

Signs of the Times

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An Anxious and Awestricken World

The Distress of Nations and Their Perplexity—How Quickly the Whole World Was Stirred—A Comforting Climax to End the Strife and Turmoil of This Old Earth

By William A. Spicer



DURING the opening days of the struggle in Europe, the London *Daily Telegraph* thus described the situation: "Every man in every capital looks with feverish anticipation for what the next few hours may bring forth. Human imagination is stunned by so sudden and so unexpected a catastrophe."

That attitude was reflected over half the world within a few days' time. Surely in these things we may see the beginnings, at least, of those times of apprehension which the Saviour described as one of the signs of the end: "And upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; . . . men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Luke 21: 25, 26.

On the outbreak of the trouble in Europe, the feeling of dread and apprehension spread swiftly through the world. It is significant of the greatness of the struggle and the compactness of the world under modern conditions that the most remote places of the earth were set at once in agitation, if not in dismay.

THE QUIET ISLAND STIRRED

Writing to the British journal the *Near East*, from Mount Troodas, a summer resort in the island of Cyprus, an English lady gives us this picture:

"On Troodas a handful of English people look down on the placid sea which circles the island. . . . The weekly mail-boat from Egypt has ceased to run, and telegrams from Aden contain but meager information. . . . A blue sky shines like a burnished mirror; the pine-trees stand in maddening, quiet serenity; . . . birds twitter and call, the woods are green aisles of peace. But Armageddon has cast its shadow. Startling rumors fly about, though Cyprus is under martial law, and a strict

censorship exists. A wild-eyed Turk whispering in the kitchen tells of how the German fleet has been annihilated; the Greek cook implores the panayia (mother of God) to send victory to the arms of England; all the servants concur. Boy scouts, with red bands round their necks, are having a lesson in first aid; babies of six and seven learn how to tie up an artery; they go about with serious, important faces, and childish games are forgotten. . . . Two weeks ago it was a joy to wake on Troodas. . . . Now the mind is jerked back into reality by the stern rein of memory. . . . Such waking is a nightmare, a nightmare that does not fly. . . . So the great tide of war stirs the remotest corners."

In those first days of the war, the president of our West Russian Conference, Elder J. T. Boettcher, was traveling among

Seventh-day Adventist believers in far eastern Siberia. It was at the little town of Iman, evidently in the Amur River district. After telling of a blessed meeting on August 1, with five believers baptized, Brother Boettcher wrote:

"This was the day when the war broke between Germany and Russia. We knew nothing about it, only heard rumors. But next day train loads of soldiers were passing the station. Even though we were thousands of miles from the front, the word to mobilize had reached the uttermost part of the empire. Telegrams were read at the station, and every one asked what it all meant. There was a hush upon the people. At the railway station, thousands of people gathered, making patriotic demonstrations."

FEAR AND APPREHENSION EVERYWHERE

Workers in the far East Indies wrote of agitation among the Oriental peoples. "There is a general feeling of unrest all over our field," wrote Elder F. A. Detamore, of the Malaysia Mission; and a worker in Java reported wild rumors



Boston Photo News Co.

RUINS IN A BELGIAN TOWN WITHIN THE FIGHTING ZONE

A house broken by an earthquake would not be more completely wrecked, and the devastation of war is more terrible.

among the natives, many fleeing to the mountains. The fears were groundless, of course, for Holland was not involved in the conflict, nor her East India possessions brought into danger. But from one end of the world to the other, fear and apprehension came into the hearts of millions.

MOSLEM WORLD SEIZED WITH FEAR

The Beirut correspondent of the London journal *Near East* wrote on October 6 concerning fear and agitation among the Moslem people:

"The Moslem population, anticipating a foreign occupation of the coast, and still laboring under the false belief that the French soldier and sailor do not respect the Moslem woman's privacy, sent all their women folk into the interior. The women themselves were seized with such unreasonable fear that, in order to make sure of room in the crowded morning trains, they spent the night huddled together at the station. The panic soon spread to the Christian element when a mischievous rumor was circulated that the exodus of the Moslem women was the result of preaching in the mosques, and was meant as a preparation for setting the whole town on fire. The educated and enlightened classes finally succumbed to the epidemic when they learned that the German subjects in Beirut were advised also to leave. The Christians fled to the northern part of the Lebanon, which is inhabited almost exclusively by Christians."

And now from day to day in Europe itself, and in portions of Asia and Africa, men and women are meeting all the dreadful scenes of war itself. True, this is the inevitable story of war. It has always broken like a terror from beneath upon men.

NEVER WAS SO MUCH INVOLVED

But never before were conditions such as to involve so many millions in the conflagration. And never before, as the public generally recognizes, were there such world-shaking possibilities involved in any struggle. Multitudes who have been lulled by the peace and safety cry are anxiously inquiring what light the word of God has for the times that they see breaking over the world.

WORDS OF COMFORT FOR THIS TIME

It was for these days that Christ's words of comfort were especially spoken in that sermon giving the signs of His second coming: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. And He spake to them a parable; Behold the fig-tree, and all the trees; when they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away; but My words shall not pass away." Luke 21: 28-33.

Above all the tumult, God lives and reigns. And the promises of God are sure. To an anxious and distressed world, the Lord sends the message of His "everlasting gospel" with the same call to men to put their trust in a living Saviour; and now with the blest exhortation to us to look up and lift up the head with joy, even amidst sorrow or distress or peril, knowing that our redemption draweth nigh.

Churchmen to Dominate

Congress Discussed the Sabbath Question — Politicians Cater to the Voice of the Church — America Reckoned a Catholic Nation — Enforcement of Mark of Beast

By ROSS C. PORTER

This is the second of two articles by Elder Porter presenting evidences that the world is soon to see another manifestation of religious despotism and persecution. Last week he dwelt more particularly upon prophecies in the Bible that foretell it. This week he deals with some things of recent occurrence that show how public sentiment and teaching are growing toward the adoption of state creeds, and hence toward tyranny by the church.

EDITOR.

IN the year 1893, the old order of things was begun in the United States Congress. Senator Quay introduced an amendment to a bill making an appropriation for the Chicago world's fair as follows: "On page 122, line 13, after the word 'act,' moved to insert: 'And that provision has been made by the proper authority for the closing of the exposition on the Sabbath day.'"

"The reasons for the amendment I will send to the desk to be read. The secretary will have the kindness to read from the Book



Photograph by Underwood & Underwood, N. Y.

A group of poor people who have fled from the war zone in Europe. The forlorn appearing little child is in all probability left an orphan, and can not understand why she should be so ruthlessly driven from her home and have to suffer in this way.

of law (the Bible) I will send to the desk, the part enclosed in brackets."

The vice-president: "The part indicated will be read." The secretary read as follows: "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."

The reason here given for the amendment providing for the closing of the world's fair on the Sabbath day, was the Sabbath law of Jehovah. That Sabbath law enjoins rest on the seventh day of the week, which is Saturday.

CONGRESS DISCUSSING THE SABBATH QUESTION

Senator Manderson objected to the wording of the amendment, for the following reasons: "The language of this amendment is that the exposition shall be closed 'on the Sabbath day.' I submit that if the senator from Pennsylvania desires that the exposition shall be closed on Sunday, this language

will not necessarily meet that idea. The Sabbath day is not Sunday. Decisions are abundant upon the proposition that that language does not mean the first day of the week, even in this Christian nation." (Congressional Record, July 12, 1892, page 6694.)

Senator Bowers said, "I desire to move an amendment to the section." The clerk read as follows: "Resolved, that the government exhibits at the world's fair shall not be open to the public on the Sabbath day, which is Saturday." This brought the question of the Bible Sabbath squarely before Congress for discussion. It was a new thing for the United States Congress to enact laws upon religious questions.

Mr. Bowers: "This is a religious question; and Saturday is the only Sabbath day. It was the Sabbath day when Christ was on earth, and it is the Sabbath day now." (Cries of "Vote! Vote!") The question being taken, the chairman said, "The yeas seem to have it."

Mr. Bowers: "I call for a division." The question being taken again, the amendment of Mr. Bowers was rejected; there being yeas 11, and yeas 149. (*Ibid.*, May 27, 1892, page 5204.)

Senator Palmer said: "There are a large number of seventh-day people, who believe that Sunday is not the holy day. There are a great many people who agree with me, that the legislature has no right to dictate to others what day shall be kept as the holy one." (*Ibid.*, page 6752.)

CHURCH THREATENS THE POLITICIANS

Senator Hiscock said: "If I had charge of this amendment in the interests of the Columbian Exhibition, I would write the provision for the closure in any form that the religious sentiment of the country demands, and not stand here hesitating and quibbling about it." (*Ibid.*, page 6755.)

The petitions sent in to Congress by the Presbyterian churches of New York contained the following threat:

"Resolved, That we do hereby pledge ourselves and each other, that we will from this time henceforth refuse to vote for or support for any office or position of trust, any member of Congress, either senator or representative, who shall vote for any further aid of any kind to the world's fair except on conditions named in these resolutions." (*Ibid.*, May 25, 1892, page 5144.)

WOULD CATER TO RELIGIOUS SENTIMENT

The demoralizing effect of the campaign for national Sunday legislation was shown in the House of Representatives. A member of that body, in an interview with a *Chicago Daily Post* representative, is reported to have said:

"The reason we shall vote for it is, I will confess to you, a fear that, unless we do, the church folks will get together, and knife us at the polls; and — well, you know we all want to come back, and we can't afford to take any risks."

"Do you think it will pass the House?"

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INEXPRESSIBLE JOY

That God Could Redeem Sinners Made Joy in Heaven—The Earth as Well as Man to Be Restored—The Lamb Slain from the Foundation of the World—The Light in Both Dispensations

By MRS. E. G. WHITE

WHEN the plan of salvation was revealed to the angels, joy, inexpressible joy, filled heaven. The glory and the blessedness of a world redeemed outmeasured even the anguish of the Prince of life. Through the celestial courts echoed the first strain of that song that angels sang above the hills of Bethlehem, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." And the lost pair in the garden of Eden, standing as criminals before the righteous Judge, waiting the sentence their transgression merited, heard the first notes of the divine promise. Before the life of toil and sorrow which sin had brought upon them was depicted before them, before the decree that the wages of sin is death was pronounced, they heard the promise of redemption. Though they must suffer from the power of their mighty foe, still through the merits of Christ they could look forward to victory.

The mystery of the gospel was spoken in Eden, when God said to the serpent, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." If Satan could have touched the head with his specious temptations, the human family would have been lost; but the Lord had made known the purpose and plan of the mystery of grace, declaring that Christ had bruised the serpent under His feet.

THE EARTH AS WELL AS MAN TO BE REDEEMED

But not only had man come under the power of the deceiver, but the earth itself, the dominion of man, was usurped by the enemy. Through the plan of salvation, the sacrifice of Christ, not only was man, but his dominion, to be redeemed. Through the merits of Christ, all that man lost through sin was to be restored. The time would come when there would be "no more curse," but the throne of God should be in it, and His servants should serve Him. The promise would be fulfilled, "The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever."

A DEMONSTRATION TO THE UNIVERSE

Through the plan of salvation, a larger purpose is to be wrought out even than the salvation of man and the redemption of the earth. Through the revelation of the character of God in Christ, the beneficence of the divine government would be manifested before the universe, the charge of Satan refuted, the nature and result of sin made plain, and the perpetuity of the law fully demonstrated.

Satan had declared that the law of God was faulty, and that the good of the universe demanded a change in its requirement. In attacking the law, he thought to overthrow the authority of its Author, and gain for himself the supreme allegiance. But through the plan of salvation, the precepts of the law were to be proved perfect and immutable, that at last only glory and love might rise

to God throughout the universe, ascribing glory and honor and praise to Him that sitteth upon the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever.

To fallen man was revealed the plan of infinite sacrifice through which salvation was to be provided. Nothing but the death of God's dear Son could expiate man's sin, and Adam marveled at the goodness of God in providing such a ransom for the sinner. Through the love of God, a star of hope illumined the terrible future that spread before the transgressor.

