

# Signs of the Times

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*This is not a picture taken along the battle front in France or Belgium, but is a photograph of the American Colonial Bank as it appeared after the earthquake in Porto Rico in October. Devastation that would have been mourned the world over occurred on this island, but remained practically unnoticed because of events in Europe. The photograph is of the town of Mayaguez, which was among the worst sufferers. The automobile on the left was demolished and its lone occupant killed.*

## THE CHURCH'S GREATEST SHAME

By EARLE ALBERT ROWELL



WITH fiendish glee, the enemies of the Bible from Celsus in the second century to Robert Blatchford of to-day, have taunted the Christians with their betrayal and slaughter of one another through the centuries. No Voltaire, Paine, or Ingersoll ever lets slip an opportunity to ridicule, denounce, and revile the Christianity that, in the name of the gentle Jesus, saturated the soil of Europe with the blood of its avowed brothers. Too many Christians of to-day have permitted themselves to be silenced and overcome by such sarcastic invective. Skeptics point with derision and contempt to the millions of professed Christians who have been killed by other professed Christians, and they adduce this butchery as proof that the Bible cannot be true.

Such an attack need not take the Bible believer by surprise. Christ Himself had foreseen this very condition of the church, and foretold it. In Matthew 24: 9, 10, we read: "Then shall they deliver you up unto tribulation, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all the nations for My name's sake. And then shall many stumble, and shall deliver up one another, and shall hate one another."

Have Christians been in tribulation? Let the unanimous testimony of historians from Tacitus to Gibbon the infidel bear convincing witness. Have Christians been killed? Let the blood of many millions of martyrs testify. Have the nations hated Christians? Again, let the pages of

the past attest the universal execration in which they have been held. How strangely true, in the light of history, are those mysterious words of Jesus, "I came not to send peace, but a sword"!

But let not the Christian's faith in the Bible falter and faint when some all-too-ready skeptic, whether in the church or out, sneers at Christianity because of the church wars of the Middle Ages; but let him see therein one more evidence of the exact truthfulness of the Bible. Every taunt of the unbeliever against Christianity, based upon its bloody past, is an unconscious, unwilling, and therefore valuable testimony to the all-important, glorious fact that the Bible is not only true in the accounts of events long before its time, but minutely accurate in its forecast of all history to the present time.

Christ foretold the church's civil war for a purpose. "I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe." John 14: 29. However much we may deplore the fact that professed believers in the loving Jesus murdered one another like savages, the fact remains that Jesus foretold that just this condition would prevail. If it had not, then our Bible would be false and Christ could not be believed; for He says that we are to believe Him because His words come true. The Christian may well blush at the fierce hatred displayed by his ancestors toward one another; but when mocked with it, he should (Continued on page 7)



# SAID IN FEW WORDS

## A Syllogism

**Major:** "The truth of the Lord endureth forever." Psalm 117: 2.

**Minor:** "Thy law is the truth." Psalm 119: 142.

**Conclusion:** Thy law endureth to all generations. M. A. HOLLISTER.

## Bible War-Time Bread

HERE is a war-time recipe for bread, taken from the Bible. The ninth verse of the fourth chapter of Ezekiel says, "Take thou also unto thee wheat, and barley, and beans, and lentils, and millet, and fitches, and put them in one vessel, and make thee bread thereof."

E. LLOYD.

## God's War Department

God's war department among His followers must have its West Points, its training camps, its recruiting stations, its commissary and quartermaster departments, equipped and organized in the highest degree, to cope successfully with the untiring forces of the enemy. It must have its up-to-date munitions factories and arsenals, its printing plants and distributing agencies. It must have the best in transport service, that its armies may be sent into every nook and corner of the enemy's territory; for God's war against sin is an offensive, not a defensive war, and the farther away the frontiers of righteousness are pushed from their seat of government, the brighter will be the outlook for righteousness. N. D. ANDERSON.

## You Never Can Tell

YOU can't tell the face value of an opportunity by looking at it. You must try it out to know what is in it. Outwardly an opportunity may not show what it really is. One day may look like any other; a chance meeting with some one may not appear any different from many others; an occasion for service may seem commonplace; but in any of these may be an opportunity of unusual import. To be prepared for the big opportunity, we must meet them all with a readiness to make the most of them. Letting them slip by may mean the passing of the great one. Indeed, taking the opportunities of life for what they are worth, is life's opportunity. When these are gone, life is gone.

L. A. HANSEN.

## Tell Them While They Live

"JESUS said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on Me. For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but Me ye have not always. She hath done what she could:

she is come aforehand to anoint My body to the burying." Mark 14: 6-8. Mary brought her token of love and affection before the funeral. Many times we fail to do this. When the icy hand of the enemy has been laid on the mother, and she is lying cold in death, the daughter will weep and say, "O, I had such a good mother!" but perhaps she never told her that while she lived. A husband will speak of the virtues of his wife when she is dead, though probably he seldom said a word to encourage her while she lived. He will spread wreaths on her coffin, but possibly he never gave her a bouquet when she was living. The time to speak the kind words is while the ear is open to hear them. The best time to bring flowers is when your friends can see and enjoy them.

