

Signs of the Times

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PROPHETS FORESAW IT ALL

Described the Inconsistent and Rival Teachings of Both Peace and War — The War Spirit Comes from the Demons — Is Antichristian

By ROSS C. PORTER



FIVE Old Testament prophecies, and the Apocalypse in the New Testament, deal too plainly with the question of last-day war, its causes, professions, and spirit, to be misunderstood.

THE OLD SATANIC AMBITION

Lying at the foundation of enormous armaments and colossal navies of the world to-day there is a cause. That cause is the old satanic ambition for the highest place. As Satan was willing to sacrifice the brightest of the angels, which were the glory of heaven, and mankind, the glory of earth, on the altar of his ambition for the first place in the kingdom of God, so nations to-day are sacrificing the best in their dominions on the altar of military and commercial ambition for first place among the nations.

The cause is definitely declared by the revelator to be "the spirits of devils" gathering the nations and kings of the whole world into an Armageddon of war. Rev. 16: 14-16.

That spirit produces the same effect among nations as among angels and men. It fills them with distrust and bitterness toward each other.

THE ANGRY NATIONS AND THE JUDGMENT

This is further shown in the statement, "And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldest give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth." Rev. 11: 18.

Three things are here emphasized. First, the nations are angry. Second, it is the time of God's final Judgment, just before He rewards His people. His people are rewarded at the time of Christ's second advent. Rev. 22: 12. Third, He will destroy the angry nations "which destroy the earth."

Here is an adequate cause for both the present war and the spirit that ac-

companies it. The angry nations that triumph will come forth from the struggle deluged in blood. They will point their fingers dripping with human gore to their triumphs, and say, "Behold what the unadulterated Bible, the pure gospel, has done for us." The vanquished nations will be jeered. But "God awaits His day. The cannon will not roar forever, the drum will not sound for long, the mocking of Christ's spirit will cease. And then? The Judgment."

PEACE PROFESSIONS AND WAR PREPARATIONS

Three prophecies point out these inconsistencies of peace professions and war preparations. Two of them, Micah 4 and Isaiah 2, after first declaring that they are describing a last-day scene, say: "Many nations shall come, and say: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." This is the prophetic forecast of the peace profession of the nations in the last days.

After announcing that his prediction applies in the last days (Joel 2: 1), the prophet Joel says: "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." Joel 3: 9-11.

NOT CONTRADICTORY PROPHECIES

These are not contradictory prophecies. They merely foretell that the nations will in the last days be *professing peace while preparing for and engaging in unparalleled world war*. One prophecy foretells what they will be *saying*, the other what they will be *doing*. What are the nations saying? — In the Hague peace councils they are eloquently talking disarmament. What are they doing? The answer is found in the race for naval and military supremacy that has swept over the entire course of peace despite the efforts of



CHRIST ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, AFTER THE PAINTING BY HENRI DANGER

The picture, which is in harmony with the teachings of Christ, shows Him in the attitude of weeping because of misery and destruction. The Master is the tender, compassionate One. He is not the ruthless, destructive, ferocious god of war. He came into the world to save men, not to destroy them. He taught that men should love their enemies, not that they should kill them. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son."

Christian statesmen, peace treaties, arbitration boards, and the Hague tribunals, and launched nations in the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of intelligent, peace-loving citizens in this overwhelming tragedy of war. While professing peace, they are preparing for and engaging in war. Both prophecies are fulfilled in the present conflict.

IS THIS A HARBINGER OF PEACE?

Even in the midst of the present almost Armageddon conflict, nations are saying that "this war is the harbinger of peace. After this conflict shall have destroyed militarism, there shall be no more war." It was on this hypothesis that Lloyd-George, when speaking in Wales in September, said, "Germany's barbarism must be stamped out." The *Yorodzu*, a Japanese paper, is quoted in the *China Press* of October 2, 1914, as stating the real issues of the war as follows:

"Shall Germany be allowed to keep up her militarism or not? is the question. If she is allowed, the present war has no meaning. No, German militarism must be crushed. . . . To be plain, the ultimate object of the war should be to reduce the German Empire to the state of a semi-independent nation, in which she will be placed under the supervision of the powers as regards her diplomatic and military affairs."

Profound conclusion! As if the world's woes were all traceable to Germany's militarism! Has not Germany as good a right to seek military supremacy as has Great Britain to seek naval supremacy, or Japan to seek both military and naval supremacy in the far East?

MILITARY ALLIANCES THE CAUSE

It may be added that the marshaling of the millions to slaughter at the present hour is due more to military alliances than to Germany's militarism. If Germany's military power is broken, military alliances will remain as great a menace as before. It was by them that nations were unwillingly dragged into the great whirlpool of war at this time. For what?—For the settlement of a question that the Hague should have settled in a day. Why did it not go to the Hague?—Military alliances swept it past the Hague court into the arena of war with lightning rapidity.

The delusion that German militarism is alone a menace to the peace of Europe, is dispelled by a look at the roll of European nations who have led in wars during the past forty-five years. How does Germany compare with her rivals?

China-Japanese war	1894-1895
Spanish-American war	1898
British and Boer war	1899-1902
Belgian-Kongo atrocities	1901

Russo-Japanese war	1904-1905
Nippon-Chosen war	1907
Norway secedes from Sweden	1907
Austria annexes Bosnia and Herzegovina	1908
French-Moroccan war	1908-1909
Spanish-Moroccan war	1909
Portuguese revolution	1910
Turko-Italian war	1911
Balkan war	1912

The only powers of Europe that have not been involved since the Franco-Prussian war are Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, and Germany.

SPIRIT OF MILITARISM UNIVERSAL

The spirit of militarism is as bad in an American, a Britain, a Russian, or a Japanese, as in a German. The spirit of militarism is satanic, and it blights the finer sensibilities of every nation that yields to its control.

Mr. Liang Chichao, of the Peking legis-

tentions of professional militarists, that huge armaments and incessant preparations for war are the best assurances that can be had for the preservation of peace, are disproved. There never was a time when Europe was more fully armed, and there never was a more needless and wicked war than that into which Europe has suddenly plunged."

Great navies and armies numbering millions are prepared for conquest. They are not kept up to such proportions for a police force. Prophecy says that as a sign of Christ's second advent, nations will talk peace and disarmament, while straining their resources to the uttermost in war preparations. Although men and nations, in the face of the fulfilment of this prophecy, may still cling to the delusion that after the war a millennium of peace will come, Paul declares:

"When they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, . . . and they shall not escape."

1 Thess. 5:3.

HEROES OF PEACE

But there are real heroes of peace who are not possessed with the spirit of militarism. They are putting forth heroic efforts to restore peace and stop this inhuman slaughter of their fellow men. America, Great Britain, and Germany have furnished some of the world's most noble advocates of national and international peace. It requires more heroic courage now to offer peace proposals to the angry combatants than to join them in the great war procession. What would we



TURKEY'S FANATICAL KURDISH CAVALRY

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These troops are among the most ferocious fighters in the world. Their fanatical religious hysteria borders on insanity, and consequently they conscientiously commit barbarities that would be unbelievable if they were not known to be true.

lative council, introducing a motion before that body, gave his view of Japan's military movements, supported by Great Britain, as a menace to the peace of the far East, as follows:

"Great Britain can not be excused for violating our neutrality, because the two nations are allied, and their actions must be concerted. Great Britain went to war in Europe because of her wishes to maintain the neutrality of Belgium. Mr. Asquith has announced in the House that Great Britain's object to join the war is to uphold humanity and civilization, and we respect England on this account. Unexpectedly, Great Britain in the East has been acting contrarily, and using the allied forces to violate our neutrality in Shantung."—*China Press*, October 6, 1914.

The present war has abundantly proved that enforced militarism in the world is a menace to its peace. Most of the nations engaged in the present conflict desired peace. But they have been led by the spirit of militarism into these vast war preparations under the delusion that vast armies insure peace.

WAR PREPARATIONS AND PEACE

The *New York World* is justified in its statement that "all the loudly proclaimed pre-

expect Great Britain and Germany to do in this crucial hour? In response to President Wilson's kindly offer of mediation in the interests of the world's peace, Reuter's telegram of September 19 said, "The English newspapers ridicule the talk of peace."

Why? Is it Great Britain's peace policy to prolong the war until the death-roll reaches millions, for the sake of crushing a military and commercial rival? Is this a "Christian nation's" application of the Golden Rule of the Prince of peace? Alas, militarism has become entangled in the meshes of its own ponderous net! "Judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity can not enter." Isa. 59:14.

NOT IN HARMONY WITH CIVILIZATION

In its very nature, war is recognized to be hostile to civilization. "The law of civilization is to live and let live, while the law of war is to kill and let kill. They are opposites. They can never reach agreement and harmony. . . . In barbarous times, war was perfectly logical in the way it played its game. It did not hesitate to apply the sword and torch to their accepted ends."

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ONE OF THE GREATEST TEMPTATIONS

A Sympathizer Clothed with Power—He Gives Victory over Drunkenness
by Providing Control of the Appetite

By MRS. E. G. WHITE

ONE of the strongest temptations that man has to meet, comes upon the point of appetite. In all ages, temptations appealing to the physical nature have been most effectual in corrupting and degrading mankind. Through intemperance, Satan works to destroy the mental and moral powers that God gave man as a priceless endowment; and it is impossible for those who yield to him, to appreciate things of eternal worth. Through sensual indulgence, Satan seeks to blot from the soul every trace of likeness to God.

THROUGH INDULGENCE OF APPETITE

It was through the temptation to indulge appetite, that Adam and Eve fell from their holy and happy estate. It seemed a small matter to our first parents to transgress the command of God in that one act—the eating from a tree that was so beautiful to the sight, and so pleasant to the taste; but it broke their allegiance to God, and opened the gates to a flood of guilt and woe. And it is through the same temptation that the race have become enfeebled. Since the first surrender to appetite, mankind have been growing more and more self-indulgent, until health has been sacrificed on the altar of appetite. The inhabitants of the antediluvian world ate and drank till the indulgence of depraved appetite knew no bounds, and they became so corrupt that God could bear with them no longer. They filled up the cup of their iniquity, and by a flood He cleansed the earth of its moral pollution.

Christ knew that the enemy would come to every human being, to take advantage of hereditary weakness, and by his false insinuations to ensnare all whose trust is not in God. And by passing, a conqueror, over the ground which man must travel, our Lord has made it possible for us to overcome. It is not His will that we should be placed at a disadvantage in the conflict with Satan. He would not have us discouraged and intimidated by the assaults of the enemy. "Be of good cheer," He says; "I have overcome the world."

WHEN STRUGGLING AGAINST THE POWER OF APPETITE

Let him who is struggling against the power of appetite, look to the Saviour in the wilderness of temptation. See Him in His agony upon the cross, as He exclaimed, "I thirst." He has endured all that it is possible for us to bear. His victory is ours.

Those who would have clear minds to discern Satan's devices, must bring appetite under the control of reason and conscience. If we would see the standard of virtue and godliness exalted, we must control appetite, the indulgence of which counteracts the force of truth and weakens the power to resist temptation. The heart can not maintain consecration to God while lustful appetite is indulged.

