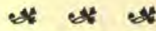


# Signs of the Times



## Religious Combinations



**A**MONG all the religious persecutions with which almost every page of modern history is stained, no victim ever suffered but for the violation of what government denominated the law of God. . . . Extensive religious combinations to effect a political object, are, in the opinion of the committee, always dangerous. . . . If admitted, it may be justly apprehended that the future measures of the government will be strongly marked, if not eventually controlled, by the same influence. All religious despotism commences by combination and influence, and, when that influence begins to operate upon the political institutions of a country, the civil power soon bends under it; and the catastrophe of other nations furnishes an awful warning of the consequence.—*United States Congress 1828-29.*



# With Our Inquirers

"If ye will inquire, inquire ye."

[All questions to this department will be answered which to the editors will seem to minister to the good of the readers and to the mission of the paper. The same question can not be answered repeatedly in the same volume. The name and address must accompany question, not for publication, but as an evidence of good faith, and that answer may be made by letter if deemed advisable. It is well always to enclose a stamp for reply.]

## 2212.—The Church and Prophets.

If Christ has a true church on earth, should there not be apostles and prophets in it? W. E. R.

A prophet is one who speaks for God. An apostle is one whom the Lord sends forth. The word apostle means one sent. Entirely erroneous ideas are obtained sometimes by holding that the apostles are a sort of board of directors to stay in one place and to act as the ruling governing body to the church. That is not the Scriptural idea. It is true that the early apostles were at one time in Jerusalem; they stayed there for some time, a great deal longer than the Lord designed that they should, because His commission to them was not to remain in one place, but to go forth to the world and bear the message of His Gospel. Neither did he confine the number to twelve, as has been taught, because there are as many as eighteen mentioned in the New Testament as apostles.

Of the gift of apostleship and prophecy, we read in 1 Cor. 12:28: "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets." Apostles are those who lead out in great reformation in God's work, and they have always been manifest, it seems clear to us, in every such reformation that has taken place. Martin Luther was truly an apostle. John Wesley was truly an apostle. But there have not always been prophets, altho it was the Lord's design that they should abide with His people. But when His people departed from His law—and in His own inscrutable wisdom this was allowed for many centuries during the Christian dispensation,—there were no prophets. So it was true in the time of Israel of old, there were times when there were no prophets in the church. With the restoration of that law there comes the spirit of prophecy. See Rom. 12:17; 19:10; Prov. 29:18.

## 2213.—Baptism. Its Object.

What is baptism in water for? Who are fit subjects for baptism? Can one enter the church of Christ without water baptism? Is baptism essential to salvation? W. E. R.

Baptism, or immersion, because that is what the word means, is that ceremony ordained of the Lord by which His people come into public relation with Himself. It shows forth to the world their faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Compare 1 Cor. 5:1-3 with Rom. 6:3-6. It is by baptism that the believer is married to Christ. "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also were made dead to the law thru the body of Christ; that ye should be joined to another, even to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bring forth fruit unto God." Rom. 7:4. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Gal. 3:27. See also Rom. 6:3.

The subjects for baptism are those who repent and believe. "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ." Acts 2:38. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned." Mark 16:16.

The intelligent Christian will follow the Lord's plan. He, therefore, will find baptism required, and he will be baptized. But there are very many who do not understand this and yet who desire to do God's will perfectly. "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro thruout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him." He therefore accepts them, even tho they are not literally baptized; and they are therefore members of His church, His body. Sometimes opportunity does not come to these souls for baptism. Take, for instance, the thief on the cross. There is no question at all but what he would have been baptized if opportunity had offered, but the Lord accepted him just as

he was, and assured him of a place in His kingdom.

Baptism is essential to salvation, as every other duty which God has given in His word is essential. He who sees the duty of God's word and fails to do it becomes responsible for his transgression, and he certainly can not claim the power of God unto salvation if he is not willing to comply with the Lord's terms of salvation. On the other hand, if he has a heart to do God's will, and does not know what the Lord requires of him, it seems very clear and evident that God will save him without the outward act. Every commandment that God has given is essential, and yet there will be many saved in the kingdom of God who have not held these essential, because they did not understand. The righteousness of Christ will cover the failures of the sincere and honest-hearted.

## 2214.—Life Insurance. Pleasure Parties.

1. Is it wrong to carry a life-insurance policy to provide for one's family? Does the Bible speak against it? If so give the text.  
2. Are pleasure parties or socials, not to dance or play kissing-games (as I call them), but to play croquet, eat ice-cream, indulge in innocent amusements, wrong? Does the Bible speak against such? If so where? J. P. W.

1. The Bible does not aim to prohibit every wrong thing or to tell us what specific thing to do or not to do under all circumstances. It deals with great principles. God demands the whole heart and soul and strength and might. He demands that we should trust Him implicitly; "for He is thy life, and the length of thy days." Deut. 30:20. He putteth and holdeth our soul in life. Ps. 66:9. The best life insurance we know is that which God gives. His promises are more if we believe them than are all the assurances of men. His religion has the promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. 1 Tim. 4:8. Life insurance of men can not prolong life. In the vast majority of cases it is not so good as a savings bank. Life insurance sometimes places in the hearts of the beneficiaries a desire for the death of the insured. Trust in God. Economy, thrift, frugality, and diligence are a much better investment than life insurance.

2. If we are truly Christ's, the question will not be, Is it wrong for me to indulge in this, in that, in the other thing? It will not be, Lord, what can I indulge in and still be saved? It will be, Lord, What wilt Thou have me to do? And we will seek to do that which is for the glory of God. God has made us social creatures, and it is right to associate together; but an ice-cream party may be as full of selfishness and as resultant of evil as a dance, and a game of croquet may be as dishonest and wicked as a game of draw poker. The great question is, Are these for the glory of God? 1 Cor. 10:31. Do they better fit us for His service? or are they mere selfish indulgence? Social gatherings may be profitable, helpful, uplifting, and Christians should help make them so or abjure them.

## 2215.—Sabbath at the Poles.

Will you please tell me how people keep the seventh day where they have six months day and six months night? M. M. S.

No people live where such conditions prevail. As far north as people live they know the seventh day when it comes as they know every other day. Whether there are people at the poles or not we do not yet know. Let us wait. Suffice that to the present men have had no difficulty in obeying God if they so desired. The same is true as to the round world. Men who are Sunday-keepers and Sabbath-keepers have been round the world again and again, eastward and westward, and have had no trouble. Crossing the Pacific Ocean a day is dropped on the

westward journey and added on the eastward. A missionary told us recently that the ship authorities always tried to keep Sunday. But this did not affect Sunday-keeping among those who desired to keep it. The objection has no standing. All facts are against it. It is a quibble against the truth. God made the Sabbath for man. Mark 2:27. He has scattered man over the whole inhabitable earth. Acts 17:24-26. The objection lies not against any set of men, but against God.

## 2216.—Latter-Day Saints.

Is there any difference between the church of Latter-Day Saints with headquarters at Lamoni, Iowa, who have Joseph Smith, Jr., as their leader, and the body located at Salt Lake City, Utah, whose founder was Brigham Young? W. R.

We would say there is a difference, altho both claim as their founder Joseph Smith. That Joseph Smith taught polygamy is quite evident, and yet the Iowa branch claim that he did not, and do not themselves practise it. The Salt Lake branch have both practised and defended it.

## 2217.—Laying on of Hands.

Should the doctrine of laying on of hands and the gift of the Holy Ghost be taught and practised in the church to-day as in the ancient church?

It is not universally practised in the ancient church. The gift of the Spirit was bestowed without the intervention of hands and also with it. Acts 10:44; 8:17. There is no positive text in the word of God as to just what is duty in respect to this. If the Spirit guides in the laying on of hands, it should be done; if God chooses to give His Spirit without the intervention of human agencies, He certainly has shown Himself abundantly able and willing to do it.

## 2218.—The Kingdom of God.

Is the kingdom of God in the heart, or can it be so?

No, not in the fullest sense is the kingdom of God in the heart. The Lord does have an important part of His kingdom in the heart, however. He would have the law of the eternal kingdom written there. That is the very object of the new covenant and the Gospel, to write God's law in the heart of the people. See Heb. 8:8-12. So also the King ought to dwell in the heart by His Spirit, and that also is the object of the Gospel, "that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith." Eph. 3:7. He who possesses his knowledge of the kingdom of God in his own life has received a pledge of the eternal inheritance. Eph. 1:13, 14. The true kingdom of God as far as man is concerned is this earth, now in the hands of the spoiler. There will come a time when the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heavens shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High. Dan. 7:22. "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and His Christ." Rev. 11:15. The earth will be renewed by the creative power of God. Then the meek shall inherit the earth and delight themselves in the abundance of peace. Matt. 5:5; Ps. 37:11.

## 2219.—The "Other Sheep." John 10:16.

Who are the sheep spoken of in John 10:16? E. A.

They are those to be saved from among the Gentiles, who would accept Jesus as did His disciples among the Jews. All are one in Him. See Eph. 2:12-22.

## 2220.—Use of the Tithe.

Does it say in the Guide Book that if we use the tithe we should restore it double? C. H.

One-fifth, or twenty per cent, should be added. Lev. 27:31. It is not God's design that men should pay Him exorbitant per cent. He lays down this rule that men may never use the tithe.

## 2221.—The Shekel.

In American money, how much does the Hebrew or Bible-shekel equal? C. H.

The silver shekel was worth about sixty-two cents in American money, and the gold shekel \$10.92.



# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

"But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the Gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts."

For Terms, See Page 15  
Vol. 33, Number 37

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## The Great Federation Movement In Protestant Circles

By Asa O. Tait

CERTAIN leading spirits in the world to-day are earnestly seeking to combine and federate every organization and society that exists, and this all for the purpose of meeting what are recognized to be evils, or supposed evils, of this age. This spirit of federation is spreading rapidly and reaching everywhere.

### The Prominent Organizations.

In the Protestant churches, perhaps the oldest organization of the day is the Evangelical Alliance. It made a big stir for a time, and spread a spirit of federating and combining among the religious forces of the land. Then have followed the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, which seeks to unite all the Christian women of the world for the great and laudable object of advancing the cause of temperance; the Young Men's Christian Association, that seeks to gather the young men, regardless of denominational lines, for the purposes of mutual improvement and helpfulness; the Christian Endeavor Society, that has organized Christian young men and young women into one of the greatest organizations of this time; and, perhaps, the latest and most significant of these federating organizations is the Inter-Church Federation that convened its first conference in Carnegie Hall, New York, Nov. 15, 1905. This latter federation was the outgrowth of, or rather was suggested and called out by, the National Federation of Churches and Christian Workers that was organized four years earlier.