G. B. THOMPSON.

## The Nazareth Carpenter Coming

JESUS gladly comes to comfort His imperiled, buffeted, believing, and troubled children to-day, just as He came to His disciples on raging Galilee, and tenderly says, "Peace, be still," and just as He broke the stillness of apprehension of the "upper room" meeting with the words, "Peace be unto you."

Jesus is the sinner's Friend. He is your friend. Yes, He is mine. He said to repentant Magdalene, "Go, and sin no more." To the dying thief He said, "Thou shalt be with Me in Paradise." He forgave Thomas for his doubts, Peter for his cowardice, and Zacchæus for his avarice. It is He who said, "The Son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost."

Jesus descended into the impenetrable gloom of Gethsemane, and climbed the rough trails of Golgotha, and submitted to ignominy and death, that He might be able to cry in triumph, "It is finished." And before He passed up the highway of the blue skies, accompanied by a host of angelic beings, He commissioned His bewildered disciples to go into all the world with the blessed gospel light, assuring them, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." So in the strength of this word, we are to go; and "thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Jesus came to bring "life and immortality to light through the gospel." He says, "I go to prepare a place for you." "Because I live, ye shall live also." "I will come again, and receive you unto Myself." John 14: 2, 19, 3. The Friend of sinners, the Master of men, the Pilot of Galilee, the Carpenter of Nazareth, yes, our crucified, risen, and ascended Lord, is coming again.

G. W. WELLS.

## That Pipe

AT a meeting in London, the writer noticed, sitting near the platform, a man with an unusually wretched countenance. His hair looked uncombed, and his general untidiness was rendered all the more striking by a bright red necktie which he wore. All through the address, he sat looking straight in front of him, and seemed like one stupefied. On my speaking to him at the close of the meeting, he gave a grunt, and then I was told he was a hopeless case.

Immediately I thanked God that nothing was impossible with Him; so leaving the man with an invitation to another meeting the following Sunday evening, I went home to pray. Sure enough, the next week he was there, but there was a restlessness about him which encouraged me to believe that the deeps were breaking up. At the close of the meeting, when seeking souls were invited to come to Jesus, this man rose and made the following declaration:

"Forty years ago I gave my heart to God, and then He wanted to cleanse me and fill me with His Holy Spirit; but I loved my pipe and my tobacco, and I wouldn't give in. So I tried to smoke away the strivings of the Spirit, and I tell you just what it is: Satan has stupefied me so that I only just found out I've been serving him these last thirty-nine years. But I smashed my pipe to-day, and I am not going to be a walking chimney any more. I'll let God have His way to-night. It's that pipe that's been keeping me out of peace." He got deliverance that night.

Friends, look at Ezekiel 36: 25, 27. Trust God and let your idols go.—*Christian Repository*.

## Religious "Enemy Neutrals"

"ENEMY neutral" is one of the new and anachronistic terms brought into existence by the great war. The conception which it expresses, however, is in no way new, and is the same as that embodied by Christ in His assertion, "He that is not with Me is against Me." We have seen how an "enemy neutral" can be of more actual harm than an open and avowed enemy. This has been true always in religious matters; and he who takes not his stand actively and openly for the government of God, no matter how moral his life, can be classed as nothing else than an "enemy neutral."

JOSEF W. HALL.

O MY soul! why art thou more affected at some petty observances than at the fundamental laws of justice and charity, or thinkest to atone to God for greater indulgence by a scrupulous strictness in easy duties?—*Austin*.

## THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES WEEKLY

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# The Great Exposition Yet to Be

BY MARY ALICE HARE LOPER

**G**REAT expositions have presented educational advantages of the highest order. Perhaps the Panama-Pacific International Exposition was never equaled in this respect. The inventions displayed were wonderful, so ingenious, so marvelous in their workings.

The lover of the beautiful stood entranced before the intricately wrought tapestries, the beautifully designed and seemingly faultlessly executed embroideries, the delicately hand-carved furniture, the lifelike paintings, the exquisite statuary, the extraordinary productions of manual training from various parts of the world, the all-but-human machines engaged in doing work for which they were designed—the myriads of different exhibits, in numberless lines of industry, which no combination of words can describe so as to give to those who did not see them, anything like a true conception of them as they really were.

But these expositions, like everything else of an earthly nature, existed but a short time, and then became but matters of history.

## ADVERTISEMENTS ARE OUT

But the world is being filled with advertisements of an exposition soon to open, which will as far surpass any past expositions in splendor, magnificence, skill, and general educational advantages, as heaven surpasses earth.

It is to be held in the holy city, the new Jerusalem. There will be no transportation charges, no gate fees, no board bills; so the poor of earth will be there as well as the rich; and it will continue forever.