Through the institution of the typical system of sacrifice and offering, the death of

Christ was ever to be kept before guilty man, that he might better comprehend the nature of sin, the results of transgression, and the merit of the divine offering. Had there been no sin, man would never have known death. But in the innocent offering slain by his own hand, he beheld the fruits of sin,—the death of the Son of God in his behalf. He sees the immutable character of the law he has transgressed, and confesses his sin; he relies upon the merits of the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world.

PLAN OF SAVING SINNERS EVER THE SAME

The plan of saving sinners through Christ alone was the same in the days of Adam, Noah, Abraham, and in every successive generation that lived before the advent of Christ, as it is in our day. The patriarchs, the prophets, the martyrs from righteous Abel, looked forward to a coming Saviour, and they showed their faith in Him by sacrifices and offerings. The sacrifice of beasts shadowed forth the sinless offering of God's dear Son, and pointed forward to His death upon the cross. But at the crucifixion, type met antitype, and the typical system there ceased.

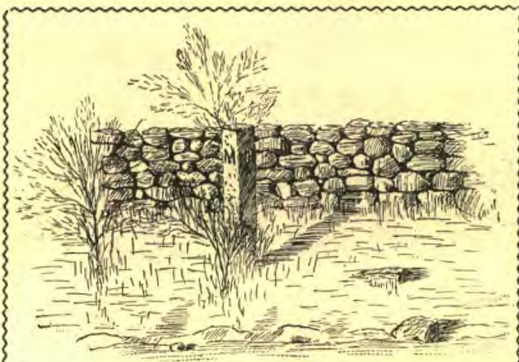
THE CENTER OF BOTH DISPENSATIONS

The Son of God is the center of the great plan of redemption which covers all dispensations. He is the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." He is the Redeemer of the fallen sons and daughters of Adam in all ages of human probation. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Christ is the substance, or body, which casts its shadow back into former dispensations. When Christ died, the shadow ceased. At the death of Christ, the typical system was done away; but the law of God, whose violation had made the plan of salvation necessary, was magnified and made honorable.

The gospel was good tidings of great joy to Adam, Noah, Abraham, and Moses; for it presented to them a coming Saviour. A clearer and more glorious light now shines upon the Christian. Those who lived before the coming of Christ, looked forward by faith to His coming. But what had to be grasped by faith by them, is assurance to us; for we know that Christ has come, as foretold by the prophets. It is just as essential for us to have faith in our Redeemer, who came to earth and died our sacrifice, as it was for the ancients to believe in a Redeemer to come, represented by their offerings and sacrifices.

EXCHANGE A THRONE FOR SUFFERING AND DEATH

In becoming man's substitute, in bearing the curse which should fall upon man, Christ has pledged Himself in behalf of the race to maintain the sacred and exalted honor of His Father's law. He came to convince men of sin, which is the transgression of the



As the Mile-Posts Come and Go

By W. R. PATTERSON

How swift the mile-posts come and go!
How fast is forged the "silver chain"!

As rivers to the ocean flow,
And come not back for ay again,
So run the years, a ceaseless tide,—
Time's mystic, troubled river,—
That floweth to the ocean wide,
And returneth not forever.

God doth in mercy from me hide
The good or ill of coming years;
Still in His wisdom I confide,
And trust His love through smiles or tears.
Sometime I'll reach the utmost post;
Somewhere will end the rugged way;
Sometime—and that not long, at most—
Will come the dawning of the day.

I'd veil the dead past out of sight,
And clad in truth's tried armor strong,
I'll stand up on the side of right,
When all the world's in league with wrong;
Content to act the humbler part,
Content to walk the lowly way,
If I may cheer the saddened heart,
Or drive its cloud of grief away.

Touched by the cries of kindred grief,
My heart and life I pledge this day,
To seek to minister relief
To stricken comrades by the way.
In knowledge I'm a child as yet;
My simple faith may cross the creeds;
But God forbid that I forget
That bliss is born of Christly deeds.

law, and through divine mediation bring them back to obedience to God's commandments. God has given the world into the hands of Christ, that He may completely vindicate the binding claims of the law, and make manifest the holiness of every principle.

Christ was the Father's "appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds." He was "the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person." And He upheld "all things by the word of His power." He possessed divine excellency

and greatness. It pleased the Father that in Him all fulness should dwell. And Christ "thought it not robbery to be equal with God." Yet Jesus exchanged a throne of light and glory which He had with His Father, counting it not a thing to be desired to be equal with God while man was lost in sin and misery. He came from heaven to earth, clothed His divinity with humanity, and bore the curse as surety for the fallen race. He was not compelled to do this; but He chose to bear the results of man's transgression, that man might escape eternal death.



Enforcing a Religious Law

A Work That Belongs to the Middle Ages — Protestant Ministers Are Pushing It — A Catholic Priest Denounces Them

By S. B. HORTON

THERE is a very interesting situation developing in the state of Pennsylvania, at the present time, in connection with the enforcement of the Sunday blue law. Two cities of the Keystone State, Norristown and Altoona, are treated to a system of espionage that would be in keeping with medievalism or the celebrated "holy" Inquisition of the Dark Ages. Norristown is noted as the largest "burg" in the United States, having a population of thirty thousand, and yet unincorporated as a municipal commonwealth.

FINED FOR WORKING ON SUNDAY

At the behest of the "Welfare League," the burgess of Norristown, who is the committing magistrate of that community, was called upon to arraign four business men before the public as criminals, the charge against them being violation of the Sunday law, the celebrated "blue law" of 1794. Of these, two were obliged to pay fines and the costs of prosecution, one was discharged, and one was held to await a further hearing.

The vice-president of the "Welfare League," a prominent church worker, appeared as the prosecutor in all of the cases; and Mr. William F. Dannehower, a local attorney, represented the defendants.

The first case was against Peter Nemphos and his employees, who conduct a candy store. The star witness testified that while looking into the store owned by the defendant, on the Sunday night preceding, he saw a man purchase some candy. Upon cross-examination, the witness admitted that he was taking a walk for the purpose of seeing who was violating the Sunday law. Another witness testified that he had gone into the defendant's store for the purpose of buying chocolates. While there, he saw a young woman purchase a drink of something. He

had later purchased five cents worth of candy.

WITNESS HAD BROKEN SAME LAW

The witness, in response to a question from the attorney for the defense, said that he did not expect to be paid for his work of securing evidence. Asked by the attorney whether he did not think he was violating the law by making a purchase on Sunday, the witness said: "I was violating the law. I do not expect to be fined for so doing. By saying that I was violating the law, I mean I was violating the law of God."

The burgess adjudged the storekeeper guilty, and imposed a fine of \$4.00 and costs, \$3.95. The attorney for the defense charged the burgess with acting illegally, saying: "As burgess, you have no jurisdiction whatever in such prosecutions. That has been decided in 1888 by the Court of Common Pleas. Judge Newman directed that a 'burgess has no jurisdiction in such cases,' and his decision has never been questioned."

The burgess replied, "And I will give notice now that if these stores are kept open next Sunday, the charge against the offenders will not be 'violating the Sunday law,' but will be that of conspiracy to evade the law."

The other case adjudged guilty was that of a druggist. The star witness, the afore-said vice-president of the "Welfare League," testified that while standing in front of the defendant's store, "before going to church Sunday evening," he had seen two men purchase cigars, and had seen the clerk take the cash.

Attorney Dannehower called the magistrate of the fourth ward to the stand. He showed by his docket that the defendant had been arraigned before him the previous fore-

noon on the charge of violating the Sunday law, and had pleaded guilty. The burgess asked the witness, "What did you do with the case?" The magistrate replied, "I fined the defendant \$4.00, and remitted the costs." This caused the burgess to remark, "Even a magistrate can help people evade the law." Quick as a flash came back from Magistrate Clarke the remark, "Go as far as you like, Mr. Burgess."

The third case was against the keeper of a store who sold ice-cream. The chief witness testified that he had entered the store and asked a clerk whether or not the store was open for business. Upon receiving a reply in the affirmative, the witness, he himself testified, had "preached a little sermon to the man." The witness testified that another man and a clergyman — naming them — had accompanied him to the store, and he said the visit had been made "after church services."

EARNED HIS MONEY, BUT REFUSED OTHERS THE RIGHT

Attorney Dannehower turned to the witness, and asked, "You sing in a church choir on Sundays, and you get paid for it, do you not?"

The witness replied: "I do. The court has decided that it is not a violation of the law to do so. That is considered a necessity."

The attorney said: "That is very true. Then you admit that after you have earned your money on a Sunday, you go around spying on other people trying to earn a living, for the purpose of getting them into difficulty."

The witness said, "That has nothing to do with this case."

The attorney replied, "Nothing, absolutely nothing; but I want the court to know just what kind of a man you are."

The witness became angry, and retorted loudly, "Your wife sings in a church choir on Sunday."

Smilingly the attorney said: "Yes, I am proud to say she sings in a choir, but she does not go around spying upon other people. She is not selfish. Then again, she attends to her own business."

A great deal of feeling has been engendered because of the fact that the burgess has discriminated in prosecutions for Sunday law violations, having said on one occasion, "I am the burgess, and I will use my own judgment as to who shall be prosecuted and who shall not be." The Business Men's Association is interesting itself, and further developments are expected in the near future.

THE SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS AN ISSUE

Following a meeting of the Altoona ministerial association, a crusade against so-called Sunday law violators has been begun. The ministers' association is seeking to make Altoona a newspaperless center. The news-agents are preparing to defeat the work of the ministerial association. Officials of all the Philadelphia and New York newspapers, as well as the Pittsburgh papers, previously informed the local news-agents that they would assist in fighting the preachers if their business were molested; and once the fight is taken up, these men declare, they will remain in the thick of it until the ministers are made ridiculous throughout the country.

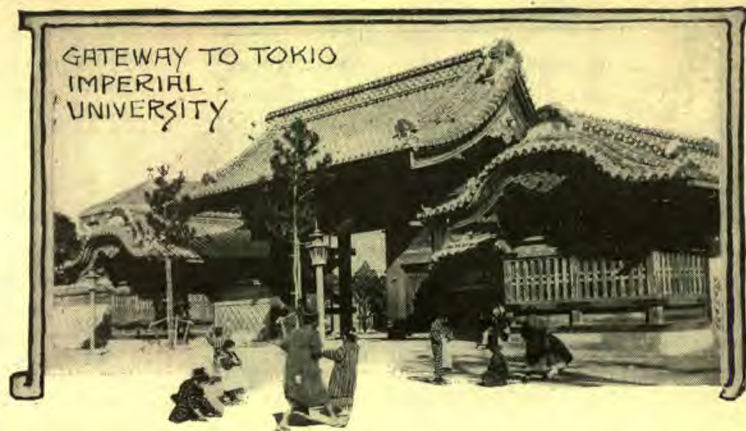
Several court decisions have been handed down setting forth that Sunday newspapers

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The ORIENT COMBINING AGAINST the WEST

Leading Statesmen See the Conflict Coming — The Prophets Have Foretold It and Given Its Meaning — Important that We Be Ready for It

By T. E. BOWEN



AFTER the door of the ark was closed, with Noah and his family shut in, and a rebellious world shut out, time went on as usual, and several days passed before the actual Flood *began* to come on. Noah's faith was tried severely as a world outside rejoiced at his apparent deception.

But their rejoicing was indeed short. On the eighth day, the storm Noah had so faithfully told them of for *one hundred and twenty years* broke upon the unsheltered heads of those sinners of old. Then their mirth was quickly turned into the despairing wail of the lost.

WHEN TURKEY IS FORCED FROM EUROPE, WHAT THEN?

When Turkey is forced to make Palestine its seat of government, what then? In actual fact, the familiar proverb will become literally true, that she has "jumped out of the frying pan into the fire." Do you ask, Why so?—Because the world's religions will then be touched. Nominal Christianity of the west, holding this territory as very sacred ground, and the heathen east, among whom are hordes of Moslems, who take delight in showing their disregard and contempt for that which to the Christian nations seems very sacred, are very likely to come into conflict right away when the Turk makes Jerusalem, or this "Holy Land" territory, his governmental seat.