### The Protestants Are Federated.

From the foregoing list of Protestant organizations, all of which are inter-denomi-

national, it will be seen that the Protestant element of the country is quite well embraced in the federating movement. And this will be all the more apparent when it is considered that the Inter-Church Federation that was organized in 1905 claims to represent *eighteen million* of the Christian professors of the United States.

It is strikingly significant that this organizing of the Christian forces of the land should be called a "federation." There seems to be a deep-seated conviction that

cles and also in the business enterprises of the world at large. What do these mighty movements signify? Are they the beginnings of a great world movement that will sweep everything before it like the crusades of the middle centuries? We have not the space to consider this phase of the subject this week, but an article next week will take up the outcome of this movement quite fully.

### A Federation Is Not a Union.

No one can deny the fact that federation

is a great movement of this time. But all should see that "federation" is not "unity." Christ made a most wonderful prayer for the unity of His believers. A part of that prayer is:

"I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them thru Thy truth; Thy word is truth. As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified thru the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me thru their word;

that they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in Us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. And the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them; that they may be one, even as We are one; I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou has loved Me." John 17: 15-23.

That earnest prayer of Christ to His Father is not that His followers may be federated, but that they may be one. Unity in Christ Jesus has been a great blessing to the world; but federations and religious combinations, especially when they seek to influence affairs in political circles, have been rather a curse than a blessing, as the history of the past will abundantly attest.



Officers of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Church Federation.

there never can be "unity" except on certain points that they "hold in common," and these will form the basis for "federation." It is suggested as a basis for common ground of action that there be "concentration of effort for the removal of social evils, the cleansing of the centers of vice and corruption, and the promotion of temperance, Sabbath observance, and general morality."

### Federation Is General.

The foregoing outline is only of the work that is going on in Protestant circles, looking toward federation. Elsewhere in this issue will be found articles telling of the federating spirit that is moving in Catholic cir-



## The Great Federation Movement In Catholic Circles

By John S. Wightman

SINCE the Civil War there have been consolidations, organizations, formations, combinations, and federations—a banding together of the community of interests, influence, and power, alike in the social, civic, and religious worlds, upon a scale so vast and a rapidity so startling as to be absolutely unequalled in history. The colossal growth and power of modern combinations of wealth and influence and identical interests have amazed the thoughtful student of political economy and events, and arrested the attention of the whole people of the republic. And the questions that tend to continually disturb the public mind are: Whither are we drifting? and, Shall the government of the people control the gigantic combinations that threaten the stability and perpetuity of national institutions, or shall the monopolies of wealth, labor, and religion, finally control the government?

### A Few of These Combines.

Not to speak of Standard Oil, American Steel, American Railway, Amalgamated Copper, the "Beef Trust," and the thousand-and-one combinations in the financial and commercial realm, or American Federation of Labor, Western Federation of Miners, United Miners, Railway Trainmen's Union, and the multitude of other organizations of power and influence in the labor and social world, we may well be concerned in, and allowed to consider, that latest creation of the *federation* spirit, that last acquisition to the *federation* "powers that be"—

### The Church Trust.

Such Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, of the famed Plymouth Church, characterizes the modern movement of the federation of societies of church interests, and church influences to be. Some five years ago Doctor Hillis predicted that the "*church trust*," in this age of trusts and combines, was "soon to come;" and in the formation of the Inter-Church organization at the notable conference of the leading churches of the land, New York, 1905, his prediction was speedily realized. Once realized, and viewing its first work, Doctor Hillis said: "*The movement means the speedy union of all the Protestant churches.*"

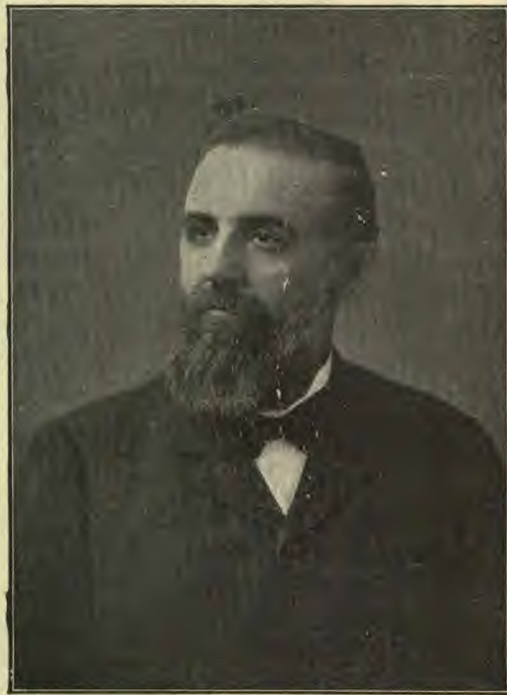
Last, but not at all least, of all these multifarious organizations, and particularly in the religions, comes

### The American Federation of Catholic Societies.

In the last analysis of its operations, this latter federation, numbering its loyal votaries by the millions, will, perhaps,—I may say beyond doubt,—exert an influence and a power upon the body politic second to none, probably first of all in importance.

Born in a first convention at Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1901, and hardly receiving any at-

tention from the secular press, quietly making its way from convention to convention to public sentiment and influence, it has arisen from an humble inception to a very high plane of power and public estimation—a power that has been felt in Church and State, and in the nation. The delibera-

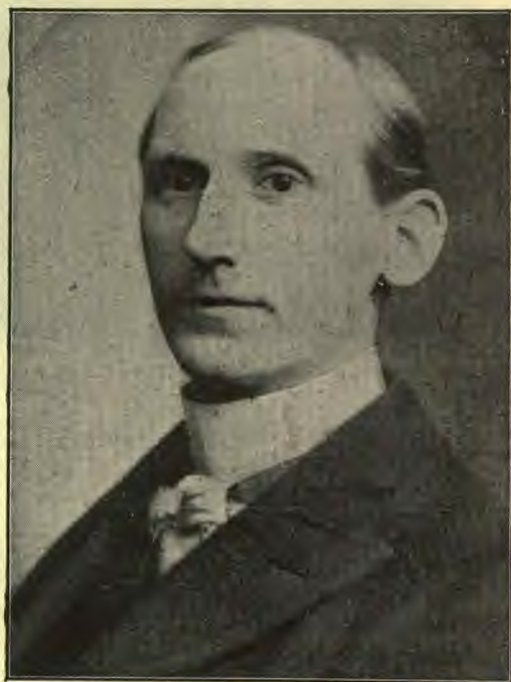


J. B. Oelkers, First Vice-Pres. Catholic Federation.

tions of its later conventions are telegraphed to the press of a nation, to the leading journals of the world.

### The Meaning of It.

American Federation of Catholic Societies means the union of all the Catholic societies



Anthony Matre, Secretary Catholic Federation.

of the United States and the world "for Christ and the church;" "to advance the civil, religious, and social interests of Catholics in the United States and its dependencies;" to "rise," when needs be, "like an

impregnable wall against the fierce violence of the enemies of God."

One of the oldest of the American hierarchy has recently stated that "a federation of all the Catholic societies of the entire United States would mean *righting every wrong*; for those who would do wrong *would not dare face such an array of numbers.*"

### As a Renovator.

Pope Pius X, sending the apostolic blessing to the convention at Buffalo in 1906, states that the object of Catholic federation must be "to endeavor to renovate public and private life in conformity with the teachings of Jesus Christ."

Writing upon the subject, Cardinal Merry Del Val says that federation and its design give joy to the *sovereign pontiff*, for "you are aware that he has federations of this kind very much at heart because of the abundant blessings that accrue from them to civil society." American Federation of Catholic Societies pleads for the restoration of "the temporal power of the church" ("Public Proceedings Detroit Convention," p. 95), and reaffirms a public "protest against the violation of the rights of the holy See, and trusts that the day is not far distant when these rights will be restored." This kind of sentiment and thought must result not alone from primary teaching long extant in the church, but it may be traced quite directly to the world-wide encyclical from Pope Leo XIII, delivered June, 1906. That encyclical was on "Christian Unity"—"the reunion of all the Christian churches"—and in it we find:

"The fathers of the church are unanimous in considering as outside the Catholic communion any one who in the least degree deviates from even one point of the doctrine proposed by the authoritative magisterium of the church. . . . For the due preservation of unity of the faith it is not sufficient that the head should have been charged merely with the office of superintendent or should have been invested solely with the power of direction; but IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT HE SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED REAL AND SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY WHICH THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IS BOUND TO OBEY."

### The Papal Plan for the United States.

Still further back, in 1892, it was reported by the Rome correspondent of the New York Sun, as to the aim of the Papacy in the United States, that "what the church has done in the past for others, she will now do for the United States. That is the reason why the holy See encourages the American clergy to guard zealously the solidarity, and to labor for the fusion of all the foreign and heterogeneous elements in one vast national family. The American church furnishes and must furnish at the present time the proof that Christianity is the school of patriotism and of national sentiment. By continuing to favor this work of unification, it will form the grandeur of the United States, and

(Continued on Page 7.)



# The Great Federation Movement

## Is It on Right Principles?

By George B. Thompson

**A** LITTLE more than fifty years ago, Rev. Charles Beecher, observing the religious trend of the times, in one of his sermons made the following forecast:

"The ministry of the evangelical Protestant denominations is not only formed all the way up under a tremendous pressure of merely human fear, but they live, and move, and breathe in a state of things radically corrupt, and appealing every hour to every baser element of their nature to hush up the truth, and bow the knee to the power of apostasy. Was not this the way things went with Rome? Are we not living her life over again? And what do we see just ahead?—Another general council! A world's convention, evangelical alliance, and universal creed!"

In view of the present condition of things religiously, the utterance of this eminent divine seems almost prophetic. That we are rapidly drifting toward something like this seems evident.

This is an age of unions, trusts, and combines. The Inter-Church Federation movement, which was launched in the notable gathering held in New York City less than two years ago, representing thirty-two of the leading religious denominations, and some eighteen million adherents, has a deep significance. Tho disclaiming any union of the Church with the State, we are firmly of the opinion that it is but the beginning of a gigantic religious combine. Once formed, we apprehend that this great union, or federation, will deal with those who do not see their way clear to unite with it much the same as secular unions deal with those who do not see their way clear to join the union, and that which they can not control, they will endeavor to crush.