An invitation to attend is extended to every soul in this world. Have you accepted yours?

This great exposition has been in process of preparation for thousands of years, and is almost finished, ready for inspection. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."

It will open on scheduled time—on the morning of the resurrection. The massive gates, each of one pearl, will swing back on their shining hinges, and the good of all ages will be welcomed by the Manager, the King of kings, in the beautiful words, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

## THE TRIUMPHANT ENTRY

The victors of all ages will triumphantly enter that magnificent city which "lieth foursquare," whose circumference is fifteen hundred miles, and within whose jasper wall every one will receive as an evidence of his loyalty to the great Teacher, a magnificent home, built and fashioned according to his own taste. Every wish will be gratified.

It matters not how poor one may be now in this world's goods, if he can confidently say:

"A tent or a cottage, oh, why should I care? They're building a palace for me over there! Though exiled from home, yet still I may sing, 'All glory to God, I'm the child of a King!'"

The Manager of this great heavenly exposition is none other than the Creator of the heavens and the earth, who has the elements at His disposal, and has access to all the resources of the universe.

The masterly architecture of the heavenly exposition will far transcend that of St. Paul's cathedral. The embellishments will infinitely surpass those of the Taj Mahal. Instead of a single "tower of jewels," there will be the twelve foundations of that mammoth city wall, garnished with precious stones—jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprasus, jacinth, amethyst.

There will be twelve gates, at the entrances of the three principal streets, which run at right angles across the city. "The gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there."

The grandly indescribable electrical display at the Panama-Pacific Exposition was insignificant as compared with the illumination yet to be seen in the holy city, where there shall be "no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." "And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh

made of transparent gold. No sickness will be there, no sorrow, no pain, no death. Old friendships will be renewed for eternity, and the loved of earth will meet never to part again.

There will be the banquet of the ages—the "marriage supper of the Lamb," where Christ Himself will be host to every sinner saved by grace during the lengthened period of six thousand years. It will be such a reception, such a banquet, as the universe has never known. Every guest in that vast company will wear a beautiful robe presented to him by the Host.

The great table will be many miles in length, revealing such a wealth of magnificence as only heaven can display. No banquet of earth has ever presented, or ever will present, anything more than a faint suggestion of this grandly beautiful scene of heavenly hospitality and friendly relationship.

No intoxicating liquor will be there, no food but that which is healthful and pure. There the fruits will never decay, and the flowers will never fade.

Not a guest in that entire company will have a sad heart or an aching head, for health and happiness will reign supreme. The tree of life, with its twelve different kinds of fruit, will live forever; and the sparkling waters of the river of life will be free from all contamination.

## EACH WITH A COUNTRY HOME

In addition to a home in the great exposition city, every one will possess real estate outside. "They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another



*The lover of the beautiful stands entranced before the architecture of the man-made expositions, but such beauty cannot even be compared with the wonders of the great exposition that is to come.*

abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

Think of it—an exposition infinitely greater than any hitherto held, and not a single liar, murderer, thief, or other wrongdoer within its entire inclosure of 140,625 square miles!

No crowns will be stolen; no golden harps will be missing; nothing will be marred by unscrupulous relic hunters. And every exhibit will be just as represented.

No electric chairs for infirm people will be needed in going from building to building, along the spacious streets three hundred seventy-five miles in length,

inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of My people, and Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands."

There are trees in California that are perhaps nearly four thousand years old, and they are still living. Life in the new earth will be eternal.

In that beautiful country, that perfect climate, the soil will be rich, free from weeds, and no pests will be found. Gardening will be a delightful pastime, and farming a scientific success.

A mansion in the city, a home in the country, eternal prosperity in all undertakings, and inexhaustible resources



for every line of science, art, music, architecture — everything that will add to the happiness, contentment, and welfare of the redeemed of earth — what an alluring prospect!

He who enjoys sketching will find spread out before his vision such landscapes as his imagination has never conceived. And he may sketch as long as he wishes, going from planet to planet at will.

There will be that splendid chorus of one hundred forty-four thousand voices, who will skillfully render a sublime song hitherto unknown to angels or to men.

## HE ANSWERED NOTHING

BY TYLER E. BOWEN

**T**OWERING above all the abuse ever given any man, no matter what his position, was that malignantly heaped upon the Son of God by the satanic host, through wicked men, as He was led forth from Gethsemane to Calvary.

On His being taken before Pilate, the Roman governor, we read: "The chief priests accused Him of many things; but He answered nothing. And Pilate asked Him again, saying, Answerest Thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against Thee. But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled." Mark 15: 3-5.

This is a wonderful record. Picture that scene. All eyes are riveted upon Jesus. And more, all heaven in suppressed indignation are also looking on. Pilate, the representative of the most powerful republic on earth, is scrutinizing the Lord of glory; angry accusations are being pressed in by envious priests, of His own nation; hired witnesses are bringing forward false charges — with the Prince of life standing there answering nothing. Wonderful silence!

