.

Webster's International Dictionary, edition of 1910, records: "Dark day: especially May 19, 1780, when a remarkable and unexplained darkness extended over all New England." Numerous quotations might be given regarding this event. The historians also record that the moon, although at the full, and the stars were entirely invisible the first half of the night following, and when the moon did appear it had the appearance of blood.

3. The Apostle John prophesied a great earthquake to precede the darkening of the sun. Rev. 6: 12. This could have been none other than the great Lisbon earthquake in the year 1755, when, according to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* edition of 1914, no less than 30,000 to 40,000 people lost their lives with a property loss of 20,000,000 pounds sterling. This great tremor was felt from Scotland to Asia Minor.

4. It was further recorded: "The stars of heaven shall fall." Matt. 24: 29.

One of the most spectacular meteoric showers occurred Nov. 13, 1833, being especially brilliant in Northern America. Other rich displays occurred in November, 1872 and 1885. (See the article "Meteors" in last edition of *The Encyclopaedia Britannica*.)

5. Our Saviour said, "For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matt. 24: 24

England had her Smith Piggott; America,

"Elijah" Dowie, and others; India, Mirza Gulam Ahmed in the Punjab, and the notorious Krishnamurthi, put forward by the leaders of Theosophy in Madras. Spiritualism is preparing the way for still greater deceptions.

6. Preceding His coming there would be "upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; . . . men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Luke 21: 25, 26.

Is it necessary to point the present calamity which is affecting every nation of the world? What clearer fulfilment could be given?

7. The prophet Daniel recorded that at "the time of the end many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Dan. 12: 4

Before the middle of the 19th century traffic and commerce were very limited, not only between countries but between different parts of the same country. The isolation of different parts of India, for instance, before the advent of railways in 1845 is well known. In the years 1914—1915, however, more than 452 millions of people travelled on the railways of India.

As to the increase of knowledge we can do no better than mention the inventions which, according to a leading scientific journal, are the seven wonders of the modern world.

These are "wireless telegraphy, the telephone, the aeroplane, radium, antiseptics and antitoxins, spectrum analysis, x rays." These and many more have either been invented or brought to perfection within the last half-century.

8. The Apostle Paul declared, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." 2 Tim. 3: 1-3.

(Concluded on page 13)

Half-Hours With the Bible

How Christ Will Come



His coming is visible to the whole world.

"Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him." Rev. 1: 7.

Comes with clouds and great glory.

"Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." Matt. 26: 64.

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matt. 24: 30.

Kingdoms of the world destroyed.

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." Dan. 2: 44.

Every person receives reward or punishment.

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then shall he reward every man according to his works." Matt. 18: 27.

Righteous dead raised to life.

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." 1 Thess. 4: 16.

Righteous living taken to heaven.

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thess. 4: 17.

"And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matt. 24: 31.

All the wicked living destroyed.

"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible." Isa. 13: 9, 11.

You who read this are forewarned.

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not, For as the lightning cometh out of the east and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24: 24-27.

(Concluded from page 12)

Newspapers furnish daily fulfilments of this text.

9. "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matt. 24: 14. A perusal of the annual reports of the great Bible societies of the world is a sufficient evidence that the Gospel is going, and going quickly, to all the world.

10. No one knows the date of the Lord's return, but He said, "When ye shall see all these things, know that He is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matt. 24: 33-35. "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

Health Hints for the American Army

The *Congressional Record* of May 17, 1917, contained, among other matter taken from the cards of instruction of the Senior Service Corps of the U. S. Army, the following items, which look good enough for people other than those training for the army.

"Drink without eating and eat without drinking.

"Five glasses of water a day, none with meals, will make you free of the doctors.

"Warm feet and a cool head need no physician.

"A bath, cold if you please, hot if you must, with a good rub, starts the day right.

"Dress cool when you walk, and warm when you ride.

"Your nose, not your mouth, was given you to breathe through.