One of the most deplorable effects of the original apostasy was the loss of man's power of self-control. Only as this power is regained, can there be real progress.

HE WOULD ENFEEBLE THE BODY

The body is the medium through which mind and soul are developed for the upbuilding of character. Hence it is that the adversary of souls directs his temptations to the enfeebling and degrading of the physical powers. His success here means the surrender to evil of the whole being. The tendencies of our physical nature, unless under the dominion of a higher power, will surely work ruin and death.

The body is to be brought into subjection. The higher powers of the being are to rule. The passions are to be controlled by the will, which is itself to be under the control of God. The kingly power of reason, sanctified by divine grace, is to bear sway in our lives.

THE ESSENTIAL POWER

Apart from divine power, no genuine reform can be effected. Human barriers against natural and cultivated tendencies are but as the sand-bank against the torrent. Not until the life of Christ becomes a vitalizing power in our lives can we resist the temptations that assail us from within and from without.

When one surrenders to Christ, the mind is brought under the control of the law; but it is the royal law, which proclaims liberty to every captive. By becoming one with Christ, man is made free. Subjection to the will of Christ means restoration to perfect manhood. Obedience to God is liberty from the thralldom of sin, deliverance from human passion and impulse. Man may stand conqueror of himself, conqueror of his own inclinations.

AWAKEN TO SELF-MASTERY

The requirements of God must be brought home to the conscience. Men and women must be awakened to the duty of self-mastery, the need of purity, freedom from every depraving appetite and defiling habit. They need to be impressed with the fact that all their powers of mind and body are the gift of God, and are to be preserved in the best possible condition for His service.

In that ancient ritual which was the gospel in symbol, no blemished offering could be brought to God's altar. The sacrifice that was to represent Christ must be spotless. The word of God points to this as an illustration of what His children are to be,—“a living sacrifice,” “holy and without blemish,” “well pleasing to God.”

Meeting in His Name

IF two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matt. 18: 19, 20.

What is it to gather together in His name? That may appear as we study the revelation of His name. Reading of His dealing with Moses, we get His name: “And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.” Ex. 34: 5-7.

Gathering together in His name is coming together believing “that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him” (Heb. 11: 6); gathering together with the mind impressed that

we are coming to One who has benefits to bestow, and that He has an appointment to be there with us, and to bestow upon us the benefits implied in His name. This truly would be gathering in His name. Coming thus to the house of prayer, life and power may be realized by us. Otherwise the failure is our own, in not claiming what is our privilege.

J. N. LOUGHBOROUGH.



“A living
sacrifice,”
“holy and with-
out blemish.”

Prophet Sees Three Periods of Persecution

The First Was Against Christ Himself, and His Early Church — The Second Was the Conflict of the Dark Ages — The Third Is Yet Before Us

By C. S. LONGACRE

Editor of "Liberty"

This is the first of three articles by Mr. Longacre on the prospect of persecution breaking out again. Men are teaching that we are to have no more religious persecution. They were also teaching, a few months ago, that we would never have any more war. Are they likely to be as much mistaken on the question of religious persecution as they have been on the war?

Next week the article will show how both political and religious issues are shaping things for intolerance and persecution.

EDITOR.

MORE than eighteen hundred years ago, the seer of Patmos saw, through the Spirit of revelation, the three distinct periods of great persecution that would come to God's people during the Christian dispensation. A prophecy covering the whole Christian era, beginning with the twelfth and ending with the fourteenth chapter of the book of Revelation, vividly portrays and announces the final outcome of each of these three conflicts between Christ and Satan, and between Christ's people and their enemies.

A GLIMPSE OF THE THREE

The twelfth chapter gives a brief survey of the whole field, where we catch a glimpse of the three conflicts; while the thirteenth and fourteenth chapters give a description of the parties and issues involved in these struggles.

The first conflict brought to view opens with a personal struggle between Christ and Satan. Of course Satan always uses human instrumentalities, through which he works to accomplish his designs. In the first conflict, he used Herod, a Roman ruler in Palestine, to carry out his persecuting schemes. Pagan Rome waged war upon Christ and His followers in this first struggle.

THE DRAGON SOUGHT TO DEVOUR HIM

We are told that as soon as Christ was born, the dragon stood ready to devour Him. Satan inspired Herod to enact and execute a law causing all the little children in Bethlehem under two years of age to be slain, thereby expecting to apprehend Christ, who had just been born. But God intervened in behalf of His Son, and through an angel directed His flight into Egypt. After the king was dead, it was revealed again that He should return to Palestine.

When the Son of God began His public work, Satan dogged His steps, and on many occasions tried to arrest and slay Him. Finally he did succeed in laying hold of Him, and condemning Him to death before the courts of the land. Satan succeeded in carrying out the death sentence, and locking Him up in his prison-house, the tomb, sealing it with the Roman seal, and guarding it

with the bravest of Roman soldiers. Evidently Satan thought he had triumphed over Christ, and that He would remain in his power forever.

TRIUMPHED OVER DEATH

But God again intervened in behalf of His Son, because of His perfect righteousness, and sent an angel from the courts of heaven, who broke the Roman seal, and called forth the Son of God to life. He arose a mighty Conqueror over Satan and the power of death.

Thus in the opening conflict, Christ Himself triumphed gloriously over Satan, and He



"The Alps and Piedmont mountain fastnesses greatly aided the true church."

is now seated as a Prince and Saviour at the right hand of the throne of God.

PERSECUTED THE EARLY CHURCH

We are next told, in this twelfth chapter of Revelation, that Satan immediately began to persecute the woman, the church, which had brought forth the man child, who was caught up to God and His throne.

Satan used pagan Rome and a false religion to persecute the true church for three centuries after Christ. Then a pagan emperor espoused the cause of Christianity for political reasons, and for a short time persecutions ceased, and the world was at peace. The first period of persecution closed, and Satan's schemes for wiping out the church were defeated.

THE SECOND CONFLICT A PERSECUTING FLOOD

A second conflict soon opened, worse than the first. Satan again aimed to drown the true church with a flood of persecution; and he would have succeeded, said Christ, if God had not intervened and shortened those days of persecution for the elect's sake.

The exact length of this second period of persecution is given in six different places in the Scriptures as "a time, and times, and

half a time," "forty and two months," or as stated more definitely in Rev. 12:6, "a thousand two hundred and threescore days."

According to prophetic interpretation, this would mean one thousand two hundred sixty literal years. See Eze. 4:6. But God shortened those days of persecution. Mark 13:20. He caused the earth to help the woman. See Rev. 12:16. "The woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God." Verse 6.

The Alps and Piedmont mountain fastnesses greatly aided the true church in protecting herself from the onslaught of her papal enemies during the days of medieval persecutions. However, many millions were cruelly slain for their loyalty to the word of God.

THE NEW WORLD DISCOVERED, AND A HAVEN OF REST

In the midst of these terrible persecutions, the New World was discovered; and in a special way "the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood" of persecution. Christians fled from European oppression to America, the land of promise, where they could worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences.

Finally, through the Protestant princes of Europe, the Jesuits were banished from Protestant countries, and the work of persecution was stayed a second time. Satan's plan to blot out the truth and its adherents was again frustrated, and his work of persecution was brought to a standstill. The second great conflict was ended.

THE LAST CONFLICT YET TO COME

Rev. 12:17 introduces the third and last conflict, with the following significant language:

"And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."

The war "with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ," is very specific and analytic, in reference both to time and to the denominational faith of the parties involved in the conflict. "The remnant" must refer to the last generation. Nothing else could be the remnant. They must necessarily keep all of God's commandments; for in God's sight, if they break one of His commandments, they are guilty of all. See James 2:10.

THE PEOPLE AND THE ISSUES INVOLVED

The latter half of the thirteenth chapter of Revelation reveals the parties and the issues involved in this last conflict between God's people and their enemies. The fourteenth chapter reveals the outcome of this last crisis. We are not left in darkness as to the results. Thank God, His people obtain the final victory over the beast and his image and their apostate issues, and they are seen triumphantly marching up to Mount Zion, singing the song of deliverance and victory.

THE VOICE OF THE DEAD on the GREAT EUROPEAN WAR

NO effects are without corresponding causes. Nor is there such a thing as accidents in history. The present war—the most frightful one in all ages—could never have occurred except plans and preparations for it had been made, not by one, but by all combatants.

SEEKING TO JUSTIFY THE WAR

One of the saddest things in connection with this fierce conflict is the efforts made by belligerents and neutrals, laymen and ministers, to throw the blame on the other side, and thus justify the conflict itself by calling God's blessing on the so-called righteous side.

This can only be done by entirely forgetting the political history of Europe during the last forty years, and it speaks ill for the future political and religious prospects of this world. If the most savage outbreak of violence and murder can be thus justified and exalted under the names of righteousness and liberty—as it is, on both sides—what can we expect for the near future?

To prove the above assertions, it will be sufficient to quote two men, a Belgian and an Englishman—both now dead—who wrote twenty-five years ago, and who were as well qualified as any one in Europe to speak intelligently on the situation there, and on the political future of the continent. What they predicted has exactly come to pass. In fact, there was no prophecy about it. They simply wrote what their common sense told them would inevitably come to pass.

EXPECTED IT FOR THIRTY YEARS

The first witness will prove that the present war has been a matter of almost daily expectation in Europe for about thirty years, and that there has been plenty of time for people to exercise what influence or what righteous indignation they desired in order to avert the coming conflagration. The article from which I shall quote was printed in the *Forum* for October, 1889, and was written by a Belgian, professor of political economy at the Liege University, the well-known Emile de Laveleye, author of important books, such as "The Actual Causes of War in Europe," "The Balkan Peninsula," "Luxury," etc. He says:

"Happy Americans, whose powerful republic spreads over a whole continent, without fear of encroachment, and, so to speak, without army or fleet, justly confident in your incalculable latent strength, you must find it somewhat difficult to understand that the states of Europe are ever arming, and ever on the point of disputing over a few provinces not equivalent to the territories which are every year cleared and brought under cultivation by your increasing population. At such a distance, you can not imagine how truly terrible and tragic the actual situation of Europe is. Never was there anything similar in the preceding centuries.

HOW ACCURATELY HE FORECASTS IT

"Every one is convinced that at any moment so horrible a war may break out, that all other wars, even that of secession in America, will be but child's play in comparison. The adversaries

WHAT MEN FORESAW AND FORETOLD TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO—
THIS SPIRIT OF HATRED WILL INCREASE UNTIL THE
COMING OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE

By JEAN VUILLEUMIER

that we foresee obliged to take up arms, Russia and France on the one side, Germany, Italy, and Austria on the other, will bring seven millions of men

onto the battle-field, with a reserve of ten millions. By means of the rapid concentration rendered possible by the railways, we shall witness, even during the first few days, two collisions, one in the east, the other in the west, in which three millions of human beings will be seen struggling together; for both sides will be endeavoring to crush their enemy under the attack of innumerable masses.

FORETELLS THE SLAUGHTER

"No strategist, not even Moltke himself, can foresee what such a conflict will be like. All we can say is, that the number of killed and wounded will, in one day, exceed that of an entire war of former times. Human blood will never have soaked the earth in such streams. And what is most terrible, this struggle is considered by all as inevitable; and we see now all the states, even the small and neutral ones, preparing for it. Every year, the European nations, pacific England, Switzerland, and Belgium included, apply millions to the construction of forts and ironclads, to the perfecting of arms, and increasing the number of cannons and men.