As Pilate studies the Prisoner, he recognizes no common personage before him. Many criminals had been brought into his presence. No accused person like this one had he ever seen before; no scene like this one had ever occurred before his judgment seat. We can see Pilate studying his Prisoner. He sees no guilt as is charged to Him by priests and false witnesses, in that calm, godlike face before him. No marks of sin are delineated there. He looks at His accusers. Envy and malice are seen depicted upon the countenances of these angry and crafty priests. He comprehends it all, and "perceived that for envy the chief priests had delivered Him up."

### THE JUDGE SEARCHED BY THE ACCUSED

Somehow it dawns upon Pilate that instead of his Prisoner's being upon trial before him, he himself is being searched through and through by One greater than this world ever before had known. Can it be that this is the promised Messiah, of whom he has but a faint knowledge, who was to come into the world?

And just here a messenger presses into Pilate's judgment hall with a note from his wife. Glancing over it, he reads: "Have thou nothing to do with that righteous Man; for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of Him." What a conflict surges within

Think of one hundred forty-four thousand harps, all in perfect accord, whose soulful harmonies enrapture even the angels of heaven. This grand chorus, these skilled harpists, "redeemed from among men," shall "follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth."

There will be such opportunities to learn music as earth has never known, the grandest anthems of praise known to all the universe. And the lover of music may pursue that sublime theme to all eternity.

Are you planning to attend this great exposition?

Pilate's soul! What shall he do? Beckoning Jesus to come aside with him privately, very interestedly he asks, "Art Thou the king of the Jews?"

Now Jesus' sealed lips part as He looks into the eyes of this Roman ruler and calmly asks, "Sayest thou this of thyself, or did others tell it thee concerning Me?"

Pilate is nettled to be drawn out in this fashion by his Prisoner, to reveal what is in his own heart, and he answers: "Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests delivered Thee unto me: what hast Thou done?"

Still he gets no answer as to what his Prisoner has done. Jesus answered with this wonderful statement: "My kingdom is not of this world: if My kingdom were



Because of fear of the Jews, and his political fortunes, Pilate delivered up Jesus to His persecutors.

of this world, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from hence."

A king? — Yes, for there can be no kingdom without a king; yet He could not be king of the Jews, or He would not have said what He did about His servants' fighting so that He should not be delivered to them. He did not say, "Then would My servants fight that I should not be delivered" to the Romans. No, but "to the Jews."

He could then be no enemy of the Romans, Pilate quickly perceived. Yet He was a king, according to His own statement. Who could He be?

Again Pilate presses the question, "Art Thou a king then?" The Suffering One replies: "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end have I been born, and to this end am I come into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice."

Pilate, interestedly following closely what Jesus had said, inquires, "What is truth?"

Here the private interview ceases. The clamor of the angry mob in the court calls the governor away, and the answer from Jesus to his question remains unspoken. The Prisoner's lips are again sealed, and silently He bore the insult and the mockery as He was crowned with thorns and spit upon before being taken from Pilate's judgment hall to Calvary.

"And the soldiers led Him away into the hall, called Prætorium; and they call together the whole band. And they clothed Him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about His head, and began to salute Him, Hail, King of the Jews! And they smote Him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon Him, and bowing their knees worshiped Him. And when they had mocked Him, they took off the purple from Him, and put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him." Mark 15: 16-20.

Besides all this, and harder to bear than all this mockery, the load of our sins was upon Him. As Isaiah in vision saw it all hundreds of years before, he wrote: "He was oppressed, yet when He was afflicted He opened not His mouth; as a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth." Isaiah 53: 7, R. V.

### BORE IT ALL FOR YOU

Blessed Saviour that He is! How much, O, how much has He borne for us! What are we willing to bear for Him? Sometimes we think our trials great; but how small they appear as we behold our innocent Elder Brother suffering under this awful load of our sins, patiently bearing all this ignominy and shame for us!

The prophet Isaiah still depicts the scene: "He was despised, and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and as one from whom men hide their face He was despised; and we esteemed Him not. Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and Jehovah hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Verses 3-6.

Surely as we consider what Jesus has borne for us; that He "despised" all this "shame" to provide for us a way of escape from our guilt and eternal death; that He bore it all silently and willingly for us, how can we but be drawn to Him? And how only may we repay Him? — It will be through love, yielding our lives in obedient service to Him; for therein "He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied."



## A Foolish Bargain

"WHAT shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8: 36.

This question ought to set every man and woman thinking seriously, who, because of the love of the world and its pleasures, is refusing Christ. The temporal, fleeting, and transitory is placed in contrast with the eternal, constant, and enduring; yet the question is not, What shall it profit a man if he gain the present and lose the future? Though one might gain the whole world, it would be at an infinite price, and the bargain would be a very foolish one.