### A Church and State Union in Reality.

Tho claiming to be opposed to a union of the Church with the State, from a statement of a delegate to the Inter-Church Federation Conference, it is clear that they propose to influence legislation. He said:

"I trust that one of the practical results of this conference will be the organization of a force that lawbreakers and lawmakers will respect and heed when great questions of morals are involved. Our Gospel is the fulfilment of the law. It is our province, in the name of our Supreme King, and seeking the good of mankind, to ask rulers to respect the code of our kingdom. Rulers may ignore sects, but they will respect the church. This federation will compel an audience, and it will speak with power if it will put aside its differences and make its agreement its argument."

This is practically a union of Church and State. And let the plans and purposes of this federated movement once succeed, and, tho the purpose of the promoters may be ever so good, it can only result in persecution. Church decrees would be enforced with methods similar to the Dark Days of the Roman supremacy.

### The Federation Principle.

The whole principle of church federation is wrong. It is based upon the very principle which underlies the Papacy. In the

formation of the Catholic Church, many and varied councils were held and almost endless discussion engaged in regarding the true faith. And what should be believed, and what should not be believed, was settled by the majority. Upon their own opinion they dogmatically staked their conclusions. Then when the faith was once established, those who did not subscribe to the creed formulated by these benighted, misguided, ecclesiastical zealots, felt the iron hand of persecution, as the history of the Dark Ages witnesseth. The history of the Church as a result is written in blood, and the fairest portions of the earth have been devastated, and suffering which no human pen can trace has been experienced as a result.

### Finding Common Ground.

So it will be again. This present trend toward church federation has in it the very image of the Papacy. To federate they must decide upon certain points of faith upon which they can all agree. There are some points of faith upon which most of the various denominations might unite. Especially so as the tendency of the times is to look with disfavor upon any effort to agitate and teach Bible doctrine. Doctrine is deemed to be non-essential. One point especially upon which they could unite is the observance of Sunday as a day of rest. They could even form an alliance with the Roman hierarchy upon this matter, for it is Rome's own child, adopted from Paganism. Having decided the true faith by some "general council," or "evangelical alliance," this would necessarily become a sort of "universal creed." This "creed" would need to be defended and upheld, by force of law if necessary, and dissenters suppressed; otherwise their federation would be rendered nugatory, and the creed perhaps overthrown. This will indeed revive old controversies. Animosities will be engendered, and some kind of an inquisition will become necessary, by which heretics can be sought out and punished. It would be quite natural that the terrors of civil law would be used to exterminate those who would not subscribe to her decrees. The smoldering embers of tyranny will be fanned into a flame, and the goddess of religious liberty clothed in the sable garments of night.

### Power Not Confined to Numbers.

Strength in God's work does not consist in numbers. Three hundred loyal, Spirit-filled hearts once were more than a match for an alien army, whose number were "as the sand of the seaside." Power in the church of the Most High God comes thru the anointing of the Holy Spirit, not thru federation. Just prior to His ascension, the Lord of the harvest said, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you." Acts 1:8.

Many churches feel their weakness, and realize something of their inability to cope with the surging tide of ungodliness which they find both in the church and in the world. We are glad they do. It is a hopeful sign. It is well to feel our weakness, that we may be led to seek for strength. That souls are not converted and brought to Christ thruout the churches of Christendom as they once were, is the sorrowful confession of many godly laborers in the Master's vineyard. Many sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land. Possibly it is to remedy this sad condition of things that the churches seek federation.

But it is a sorrowful spectacle to witness the spouse of Christ seeking for human bond of union as a means of strength. They are seeking to quench their thirst from a broken cistern; strength can not come forth from weakness; a fountain can not rise above its source.

### The Real Source of Power.

Instead of talking so much concerning civic righteousness, and petitioning Congress for help, let petitions in brokenness of spirit ascend to the throne of Omnipotence. Let the church humble herself and plead for the endowment of the Holy Spirit. An "upper room" experience is needed. After Pentecost, the Galilean fishermen made no appeal to Cæsar for help. We read nothing concerning the apostolic federation of churches. The apostles were everywhere opposed by the Roman State. Her laws consigned their property to confiscation and themselves to death. They were whipped, stoned, imprisoned, and beheaded, but the Gospel they preached went on. It was accompanied by a power before which the iron monarchy of Rome was powerless. In answer to prayer, prison doors were rent asunder, and the very earth quaked. They needed no federation, for they were clothed with the power of God.

Let the professed church of God humble herself. We appeal to her to do so; to sit, if need be, in sackcloth and ashes, laying aside her pride and empty forms, and, with prayer, tears, and many supplications, storm the throne of God with her intercessions for the endowment of the power of the Holy Spirit. Let her wait before God, until she secures a second Pentecost. When this is done, we shall see an end of all church federation. Tho her numbers may be few, with the truth of the word and the energy of the Holy Spirit, she will come forth from her wilderness condition, "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners."

CIVILIZATION obeys the same law as the ocean; it has its ebb and flow, and where it advances on one shore it recedes on the other.—Lord Lytton.



# Church Federation Movement

## Its Claims

By K. C. Russell

**E**VERY federation that has been carried on in the name of religion from the earliest history of the professed church of Christ to the present, is claimed to have been for the best interests of society. Good men in every age have longed to see the evils removed which have been a menace to good morals, and hence any movement which has sought to accomplish this end has been eagerly accepted as a possible remedy.

The most earnest, devoted, and consecrated of the professed church of Christ to-day are sighing and crying for the abominations that are being done in the land, and are willing to cooperate with those who are desirous of removing these things from our midst. They see the terrible curse of the liquor traffic and every other vice which is lifting its venomous head against the home, the church, and society.

### The Reforms Commendable.

Some of the reforms which are sought by many who are engaged in this gigantic movement for federation are commendable, but the end that many are seeking to secure as the result of their course, will ultimately prove disastrous. Every attempt to bring about unity of the diversified sects by resolutions which might be passed by the most thoroly organized society has failed. The only way in which such a union might be obtained is by the removal of that which produces division, and that is sin. Any federation that is formed in the world with sin and selfishness lying at its foundation, will eventually result in ruin. The Master has said, "A house divided against itself can not stand." Let the reader imagine the multiplicity of beliefs which prevail in the various denominations of Christendom and ask himself if, in such a relation, they are not divided against themselves. There is scarcely a uniformity of ideas to-day on great fundamental questions, even as to God Himself. Time and space will not permit me to speak of the conflicting views on theological questions. The Bible plainly teaches that God's people must be of one mind, and all speak the same thing. This sort of federation which means the possession of real unity will prove to be the greatest power the church has ever possessed. It can only be obtained by the renewing of the mind.

### Religious Federations Never Good.

Federation in the commercial world may be engaged in by those who make no claim to its being religious with some degree of propriety, and even that kind of federation is attended by anything but peace and harmony. But the federation under the name of religion, that seeks the power of the State to further her ends, has never and can never be attended with the blessing of God, or even be accompanied with the success that a worldly federation has. In the first place,

the church or churches that enter into such a compact or relation, enter into an agreement that restricts the liberty there is in Christ; in other words, they endeavor to harness the Spirit of the Lord, so that it must operate in certain prescribed limits. Those who do not fall in with the plan are regarded as disloyal to the federation. It matters not that the federating arrangement deprives one of the spirit of freedom that the Lord has given to every one who loves the truth.

### The Territory Parceled Out.

It will not be questioned that such results will follow when one examines some of the provisions that are to be accepted by those who enter this proposed church federation relation. It is on this wise: One denomination is to have exclusive control of a certain district or territory where it is to operate, and any other denomination or society which transcends its limits which have been fixed by the union is regarded as tho it had encroached upon one's personal possessions. Conceive, if you can, of such a federation being engaged in by Christ and the apostles. If the proposed plan of church federation had been followed out in the days of the apostles, Philip would have been obliged to refuse the call of the Spirit when it bade him join himself to the chariot, wherein sat the Ethiopian of great authority, because it would have been out of his legitimate territory that had been assigned him by the federated body. Paul and Silas might have been out of their field of action when they taught the jailer and his family the Gospel, and so we might cite many other examples. Such a course would only curtail the freedom of the Spirit as far as it would be possible for man to hinder its work.

Every person must be left free and untrammelled to work in the sphere to which God calls him. Of course we would not be understood by this that he would not work in harmony with the organized church with which he is associated. This would be in harmony with Christian organization.

### No Reformation on Such a Plan.

Again, such a scheme as is proposed by this modern church federation would forever preclude the possibility of another reformation. Would there ever have been such a thing as the Reformation of the sixteenth century if Wycliffe, Huss, Martin Luther, Zwingle, and others had been members of a federation movement of this kind in their day?

The impracticability of such a movement can be seen when subjected to the slightest analysis. To illustrate: The person who might have been moved by the Holy Spirit to break away from the lifeless forms and ceremonies of a priest-ridden church, would

not have dared to attempt it, because he had been bound by the church federation. Where the Spirit of God is, there is liberty. The design of the enemy of the Gospel of Christ, who is the sole promoter of this movement, is to deprive all of their freedom in Christ, the great Head of the church. The outcome can only be that the federated denominations will seek to have a monopoly on the government, a veritable church trust.

Rome possesses the very essence of confederacy. This spirit has always characterized her from her earliest history. She is holding her conventions for the purpose of organizing for more aggressive efforts. The recent convention of federated Catholic Societies of America was held in Indianapolis, Ind., behind closed doors, which certainly bears the seal of the Papacy in this particular, for this church itself is but one stupendous secret society. How different from the methods of Him who said, "In secret have I said nothing."

### Seeking Common Ground.

Then we have a large per cent of the Protestant denominations united in one great federation, and they are still seeking for a more complete union. It is true there are some features that doubtless will enable their federation to occupy common ground, such as Sunday legislation.

Another alarming feature is entering into this great Inter-Church Federation movement, and that is the unity of the great federation of labor organizations with the church federation. One prominent advocate of Sunday laws said that he had interviewed prominent officials in the federated labor organizations, and that they had expressed themselves in perfect accord with the efforts to do away with Sunday labor. When this condition of things comes about, it will be seen how easy it will be to bring about a fulfilment of the words which were spoken by the Seer of Patmos under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, when he said: "He causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads, and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." Rev. 13:16, 17.

Let the reader take warning from these things, and seek alone for that union with Christ that will enable him to stand regardless of these gigantic movements which are being substituted in these times for the power of the Holy Spirit.

CONTENTMENT consisteth not in adding more fuel, but in taking away some fire; not in multiplying of wealth, but in subtracting men's desires.—*Thomas Fuller*.

THEY are never alone that are accompanied with noble thoughts.—*Sir Philip Sidney*.



