

Signs of the Times

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WHAT FOLLOWS EUROPE'S WAR?

The Prelude to Armageddon — The Papacy to Be Restored to Supremacy — Apostate Protestantism, False to Her Trust, Will Stand with Rome — The Grand Climax Is Christ's Coming

By ROSS C. PORTER



WHILE Christ does not approve of Christians engaging in these satanic conflicts, He, as King of kings, overrules in them, and brings victory to those who will longest preserve the peace, and be most favorable to the promulgation of the gospel and the finishing of its work. The race is not alone to the swift, nor the battle to the strong. "The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will." Dan. 4: 32.

WAR WILL BE RESTRAINED


He will restrain the winds of strife and war by strong angel hands until the gospel has completed its mission of sealing His servants for the kingdom of God. Rev. 7: 1-3. "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matt. 24: 6, 14.

These words of Christ forewarn us not to be disturbed by such utterances as the following from Gen. Nelson A. Miles: "This is to be the greatest war of the ages, and the last."

It is greater than any war of the past, but it is not Armageddon, for the plain reason that this is a war for military and commercial supremacy, while Armageddon will be a war for politico-religious supremacy. This is a general European war, but Armageddon will be a "whole world" war.

CONFLICT BETWEEN CHRISTEN- DOM AND THE TURK

As a prelude to it, the Turks, holding the Mohammedan religion, will be driven from Europe, and will establish their temporary seat of government at Jerusalem, where, no longer supported by European nations, that empire will come to its end, with none to help it. Dan. 11: 44, 45.



Thine Eyes Shall See
By MILTON C. WILCOX

"Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty." Isa. 33:17.


THINE eyes shall see, thou who hast looked on sin
And sin's great fruitage. Thou thyself hast been
Where sin hath pleased, and all its hellish art
Seemed beauty to thine earthly mind and heart,
Till death in all its horrors showed the end,
Thy worst of foes, that thou hadst thought thy friend.
Then faith saw, standing by, Him thou didst fear,
A Friend in every need, a Saviour near.

Thine eyes shall see, eyes oft with sorrow brimmed,
By weary watching, pain, and anguish dimmed.
Thou sawest by faith thy Lord. He spake thee grace.
But then thine eyes shall see, shall see His face.
Thine eyes shall see, not in ecstatic vision,
Nor in some dreamed about Elysium,
But eyes shall see, thine eyes, as when they rest
On face of her who soothed thee on her breast.

Thine eyes shall see the King, not earthly lord,
Whom many serve through fear or for reward;
But Him who spake the word and strewed the sky
With shining orbs, and all their hosts on high
He marshaled to the music of the spheres.
And yet that King the faintest whisper hears
Of timid soul who hopes His grace to share.
Thine eyes shall see the King. Do not despair.

Thine eyes shall see the King, not crowned with thorns,
And led away amid the jeers and scorn
Of those He came to save, nor bowed in grief
In dark Gethsemane, of pleaders, chief,
Nor on the cross bearing the sin of all,
The mocking earth beneath, the heaven a pall,
Till from the breaking heart is forced the cry,
"My God, My God, forsaken as I die!"
Not in this saddest, sorest way of duty,—
Thine eyes shall see the King in all His beauty.

In beauty not of earth thine eyes shall see.
That King is coming soon for thee and me,
That same blest Lord who walked the earth of old,
Who to thy heart the wondrous story told,
Who kept thee through the years of toil and pain,—
This King is coming to His own again.
Thy King, my King, we — our eyes — shall see,
And with Him reign throughout eternity.



Russia shall come from the north with a "mighty army," which will be destroyed upon the mountains in the Holy Land. Eze. 38: 2, 14-23; 39: 1-7, 17-21. The overthrow of the Ottoman empire, and the union of Christian nations, arouses all heathen nations, and they concentrate the full strength of their combined forces in the valley of Jehoshaphat, north of Jerusalem, for the conflict. Joel 3: 9-12; Revelation 13.

THE PAPACY TO BE SUPREME

The papacy, restored to the position of supremacy which it occupied during the medieval ages, again reigns over the kings of the earth, and sits a queen in the religio-political world. Revelation 17, 18. This Romeward tendency is already manifesting itself, as the following among a multitude of similar things will show: "The pope is no longer a petty Italian prince, but the monarch of a vast, admirably organized spiritual world empire." (*The China Press*, August 21, 1914.)

United with Protestantism and spiritualism, and bearing both a political and a religious sword, Catholicism becomes inspired with the "spirits of devils" for the Armageddon conflict. The rallying cry of united Protestantism, Catholicism, and spiritualism is, "Christ enthroned as king of the world, His law to go forth from Zion and His word from Jerusalem." With this rallying cry, Catholic and Protestant nations proceed to join in the Armageddon conflict in the Holy Land, that they may enthrone Christ as king in Jerusalem. Isa. 2: 1-5; Matt. 24: 23, 24; Rev. 16: 13, 14; 13.

A WORLD'S RELIGIOUS CONFEDERACY

As by military alliances, the nations prepared for the great European conflict; so, by religious confederacies, against which the Bible bears most em-



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As by military alliances, the nations prepared for the great European conflict; so, by religious confederacies, against which the Bible bears most emphatic warning (Isaiah 8), the religious world is preparing for Armageddon.

The European war demonstrates the rapidity with which Armageddon, which embraces all nations (Joel 3:2; Rev. 16:14), will break over the whole world. In the midst of the Armageddon conflict, Christ comes from heaven, and delivers His people, and destroys those engaged in the Armageddon battle. Joel 3:11-17; Dan. 12:1.

NOT A WARRIOR ESCAPES

This warfare, which professes to enthrone Christ as temporal king, is antichristian. 2 Thess. 2:1-12. Christ and His army in heaven are arrayed against it. Rev. 19:11-21. He destroys, by the brightness of His second advent, all engaged in the conflict, who have not already slaughtered one another. 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Zech. 14:1-3; Jer. 25:31-33. Not a living man of those marshaled in the roll-call of war will escape. Jer. 4:19-25. And every city in the world will be broken down and desolated. Jer. 4:26; Rev. 16:19.

Not a child of God will be slain during the Armageddon conflict. As the conflict begins under the sixth plague (Rev. 16:12), which is after the close of probation, the martyrdom of saints would no longer result in a harvest of sinners saved; hence no Christian will suffer death at that time, but every one will be delivered. Dan. 12:1.

THE REDEEMED DELIVERED FROM ARMAGEDDON

The saints who are delivered at the time of the battle of Armageddon are taken to the heavenly Jerusalem, which Christ went to prepare for them nineteen hundred years ago. John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:15-17. Then begins the millennial reign of Christ over His delivered people in the new Jerusalem. Rev. 20:1-4. At the close of the thousand years' reign of peace in heaven, the heavenly Jerusalem comes down, and is located on this earth. Rev. 21:1-4. All the wicked dead will then be resurrected and come up around the new Jerusalem, where utter and final destruction is visited upon them. Rev. 20:7-15.

All sin and sorrow will be forever swept away, and unalloyed peace and tearless joy will be the heritage of the children of God throughout eternity. From that day forth, Christ, the Prince of peace, will reign as King over all the earth. Then "He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth" (Ps. 46:9), and there will be no more war. Zech. 14:4-11.

FORERUNNER OF THE LAST GREAT WAR

The European war, with its awful record of crime, carnage, and destruction, is a fitting forerunner of the last great war, with which earth's history will close. Its aftermath will be increased jealousy among the nations, ending with the fury of Armageddon. In their endeavor to enthrone Christ as king of cruelty and bloodshed, Satan will be enthroned as king of the world instead of Christ, and under his leadership the world will witness the climax of hatred and cruelty, ending only in the complete devastation of the earth.

This is no mere pen picture of a fanciful view of the future. It is the word of prophecy, which forewarns the people of our day of the approach of the climax of the world's wickedness and its visitation, as the writing by the invisible hand on the palace wall of Belshazzar most solemnly foretold the end of the debauchery and crime of the ancient Babylonian empire.

"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished." Prov. 27:12.

Courage and Firmness Needed

A Few Thoughts from the Life of Paul

By H. E. Sawyer-Hopkins

ONE might conclude that Paul's long imprisonment did not result in any good. But he did not seem to regard it all in vain. He manifested a spirit of willingness to endure anything for the sake of Him who had done so much for his salvation. His courage and faith were a continual sermon.



Photo by Paul Thompson

EFFECT OF A SHELL ON A TREE IN THE WAR ZONE

When he was taken to the place of execution, he did not go with dread. His thoughts were not of himself, but of his brethren, and he was trying to encourage them by repeating the precious promises.

"The Christian who manifests patience and cheerfulness under bereavement and suffering, who meets death with the peace and calmness of an unwavering faith, may accomplish far more toward overcoming the opposition of the enemies of the gospel than he could have effected had he labored with his utmost energy day and night to bring repentance.

"A true Christian is never laid aside. God will use him in health, in sickness, in life and in death." When a servant of God is withdrawn from active duty, when his voice is no longer heard in encouragement and reproof, we in our short-sighted judgment often conclude that his usefulness is at an end. But God does not so regard it. The mysterious providences over which we so often lament, are designed of God to accomplish a work which otherwise might never have been done."

THE MAKER OF THE UNIVERSE CAN WORK UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES

Paul had converts in the court of Cæsar. For one in the household of the Roman emperor of that time to accept the gospel was like rushing into the fire. Yet these converts did not leave their post, but remained, and showed by their life the change that God had wrought.

All who would fearlessly serve God, will need moral courage and firmness, and a knowledge of His word.

Before the warfare is ended and the victory won, we are to experience trials similar to Paul's. We shall encounter the same hardness of heart. Among the professed followers of Christ there is the same pride, formalism, vainglory, selfishness, and oppression that existed in the Jewish nation.

Persecution will again be kindled against those who are true to God. How shall we prepare for the soon-coming crisis? We must meet it, and we have but a short time to prepare for it. May we have help from above to enable us to live so near to Him that He can be to us "the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

"A MAN'S conversation is a mirror in which you can behold his real life, for 'out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.' The conversation of the man who lives and walks with God is marked by a peculiar depth, breadth, gravity, weight, thoughtfulness, and tenderness. His words breathe the deep, quiet convictions of his heart."



The MYSTERIOUS DEALINGS OF GOD



Trials and Disappointments That Distress Us — God Has a Purpose and a Plan in It All — He Often Refuses Our Cherished Desires in Order to Work Out His Higher Plans

By Mrs. E. G. White

THERE is an eloquence far more powerful than the eloquence of words in the quiet, consistent life of a pure, true Christian. What a man is has more influence than what he says.

NEVER MAN LIVED AS HE LIVED

The officers who were sent to Jesus came back with the report that never man spoke as He spoke. But the reason for this was that never man lived as He lived. Had His life been other than it was, He could not have spoken as He did. His words bore with them a convincing power, because they came from a heart pure and holy, full of love and sympathy, benevolence and truth.

It is our own character and experience that determine our influence upon others. In order to convince others of the power of Christ's grace, we must know its power in our own hearts and lives. The gospel we present for the saving of souls must be the gospel by which our own souls are saved. Only through a living faith in Christ as a personal Saviour is it possible to make our influence felt in a skeptical world.