No man or woman who loses his or her soul ever gains the whole world. The one who lives in sin and away from Christ does not get the most out of the life that now is. The pleasures of sin are not without alloy, for they are not unmixed with pains and penalties, sorrows and bitter disappointments. The world may appear very attractive and desirable; but it is all a deception, for it is full of remorse and cankering care. "The way of transgressors is hard."

On the other hand, the man that saves his soul does not lose the present. He is the one who gets the most out of the life that now is. All along the Christian's pathway are wellsprings of joy to refresh the weary. He whom his soul loves walks invisible beside him all the way, and peace that passes understanding is his portion.

To gain the whole world would be to get all the wealth, the honor, the social position, and all the worldly pleasures there are; but the world is full of sin, suffering, sorrow, sickness, and death, and that would be a portion of that gained with the whole world.

To lose one's soul is to lose Jesus, eternal life, truth, heaven, riches that are imperishable, a title to the mansions our Saviour has gone to prepare in glory, and words better than all earthly praise, spoken by the Saviour, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

The most attractive things of this world do not satisfy the soul, even for the short while that they may be enjoyed in a lifetime. Was ever any man satisfied with wealth? The wealth of the world cannot satisfy. Does honor or power satisfy? Was ever king or emperor or czar, no matter how great his power, satisfied? Do the pleasures of the world satisfy man? Does the theater, the ballroom, or the card party? Is there any form of the world's pleasure that can truly satisfy the human soul? How foolish it is, then, to barter away your soul for the vain things the world offers you in exchange for your soul!

Christ and Satan are bidding for your soul. Satan offers you the world with its riches, honor, social position, and pleasures. Christ offers you salvation, eternal life, happiness and peace, and a mansion in glory. Which offer will you take? Satan offers you the world, but it does not satisfy. Jesus offers you life, eternal riches, an everlasting home in heaven. Which shall it be? "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

ANDREW NELSON.

"THE isles shall wait for His law."

## The Book That Guards from Error

BY W. A. SPICER

THE apostles recognized God's word as the daily spiritual food for the believer, and the shield and defense from error. The apostle Paul said, in warning the representatives of the Ephesian church of coming apostasy and deceptive error: "Now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Acts 20: 32.

The mother and the grandmother of young Timothy had taught him the Scriptures; and instead of rebuking these women for their work, the apostle approved of it, saying to Timothy:

"Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3: 14, 15.

The Scriptures, then, are a good thing for women to handle; and even the chil-

arise in the church. With true instinct of the peril of the Scripture witness, Rome has ever been no friend of the open Bible in the hands of the people. In Roman Catholic lands, in regions where the power of the church is supreme and unopposed, one finds everywhere crucifixes, and candles, and pictures of saints, and the ecclesiastical toys of all descriptions; but the translated Bible is not in the homes of the people.

The Bible societies are doing a blessed work in spreading the word of God through all lands, and they have well earned the enmity of Rome. The Bible is bringing light and deliverance and the joy of salvation to the multitudes in Catholic lands.

### Just Salt

WHEN a mere lad, attending prayer meeting with my parents, I remember hearing a good brother utter words like these: "I want you to pray that God will help me to trust Him as He trusts me; to believe in God as He believes in me; to exercise confidence in God as He manifests confidence in me." These words are full of deepest significance. What faith God does repose in His children!

Practically every divine promise of ministry to the inhabitants of earth is contingent on the coöperation of men and women redeemed by the blood of Christ, and whom God confidently believes will witness for Him in the multiplied ways and means of service. There is no question with God as to the dependency He may place in His followers.

Speaking to His disciples in all ages, Jesus said: "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden underfoot of men."

The only thing that gives value to salt is its saltiness. The salt used in Palestine was largely mixed with lime and other insoluble materials. If the saltiness was washed out, and nothing left but the lime, of what good was that? Savorless salt—salt without saltiness—expresses the extreme of worthlessness.

All that gives value to a Christian is his Christianity. If he has no Christianity—if he is just like other people—of what good is he? or if he has just enough religion to prevent him from engaging heartily and successfully in worldly pursuits, and not enough to make him hearty and enthusiastic in the service of God, of what good is he, either to the world or to the church?

Let us then be God's men and women truly, and let not the good name whereby we are called into Christian fellowship be made a mere cloak. We owe it to God, to His Son Jesus, to angels, to our fellow men, and indeed to ourselves, that we profess what we are, and live what we profess.

J. W. CHRISTIAN.



Timothy studied the Scriptures from his earliest years.

dren may find salvation in their study.

The psalmist, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, says that the Scriptures are for the common people:

"The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." Psalm 119: 130.

Here is a word for the simple, for the common people. This does not read at all like the language of an ecclesiastical council denying to the laity the word of God in their own tongue, lest simple people be misled by the words spoken by the living God. The fact is, the Bible is a deadly witness against all error.