## The Great Federation Movement. In Catholic Circles.

(Continued from Page 4.)

will demonstrate the degree to which religion and the church are the generators of political and patriotic independence. Like all intuitive souls, he [Pope Leo] hails in the united American States and in their young and flourishing church, the source of a new life for Europeans. He wants America to be powerful in order that Europe may regain strength from borrowing a rejuvenated type."

These are fateful words. The American destiny of greatness and development is to furnish a renewing power, a renewed greatness and vigor for the church. It is to be made the source of a new and quickening influence in the fast-waning influence and power of Catholicism in Europe. The destiny of the one must be the destiny of the other. Like barnacles clinging to the hull of a great leviathan of the sea, both must sink or swim together.

### To Be a Great Fighting Machine.

The conclusion is unavoidable. American Federation of Catholic Societies was, in fact, the apex of the wish of Leo XIII and the church—a powerful educational and political fighting machine to be used in the arena of the political and social worlds, in order that Catholic principles and will might dominate and receive recognition, become the "real and sovereign authority," and to the end that both the "public" and the "private life" may be "renovated" and changed in "conformity with the teachings of Jesus Christ," as such teachings are held and taught by the Roman Catholic Church.

Says former President T. B. Minahan: "Among the advantages to be gained by federation, the most desirable and important is the development of a Catholic public sentiment. Public opinion in America is the power behind the throne. To have a share in it, either in locality or nation, is to wield a power. Millions of Catholics, united and prudently asserting themselves by this means, can not fail of recognition."

To assist in winning America to "the religion most consistent with the naturally broad and logical trend of the American mind," is the aim of Catholic federation; and the soul-stirring acclamation of other times is as applicable now to federation as it was in the crusades of old; "God wills it" is the spontaneous voice of almost the entire Catholic press and people. Who can fail to recollect that "A Roman Catholic Nation and a Roman Catholic King" was the real cry of the crusaders in the "world's moral midnight" times, or fail to understand that "A Roman Catholic Nation and a Roman Catholic Ruler" is the real animus of the consolidated Catholic societies of to-day?

It was President Roosevelt who recently said: "I expect to see Roman Catholic presidents in this country." And his expressed anticipation is well within the range of near possibilities. "For this [the American Catholic interests in the Philippines] the demand of fifteen millions of Catholics is somewhat of a guarantee. It is one which

no administration will dare ignore."—Church Progress, St. Louis, Mo.

It is apparent, then, that Catholic federation will bring its influence to bear upon administrations, and the civil power.

### An Instance to the Point.

As to the kind of politics in federation, Bishop McFaul relates an instance that occurred in the New Jersey Legislature. Roman Catholic individuals were opposed to the phraseology of a certain bill before the House. They appeared and demanded a change. The reply was: "The bill is right and proper and no change will be made."

Then representatives of American Catholic societies called upon the House leaders and peremptorily demanded the change desired to be made, or "we will go back and report to our societies." What was the result and the reply?—"Gentlemen, . . . don't stir up a hornet's nest on this ques-

### At Christ's Appearing.

WOULD'ST thou stand at Christ's appearing,  
Confident His coming greet?  
Naught but purging fires can make thee  
For that holy presence meet.

Would'st thou walk in white with Jesus?  
Thou His dark reproach must bear,  
He who wears the crown of glory  
First the crown of thorns must wear.

Can thine heart endure His dealing?  
Canst thou drink His cup to-day—  
Thru the vale of perfect suffering  
Learn to perfectly obey?

Never yet in all thy striving  
'Gainst the world's iniquity  
"Unto blood" hast thou resisted,  
As thy Saviour did for thee.

Fail not then nor be discouraged!  
Turn not back in day of strife!  
Everlasting joy awaits thee—  
Wilt thou save thy little life?

Sharing in thy Lord's temptations,  
Knowest thou not His promise true?  
O'er the conquered nations ruling,  
Thou shalt share His kingdom, too.

—Selected.

tion. What changes do you want? We will be very glad to make them."

That which did not appear at all right to the lawmakers was made to seem expedient by the threat of a return of their refusal to the confederated power of Catholic societies. Principle gave way to policy. "This," said McFane, "is the kind of politics in federation."

### A Real Danger.

And now appears a real danger in our land. It hardly could have been foreseen. In the American States, the decision of the ballot is final and public opinion is irresistible. The Catholic Church recognizes each of these facts; it proposes to make use of these agencies. The church teaches: "Religion is the corner-stone of order in every State. Destroy religion and you will annihilate the State. 'The nation that will not serve God shall perish.'" Therefore, America, that it may not perish from the earth, the American system of government, must recognize in the See of Rome "a real and sovereign authority which the whole community is bound to obey." And, further, as to the

danger, Protestantism is fast drifting to the bosom of Rome. Rome sees this, too, and welcomes the change in the trend of thought.

Edward Feeney, national president of the federation, says: "There was a time when Catholic opinion was lightly held in this country. Not so to-day. Now the views of Catholics, especially on large public questions, are considered of importance." Rev. Father Campbell says: "The real thoughtful patriotism of the country courts Catholic assistance in solving the solemn problems fraught with threatening dangers for the future." Ah, only too true!

Yet "Rome never changes." Steadily, with increasing power, she marches to "manifest destiny." A little while, and all the world shall wonder after the beast; a little while, and Rome, once more clothed with the pomp and power of medieval days, shall "sit a queen," and be able to exclaim: "I am no widow." Is it not time that the voice of Luther may once more be heard, not alone in Germany, but in all the world?

### The End of the Wicked.

What is the wages of sin?

"The wages of sin is death." Rom. 6:23.

What shall be burned up?

"The earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Peter 3:10.

What will God do with the wicked?

"The Lord preserveth all them that love Him; but all the wicked will He destroy." Ps. 145:20.

What is said of the transgressors?

"The transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off." Ps. 37:38.

Where will the wicked be punished?

"Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner." Prov. 11:31.

Where will the wicked be cast, and what is this called?

The wicked shall be "cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." Rev. 20:14.

What will become of the heathen?

"The day of the Lord is near upon all the heathen, . . . and they shall be as tho they had not been." Obadiah 15, 16.

What is said of the existence of the wicked and their place of punishment?

"Yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be; yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be." Ps. 37:10.

How will the wicked consume away?

"The wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs; they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away." Ps. 37:20.

What will God rain upon the wicked?

"Upon the wicked He shall rain quick burning coals, fire and brimstone, and a burning tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup." Ps. 11:6, margin.

To what will the wicked be reduced?

"Ye [righteous] shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts." Mal. 4:3.

Will the wicked be completely annihilated?

"Behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud; yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be as stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." Mal. 4:1. See also Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43.

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Manuscripts should be addressed to the Editor.

For further information see page 15

MILTON C. WILCOX

A. O. TAIT

EDITORS.

## The Coming Revolution.

WE refer not to a political revolution, or an industrial revolution, tho both are involved in it. There are conditions which demand change. There are conditions which breed revolution and lawlessness and crime and anarchy. The selfishness of humanity and Satanic devices have combined to control, especially in this "land of the free," nearly all the commodities of life, and to exploit humanity thru this control to the selfish interests of the few and the plunder of the many. Thus colossal fortunes have been piled up beyond all precedent in history, till careful estimates declare that one per cent of the population possesses over one-half the enormous wealth of this nation. The yearly income of one person, who controls almost wholly one great and useful product, which in God's providence the earth furnishes humanity, is estimated at the tremendous sum of from \$72,000,000 to \$100,000,000, more than the aggregate wealth of all the millionaires in the country a half century ago. The property which produces this income is estimated at from two and one-half to three billion dollars. No man can comprehend it. In all normal conditions of society this wealth would have been far more equitably distributed. Every man who thinks honestly upon the matter feels in his soul that such fortunes have been wrongly acquired, acquired by the corruption of railway corporations, the purchase of venal legislators, the destruction of small traders by "cornering" the necessities of life, and freezing the dealers out, and preying upon the very life-blood of humanity.

There are various remedies proposed, and we sympathize with the men who propose and promote them, but we can not have faith in the remedies. The root of all the trouble is the selfish, greedy heart of man, and we know of no political remedy that can extract or destroy that root. And now that men have learned thru combination, legal and illegal, public and secret, to exploit humanity for solely selfish interests, they will do it still.

We know that systems are devised which promise to take from selfish man his opportunities to combine and exploit his fellows, but how can those systems be put in operation? We may say that it is the privilege and in the power of the exploited to transfer, by the means of his ballot, these great necessities of life and public utilities to the ownership of the public. But can it be done as long as wealth can corrupt, and smooth-tongued demagogues can deceive and

betray? And history, not ancient, shows how the chosen representatives of the industrial classes are as willing to sell honor for gold as are any others.

What will the end be when every peaceable means is exhausted?—Violence, the only thing left to unregenerate humanity. Then will those who live sumptuously on the plunder of their fellows suffer the pent-up rage and wrongs of years.

We are not saying this of ourselves, tho he is blind to history and present conditions who can not read the handwriting on the wall. The prophecies of God's word speak of these very times. Read one from the New Testament, James 5:1-7:

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord."

Notice that it is "in the last days" (Revised Versions) that men are heaping up treasure at the expense of the poor; that they live in pleasure and are wanton; that they have passed on unheeding the cries of the poor; and that the crushed worm turns, and miseries fall upon the head of the thoughtless, selfish rich.

Another prophecy is the conditions set forth by Habakkuk. Men oppressed men in a small way in his day, and God uses them for a prophecy of the last days. The prophet seems to wonder how God can let such wickedness go on unchecked. Why does He hold His peace when "the wicked swalloweth up the man that is more righteous than he;" and makes men like the fish of the sea to gather into his net, "because by them his portion is fat, and his food plenteous." He "keepeth not at home," but "enlargeth his desire as Sheol, and he is as death, and can not be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all peoples;" that is, the wealth of all peoples. Could words describe any clearer the exploiting capitalist of the present day? He gets "an evil gain for his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the hand of evil." And much more of the same import. Read Hab. 1:13-17; 2:5, 11-13.

But there comes an end to the oppression. Humanity unaided of God can not endure the inequity and iniquity forever. And thus does divine prophecy declare their work:

"Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, Wo to him that increaseth that which is not his! how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay [pledges, R.V.]! They shall not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for booties unto them? Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein." Hab. 2:6-8.

And another prophet declares of that same

time: "And the songs of the palace shall be wailings in that day, saith the Lord Jehovah; the dead bodies shall be many; in every place shall they cast them forth with silence." "And I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentations; and I will bring sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning for an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day." Amos 8:3, 10.