HOW THE WORLD IS CONVINCED

The badge of Christianity is not an outward sign, not the wearing of a cross or a crown, but it is that which reveals the union of man with God. By the power of His grace manifested in the transformation of character, the world is to be convinced that God has sent His Son as its Redeemer. No other influence that can surround the human soul has such power as the influence of an unselfish life. The strongest argument in favor of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian.

To live such a life, to exert such an influence, costs, at every step, effort, self-sacrifice, discipline. It is because they do not understand this that many are so easily discouraged in the Christian life. Many who sincerely consecrate their lives to God's service are surprised and disappointed to find themselves, as never before, confronted by obstacles and beset by trials and perplexities. They pray for Christlikeness of character, for a fitness for the Lord's work, and they are placed in circumstances that seem to call forth all the evil of their nature. Faults are revealed of which they did not even suspect the existence. Like Israel of old, they question, "If God is leading us, why do all these things come upon us?"

APPOINTED CONDITIONS OF SUCCESS

It is because God is leading them that these things come upon them. Trials and obstacles are the Lord's chosen methods of discipline and His appointed conditions of success. He who reads the hearts of men knows their characters better than they themselves know them. He sees that some have powers and suscepti-

bilities which, rightly directed, might be used in the advancement of His work. In His providence He brings these persons into different positions and varied circumstances, that they may discover in their character the defects which have been concealed from their own knowledge. He gives them opportunity to correct these defects, and to fit themselves for His service. Often He permits the fires of affliction to assail them, that they may be purified.

The fact that we are called upon to endure trial shows that the Lord Jesus sees in us something precious, which He desires to develop. If He saw in us nothing whereby He might glorify His name, He would not spend time in refining us. He does not cast worthless stones into His furnace. It is valuable ore that He refines. The blacksmith puts the iron and steel into the fire, that he may know what manner of metal they are. The Lord allows His chosen ones to be placed in the furnace of affliction, to prove what temper they are of, and whether they can be fashioned for His work.

YIELD TO THE MASTER

The potter takes the clay, and molds it according to his will. He kneads it and works it. He tears it apart, and presses it together. He wets it, and then dries it. He lets it lie for a while without touching it. When it is perfectly pliable, he continues the work of making of it a vessel. He forms it into shape, and on the wheel trims and polishes it. He dries it in the sun, and bakes it in the oven. Thus it becomes a vessel fit for use. So the great Master Worker desires to mold and fashion us. And as the clay is in the hands of the potter, so are we to be in His hands. We are not to try to do the work of the potter. Our part is to yield ourselves to be molded by the Master Worker.

SINGING IN THE DARKNESS

In the full light of day, and in hearing of the music of other voices, the caged bird will not sing the song that his master seeks to teach him. He learns a snatch of this, a trill of that, but never a separate and entire melody. But the master covers the cage, and places it where the bird will listen to the one song he is to sing. In the dark, he tries and tries again to sing that song until it is learned, and he breaks forth in perfect melody. Then the bird is brought forth; and ever after, he can sing that song in the light. Thus God

deals with His children. He has a song to teach us; and when we have learned it amid the shadows of affliction, we can sing it ever afterward.

GOD'S CHOICE IN OUR LIFE-WORK

Many are dissatisfied with their life-work. It may be that their surroundings are uncongenial; their time is occupied with



What Trophy Then?

By WORTHIE HARRIS HOLDEN

THE world's alarm is the march of men,
The trembling earth feels their heavy tread,
The raining bomb, and destruction's doom;
And torch of trench is the burning dead,
While woman's heart is their muffled drum.
In heaven's kingdom — what trophy then?

There comes for the world yet a fiercer strife,
Intense with the great Armageddon day,
No might can then baffle that dreadful fray,
Till the Judge of the earth shall its power
o'erthrow,
And the slain of the Lord meet their awful wo —
While Christ grants His warriors an endless life.

Our God is urging the march of men,
'Neath the ensign raised by the Lord of all,
Inspired with the Spirit's heavenly flame,
Intent to alarm, "'Tis the final call!"
For glory of God and Immanuel's name.
Mid souls saved fore'er — will it profit then?

commonplace work, when they think themselves capable of higher responsibilities; often their efforts seem to them to be unappreciated or fruitless; their future is uncertain.

Let us remember that while the work we have to do may not be our choice, it is to be accepted as God's choice for us. Whether pleasing or unpleasing, we are to do the duty that lies nearest. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Eccl. 9: 10.

If the Lord desires us to bear a message to Nineveh, it will not be as pleasing to Him for us to go to Joppa or to Capernaum. He has reasons for sending us to the place toward which our feet have been directed. At that very place there may be some one in need of the help we can give. He who sent Philip to the Ethiopian councilor, Peter to the Roman centurion, and the little Israelitish maiden to the help of Naaman, the Syrian captain, sends men and women and youth to-day as His representatives to those in need of divine help and guidance.

WHY HE REFUSES OUR BEST INTENTIONS

Our plans are not always God's plans. He may see that it is best for us and for His cause to refuse our very best intentions, as He did in the case of David. But of one thing we may be assured,— He will bless and use in the advancement of His cause those who sincerely devote themselves and all they have to His glory. If He sees it best not to

grant their desires, He will counterbalance the refusal by giving them tokens of His love, and entrusting to them another service.

In His loving care and interest for us, often He who understands us better than we understand ourselves refuses to permit us selfishly to seek the gratification of our own ambition. He does not permit us to pass by the homely but sacred duties that lie next us. Often these duties afford the very training essential to prepare us for a higher work. Often our plans fail, that God's plans for us may succeed.

SURRENDERING THE HINDRANCES

We are never called upon to make a real sacrifice for God. Many things He asks us to yield to Him, but in doing this we are but giving up that which hinders us in the heavenward way. Even when called upon to surrender those things which in themselves are good, we may be sure that God is thus working out for us some higher good.

In the future life, the mysteries that here have annoyed and disappointed us will be made plain. We shall see that our seemingly unanswered prayers and disappointed hopes have been among our greatest blessings.

We are to look upon every duty, however humble, as sacred because it is a part of God's service. Our daily prayer should be: "Lord, help me to do my best. Teach me how to do better work. Give me energy and cheerfulness. Help me to bring into my service the loving ministry of the Saviour."

original dominion. But the adversary still lived, and a further history was to be enacted.

GOD HAS EVER HAD FOLLOWERS

Men again multiplied upon the earth, and it was filled with violence; but God was not without a realm on earth in which He reigned. Yet there was a time when the adversary was wont to appear in the presence of God claiming to represent the dominion of earth in the councils of heaven. We read: "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. . . . And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man?" Job belonged to a realm entirely outside that of Satan. He had been delivered from Satan's dominion, to do service for his divine Creator. He represented the kingdom of heaven.

Also Abraham was the friend of God, and God talked with him, and called him to go to a land that He would afterward give to him and his seed. God took an oversight of Abraham's seed after his death, and fulfilled His promise concerning them. He gave to Abraham a son in his old age, and from him sprang the millions that peopled the land of Palestine in after-years.

Jacob, the son of Isaac, cunningly and wickedly obtained the birthright from his brother Esau, and afterward the blessing of his father. Because of this, he had to flee from the presence of his brother. After he had served his uncle Laban for many years, and was returning to his own country with a changed heart, he learned that Esau was coming to meet him with an army of four hundred men, to destroy him.

This was the supreme moment. God had evidently chosen Jacob as the son of Isaac through whom the promise to Abraham was to be fulfilled. The Lord had told Rebekah, before their birth, that Esau and Jacob would be "two manner of people." Jacob loved and honored God, and was accepted of Him; but Esau, like Cain, was possessed of another spirit. He belonged to another realm.

PREVAILING WITH GOD, HE PREVAILED WITH MAN

But how was Jacob to escape destruction now, seeing his brother was so much the stronger, and the fire of hatred was burning in his heart? Jacob went alone to commune with his God. Instead of satisfying Jacob at once with an assuring answer, the Lord sent His angel to test His servant for a time. When this was over, and Jacob had prevailed with God, it was seen that he had likewise prevailed with man; for Esau was subdued in spirit, and met his brother in peace.

At that time, Jacob received from God a name indicative of his having prevailed — a name that is applicable to all, among every people and in every generation, who likewise prevail. "Israel" is not a term to be applied to the Jewish race as such, but it is a name that belongs to God's children of every nation and tribe. It is the name that designates the subjects of Christ's kingdom on earth.

God permitted Jacob to occupy a place of distinction, in that he had twelve sons who became the heads of twelve tribes, to whom the land of Canaan was finally allotted. Soon after the Israelites left Egypt, the Lord gave command to reorganize the people into twelve

GOD'S KINGDOM AMONG MEN

Never Consisted of Some Distinct Race—Is Composed of Those Who Prevail with God—The Dominion of Earth Given to Man Before He Sinned—Will Be Restored to the Redeemed for an Eternal Home ❀ ❀ ❀

By Allen Moon

IN the beginning, God gave to man "dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." He reserved to Himself dominion over man. The proof of this is found in the fact that He made man subject to moral law, and man is now suffering the penalty for the violation of that law.

THE ORIGINAL PLAN UNCHANGED

By his act of transgression, man transferred his allegiance to another than his Creator. The one to whom he rendered obedience was himself a created being, and not able to retain dominion when once the almighty Creator should will otherwise. The seizure of dominion by the enemy was without the consent of the Creator; therefore the usurpation of dominion did not change the fact that the earth is the Lord's, and all that is therein.

The declaration of the Creator that the seed of the woman should bruise the head of the one who had usurped dominion over man, was a warning to Satan that he would be deprived of all dominion, and even of life itself. The gospel is a declaration of the right of the Creator to enter the dominion of Satan, and deliver every soul who will return to Him.

A PERFECT LIFE SURROUNDED BY SIN

We read that "Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him." Enoch lived at a time when "God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Yet Enoch was a servant of God, and it pleased God to take him from the earth to His own undisputed dominion.

There also lived another, "a just man and perfect in his generations." His name was Noah, "and Noah walked with God." This is equivalent to saying that Enoch and Noah forsook the dominion of the adversary, and passed to the dominion of the Creator; and walking with Him, they became subjects of His kingdom on earth.

THE DOMINION RESTORED TO NOAH

Noah's loyalty to his God was rewarded by the salvation of himself and his family from the flood of waters that God sent to destroy that evil generation. To Noah man's original dominion over the animal creation was restored for more than a year, while they were in the ark. So the antediluvian world came to an end, with God's dominion complete over all that remained of the human race, and with man in possession of his

tribes, after the names of the twelve sons of Jacob. When this was done, the glorified kingdom of God, at least in miniature, was represented.

TRIED TO CURSE ISRAEL

Balaam, the son of Beor, tried to curse Israel, and the Lord put a parable in his mouth. The old prophet said: "He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath He seen perverseness in Israel: the Lord his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them." Num. 23:21.

God had sent Moses to Pharaoh to say, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me." God had delivered His people, and renewed His law to them, and at least to the true Israel, God was King. He therefore caused the prophet to declare, "The shout of a King is among them," thus indicating that, notwithstanding God had said Israel should dwell alone, and not be reckoned among the nations, yet the true Israel should not be without a king.