"France, for example, has surrounded her frontiers and her capital with a continuous line of forts and entrenchments. Germany has made Metz, Strasburg, Mayence, and Cologne into gigantic fortresses, which are absolutely impregnable. Italy fortifies her Alpine passes, her seaports, and even the 'eternal city' itself. Belgium is just now spending forty millions of francs in the construction of redouts with cupolas of steel, to close the passage by the Maas Valley. The war budgets are everywhere increasing in enormous proportions.

"Every now and then, an incident occurs which causes us to think that the moment of the decisive struggle is at hand. Now it is a French subject unjustly arrested by the Germans on the frontier; now it is Russia that, after having forced the prince of Battenberg to leave Sophia, sends General Kaulbars there to threaten the Bulgarians with the arrival of the Cossacks; again it is the abdication of King Milan of Servia that makes us fear Austrian intervention at Belgrade.

THEY GOT USED TO IT

"And it is under this continual menace of the most frightful shock of armies that our planet will ever have looked upon, that we live. And the most extraordinary thing is that we get used to it. We go about our business, our pleasures; we rush in crowds from all parts to the Paris exhibition, while each one says, It may be for to-morrow.

THE TWO MENACING QUESTIONS

"What are the questions which thus endanger the peace of Europe? There are two principal ones, well known to all,—that of Alsace-Lorraine, and the Eastern question."

Who can, in the face of these irrefutable facts, claim that the



BRITISH TERRITORIAL TROOPS BRINGING A LIGHT FIELD GUN INTO POSITION

European war was "made in Germany," or in any other nation exclusive of the others, I care not which? Is it not ignorance or hypocrisy to make such a claim, when it is remembered there has been no adequate effort, on the part of any of these nations, or any church, to condemn, discourage, or counteract the mad war preparations made everywhere? These preparations called for a vigorous, incessant, and growing crusade on the part of the churches and of individuals; and as it was not done, all are equally responsible, and it matters very little now who pressed the button or lighted the match. Pacifist societies did some good work in this direction; but unfortunately, they did not deal with the root of the matter. They left out of their work the Christian principle which alone can eradicate war. They

nations. No, the era of combat between them is not over, and the sword is what must again and again decide, until the unknown time when a new morality shall govern the world, and when the God of peace shall be universally acknowledged. . . .

"On account of the jealous antipathy and anarchical division of the different political parties in France, making it impossible for the nation to be summoned or marshaled as one man around either the one of the other party, . . . it is not the republic which at this moment can declare war. . . .

MILLIONS AT THE FIRST SIGNAL

"At this moment, nobody would be taken by surprise. Neither power would have weapons of the existence of which the adversary was ignorant. Millions of men are

madness. This is a mistake. Despite all that I have said, there is an inevitable event, which may happen to-day, to-morrow, in ten years, or even later — nobody knows — and which at once, imperiously, without there being any possibility of staving off or preventing it, will let loose war over the entire surface of Europe, and place the sword in the hand of all the great continental powers.

"I have frequently for two years endeavored to ascertain whether European diplomacy thinks of this event, whether it is weighing the imperative consequences, whether it is preparing for it. I have been amazed at seeing that among those who ought to scan the future, not one has fixed a steady eye on the mysterious horizon that conceals the thunderclap which must one day awake and startle Europe; and when, seeing them absorbed in their present task, I have pointed out to some of them the eventualities which will then arise, I have seen them shudder and draw back, as if terrified, from the problem which forced itself on their meditation, and which seems to me to have no other issue than war — war from one end of Europe to the other."

This is what impartial observers saw twenty-five years ago. This is what we see with our own eyes to-day. Causes have their inevitable consequences. Selfishness begets hatred; and hatred, when nation-wide, begets war. Of recent years, causes for war in Europe have become more and more complex and pressing; first of all economic, then political and racial.

But each and every one of these causes could have been eradicated only by the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ working its principles of love, meekness, and unselfishness into the individual hearts. And only when a majority in one nation had thus become humble disciples of the Crucified, could that nation hope to escape the dire necessity of war.

But this has perhaps never occurred in the history of any nation. And the Bible nowhere promises that this will ever occur until the King of peace comes to reign. On the contrary, "evil men" are to "grow worse and worse," until the end. The political panorama, according to prophecy, ends with Armageddon. And by present indications, we will be rushing toward it with greater momentum when this war ends, if it does end before we reach the last great war, the "war of the great day of God Almighty."

Prophets Foresaw It All

(Continued from page 2)

Thus it is logical that war destroys life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Civilization protects life, safeguards liberty, and guarantees to all the privilege of the pursuit of happiness.

Civilization regards every man's home as his castle. It supports business, provides for the poor, suppresses crime, respects virtue, honors morality, regards individual rights, places a high estimate upon human life, embraces peace, enthrones love, and punishes murder.

WAR DEGRADES

War despoils the home, demoralizes business, beggars the poor, breeds crime, outrages virtue, invades individual rights, cheapens human life, scorns peace, turns civilians into savages, friends into fiends of hate, and honors slaughter. If nations were fully



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SUDANESE SOLDIERS THAT ARE TO FIGHT THE TURKS IN EGYPT

thought that diplomacy alone could cope with this climax of human selfishness.

THE CATACLYSM WAS BOUND TO COME

These conclusions will become still stronger from an article which appeared in the September number of *Harper's Monthly* for 1891, written by Mr. de Blowitz, for many years the distinguished Parisian correspondent of the *London Times*. He wrote as follows:

"I propose to sum up the observations which force themselves on my professional position, and to forecast and trace the future politics of Europe until the new cataclysm which is bound to happen, and which will again change its face. . . .

"To-day, as yesterday, or to-morrow, and for a long time to come, the situation of France and Germany forms the great subject of anxiety which is imposed upon the meditation of all European statesmen. . . . When the time comes, the battle-field, the fate of arms, can alone decide afresh the antagonism of centuries which separates the Gaulish from the Germanic race. . . .

NOT IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE

"Never will this question be settled in the pure and Christian atmosphere of peace. . . . No, peace is not concluded between the two

ready to attack at the first signal. The weapons are furbished, the arsenals are full. It is nation rushing against nation. It is the supreme contest to decide whether Teuton or Frank shall henceforth govern Europe. And until one of the two has placed his knee on the breast of the other, the combat will not stop.

"Internal affairs will be settled afterwards. Here, the victorious general will be proclaimed emperor; there, colossal statues will be raised to the living emperor. Either, vanquished here, the general will disappear in the ruins of the republic, or, vanquished there, the Rhine will at last become a conquered frontier, the empire will crumble into hostile fragments, and the emperor of yesterday will sink into nothingness in the dry, sandy subsoil of Brandenburg.

"This is the second part of the bloody drama. The first is the combat itself, immense, terrifying, and so formidable that, as France, thirsty for revenge, does not embark in it, why should the young emperor do so? . . .

"Judging by the papers, Europe would appear to be enjoying the prospect of an indefinite period of peace, and the enormous armaments in which it is indulging would therefore seem to be acts of prodigality and

civilized, war would not be tolerated. In proportion as they become civilized, the horrors of war are minimized.

The organization of the Red Cross Society at the Geneva Convention was civilization's protest against the barbarism of war.

WAR IS ANTICHRISTIAN

To be Christian is to be Christlike. Christ refused to bear arms, and commanded His disciples to put up the sword into its place, when it was unsheathed in His defense, because "the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."

Paul voiced these sentiments in his instructions to Christians: "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." Christ's doctrine was, "On earth peace, good will toward men." "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven." "I say unto you, that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." Matt. 5: 44, 45, 39.

On these principles, Christ met the world's issues and conquered. He would permit Himself to be killed rather than bear arms, to slay His fellow men.

If Christ were here to-day, He would not be found yoked up with the great armies of professedly Christian nations slaying one another. He would weep in sorrow and humiliation over their folly, and over the slain who have fallen under the insane delusion that Christ approves of Christians' engaging in these last-day wars, which are inspired and led by "the spirits of devils." Rev. 16: 14.

"THE watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will inquire, inquire ye: return, come." Isa. 21: 12.

This answer of the watchman seems to be a contradiction, but it is not. The morning is coming, and also the night. And what is still further significant is that the one and same event brings both the morning and the night simultaneously.

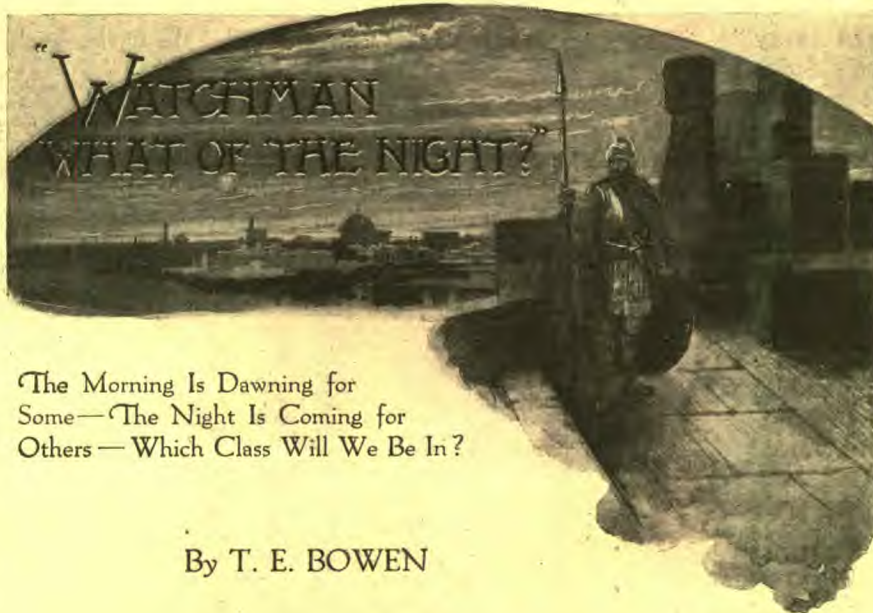
The difference is not in the event itself. It is rather the two conditions of the people on earth that herald the coming morning or the terrible night. To one class, suddenly there comes a glorious morning, radiant with future prospects; while upon the other, the black night of eternal despair settles down, with no prospect of a future day.

This being true, this statement of the prophet at once becomes bristling with interest to every one of us, and no wonder he suggests that a spirit of inquiry will be aroused. The invitation is cordially extended to every sincere inquirer at that time to "come"—come to Jesus Christ for cleansing from sin, for refuge from the coming storm.

"THE MORNING COMETH"

To whom, then, is the watchman's word addressed when he answers, "The morning cometh"?