Yet the children of God can take no part in this revolution. "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." They, like Christ, must leave the righting of their wrongs to the Judge of all. They know that no human remedy can heal earth's ills, because no human power can recreate the human heart. They know that the only remedy for the individual lies not in any human federation or combination, but in life union with Jesus Christ, and that the only remedy for the great, selfish, unbelieving world is Christ's coming.

We plead with all to make Jesus Christ their refuge. Politics may win temporal advantage, but "the true gain is the long gain." Righteousness by faith, vital union with Christ, means eternal life.

## "Stormy Wind Fulfilling His Word."

THE 148th Psalm is a song of praise to the Lord. Among the things that are called upon to praise the Lord are mentioned, "Fire, and hail; snow, and vapors; stormy wind fulfilling His word."

"His word" says, "I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come." Joel 2:30, 31. The prophet is here talking about "the great and terrible day of the Lord." And he tells us of some of the things that will be seen in that time. There will be general commotion.

Another prophecy says, "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven." Luke 21:10, 11. These verses are taken from the prophecy that our Lord gave in answer to the questions that the disciples asked Him concerning the signs that would precede His coming and the end of the world. This prophecy also tells of the general commotion that will be in the world at the close of time; it tells of the earthquakes, the famines, the pestilences, and the fearful sights and great signs that shall be from heaven as precursors of the great day of the Lord.

These commotions, these storms, these earthquakes, and all the rest of the disasters that these prophecies call for are not permitted to come because the Lord is angry with us; but He allows them to come in mercy so that we may not become so wedded to this life that we fail to prepare for the great day of the Lord that is so near at hand. And when any of these great calamities



ties are being visited you will find that the impression is riveted irresistibly upon the mind that the end of all things is being witnessed to and foreshadowed. The expression is heard everywhere, when some great visitation is in progress, "the end of the world has come, the end of the world has come!"

We might expect such expressions from the ignorant and the superstitious; but the most educated give way to fears in the presence of nature's upheavals, and the conviction is wrung from them also that the end of time is reached. These things would convince us, if we were not too stubborn or too proud to admit it, that God's Spirit accompanies His prophetic word to produce conviction as it is being fulfilled.

There are daily reports of great floods, of hail storms, of tornadoes, of earthquakes, of famines and pestilences. These things have always existed to a greater or lesser extent. But they never came in such numbers and in so many places as during the recent years. And those who are observant know that they are alarmingly on the increase. And, more than this, those who know the word of God are fully aware of the fact that they will increase more and more to the end of time. The storms and other calamities that we have had in the past are as nothing compared to what is before us in the immediate future. The worst has not been reached by any means.

But, while all this is true, it is also true that every one who places his trust in the Lord and in His word has nothing to fear or to dread. God will protect His people thru it all. The promise is, "Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day; for the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold, and see the reward of the wicked. For Thou, O Jehovah, art my refuge! Thou hast made the Most High thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy tent." Ps. 91:5-9.

The foregoing promise is wonderfully strong and soul-uplifting. It assures us that the child of God will not only pass thru these last-day disasters unscathed, but he will actually "not be afraid." How glorious! The thought of being able to stand without fear in the midst of all the calamities the prophets tell us will come in the last days is enough to make every individual desire to take shelter under these mighty promises of our heavenly Father.

When all the world is being stricken with the agonies of fear it is most fitting that the Father above would raise His followers above such torments so that they may hold forth the sheltering comforts of God's promises in the strong and steady confidence of divine power.

T.

Comparisons made between wit and wit, courage and courage, beauty and beauty, birth and birth, are always odious.—*Cervantes*.

## Scattering Wheat or Tares.

**I**N the time of the seed-sowing a husbandman sent his servant with grain to sow in the fields of his estate. With a strong arm the servant scattered the golden grain, having faith that the rains would descend, the sun shine, and the soil would nourish the seed, and that a bountiful harvest would result. With a song he labored on, cheering his own heart and his fellow-workers as well.

As the sun rose higher and higher, he paused to rest by the wayside, and there he found a great measure of tare seed, which an enemy had purposely left there to tempt the good man's servants. Now the wheat was heavy, while the worthless seed of the tares was light, and, thinking to lighten his load, the laborer took of the tares and sowed it with the wheat. Again and again he took from the enemy's measure, using less and less of the wheat.

At length the master came to see how the work progressed. Overcome with sorrow for his wickedness, the servant fell before his master and craved forgiveness. Being merciful of heart, the master forgave him, and set him again to scattering good seed. But soon the heat became oppressive, the load heavy, and the weak servant, despite his good promises and resolutions, mixed tare seed with the wheat, at first sparingly, and then before he realized it, he was sowing nothing but tares in the master's field.

Again the master came, and again the servant plead for mercy. Tho knowing his sin and his weakness, the master forgave him again. But the servant had indulged his natural inclinations so long that no sooner had the master gone than he threw aside the wheat and began scattering tares. Even then when he found him disobeying him, the master forgave. Over and over he pardoned him, until at length there was no hope for him, and he cast him forth from his estate as an unprofitable servant, one whom he could no longer use in his service. And none of the other servants pitied the outcast, nor blamed the master of the estate.

In His love the Saviour of the world sends forth His servants to labor for Him in the great world-wide field, to sow the seed of truth. He sends the rain and promises the increase, and all He asks of His servants is that they sow the seed and guard it well that no tares be mixed with it. But O how many there are who grieve Him by unfaithful labor, who mix with the pure Gospel seed the seeds of error, who scatter sparingly where the soil is rich, who throw away the pure seed altogether, and scatter only tares.

Still the Master is merciful, full of compassion, and ready to forgive. Again and again He pardons the backslidings of His servants, and puts within their hands good seed to sow. But as with the wicked servant of the parable, justice must speak at length, mercy will some time be withdrawn, and then the unprofitable servant will be cast into outer darkness and be lost. Now "whosoever will may come," enter the service of the King, and receive the reward; but soon the day of human probation will close, when

sin will receive its just punishment. In the judgment day those who receive the reward of eternal life will be those who sow the good seed now.

MAX HILL.

## She Hath Glorified Herself and Lived Deliciously.

**C**ONCERNING whom is this spoken? It is of course spoken to some one to whom it would be applicable, and this would be any one who has done the thing mentioned.

As originally pronounced, in Rev. 18:7, it applies to Babylon the great, and Babylon is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth. But Babylon is composed of millions of individuals, and the only way that Babylon could do these things would be by the individual members of whom she is composed performing these acts.

Individuals, God's people, are warned to come out of Babylon that they partake not of her sins. And what are her sins? What was the sin of her prototype—Sodom? "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." Eze. 16:49.

The sin of Babylon is similar: "She hath glorified herself and lived deliciously." This is the point on which her destiny turns. "How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her." "In the cup which she hath filled, fill to her double."

How natural it is for individuals to glorify self! As will be seen by Ps. 49:16, 17, glory consists in one sense in riches. The message for this time is to fear God and give glory to Him. Can one truly and fully give glory to God and retain his riches for himself? Who are living deliciously?—Surely the man who was "clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day," was living deliciously, lavishing money on self. Who of us will dare do it? The rich man in the parable was not an isolated case, but a sample of many in our world to-day.

We have come out of Babylon, have we not?—Yes, for we have abandoned her heterodoxal creeds. But what will sink one in perdition the most surely, her creeds or her deeds? "*Partake not of her sins.*" What are her sins?—Prominently, glorifying self and living deliciously. Are you doing such a thing? God forbid it.

Where is the man who would dare to stand before the great white throne at last and hear it said of him, "He hath lived deliciously"? Where is the woman who wants to hear the irrevocable decree: "She hath glorified herself and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her"?

Let us look over the inventory given in Rev. 18:12-14 and see how many of these articles we are holding in our possession to glorify self, and live in pleasure on the earth. God is no respecter of persons and of whomsoever the fearful words of Rev. 18:7 may be spoken, the doom that follows will be his. Let us take warning.

F. D. STARR.





## The Dangers of the Opium Vice

By D. H. Kress, M. D., Medical Supt. Washington, D. C., Sanitarium

**T**HE practise of opium-using has assumed gigantic proportions in the Chinese Empire and has wrought fearful ravages among its people. The habit is not confined to this nation alone, but is rapidly spreading in civilized countries.

According to the report of the American Pharmaceutical Association, in 1902, there was an increase of 57,000 pounds in the amount of opium imported into the United States as compared with the figures of the previous year. Other countries have equally as unpromising a showing, in fact, in the near future, in civilized lands this drug bids fair to claim as many victims as it has in the Chinese Empire.

While it is not smoked as freely in these countries, it is used in the form of laudanum and the salts of morphin.

Among recent products none is more freely and widely used than heroin—a morphin salt which many employ with the idea that it is a harmless substitute for morphin. On the contrary, it has all the dangers of morphin salts in general, and additional dangers of its own. Cohon, writing in American Medicine, says he has seen suppression of urine and threatening coma from small doses of heroin (one-twelfth gram) prescribed to check cough or relieve pain. Especially dangerous are the trade preparations containing heroin. These preparations are widely advertised as cough syrups, asthma cures, etc. He declares that preparations of this kind should never be prescribed. Heroin is one of the most toxic agents of the morphin group.

### Consumed in America.

About 160,000 pounds of the salts of morphin were consumed in America alone during the year 1903—considerably more than twice as much as the amount imported for the twelve months of 1901.

The drug is found in many of the patent medicines, and even in plug tobacco and cigars. Many find themselves slaves to these medicines and certain brands of cigars, not knowing that they were really slaves to the opium habit.

The dire effect of the many so-called "soothing syrups" upon thousands of little innocent babies can scarcely be imagined. The essential ingredient of these syrups is always some form of opium. Serious injury is always sustained by the little ones, altho the full results may not be seen until later in life. Better by far to let the little one yell and suffer a little while than to quiet it with such drugs. The sleep produced in this manner is the sleep of death, they may awake from it and they may not. Even in childhood a craving may be established in the system for the drug.

Opium, we are told, was at first exclusively used by the mandarins of China, to beget a certain energy of manner, and as a stimulant equipping them with keener gusto either for pleasure or toil. It was at first innocently offered to visitors as a mark of respect, as in civilized countries the cup of tea or coffee is served to visitors. The flattered caller was almost forced to partake of it as an act of

courtesy. In this way the habit spread, at first among the well to do, the nobility, and others who were brought in contact with the mandarins. Afterward the drug found its way to the lower classes under the name of "polite tobacco;" and by them was first smoked from promptings of vanity or a desire to imitate the example of the nobility. Habit finally established a love for the drug and bound them in bands that they were unable to break. At the present time there is not a district in the Chinese Empire free from the curse of this pernicious narcotic drug.