That events are shaping rapidly for this more general world division, the undercurrent of which is quite possible to be a very strong religious one, is shown by the following scriptures and statements of eminent men.

THE WAY PREPARED FOR THE KINGS OF THE EAST

Among the judgments to fall on the earth during the day of God's fierce anger, John speaks of a way being prepared for the nations of the east to become involved in the general world strife: "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the *kings of the earth* and of the *whole world*, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Rev. 16: 12-14.

THE WHOLE WORLD INVOLVED

To use plain terms, we here have decadent Protestantism and Roman and Greek Catholicism of the west, and Mohammedanism and the heathenism of the east, brought in array one against the other, led on under the cult of spiritualism by Satan himself. And this scripture says that not only the kings of the earth are involved in this mobilization, but the people of the whole world as well will be involved. It does not need a prophet's eye, friend, to see plenty of trouble and anguish and distress in this commingling of worldly powers, led on by strong religious sentiments.

THE OCCIDENT AND ORIENT ALIGNMENT

That this array between the nations making up the east and the west, permeated by religious sentiments, is not a fancy sketch, as one looks out upon the world to-day, let us read a few statements. In the *Literary Digest* of March 5, 1910, appeared this significant statement: "A league of influential Japanese and Hindus to consolidate the Asiatic people against the domination of Europe is attracting notice and concern. High officials at the court of the Mikado and chiefs of the Japanese aristocracy are at the head of

it; and the constitution is from the pen of Count Okuma. On the other side there are many of the most influential people of India enrolled among its members."

Here is another, as reported by the *London Daily Express* of April 25, 1905, regarding a statement having been made in the Japanese House of Peers, which throws some light upon the real object in the minds of those of the east entering into the above mentioned league:

"The *sacred* [notice the term] duty is incumbent upon us as the leading state of Asiatic progress to stretch a helping hand to China, India, Korea, to all Asiatics who have confidence in us, and who are capable of civilization. As their more powerful friend, we desire them all to be free from the yoke which Europe has placed upon them, and that they may thereby prove to the world that the Orient is capable of measuring swords with the Occident on any field of battle."

PREPARING TO MEASURE SWORDS

These statements are very significant indeed, indicating clearly that the Orient is rising to that place where it shall not fear to "measure swords with the Occident on any field of battle."

And that powerful nations of the west are not ignorant of what is brewing across the seas, we cite an extract from a recent speech in the House of Representatives, at Washington, D. C., by Representative Mann, as reported in the *Literary Digest* of October 17, 1914:

"Close to Japan, lying like a sleeping child of the world, is China, with her vast territory, with her immense population, and that which was going on in Japan a few years ago is now going on in China. The awakening of China is more marvelous, perhaps, than was the awakening of Japan; and as these great people in China arise to the civilization of our modern days, and engage in the manufacture of products, we will enter on a series of competitive efforts with the far east which have never yet been equaled in this world. . . .

"And we who are now legislating, if we do not bear in mind possibilities not merely of to-day or to-morrow or one hundred years from now, of the inevitable conflict, commercial or otherwise, which we will meet in the far east, have forgotten the principles which ought to actuate us."

"The speaker then emphatically affirmed his belief that 'it is as certain as the sun will rise to-morrow that a conflict will come between the far east and the far west across the Pacific Ocean. All that has taken place in the world during the history of the races up to now teaches us that avoidance of this conflict is impossible.

"I hope that it may be only a commercial conflict. I hope that war may not come. I hope there will be no conflict of arms, but I have little faith that in this world of ours people and races are able to meet in competition for a long period without armed conflict. A fight for commercial supremacy leads in the end to a fight with arms, because that is the final arbiter between nations.'"

While Mr. Mann hopes this may be only the strife of *commercial* activities, we are led to conclude, in view of what John the revealer points out, that the antagonism engendered by conflict of religions will play the greater part in this terrific struggle for world supremacy, which culminates in Armageddon immediately prior to the *personal* appearing of Jesus in great glory. And proof is not lacking that that power which once ruled the world, the papacy, is gaining political power to the extent that she will play no small part in this final struggle.

The Bible does not leave us ignorant of the outcome. This titanic struggle, involving as it will the



whole world, is ended by the personal appearance of Jesus Christ Himself leading the armies of heaven.

He is "called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns." An angel was heard to say to the fowls: "Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men." "The beast [the papacy] was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him [understood to mean false Protestantism], with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire." Rev. 19:11-20.

"And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every freeman, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him [Jesus] that sitteth upon the throne [only one throne now], and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Rev. 6:14-17. "And then shall that wicked [or lawless one] be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming." 2 Thess. 2:8.

HE WILL SAVE HIS OWN

From God's word, dear reader, we may believe that the events so rapidly and thrill-



"He is not here: for He is risen."

ingly taking place in the world to-day unerringly portend that the end is right upon us. We should not defer seeking, through humble prayer and the study of God's word, for that preparation of heart and life necessary to be like our Lord in character. The test is upon all alike. It is only in becoming like

Jesus that any soul shall escape these things coming upon the world, and to be able to stand at His appearing.

The true child of God will not put his trust in any forms of ritual service, but rather by faith accept the righteousness of Christ's life in place of his own. A remnant shall be saved. Christ comes as the deliverer of every one whose name is found written in His book of life. No soul that humbly trusts in the merits of that one perfect life, shall be left to perish. Christ will separate the wheat from the chaff in that day. Not a kernel will fall to the earth ungarnered.

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord harkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name. And they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not." Mal. 3:16-18.

Is your name in His book? Are you a commandment keeper? Are you in character like Jesus? To have these questions settled, and settled right, assures you an entrance into that kingdom which Christ is soon to receive of His Father.

Absolute Confidence in a Future Life

The Resurrection a Foundation-Stone—Time Not Measured in the Tomb

By CALVIN P. BOLLMAN

IN no other scripture in the word of God is the absolute confidence of the apostle Paul in a future life shown more clearly and forcibly than in 2 Cor. 5:1-4. He says:

"We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: if so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life."

The apostle calls the fleshly or carnal nature "the old man" (Rom. 6:6); while the new, spiritual nature, begotten by the renewing of the Holy Ghost, he calls "the new man" (Col. 3:10). In a similar way, in the text quoted above, the apostle describes the present, mortal state as "our earthly house of this tabernacle"; while the future, immortal state he calls "a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

HOW WE HOLD ETERNAL LIFE NOW

By faith in Christ we have this eternal life, or "building of God," now. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." John 3:36. To have by faith this "everlasting life," or this "building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens," is to be "risen with Christ," as says the apostle: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where

Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory." Col. 3:1-4.

Here, then, is the "house from heaven" spoken of by the apostle in the scripture under review. The sinner is dead, his mortal life is forfeited; but what does it matter, if he be in Christ? For he then has by faith "an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens," or, in other words, he has in Christ "everlasting life." This is the life which "is hid with Christ in God," and which will be given to the believer when Christ shall appear. It is with this life the believer is "clothed" at the coming of Christ, as the apostle puts it in one place. In 1 Cor. 15:52-54 he uses the terms "changed," "put on," and "swallowed up," all referring to the same event, namely, the change from mortality to immortality, or from the "earthly house of this tabernacle" to the "building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

The longing of which the apostle speaks is only natural. Yet nobody desires death for the sake of death itself. The apostle did not. He says: "We that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed [that is, deprived of the mortal life which now envelopes or clothes us], but clothed upon [with immortality], that mortality might be swallowed up of [or clothed with immortal] life."

WAS WHOLLY IN THE RESURRECTION

To understand this scripture fully, we must look at the subject from the apostle's standpoint. His hope of a future life was wholly in the resurrection. "If there be no resurrection of the dead, . . . then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." 1 Cor. 15:13-18.

Being familiar with the Jewish Scriptures, the apostle was well aware that "the dead know not anything" (Eccl. 9:5); and that in the day of one's death, even "his thoughts perish." Ps. 146:4. He knew, therefore, that however long might be the time to elapse between one's death and his resurrection, in effect it would be but a moment. Hence he did not ordinarily refer to the time that would elapse between death and the resurrection, but spoke of the two events as though closely connected in point of time.

WE PERISH IF NOT RESURRECTED

However, as already noted, in 1 Cor. 15:12-18 we find the apostle basing all hope of a future life upon the resurrection, and recognizing unmistakably the truth that the dead are really dead, perished, in fact, if there be no resurrection. Again, in 1 Thess. 4:13-18, the apostle states clearly that only by the coming of the Lord and the resurrection, or change to immortality, can anybody be with the Lord; and here he recognizes the lapse of time between death and the resurrection, but in this case he wrote from the standpoint of the living, and for the comfort of the living.

While to the living, time goes on, moments grow into minutes, minutes into hours, hours into days, days into years, and years into centuries, and living men note the flight of time, the dead know not anything, not even the passage of centuries. To-day a man lives. He is old. To-morrow he dies, and

his years cease to multiply. He comes up in the resurrection no older than when he died. With him, time ceased at the moment of death, to be resumed only at the moment of his awakening at the last trump.

DELUSIONS UNDERMINED

The Scriptural view of the condition of man in death cuts the ground from under a host of both ancient and modern delusions,

among which are ancestral worship, the veneration of saints, baptism for the dead, prayers for the dead, purgatory, and spiritualism. But it gives in exchange for these delusive things, something a thousand times better in Him who declares: "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." "Because I live, ye shall live also." Rev. 1:18; John 14:19.

with confidence by the faith of Him." Eph. 1:8, 9; 3:9-12.

Even though man voluntarily surrendered all that God had so graciously given to him, and subsequently fell a victim to the power of sin and the dominion of Satan, God condescended to make man the object of His mercy, and to answer affirmatively the taunting challenge of Satan, "Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? But thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered." Isa. 49:24, 25.

THE BATTLE FOR FREEDOM

Christ came into the world to set all men free again. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36.

The battle for freedom has been the longest and hardest battle ever fought. The gift of liberty, delivered to us by our forefathers, is the most costly heritage they have left behind. Freedom's cause has been baptized again and again in the precious blood of its loyal sons and daughters. This world's history has been written principally with the sharp point of the tyrant's cruel sword of oppression, dipped not in ink, but in the red, warm blood of his victims.