Evidently to the Christian. Not the hollow, cymbal-like sounding Christian, such in name only, but the genuine Christian. The true Christian has his eyes on his Lord. His Lord is now in heaven, and not on this earth, save by the influence of His Holy Spirit. That which is of the greatest interest to him is the movements of his Lord. He loves Him. He loves to do His bidding. As the eyes of the maid follow her mistress, and often all that is needed is a glance of the eye, or a movement of her hand to direct her, so the Christian is guided by his Lord. His heart yearns to be in close and still closer association with Jesus. No greater joy comes to him than the thought that the coming Saviour is near at hand. He prepares to meet Him by becoming like Him in life and character. He studies his Guide-Book, the Bible, to learn his Master's will. Knowing it, he loves to obey. To such the



The Morning Is Dawning for
Some—The Night Is Coming for
Others—Which Class Will We Be In?

By T. E. BOWEN

coming of Jesus as King of kings is as the breaking of the morning after a long, wearisome night of watching. To the *Christian*, then, events on earth, heralding the near advent of Christ, bring the morning.

THE NIGHT ALSO COMES

There are but two classes in the world—the Christian and he who *in life* is not. One has life, the other is without it. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." 1 John 5: 12. The worldling seeks for and obtains his pleasure in and from this world. His interests are centered here. He loves this present evil world. Here he thinks he finds his highest joy in permitting his passions to run riot as he gives to them loose rein. He sees little in a future life that attracts him. He is not anxious to have this present world pass away. To him the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in power and great glory is the very climax of all calamities.

To such a one, that event, which brings to the Christian the glorious morning, ushering in eternal day, becomes the ushering in of an awful night, the blackness of which can now be only faintly comprehended.

THE DAY OF THE LORD

This day of the Lord, this time of calamity for the world, is mentioned by many prophets. They speak of it as "the day of the Lord." It is a time when God Himself arises out of His place and for a short time reveals His wrath against sin. He thus will justify those who have kept His law, while making known to all earth's inhabitants that the ruthless setting aside of God's holy precepts shall not go unpunished.

"And it shall come to pass at that time,

that I will search Jerusalem [the judgments visited upon Jerusalem being typical of what will come at the end of the world] with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The Lord will not do good; neither will He do evil. . . . The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness

and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced [fortified] cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men. . . . [Why? What for?]

"Because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy: for He shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land." Zeph. 1: 12-18.

"Wo unto you that desire the day of the Lord! . . . the day of the Lord is darkness, and not light. As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. Shall not the day of the Lord be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?" Amos 5: 18-20.

THE PERTINENT QUESTION

Therefore the question, "Watchman, what of the night?" becomes a very pertinent one. Is the night truly about over? Is the morning at hand?—Yes, the morning is near, and also the night.

Jesus made it clear that some people were having their good time now; that the selfish lovers of themselves, seeking for glory, honor, and praise of men, were getting all the reward they ever should have. Such had made the foolish choice of shutting their eyes to the home promised by the Lord in the world to come, and abandoning themselves to having a good time now. "Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do

in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." Matt. 6:2.

It all depends, then, on the sort of life each individual is living, to determine the answer to the question, "Watchman, what of the night?" It may be the morning that comes, or it may be the night.

PREPARED OR UNPREPARED, THE EVENT HASTENS UPON THE WORLD

The actual "day of the Lord" will eventually come suddenly to the whole world, as unexpectedly as the appearance of a thief in your house at night. Despite repeated warnings by messengers sent from God, in the face of repeated disasters, one following another with increasing horror, the world sleeps on. But some day the voice of mercy will become silent. Some day God's Spirit shall cease its warning entreaty, no more to invite the sinner to hide in Jesus. Sin's enormous total will finally reach that figure set by the Infinite Himself in the eternity of the past — and then the end shall come.

HOW USHERED IN

The end to earth's long day of gospel opportunity will come unobserved by mortal eye, alike to believers and unbelievers. After the door of mercy is shut, and the end of the world has come, in that the time of salvation is past, then the "day of the Lord" brings the terrible judgments of God foretold in Revelation 16. All this comes prior to the personal appearance of Jesus in the clouds of heaven.

How long it takes for these judgments to do their work in the earth, no one knows. This is not so important as is the fact that night will soon be on. Then there will be thousands upon thousands who will wake up to realize that they are lost. Eternal life will then take on aspects such as they never dreamed it could to them. What would they not now give for just one day to go to Jesus and repent of their sins! No, those days of opportunity are forever past. They have squandered them all in careless living or in absolute unconcern as to their eternal welfare. Jesus has now ceased His work as Redeemer. He pleads the merits of His blood no more. Thus it will be when the night comes to the finally lost.

THE WAIL OF THE LOST

The prophet foretells this night, and the wail that will then escape many lips. He records the words of those without God, without hope: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. These are among the saddest words found in the Bible.

Picture the crowds in Noah's day who have heard his warnings and entreaties, and who stand about the ark as a mighty angel descends and slowly swings together that ponderous ark door. The opportunity for going in is now forever gone. "Are we lost?" "Was Noah right after all, and we all wrong?" "Can it be possible that an actual flood is coming?" These questions no doubt passed from lip to lip as they looked anxiously into one another's pale face.

Brother, sister, the flood *did* come. Noah *was* right. A world *was* wrong. And a world *perished*, just as God said it would. Noah, by his faith and obedience, condemned the world. Jesus' faithful word is, "As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

The terrible war of Europe furnishes some idea of what will take place when earth's night comes on. Already God is withdrawing His Spirit from impenitent men. When it shall be fully removed, then earth's inhabitants will know how much they were indebted to Christ because of His loving endeavor to win them from the destruction to come.

Are you ready? Have you hidden in Christ, the sure refuge? Are you inquiring what mean the terrible things coming on

the earth? This is well, but it will avail nothing unless you go to Jesus *now*, while mercy lingers, and confess your sins to Him, falling helpless into His loving arms, and there abiding. There only are you safe. But *if* there, you *are* safe. No power is able to pluck you out of those wound-marked hands. Him who thus "cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out," is Jesus' sure promise. Are you ready for the morning? "The morning cometh, and also the night."

Christian Science in Conflict with the Bible

Assuming to Be Based on the Bible, It Glaringly
Contradicts What the Divine Book Says

By JOHN H. HARTOG

IN a recent number of a society paper appeared a full report of an address delivered by a prominent leader in the Christian Science denomination. In glancing over this report, I noticed so many things which are in clear contradiction of what God's word says, that I took the time to answer a few of the items — just a few.

I read: "Truth being that which is, there can be no place where truth is not, where, for example, two times two do not make four. Therefore truth is omnipresent."

I might in the same way argue: Falsehood being also that which is, there can be no place where falsehood is not, where, for example, two times two does not make five. Therefore falsehood is omnipresent.

It must be patent to any sober person that my basis is fallacious, hence my deduction wrong. Yet on the explanation first quoted, is based the next decision, — that truth is God; and then the conclusion is jumped at, without the slightest proof, that God is without body, incorporeal.

God said to Christ, "Let US make man in OUR image." The result was Adam, a man of flesh and blood. Moses states that God wrote His law with His finger. Ex. 31:18. John the revelator tells us of how the Lord's eyes and feet look; also of His hair, white as snow. Rev. 1:14, 15. The Saviour was taken up in a cloud, and the angels told the amazed beholders that in the same manner He would come again (Acts 1:9-11); and we who look for His soon coming, therefore expect — and have a right to expect, for God's word says so — to see our blessed Saviour come in the body to receive His own. Over and over, the Bible proves that to claim that God is incorporeal is contradictory to the word of God, on which, however, Christian Science is supposed to base its argument.

IS MAN WITHOUT A BODY?

The conclusion that because the Bible says God is Spirit, therefore He is incorporeal, leads this writer to the deduction also that therefore man also is incorporeal.

It next leads to the confirmation of Satan's statement to the woman, that if she ate of the fruit, she would become immortal. God had warned her that she would die. Satan lied, and said, "Ye shall not surely die." That article declares that man is not mortal, that he is immortal. God's word states that only the Lord has immortality. 1 Tim. 6:16. Paul says, in Rom. 2:7, that God will give immortality to certain people. In 1 Cor. 15:

53 he says, "This mortal must put on immortality." He is speaking of the resurrection. The aforesaid article makes Paul's statement absurd.

IS THE UNIVERSE SPIRITUAL?

Now the next statement in the article, continuing to build on that mistaken conclusion as a basis — the basis of an incorporeal God — concludes that the universe created by God must be like Him, therefore indestructible and spiritual. It gives no reason for its assertion that it "must be like Him," and contradicts the many Bible warnings that in the end the Lord will destroy the world by fire and make a new earth. How the Lord will destroy an indestructible world is a puzzle. Why all His warnings about the coming destruction, if it is not to be?

Another paragraph in the article says, "We do not have to experience death." But Heb. 9:27 says, "It is appointed unto men once to die." Rev. 14:13 speaks of "the dead which die in the Lord." 1 Cor. 15:22 says, "In Adam all die." And so on and on, proving over and over again that we do have to die. God Himself told the first man that if he disobeyed, he would "surely die," and after the fall He said, "Dust thou art [not, "Spirit thou art," but "dust"], and unto dust shalt thou return."

Another statement in the article gives Christian Science, instead of the Bible, credit for one's "thinking rightly of God." This is putting Christian Science above the word of God.

One paragraph quotes Rom. 8:11 as speaking of "your mortal bodies"; but a paragraph on the previous page had just told us that we had no mortal bodies.

IS IT CHRISTIAN SCIENCE OR GOD?

The last paragraph openly avers that the credit for healing is due to Christian Science — to the truth which *he*, the Christian Scientist, knows; to the truth which *he* applies. The Bible, on the contrary, teaches that any one healed by prayer or faith owes it not to himself, but to the Lord.

It is affirmed that the Christian Scientist knows that disease and sin are but false, mesmeric states of consciousness. But God, through His servant Isaiah (Isa. 53:12), foretold that Christ would "bear the sin of many." John 8:7 tells of Christ's saying, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." "And they which heard it, being convicted by their own con-

science, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last." 1 John 3:4 tells us that "sin is the transgression of the law"—not that sin is a false, mesmeric imagination. Peter says that Christ "His own self bare our sins." Paul tells the Corinthians (1 Cor. 15:3), "Christ died for"—what? For our "false, mesmeric states of consciousness"?—No, but for "our sins." Why?—That we might have "life everlasting." If we already had immortality, then died He in vain.

The last but one paragraph of the article quotes Mrs. Eddy as denying mortality; and the claim is made that we do not have to be sick, because God did not make us so.

But who made Job sick? Why did God permit Satan to touch Job with illness? Why does God's word devote a whole book to this illness of Job, if there is no illness?

THE TRUE REGENERATING POWER

To Christian Science is given the credit of regenerating a man; while God's word teaches that of ourselves we can do nothing, but that if we confess our sins, He is willing to forgive. Christian Science claims to bring man "nearer to God" by making him "better acquainted with his own selfhood." The Bible teaches that as we become better acquainted with our own selfhood, we will realize our utter unworthiness, and God's wonderful love, to give His only-begotten Son to redeem us. That is one reason why the book of Job was written; for when God made Job better acquainted with his own selfhood, he abhorred himself. And Job was a much better man than most of us.