### Power of the Habit.

Once the habit of opium taking has been acquired, the craving for the drug is irresistible.



A Chinese Laborer of the Canton Province. A Representative of the Race of Opium Users.

able, and the effort to abandon its use is followed by intense suffering, which the devotee for lack of will-power is unwilling to endure; thus he remains a hopeless slave to the habit. Recognizing the evils of the drug, the use is discouraged among youths, as in civilized countries we discourage the use of tobacco among the young.

The Chinese begin when about twenty years of age to smoke a pipe a day. By smoking only from one to three pipes a day they may live for twenty or thirty years. Many, however, lose all self-control, and fall victims to the drug completely, using from six to eight pipes a day; such live only from five to six years after the habit is acquired.

It is a deceptive drug for the victim imagines that he can not live without it, for does he not feel worse when attempting to do so? Many also suppose that it possesses the power of imparting mental and physical strength, and augmenting one's usefulness, and

increasing his pleasures. This delusion exists universally among the ignorant classes who, therefore, especially fall an easy prey to the habit. Opium possesses no such subtle properties. Opium, like all other narcotics, deceives its devotees.

The real constituent that causes the stimulation and feeling of exhilaration and well-being felt by the opium fiend is a poisonous alkaloid known as morphin. This alkaloid is almost identical with alkaloids found in other products that are just as freely used in civilized countries as opium is in China. The action of the alkaloids found in the poppy, the cacao seed, the coffee berry, and in the tea, are very similar. They all act upon the nervous system in such a manner that one dose tempts the second, the second creates a craving for the third, and the third demands the fourth. Thus these habits become fixed, and men and women do not realize their real condition or the injury they have sustained by their use until an effort is made to give them up. The fact is the slave of stimulants is carrying on business on borrowed capital and must eventually become a mental and nervous wreck. This, no doubt, accounts in part for the many nervous diseases and the increase of insanity in modern times.

Having once experienced that by the use of an opiate one is enabled to do what otherwise could not have been done, the greatest temptation exists to resort to it again and again, or whenever a tired or exhausted feeling appears.

Opium kills. Its influence is only and always destructive whether taken in small or large doses. Its continuous use will eventually undermine the strongest and most robust constitution, altho for a time it may not be realized.

In the poor offspring of the opium-user may be seen the evil results of the drug. The children lack either vitality and have a tendency toward disease and premature degeneracy, or they are born idiotic.

### Give It Up.

We would urge all who are not addicted to this or other narcotics not merely to touch not, and taste not, but also to handle not, poisons that may result in the ruin of men and women. This applies especially to physicians and nurses, for frequently the craving for these narcotic drugs is created by the medicine prescribed or administered at the bedside of a sick one.

Those who feel they can not get on without a narcotic, be it opium or some other drug, should abandon its use at once. Do not attempt to give it up gradually, for this will mean failure, but, in the strength of God, say, **I WILL GIVE UP THIS EVIL EVEN IF IT MEANS DEATH TO ME.** It certainly is better to die in the effort to give it up than to live a slave to the habit. It does not mean death, however, it means life. There will be some suffering, this must be expected, but even this may be minimized by the exercise of the will and by suitable treatments.

To give up the use of opium or any other narcotic drug habit, take a period of rest for two or three days; keep quiet; eat nothing the first day and drink hot water, with a little milk added, frequently during the day. The juice of oranges, apples, peaches, pears, or grapes may be taken whenever desired. A well-beaten, fresh, raw egg may be taken in the fruit juice or milk several times during the day. On the second day, begin the use of some simple foods, poached or boiled eggs and breads, and fresh fruit at the close of the meal. By the end of the second day the headache and extreme nervousness and feeling of prostration has probably greatly subsided or disappeared. The patient should continue always to live upon simple, non-stimulating and non-irritating foods and especially use freely of fruits.



The treatment of the morphia and allied habits becomes a comparatively simple matter in a well-equipped sanitarium, where the physician has at hand the appliances for the administration of rational treatment and a thoroly trained nurse who can cooperate with him in everything that pertains to the welfare of the patient.

I have found that God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think in such cases, and that man's extremity is God's opportunity. He will hear the cry of the one that is in so horrible a pit and will surely lift him up, place his feet upon a rock, and put a new song into his mouth, and establish his going. I have seen this experience repeated again and again in cases that were considered hopeless.

### Let the Heathen Be Wakened.

IN a recent issue of this paper we had an article from our correspondent in India that told of the unrest among the people there and the agitation in favor of national independence. It will be noted that Japan is cited as an example of what has been done, and they think they should rise up and assert their national strength, also.

The prophecy of Joel as a whole refers to the last days, telling in the vivid language of the prophets the thrilling events that are to occur in the closing hours of time. The third chapter of that prophecy tells of the mighty waking up of the heathen in the days when the judgment day is imminent, and when the Lord is about to make His second advent. Some of the words in this chapter are, "Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles: Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning-hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause Thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision." Joel 3:9-14.

This prophecy calls for a general stirring up of the heathen nations when the day of the Lord is imminent. It tells of the spirit of war that will prevail among them. How significant is the recent awakening of Japan, followed by the new life in the field of military activity that is springing up in China; and to these is to be added the still more recent response to the war fever in India. How literally and how completely are all the great heathen nations coming forward to fulfil the prophecy.

The events all about us that are fulfilling the prophecies concerning the second coming of Christ are so numerous that no one need make a mistake. The end of all things is right at hand, and we should get ready for it. For we should remember that while it is the end of sin and unrighteousness, of sorrow and suffering, it is only the beginning of the unsullied joys of the eternal existence that God has provided for all who will prepare to receive it.

Despatches from Rome state that the pope is issuing new laws governing marriage, which seem to be sensational if not revolutionary. All marriages are to be regarded as null and void among Catholics where the ceremony is performed by a justice or a Protestant minister, and no marriage shall be valid unless contracted before duly authorized priests in the presence of two witnesses, with two exceptions: One is where there is imminent danger of death and no authorized priest is obtainable, then any priest can perform the ceremony in the presence of two witnesses. The other is where no priest is obtainable a mere declaration on the part of the parties in the presence of two witnesses is valid. It will be worth while to see how this will affect legislation in the States.

### More Dreadful Than Dreadnought.

TWENTY-FIVE years ago Germany was without a navy. She set out on a plan to rival the naval power of England and has reached the place where she ranks fourth in the naval world. But a couple of years or so ago she was shocked and surprised, almost beyond measure, to see England launch the Dreadnought within a year from the time her keel was laid. It has taken the United States four years to build the Connecticut and the Louisiana, the most powerful battle-ships of the present time in the American navy.

The Dreadnought so startled the naval world that the other nations immediately set to work to outdo the "greatest battle-ship afloat." Japan soon launched a fighting machine that was heralded in the papers as being ahead of the celebrated English ship; the United States then came forward with one that was said to be the most powerful and effective in armament of them all; and now the reports are telling that England has just launched the Temeraire that again sets her to exultingly singing "Britannia [still] rules the wave."

It is such rivalry as this that keeps the nations of all the world under constantly increasing military and naval burdens. Vast sums are expended to-day, only to be thrown away to-morrow because the equipment that has cost so many millions is rendered useless by later inventions and more ponderous death-dealing machinery. It is hoped, and earnestly talked, that this great preparation for war will insure peace. But this is only talk for the purpose of keeping up courage, or else to try to make it seem to be consistent to claim this as the age of "peace and good will" and yet to have it stand out as the most conspicuous period for military and naval intensity.

The literal meaning of the unparalleled arming of the nations is set forth clearly by the prophets. They show that the end of all things is drawing near, and they further show that as the end does draw near the nations will be angry and that deceptive powers will prepare them for the "battle of that great day of God Almighty." There is to be a great battle of all the nations just before that "great day." The Scriptures plainly show this, and any one should be able to see that the great military activity of this time is preparing the world for the event.

We may avoid the dangers of that time by standing with God under the shelter of the truth He reveals in His word. The light that is so plainly shining from the Bible is indeed a great beacon of hope. Is it filling your soul?

### Uncertainty.

UNCERTAINTY is one of the striking present-day characteristics everywhere manifest. For instance, the sudden shout of a soldier, August 20, in the grand mosque at Fez, "May Allah render our master Muolai Mohammed victorious," resulted in a general panic, closing of shops and barricading of homes. The shout was received as the beginning of a revolution, as Mohammed is the sultan's brother; yet the man who did it was an irresponsible converted Jew, and was probably immediately beheaded. It is indicative, however, of what may take place any time in Mohammedan countries.

The New York World says of this nation: "There is a loss of confidence and a contraction of currency everywhere. The president of the Bowery Savings Bank declared in a World interview not long ago that down-town banks were hoarding vast sums of cash merely from a sense of apprehension. People who have borrowed money for railroad or industrial stocks or securities are met with demands for more collateral. The zone of apprehension is steadily increasing in width, and it is the business of the State to look the facts squarely in the face." The London Telegraph views conditions here, if continued, as "fatal to the prosperity of America."

Despatches also indicate that Great Britain is exceedingly nervous over the condition of things in India. The native papers teem with sedition. This also is intimated in an article from our India correspondent recently. The only thing that safe-

guards India is the hostile camps of natives, divided by caste and religion.

Little has come from Russia during the last few weeks, and yet a report from St. Petersburg shows that during July 274 persons were exiled for political offenses, 54 Russian officers and 95 privates were killed, and 74 officers and 52 privates wounded while maintaining order. How many people were killed, the report does not state, probably a great many more. These are some of the indications of the unrest and uncertainty in the political world.

The Hague Congress is doing a little something. A supreme International Prize Court was approved August 22, with the project as drafted by the United States, Great Britain, Germany, and France. Its acceptance was ten votes to two, Brazil and Mexico objecting. A permanent court of arbitration is still in suspense, altho some are strongly in favor of postponing the discussion until the next congress, recommending that in the meanwhile the powers study the question, a thing which they have been doing for long years. The congress as a peace promoter thus far has proved itself little better than a farce.

A recent despatch from Berlin declares that the mysterious disappearance of young women in that city is increasing to an alarming extent. Five such disappearances were reported in one day, and a number of others had occurred the same week. Most of the girls vanished without leaving any trace of their whereabouts. It is supposed that "white slave" operators are gathering them for immoral purposes and exporting them.