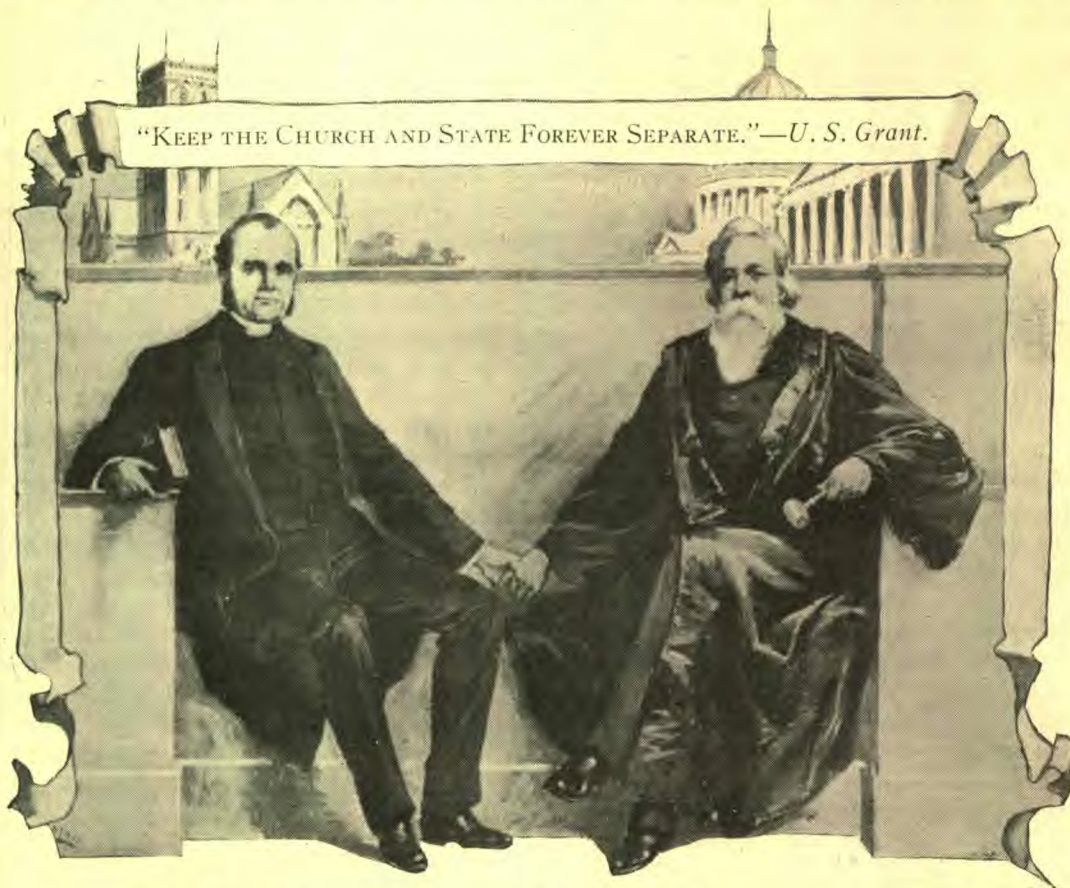
Nearly every page of history is stained with the blood of martyrs. Not until the dawn of the nineteenth century was the hand of the oppressor stayed. When the old Liberty Bell in Independence Hall sent forth from its vibrant lips the joyful words of the great Emancipator of the human race — the words of the Author of a universal freedom uttered 3,268 years before to Moses on Mount Sinai, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" — then, and not till then, were the equality of man and his inalienable rights fully recognized in human councils.

PERSECUTION TO ARISE AGAIN

Many flatter themselves that persecution will never lift its venomous head again in free America. But divine revelation, which has portrayed in advance, in the sacred Volume, the history of every great nation of the past, has also lifted the curtain on the future history of the American republic, and in Rev. 13:11-18 we see the lamblike nation changed into a persecuting power.

According to God's prophetic word, the church and the state are to unite in all nations just before the end of all things, and engage in a mighty conflict with God's loyal people. The Bible shows us clearly that we are living in the last days. Consequently we should be able to see some signs of the passing of overtures between religious organizations and civil authorities. Are there any attempts made to effect a union of church and state in the United States?

This government is the only one, in the history of all the past, that was founded upon the principles of a complete separation of church and state. It was unlike all other nations in this respect. But the Bible says this nation was to "make an image to the beast who hath the stroke of the sword and lived." Rev. 13:14, R. V. This text proves that this nation was without a union of church and state; but later it was to "make an image to the beast," which means a union of church and state — because that is what the beast was.



Will America Ever Persecute?

What May We Expect in the Light of Divine Revelation?

By C. S. LONGACRE

Editor of "Liberty Magazine"

WHEN we look at the annals of human history, covering a period of nearly six thousand years, we are led to exclaim with the ancient patriarch, "Lo, God is here, and we knew it not!" To the casual observer of current events, it often appears as if fate and fortune were alike subject to the will and prowess of man. But the student of history who surveys the whole field of time soon discovers a master mind and hand which "ruleth in the kingdom of men," and "worketh all things after the counsel of His own will."

THE UNFOLDING OF THE SCROLL OF PROPHECY

The birth and growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, the shaping of events in human history, covering centuries and millenniums, to fix fully their destinies, are but the unfolding of the divine scroll of prophecy. There is one great, portentous, overshadowing event in the finale of the drama of human history toward which all things are moving. An all-wise and merciful God is silently, patiently working out the destiny of a world "according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: that in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him." Eph. 1:9, 10.

The welfare and destiny of the human race has been a problem of the deepest concern in the mind of God since sin entered and fastened its blighting miasma upon this mundane sphere. It was the original design of God that His richest and choicest blessings should always accrue to every creature of His creation. God made man a free moral agent, to choose that which was for his best good, with power to shun and resist any temptation toward evil.

But the greatest enemy of God deceived man, and induced him to sell and deliver to his satanic majesty his birthright and inheritance of a free will which was graciously bestowed upon him by God; and so the human race through Adam became the bondmen of Satan and his agencies, and the plan of God concerning the welfare of man was frustrated for a time.

But the sacred Volume makes known to us the manifold "wisdom and prudence" of God, and "the mystery of His will," "which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ; to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: in whom we have boldness and access

Therefore whenever the American government repudiates the principles of a total divorcement of church and state, it of necessity will constitute a sign of the fulfilment of prophecy, and another landmark indicating that we are nearing the end of time.

In our next article, we shall show how great religious organizations have combined for the express purpose of uniting the church and the state in America, and that even at the present time, where these religious organizations dominate in politics, we have religious liberty in name only, but not in practice.

Enforcing a Religious Law

(Continued from page 4)

are not luxuries; but an attorney has informed the local ministers that the blue laws, if enforced, will prohibit the sale of the papers. The ministers have also decided to get after the oil dealers who sell gasoline and oil on Sunday.



Photograph by Underwood & Underwood, N. Y.

SIR HENRY HOWARD

Great Britain's envoy to the Vatican. Mr. Howard was formerly British minister to the Hague. He served as an attache of the British legation at Washington a number of years ago. His first wife was an American. He has also served as British minister in various other countries. The fact that Protestant Great Britain recognizes the power of Rome sufficiently to send an ambassador to the Vatican is an indication of how the political influence of the papal church is gaining among the nations.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE JOINS THE FIGHT

It is reported that the Chamber of Commerce is considering an effort to devise ways and means of quieting the ministers. Lately Altoona has gained considerable unsavory advertising out of the activities of the preachers; and as a result, many traveling men who formerly spent Saturday and Sunday in this city, go to other cities, where some tolerance is shown.

CATHOLIC PRIEST DENOUNCES IT

The rector of St. John's Catholic Church is evidently not in sympathy with the Altoona ministerial effort to have a blue law Sunday. He took occasion recently to denounce the activities of the ministers who spend a portion of Sunday scouring the city to find hapless violators of the archaic "blue laws."

He took issue with the ministers on two points: He declared, first, that the first day of the week, Sunday, was never divinely ordained as the Sabbath, and, as a matter of fact, was first designated as the rest day by the Catholic Church; second, that the Scriptures designate the Sabbath as a day of rest, and that rest does not imply the rest found in a graveyard, but rather a healthful and stimulating rest, which does not interfere with the rights and liberty of others.

He pointed out that "under the old Hebraic law, the seventh day of the week was set aside as Sabbath; but that early in its history, the Catholic Church, on account of many leading events in the life of Christ that occurred on the first day of the week, made the first day Sunday, and that this has since been followed by the Christian world."

The rector maintained that it was not the prerogative of any clique of men to dictate to individuals the day they should observe as the Sabbath, and that any individual would have the same right to designate a day in the middle of the week as his Sabbath, as the ministers have to say that the city shall close up tight on the first day of the week.

He also declared that the very word "Sabbath," which is derived from the Hebrew, indicates the uses to which the day should not be put. He declared that it was far from right that the "healthy, red-blooded man of to-day, who toils for an existence six days in the week, should be compelled to spend his only day of leisure in the rest of the graveyard."

This Catholic priest's comments are certainly to the point, and we would commend them to the careful consideration of all who believe that the Bible teaches that Sunday is the Sabbath for Christians.

Churchmen to Dominate

(Continued from page 2)

"Yes; and the Senate too. We are all in the same boat. I am sorry for those in charge of the fair; but self-preservation is the first law of nature, and that is all there is about it."

The following words of warning from the United States Senate in its early days, when individual liberty was the burning question of the hour, are a prophecy of the future of the American republic:

A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

"Let the national legislature once perform an act which involves the decision of a religious controversy, and it will have passed its legitimate bounds. The precedent will have been established, and the foundation laid, for that usurpation of the divine prerogative in this country which has been the desolating scourge of the fairest portions of the Old World."—United States Senate Sunday Mail Report, 1829.

The prophecy has well given in advance the history of the trend of events in America. Immediately after the Supreme Court decision declaring this to be a Christian nation, in 1892, the New York Sun of July 11 published a letter from the Vatican, outlining the future policy of Pope Leo XIII. From that letter we extract the following: "What the church has done in the past for others, she will now do for the United States."

Rome had seen a change of policy in the

United States government. In the September issue of the *Catholic World* of 1871, page 736, comment upon the United States constitution was made as follows:

"As it is interpreted by the liberal and sectarian journals that are doing their best to revolutionize it, and is beginning to be interpreted by no small portion of the American people, or is interpreted by the Protestant principle, so widely diffused among us, . . . we do not accept it, or hold it to be any government at all, or as capable of performing any of the proper functions of government; and if it continues to be interpreted by the revolutionary principles of Protestantism, it is sure to fail. . . . Hence it is we so often say that if the American republic is to be sustained and preserved at all, it must be by the rejection of the principles of the Reformation, and the acceptance of the Catholic principle by the American people."

That was published to the American people more than forty-three years ago, and for twenty-one years it stood unchallenged as the authoritative expression of the attitude of the Roman Church toward this government.

On September 5, 1893, Rome's "apostolic delegate" to the world's Catholic Congress in Chicago said: "In the name of Leo XIII I salute the great American republic; and I call upon the Catholics of America to go forward, in one hand bearing the Book of Christian truth, and in the other the constitution of the United States."

On October 18 of the same year, Archbishop Ireland, at the Cardinal Gibbons Jubilee Celebration, said: "I preach the new, the most glorious crusade, church and age! . . . Monsignor Satolli, the church and the age. Rome is the church; America is the age."

The following evening, at the banquet, the archbishop spoke as follows: "I do not know whether you appreciate the full value of the union you see typified here to-night,—the union of the Catholic Church and America. . . . The vice-president of the United States comes here and takes his seat alongside the cardinal. The spirit of fraternity between church and state thus typified, is the result of the work of our American cardinal."

FIRST RANK AS A CATHOLIC NATION

On September 24 of the following year, 1894, newspaper despatches from Rome stated that Bishop Keene was bearing to America from the Vatican a rescript of the following import:

"The papal rescript elevates the United States to the first rank as a Catholic nation. Heretofore this country has stood before the church as a missionary country (a mission field). It had no more recognition officially at Rome than had China. . . . By the new rescript, the country is freed from the propaganda, and is declared to be a Catholic country. . . . The importance not only to Catholics, but to all citizens of the United States, of this radical change in the relations to Rome of the church in America, can scarcely be overestimated."

That was indeed a radical change, and the writer of the despatch was not the only one who understood it so. Let us read the sentiments of Pope Leo himself, as expressed in his encyclical of January 6, 1895:

"We highly esteem and love exceedingly the young and vigorous American nation, in which we plainly discern latent forces for the advancement alike of civilization and of Christianity."

What has caused this change in Rome's attitude toward the United States constitution and the American republic as a nation since 1892? Has the constitution been changed? — No. Has Rome changed? — No. The constitution has been interpreted by the Supreme Court. Congress has since voted upon that interpretation by passing Sunday closing legislation. The government has turned from the word of God's divine law to the tradition of the Catholic Church on the question of the Sabbath and the manner of its enforcement. Thus there has come a change of policy in the government, and Rome sees it. John saw it in vision 1,800 years ago. He said the change would be from the two horns of a lamb to the voice of a dragon. Reader, do you see it?

THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE MARK OF THE BEAST

The Rev. Bird Wilkins, pastor Bethesda Church, Chicago, is reported in the *Chicago Tribune* of June 13, 1888, as follows:

"It is no advantage to the religion of Christ or His church that laws are being enacted at our state capitol, looking to a strict observance of Sunday as a holy day. That is what it means. It is church legislation. Whenever and wherever the church has entered the halls of legislation, she has left her power outside. She, upon entering the political arena, lays aside her robes of victory. She may have a majority, and thus carry her point, but I tell you it is contrary to the genius of the gospel of Christ. He did not leave us the political sword with which to set up His kingdom in the hearts and lives of men.