The last paragraph attributes to Mrs. Eddy the discovery of the knowledge of the Christ teaching, in 1866. Yet Peter, in his second epistle, for instance, tells the faithful that they shall "neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

It is said that Christian Science interprets the Bible so that it can be understood. Christ, on leaving, said that the Father would send us the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, to teach us all things. John 14:26. And the experience of untold thousands proves that no other help is necessary to comprehend clearly the apparent mysteries of the blessed Scriptures, which, without prayerful request for the Holy Ghost's guidance, seemed too mysterious and deep to fathom.

Another paragraph says, "Our Master fully demonstrated divine science in His victory over death." But He demonstrated instead that He was the Son of God.

DID JESUS DIE FOR US?

"His disciples believed Jesus to be dead . . . in the sepulchre, whereas He was alive," the article continues. Was He? What does the Bible, on which Christian Science is supposedly based, say?—Over and over it tells us that Jesus died for us; that He was dead in the grave; that as we are baptized, we are buried with Him, after having died with Him, and are resurrected with Him. If there was no death, then there was no resurrection. The entire plan of salvation is based on Christ's death. To remove this basis, removes the atonement, the resurrection, and by contradicting the Old Testament and the New, would rob me of all my faith in a risen and ascended Saviour, who died for me, and give me instead what?—A "key to the Scriptures" to prove them false! "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and

your faith is also vain," says the apostle. 1 Cor. 15:14. "Now if Christ be preached that He rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen." Verses 12, 13. Thus says Paul. And Jesus Himself said: "I lay down My life." John 10:17. "I am He that liveth, and was dead." Rev. 1:18.

Finally, the closing paragraph says, "She [Mrs. Eddy] proved the Bible to be true." But the visions given to Daniel 2,500 years ago prove to me that the Bible is true and inspired; for the many things prophesied therein, which have all come true, including the remarkable prophecy as to when the Messiah would come and when He would be "cut off" (Dan. 9:25, 26), are more trustworthy proof to me than any conclusions based on the apparently simple basis that two times two is four everywhere, and that "therefore" there is no disease, no death, no mortal body, no living God on a throne, no heavenly sanctuary, no corporeal Saviour, nothing but a "false, mesmeric state of consciousness"!

I have no quarrel with that belief or other beliefs; but when a "society paper" gives three pages to put such arguments before its readers, many of whom are thereby led away from their faith in a real Saviour, I believe I am not uncharitable if I, simply as a believer in a God who does not lie, put some of God's sayings in juxtaposition to those of Christian Science.

Refused the Charmer's Enticements

By CLARENCE SANTEE

THE wisdom of the serpent is often mentioned, but wherein that wisdom lies is not so often made clear. One practical lesson taught from the wisdom of the serpent is given in Ps. 58:4, 5. Speaking of the wicked, the psalmist says, "They are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear; which will not harken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely."

Some dangerous animals can be charmed by certain kinds of music, and diverted from their purpose; but the "deaf adder"—not so by nature, but that "stoppeth her ear" when the danger from the charmer is present—pursues its course. Closing its ears, it hears nothing to divert it. The Saviour commended its wisdom to His disciples: "Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." Matt. 10:16.

It is said of Christ: "Who is blind, but My Servant? or deaf, as My Messenger that I sent? . . . seeing many things, but Thou observest not; opening the ears, but He heareth not." Isa. 42:19, 20.

"Deaf," "He heareth not." He saw many things, but He did not see. How can this be possible?—While surrounded by many voices, calling Him to worldly honor, fame, wealth, power—"All this power will I give Thee, and the glory of them," said one—yet He was attentive to but one voice. It was the Father's voice calling to duty. "Mine ears hast Thou opened," were the words of the Saviour. Ps. 40:6. Again, "The Lord God hath opened Mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back." Isa. 50:5.

THE CHARMS OF SIN AND REBELLION

Closed, by His own choice, to the voices "charming never so wisely," His ear was

ever opened to the voice of His Father. It is only when we *do not* close the ear to the voice of charmers, that we become rebellious, or turn "away back."

Our first parents were not wise as the "deaf adder that stoppeth her ear." They harkened to the voice of the charmer, and ruin and death became the heritage of the human family.

Refusing to stop the ear to the tempter, brings more sorrow into the world to-day than all other curses combined. If men and women would heed the injunction of the Saviour to be "wise as serpents," closing the ear to all suggestions leading away from the one object to be attained, how different the world would soon become!

TAKE HEED TO THE HEARING

Rehoboam, son of Solomon, listened to the counsel of young and inexperienced men, and lost ten of the twelve tribes of Israel. 1 Kings 12:12-16.

Jesus laid strong emphasis on the proper use of the ear. "Take heed *what* ye hear." Mark 4:24. And "take heed . . . *how* ye hear." Luke 8:18. These injunctions are the sure path to safety and peace. "*What* ye hear" needs no comment. But "*how* ye hear" may be perplexing to some. This expression embodies the question of the spirit in which you hear, the intent for which you hear, the use you expect to make of that you hear.

One has well said, "If there be no hearers, there will be no speakers of evil."

There is great force in the simple Japanese figure of three images bound together, one with its hands over its ears, the next covering its eyes, the third covering its lips; the evident lesson being, Take heed what you hear, see, and speak. With these lessons learned and applied, no man will go far astray.

CLEANSING THE EAR FIRST

In ancient time, there was an offering made when a leper was cleansed. Lev. 14:14-18. In this cleansing, the ear was the first thing to be cleansed. The blood of a lamb, representing the blood of Christ, was taken by the priest, and touched upon the ear first, then upon the right thumb, and the large toe of the right foot. The ear must be cleansed until it will listen alone to the voice of the Master. Then there will be success in cleansing the actions, represented by the blood touching the hand and the foot.

After the blood had been applied to the ear, the hand, and the foot, oil, representing the righteousness of Christ, was taken by the priest, and first sprinkled seven times before the Lord, showing faith in the complete righteousness wrought out by the Saviour for the individual; then a part of the oil was touched *upon the blood* that had been applied to the ear, the hand, and the foot.

The righteousness of Christ is imparted only where the blood of Christ has cleansed. It commenced where sin entered this world, in the hearing, then was imparted to the actions.

Lastly, some of the oil was placed upon the head, the seat of the mind, in this way giving assurance of keeping power for time to come. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts," is the counsel of God. Isa. 55:7.

With the fountain purified, the stream can bear life and health to all who come under its influence. The Christian life will be fragrant with blessing.

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A. O. TAIT, EDITOR

L. A. REED, ASSOCIATE

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The One Important Thing

THESE are days of stress and trial, days of danger and evil. War has lifted its monstrous, cruel head, with its blood-dropping jaws, and glistening, murderous fangs, among the nations, till the larger part of humanity are engaged in internecine strife. The highest inventive skill has been used to devise and perfect instruments potent in slaughter; and the chief motive that moves millions to madness is to kill, kill, kill. Demons must laugh and angels weep at the fearful spectacle.

The outcome is uncertain, and the general uncertainty is emphasized by the certainty expressed by the partizans of either side. The wiser, more considerate onlookers are waiting. The victory of a single battalion, a chance shot on one man's part, the dropping of a single bomb, may decide the fearful conflict. Disease and pestilence are dreadful foes, sometimes mighty and gruesome allies.

In divine prophecy, we do not have full particulars, nor even complete outlines. The great general trend and the sure outcome are predicted. The wise expositor will be slow in particulars; "for we know in part, and we prophesy in part." Where God is specific, we may be. Where prophecy is not clear, we can wait, trusting Him. What is obscure to-day may be clear to-morrow. Then our dream of yesterday may be upset.

But we may not slight the warning voice of prophecy. We are to let the light of its "sure Word" shine; for He has given it to be a light "in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the Day-star arise." 2 Peter 1:19.

THE VITALLY IMPORTANT THING

But there is one thing more important than prophecy, more important than to try to follow the development of events in the world and to speculate as to their outcome; for we may do all this and yet miss the vitally important thing after all. That thing is the uniquely, transcendently important thing of *harmony with God*, of understanding and knowing Him, of having peace with Him, of being covered with His righteousness, filled with His life; for harmony with God means all this.

God has shown its importance by using the greater part of the Scriptures to teach it, impress it, emphasize it. Without that harmony, all else is failure. With it, all else contributes to ultimate success.

Our Lord has taken especial pains to emphasize this necessity of knowing God in a moral way, in spiritual life, in character preeminence, even in the great apocalyptic books, Daniel and the Revelation. Yet these books are little used otherwise than as a basis of prophetic exposition, sometimes fanciful, sometimes factual, but generally with little of the practically spiritual.

But note: Before we get to the great prophetic delineations and predictions of the character and power and extent of the great antagonistic kingdoms of earth, the great majesty and power, the great character and care of God are set before the children of men and rulers of nations.

It is of God as the one great preeminent Teacher of men, superior to all the best of earth's schools, that the first chapter of Daniel treats. His teaching includes the highest upbuilding of the physical, mental, and spiritual man.

It is of God the Revealer, in contradistinction to the genesis of the philosophies and vain wishes of men, that chapter two treats. The kingdom of man, not based in righteousness, comes to naught.

It is of God the Deliverer, in spite of foes, however strong, that chapter three tells us. He delivers the faithful righteous who may stand against the worshipers of world patriotism, the deification of human ambition.

He teaches the nations and their rulers, in chapter 4, that "the

Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will." Only those in harmony with that righteous rule can persist.

In chapter five, the dread realities of the judgment upon great Babylon, weighed in the divine balances of justice and found wanting, are set before us by a messenger from the throne of God the Judge.

And then in chapter six, with a new dynasty come to power, the Medo-Persian, God the Vindicator of the good and just of all the ages, vindicates the faith of His aged servant Daniel, who dares to worship God despite unchangeable decree. If men, if rulers who profess God's name, had heeded the lessons of God the Teacher, the light of God the Revealer, the power of God the Deliverer, the righteous law of God the Ruler, the great tribunal of God the Judge, histories of crime, wars, and fierce persecutions would never have been written. But because they would not, in the book of Daniel follow three great prophecies of coming kingdoms, the rise and fall of empire, cruel persecutions; and then back to the moral lesson and moral character, all-important, the prophet turns: "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." Dan. 12:10. And the wise are they who above all things else are in harmony with God; for "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

THE APOCALYPSE

In that other great apocalyptic book, the Revelation, there is a great seven times sevenfold drama of unfoldment of God's purpose in this sin-doomed world and the world's disregard of God. But the very first of these is His seven times sevenfold letter to His church of the Christian age, with ever the spiritual thought uppermost, that safety lies only in harmony with God, and the overcoming of all sin; and each division rings the appealing cry, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

The next great prophecy, the seven-sealed book, throbs with the same great thought. It is only the One triumphant over all sin, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, who overcame that He might, that can break the seven seals which confine the secret of man's salvation. And this He does in sacrifice as a Lamb to bring men back to harmony with God. And in the opening of those seals, we hear the fourfold call, Come, Come, Come, Come. Then the very prophecy closes with the setting of God's seal upon those in harmony with Him.

And thus preeminent in every prophecy are not the great events, however mighty, which succeed one another, but the great moral truth of God, which makes or breaks mankind as they receive or reject its mighty power.

And finally that great book makes last appeal to all, of every land, of every tribe, of every condition, proud Pharisee or half-believing skeptic, self-righteous formalist or discouraged sinner, to come, come back to harmony with God. "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And *whosoever will*, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17.