After a thirty-year contention, the passage of a law has at last been secured in England, recognizing the legality of marriage to a deceased wife's sister. Several times the bill has been passed by the House of Commons, but always defeated by the bishops. Thru the influence of the king it has at last become a law, and will be received by the people generally with rejoicing.

Bad Blood.—A despatch from Cripple Creek, Colo., August 22, says that the second attempt to blow up a passenger-train with dynamite was made at St. Peter's, a town midway between Cripple Creek and Colorado Springs. Every window in the car was broken. This is indicative of the bad blood that exists thruout the whole Rocky Mountain region.

A new book on wireless telegraphy announces that some of the great difficulties have been overcome. Thru late discoveries messages can be sent by vibrations which are continuous, as against the irregular, falling-off oscillations of the past; and also duplex wireless telegraphy is possible, sending and receiving two messages at the same time.

Dr. H. Henriet, a noted French chemist, declares that an atmospheric crisis threatens civilization, especially the population of our large cities, that the atmospheric air of these cities is becoming so vitiated, that unless some unforeseen remedy is operative it will affect the race, and result greatly in the increase of disease and race deterioration.

Something like four inches of space is given in a great Eastern paper to tell us that the latest styles in dog's garments come from Italy. One woman who owns an Italian dog, diminutive and ugly, has a suit for her pet for every hour of the day, with inside pockets and handkerchiefs for each one.

Dr. E. Ray Lankaster declares in "Nature" that the introduction of the tsetse fly into any other continent than Africa would work a historical catastrophe as truly as the conquest of a civilized nation by a half-civilized one.

The eighth international Zionist Congress, at The Hague, closed August 21. The principle object gained in the congress was union in support of the idea of proceeding to help the poor Jews by political action.



# IN THE YEAR TO COME

**W**E are nearing the close of this series of twenty-six special numbers of the SIGNS which began last May. As a result of the splendid efforts of our friends, the subscription-list has been largely increased (more than doubled), and thus we have had the privilege of forming many new acquaintances. The query has already been raised by many, "What is to follow this special series?" To answer this question, and for the information of all, we wish to give a brief outline of what is to come.

Over two years ago the inspiration came to the publishers of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES to get out a *Special Missions Number*, showing what had been accomplished during the past century in carrying out the Gospel commission as recorded in Mark 16:15, and what still remains to be done.

The great earthquake came and later the fire which destroyed our factory, and the work was delayed. But now we have decided to carry out the original plan and issue this great

## World's Missions Special

It will be a double number (32 pages), finely illustrated and beautifully printed, bearing the date of October 30 and November 6. It will present in a striking manner the great work of missions its accomplishments, its open doors, its needy fields, and its glorious culmination in the harvest home.

The writers for this issue will be men whose hearts are burdened for the salvation of souls, men with hearts fresh and warm from mission fields, and men in those mission fields bearing the burden, seeing the misery, hearing the cry for help, and witnessing the power of the Gospel.

For many months we have been gathering from all parts of the world illustrations and material for this special issue, and we feel safe in saying that this will be the best missions number that was ever published by any journal on earth. Here are a few of the

## Good Things It Will Contain

**A CENTURY OF MISSIONS**, or the great work that has been accomplished during the past century by missionary effort. The Bible has been given to the world in all of its various languages; every nook and corner of the earth has been entered by the missionary, all of which has been predicted by the prophets as something that shall take place, "and then shall the end come."

**THE OPEN DOORS BEFORE GOD'S PEOPLE**, by Dr. A. T. Pierson, editor of the *Missionary Review of the World*, showing the great opportunities in these times for missionary effort, and how God is going before His workers to lead them in preparing for the world's great harvest.

**THE PREPARATION FOR A QUICK WORK**, showing how that since the ground has been prepared, as set forth in preceding articles, the closing work can be accomplished in a very short space of time.

**PROGRESSIVE WORK OF GOD IN PREPARING FOR CHRIST'S COMING**, the majestic workings of God in preparing the way step by step for the grand consummation.

**THE POWER OF THE WORD TO SAVE SOULS FROM SIN.**

**THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD IN THIS GENERATION**, or the

inscription on the banner of this people, which has become the great war-cry of the present hour.

**THERE SHALL BE DELAY NO LONGER**, the closing of God's work.

**CHRISTIANITY, A LIFE**, in contradistinction to other great religions, and to the view of Christianity as a system of ethics.

**A PERSONAL SAVIOUR**, the salvation and regeneration of the individual, rather than the salvation of the nation by ethics or politics.

**THE LATTER RAIN—THE OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT.**

Brief statistical matter in regard to missions, making the paper valuable as a work of reference.

**MESSAGES FROM THE NATIONS**—Burma, Malacca, the Philippines, China, Japan, Africa,—from Egypt, to the Cape of Good Hope,—Syria, Turkey, Russia, Korea, South America, and Oceanica. Under this head will be published brief statements from missionaries in all parts of the world, together with appeals that they will make for their respective fields. We hope that, in harmony with God's own prophetic word, these appeals will reach and touch hearts so that they will bring abundantly of their means to assist in finishing this great work in this generation.

We have been very successful in securing engravings that are not only attractive but which tell the story most emphatically. We will mention only a few of them:

1. A full-page cover drawing, by Mr. Charles Mente, illustrating Christ sending forth His disciples two by two into the dark world.

2. Illustration, by Mr. Mente, representing Christ standing at the door knocking.

3. A drawing of the heads of various tribes representing the great, needy world.

4. Portraits of the great pioneer missionaries of Christendom, from John Eliot, the apostle among the Indians, to John Paton, of Oceanica.

5. Photographs of various people and scenes from different mission fields of the world.

6. Various other drawings, such as initial letters and typical and symbolical borders.

7. Song and music, "The Bugle Call of Missions."

## Everybody Interested in Missions

Not only Christians of all denominations, but infidels and atheists, are anxious to know what progress is being made in the matter of carrying out the commission of the great Teacher recorded in Mark



16:15: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." This Special Missions Number of the SIGNS will undertake to tell the story in a brief, pointed, and interesting way, and every person of whatever persuasion should have the privilege of reading it.

Immediately following this great Missions Number there will be

## TWENTY-FOUR SPECIAL NUMBERS

which will be of peculiar interest to all. One of the most prominent and important features of these numbers is a series of illustrated Bible-readings which will appear under the heading of

### Home Bible Studies for Winter Evenings

1. These readings will be in the form of *studies*, with notes and quotations from history bearing upon the subject. They will be illustrated by diagrams, drawings, and unique little illustrations that will explain the lesson and make it simple and impressive. The topics will include:

- (a) The Scriptures.
- (b) Prophecy.
- (c) The Coming of the Just One.
- (d) Signs of the Times.
- (e) The Sanctuary.
- (f) The Law of God.
- (g) The Everlasting Gospel.
- (h) The Everlasting Covenant.
- (i) Man; His Nature and Destiny.
- (j) Spiritual Gifts.
- (k) The Great Threefold Message.

(l) The Sabbath in all its Phases.

(m) Religious Liberty.

(n) Man's Eternal Home.

(o) The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit, etc., etc.

- 2. Articles on the books of Daniel and the Revelation.
- 3. Articles on the book of Romans, the "therefores" and the "wherefores," and the reasons for them.
- 4. Articles on the miracles, teaching, and life of Jesus. Christ as the Great Physician.
- 5. A series on the Ten Commandments.
- 6. The Kingdom and Priesthood of Christ.
- 7. Conditions in the world. Able correspondents in the Old World and the New. Labor and Capital, Wealth and Poverty, Plenty and Famine, Peace and War.
- 8. Health and Hygiene.
- 9. Home Instruction.

The regular departments of the paper such as, "The Outlook," "Missions," etc., will be maintained the same as usual.

### The Outlook Department

In this department special attention will be given to current events that have a bearing upon the fulfilment of prophecy. We shall continue to send representatives to all important gatherings, both political and religious, in order that our readers may be kept informed of the natural trend of events.

### Home Department

We can only suggest some of the good things to appear in our Home Department in the year to come. We know that our readers will be greatly helped by them. For instance, here is a list of twenty-one articles on

#### "The Building of the Home"

by Mrs. L. D. Avery-Stuttle, whom our readers know so well.

- 1. Home, What It Means.
- 2. Honorable Young Manhood.
- 3. Beautiful Young Womanhood.
- 4. Acquaintance, Friendship, Proprieties.
- 5. Honorable and Proper Courtship.
- 6. Marriage and Its Meaning.
- 7. The Husband in the Home.
- 8. The Wife in the Home.
- 9. The Family Altar.
- 10. The Father.
- 11. The Mother.
- 12. The Son.
- 13. The Daughter.

- 14. Reading in the Home.
- 15. Order in the Home.
- 16. Simplicity in the Home.
- 17. Economy and Thrift in the Home.
- 18. Mutual Helpfulness.
- 19. Gatherings in the Home—Associations.
- 20. The Master in the Home.
- 21. The Outshining of the Home.

Besides this list of helpful articles we have the promise of another series which we may entitle

#### "Observations on Home-Life"

from the pen of one known to some of our SIGNS family, and to many outside our SIGNS family, Mrs. Emma H. Adams, author of several excellent books, a lady of many years' experience, of wide acquaintance, and with a young heart. In a series of short articles she will give our readers the benefit of some of her keen observations.

Besides these there will be talks to the young, talks on health and hygiene, interesting information, and occasional helpful stories and sketches. The Home Department alone will be worth the price of the paper for a year.

### With Our Inquirers

This department of the SIGNS seems to be becoming more and more interesting and important as is evidenced by the large number of questions that come to the editor's desk, and our readers will be glad to know that this department will be kept up the same as heretofore, and all are invited to make use of its columns.

## Bible-Readers' Band

We hope to enlist many thousands among our readers who will read the Bible thru in one or two years. Of this we shall have more to say later. It will be one of the profitable departments.

These are some of the good things which we expect to lay before our readers in the year to come. We believe that they will appeal to one and all as being well worth the subscription price, and we not only hope to retain every name now on our subscription-list, but to add many more. Renewals should be sent in early so as not to miss the great Missions Number.





## My Heart Is Fixed.

TO-DAY no great deed have I done,  
No wondrous thing have I achieved,  
No mighty vict'ry have I won,  
No crying need have I relieved;  
But I will onward struggle yet,  
The Master's service claims me still,  
Toward victory my face is set,  
My heart is fixed to do His will.

MAX HILL.