"I tell you the United States herself will lose her robe of honor whenever she puts religion into her statute-books. Whenever Jesus is to appeal to Blackstone, then will Jesus become a politician; then will come to pass the attempt to force men to bear the mark of the beast. I am not ready to see the church scrambling amid the political corruptions of the day to have laws passed for the preservation of her holy days. Whenever I think the religion of love given by Jesus needs the arm of the states to support it or protect it, I will renounce it. Whenever I believe the Baptist Church covets secular power to save her holy days, I will be a Baptist no more. It is a declaration of weakness on our part to ask such legislation, and suicidal to rejoice over it. Say it is not religious intolerance if you choose, but I know it is, and you know it is.

"To endorse these Sunday laws as a church is to endorse or to approve one of the festivals of the ancient sun-god, and an edict of a pope of Rome."

A religious boycott will eventually fulfil Rev. 13:16, 17. Since many Protestants have ceased to protest, as seen in the Chicago convention of the Church Federation movement, in order to secure a union with Catholicism for the enforcement of religious obligations, they have taken the step Romeward, and need but a little more time to develop a complete image to the papacy.

IN THE FACE OF THE LAW OF GOD

We have seen that in the United States Congress the Sabbath law of Jehovah was read, and understood to require the observance of the seventh day of the week as the Sabbath. Yet in the face of the law of God,

the United States Congress legislated against that commandment, and in favor of Sunday, a rival day of worship, inaugurated by the Catholic Church.

What did the prophecy predict? — The enforcement of the mark of the beast by the government which at the first presented lamb-like principles. The change from the Sabbath to Sunday is cited by the papacy as the mark of her authority. Thus the die is cast. The United States government, which began with the lamblike principles of equality of rights to all people in both civil and religious matters, has now started over the trail of the beast, the papacy, which preceded her. She is now making an image to that beast. That beast was a union of church and state. One of the first steps in the history of the beast was the enforcement of Sunday observance. The United States government has laid the foundation for taking that step. The future will complete the history of the United States in making an image to the papacy.

Enough has already been done to leave no doubt as to the policy the government will pursue in the future on the question of enforced Sunday observance. At the last this two-horned beast was to speak as a dragon. Since legislation enforcing Sunday closing has been enacted by the United States Congress, in the face of God's commanding seventh-day Sabbath observance, it means in the end persecution for those who observe the commandments of God. This was the way the dragon spoke in the past. See Rev. 12:17. This is the beginning toward making an image to the papacy. Rev. 13:12-17.

SAW THE IMAGE TO THE PAPACY

In the United States government, where Protestantism had its greatest freedom, and where it developed the lamblike principles of civil and religious liberty, the prophet saw the apostasy develop that would result in making an image to the papacy, and set the pace for the entire Protestant world to turn from its principles to the papal traditions, and from the power of Christ to the power of the state for their support.

Every specification of the prophecy is met in the United States government. It arose just as the papacy went into captivity. It was "another beast." It established an entirely new order of government. It was to develop two horns like a lamb; it established a government based upon the two principles of Protestantism and republicanism. It was finally to apostatize, and speak as a dragon, and make an image to the beast, the papacy. This it has begun, in many states, in the enforcement, by civil enactment, of Sunday laws, which are traditions of the Catholic Church.

DESTINED TO BE WORLD-WIDE

This movement is not confined to the United States. It is destined to be world-wide. In 1906 France, Russia, China, Belgium, and Canada were all reported to have passed laws in behalf of Sunday observance. Other nations have since followed, until the agitation has reached the boundaries of Protestantism. This shows too plainly that many Protestants have ceased to protest, and are turning toward Romish traditions; and, according to the prophecy, an image to the beast is forming in Protestant circles. It will end in religious persecution. The beast was drunk with the blood of saints and martyrs of Jesus. Rev. 17:6. An image to the

beast could not be made without a union of church and state, with the state as an instrument of persecution in the hands of the church. But this will come. Rev. 13:15.

THE RIGHTEOUS NOT TO BE SLAUGHTERED

At that time, however, the saints are not to be slaughtered, as they were under the previous reign of papal supremacy. The saints are to be victors in this conflict, and the persecutors are to become the vanquished. The second coming of Christ will change the schemes of men and nations, and the people of God will stand triumphant. The outcome of the conflict is pictured by the revelator thus: "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with Him an hundred and forty and four thousand, having His Father's name written in their foreheads." Rev. 14:1. "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? for Thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before Thee; for Thy judgments are made manifest." Rev. 15:2-4.

The unmingled wrath of God under the seven last plagues, spoken of in this and the following chapters, fall upon those who have been disloyal to the commandments of God, and who have worshiped the beast and his image and received his mark.

SUNDAY LAWS WILL BECOME POPULAR

The beast joins the two-horned beast in this closing conflict against Christ and His people. It will therefore be popular on earth, for a short time, to enforce the observance of Sunday, and persecute those who stand loyal to the Sabbath of the Lord. But the loyal ones who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus will stand triumphant when the Master comes.

Reader, there is no middle ground in this conflict. On which side will you stand? "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Rev. 22:14.

Broken Hearts

CHRIST died of a broken heart. The heart that would know the fulness of God's redeeming love, must fall upon the Rock and be broken. "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise."

Panic was brought upon a great army, in the days of old, through broken pitchers. Judges 7:19-21.

God's Spirit can work mightily through hearts that are humbled and subdued by a sense of their own unworthiness, and made tender by a glimpse of the sufferings of Christ.

"The heart that is broken,
The Saviour will heal.
Before Him repentant
In humbleness kneel."

ELIZA H. MORTON.

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Our authority for the doctrines we teach is the Bible. Quotations are usually from the King James Version or the American Standard Revised.

Signs of the Times

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THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S VOICE

We May Hear No Audible Sound, Yet He Speaks to the Soul—
God's Law Written on the Heart—We May
Know Him if We Will



O the common understanding, a voice is nothing short of an audible sound. Education has so fixed this standard as the common guide, that when one is found with no power of vocal utterance, he is said to have no voice. Yet the mute individual is not at a loss to make his minutest desires readily understood. His method of communication is no secret, because it is executed by visible signs, either in writing or by digitation; yet it is a *voice*, silent though it be, because it conveys intelligence, and carries an influence, the same as though audibly spoken.

Thus the apostle Paul is made to say that when certain ones were put to death because they were unfriendly to the Jewish faith and customs, he gave his "voice" against them. Acts 26: 10. But the root word here used is not *phone*, the one expression throughout the New Testament for "voice," but *psephos*, which means a small pebble. By this being cast as a quiet ballot, it signified the sentiment of the voter, and so stood for his voice or will.

GOD'S VOICE IN CREATION

It is through certain acts, not always the same, that God's voice has been expressed in His administration of earthly affairs. The first record of the kind is that of the creation of the world. Then God spoke, and the very things He had in mind at the instant, at once appeared in tangible form. Although no visible substance emerged prior to its being named in the call to existence, God *spoke*, and it was. Ps. 33: 6, 9; Heb. 11: 3. We do not know *how* God spoke into chaos, or what within it had ears to hear before any essential part of creation was formed; but we do know by faith that "He spoke," and everything necessary to a world's equipment responded.

Herein is the mystery of God's voice. His creative acts reveal that His process of declaring the divine liking is as potent when exercised over unorganized matter, as when practised upon mortal mind; also that the system employed to control intellectual faculties is no less unsearchable than that by which world elements were called into being. This becomes more evident when the history of divine revelation is brought under review. One man alone in Old Testament story was brought face to face with Jehovah in counsel, as one friend converses with another. All others with whom heavenly intercourse was to be held must be content to receive it through a vision or in a dream. Num. 12: 6-8.

Here again human scrutiny is at fault; for we are not able to declare accurately the properties of these heavenly methods, neither is it positively known just how the impressions of the divine mind are made upon the human. That it is done as quickly and effectively as was the creative act, may be drawn from a single case of inspired history.

GOD'S VOICE TO SAMUEL

The prophet Samuel was instructed to go to a certain family in Bethlehem, and from one of its sons anoint a king to guide the destinies of Israel. The particular individual to be thus honored was not named in the commission, for the reason, perhaps, that God preferred to instruct as to that on the spot, and so prevent

the possible mistake of a faulty memory in names. So upon arrival at the place, the prophet ordered the sons of the household to stand before him. Looking at the eldest, a fine specimen of manhood, Samuel's mind inclined toward setting him apart for the high office. But as hands were about to be laid on in the ceremony of consecration, the Lord suddenly halted the service, with information that the one considered was not the chosen of Heaven, for certain well-defined reasons. The same result was reached in the case of each of the following six as they passed under examination. 1 Sam. 16: 1-13.

The anointing of a king to rule Israel was a great responsibility, because to make a mistake in selection would be a lamented calamity. But the prophet had been assured that one of the sons of this family had been chosen for king, and that all which remained to do was to anoint him for the office. What was to be done after the rejection of all the supposed sons of Jesse as they came forward for examination? Again in His refusal to accept any of those presented, how was God's mind so quickly and accurately made known to the prophet, since there is no record of any audible voice being heard in the communications given, and it had moreover been declared that none besides Moses could talk with God face to face, as with a friend?

One is shut up to the conclusion that the prophet's instruction was by some silent conference through which he learned the divine will, and which made him entirely sure of his ground of operation. Hence finding that all the sons viewed were alike discarded, the prophet turned with confidence to the head of the family, demanding to know where another son might be found.

The father admitted having another son, but considered him too young to have weight in the matter before them. This one, he said, was in the field herding sheep. "Send for him at once," was the order. Upon his appearance, the Lord made known, in the same mysterious manner as with the other sons, that this one, the boy David, was Heaven's chosen king.

It is thus readily seen that the right course to be taken throughout this program entirely depended on listening to God's "still small voice," the same that led Elijah from his wilderness hiding to anoint Elisha as prophet in his stead. 2 Kings 19: 12-16.

GOD IMPRESSES HIMSELF UPON ALL

It is the same now. Hence the mystery of God's kingdom, in all its administrative functions, has been committed to the knowledge of all who will receive it. Mark 4: 11. Every one may have the voice of God reveal to him constantly the path in which he should walk; not by some audible command, but by the quiet voice of God upon the conscience, that perceptive yet unknown quantity implanted in man by Him whose spontaneous knowledge was to lead the image of the infinite in His own type of righteousness. John 10: 4, 5. Through this sensitive contingency the Master's voice was to be heard, calling to duty, as against possible directing agencies tending in an opposite direction.

So firmly was this attribute riveted in man by creative power, and so positively in harmony was its original likeness with the audible voice heard later on Sinai's height, that down into the very depths of heathen mental incompetence it yet acts a certain part in directing careers. Referring to this Heaven-reserved avenue for meeting man's needs amid conflicting environments, the apostle says that one removed from the written law of Heaven, and yet acting the requirement of that law, simply shows the operation of the law written upon the heart, being witnessed by his conscience either excusing or accusing him in what he does. Rom. 2: 14, 15.

Truly God has amply provided man with every facility for mental association with perfect influences. No one, therefore, can, in his final rehearsal, complain that opportunity for link-

ing with Heaven was lacking in his case, since it is the privilege of every one, in faith, fervently to ask:

"Speak to my soul, dear Jesus,
Speak now in tenderest tone.
Whisper in loving kindness,
Thou art not left alone."

J. O. C.

BECOMING HUMILITY

WHAT folly for mortals to be proud! When man considers the small speck he is in the creation of God, he may well feel like placing his hand on his mouth and sitting in dust and ashes. Indeed, "nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance." Comparatively, the inhabitants of earth are indeed as grasshoppers.