For a long period after they came into the land of promise, the Jews had no visible king. The God of heaven was their Ruler. The time came, in the days of Samuel, when they had departed from God, and then they demanded a king. Samuel chided them, saying: "When ye saw that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me, Nay; but a king shall reign over us: when the Lord your God was your King." 1 Sam. 12:12.

PERMANENT AS THE SUN

Moreover, the Lord caused the prophet to say of the ordinances of the sun, moon, and stars, which rule the day and the night, "If those ordinances depart from before Me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before Me forever." Jer. 31:36. This is a very strong form of expression. In this text, we have the assertion practically made that until the sun, the moon, and the stars cease to exist, Israel shall never cease to be a nation. And again of Israel God said, "His seed shall be in many waters, and his King shall be higher than Agag, and His kingdom shall be exalted." Num. 24:7. Agag represented the highest earthly power. Therefore this statement means that Israel's King shall be higher than any earthly king, and His kingdom is a higher, or spiritual kingdom.

NOT RECKONED AMONG THE NATIONS

Israel is never reckoned among the nations. Num. 23:9. This indicates its spiritual character, and agrees with the language of the Saviour when He said, "My kingdom is not of this world." Israel has never identified itself with the kingdoms of this world except as individual citizens. That which forms a union with the kingdoms of earth is not Israel, even though it may clothe itself with the name. The true people, worthy the name, are delivered from the powers of darkness, and are translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son. Col. 1:13.

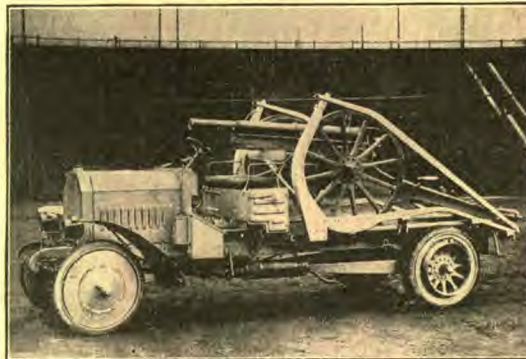
The character of the kingdom into which the children of God are translated is set forth in the language of Jehovah to His people in the wilderness. He said, "Ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation." Ex. 19:6. In God's reckoning, Israel is always a nation and a kingdom—a kingdom of priests, because of the peculiar position they occupy between the King and those who

are in rebellion. They are commissioned to persuade men—to stand between the offended and the offenders. By obedience, Israel obtains this commission from God. Verse 5.

THE DOMINION HELD BY CHRIST

The earth, as well as man, was the dominion of the Son of God by right of creation. This dominion went into the hands of a usurper. The gospel plan contemplates the redemption of both man and his lost possession. The Redeemer, having accomplished His mission to earth, has received from the Father the lost dominion, to be recovered and restored, as God promised through His prophet. He says: "And Thou, O Tower of the flock, the Stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto Thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem." Micah 4:8. The dominion of earth is first restored to the Son by right of redemption, and through Him it is restored to Israel, the daughter of Jerusalem, the church.

The Saviour makes clear the manner of procedure, in His explanation of the parable



Photograph by International News Service

ARMORED GUN ON A MOTOR CAR

It has been stripped of its armored plates, and is being dismantled at Dover, England, ready for shipment to the battle front. With this motor equipment, the gun can be most speedily moved from place to place.

of the wheat and the tares. He said: "The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one." "He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man." The enemy that sowed the tares is the devil. "The harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father." See Matt. 13:37-43.

THE EARTH NOT ABANDONED

The earth is the Lord's; and He has not abandoned it to Satan, who sowed the tares. The Son of God has always had loyal subjects, as represented by the good seed. Therefore Christ has a kingdom on earth, and He has designed a glorious future for this part of His universe. To these subjects the earth will be restored in His own good time. The good seed are the rightful heirs. The tares have no valid right, and will be dispossessed.

After His resurrection, Jesus came to His disciples and said, "All power is given unto

Me in heaven and in earth." Jesus defers the exercise of His power over the earth only till the commission, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel," is fully carried into effect; for He said again, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come"—the end of sin, the end of wicked dominion and the curse, but not the end of Christ's reign, for "then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father." The reign of Christ will then be glorious, and the earth will be as Eden.

The Sensible Thing for Young Men to Do

I HAVE met young men who never gave the subject of religion enough serious, candid thought to recognize their obligation in the matter. But as they have considered the question in the light of the following statements, they have generally become interested:

1. There is a God, a supreme Being, who created the universe, and upholds and maintains all things by His power.

2. This Being created you, and sustains your life moment by moment. He made you an intelligent, reasoning being, endowed with the power of choice.

3. He must have had a purpose in creating you; and since He gave you reason and the power of choice, He must, to be consistent, reveal His purpose to you. Otherwise you might work at cross-purposes with Him, blindly, without any desire to do so.

4. Obviously, therefore, God must have revealed to men His purpose in creation, and that revelation is the whole Bible. No other book even claims to be the revelation of the Creator of all things.

5. I say the whole Bible, for it would not be consistent to think that an Almighty God, who paid the price of His own Son to save all men, should then permit the revelation of His plan to become so mixed with the work of men, and confused, that the great mass of His people could not understand it without the help of an expert.

6. By studying this Bible, we find that God plans to give eternal life to men in a future world as real and tangible as this world, with all its pleasures and blessings, and infinitely more, and none of its curses and sorrows. But this eternal life is only given on conditions.

7. But it is not alone the future life for which this revelation provides. Future salvation requires present good character, which can be secured only through obedience to the instructions in this Book. Character is the only true basis of success and happiness in this life. One may have a pretty fair counterfeit, but never a character acceptable to God, unless the life is connected with Him by obedience.

8. These are strenuous times. Business and pleasure, education, society, money getting, all are pressing. But sound logic and common sense declare that a man owes something to his Maker. He can not afford to go blindly at cross-purposes with the Almighty.

9. As a matter of fact, God's word is not the dry, dull book, centuries behind the times, that many suppose. The inspired prophecies

Describe the stirring scenes of our times most graphically, and tell of the crisis of the ages, which is just before us.

10. Both the Bible and all human experience teach that the race has a mighty enemy, the devil, or Satan, who has gathered about him tremendous forces of evil, and is determined to destroy every soul.

In view of all these considerations, are

you not convinced that to be a practical, consistent, and reasonable young man, you should get yourself a Bible, and from it seek to become acquainted with God, and with His plan for your life, and strive to learn and obey the conditions that will satisfy Him, and bring you happiness and success in this life, and secure to you eternal life?

MEADE MAC GUIRE.

A "Strange Act" for Jehovah

God Doing a Thing out of Harmony with His Nature — Forces in the World Acting Their Part in the Great Drama

By T. E. BOWEN

THE "day of the Lord," as pointed out in a recent article in this paper, is a short period of time as compared with earth's history. But it is long enough for Jesus *Himself* — mark this expression — to deal with this rebellious world in a very definite way. Jesus will do it.

The loving, merciful Christ metes out the punishment decreed in the Word. He is still God's Son. He still lives to carry out the purpose and will of His Father. And when the Father makes known His purpose that certain judgments are to be visited upon those who have spurned the offer of salvation, the meek and lowly Saviour lays aside His priestly robes — in heaven — and clothes Himself with garments of vengeance. The Word says so. "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God." Rev. 15: 1.

A STRANGE THING FOR GOD

This will seem "strange" to us, to be sure. It is strange; for God delights in mercy. It is foretold as being *strange*. Here is the word: "For the Lord shall rise up as in Mount Perazim, He shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that He may do His work, His strange work; and bring to pass His act, His strange act." Isa. 28: 21.

What is strange about it? — Why, that God should *apparently* set aside His merciful kindness for a short time. But, friend, this He does. Yet it is only for a moment, as it were. "He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger forever." Ps. 103: 9. Were He to do so, with sin going on with a high hand, His very throne would be compromised. No, indeed! It shall be known that God *hates* sin. And Jesus Christ, the Son, is with His Father in this purpose. "Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him." Ps. 2: 10-12.

BUT FOR A MOMENT

"Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers [apart from the multitude], and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, Jehovah cometh forth out of His place [in heaven] to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity." Isa. 26: 20, 21.

Daniel speaks of this same time, this "day of the Lord," this "little moment" when God

does His act, His "strange act," as follows: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great Prince who standeth for the children of thy people [the people of God, who belong in very truth to Jesus Christ, whose hearts are perfect in their love and obedience to Him, whoever they are, wherever they are]; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." Dan. 12: 1.

DISTRESS OF NATIONS

Down at the end, speaking of this same time, Jesus said: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars [signs that have long since been fulfilled]; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth."

We are now in this time, this "distress of nations," perhaps only at the very beginning of it. When has there been such a commotion among nations as now? Like the sudden appearance of lightning in a clear sky, the nations in Europe began their death grapple with one another. Sudden it certainly was. A world is shocked.

At a time when nearly every one was talking of and expecting peace; at a time when two nations, England and the United States, were just ready to celebrate the centennial of peace between these two great powers,—the crash came. The American delegates to the first meeting of the Church Peace Society were journeying through France to Konstanztanz, Germany, to open their convention on August 6, when they were called from their sleeper berths by the porter, who shouted to them to be prepared to jump from the train, as the Germans had blown up a bridge just ahead.

Of the horrors of this European conflict, so suddenly throwing many nations into distress, we know but little. Thousands upon thousands have been torn to pieces and slaughtered like beasts. As a sample, here is a brief despatch:

"Paris, November 2.—First-hand information of the stupendous carnage which followed the opening of the sluices on the Yser River has just reached me. After eight days of the most sanguinary fighting in military history, the river became choked with bodies, sunken barges, and dead horses. Three entire Wurttemberg brigades were able to cross the river, using the bodies of men and horses as their sole bridges."

But in this terrible European struggle, we have an earnest, a preface, so to speak, of what is coming when the actual storm breaks among nations — when that time of trouble shall actually come such as "never was" since men began banding themselves together into nations. Then not only Belgium and northern France and eastern Germany will be made desolate, but the whole world will be devastated. Every city will fall during this "day of the Lord" period.

GOD OPENS HIS ARMORY

Joining the terrible engines of destruction of nations, the siege-guns, the fighting monsters of the deep, and devastating armies, God's artillery will do its work in the terrible plagues mentioned above. Before this time of trouble "such as never was" shall be overpassed, great hailstones, weighing many pounds, will fall. Men's hearts are now struck with terror as they strain their eyes skyward for air craft loaded with bombs. But think of terrific hailstones of such weight as to crush through any modern structure, coming from high up yonder somewhere. These forces are in reserve. "And Jehovah will cause His glorious voice to be heard, and will show the lighting down of His arm, with the indignation of His anger, and the flame of a devouring fire, with a blast, and tempest, and hailstones." Isa. 30: 30. "There shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it." Eze. 13: 11. "And with pestilence and with blood will I enter into judgment with him; and I will rain upon him, and upon his hordes, and upon the many peoples that are with him [some think this scripture refers to modern Russia — a little significant, surely, is this expression of "the many peoples that are with him," since this coalition of France and England, etc., with Russia], an overflowing shower, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. And I will magnify Myself, and sanctify Myself, and I will make Myself known in the eyes of many nations; and they shall know that I am Jehovah." Eze. 38: 22, 23. "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?" Job 38: 22, 23.