Dear heart, wherever you are, accept the invitation. You may not understand all prophecy. You may not be able to harmonize seeming or real differences of interpretation. Let them wait. But come into harmony with God now. Yield all to Him. Find in Him the Solver of all doubts, the Saviour from all sins, the Refuge from all ills, the restful Shadow of a great Rock in this weary land. Believe one who has at least tested Him in part, and found Him never to fail. Make the one important thing yours.

M. C. W.

Question Corner

Conducted by MILTON C. WILCOX
Professor of Biblical Exegesis of the Faculty of the College of Medical Evangelists
Loma Linda, California

54—TORMENTED FOREVER AND EVER

Please explain Rev. 14: 11; 20: 10. Do not these texts teach eternal punishment of the wicked? And will the devil be eternally punished? P. D. L.

Categorically we could answer, Yes. There is eternal punishment, without question, and the Bible teaches it. But eternal punishment indicates a completed process. Eternal punishment is quite a different thing. The texts do teach eternal punishment—that is, punishment that is completed for all eternity. They do not teach eternal punishing—that is, a continual torment, which will never end.

"The wages of sin is death," and death is that which ends consciousness of being, and it does not denote a process continually going on and never completed. It is extinction of life; but you could not call that extinction of life, you could not call that death, which would keep life in a person, and continually torment him. The only difference between that and the reward of God's people is that one is eternal life in happiness, and the other would be eternal life in misery. The Bible does not put it that way. It declares, "The gift of God is eternal life," "the wages of sin is death"—just the opposite of life. See Rom. 6: 23.

Now, what is meant by this passage? The original word for "torment" is *basanos*. The verb is *basanizo*. The original meaning of this term *basanos* was simply "a test." It comes from the Latin term *lapis Lydius*, a stone from Lydia, which was used anciently to tell whether there was any alloy in gold. When that stone was applied, it was supposed to show whether the gold was pure or whether it was mixed with alloy. The term widened in its meaning to include the testing of persons by trial, by examination. One of the means the ancients had of testing persons was by torment. That is, they placed them under conditions that would cause pain, thinking they would be more likely to tell the truth under such conditions. Consequently the word could be used in the sense of torment. But the Bible does not use it in that way. It uses it in the original and full and complete meaning of test.

The wicked will be eternally tested. This test will be final. The devil will be eternally tested, and his test will be final. He has deceived men into believing they are immortal, and that no material agency that can be brought to bear against them will destroy them. He told that first falsehood in Eden, "Thou shalt not surely die." Men have believed it, and men are believing it still. Nevertheless, the last test that will be brought upon mankind will be a material test. Everything shall be tested by fire. We read in 1 Cor. 3: 13, "Each man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire itself shall prove [try] each man's work of what sort it is." That is the test that will be brought to bear at last. This earth will be kindled by the overpowering glory of God's presence. Everything that is not of God will perish in the fires of the last days. Everything that is of God will be changed from glory to greater glory by His presence. That testing will be forever.

Those who are unworthy will be burned up,—the root, Satan; and the branches, the wicked who have identified themselves with sin. See the last chapter of Malachi. God's people will endure the test the same as the three Hebrew children endured the fire in the fiery furnace as revealed in Daniel, the third chapter. Therefore we read in Isa. 33: 14, 15: "The sinners in Zion are afraid; trembling hath seized the godless ones: Who among us can dwell with the devouring fire? who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly." That is God's great test at last, and the righteous only will endure. For a full explanation of this, see No. 111 of the Bible Students' Library, entitled "Tormented Forever and Ever." It can be secured

of the Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, California, or any of our regular depositories. It discusses this question quite fully, and gives many texts and references.

55—FULFILMENT OF EZEKIEL 38

When will Ezekiel 38 be fulfilled—now, or at the end of the one thousand years? The plagues seem to be brought to view in verse 22. BIBLE STUDENT.

There are many theories regarding Ezekiel 38 and 39. Some Bible scholars contend that the prophecy will be literally fulfilled before our Lord comes, and that it must signify that the children of Israel will people Palestine, because it speaks of God's people in the land of Palestine, and of the great horde from the north that sweeps down upon the ones whom the Lord calls "My people Israel." It is thought that the only way this can be brought about is that the Jews will return to the Holy Land and build it up again, and upon them will come down the great confederacy from the north, led by Magog. There are others who believe this will not occur until the end of the one thousand years, when Gog and Magog are raised from the dead. Rev. 20: 8.

But this could not be, because there will be no such divisions of nations or aggregation of nations at the end of the one thousand years as are spoken of in Ezekiel 38 and 39. National judgments take place before Christ comes; and one has to stop and think but for a minute to know that when all the dead of all ages come up at the end of the thousand years, their national boundaries and distinctions will be completely eliminated.

There is another view which to us seems reasonable. There are conditional prophecies in the Old Testament; many of them. The conditions are stated in Jer. 18: 7-10. God laid before His people wonderful blessings that would have been fulfilled to them at that time under the old covenant—that is, during the time of literal, fleshly Israel.

The sanctuary in the closing chapters of Ezekiel is an instance of that kind. Many of those who believe in the literal fulfilment of Ezekiel 38 before Christ comes, believe also that the sanctuary will be set up. But one can not consistently believe that; because sacrifices were to be offered in that sanctuary, and he who offers sacrifices makes of none effect the offering made once for all by our Lord Jesus Christ. The most reasonable explanation that can be made of the sanctuary prophecy in chapters 40-48 is that Israel never complied with the conditions, and consequently that sanctuary, with all its blessed fulness, was never built. The best thing they had was a shadow of it, the temple built by Zerubbabel, Ezra, and others.

It seems to us that the prophecies of Ezekiel from the thirty-sixth chapter are just as truly conditional, as a part of the last great prophecy; and if God's children had been faithful to Him, He would have brought them back upon "the mountains of Israel." The enemy, Edom and others, had said against them, "Aha," and boasted of having possession of the high places; but the Lord said, "O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to My people Israel; for they are at hand to come." Verse 8. Verse 11 declares that God "will do better unto you than at your beginnings; and ye shall know that I am Jehovah." He would cleanse them from their sins. He would make them great. What He asked of them was that they should "be ashamed and confounded" for their ways. Verse 32.

If they had yielded to God, then the resurrection that is described in the thirty-seventh chapter of Ezekiel would have taken place. All the enemies that would have come down upon them from the north, as depicted in chapters 38 and 39, would have been destroyed. Plagues would have fallen upon their enemies, and Israel would have been able to build that marvelous sanctuary, and the

NOTE.—This department is for the purpose of helping Bible students. Answers must of necessity be brief, often only suggestive, never exhaustive, never infallible only as they agree with the infallible Word. Such questions only will be answered as seem to the editors to minister to the mission of the paper. Questions of the same import can not be answered repeatedly in the same volume. Name and address must be given, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith and to insure reply by letter if thought best. It is well always to enclose stamp, not stamped envelope, unless answer is desired by letter alone.

presence of God would have dwelt among them in overpowering glory. The name of that city henceforth would have been, "Jehovah Is There." Eze. 48: 35.

But Israel failed to meet God's requirements, and the only thing He could do for them He did in the meager restoration from the Babylonian captivity. About 40,000 of His people returned, and a sanctuary was built that was far inferior to the glory of the temple of Solomon, to say nothing about that of Ezekiel. Nevertheless, all God's promises of a glorious future will be fulfilled for His own people. This, while not stated in one passage, is given in others. Part of Ezekiel 38 and 39 will be fulfilled this side of the second coming of Christ, but in the clearer terms that are stated in the book of Revelation. Some of them will be fulfilled at the end of the thousand years, but we will understand this very much better if we take the unconditional prophecies given in the Revelation.

In reading Old Testament prophecies, it is well for us to remember what the apostle Paul says in Eph. 3: 3-6. He declares there that the gospel contains a fuller revelation than had ever been given before, "which in other generations was not made known unto the sons of men, as it hath now been revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; to wit, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel." He who ignores these instructions, and attempts to make a conditional mixed prophecy like Ezekiel 38 and 39 a prophecy of those times or of later times in all its details, will certainly go far astray.

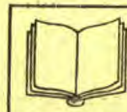
56—LEAVES OF THE TREE, REV. 22: 2

What is the meaning of the expression in Rev. 22: 2, "The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations"? INQUIRER.

The query in the mind of our correspondent is, How could the leaves of the tree be for the healing of the nations, when the nations of the new earth will be all immortal? Here are two explanations:

1. When those nations come up from the grave, they will come up with the size and development with which they went down, simply made immortal; and through the wonderful powers of the tree of life, they will increase to the normal size that God made man in the beginning.

2. The term "healing" could as well be rendered "service." The leaves of the tree were for the service of the nations. For whatever particular use they might be put, they would be found serviceable.



SYSTEMATIC BIBLE STUDY

DURING the remainder of the year, a part of our systematic reading of the Scriptures will be in the minor prophets. An interesting exercise is to find out how many of these prophets lived contemporaneously, and to know the condition in the Israelitish nation during the period of their prophecy. If we have access to good modern Bible dictionaries, we can ascertain most of these facts; and it adds a great deal to the interest, in reading the prophetic narrative, if we know the period in which the writer lived.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 5

2 Chronicles 29-36
Ezra 1-8
Hosea 1-7

Read three chapters each week-day, and five on the Sabbath.

Thrilling Times for Young Men

By MEADE MAC GUIRE

SOME young men have been so unfortunate as to be reared in homes where the Bible never was studied, and naturally, they have never become interested in it. Others have read the Bible and heard it read more or less during childhood, but have lost their youthful interest, and look upon the whole question of religion as abstract and unpractical moral teaching connected with the Sunday-school and the church, or spiritual emotions beyond the comprehension of any but the pious mother and the preacher.

But there is usually no lack of interest on the part of the candid, thinking young man, when he discovers some of the practical, twentieth century things revealed through prophets many centuries ago.

The Bible writers, beginning as far back as we have any authentic history, trace the four great universal monarchies, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Grecia, and Rome, down to the disintegration of the Roman Empire, in an amazingly brief space, and then take up special epochs in the history of France, Turkey, etc.

A graphic picture is drawn of the awakening of China and the far East, the fate of Egypt, the ambitious struggles of Russia; and a thrilling chapter discloses the quiet beginning, the mighty growth, and the final destiny of this great American republic.

Still other prophecies foretell the rise of the Roman Catholic Church, or the Papacy, to universal power, its decline and loss of temporal power, and its final triumph throughout the world; also the rise, progress, and end of Protestantism, with much of interest regarding ancient and modern spiritualism, Mormonism, and other false doctrines and theories.

In addition to all these incentives to an earnest study of the Bible, is the supreme consideration, that the prophecies, besides foretelling all these events, give definite dates by which we may know just where we are in the stream of time, and what we should do in view of the still greater events that are to occur in the near future.

Some reader may say, "If all this is true, why do not the great scholars, theologians, and philosophers see it and urge it upon the attention of the people?" I answer by asking, "Why did not the scribes and the lawyers and the doctors recognize Jesus Christ when He came?"—Simply because they were looking for something else, and were not prepared to recognize and accept Him in the form in which He came. So it was in the days of Noah, and so the Bible says it will be in this day when the second coming of Christ and the end of the world are at hand.