"Don't sit still with wet feet. Walk until you have a chance to change.

"Never let a day pass without covering four miles on foot.

"See how high you can hold your head and how deeply you can breathe whenever you are out of doors.

"Hot water quick is the best thing for a sprain.

"Short shoes and shoes that don't fit cost a lot in the long run.

"Getting mad makes black marks on the health.

"Envy, jealousy, and wrath will ruin any digestion.

"You'll never get the gout from walking.

"Sleep woos the physically tired man; she flouts the mentally exhausted.

"Nature never punished a man for getting his legs tired. She has punished many for getting their nerves exhausted.

"Two hours of outdoor exercise by the master never yet made him overcritical of the cook.

"Don't ask the heart to pump extra blood to the brain all day and then to an over-loaded stomach all night.

"Tight shoes have sent many a man to bed with a cold.

"Leg weariness never yet produced brain fog.

"Loose clothes, loose gloves, easy shoes, spell comfort and health.

"No wise athlete stands still after exercise without putting something over him.

"Open windows don't make half so many colds as closed ones do.

"Blood pressure does not come to the men who walk a lot out of doors; instead, it looks for those who sit and eat a lot in-doors.

"Many a man finds too late that his motor car has

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Signs of the Times

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cost him more in health and legs than it has in tires and gasoline.

"A four or five mile walk daily makes your credit at the bank of health mount up steadily.

"Nature won't stand for overdrafts any more than your bank.

"You never saw a dog fill his mouth with food and then take a drink to wash it down.

"Tan corps don'ts: Don't shirk, don't talk, don't worry, don't explain, don't knock, don't quit, don't loaf, don't lag, and don't rush.

"You can be: Prompt, alert, quiet, determined, steady, helpful, unselfish, considerate, gracious, observant, brave, and clean.

"You can own: A clean body, a clean mind, fresh air, and good water.

"You can't be taxed on: Cleanliness, perspiration, walking, and deep breathing.

"You can do without: Profanity, obscenity, anger, and envy.

"You don't need money to be: Happy, healthy, hopeful, and hearty.

"You can be master of: Self-control, self-respect, self-belief, and self-restraint.

"Don't make excuses. Make good.

"Stand straight, think straight, march straight, and the rest will take care of itself.

"Worry makes cowards.

"If you feel tired, remember so does the other man.

"Fear is the forerunner of illness.

"Happiness comes from health, not from money.

"After a meal stand up straight for fifteen minutes.

"When drinking a glass of water, stand erect and take a full breath first, then drink with chest out and hips back and head up.

"Whenever you walk, stand up, with chin in, hips back, and chest out, and think how tall you are.

"Drill is a mental as well as a physical discipline.

"Courage and concentration will conquer most obstacles.

"The man who gets things is the one who pulls up his belt a hole tighter and goes out after them.

"Work will take your mind off most of your ills.

"Two things are essential to a clean skin; one is bathing and a rub down, but the other is still more important, and that is perspiration.

"Washing out the impurities from within through the pores of the skin takes the undue load of work off the kidneys.

"Preparedness is nine-tenths physical strength and endurance.

"Food, water, and oxygen are the fuel for running the human machine.

"Obesity comes from overloading the stomach and underworking the body.

"If you take more food than the digestion can handle, you tire not only the stomach, but the whole system.

"Nine-tenths of the blues come from a bad liver and lack of outdoor exercise.

"Full, deep breathing, drinking plenty of water, and keeping the skin active will keep most people out of the doctors' hands."

Calcutta is considering a Juvenile Smoking Bill. We believe that a juvenile smoking act for all India would do more good than prohibition of intoxicating liquors. Cigarettes are doing more at present to ruin Indian manhood than all the alcoholic drinks combined. If we do away with the cigarettes we shall cut off the greatest asset of the liquor trade. Smoking leads directly to drink. Who ever saw a drunkard who did not smoke tobacco?