The Bible was given by inspiration, to be a lamp to the feet, and a light to the path. It points out clearly the way of salvation from sin through faith in Jesus Christ. Its sure word of prophecy forewarned against the apostasy that was to



# How We Understand Creation

BY CLARENCE SANTEE

"IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Genesis 1:1. A wonderful act of power, such as no man can comprehend or conceive, but which is evidenced as a simple fact to every man who breathes the air of heaven, or who walks to and fro upon the solid earth.

Mundane history cannot antedate this simple statement. It was "the beginning." Exhaustive pages cannot dispute it, though written from a thousand viewpoints. The power of God is in the act, and the statement draws its convincing power from being based upon the thing that was done.

It is not surprising that men who know not God, will question. Only by faith can men accept as a fact any statement of creative power. That this is so we read in Hebrews 11:3: "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

"Through faith we understand." There is no other way. Neither we nor our fathers were there. No man can witness.

Not alone the world with which we have to do a few short years, but all the worlds in space. The psalmist declared, "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth." "For He spake, and it was done." Psalm 33:6, 9.

## HEAVEN'S HOSTS

After a rehearsal of the various plans of God as revealed from day to day in the first six days of time, it is said in Genesis 2:1, "Thus"—in this way—"the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them." That "all the host of them" refers to the starry suns, with their accompanying worlds—the "many mansions" of our Saviour's promise—is made sure by Deuteronomy 4:19: "When thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven," etc.

As we look into the awful depths of the heavens with the natural eye, seeing suns that are computed to be millions of miles in diameter, so far away that they look to us as little points of light, then place our eye to the giant telescope, and look five hundred times farther into space, only to see other uncounted millions of suns and systems, farther and farther, until again lost in the mighty depths, we begin to conceive of the visible proofs of the vastness of creative power; and all this is easily understood and accounted for by the child of faith.

Faith reaches beyond this. By what great circling hands are all these mighty solid globes held in their unvarying paths? Our own earth, computed to weigh six sextillions of tons, rushing on in its circle, one thousand times faster than the limited train, yet never flying off into space—what upholds and directs all these? The answer:

"He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." Job 26:7. "And He is before

all things, and / Him all things consist," or "hold together." Colossians 1:17.

"For that He is strong in power; not one faileth." Isaiah 40:26.

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them." Why was all this stupendous work begun and finished? "Is there not a cause?" Was it created in vain? Turn to Isaiah 45:18 for the divine answer:

"Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it *not in vain*, He formed it to be inhabited."

## OTHER WORLDS INHABITED

That other worlds are inhabited is strongly implied in the stated fact that "all the host of them" were created as this one was,—light, air, fruits, etc. Again, Adam, the first man, was called



Through the giant telescopes of the great observatories, uncounted millions of suns and systems can be seen.

"the son of God." Luke 3:38. He had no other father. Other "sons of God" evidently represent the other worlds. See Job 1:6; 38:7.

Over this wonderful world, brought into existence "by the word of the Lord," God placed our first parents, Adam and Eve—not as ruler and servant, but as equals in the dominion of the earth and all upon it. Genesis 1:26-28. Further to show the equality of dominion, we read, "Male and female created He them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created." Genesis 5:2.

In consequence of sin, a change of relation came in; but in Christ, that change is removed. In the words of the Saviour, we can say, "From the beginning it was not so." Matthew 19:8.

A prominent writer has caught the design of God so perfectly that we will repeat the words:

"God Himself gave Adam a companion. He provided 'an help meet for him,'—

a helper corresponding to him,—one who was fitted to be his companion, and who could be one with him in love and sympathy.

"Eve was created from a rib taken from the side of Adam, signifying that she was not to control him, as the head, nor to be trampled under his feet as an inferior, but to stand by his side as an equal."

## ONE WAS FOUND

From this perfection of happiness, there came a sad change. Adam disobeyed the one prohibition of his Creator, and came under the dominion of death. God had commanded, "Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Genesis 2:17.

If one had not been found to receive that sentence, and so to give him a second choice, Adam must have died without hope. But that one was found. We read, "Neither doth God respect any person: yet doth He devise means, that His banished be not expelled from Him." The margin reads, "Because God hath not taken away his life, He hath also devised means, that His banished be not expelled from Him." 2 Samuel 14:14.

The apostle Paul referred to that choice which meant disaster and death to a race, when he said, "By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin" (Romans 5:12); also, in 1 Corinthians 15:22, "In Adam all die;" again, "The wages of sin is death."

Adam from his exalted station of universal dominion of the earth, became a servant to sin and death. Christ said, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." John 8:34. He was helpless. Summing up his power of resistance, Jesus said, "Without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:5.

But gleams of hope penetrated the darkness. The seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15)—a Redeemer was promised.

## Bread for the Soul

MANY principles of dietetics hold true in the spiritual life. Thus a soul cannot be well nourished on meager or infrequent portions of the bread of life, or by any amount taken hurriedly. Nor will that Word be thoroughly assimilated without spiritual exercise.