"Lord Kelvin told us, a little while ago, that the time would come when the astronomer would take cognizance of the existence of a thousand million suns and worlds, and this world of ours is one of the smallest in the whole great family. If God were to send an angel out from heaven to look for this world, with no celestial chart or clue, it would be about like sending a little boy out on a Kansas prairie to find a particular grain of sand or blade of grass. And you are only one out of sixteen hundred millions crawling around on this little speck of star-dust. How big do you think you look from the eternal throne?"

What folly for one finite, erring being to become lifted up above his neighbor! The ant-hill on which you stand may be higher than mine, but we are both about the same distance from the sun. That which we may have above another is received from above, from a source outside of ourselves, and the honor should be given to the One to whom all honor belongs.

G. B. T.

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.

64—JUDGMENT OF THE DEAD AND THE LIVING

It is said that the Investigative Judgment of the dead began in 1844, and that when the heavenly court is through with the dead, the living will be judged. How can the Judgment of the dead be finished when people are dying every day? C. W. W.

Naturally, logically, the investigation of cases in the heavenly court begins with those who first lived in the first generations, and from there onward to the last generation. That investigation does not pertain to all, but simply to those whose names have been written in the book of life. All whose names have not, will die, and their cases will be determined during the thousand years, and judgment executed at the end of that period. The Judgment which began in 1844 must of course deal with both dead and living as we near the end. God does not satisfy our curiosity in dealing with particulars. We may safely leave it all with Him. He will be wise as well as just.

65—THE APOCRYPHA

Upon what authority were the books of the Apocrypha eliminated from the Scriptures and rated as sectarian [secular?], while the balance are rated as inspired? A. T. S.

1. They were not in the Jewish Scriptures held to be sacred, the Scriptures which Jesus learned.
2. They sprang out of that time in the Jewish church conceded after prophets had ceased; that is, after Malachi.
3. They were not written in the Hebrew language.
4. Their style, their character, their teaching, are not up to the standard of the law and the testimony. This is evident to any devout Bible reader.
5. They are considered valuable as throwing light upon the time that produced them, and the books of Maccabees are valuable as history.

66—EVERY CREATURE

If it is wrong to eat meat, what is the meaning of 1 Tim. 4:1-5? INQUIRER.

Now, first, that text is not instruction on diet. It is a prophecy of the apostasy which should arise after the apostles' day. Some should depart from the faith—that Jesus and Jesus alone is all-sufficient to save. They would give heed to evil spirits, who would come under the guise of good spirits oftentimes, and to doctrines of demons. Persons thus deceived would speak lies. Their consciences would become seared. They would forbid God's ordinances, and enjoin celibacy. They would command persons to abstain from foods. The word translated "meats" is *broma*, which Strong defines as follows: "From the base of *bibrōskō* (to eat); food, especially articles allowed or forbidden by the Jewish law." See Matt. 15:37; Mark 8:8.

"Meat" in these chapters is from the same word, meaning mostly if not all bread. "Meat" is the old English word for food, and we use it still for the kernel of a nut. This apostate power would therefore forbid what is good. The meats of 1 Tim. 4:3 seem clearly to be modified by "created to be received with thanksgiving," and "sanctified by the word of God." God wants us to eat the best for our good and His glory. 1 Cor. 10:31. But a flesh diet is not the best, and it is growing to be more and more dangerous all the time. God does not command this. He pleads with us to eat that which is good, and "custom will render it most delightful."

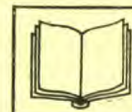
67—IS WAR RIGHT?

Where in the Bible is war spoken against? E. M.

1. The Lord does not speak complimentarily of one of whom it is said, "War was in his heart." Ps. 55:21.
2. Inspiration prays that God will "scatter" "the people that delight in war." Ps. 68:30.
3. Rev. 16:13, 14 certainly shows that the spirits which urge to war are not of God or good; they are "the spirits of demons" from the mouth of the dragon, sent forth by the command of the devil himself.
4. Read the reason of the prophet's lamentation in Jer. 4:19-22.
5. This is enough on the negative side. Men indulge in strife and go to war because they are carnal. James 4:1, 2. Christians can not do this. Jesus Christ is the Prince of peace. One injunction is, "As much as lieth in you [not in the other man—in you, the Christian], live peaceably with all men." Rom. 12:18. God's gospel is, "On earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14. "Peace be unto you," "Go in peace," fell like balm from the lips of Jesus upon wounded and troubled hearts. The sea was at war from winds of the devil; Jesus said to it, "Peace, be still." Every one of Paul's epistles speaks peace. Our Father is a "God of peace." A fruit of the Spirit is peace. Gal. 5:22. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Heb. 12:14. "Seek peace, and ensue it." We could fill pages with the divine injunctions and promises regarding peace. "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever."
6. If we are saved in Jesus Christ, we are delivered from this evil world, and translated "into the kingdom of His dear Son." Col. 1:13. Our King said to His ardent, sanguine follower of old, "Put up again thy sword into his place; for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." Matt. 26:52. He said again in that very time: "My kingdom is not of this world: if My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My kingdom not from

hence." John 18:36. His subjects have weapons; but "though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh; (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.)" 2 Cor. 10:3, 4. The Christian's complete panoply is found in Eph. 6:10-17. It is mightier to the son of faith than all the kaiser's 16-inch field howitzers. It has the promise of the life that now is, and that which is to come.

7. In the light of all this and much more, how can Christians go to war? If Christians fight Christians, each is fighting Christ in the person of His people; for has He not said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me"? When the man who did nothing to the one in need is cast out, what will be done to the man who, with hate-filled heart, sought the life?



SYSTEMATIC BIBLE STUDY

Owing to the fact that there will be no paper next week, we present the schedules below for the two remaining weeks of the year.

FOLLOWING the schedule for the year, we still have before us the pleasant task of reading the writings of six of the minor prophets. But they each wrote very briefly, so this will only require a few days. It is to be hoped that all who have read the Bible through during this year of 1914, will form the strong determination to read it through at least once during each of the years to come; for there is nothing more important for us in this life, than reading and meditating upon the sacred Book.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 26

Nahum
Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Haggai
Zechariah 1-12

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

THE book of Malachi, which comes in our reading for this week, is particularly to be noted, because of the instruction it gives in the third chapter, upon the subject of tithes and offerings, and also on account of the strong, clear statements in the fourth chapter concerning the final destruction of the wicked.

Our schedule for the remainder of this year calls for the reading of but little more than one chapter a day; and this done, we will have fulfilled our purpose to read the entire Bible during the year 1914.

SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 27 TO 31

Zechariah 13, 14
Malachi 1-4



Policies of China's New Government

Plans for Education — Railway Extension — Army and Navy — Foreign Trade — Development of Natural Resources — Suppression of Opium Traffic

By F. E. STAFFORD

This is the second of four articles Mr. Stafford has furnished on the great and very rapid developments in China. Last week he spoke more particularly in regard to the revolution that so quickly introduced a modern form of government and opened the way for civilization and progress. In the next paper, he will offer some very interesting suggestions in regard to the meaning and outcome of all this. Mr. Stafford's long residence in China, and his opportunities for study, have contributed to make his articles valuable.

EDITOR.

WHEN the Pacific Mail steamship China left Shanghai August 15 on her way to America, there was an enthusiastic crowd of Chinese assembled at the jetty to speed the parting guests. The reason for this was the departure of about fifty picked students to be educated in American colleges, according to the agreement whereby America allows China to pay part of her Boxer indemnity in this manner. As this custom has been followed now for about five years, it in itself would not have been the occasion for so much enthusiasm; but there was a special reason this time, and that was that among the students going were ten girls.

BETTER OUTLOOK FOR WOMEN

This indeed is a new procedure for China, and speaks well for the future of Chinese women. It is only a matter of a few years since girl babies were thrown away, because they were not considered worth bringing up. Until the time of the revolution, there were very few girls in school outside of mission schools. Now we see the old, cruel practise of feet binding nearly abolished. We see girls sitting side by side with the boys in the lower grade schools. We hear, on every hand, of special efforts made to educate the girls of China in sewing, cooking, and the common branches; and it is only a matter of a few years till China's new woman will be prepared to take her rightful place in the home, in the community, and the social life of China's new civilization.

The new minister of education has issued regulations tending to general obligatory education for all children over eight years of

age, and has instructed all district officials to procure at once the necessary statistics to carry out these regulations. In some places, they are also organizing free schools for children who are not able to pay tuition; but it is likely to be some time yet before a general system of free education can be inaugurated.

Hsu Shih-chang, secretary of state, in a recent interview, said: "The development of public instruction is now important. The greatest stress must be laid upon the elementary school. The revision of the school-books, aiming at a uniform system of instruction, is now being carried out. The central government has made provision that the number of elementary schools in all districts be greatly increased, and that they fit themselves to the local conditions.

"The furthering of the middle schools has also been taken in hand. Several colleges have been established at various points by the government, and it is the purpose to increase the number just as fast as the necessary means can be raised. A college has been instituted at Canton which aims to perpetuate the best ancient Chinese learning, and also offers courses in the exclusive Chinese arts and trades."

CONFUCIUS AND THE NEW EDUCATION

A great agitation has been carried on, during the last few months, aiming to make the old Confucian classics compulsory as a component part of the present educational system. The president was approached on the matter, and he referred the question to the minister of education. The latter announces that "suitable extracts from the old classical books of Confucius and Mencius will be inserted in the new elementary school-books."

RAILWAYS

During 1913, the four railway lines in the north of China made a profit for the new republic of \$13,804,000; while the eleven lines in central and southern China, some of them not wholly completed yet, aggregated a loss

of \$4,340,000, thus leaving over nine million dollars profit. It is the policy of China to cover the country with a network of trunk lines just as fast as possible, and work is actually progressing on about a dozen different lines to-day. Most of these are built by foreign countries, which take a long-period mortgage on the property, and China has opportunity to pay for the line gradually until it eventually becomes the property of the Chinese government.

MODERNIZING THE ARMY AND NAVY

Early in the year, a big military conference was held in Pekin, and plans were laid for the complete modernization of the army and navy at as early a date as is practical considering the expense involved. The republic was divided into several large districts, each under the command of a military general, who in turn is directly under the command of the president. Thus a practical state of martial law is in effect all the time, although the actual working out of the policy presents many local difficulties. In every important center in the republic where there was doubt of the loyalty of the soldiers, the whole personnel has been replaced with northern soldiers. Thus Shanghai not only had the old soldiers removed, but the entire police force in that part of the city which is not controlled by the International Concession was changed. In front of the house where we live, where there used to be a local policeman who was promoted to that position from the ranks of the peanut vendors, there now stands a trim, wide-awake Pekin soldier, with a four-foot club in the daytime, and at night a modern Mauser rifle loaded with real bullets.

The war department has bought several aeroplanes during the last year, and opened a school near Pekin where instruction will be given to aviators, thus aiming to establish a flying corps in connection with the army.

FOREIGN TRADE

The last few years have shown a marked increase in China's foreign import trade, the figures for last year being an increase of nearly one hundred million dollars gold over the amount ten years ago. Of this amount, Japan supplies about twenty per cent, and this notwithstanding there exists a strong prejudice against Japan and Japanese goods.

The fact is, China wants cheap goods, as the great mass of her people are not able to buy luxuries; and Japan excels in the production of a cheap line of almost every article that China calls for, and being situated so near, she always has her goods on hand when there is any one ready to buy.

After the revolution, there was an imme-



BURNING OPIUM PIPES

diate demand for straw hats, caps, and leather shoes; and Japan has produced these articles for China by the millions, and reaped a rich harvest as a result of improving the opportunity.

Great Britain comes next, supplying fifteen per cent of China's imports. Russia and Germany are about even, but the United States supplies only eight per cent of the total.