## An Appeal for the Mothers.

THERE are many irritable Christian mothers. "Christian mothers?"—

Yes, Christian mothers. Sometimes they are mistaken Christians. Sometimes they are unwise Christians, nevertheless they are Christians.

They believe God. They accept His plan of salvation in Christ Jesus. They love God. They love His commandments, His service; they are willing to die for Him. But they get impatient with the children and the husband; and worry and fret over the work of the household, and the mistakes and blunders—often only seeming—of their family.

Then how they regret the irritability. How they mourn and weep and pray over their impatience. How exceedingly unsatisfactory is their life!

## What Is the Trouble?

Sometimes it is without question in a selfish, cherished, fault-finding disposition which the mother puts forth no effort to overcome. Such can hardly be called Christian.

The Christian class are either ill or work too hard, or generally both. It is often a fact in many households that—

"Man's work is from sun to sun,  
But woman's work is never done."

Nay, more; many men do not labor "from sun to sun." They work on an eight-nine or ten-hour schedule. But many mothers work from the time the weary head is lifted from the pillow till the wearier head seeks repose for a few hours at night, too weary, perhaps, to sleep.

Is it a wonder the over-heated, over-worked nerves become irritated? Even the grace of God can not help when law is constantly transgressed.

## What Is the Remedy?

Here are several suggestions:

1. Let the mother take some time every day to be alone with God. Ask Him to guide. Talk over household matters with Him. Tell Him all about it. Think of the things which would or would not please Him, and regulate work accordingly.

2. Let the mother and housewife simplify her work. Less attention to fashions and foibles, less attention to the elaborate dishes of food, less details in housework, fewer frills on children's dresses, and a little time to lie down each day with every muscle and nerve relaxed, and breathe and rest and

sleep. Do not worry if something must be left undone; better one or two things than all, when the sickness or death come.

3. Let the strong husband and active children help the mother. Let her teach them to help her. "Awkward" at first, and "easier done" herself, probably, but they need to learn it, and it will result in good after they do learn. But let them study to help and to soothe the harassed nerves, to do many little tasks, so easily done, and so be helpful to the mother. The laying of the fire in the morning, the preparing of kindling, the bringing of wood and coal—always the man's or boy's work, if there are such—will help wonderfully in saving work for the mother and resting the tired body.

We heard not long since that a young lady declared that the hardest place for her to live a Christian was with her mother, because of that mother's irritability. This is sad, and the mother may be wholly at fault. But we would like to inquire whether

the daughter did her part to help the mother. So many times we have seen girls come home from a distant school, mother is glad to see them and anxious to help them and welcome them, takes pains to fix up their rooms, prepare their favorite dishes of food, and the daughters look idly on, drum on the piano, read a book or magazine, and then wonder if mother speaks fretfully or impatiently. The mother's work for the daughter is a labor of love, but the nerves can not endure

too great a strain. Let the daughter, weary tho she may be, put forth a little labor of love for mother. And let all the young mother readers so train their children that they will be the best of helpers.

A MOTHER-LOVER.



The Boy Jesus Assisting His Parents.



Typical Mother and Child.

## They Doffed Their Hats.

THE elevator in a sky-scraper where men and women share the offices of a powerful insurance company was crowded almost to capacity, when it stopped to take on board a tenant of lower offices, accompanied by his wife. Instantly every man in the elevator removed his hat. This was not a tribute to the wife's superior looks, for many of the women stenographers and clerks already in the car were fairer to look upon. It was not in compliment to the richness of her furs nor her waving plumes, because the raiment of some of her self-supporting fellow-passengers was fully as good. It was purely the tribute from the primitive man to the primitive woman, whom he may support and pro-



fect, as compared with the woman who can and will support herself. The woman who works at his elbow day after day is not his ideal woman.

As we left the car, a young woman whispered: "Pleasant, is it not, to be shown in this unmistakable fashion the status you take in masculine estimation when you work for your living?"—*Anna Steese Richardson, in September Woman's Home Companion.*

## SALESMAN FOR OAKLAND.

Wanted.—A good man to introduce two good articles to the trade—wholesale and retail—in Oakland, Cal. Write for full particulars to Alfred Mallett, Sacramento, Cal. A good opening for an experienced man.



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"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroly furnished unto all good works." Then the most profitable resource for any one is a knowledge of, and obedience to, the word of God. When one is "thoroly furnished unto all good works," what more does he need?

The writer had the privilege of attending the recent Los Angeles camp-meeting in Southern California Conference, August 23-25. It was a splendid meeting, one of the best that we ever attended. It was also a very large meeting. The immense four-pole tent was filled again and again in the preaching services. The tent will seat from twelve to fifteen hundred, we should judge, and it was several times more than filled. The meeting was a long one, lasting eighteen days. Coming away before the meeting closed, we can not give even a summary of the results of the conference. This we will give in later numbers. Suffice to say that Elder G. W. Reaser was unanimously re-elected president of the conference, and Mr. H. H. Winslow secretary and treasurer. It was a wonderfully liberal conference in its gifts to missions and outside interests. We will also give a summary of these in our next report. We were very glad indeed of the privilege of being at such a meeting and gathering of its inspiration. The Southern California Conference is a splendid conference, and it has an excellent field and a grand membership. It also has heavy burdens and we pray and hope that those who are called to bear these burdens will have the strength and wisdom vouchsafed them to continue their successful work for the building up of God's cause and to spread abroad the glory of His name.

Those who have been watching the news of the day have been impressed by the increasing number of serious railroad and ocean steamship accidents. But we are glad to note that a serious accident was avoided a few days since by the watchfulness of the assistant yard-master at Reno, Nev. A culprit was seen bending over the rail tying dynamite to it so that it would be exploded when the limited train would pass over it a few moments later. He was detected in the act but escaped capture. The explosive was removed just in time to avert the calamity that would surely have followed. What can be the mental make-up of persons that will do such deeds? How can any one in cold blood deliberately plan to murder a lot of people that he has never seen, and does not even know who they are? It is certainly very unpleasant to think that even one individual could be found in the human family who is so degraded as to attempt such crimes. But the evidence shows that there are many of them, and in all parts of the world.

BE SURE TO STUDY our announcement on pages twelve and thirteen of the important and valuable matter this paper will contain during the fall and winter months. For rates see third column of page fifteen.

Next Week.

THIS week we tell of the great federation movement that is becoming so general thruout the world. We call attention to the fact that combining and federating is the order of the day both in the social, the financial, and the religious circles.

We have said but very little this week in regard to what is the meaning of this universal federating among the societies and organizations of the world. Next week we will devote our space to telling what will be the outcome of this movement. The outcome is a matter of prophecy and we may know what it means. It is one of the most interesting subjects to study that we have before us in our day.

Glass Is Convicted.

THE trial of Louis Glass, manager of the Pacific States Telephone Company, ended in his conviction on August 30. This case has attracted the attention of the whole country, and to quite an extent of other countries as well. The officials of San Francisco, with only a few exceptions, had gone into the "grafting" business on a most extensive, wholesale basis. The street-car company paid big sums to the city councilmen, the mayor, and the boodling "attorney" of the administration to get valuable franchises for which they should have paid the city. But by dealing with the boodling officials direct they got what they wanted at a better figure than if they had gone to the people who were the owners of the franchises. The telephone company gave another vast sum to these same officials in order to "persuade" them to keep out a rival company by refusing them a franchise to do business.

These two powerful corporations were behind the corrupt officials, and there is strong talk that there were other and still more powerful corporations behind them, but that indictments against them are not ready yet. They felt so secure in their wealth and influence that they thought it was not possible to reach them with the law. But the administration "attorney" has pleaded guilty, the mayor of the city is convicted and sent to the penitentiary, and is now lying in jail awaiting a decision in regard to a new trial in the higher court. And following

him the prosecution has succeeded in convicting the president of the telephone company, altho it took two trials in which to do it, the jury failing to agree in the first trial. One of the big men of the street-car company is to have his trial right away, and the successes already attending the work of the district attorney are causing the wealthy criminals to tremble. It is most encouraging that "respectable crime" is thus receiving such a setback. Had it not been for this success in checking the crime that was rampant there, it is hard to tell what would have been the condition of the city by now.

All well-informed people know that the drink habit is very strongly on the increase. More alcoholic drinks are being consumed each succeeding year. But the use of alcoholic beverages does not include all that there is to the great curse of the intemperance of this time. The use of opium and similar drugs is also growing to an alarming degree, and is adding greatly to the evils of the drink habit. The article from Doctor Kress on page 10 should be read and reflected upon by every one. The Master gave this warning for those who should be living in the last days: "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting [overeating], and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Luke 21:34. When we see how the drunkenness caused by the use of alcoholic drinks has been increased in these times; and, further, when we see that so many new forms of deadening and stupefying the faculties thru drug drunkenness have been invented, is it not remarkable how clear the Lord's view of this time was when He gave the warning in the foregoing verse?

The whole Sabbath question centers around the simple question of faith in God's word. The record of the institution of the Sabbath is plain; the commandment is plain; the words of Christ that the law can not be changed in one jot or tittle are plain; the evidence is clear that Christ Himself gave the Sabbath and honored it by calling Himself its Lord. All these facts are expressly revealed in God's word. Jesus kept the Sabbath, and He says, "Follow Me;" "If ye love Me, keep My commandments;" "Blessed are they that do His [the Father's] commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in thru the gates into the city;" "I and My Father are one." And the Father says, "Hear ye Him." It matters not that good men have kept the Sunday; the question of faith is, "What does God say?"

A section of the new bridge being constructed across the St. Lawrence River, five miles below Quebec, collapsed just as the men were quitting work for the day on August 29. It is estimated that from sixty to one hundred persons were killed by the accident. Without any previous warning the great steel structure began to collapse, and carried its builders, with only a few exceptions, into the waters below. Of those who were on the section of the bridge that fell, not a single one came to the surface. The bridge when completed is to be the longest single-span cantilever bridge in the world, being some eighteen hundred feet longer than the famous Forth Bridge which holds the record of length for one span. Its construction was commenced in 1900, and was to have been finished in 1909.

He who holds to true religious liberty holds to the right of the other man to think and speak and act for himself in all things pertaining to his conscience just as long as the lives, property, reputation, and chastity of his fellow men are not endangered. The Puritans claimed to believe in religious liberty, but it was religious liberty for—the Puritans. The Buddhist claims religious liberty for—the Buddhist. The Roman Catholic is the great conservator of religious liberty for—the Roman Catholic. But the true follower of Christ believes in and grants religious liberty for all. Jesus said, "If any man hear My words, and believe not, I judge him not; for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world."