Zeal and Success

THE man who has the most zeal is usually the man who has the best success in whatever he undertakes to do.

There is a zeal, however, that is not according to knowledge, and that borders on fanaticism. The quality of our zeal should be considered. In the Christian life, a zeal born of the flesh is of little value in the sight of God.

Dr. Bonar tells of a dream he once had. He saw angels weighing his zeal, and it reached the maximum at a hundred. Then they analyzed it, and his pleasure was turned to pain when he saw that it consisted of fourteen parts pure selfishness, fifteen parts sectarianism, twenty-two parts ambition, twenty-three parts love of man, and twenty-six parts love of God.

A zeal that is entirely of God will provoke many to good works, and should characterize those who have a message from the heavenly throne.

ELIZA H. MORTON.

Among the Temne Villages

Pioneering in West Africa—People Eager for the Message—An Old Fetish Tree

By T. M. FRENCH

IN harmony with an earnest invitation to visit Poh Lekkah and speak to the Temne people, a boat was waiting Sunday morning at the Waterloo wharf to take Mrs. French and me down the river.

Already the watchman bird was whistling loudly that the tide was turning, and we were soon winding our way down the river, hastened a bit by the lazy oars of the natives. The mangrove swamps that crowd down to the river on both sides shut out the view of the country, but now and then a monkey or an alligator added interest to the journey.

THE NATIVE INTEREST

We were met at Poh Lekkah by Mr. and Mrs. Brown, who had located among the Temne villagers, and were doing what they could to teach them the gospel. After vis-



Fetish tree at Poh Lekkah, Sierra Leone, West Africa, where human sacrifices used to be offered. Elder French is shown in the picture.

iting their home, we were taken to a grove of trees, where about fifty natives had gathered.

I spoke to these people for nearly an hour on the glorious return of our blessed Saviour; and although I had to speak through an interpreter, I could see by their earnest faces, and their hearty hand-shakes after the service, that their hearts were touched by the Spirit of God. They insisted that they be visited again and again.

AN OLD FETISH TREE

We were deeply impressed, by a visit to an old fetish tree, with the condition in which these poor people had been engrossed. This tree seemed to be a freak of the palm-tree, having eight trunks instead of one. This is doubtless why it was regarded with such reverence. Fetish medicine bottles were strewed all about its roots; and here, in the deep jungle, human sacrifices had formerly been offered to it.

The gospel has broken and is still breaking the fetters of African heathenism. May the recipients of its many blessings in Christian lands give it ample support, and pray for its speedy triumph in dark Africa.

Outlaws as Champions of Liberty

ONCE in England the highway robber was a sort of popular hero, and the sentiment in his favor was so strong that it was difficult for the king's officers to enforce the laws. Did this prove that the highways should have been given over to his activities, that he should have been "regulated"? Or did it prove that the people needed to be educated to a point where they would see that it was to their interests to support just laws? The case is somewhat similar to that of the liquor traffic at present.

Those robbers stood for the ideals of personal liberty against the excessive oppressions of the times, thus enlisting the sympathy of a people who yearned to realize these ideals in an orderly way. Yet they directly encroached on liberty, and made it unsafe to go alone, unarmed, or in the dark. The liquor trade imposes the same inconveniences through fostering alcoholism and the general offensiveness and criminality which accompany it.

The highwayman was often very generous in giving to the poor, and pretended to be their friend. Yet his depredations increased the risk of business, greatly hindering the general prosperity of all classes. The sponsors of liquor claim it as a friend to the worker; yet it lowers his efficiency and increases accidents, thus hindering business and decreasing means of happiness. The deceitfulness of the narcotic permits this to be done without exciting much malice in any quarter. That is the only difference.

Prohibiting the sale of intoxicants will increase both wealth and personal liberty in the long run, just as did the prohibition of organized outlawry.

W. H. S.

JESUS is the only one born of woman that is sinless. He alone, of all the family of Adam, will throughout eternity have an uncovered life record. Our life record, marred by sin, will be covered by Christ's righteousness.

S. N. H.



Bedtime Stories

WEARY from play, comfortably tucked in bed, and alone with mother! How restful!

Now for the stories! Of course the children want to hear them. Are you a good story-teller? Have you a large number of quieting, interesting, and profitable ones at your tongue's end? Would you like the

aid of a favorite story-teller of twenty-four years' experience—one that knows many Bible stories, animal, bird, insect, and fish stories, and O, ever so many others that children love? What would you give for such a one? \$5.00 a week? \$1.00? Would you accept its services at 12/5c a week?

If so, send 70 cents to our depository in your state, and request them to send *Our Little Friend*, a weekly 8-page children's paper, to you for one year.

Work and Workers

SINCE the organization of a Servian church in St. Louis, Missouri, recently, we have Seventh-day Adventist churches in the United States with a membership composed of each of the various nationalities now at war.

AFTER "Billy" Sunday's recent revival effort in Pittsburgh, thirty-six Bible study classes were formed in different parts of the city. Something like nine of these sought to have one of our Bible workers take charge.

THE possibly incomplete reports that have been received, give the number of baptisms of believers in the United States from the end of June through the first part of September as about 1,600. Possibly half of these were children of believers. About 500 others were reported as newly observing the Sabbath, but either already baptized, or not yet prepared.

The corresponding figures for Canada and Newfoundland were about 130 and 40 respectively.

Reports received during the last two months from Australia and the islands are probably incomplete, but give the totals as being about 140 baptized and 30 new Sabbath keepers.

W. H. S.

Periodicals Wanted

Back numbers of the *SIGNS*, monthly and weekly, are available at the price of one cent and one half cent each, respectively.

Mrs. Emma Kincaid, 2557A (rear) Herbert St., St. Louis, Mo., is especially desirous of receiving such back numbers of these periodicals and others similar, that interested persons may send, or order sent, to her address.

Late issues of the *SIGNS*, *Watchman*, *Instructors*, our magazines and tracts. Mrs. L. W. Myers, Stratford, Oklahoma.

Late issues of the *SIGNS OF THE TIMES*, *Watchman*, and tracts. W. Davis Burt, R. F. D. 3, Nicholson, Pennsylvania.

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UNITED STATES IN PROPHECY

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TWELVE REASONS

The above is the beginning of a 4½-page article that appears in the *Signs Magazine* for December. In it are given twelve reasons for identifying the United States with the prophecy of Rev. 13:11-18.

Read, study, and know for yourself regarding our country's future.

Other features of the December issue: Christianity versus Barbarism; Two Thousand Years in Prophetic Outline; Plagues and Pestilences; Turkey and Russia; Japan in Prophecy; Heaven Closing Its Accounts.

Every month, this magazine is full of matter of this character. It applies the Bible prophecies to these significant world events and conditions, which are forerunners of that greatest of all events, our Lord's second coming.

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES MAGAZINE
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA

I Know He Cares

By MRS. L. D. AVERY-STUTTLE

He is so strong! His mighty hand
Has e'en the vast creation spanned,
Has poised the planets by His power,
And He upholds them, hour by hour—
And yet He paints the humblest flower.

He is so good! And, O, His love
Is vaster than the heavens above,
Is deeper than the deepest caves,
Is broader than the ocean's waves—
And O, it is the love that saves!

And so I know my burdens all—
Each heavy load, each cup of gall—
Are weighed and meted out for me
By the vast love of Calvary—
The love that makes salvation free.

Sometimes I murmur at the load
That burdens me along the road.
Sometimes I weep because the way
Seems sore beset with goblins gray
That shut me from the light of day.

When some foul gin, carefully laid,
Has made my timorous heart afraid,
And to my sight the darkening air
Seems filled with dangers everywhere—
Sometimes I question, "Does He care?"

Ah, yes, He cares! Why should I fear
The hosts of darkness gathering near?
Why dread the din of war's array—
The nations hastening to the fray,
The shout of Armageddon's day?

Still the wild beating of my heart,
Thou Mighty One! How strong Thou art!
In my own strength I can not stand.
O, loose Thou not my trembling hand,
And lead me on toward Beulah land!

HE sat directly beside and a little in front of the dear old man, for they were fast friends, and were carrying on a very earnest and animated conversation. The old man was feeble and sick, and had a great abhorrence for tobacco; but though the younger man well knew that this was the case, he deliberately blew great volumes of poisonous smoke directly into the pale, delicate face of his aged friend.

The smoker seemed entirely oblivious of the fact that every now and again a spasm of pain flitted across the expressive face of the old man.

UNCONSCIOUSLY IMPOLITE

Now this younger man had no idea that he was woefully impolite, besides being unkind. I had known him well for many years; and I knew that he had by nature a heart kind and tender above the average. And so as I watched the clouds of nicotin-laden smoke that rolled blacker and thicker into the room, and as I observed the ever-increasing uneasiness of the old man, I said to myself, "Strange that the young man doesn't realize how disagreeable he is making himself!"—because I remembered his natural kindness of heart and refinement of disposition.

As I thought upon it, I became sure that there could be but one reason: the moral sense of that young man had been blunted by the use of the deadly narcotic. In other words, the pipe had destroyed his keen sense of the fitness of things. It had dulled and coarsened that which by nature was sensitive and refined. It had cheapened and adulterated the consciousness of right and wrong. It had—but we will call a halt, though we have not even mentioned the mischief that this debasing habit has wrought upon the body of its victim,—a mischief which the kindly hand of time is slow in undoing even after genuine repentance has caused a complete change of habits. But if the mischief that is the direct fruit of intemperance were confined to the foolish victim himself, the case would not be so bad.

CRIPPLED AND DEFORMED

The other day, I stepped into one of the down-town stores. As I stood waiting for a salesman, I noticed a large baby cart at

BAD MANNERS and the WRONG MEDICINE

AN OLD MAN ANNOYED
AND A CHILD RUINED

By Mrs. L. D. Avery-Stuttle

my side. There sat a wretched, deformed, and crippled child, I think about twelve years old. The legs were unsightly and twisted bones tightly covered with skin. The feet bore not the slightest resemblance to the human foot. The arms and the hands, as distorted as the lower limbs, moved about uneasily and aimlessly. The face and the head were hideous in their deformity.

Quick tears sprang into my eyes. A little girl of about ten years stood close by the cart; and when I saw that she seemed to exercise a sort of motherly care over the cripple, I asked her the cause of its sad condition.

"Bennie was a nice, pretty baby, mama says," replied the child, "until he was about three years old. Then he was taken sick with a fever."

What? Could the fever cause such a terrible condition? I mentally asked. The little girl saw the look of astonishment in my face, and hastened to explain.

GAVE HIM THE WRONG MEDICINE

"O, it wasn't the fever, missus, though mother says that was bad enough; but the doctor did it—he gave Bennie the wrong medicine."

"But," I protested, "how could any man calling himself a doctor become so careless as that?"

"He wasn't careless, missus, *he was just drunk*—that's all; and my little brother will have to bear his misery till he dies, mother says."

I glanced once more at the poor, twisted body of the innocent victim of strong drink, and turned sorrowfully away.

That was one of the most able sermons I ever heard in favor of temperance. O, if by a general prohibition of the manufacture

of the accursed stuff, we could save even one such child as this, it would surely be worth while!