PETROLEUM WELLS AND STANDARD OIL

Early in the year, an agreement was made with the Chinese government by which the Standard Oil Company secures the right to make a thorough investigation of the fields in north China, which are believed to be among the most important and extensive in the world. According to the terms of the agreement, if oil is found in quantities sufficient to make the working of the fields profitable, a Sino-American company is to be immediately formed, in which the Chinese government will be allotted thirty-seven per cent of the shares, with an option, under certain conditions, on further interests. The controlling interest, however, is to remain in the hands of the American corporation. The agreement is reported to be for sixty years; and during this period, no other foreign country will be allowed to work oils or their products in the districts specified.

A large force of picked oil drillers have arrived from California and Texas, and they have started overland for the scene of the oil fields, taking two thousand tons of drilling machinery with them. They are encountering great difficulty in getting the machinery transported, as there are no facilities for carrying such heavy materials overland. They had assembled four hundred Chinese carts to carry their drills through Honan and Shensi, when the government troops from Pekin in pursuit of White Wolf, the noted robber, came along, and the general immediately commandeered the carts; so at last reports the machinery was still waiting. Now that White Wolf has been beheaded (or at least the Chinese government paid \$50,000 for a head supposed to be that of White Wolf), very likely the Standard Oil Company can get through to Shensi and start boring for oil.

THE HUAI RIVER PROJECT

The opening of this project marks, as Dr. Reinsch, United States minister at Pekin, says, a new era in Chinese developments. This new project is expected to reclaim one million acres of fertile soil, and materially improve nine million acres more, so that they will yield two or three crops a year. It will save millions of people from the horrors of continual famine and starvation, and transform a barren wilderness into a garden spot where the natives can live in peace and happiness, supported by the industry of their own hands.

This project is promoted and financed by the American Red Cross Society. Attention was first called to the need two years ago, at the time of the great famine in north China, when the Red Cross Society sent out an American transport loaded with flour to relieve the terrible distress of the thousands who were daily dying. At that time, Mr. C. D. Jameson, a noted American surveyor, was asked to make a survey of the district, and report on the feasibility of undertaking a conservancy scheme which would control the waters of the rivers in that great region,

so that instead of destroying the country by periodical floods, they could be made to give life to the vegetation where it was cultivated, and irrigate large sections where nothing was raised.

He made a very full report to the Chinese government; but unfortunately, on account of the revolution and lack of means, nothing came of it at the time. The matter was not allowed to drop, however; and this year an agreement was made whereby the American Red Cross Society is to lend to the Chinese government \$20,000,000 gold, at five per cent interest, secured on all the government revenues derivable or now derived from government lands in the conservancy area, and all the additional revenues which may in the future accrue to the government as a result of the conservancy work.

MAGNANIMITY OF THE RED CROSS SOCIETY

The terms of this agreement are quite different from those of the Standard Oil Company. It would be hard to find a more humanitarian project anywhere. The Red Cross Society deliberately gives China twenty million dollars, and carries through a project for her which not only will enable her to pay back the principal with interest, but will give her an enormous permanent revenue, besides saving millions of her people from starvation and the grave. She asks for no mortgage on any of China's territory or sources of income other than that which will be developed by the conservancy work.

That the work will be carried out in the best possible manner, has been assured by the fact that the American Congress passed a bill in May releasing Col. William Siebert, an army engineer who was assistant to

Colonel Goethals in the construction of the Panama Canal, to superintend the work of the conservancy commission in China. Associated with him is Mr. A. P. Davis, chief engineer of the United States government reclamation service, and Prof. Daniel W. Mead, a leading American expert on hydraulic engineering, who has had recent experience with the Ohio Flood Commission.

OPIUM SUPPRESSION

On July 30, the minister of the interior announced that the poppy culture will have been suppressed all over China before the end of this year, and that it is hoped the importation of opium can be prohibited after the middle of next year.

The last year has seen increased vigilance on the part of the officials, who seemed determined to stamp out completely from China the growth of the poppy plant. At some places, force of arms has been necessary; but this has been used, and several more provinces have now been declared free from the poppy, and British orders have been issued stopping importation into these provinces.

As Great Britain insists on enforcing her treaty privileges to the letter, and continues to force Indian opium on the people as long as she can find one stalk of poppy in existence, it is necessary for the Chinese government first to declare the province free. The British then appoint inspectors, who, judging by the time they take to go over a province, do their best to find the poppy. When they report favorably, and not till then, a closing order is issued.

Fukien province was the last to be declared free, and a great celebration was held

(Continued on page 15)

HOLIDAY LIST

For Father:

Steps to Christ

For Mother:

Mount of Blessing

For Aunt Mary:

Christ Our Saviour

Cousin Sam (16)

Elo the Eagle

Harry (11)

Best Stories

Maud (6)

New Testament Primer



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Parental Responsibility

Monumental Example of a Faithful, Successful Parent—Degeneracy of the Age Reflects the Failures of Fathers and Mothers—Children That Are Trained Right, Go Right

By MARY ALICE HARE LOPER

WHEN God chose Abraham to be the head of the Christian household of earth, it was no haphazard choice that was made. Instead, He says, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment." Every one who keeps "the way of the Lord" to-day, belongs in a spiritual sense to the family of faithful Abraham, and is following his blessed example. His keen sense of the responsibility of fatherhood has made Abraham distinguished through the lengthened period of four thousand years.

DID NOT DRINK NOR SMOKE

Abraham did not drink nor smoke nor chew nor swear. He did not join any men's clubs for the purpose of having some regular excuse for spending his evenings away from home, nor did he become submerged in politics to the neglect of his household obligations. Although he was very wealthy, the chief desire of his heart was not found in the accumulation of flocks and herds and silver and gold for his own selfish enjoyment.

What a splendid opportunity Abraham had for making a magnificent home in the land of Canaan, if he had chosen to do so! He might perhaps have founded a walled city to perpetuate his memory, if his heart had been given to that kind of fame. But somehow Abraham was very peculiar. He chose to "camp out" all his life, while "he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose Builder and Maker is God."

It was my privilege recently to visit some of the giant sequoias of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, perhaps representatives of the oldest living monuments of earth at the present time. Some way there is a divine atmosphere about these grand old trees, which instinctively draws one a little nearer heaven,—an atmosphere not associated with the most splendid palaces of man's construction. It would surely be a hardened atheist who could pitch his insignificant tent among these grand old living towers, and with his face turned upward in an effort to see the top-most branches hundreds of feet above him—it would surely be a hardened atheist who could ever again echo as his belief, "There is no God."

SOCIETY COULD NOT CHARM HER AWAY

If Sarah had been like many a twentieth century society woman, she might easily have said to her wealthy husband: "Now see here,

Abraham! I have lived long enough in these dirty old tents, away off here in the country, and we are plenty able to have a respectable home in the city. But if we can't have that, I shall go back to Egypt, and enjoy myself where people live in some kind of style, and know how to appreciate others." But Sarah was not given to frivolity. She shared Abraham's faith, and did not find her longings satisfied with anything which this earth could afford. She and Abraham were human, and therefore made some mistakes; but they desired to be true to God, and not to murmur at His providences.

Men and women who wish to devote their time to fashion and folly in the congested centers of population, would better seriously consider what marriage means before entering upon that sacred relationship; for parents have for their solving the most difficult problems that ever fall to the lot of mortals, and those who are averse to putting the best thought of which they are capable upon these questions of such vital importance to the home would better never enter the marriage relation. A family reared to disobedience, irreverence, and sin, is the greatest failure of which mortals are capable.

FAILURE THROUGH SURROUNDINGS

Many parents are making a failure of their work to-day because of being located where their children are surrounded with evil. Abraham lived in the country. God Himself led him there as the very best place for the accomplishing of his life-work. And Abraham made a grand success both spiritually and financially. He found his joy in laying up his treasures in heaven; and when he enters upon that life which is to come, he will have a mansion that will be his through all eternity, which will far surpass anything this earth now affords.

But his own future reward was not the only consideration of Abraham. It is not the chief consideration of any one who now follows his example. The first work of Abraham's life was the saving of his household. No missionary work for others was allowed to eclipse this. He believed implicitly that the head of a household can not shirk his responsibilities, and at the same time make a success of life. He saw in his children the germs of great possibilities, but he believed that if those possibilities were ever to be realized, he had a very important part to act in their development.

Abraham taught his children reverence for gray hairs. Isaac did not approach his

wealthy father with any such request as: "Say, dad, give me some dough. I'm going to the city to have a good time. You see I've stayed so close to these old tents, I just must have a little vacation." No, Isaac never uttered words of that kind to his father, whom he dearly loved and cheerfully obeyed. When good old Abraham took Isaac, at the command of God, expecting to offer him as a sacrifice upon a lonely mountain, Isaac might easily have objected, and said, if he had been trained in the vernacular of the present day, with all that goes with it, "O, no, dad! I never will submit to anything like that." It seems sacrilegious to use words of this character in connection with Bible stories, and yet such language is of common occurrence in professedly Christian American homes of to-day.

Ah, how different are the homes of the twentieth century from that of Abraham! Neglect on the part of parents to give to their children the training that is their due, is very conspicuous. Disobedience to parents, as foretold in Holy Writ (2 Tim. 3:2), is a striking characteristic of the present age. The little three-year-old who complacently swears upon the street, is a living monument of parental neglect. The boy who smokes, shows a sad lack of parental care. And the child who revels in "yellow-backs" and immoral shows, does so because he has been neglected,—has been allowed to form a mental appetite for that which is evil.

TEACHING BY EXAMPLE

Home example is much more far-reaching in its influence than many suppose. The boy who sees his father smoke and drink will probably go and do likewise. The girl who sees her father and mother set a godless example, will, in all probability, go in the society of young people who are traveling the downward road. Young people's sense of propriety, of economy, of health, of happiness, is not sufficient to cause them to realize what a terrible menace tobacco, liquor, and all their attendant evils are to the happiness of the home. No youth can smoke vile cigarettes as a constant habit, and preserve his integrity. He gradually loses his sense of honor, while lying, stealing, and immorality in time may become a part of his character.

Cigarettes are a curse of the American home. They are robbing our youth of both spiritual and mental power, wholly unfitting them for places of responsibility in the great needy world. Parents should be alarmed over the dangers of this monster evil, and do all in their power to subdue it. That castle of happiness which harbors within its walls a lighted cigarette, will sometime go up in smoke, leaving its former admirers to mourn over its ashes. It is the solemn duty of parents to warn their boys and girls against the unspeakable evils of cigarettes, tobacco, liquor, and immorality.

MAY OVERCOME HEREDITY

Some children are blessed with better ancestry than others, which means that some parents have less difficult problems to solve than others. However, it is not necessary that a young man should go to the penitentiary just because his great grandfather did so. That divine echo which has reverberated for thousands of years, is just as true to-day as when it was first uttered: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." This blessed text does not say, "Train up a child

whose pedigree is faultless, and you may make a success of your effort." It permits of no "ifs," no provisos, no exceptions. It is a divine statement, and therefore has no doubt connected with it. Every child who is not rightly trained, is the loser; and every parent who neglects his God-given task, does so at the risk of his children's eternal salvation.

"O, but," says one, "I haven't time for all this rigmarole of training." But the fact is, parents have no time for anything to the neglect of this. Missionary work of the highest order begins at home. In these days of business rush and society whirl, it requires just as much time to make a success of child training as it did in the days of Abraham. The fact that this work requires so much time, is why God gives children exclusively to their parents for a series of years, that the holy precepts of righteousness may be taught to them.

NEGLECTED FOR BUSINESS

The American home is neglected to-day because of business, politics, social affairs, and general pleasure seeking. Disobedience and disrespect on the part of children attest to this fact. Pure Christian principles as applied by faithful Abraham, are greatly needed to-day to straighten out the tangled threads in the web of home life. O that parents might all appreciate the worth of their precious children as did that devoted Roman mother, Cornelia, who, when the jewels of a wealthy Campanian lady were shown her, said, as she proudly turned to her two beautiful sons, "These are my jewels!"