Nations have been storing up their ammunition. God has some also in waiting. Heaven is prepared with its agencies of destruction — grievous sores, the sun's burning heat, hailstones, etc. — for the "day of the Lord," even the day — time — of His "fierce anger," "against the time of trouble," "the day of battle and war."

WAR PERMITTED OF GOD AS A MEANS OF PUNISHMENT

One of the means of punishment used by the Lord is the wars that are permitted to come. Over and over again has this been demonstrated throughout all history. Opportunity was given the Canaanites to repent and turn from their evil ways. When they would not, God brought Israel into that land, and destroyed those rebellious peoples. Later, Babylon destroyed Israel, laid her fair land desolate, as a direct judgment from God. Then later, Babylon, because of its pride and arrogance, was brought low by the Medes and the Persians. And thus it has been that God has brought nations to realize that He was the supreme Ruler among men.

(Continued on page 9)

Omens of a Coming Storm of Persecution

A Direct Prophecy Concerning It—Preached for Years Before a Sign of Its Fulfilment Was Seen—Forces Now Working as It Was Predicted They Would

By C. S. LONGACRE

Editor of "Liberty Magazine"

IN harmony with the revelation given to the seer of Patmos concerning the final conflict between Satan and God's "remnant" people, "which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus," an interpretation was given to the prophecy, more than fifty years ago, that the time was not far distant when all nations, including the United States, would persecute those who keep all God's commandments and refuse to show reverence to the mandates of men which are in direct opposition to the commandments of God.

SCORNED THE IDEA

Many people in the United States scorned the idea of persecution arising in this country against a God-fearing people who keep the seventh day of the week for the Sabbath instead of Sunday. Nobody was at that time agitating the enactment or enforcement of Sunday laws, either before Congress or before our state legislatures. There was not a sign or a suggestion of the possibility of persecution arising in the American government against those "which keep the commandments of God," outside of what the book of Revelation predicted. But upon the strength of this prophecy of a future and final conflict between God's commandment keepers and the United States government, as outlined in Rev. 13: 11-18, a prediction was ventured that the United States government would follow in the wake of the nations of the past, and join them in making "war" upon those who keep the true Sabbath and refuse to keep Sunday.

Such a message was preached for more than twenty years, simply upon the grounds of faith in the prophecy, when there was no conflict in sight. But during the last thirty years, great changes have taken place. The cruel hand of persecution has made itself felt in many of the states in the Union.

PERSECUTED IN THIS COUNTRY

Our people have been arrested, indicted, tried, fined, imprisoned in jails, and cruelly afflicted in the chain-gangs, for no other crime than that they dared worship God in harmony with the fourth commandment of the Decalogue and the dictates of their own consciences. The right to the free exercise of conscience in keeping the seventh day holy has been denied them in our so-called land of liberty, with "equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

NO MORE EXEMPTIONS TO BE GRANTED

The leaders of the Lord's Day Alliance declared, at a recent convention held in Baltimore, that their organization, together with other affiliated religious organizations, would oppose, in future Sunday bills, all exemption clauses offered for the benefit of Jews and Seventh-day Adventists. They asserted that there were some municipalities and states where the civil officers were under their absolute control, and that they had ideal Sunday law enforcement.

The thirteenth chapter of Revelation states that the commercial boycott will be invoked to compel people to follow the papacy and accept the religious institution that is legally enforced upon all people. The only papal religious institution that is enforced by law is the Sunday rest day, which has been set up in opposition to God's true Sabbath.

The National Reform Association and the Lord's Day Alliance are now advocating and employing the commercial boycott in reference to buying and selling.

THE BOYCOTT ORDERED FROM THE PULPITS

At the convention in Baltimore, formerly mentioned, the plan was advocated—and to the writer's personal knowledge, it is executed in localities where these organizations are in full control—that when a person who caters to public patronage refuses to observe Sunday in harmony with the ideas of these Sunday blue law advocates, his name be publicly read from the pulpits at the following Sunday service, and the people asked to boycott him completely by not patronizing him in any business deals whatever. Besides being notified of the boycott, or interdict, he is warned by a civil officer, at the instigation of the ministerial association, that a repetition of the disrespect for Sunday observ-

ance will bring him into the clutches of the law, and he will have to suffer the full penalty.

Reason and justice would say that the Seventh-day Adventist who conscientiously keeps the seventh day for the Sabbath should not be compelled by the state to observe another day, and thus be robbed of one of the six legitimate work days, whereas the Sunday keeper is unmolested during his six working-days. Yet just such an unjust warfare is waged at present in some of the states of the Union. The writer could cite hundreds of cases where this cruel and unjust treatment has been carried on for the past thirty years.

SIX BILLS AND NO EXEMPTIONS

In Tennessee, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, these religious organizations are at present operating strongly. But this is simply a beginning of the conflict. Last year over eighty Sunday bills were introduced in our state legislatures, and five in Congress. So far this year, six Sunday bills have been introduced in Congress, and not a single bill contains an exemption clause for those who conscientiously observe another day.

FINALLY TO INVOKE DEATH PENALTY

The book of Revelation shows clearly that the antagonists' forces which wage war upon God's commandment-keeping people will not stop with the boycott. It plainly indicates that they will go the full length finally, and invoke the death penalty. But God intercedes for His people, as He has so often done, and they are triumphantly delivered, to be abased no more.

"I have told you before it come to pass," said the Saviour, "that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe." "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Are you getting ready for the great day of deliverance? The omens are rapidly thickening of the coming storm which is to culminate in the day of final deliverance and destruction.

Which Day Is the Sabbath?

THIS is a question over which there is much discussion. The people in the pews are giving it study, and are appealing to pastors for light as to the Scriptural warrant for observing a different day from the one Jesus observed. Just why His example in this matter should be set aside is not clear to them.

The practise of the people, or the opinions of scholars, are not conclusive on the question. In religious matters, the majority are usually wrong. The only source of infallible appeal on this question is the Scriptures of truth.

"What says the Bible, the blessed Bible?

This should my only question be.

Teachings of men so often mislead us!

What says the book of God to me?"

Appealing for light to the rock of Scripture, we read: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man servant, nor thy maid servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it." Ex. 20: 8-11.

There are some *human* laws on the statute-books about keeping a day, but this is the only *divine Sabbath law* in existence. Written with the finger of God, and handed down amid the thunders of Sinai, in glory and majesty unparalleled since the fall of man, God settles the Sabbath controversy by declaring that the *seventh day* is the Sabbath.

Nowhere in all the canon of Scripture has this divine Sabbath law been changed or abrogated. The seventh day, therefore—not Sunday—is the Sabbath. Its claims are binding upon all men, in all ages, and in all lands; and in the keeping of God's commandments there is great reward.

G. B. T.

False Sentiments of Peace and the Warring Nations

BOTH ARE SIGNS OF OUR
TIMES—THE DELUSION OF
ARMAMENTS IS BROKEN

By S. B. Horton



ONE OF THE BIG BRITISH FIELD-GUNS PLACED IN POSITION IN FRANCE

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THE Scriptures give as a conspicuous sign the cry of "peace and safety" among the nations. We read in Micah 4, the first part of the chapter, that in the last days many nations shall come and say certain things, among which will be, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks." We also find that Paul says, in 1 Thess. 5:1-3, in reference to the day of the Lord, that "when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them."

DEPENDING ON PEACE TREATIES

It has been thought, before the present titanic struggle in Europe broke upon a stupefied world, that with the existence of international peace treaties, together with the great plans for periodical meetings at the Hague by representatives of the nations, war would be a remote possibility. A large proportion of the peace-loving people throughout the world were unprepared for the coming of the present European war.

A DELUSION BROKEN

But the present death grapple in Europe has swept away several delusive provisions which have been entertained by those looking for universal peace, one of which was that a strong armament is a guarantee of peace. In other words, it was thought that the more heavily the nations armed themselves, the less likelihood would there be of war, because of the fact that the horribleness in prospect would be so great as to dissuade the nations from drawing sword.

Colonel Roosevelt recently gave a pronouncement upon the subject of peace treaties in which he closes a long article with the statement: "Neither the existing Hague court, nor any peace treaties of the existing type, will exert even the slightest influence in saving from disaster any nation that does not preserve the virile virtues and the long-sightedness that will enable it by its own might to guard its own honor, interest, and national life."

However, many are assuming that the Bible, in the above text from Micah, predicts universal and permanent peace among the nations. European statesmen are quoted as saying that overtures of peace can not

be entertained until there is a likelihood of militarism giving way to permanent peace.

CASTING SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES

A very significant incident came to light recently in Washington in connection with the signing of twenty-nine peace treaties by the ambassadors and ministers from as many nations. The secretary of state, Mr. Bryan, secured a number of obsolete swords and scabbards, the blades of which he had made into miniature plowshares, recalling the Biblical text, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares."

He had the text placed upon these plowshares, and distributed them among the diplomats as paper weights, intending that they should be reminders of "the better way," as Mr. Bryan expressed it.

We also read, in the daily prints, of some factories in Europe which had heretofore been manufacturing agricultural implements, now turning their energies to the manufacture of war implements. These things

must appear to the Bible student as very significant of the times in which we live. It becomes the duty of every individual to study, as never before, God's revelation with reference to the things of the world and their ultimate end.

A STONE CUT WITHOUT HANDS

The prophecy in Daniel 2 says that "a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them in pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."

Again in Revelation this 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.

WHEN PEACE WILL FINALLY COME

There can be no international peace until all the units which go to make up the nations shall have the Prince of peace formed within, the hope of glory, and shall follow His teaching in regard to loving their neighbors as themselves. We should be thankful that the time is not far distant when the Prince of peace will come, and bring to those who are looking for Him—and only such—everlasting salvation. Then shall they go with Him to the mansions He is now preparing in the skies.

The present war, while not Armageddon, portends in that direction; and the peace-and-safety cry, together with the war spirit, forms a two-part sign of the times in which we live, namely, the last days.



Photo by Underwood & Underwood, N. Y.

SHEIL-UL-ISLAM, THE "POPE" OF THE MOHAMMEDANS

He is the center of interest in the possibility of stirring up a "holy war" since Turkey has become a party to the general European struggle.

O THAT thou hadst harkened to My commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea.—Isaiah.

The CONDITION of the DEAD

The Wicked Dead Are Not in Torments—Dead Christian Mothers Are Not Sorrowing over Their Wayward Sons—Death Compared to Sleep—The Resurrection Breaks the Tomb

By L. D. SANTEE

I DO not want to believe that the dead are conscious between death and the resurrection. It brings in so many unhappy features, that with all my heart I thank Him who has said, "The dead know not anything" (Eccl. 9:5)—who has assured us, in His word, of their unconsciousness.

Those who find comfort in the belief that the dead retain their faculties, have not considered all that it involves. Ever since my earliest memory, friends have been dropping out of my life. Like broken urns, they strew the pathway of the years. "God's acre" holds them, and I mourn their loss.

NOT NOW IN PAIN

Some died Christians; but by far the greater number were lovers of sinful pleasures, and unconverted. I do not wish to think that they are now in unutterable pain, the nerves quivering in untold agony—that while life is sweet to me, their condition holds horrors that language can not tell or heart imagine.