I believe that could each and all right-minded voters of America have seen the cruel effect of just one lapse into intemperance which I saw that morning, they would rise in the strength of their manhood, and banish the black fiend forever from this fair land. Let us just balance accounts, in the case above stated:

First, the usefulness of a physician was ruined, and instead of becoming a blessing to society, one upon whom the sick and suffering might lean in times of calamity and danger, he became a positive menace.

Second, a beautiful little boy, the pride and joy of his parents, became a helpless, hopeless invalid for life, frightful in his awful deformity. A hideous thing, he must drag out his ruined life in misery, the innocent victim of the depraved appetite of one who sailed under the false colors of a physician.

Third, the parents and family of the child must endure days and nights of weariness and heartache and disappointment, to say nothing of expense and trouble, their home blighted, an innocent boy life ruined, anguish instead of joy, the dregs of bitterness instead of the joys of motherhood.

All this, and more, for one moment's indulgence of the cup!

But Uncle Sam received a few dollars license fee, and the saloon-keeper received *ten cents for the drink!*

Accounts can never be completely balanced in this life. We have given a partial summing up of gain and loss, as it appears now; but what mind is sufficient to compute the infinite and eternal loss?

Does it pay?

WHEN Jesus said, "Come unto Me, all ye," He did not mean for us to run and hide our load of shame first. At this given point is the great divide between eternal life and eternal death—sinners coming just as they are, or waiting in the hope of making themselves better before accepting Christ's invitation.

T. E. B.

Fits of Temper

Their Disastrous Effects—How to Control Them

By WILL H. SPICER

A PHYSICIAN writing on the "Hygienics of Temper," in the *Mother's Magazine*, cites Hippocrates's definition of it. Here it is: "A state of mental disorder in which self-control is absent; largely due either to imperfect habits of eating, or lack of exercise, or failure to use the mind as it should be controlled."

The doctor further states that in his practice of thirty years, he has known of more than that number of cases of serious illness, including not less than fifteen fatalities, due to this cause. This failure of the will and reason to maintain control, he says, works more harm in women, because of their tender nervous organization, and, perhaps for the same reason, tends to be more common among them.

His belief is, that a large percentage of divorces and of the disruption of families is due to this cause. A loss of temper on the part of a mother affects her children as well as herself.

In closing, he gives some suggestions on how to promote good temper: Have as much fresh air as possible in your home. Avoid sleeping in rooms with closed windows. Eat the plainest, simplest, most nourishing foods, cooked in the simplest manner.

Bathe the body regularly and frequently, and give the skin vigorous treatment by hand and towel massage after the bath.

Constantly try to maintain self-control, to hold back the angry word, and avoid the disposition to brood over mistakes.

"Impulses of this kind, carried into action, make it possible for a mother to be self-controlled—the master of her own nerves—and in that mastery to transmit to her own children the newer and better self-control for themselves.

"A mother who can see the value of practicing these rules is more of a scientist of the nerves than those who bear the titles of doctors and surgeons."

Rules alone can not solve the problem, however, nor can self-discipline and education alone do it. Its foundation is selfishness. Good health gives nervous strength, and tends to keep one from taking a petty view of life; but the savage, with his splendid animal nature, often exhibits ungovernable—or, rather, ungoverned—temper. Even the best educated may be so centered on one object, little or great, that the thought of a momentary interference with their selfish pursuit of it, is sufficient to arouse a paroxysm of destructive impulses, which react on the nervous system, and at once weaken it and the character.

It was said of Christ, "He shall not cry, . . . nor cause His voice to be heard in the street." Yet He accomplished more in less time than any other leader.

This gentle spirit, and the love that is not easily provoked, He exemplified. This love His grace can and will reproduce in the heart of those who will accept it. The sources of ill temper are dried up when the love that suffers long and is kind is shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Spirit. It is stronger to destroy ill temper than even the best rules.



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Signs of the Times

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER 1, 1914

Activity and Anxiety

THINGS are moving here in China about as usual. The war conditions have had a tendency to arouse our missionaries to a sense of the shortness of time, and the importance of hastening forward with the message while peace conditions give us so free an opportunity in this great field.

Japan is within five miles of Tsingtau. [Has since taken it.] With fifty thousand soldiers, her main fleet, and heavy guns, it will surely be a very strange thing if she does not succeed in capturing the six thousand Germans within that fortification. What Japan will do next is the live question of the hour here. We trust that she will quietly retire after taking Tsingtau, in case she succeeds.

R. C. P.

Developments in the Submarine

IT is reported that the United States, in common with other leading governments, has plans under way for a new type of submarine torpedo boat. It is to be twice the size of any now in existence, with a speed of twenty-one knots, and a cruising radius of about 3,500 miles.

The greater speed, the increasing size, and other improvements in the submarine, are making it now an ocean-going vessel, in the place of having it, as hitherto, confined to duties about the harbor, or kept in convoy of larger sea-going vessels.

The first attempts at the big battle-ships were in the form of monitors, and they were not designed for the open ocean, but it was thought they could be used only in harbor defense. Very quickly, however, the ocean-going battle-ship was developed. Now it seems that the submarine is destined to the same advancement; and when we contemplate the improvements in battle-ships of the skies, as well as other war implements that men are devising, it is not surprising that many people should become uneasy. But if we know the meaning of it, and if we are acquainted with the protection that is afforded by the power of the divine Father, all these terrors are removed.

The Saloons and the "Tigers"

IT is often stated that to close the saloons means that we will fill the country with "blind tigers." But wherever investigations are made, it is always shown that the "blind tigers" flourish most where saloons are thickest. So the question is not whether we shall abolish the saloons and have "blind tigers" instead, but it is as to whether we shall keep both the saloons and the "blind tigers."

There is no way of preventing a man from unlawfully selling liquors, any more than there is a way of preventing him from unlawfully taking your horse or your pocketbook; but we may fix things so that it is difficult for him to do it.

When the open saloon is closed, and a drunk appears on the street, people begin to ask at once, "Where does he get his liquor?" and so the lair of the "blind tiger" is all the more easily discovered; but when the saloon is running full blast, the effects in the way of staggering drunkards that appear on the streets are not noticed, for it is supposed that they have been visiting the saloon, when in reality they may have been to

a "blind tiger" instead. Thus the "blind tigers" become one of the strongest reasons why the saloons should be closed.

Fighting for Their Existence

IN a speech on lord mayor's day, Lord Kitchener said: "The British Empire is now fighting for its existence. I want every statesman to understand this cardinal fact." On the same occasion, Premier Asquith said, referring to Turkey plunging into the war, "The Turkish Empire has dug its grave and committed suicide," and that it meant "the death knell to Ottoman domination, not only in Europe but in Asia."

These speeches from the leading men of England will be read by thousands in the Turkish Empire. They will be urged upon their attention by those who are interested in having Turkey make the strongest possible fight. Turkey, from these threats of destruction, will readily consider that she also is fighting for her existence.

Obviously Belgium's existence as a nation is at stake. France too is fighting with the same incentive of self-preservation. The word has gone out again and again that Germany and German militarism must be crushed. The defense of their fatherland is the governing thought of the German armies. Both Austria-Hungary and Servia are fighting with the necessity in mind of self-preservation.



BELGIAN REFUGEES SLEEPING IN A STABLE

© Underwood & Underwood, N. Y.

It is to relieve such sad situations as this that the "Signs" has opened its columns to solicit funds.

So from every conceivable source, ingredients have entered into this war that make it one of the bitterest and most destructive. By referring to the map on the front page of last week's issue, the reader will see at a glance that a very large part of the world is already involved in the conflict. How long it will last, the infinite God alone can tell. But while it lasts, it must be excessively bitter, for the reason that every principal nation engaged, believes that it is fighting for its existence.

While Russia may not consider that her existence is involved, yet she is fighting for one of her great ambitions, and there is even now talk that she will concentrate the greater part of her efforts upon the Turks, because now, while the rest of Europe is embroiled in war, would seem to her to be the opportune time to strike them down.

With conditions of this kind in the world, and such animosities rankling in the hearts of the people of these various nationalities, how can any one, even from the human standpoint, expect to see peace spring up?

As we have frequently pointed out, these hostilities must cease, for God has a great message of the second coming of His Son to be given to this world; but during the interim of peace between the war now raging and the Armageddon that lies beyond, these hatreds will tend to grow and deepen, and consequently the next war will be even more furious than this one.

We realize that this presentation of the situation is out of harmony with the great mass of human theory, but it is nevertheless in harmony with the actual facts, and more important still, with the word of God, which very clearly tells us that the spirit of war and not the spirit of peace will dominate the angry nations in these closing years of time.

The Facts Show the Suffering Bad Enough

A NOTE received from Elder Guy Dail, the secretary of the European division of our General Conference, gives a very few brief facts concerning the conditions in the European field of war. Brother Dail has his headquarters at Hamburg, and consequently has been in touch with the great theater of strife. Recently, in order to get into closer contact with our workers, and render them the help they need, he has moved his headquarters temporarily to the Hague, Holland.

His letter emphasizes the fact that the reports of barbarity on the part of soldiers have been greatly exaggerated. He suggests that the actual sufferings of the loss of homes and relatives and friends in consequence of the war are bad enough, so that no exaggeration need be given to the actual facts.

Holland is feeding 600,000 refugees, and is very hospitable in her treatment of them. Although Brother Dail is rooming at the same place where one of the leading bakers of the city rooms, it is impossible to get any white bread; but he says they still have plenty of graham, although they are looking forward to the time this winter when they will have to get along without bread at all, and will be happy with whatever they may secure that is eatable.

A very touching thing in his letter is the exhortation of some of the Christian people not

to allow this war to create national animosities and strifes. This represents the true Christian principle; and if that were followed, wars would be an impossibility. Thousands of people in the region of this great war are dependent upon America for supplies to keep them alive during this winter. We wish to keep constantly before our readers the thought that we must be generous now as never before. The lives of millions of helpless women and children, as well as men, are trembling in the balance, and we must help them.

We have a responsible and competent organization through which funds are passed, without any percentage

being taken out to cover necessary expenses in distributing the money. Our agents receive their income from other sources, and are doing their work gratuitously. Money designed for the purpose of helping the distressed in Europe may be sent to the Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, California.

THE Church Peace Union, founded by a large gift of Andrew Carnegie, offers five thousand dollars in prizes for the best essays on the peace question. The contest is open to clergymen, theological students, members of churches and Sunday-schools. The first prize is \$1,000, and they are graduated on down to smaller prizes that are offered to young church-members and Sunday-school pupils in order to encourage them in the study of the question of peace. Detailed information may be obtained by addressing Frederick Lynch, secretary of the Church Peace Union, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York.

ROLAND FRINZI, "the rum king of Jamaica," recently made the statement, "I have manufactured and sold thirty million dollars worth of rum since I went into the business; but I have never tasted a drop." That statement should make a deep impression. If a man, in order to make such a big success in the manufacture and sale of rum, can not allow himself to indulge in the use of it, certainly all others should abstain. Men who can not safely recommend their business by using the products they sell to others, thereby say, in the most emphatic language, that what they have to sell is an injury rather than a benefit or a blessing.