In the years 1914-1915, the United Kingdom exported 3,500,000 gallons of ale and beer to India. Indian distilleries manufactured during the same period 9,700,000 gallons of spirits. Imported spirits amounted to 1,665,000 gallons; and imported wines to 274,000 gallons.

ONLY fools and bigots pass judgment before reviewing the evidence. Do not reject this paper and its message before you read its contents.

"The problem of 'touchableness' has assumed a scientific aspect in these days. If a parish crosses your threshold you throw away your jar of drinking water as polluted, but ice and lemonade manufactured by the untouchables pass current! A distinction conferred on a member of our society becomes the occasion for giving a dinner in the Town Hall catered by Politis, and the recognised leaders of Hindu society take part in the function and their names are published in the morning papers, but when on the occasion of a marriage or *Sradh* you are guilty of sitting at a feast with a Christian or Moslem or even a Hindu of the lower castes you are threatened with excommunication. Reason, logic and common sense are thus scattered to the four winds."—*Dr. P. C. Roy, all-India Social Conference, December, 1917.*

HEALTH AND TEMPERANCE NOTES

We were very glad to read the following in a recent newspaper.

After careful consideration the Indian Government had decided that it could not further extend the concessions whereby presents of tobacco to soldiers in India were admitted duty free.

And when shall we have a prohibitive duty on the cigarettes and tobacco being shipped from India to the soldiers?

The American Congress has passed a bill prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicants throughout the United States. Canada is prohibition territory. When will England be "dry"?

Twenty-five billions of cigarettes were smoked in America during 1916—seven billions more than in 1915. It has been estimated that during 1916 every smoker in America smoked nearly one hundred boxes of cigarettes during the twelve months.

Owing to the campaign for the substitution of tobacco for opium in the uses of the Chinese, one-half of the cigarette consumption of the world to-day is, we are told, in China.

Some Indian doctors are advocating the use of the Ignatia bean for plague. It is said to act both as a preventive and a cure.

"The only practical maxim which can never mislead us in life is the simple old-fashioned rule of doing unto your neighbour as you would that he should do unto you. It is the only solvent of the opposing forces within a nation and its practice in the highest degree means the union of peoples of varied races and creeds and interests in one allegiance to the common weal, without which democracy will ever remain the shadow of a name."—*Sir James Meeson at Allahabad University, Nov. 10, 1917.*

The one paragraph in Mrs. Besant's speech where she approached her real duty to India was that in which she eloquently described the awakening of India's women. But even on this subject there was little except pervervid oratory. We deplore Mrs. Besant's presidentship of the Indian Congress not only because it means the leadership of a foreigner, therefore un-Indian; of a Theosophist, so utterly antithetical to everything that is Christian; but mainly because a British woman is accepting the plaudits of thousands of men whilst millions of her Indian sisters are suffering wrongs indescribable, and all she does to right those wrongs is to insert flowery periods in a two hours' oration. This is contrary to all sincerity, reality, or liberty. Let Mrs. Besant come down from her lofty pedestal and concentrate her splendid powers upon the righting of the awful wrongs on India's womanhood and she will perform a service which will earn for her a place among the world's immortals.

"It is the duty of Christian citizens, in the words of a recent writer, 'to protest against the appearance and acceptance of Mrs. Besant as a political leader,' for, 'when we remember the history of the Theosophical Society, founded in fraud and mystery, and the career of Mrs. Besant, who has been a bitter opponent of Christianity in India, we cannot possibly see how any Christian can identify himself with her leadership'; and last, but not least, that India's 'Vedanta philosophy can never supply a motive for political progress, or an adequate support for political morality,' since 'Caste with all its implications is opposed to the fundamental principles of modern democracy and Christian civilization.'"—*Dnyanodoyo, Jan. 3, 1918.*

SIR ISAAC NEWTON said: "He who denies Daniel's prophecies undermines Christianity, which is founded on Daniel's prophecies concerning Christ."

The Prophecies of Daniel

will be considered in our next number.