The larger number of my friends were not Christians. Is not your experience the same? Go out into the graveyard. Visit the familiar mounds. Affection has chiseled their names on the marble. Love calls them up one by one; but while fond memory fills the eyes with tears, and your heart holds them all, you know, of the most of them, that they are peacefully sleeping and unconscious, or that they are now in agonizing torment. Which had you rather believe?

While we hope that our friends are in heaven, we think of those only who are saved, and forget the condition of the rest. Do you not prefer that Christ should say of them as He said of Lazarus, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth"? John 11:11.

NOT BEWAILING THEIR WAYWARD SONS

Have you thought of the real condition of those even who you hope are in heaven? There joy is supreme. "In Thy presence is fulness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." Ps. 16:11. My imagination shows me the battlements of heaven lined with the blessed, their beautiful eyes dark with the shadow of an infinite sorrow as they look earthward. The mother who has toiled for her children until the vital cord was loosed, sees, from on high, her lessons forgotten, while neglect, degradation, and evil influences are ruining those whom she loves better than her life. Other little ones suffer from cruelty and brutality, while the mother is in glory, and sees it all.

THE MOTHER SEES IT NOT

Such a condition can not be. The woes of earth would darken heaven if the dead were conscious and knew what is transpiring here on the earth. Thank God, this picture will never be realized.

How much better is God's way! "He giveth His beloved sleep." Ps. 127:2. Job says of those in their graves, "There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest." Job 3:17. Inspiration generally speaks of death as a sleep.

The book of Job is supposed to be the first

book written by inspiration, and it speaks of death in these words: "They shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep." Job 14:12. The Lord said to Moses, "Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers." Deut. 31:16. I will copy some expressions from the record of the kings of Israel: "Solomon *slept* with his fathers." 1 Kings 11:43. "Rehoboam *slept* with his fathers." 1 Kings 14:31. "Abijam *slept* with his fathers." 1 Kings 15:8. "Asa *slept* with his fathers." 1 Kings 15:24.

Daniel uses the same expression in Dan. 12:2: "Many of them that *sleep* in the dust of the earth shall awake." The New Testament is full of evidence that death is a sleep. Nothing could be plainer than the account of the death of Stephen: "And when he had said this, he fell *asleep*." Acts 7:60. Again we repeat the words of the Saviour in John 11:11, "Our friend Lazarus *sleepeth*." The fifteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians is full of the sleep of the dead, and of the awaking, or the resurrection. Verse 6: "Some are fallen asleep." Verse 18: "Then they also



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POWERFUL FIELD SEARCH-LIGHT OF THE FRENCH ARMY, MOUNTED ON A MOTOR TRUCK

which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." Read verse 20: "Them that slept." Again, verse 51: "We shall not all sleep."

WOULD NOT HAVE US IGNORANT ABOUT THE DEAD

1 Thess. 4:13: "I would not have to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." Further proof is unnecessary. If the subject is not already plain, language can not teach it. In death we, like Stephen, fall asleep. "This we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep." 1 Thess. 4:15. Those who are here said to be asleep, in the next verse are called "the dead in Christ." In sleep we are unconscious. Read Eccl. 9:6: "Their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished." The preceding verse declares, "The dead know not anything."

When I walk in the quiet cemetery, I think: "Of all that lie here, not one is suffering. They are sleeping until God shall awaken them in the resurrection." The psalmist says, "I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with Thy likeness." Ps. 17:15. No sainted mother in heaven, grieving over the woes of earth! She rests from her labors. Rev. 14:13. Truly God's way is best.

A "Strange Act" for Jehovah

(Continued from page 6)

A CALL TO REPENTANCE

This terrible war now on is another call to repentance to all men everywhere. The door of mercy is still open. A day hastens when it will be closed, and that forever.

Seventh-day Adventists have been telling the world that trouble was coming. They have said that war, with its awful results, would ere long burst upon the world, despite all that was said regarding universal peace. They are not pessimistic alarmists. They simply preach the truth of God, that which He has recorded in His word. And that Word will surely come to pass. This people wish that it might be peace and peace only. But there will be no peace so long as the kingdoms of earth exist in their sinful state. There is no peace in sin. War is bound up in sin. It has always been so. There was even war in heaven, for sin once entered there. When sin is forever wiped out, then, and not until then, will there be peace.

CHRIST ABOUT TO SET UP HIS KINGDOM

We are now down in the time when Jesus is about to receive His kingdom. This, we believe, will take place in heaven during this generation. It will be while Germany, France, England, Spain, and other nations in Europe are living, active nations; for God has said, "In the days of those kings [these kings above mentioned] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people." Dan. 2:44. The Lord is getting ready to do this, to take the scepter; and the sure word is that when He does, all earthly nations are to be "broken in pieces together," and are to become "like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors," to be carried "away," "so that no place was found for them."

These events are beginning to take place. The serious question is, Are we ready for the scenes that are surely to follow?

The "day of the Lord," this "time of trouble," is hanging over the world. The definite day when Jesus will return is a secret of God, but the *approximate* time is foretold. This feature will follow in a later number.

Light and Its Source

WHEN we speak of light, we naturally think of the sun; but whence does the sun derive its light? Three days before the sun appeared, light shed its rays upon this earth. Gen. 1:3, 16. God is light, and all light comes from Him.

That which we perceive with the natural eye is but a reflection of God's brightness. When we sit down in the sunlight, we are literally sitting in the glory of the Lord. It is sweet to kneel in the rainbow rays from the throne, and to feel in the heart the vivifying, enlightening, and healing beams of the Sun of Righteousness.

Those who read and study the prophecies of God's word daily, have a light which shines in a dark place. 2 Peter 1:19. The world to-day is wrapped in spiritual darkness. The call to the church is, "Arise and shine." The prayer of every child of God should be, "O send out Thy light and Thy truth."

ELIZA H. MORTON.

A WORD TO OUR READERS

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THE DESOLATING INFLUENCE OF EUROPE'S WAR

NO generation of men have had the opportunity of studying the devastating actualities of war, as have the present succession of the race. Not only do those suffer and die who are absolutely engaged in field conflict, but the ravages of war extend to distant countries, and involve those who take no part with either side in the strife at arms. This must necessarily be the case; for all these distant countries are in some measure dependent on those engaged in the strife as customers for the products of their fields and workshops.

SUFFERING IN JERUSALEM

But in the midst of national contest over some fancied grievance, every energy is expended in the interest of individual claims, to the detriment of commercial intercourse. This leaves the neutral countries lacking in traffic, and plunges them into want bordering on destitution. Late word from the far East tells of suffering even in the Holy Land on account of the present European conflict. So great, indeed, is the distress in Palestine, that the *American Israelite*, of Cincinnati, pleads with all classes of American Hebrews to join in a general relief movement.

This was the condition before the mobilization of the Turkish army, which latter movement is sure to bring about even worse circumstances. As quoted in the *Literary Digest* of November 14, the *American Israelite* says that the Palestine orange, wine, and almond crops, worth about \$600,000, are entirely non-marketable, and wage-earners are facing starvation. Many Jews in that land entirely depend on charitable gifts, which have hitherto largely come from Hungary, Poland, and Russia. These gifts have now ceased, and this leaves that class in a most wretched situation.

CONFISCATING SUPPLIES FOR THE ARMY

Besides all this, since the mobilization of the Turkish troops, that power has not only drafted all able men between the ages of twenty and forty-five to serve in the army, but it has also pillaged stores and all sorts of business places for army supplies. Of course the prices of food have soared above the reach of those who are in the common walks of life, and disease follows in the wake of this destitution. It is also rumored that at the time of sending the afore-mentioned communication, there was only flour enough in the city of Jerusalem to last a month.

THE PROPHET'S VIVID VISION

Truly the horrors of war are beyond just estimation by those who are not direct sufferers from it. Only in one way can these horrors be conceived, and that is by the mind's being opened by direct influence of God's Holy Spirit. Even then, one would undoubtedly feel much as did the prophet of old. Having received from God a prophetic view of the time just preceding the closing of earth's history, he cried out in deep anguish: "I am pained at my very heart; . . . I can not hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war." Jer. 4: 19.

LOOKING BEYOND THE DISTRESS TO THE REMEDY

The prophet follows with war's terrible results, in this strain: "Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled." But this was not all. He looked beyond this distress of nations, to witness the remedy. He saw no wisdom among men to stay the awful blemish of carnage, and so but one way was at hand in which Jehovah Himself could close the dreadful spectacle. That was by closing earth's sinful history. This part of the frightful pageant then came in view, which the prophet

most graphically describes as follows: "I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void [that is, reduced to chaos as at the beginning]; and the heavens, and they had no light." All was darkness, because the sun, the moon, and the stars were for the time obscured. No man was to be found, and even the cities had crumbled before the face of the Lord, who was angry with the warring nations. Thus was the whole land made desolate. See verses 23-27.

THE HATREDS OF THE NATIONS

It is possible, and altogether probable, that the spirit of national hatred stirred up by the present war will not fully subside until the closing drama shall be enacted, and the Lord brings about a new era, when wars will no more be known. But this can not be so long as the author of hatred and strife is permitted to live and influence men. He is now evidently doing his best to stir the whole world to passionate strife, preparatory to "the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Rev. 16: 13, 14.

But amid it all, the preparation for the Lord's coming to earth, to end strife and commotion, goes steadily on in the courts of heaven; and at the opportune time, He will come to close earthly scenes, and usher in the reign of heaven, by wiping out every vestige of sin, through the cleansing process of fire. 2 Peter 3: 10. Then out of its ashes will come forth the "new earth," wherein righteousness will dwell, and there shall be no more war. Happy day! May its advent speed! J. O. C.

THE WOUNDED IN BATTLE

THE enormity of the damage to human life in the European war is indicated to some extent in the meager accounts that reach us from time to time of the difficulties in caring for the wounded. In one city after another, we are told, all public buildings, such as schools, churches, lodging-houses, etc., are used as hospitals. Private homes are required also in large numbers for the same purpose. In some sections the buildings in the cities are not sufficient, and farmhouses in the country are turned into temporary hospitals to care for the constant stream of wounded that are brought to the rear from these battles that are raging so furiously in so many parts of Europe.

When we used to have to do our work "by hand," it took a long time to hew out logs and boards and shape them with the mere strength of human muscles; but when steam and electricity were applied to machines, a few men in a very short time could accomplish more than large numbers would have done under the old methods. The inventive genius of man has devised machine guns and other deadly weapons of warfare. These have been supplemented by means of communication that enable armies to move so rapidly from place to place that they are kept in an almost constant death struggle. The battle now in progress in northern France has continued without interruption for about a month. Such a thing was never known before in the history of the world, and the slaughtering and wounding of men and the destruction of property is something terrible beyond description.

As these scenes are wrought into actual life and made a reality in the world, who can doubt, on reading the words of the prophet Jeremiah, that he had a most realistic view of what is now occurring? His words are: "My anguish, my anguish! I am pained at my very heart; my heart is disquieted in me; I can not hold my peace; because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is laid waste: suddenly are my tents destroyed, and my curtains in a moment." Jer. 4: 19, 20.

Question Corner

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

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.

57—BEGINNING OF THE SABBATH

When does the Sabbath commence, and why?
L. C. C.