Policies of China's New Government

(Continued from page 13)

at Amoy May 1 to commemorate the event. One thousand six balls of opium, together with pipes and other articles valued at fifty thousand dollars, were publically burned at noon. There was an immense crowd present, including the officials, the gentry, and foreign spectators. The schools closed, and the students marched in uniform to the Anti-opium Society headquarters, where they rendered patriotic songs and other music. After this, they paraded through the streets, displaying flags and national banners; and the celebration closed with a speech by Mr. Ding Neng-gong, commissioner of foreign affairs, who was the champion of opium destruction.

A second great opium burning took place at Peking on May 21, just outside the "Temple of Heaven." At this time, it is said, some of the most beautiful cloisonne lamps, and rare, costly pipes were burned.

SHOULD INSPIRE THE CIVILIZED WORLD

One thing about this opium campaign which impresses every one who has witnessed it, is the sincerity of the Chinese people in their efforts to strike it out root and branch. There is no quibbling about the price, though it means the loss of millions of dollars of government revenue, at a time when China most needs the money. What a wonderful example heathen China has set before the civilized(?) world in the accomplishment of this stupendous task!

Less than ten years ago, word was sent out from Peking that it was the intention of the Chinese empire to stamp out, root and branch, the opium habit, which had as a mighty octopus fastened its tentacles upon the souls of the four hundred million people

of the nation, and was mercilessly drinking their life-blood, and every year dragging them down to a living hell, whose end is the grave and destruction. When she approached the nations of the world for co-operation in the matter of not bringing in any more foreign opium, she was told that they had the right under their treaties, and would continue to import opium as long as the people would buy it, and if she wanted to do any reform work, she should teach her people not to buy the drug.

In the face of these tremendous odds, she went to work to accomplish her task, and is within sight of the goal to-day. This endeavor has been likened by one writer to an effort to stop the liquor traffic in four countries, each with a population equal to that of the United States; but he adds that the United States would not undertake such a proposition, because that is free(?), and her citizens would resent any infringement of their liberty(?). Is it liberty or license?

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Shall Peace Follow This War?

It will; the Bible says so. The January *Signs Magazine* cites the texts and elucidates them. During that short period of time when God will be doing a mighty finishing work, the world will say, Wars are forever ended, and the millennium is about to be realized. If the masses could only have access to the message which this article contains, what a blessed thing it would be!



Reduced facsimile of 3-color cover

"How Do the Beasts Groan!"

The prevalence of foot-and-mouth disease among live stock, which caused our government recently to place a quarantine on so many states, reminds one very forcibly of the graphic words of the prophet Joel. There are two main points in this book. One is the destruction of crops by insects, droughts, etc., resulting in suffering among men and beasts. Through the study of such clear prophecies as these, many students of the Bible have reached the conclusion that it is not safe to continue the use of meat, and thousands of them are adopting the vegetarian diet in consequence. These thoughts are developed in the January *Signs Magazine* under the above title.

The Nations Are Angry

Some new thoughts under a very old title. Of late the Germans have been asking themselves how it is that they were unaware of the abominable character of the British. On the other hand, the British have come to regard the Germans as devils incarnate. Has Rev. 11:18 ever been truer than at present? In this, as in all other articles, Scripture is freely quoted, for after all, it is not so much what the editor of the *Signs Magazine* says as "what saith the Lord" about these things.

The three articles thus briefly mentioned are but a part of this excellent number. Following are the titles of seven others. The titles will suggest the importance and timeliness of the articles. "Luxury, Profligacy, Then War"; "Satan's Arrest and Imprisonment"; "Human Suffering"; "None of the Wicked Shall Understand"; "A Poem of Hate"; "The Lapsed Brotherhood of Man"; "The Ledger of Heaven."

New Year's Suggestions

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Signs of the Times Magazine
Mountain View, California

Signs of the Times

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER 22, 1914

No Paper Next Week

THIS issue concludes the volume for 1914; and following our custom that has obtained for years, there will be no issue of the paper next week. The next number will be dated January 5, 1915. Many of our friends, not noticing this announcement of the dropping out of a paper, think that they are missing an issue, and so write to us saying that their paper has failed to come. We hope that all will read this note, and will thereby understand our plan, and will not occasion us a lot of unnecessary correspondence, especially in view of the fact that our necessary correspondence is unusually heavy just now.

Urging National Defenses

THE question of our national defenses and the building of more battle-ships, etc., promises to be one of the most earnestly discussed propositions that will receive the attention of the present Congress. The president and his cabinet are determined that this nation shall keep out of war. They do not believe that it is necessary to build big guns, big battle-ships, and equip large armies, in order to do it. On the other hand, some of the most influential editors of the time are writing the strongest editorials that they know how to write, in favor of this nation's plunging with feverish earnestness into the building of super-Dreadnoughts, big guns, submarines, and all the rest of that kind of equipment, and then organizing an army and a naval force commensurate with the equipment provided.

In New York City a "National Security League" was organized for the purpose of supporting those who are in favor of building these proposed armaments. It is said that the league is composed of some of the strongest and most influential men in the nation. If we get at the real sentiments of these men who are urging the war equipment so strongly, we will find that they will all express themselves in favor of peace; but they fear for the safety of the nation unless the "mailed fist," with the display of its mighty power, is kept waving in the foreground. This shows that regardless of the sentiments of men to the contrary, the divine Book was correct in saying that in the time of the end the nations would be angry.

Pope Benedict and This War

POPE BENEDICT proposes an armistice among the nations during the Christmas holidays. The pope has made frequent appeals and suggestions of a similar character. There is a conviction growing in many quarters that the religious element must intervene to settle this conflict. Protestants as well as Catholics are saying that if the religious power had been doing its duty, we would not have had this war. The pope is regarded, by a growing class of people, as the only world power that is sufficiently neutral and influential to step in and talk peace among the warring nations.

A very significant thing was done by England a few days ago when she sent Sir Henry Howard, whose picture appears on another page of this paper, as an ambassador from England to the papal throne. Other nations that have not maintained ambassadors at the papal court are talking of following Great Britain's example. This shows how the world is turning toward the papacy as a power that will help them in solving many of these difficulties.

The individual who has carefully studied the prophecies of the book of Revelation knows that a great religious despotism is one of the things that will arise at the very close of time. The currents are already running very strong in that direction. One of the things, without much question, that will grow out of this war will be the religious power standing forth in a position of influence that this world has not known since the Middle Ages. That religious power will be a combination of professed Protestantism with the

papacy standing at the head. The greater part of the Protestant world has ceased to protest, and is coming more and more to harmonize with the papal plan. We are standing upon the eve of developments that will throw the religious strength of the world to the front, and place it upon the throne of power; and some of the worst persecutions that have ever been known will come as the result of it.

If you have not been studying the prophecies which disclose this thing, this statement may come to you as a jarring, discordant note; but please do not throw it aside as unworthy of your consideration. Study the prophetic Word, and compare it with the tides of influence that are running in this world. Unless we are blinded by prejudice, or refuse absolutely to receive the divine warnings, we ought to be able to observe, particularly in the thirteenth and fourteenth chapters of Revelation, that God has foretold a mighty religious conflict as one of the very last things to occur in the last days.

In the thirteenth chapter, He tells of a religious power that would arise demanding worship and seeking to enforce its mark and its image. In the fourteenth chapter there is proclaimed against this false worship one of the most thrilling warnings that were ever placed in human language. These things mean something, and our eyes should be wide open to the divine predictions and to the events in the world that are fulfilling them.

Air-Ship Raids on London

RUMORS through the daily press are persistent that Germany is successfully building a mighty fleet of Zeppelins to sail across the channel and hover over London while it drops upon the city its mighty engines of death. The reports say that one factory alone, with a thousand workmen engaged, is turning out one of the big Zeppelin airships every three weeks. One of these latest Zeppelins is said to carry torpedoes and bombs capable of as much damage as the shells of the famous sixteen-inch siege-guns that had been kept secret and that were brought out for the first time in the recent destruction of the Belgian forts.

These reports are probably greatly exaggerated; but nevertheless, who can imagine the horror of living in a city with the constant dread of being awakened by a fleet of such destructive monsters hovering overhead? All the nations are building similar war implements, and they are building them with the expectation of having to use them.

When we consider what is meant by dropping such bombs out of the sky upon defenseless homes—killing innocent children and defenseless men and women—it shows that our boasted civilization is a miserable sham.

When Christ was here in person, there was great religious ostentation and show. People claimed the highest form of devotion and morality. Priest and ruler engaged in their religious ceremonies in the most devout manner. From the standpoint of outward appearance, they were holy men, living above reproach. But these selfsame persons dragged the sinless Christ from Gethsemane by way of the judgment-hall to Calvary and the cross. They put Him to death in the most shameful, cruel manner; and while doing this, they vociferously professed their belief in the prophecies of their Bible, which taught that He was to come.

If we may believe the prophecies of this same Bible, they show us that at the close of time, there will arise a class of men who will have the same sham pretensions of devotion and piety, but who in reality know nothing whatever of the Christ they claim to adore.

Men have been boasting of our great Christian nations; but the Author of Christianity has ever told us that the straight and narrow way would find but few people in it, and He has said that in the last great day many will come to Him saying, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity."

We should study the Bible to see how plainly it unmarks the sham of these times, and with what remarkable clearness it shows the vortex of destruction toward which this world is headed. Our hope as individuals is in the Christ who was crucified by the sham professors over nineteen hundred years ago, and who, if He appeared in His blessed

simplicity and advocacy of truth and righteousness, would be crucified in the twentieth century by the very men who are now professing His name. Professed Christianity does not make us Christians. Men who are full of hate and of a determination to kill their fellows, and who would set up a god of commercial supremacy, are not Christians, no matter how high their pretensions, nor how eloquent their prayers.

Jesus of Nazareth, looking down to this time in which we live, raised the question, "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:8.

War-Stricken Sufferers

THE suffering in the various sections of war-afflicted Europe grows more and more intense as the rigors of the winter are upon them. They not only have to suffer for want of food and clothing, but for shelter as well. The generous-hearted people of America are relieving a great deal of this distress, but there is still much to be done. Our hearts must be touched with the suffering, especially of little children, women, and invalids. In such a time as this, each individual should do everything within his power to relieve this distress.

Our people, from the first, have had an organized plan for assisting these suffering people. We have agents right on the ground who are carefully doing the work of distributing the funds. Thousands of dollars has already been raised and forwarded, and many other thousands is still needed. Persons desiring to assist in this good work may send their contributions to the treasurer of the Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, California, and they will be promptly forwarded through our responsible and trustworthy agencies.

Russia and Vodka

RUSSIA has awakened to the fact that she can not feed her soldiers on bread if she uses her rye and wheat and oats for the manufacture of vodka. Hence the Russian Duma has passed a law that the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquors in every form shall cease. Incidentally this is a great blessing for their nation. Much moral good will come out of it. But the action was taken largely because of the necessity of having bread in order to win success in the present war. Bread would form a better basis for success than would vodka or any other spirituous drink, with other people as well as with the Russian soldier.

It is said that juries in Arizona have been and are very slow to convict a person accused of murder, but yet that there has been a great decrease in the proportion of homicides to the population. This is thought to be due to the fact that as the country becomes settled, the custom of carrying a "gun" is dropped. In outlying districts, where it still prevails, homicides are much more numerous proportionally. Perhaps if real civilization could once get into the saddle and take the reins of government in the Old World and the New, a similar decrease in the preparations for international murder would come, and have a similar effect.

W. H. S.

WE are continually reading of remarkable instances of conversion resulting from the reading of a scrap of literature picked up by accident. There is danger that we will take this as evidence that the work will go whether we help or not. It will; but we must be in it, if we are true to our colors, and share the final reward. Such incidents serving to show the power of the printed message, should only make us more zealous in circulating it. Coupled with personal influence, it can always accomplish more.

Writing from the front, amid the strain and horror of the field hospital work, a nurse says, "If there ever is another war after this massacre, then the whole human race should be blown to pieces, and completely wiped out of existence." There is some reason to think that there will be more wars, and the last of them will end in a way much like annihilation of the race,—in the blotting out of the participants at the coming of Christ.

W. H. S.