The day is marked off, in Genesis 1, by the evening and the morning, beginning at the evening, and ending at the evening. In Lev. 23:32, where instruction is given in regard to one of the sabbaths, we read, "From even unto even, shall ye keep your sabbath." The real question, then, is as to when the evening begins. This is quite clearly shown in the first chapter of Mark, the fourth of Luke, and the eighth of Matthew. The passage in Mark will probably be sufficient. The parallel passages can be easily looked up from this.

The Jews did not bring the sick to be healed on the Sabbath day. Their traditions would not allow them to do so, and they waited until the Sabbath was over. The time the Sabbath was over was evening, and the time evening began was at the setting of the sun. Therefore we read, "At even, when the sun did set, they brought unto Him all that were sick." This certainly makes it very clear that the evening began with the setting of the sun.

The same thing is clearly implied in the thirteenth chapter of Nehemiah. The children of Israel were allowing strangers to come into Jerusalem and sell goods on the Sabbath day. Nehemiah truly felt that that day belonged to the Lord, and that Jerusalem was held in trust by God's people, and that the Sabbath ought to be kept. Therefore he set a watch by the gates, so that the gates should be closed. The time when these gates were to be closed was thus stated in verse 19: "It came to pass that, when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut, and commanded that they should not be opened till after the Sabbath." We can understand that with the high walls of ancient times, when the sun was setting, the place where darkness would begin would be in the heavy shadows against the wall. This is perfectly in harmony with the quotation from Mark, that the evening began when the sun set.

It is true that there are those who have thought the Sabbath ought to close by clock time, but there is a reason why the Lord has placed its beginning and close at the setting of the sun. In Gen. 1:14 we read, "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years." The greater light, the sun, was to rule the day. That would be a clock to men wherever man could properly live on this earth. It would be a timepiece that would never get out of order. It would be applicable in all the nations of the earth. That would not be true as regards clocks. Men had no way to measure time anciently as they do now. They measured it by the sun, and there are nations that do about the same still. They can never make a mistake regarding that; and the Lord so regulated His Sabbath that nature itself would indicate the time of its beginning.

58—NOT TASTE DEATH TILL THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Please explain Mark 9:1: "There be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power."
J. R. R.

The prophecy of Jesus was fulfilled about a week later. Compare with Luke 9:27, 28. The transfiguration of our Lord was a miniature representation of His coming and kingdom. When our Lord comes, there will be first His own glorious person, and then His people, some of whom will have been raised from the dead immortal, and others changed to immortality without tasting death. See 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:16, 17. These two classes were represented at the transfiguration. Jesus the King was there, "trans-

figured before them; and His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light." Matt. 17:2. He was not alone; for "there talked with Him two men, who were Moses and Elijah; who appeared in glory." Luke 9:30, 31. Moses stood as the representative of those who will be raised from the dead. See the reference to his resurrection when Michael, or the Son of God, raised him from the dead. Jude 9. It is the voice of Christ, the Archangel, that raises the dead. 1 Thess. 4:16; John 5:28, 29. Elijah represented those who will be translated without seeing death. 2 Kings 2:1, 11, 12. Peter, who was present, declares that this scene was a manifestation of "the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." See 2 Peter 1:16-18. Each one of the gospel writers who records the transfiguration—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—speaks of it in connection with the promise of Jesus.

59—DRAGON, BEAST, AND FALSE PROPHET

What are the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet of Rev. 16:13?
P. D. L.

The dragon of Revelation is designated in chapter 12:9 as the great dragon, the old serpent, that is called the devil, and Satan. There would be included with him all those who are identified with him, particularly his angels, perhaps the heathen powers of earth. The beast is presented to us in chapter 13 of Revelation as that great system of church and state government which has cursed the world from Babylon to the present time, the union of church and state which persecutes the people of God. One phase of the beast—one of its heads—is papal. The false prophet is the two-horned beast of Rev. 13:11-17, which works miracles, and turns the world back to the worship of the first beast in its restored papal phase.

60—REGARDING WOMEN

Will you kindly comment on 1 Cor. 11:5, 6, 10, 13, and also on 1 Cor. 14:34, 35, in the Question Corner?
E. C. B.

1. If we could place ourselves in Corinth in the time of the apostle, we would see much reason for his instructions which does not apply now. Corinth was one of the wickedest if not the wickedest city in the apostle's day. Its position and commerce brought to it every form of idolatry and corruption, and licentious men and wanton women from all the world. In the language of that time, to "Corinthianize" was to play the wanton. There were idolatrous women, priestesses, devoted religiously to lives of abandon. They appeared in public with disheveled hair and frantic actions. The best classes of women, Jews, Romans, Greeks, appeared in public veiled.

2. It is a fact that God's Spirit rested upon women in all ages, and they prophesied, talked, witnessed, sang for Him. See Ex. 15:20, 21; Judges 4:4, 5; 5:1; 2 Kings 22:14-20; Joel 2:28, 29; Luke 2:36-38; Acts 18:26; 21:9. It was therefore perfectly right for women to speak in a proper way in public.

3. What the apostle taught was that the women in the Corinthian church should not go uncovered, like the shameless women of the world, or do anything that would not show just regard for the Lord's order. Some of them seem to have failed in this respect, and disorder was rampant. Different countries and different customs would have demanded different instruction. We may be sure that if the apostle were talking to unwise women living in a city or country where the shameless ones and wantons wore veils, and respectable women went unveiled, save in native and becoming modesty, he would give different instruction.

4. The basis of all his instruction is found just before in his letter (there were no chapters or divisions in it till modern times): "Whatsoever

ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Cor. 10:31. In all things, Christian women should by their modesty and deportment commend the gospel of Christ.

Regarding 1 Cor. 14:34, 35 there is help in the suggestion that the apostle is answering an objector who has uttered verses 34, 35. The apostle answers this objection, "What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?" Surely he would not forbid women to speak when he had just before given instruction as to how they should appear in public.

61—NEW MOONS AND SABBATHS

Why were the new moons kept years ago? Why are they not now kept? And why will they be observed in the new earth? Isaiah 66.
L. W. M.

The feasts of new moons anciently were designed to keep monthly remembrance of the Giver of all blessings, as it was from the moon that the yearly feasts were reckoned. A nation could keep such a feast much better than could individuals scattered all over the world, under all kinds of limitations, as Christians have always been. The sacrifices of that day, too, like all others, met their fulfilment in the fulness of our Lord. The Scriptures do not say that a new moon festival will be held in the new earth. There will simply be the monthly gatherings for worship marked by the new moon, when the tree of life yields its various fruits. Compare Rev. 22:2. One of the best answers for the observance of ancient feasts in the present dispensation is that nowhere does the Lord require it. Isa. 66:23 could be rendered, "From one month to another, and from one Sabbath to another."

62—IMMORTALITY

Was man created immortal, and did he lose immortality when he disobeyed?
J. R. R.

Man was created neither mortal nor immortal. He was a candidate for immortality, incorruptibility. If by faith he had perfected the incorruptible character, God would have bestowed the immortal body. An immortal being could not die. If man was created mortal, he was subject to death, and therefore a sinner. God gave man a perfect physical being, with no taint of corruption in him. He gave man His own life, by the power of which, through faith, man could have developed a righteous character. But that eternal life of God man held conditionally, not absolutely. Man yielded to sin and became mortal. But to mortal man Christ gives eternal life through faith (John 3:16; 1 John 5:11-13), that man may win incorruptible character, and thus immortality, or eternal deathlessness. Immortality is God's stamp of an incorruptible character.



SYSTEMATIC BIBLE STUDY

IN our reading this week and next, we will have, among other things, the book of the prophet Joel. Peter referred to this prophet in one of his great discourses, and his utterances are declared to be for the last days. It is interesting to note the prediction Joel makes in regard to the insect pests, also the great war spirit that will arise among the nations, in the closing hours of time.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 12

Ezra 9, 10
Nehemiah 1-13
Hosea 8-14
Joel 1

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

Active and Successful Evangelism in Central Africa

Worshippers of Demons Coming into the Light — The Effective Work of Industrial Schools —
Devoted Missionaries Planting Torches of Light and Truth
All Through the Dark Continent

By W. C. DUNSCOMBE, M. D.

DURING our recent tour among our mission stations, we could not help but be impressed with the thought that our industrial mission farms have now reached the place where they are prepared to carry forward the message in Africa with the loud cry.

When we survey this mighty continent, with its vast distances, and consider the smallness and feebleness of our force, we are compelled to wonder, at times, how the truth can go to all the tribes before the end shall come. It has heretofore seemed to me that many years must elapse before the unhealthy regions, far in advance of any railway or steamship facilities, can ever be evangelized. The message comes from the home land that no new stations can be established just now,— that the treasury is empty, and that even with the existing stations, it is a severe strain to meet the appropriations. But when we actually come in contact with the different parts of the field, there can be no room for doubt or despondency.

RESCUED FROM WORSHIP OF DEMONS

Our work has advanced to a stage where we can already see ways and means whereby it shall be advanced to a glorious triumph. Rhodesia is that vast tract of land lying partly in and partly near the center of Africa. All over this country are native kraals. In the southern part is our oldest established mission, at Solusi, not far from Bulawayo. To the north, two hundred miles beyond Victoria Falls, is the Barotse Mission. In the eastern part we have the Somabula (Glendale) and Tsungwesi. All these stations have now been established for several years. They are manned by experienced and tried workers.

At nearly all these stations, training schools are established. Our forces are becoming well organized; and hundreds of natives who, until a short time ago, were worshiping evil spirits, are becoming converted, and are receiving an evangelistic training.

INDUSTRIES AND NATIVE WORKERS

As we look back to twenty-five years ago, and consider how small and how weak most of our schools in the United States were, we can look forward with confidence to the time, in the very near future, when these industrial schools in Africa will be turning out every year hundreds of workers who shall penetrate Africa's remotest bounds.

But we do not have to depend upon the work's being pushed throughout Africa from these Rhodesian stations. On the east coast, among the Zulus in Natal, we have another center at Spion Kop. Further north, in Nyasaland, we have a well-organized central training school, with thirty-nine out-stations.

In German East Africa and British East Africa the work is well started. We have just received word from Brother Rogers that he has selected a site for a new station near Abercorn, in the southern extremity of Rhodesia. It is right next to the Belgian Congo, in the thickly populated territory, and undoubtedly many natives in the Belgian

Kongo can be evangelized from this station. Last year a Belgian brother began work in the Belgian Congo itself. In Egypt, in Abyssinia, in the Barbary States, and on the Gold Coast, there are well-established centers.

One of our oldest missions is among the Kafirs in the southern part of Cape Colony.

So now, by the providence of God, in the north, in the south, in the east, and in the west, we have these industrial schools planted

The Pitiful Cry of the Lost

By L. D. SANTEE

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19: 10.

O, THE lands that in shadow are lying,
Where no gospel has ever been given,
Where the heathen in darkness are dying,
With groping hands reached up to heaven!
All the joys that may come on the morrow,
By an echo of sadness are crossed;
For my heart hears with infinite sorrow
The pitiful cry of the lost.

I would go where dark islands are lying,
The light of God's love to uphold,
I would tell them of Christ and His dying,
And point to the Good Shepherd's fold.
I would tell them how sins are forgiven,
Of redemption at infinite cost.
I would tell them that Christ came from heaven
To seek and to succor the lost.

I think, with a tender emotion,
Of those who leave children and wife
For the lonely lands over the ocean,
That love the truth better than life.
'Tis for this they on wild seas are sailing,
'Tis for this that the deserts are crossed.
Ah, they hear in far lands the sad wailing,
The pitiful cry of the lost!

They have gone to those lands in the distance,
Their love casting out every fear;
For they know that an endless existence
Will be theirs when the Lord shall appear.
'Twill be theirs to ascend into glory,
With no more stormy billows to cross;
For they've told to the world the glad story,
And the gospel has gone to the lost.



a few hundred miles apart. The new region where Brother Rogers has gone, which is about five hundred miles north of our present northernmost Rhodesian station, would almost seem to complete our chain of stations in central Africa.

BEACON LIGHTS IN EVERY QUARTER

It seems but a few years since the great lakes of Central Africa were first discovered by Livingstone and Stanley. Who can doubt that God has been directing His missionaries to push out into these various parts, until the lighted beacons can now be seen in every quarter? Who can doubt that these beacons will daily shine brighter and brighter, until the beams from one shall reach the

beams from the next, and the whole of darkest Africa shall be lighted by the glory of God? We are surely coming to the time of the loud cry, and soon shall our Saviour come in the clouds of heaven to gather home the harvest.

Another very encouraging thought is that the conditions on our stations are every year becoming more healthful. Every one who has followed our mission work in Africa can remember numbers of our missionaries who have succumbed and died, and others who have been in feeble health since, as a result of continued attacks of malaria or of black water fever. But now the conditions are becoming better. Our missionaries are learning how to take better care of themselves. As the land is cultivated, the mosquitoes gradually disappear.

MIASMIC REGIONS BECOMING HEALTHFUL

The Solusi Mission, where several of our workers died, is now a healthful place. In the last four or five years, several of our workers have contracted black water fever in the Barotse Mission. Sister Anderson is just now recuperating from a severe attack. But the sanitary measures proposed will doubtless make even this a healthful station in the near future.

Another very encouraging feature is that our stations are rapidly becoming self-supporting. In the past, they have received money to build houses and to buy cattle. But these necessities have now been met, to a large extent, and the money formerly appropriated to them can be appropriated toward the work in other parts of the world.

The War in Haiti Does Not Stop the Work

NINE months we have been in the throes of a revolution, and the end is not yet; but our courage and patience are still good, for we know that God lives and has a watch-care over His people to-day the same as He had in former years.

Although it has not been my privilege to get out into the interior to baptize souls ready for the ordinance, reports coming to me from our native workers indicate that quite a number are getting ready. In one place nine are reported; in another, ten; in still another, eight; and from the remote interior come reports of two or three in companies. Thus notwithstanding Satan's endeavor to hinder, souls are still accepting Jesus and His gracious promises. Nevertheless we feel that our entire dependence is upon God, who in His mercy allows us to help carry forward the work for which Jesus was willing to lay down His life.

I have not had opportunity to hear all that God has done in protecting our people here, and perhaps I never will while on this earth; yet a few instances have come to my knowledge, and I will report them. In the first place, thousands of people have been

put to death in this revolution, yet not one of our brethren has lost his life. One was shot in the foot; but when a soldier aimed at him again to kill him, another man stepped between, saying: "Do not hurt him. He is a good man." Another was three times ordered shot; but every time, those around him were shot, and he escaped. This gave him opportunity to assist the wounded after the battle. Another was sent to prison to be shot the next day; but the opposing party came and released him.

Yesterday word came to me that four of like precious faith, but not yet baptized, were caught and bound with ropes, to compel them to serve as soldiers; but they refused to carry arms, saying that the God whom they serve had taught them not to kill, and that they would rather die than kill any one, it being their mission to save and not destroy men's lives. We are wondering as to the outcome, and hope that all who read these lines will pray for Haiti and its people.

ALBERT F. PRIEGER.

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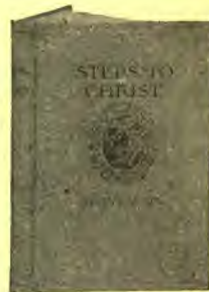
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The Uselessness of Alcohol

Not a Necessity in Medicine — Its Effects in Typhoid and Pneumonia — Influence on the Unborn Child

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IT is the general impression that a physician can not dispense with alcohol in the practise of his profession, and that alcohol is absolutely necessary in the manufacture, preservation, and dispensation of medicine.

IS ALCOHOL INDISPENSABLE?

Alcoholic beverages have been used as intoxicants from times immemorial; but since the eighth century, alcohol has been separated from the other ingredients by distillation. From the fact that many of our tinctures are made and preserved in alcohol, the idea has become general that these drugs must necessarily be prepared in this particular way. But in the last few years, the tinctures have not been used as much as previously, for they can not be administered with as much accuracy in dosage. Most physicians now use tablets and the alkaloidal preparations instead of the tinctures.

ALCOHOL IN TYPHOID AND PNEUMONIA

Formerly alcohol was used in the treatment of typhoid in the low and debilitated state; but since alcohol has been used less, and hydrotherapy more, the mortality from this disease has been greatly lessened. Where the patients have been properly treated, drugs are very little administered by those who are using modern methods. If hydrotherapy is instituted early, there is no place for stimulants except where there are complications. When these complications arise, there are other stimulants that are more valuable than alcoholic preparations.

A few years ago, alcohol was frequently used in the treatment of pneumonia; but of late, closer observations have developed the fact that pneumonia is much more serious where individuals have been accustomed to drinking alcoholic beverages.

Dr. C. K. Stilman investigated 200 cases of pneumonia in alcoholics, to ascertain the influence of drinking habits on the prognosis. He divides the cases into two classes: "1. Free drinkers who show tremors, nervousness, and usually signs of chronic gastritis. 2. Excessive drinkers who show in addition signs of cardio-vascular changes, frequent irregularity of the heart, pallor, and more pronounced signs of degeneracy, as shown by the changed facial expression and listlessness of demeanor."

HIGHEST WITH THE HARD DRINKERS

"Of the 200 cases collected by the author, 121 were 'free' and 79 were excessive drinkers. Of the 121 'free' drinkers, twenty-two died, a mortality of 18.1 per cent. Of the 79 excessive drinkers, fifty-two died, a mortality of 65.8 per cent. An analysis of the foregoing figures leads to some very interesting conclusions. Most striking of these is the evidence presented that youth does not make for a low death-rate when the subject is excessively alcoholic. The figures seem to indicate that the inebriate of twenty-five years has no better chance of recovery than the toper of middle age."

This can be explained from the fact that when a person is afflicted with pneumonia, one or more of the lobes of the lungs are greatly engorged with blood and serum; and if alcohol is administered it increases the engorgement, because of its paralyzing influence upon the vasomotor nerves that control the fine capillaries, and thus increases the amount of blood in the small blood-vessels.

ALCOHOL AS A HEART STIMULANT

Alcoholic preparations have been suggested as heart tonics and heart stimulants; but most physicians resort to preparations that are more effective and less injurious. Digitalis, strophanthus, and strychnia are used much more freely by the medical profession, and are found to be more reliable. In fact, it is definitely known that abnormal heart conditions are brought on by alcohol, and it is one of the chief factors in producing arteriosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries. Then if alcohol has this deleterious effect upon the circulatory system, the results would be the opposite of those we desire to produce.

ITS USE WITH SNAKE BITES

Alcohol is generally regarded as indispensable in cases of snake bite, as it is supposed to neutralize the effect of the poisons that have been inoculated in the system by the fangs of the reptile. But alcohol does not retain this position with the up-to-date physician. He looks upon permanganate of potash as being far more effective in combating the effects of bites of insects or reptiles.

For bites of reptiles the injured parts should at once be opened with a penknife or any other instrument that may be available, and a saturated solution of permanganate of potash placed in the open wound. A band should be quickly placed around the limb above the injured part, to interfere with the return circulation, and increase bleeding, and in this way wash out the toxic substances. The saturated solution can be injected under the skin in the region of the affected part, or the crystals may be placed in the open wound. The inhalation of aromatic spirits of ammonia is also beneficial where collapse comes in connection with snake bite. Permanganate of potash can be carried in a little two-gram vial, is inexpensive, and can be prepared for use almost instantly. Peroxide of hydrogen is useful in case of insect bites. If alcohol were useful in snake bites, that would not be an argument in favor of its retention among civilized people, inasmuch as snake bite is of such rare occurrence.

FOR CARBOLIC ACID POISONING

Alcohol is a splendid antidote for carbolic acid poisoning. If carbolic acid has been taken in quantities, alcohol will neutralize the poison, and possibly save the individual from death. There is no excuse, however, for retaining one poison to neutralize another, especially when the poison retained

produces many times more deaths than the one to be neutralized. Carbolic acid is not used for a disinfectant so much as formerly, other antiseptics taking its place, and it is seldom used except in the sterilization of surgical knives before operations. Alcohol itself is an antiseptic, and can be used for disinfectant purposes. It is frequently used for thermometers and other instruments. The very fact that it can be used for a disinfectant shows that it is a poison.

ITS USE IN THE LABORATORY

One of the most useful places for alcohol is medical laboratories, where it is used to harden tissues. In making pathological examinations, the tissues are prepared by placing in alcohol of varying strength, for the purpose of extracting all the water from the tissues and leaving them hard, so that they can be mounted and cut before staining. Its use there is very helpful, but not indispensable; for in instantaneous examinations, alcohol is not used in the study of pathological tissues. Dr. Brooks has said that with a little experience, it could be eliminated from the laboratory, and would be hardly missed. Alcohol will dehydrate the living tissue as well as the dead. It is poisonous to any tissue with which it comes in contact. The cells, instead of being bathed in a fresh nutritive agent, where alcohol is taken, are bathed with an alcoholic solution, which interferes with the oxidation and elimination. This accounts for the users' becoming inactive by the replacing of muscular fibers with fatty tissue.

ALCOHOL ACTIVE ON THE BLOOD-VESSELS

When alcohol is taken into the system even in small doses, it acts upon the small blood-vessels, causing them to become relaxed and dilated, through paralysis of the vasomotor nerves. It also dilates the capillaries of the internal organs, and allows them to become engorged, especially if the surface of the body is exposed to cold. The food is not so readily oxidized, and the constructive changes and eliminative processes are hindered. It also lessens the activity of the white blood cells, and causes the individual to become more susceptible to disease. The immunity that is acquired by the body in different ways is lessened. Instead of assisting the body to combat disease, it lessens the resistance of the body by interfering with the natural immunity.

Dr. Lambert divides alcoholics into three classes: 1. The industrial drinkers, who take liquor as a stimulant to make their working capacity greater; and for a time they may believe they can do more work, but ere long they find they have to increase the dosage in order that they may keep up with the standard. 2. The convivial drinkers, who go frequently on sprees, and sooner or later eventuate into chronic alcoholism. 3. Those who take liquor for the purpose of drowning their troubles. This class frequently drink on the least provocation, such as sickness or loss of position. Even a cross word from a superior will often make an occasion for a drunk.

DULLING THE FINER EMOTIONS

"The chronic poison by alcohol produces effects similar to those of acute poisoning in its various stages. The lessening of judgment, dulling of the finer emotions, and prominence of the lower instinct, are shown as degeneration of the brain comes on." We

can not judge persons who use alcoholic beverages by a normal man, for they are diseased.

The mind is steadily poisoned by the intake of this narcotic, and we do not expect it to act normally. The alcohol addict can not rearrange events of the past in a way that would give a basis for reaching correct conclusions. The bringing of one idea to the mind does not readily call forth other ideas. Hence we can not expect him to tell the truth. When a man has lost control of his mind, he is also incapable of reforming his ways, therefore should be regarded as an irresponsible subject of pity.

In order to help these individuals, it is absolutely necessary that we have confidence in them, and we should inspire them with a knowledge that we desire to help them break away from this influence that is binding them to the intoxicant from which they would gladly be free if they had the power. It is only the lack of knowledge of what is in their hearts that makes us so unsympathetic in regard to their welfare.

ALCOHOLIC INSANITY

Drs. Church and Peterson, in the paragraph on alcohol in their book on mental diseases, in discussing the etiology of insanity, state: "While the position of auto-intoxication as a factor in etiology is not yet determined, we may say of alcohol that it stands foremost, after heredity, as a single, independent cause (eighteen to twenty per cent in males). Alcoholic insanity commonly develops from chronic alcoholism, from the excessive use of the poison for a long period of time. It is three or four times as frequent as a factor in the insanity of males as of females. Usually it is not difficult to discover the cause of an alcoholic insanity; but should alcoholic abuse be denied, an investigation of the conditions of the viscera will often throw light on the subject (cirrhosis of the liver; fatty heart, chronic gastric catarrh with heavily furred tongue, chronic nephritis and arteriosclerosis). Corroborative evidence will generally be afforded, too, by affections of the nervous system (alcoholic polyneuritis; alcoholic epilepsy; muscular paresis here and there in the hands, face, or tongue; fibrillary tremor of the face and tongue, fine or coarse tremor of the fingers and hands; paresthesias, hyperesthesias, neuralgias; muscæ volitantes, tinnitus aurium, amblyopia, and visual hallucinations). The peculiar psychic degeneration of alcoholism is very characteristic. This consists of gradually weakening memory and will, slowness of perception and judgment, and loss of esthetic and moral sense, with occasional states of depression and excesses of anger."

From a very careful investigation of the above, it will be found that there is only one factor that excels in the production of insanity, and that is heredity. But in studying heredity, we also find that alcohol plays an important part along this line.

ALCOHOL AND THE UNBORN CHILD

Prof. A. Foërl discusses the effect of alcohol upon the development of the race, and especially on the Aryan nation. While we are enjoying a great deal of prosperity, there are many elements tending to the degeneracy of the race. "First, there is a proportionally excessive production of unfit and insufficient propagation of the better types of the race. The best elements of society are taxed to provide for the offspring of the degenerate,

who should not be allowed to multiply at all. A more serious matter is the prevalence of alcoholic habits, which tend directly to the deterioration of the genital glands and the products of their activity."

Before the child is born it is protected from such injuries as fractures, dislocations, etc., but not from the poisons that are taken into the system, which, upon entering the circulation, are carried to every known tissue of the body. "That alcohol is such a poison is well known; and even when taken in small doses for a considerable period, it has a pernicious effect upon the offspring. It differs from food in the fact that its use tends to produce no feeling of satiety, but fosters an unnatural appetite, so that moderation in its use is only to be attained with certainty by entire abstinence, and it is impossible to say how small a quantity can be taken habitually without harm."



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John Wesley Said:

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Signs of the Times

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER 8, 1914

If the Government Could Control

THE Socialists are making considerable comment on the fact that the United States government maintains its soldiers at an average cost, for rations, of thirty cents a day. The government, so they claim, can do this because of its peculiar opportunities for buying; and this is urged as reason for the government ownership of the various lines of commerce and manufacture.

There may be a point to this. However that may be, we leave others to argue it out. But we feel constrained to call attention to the many different kinds of texts that are furnished in this time for discontentment. This is only one of them. When it is affirmed that the government as a great buyer can secure food so cheaply as to be able to feed its men well for thirty cents a day, that naturally produces dissatisfaction.

We may not blame men for being dissatisfied when there is so much cause for reasonable and possibly just complaint; but it does seem absurd, in the light of history, to think that regardless of the slumbering embers of revolution, men should believe that the world is standing in the dawning of the opening day of a golden age.

When habits of thought or expression become popular, men will utter and repeat them without a seeming realization of what they are saying; and for this reason we find the vast majority talking that the world is getting better and better, when everybody knows, when they stop to consider, that there are discussions on every hand which are the forerunners of revolution and strife.

Dens of Thieves

THE state's attorney for Cook County, Illinois, the county in which Chicago is located, has been conducting some extensive investigations in the criminality that has been manifesting itself in that city. His findings are that there is an organization of bandits, and that policemen, as well as paid detectives, are members of this gang of pickpockets. They work on a regular plan, the policeman and the detective protecting the one who is actually doing the stealing.

One member of the gang, frequently a woman, will watch until she can locate on some individual on the street the pocket or receptacle where a watch, a pocketbook, or some other valuable is carried; and then at a given sign some kind of excitement is started, and in the jostling the theft is committed. If the individual calls out that he has been robbed, the policeman who is a party to the game of wickedness frequently arrests the person who has been robbed, in place of arresting the thief. In one case that was specifically mentioned in the reports, the victim caught both of the perpetrators, and called for the police. The policeman led them off to an alarm box to send in a call for the patrol-wagon. Then he conveniently let one of the men get away. He left the other one in charge of the victim of the theft while he ran after the fleeing thief. Of course he was not able to catch him; and when he came back, he found that the other one had got away, and so neither of them was arrested.

The report indicates that Chicago is full of just such work as that. The officers of the law find it very profitable to be in league with these thieving characters. There is no denying the fact that all the great centers of population in the world are full of dens of thieves, and their business is made all the more profitable because of their ability to ally themselves with the police departments and other officials. The stories that are now told of Chicago are simply the repetition of what has been reported over and over again, year after year; and yet our civilization, which has promised so much, does not put these things down. They grow worse and worse; and men who have read history ought to know that such conditions can not continue without bringing destruction to the nations that are engaged in them.

Such degrading corruptions in society always have and always will bring the destruction of

the body politic that permits them. But since they have grown, in their wicked proportions, until they have filled the world, the only hope that can be left to people who will look at these conditions without prejudice, is the second coming of Christ itself. For with these conditions general throughout the world, there is no part of it left to reform the other; and while many well-meaning men and women are doing heroic work in their efforts for reform, the conditions, in spite of them, continue to grow worse.

Not very long ago vice crusades were conducted in Chicago which, it was declared, would cleanse the city, and the news went out that the thing had been actually done; but now we have to be shocked with the information that after all that has been said and done, the great city is still in a desperate situation. God has forewarned us that evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived; and if we will take pains to examine, we will find that the facts are in harmony with God's word.

An Exasperated Laborer

A FEW days ago, in San Francisco, a man shot and instantly killed a big capitalist contractor. The man who did the shooting was rendered desperate because of the condition of himself and wife and two children. He was in poor health. He had done work for the contractor that amounted to something like \$17. Not being able to go to the office on pay-day, he did not secure his money. His illness confined him at home for a little while. Then he went to the contractor for his pay, telling that he and his family were without food and in a starving condition. He went again and again; and finally the contractor gruffly turned him away, and as he claims, struck at him, when he shot and killed him.

The advertising that has been given to the matter has brought hosts of people to supply the wife and the children with an abundance of everything needed, including money. More than half a score of attorneys—some of them leading lights in their profession—have offered their services to the murderer. The newspapers condone the action, and speak in the strongest terms of reproach against the man who was killed. The labor-unions are taking the subject up, and are proposing to present the strongest defense that can be made in behalf of the man under charge of murder.

This incident is calculated to appeal to the sympathies of most people, but our peculiar interest in referring to it is to call attention to the deep-seated spirit of hatred that many men of wealth are bringing upon themselves. There is no defense to be made for this person who held back the honest wages of a man who was not only suffering himself but whose wife and children were starving because he could not get what was justly his due. On the other hand, it is also true that this case may give many other men who have been treated unjustly by exacting employers, license to obtain vengeance in the same manner.

If this case were an isolated one, it would be less worthy of mention; but the country is full of similar ones, and the Bible, in addressing those who would heap together treasures in the last days, says to them:

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5: 1-8.

We already see a little of the popular sentiment in the world against the grinding process of the men of wealth. The heartlessness they have manifested toward their employees is the seed-sowing for the harvest that, according to the

foregoing text, they must soon reap. The crop is sure to follow the sowing of the seed. The effect must follow the cause.

This is not incidental theory, but it is a statement of fact that is supported by the prophetic declaration of the Word itself. When the storm finally breaks, there will be scenes of rioting and revolution that will endanger every member of the whole social fabric; and it behooves men and women to understand the meaning of these things, and to know what they all portend.

The Airship in War

A RECENT despatch says a single bomb dropped from an aeroplane killed thirty men and a large number of horses. The aviator succeeded in striking a detachment of cavalry that was massed together. Another exhibited a part of a torn coat taken from one of sixty soldiers, all of whom had been either killed or wounded by a bomb from the skies.

When we consider this new terror that has been added to war, it gives a deeper expressiveness to the language of Jeremiah, who exclaimed, when viewing through prophetic vision the times in which we are living:

"My anguish, my anguish! I am pained at my very heart; my heart is disquieted in me; I can not hold my peace; because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is laid waste: suddenly are my tents destroyed, and my curtains in a moment." Jer. 4: 19, 20.

Reforming the Psalter

CRITICIZING previous attempts to provide a selection of scriptures suitable for responsive reading, an advertisement of a recent work of the character mentions that a former one retained "even such a sentence as 'The dead praise not the Lord.'" "From this prevailing fault," says the advertisement, "the collection below named is uniquely free."

The fact remains, however, that whether the churches can use such passages in their worship or not, many such are found in the Bible; and it would be more in harmony with Christianity to bring the doctrine into accord with these, than to drop them as "unsuitable." W. H. S.

THERE is much experimenting in this war, both with the various kinds of air-ships and also with the submarines. The weak points in these two classes of destructive weapons will be carefully and scientifically figured out. Their effective power will be rendered more and more terrible and dependable in their destructive work. If ever there was a time when the second coming of Christ should look dear to the soul, and when we should be earnestly praying to be delivered from this barbarous, this wicked, this cruel world, that time is now; and if ever there was a time when the possessors of the blessed hope of the glorious gospel of the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ should press forward in carrying the message of hope and cheer to the ends of the earth, that time is now.

THE shocking cruelties of the Old World war, its wide-spread contagion, and the determination with which it is progressing, ought to lead the people of this world to realize their great mistake in thinking that we are living in times of peace, and that the spirit of the world to-day is the spirit of peace rather than the spirit of war.

DOES it mean anything? Three lines of transatlantic steamers, the White Star, the Ashley and Duniston, and the Merchants-Montreal, have closed their bars and abolished the sale of liquor from their boats. Safety, efficiency, economy, morality, demand it.

To work intensely hard so as to accomplish more before we are called away is often like sewing fast to finish the work before the thread shall run out. A healthy even pace wastes less and accomplishes more.

It is reported that the British have invented a new gun for destroying air-ships. It has been used a few times, so the reports say, and "has proved a fresh terror to the aviators."