ADELAIDE D. WELLMAN.

THE one who fails to recognize God in His providences is an unbeliever. He may be in the church; but he is an unbeliever, nevertheless, just as certainly as were the murmurers among ancient Israel. A failure to recognize that God was leading them was responsible for their murmurings. God went before them on their way to the land of promise. He led them to the bitter waters, to test them, and to reveal what was in their hearts. They saw men instead of God, and attributed their disappointments to them. They could not enter the land of promise, because of unbelief. They were growlers instead of singers. "I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not." Jude 5.

D. H. KRESS.





## UNCLE SAM'S DEPARTMENT

### Meet the Evil Contagion with a Good One

THE worst contagion with which this nation has ever been called to contend has been the recent epidemic of Spanish influenza; and how good it was for us that when this epidemic broke out, the Red Cross was in such a high state of active efficiency!

Through its various chapters and agencies, it kept in close touch with every part of the nation; and where the local authorities were unable to cope with the situation, the Red Cross stepped in to help. Hundreds of nurses were sent to various training camps where there was a shortage; and where large numbers of people had been congregated in shipbuilding and other manufacturing plants, the Red Cross was enabled to do a work that could not have been done, and to save many lives that could not have been saved, had this organization not been equipped and ready.

In consequence of the lesson learned from this epidemic, the Red Cross is making a nation-wide survey of the country's nursing resources, so that definite information may be had of all the nurses in the nation, and the various classes to which they belong. This survey will furnish very useful information, which will be kept ready for instant use by our Red Cross.

Every individual residing in this nation and enjoying its benefits should esteem it a great privilege as well as a high duty to become a member of this worthy society, or if already a member, to renew that membership during the present drive.

Not only should we seek to have the adults in the organization, but even the children should be brought in as members. The work that is represented by the Red Cross is one that is much needed in our world at the present time; and we should all catch the spirit of it, and earnestly work for its advancement. Are you a member of the Red Cross Society? Are all your neighbors members? Join in the good work of making the membership of the Red Cross unanimous throughout our nation. Let us have over 100,000,000 members by January 1, 1919.

### Are You Planning a Spring Garden?

THE National War Garden Commission reports that there were 5,285,000 home war gardens in the year 1918, which was an increase of more than 50% over 1917. The value of the products raised in these gardens was about five hundred million dollars.

The spirit of the war garden is spreading also to other countries. The Canada Food Board reports approximately \$50,-

000,000 worth of foodstuffs raised in home gardens this year, which is more than double that raised last year. The armistice has been signed, and the arrangements for peace are in progress; but the need for increasing the sentiment in favor of the home garden will be greater for 1919 than for any previous year.

The War Garden Commission for this nation will be continued, and its good work will be prosecuted with vigor.

A disease similar to tuberculosis has made its appearance in Europe as a result of malnutrition. The world must now give itself to the study of increasing



Your boy may be receiving a package of good things through the kindness of the Red Cross. From every part of the land, they are cared for, and even their smallest wants are looked after. The English girl above is giving the wounded American, who is convalescent in a British hospital, a box of food.

foodstuffs with all the resources and vigor at its command. There are many vacant lots and parcels of land in or adjacent to all our cities and villages. The great need for foodstuffs, we are sure, will lead thousands of our citizens to begin even now in midwinter the planning for the garden next spring and summer. This vacant land will be looked up and secured for garden purposes, and plans will be laid in advance, so that as soon as the weather opens in the spring, the good work may be started.

A little thoughtful care to gardening works out an immense value in more directions than one. The person, for instance, who is shut up in store or office during the day, will find a very pleasant as well as a very healthful recreation

in the work of gardening. The increased health is often of more value than the yield from the garden. And then each individual can have the consciousness that he is doing his best toward providing the food for the starving millions of our fellow men in other parts of the world. The greatest need for 1919 will be to produce a sentiment that will turn the minds of a sufficient number of men and women to the garden and the farm to produce the food with which to stay the progress of the famine that has been creeping over the earth as the result of the war. Be an enthusiast in this good work, and help to spread the contagion.

### The Church's Greatest Shame

(Continued from page 1)

instead rejoice that in the very fact of Christianity's greatest shame lies one of the most impregnable proofs of the divine origin of Christianity—a proof which his enemies never tire of thrusting into his face. Then, instead of stammering and apologizing, let him arouse and grasp firmly this very proof of the truth of the Bible, and upon the impregnable rock of the Saviour's fulfilled words, build a victorious faith. Let him grasp firmly, gladly, aggressively, the weapons thus thrust into his hands by the enemies of the gospel. Let him rejoice whenever higher critics or other infidels pile up books telling of the world's hatred of Christians or of slaughter within the church, for they are only adding proof upon proof that as Jesus said upon this very occasion, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." Matthew 24: 35. Thus what the unbeliever in his blindness thinks is a weapon to demolish the Bible and real Christianity, will prove to be but a boomerang that will in time destroy him and his kind.

#### OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE

No Christian will attempt to justify the church wars of the past, but he will remember that not all who say "Lord, Lord" are real Christians, and he will not be forgetful of the fact that the Bible repeatedly foretold the existence of a false Christianity which for nearly 1,300 years would kill true Christians.

Therefore Christianity's supposed indictment based on its bloody past, ceases to be an indictment, and becomes overwhelming evidence of its truth. No one to-day would think of rejecting God because the kaiser called upon Him to aid in the ravaging and pillaging of Belgium and France. No more will any thinking man reject Christianity because cruel religious autocrats of past ages murdered Christians in God's name. Christ and the Bible said this would be so. Infidels and history proclaim it to have been so. Therefore, whatever else and whoever else may be false, Christ and the Bible stand forth in the world's darkness as the true light of the world in all ages.

BIBLE MOTTOES, size 12 x 16. Don't fail to send for some. 200 \$10, 1,000 \$40, express prepaid. They are beauties. We are also headquarters for that fine vegetable cooking oil. Write for prices. Quick shipments our motto. A. J. Iden & Co., Nevada, Iowa.



## Seeking to Behold the Future

**T**HERE is no living mortal that can look one moment ahead of him into the future to tell us what may happen. With a knowledge of the past, and judging from the conditions of the present, we may make calculation for the future, but with the full knowledge that it is at the best only an "intelligent guess."

All men to-day realize that a great crisis in history has been reached; and how eagerly would men look into the future to know what is coming and prepare for it! But it is just as true now as it was anciently that we know not what a day may bring forth.

Yet, while man is thus limited, there is a supreme, an infinite Being who can read the future as readily as He reads the present or the past; and through His inspired word, He has given mankind glimpses of the future, so that we may know what to expect.

In the Book, we read that in the days of Noah, "the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." And again of that time we read, "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence." And because of this condition, God said, "The end of all flesh is come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth." Genesis 6: 5, 11, 13.

Because the earth was corrupted, and because the earth was filled with violence, the record shows that God found it necessary to destroy the old world by the waters of the Flood. And while the definite day and hour of the great future event of the coming of Christ may not be known, as is shown by the thirty-sixth verse of Matthew 24, yet are we told that "as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Verse 37. See also the same prediction made by the Master as recorded in Luke 17: 26.

The supreme climax of Daniel's prophecy is "the time of the end." And in that time of the end, and at the standing up of Michael, who is Christ, the prophet tells us, there will be "a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time." Daniel 12: 1. Men may theorize differently, they may speculate in regard to the future; but just so surely as God's word is true, and just so surely as the world reaches "the time of the end" spoken of by Daniel, and just so surely as it reaches the last days prophesied by Isaiah, by Micah, by Jesus, by John, by Paul, and by the rest of the apostles and prophets, just so surely will those days be marked by conditions of violence and distress that will cause men, in spite of themselves, to regard the situation with serious anticipation.

God is not responsible for these conditions. It is the wickedness and the violence of mankind that has brought the conditions about. God foretells it, and forewarns us as to what it may mean.

Mighty men with true and lofty ideals are working in these days to make our planet safe for democracy and freedom. Because of this noble work, the world is far better than it otherwise would be. The hands of the men who are working

in these lines must be sustained by every person who would seek for the true and the best; and we may hope that because of their efforts, God will still give this old world a little time of peace in which His gospel message may close with power, as predicted in His inspired word.

But while the forces of evil and lawlessness are working so violently to overthrow law and order, the individual may know for himself the power of the Infinite, and may rest under the sustaining grace of the Almighty. We may have a realizing sense of what it means to be under the protection of Him with whom there is no impossibility, and who, by His infinite might, holds and guides every sun and every planet in all the infinite expanse of our universe.

The infinite Creator is our heavenly Father. He loves every individual upon our earth. He has power to save each



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*This is not a native of Greenland or Iceland. The clothing is that regularly furnished to the American soldier whose duty demands service in Siberia during the winter months. This is additional to the regular equipment. Dressed in arctic furs, he looks warm and comfortable.*

and every one who will intrust their cases in His hands. His love for us is so great that He gave His only-begotten Son in order to prove to humanity that He loves us and that He will save us; and through the beautiful and soul-bracing promises of His word, He informs us that if we but trust Him, we may go through the trials, the difficulties, and the perplexities of these last days, without a shadow of fear.

O, that men everywhere would learn to know the indescribable sense of relief, of soul rest, and of blessed assurance that comes into the life through the full acceptance of this infinite Creator and His blessed Son, our Redeemer, the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! We may know our Lord and Saviour, and His divine Father, as friend knows intimate friend; and in this blessed relation,

neither the present nor the future holds any terrors for us. We have learned what the outcome will be, and our hearts are thrilled with the anticipated joys that lie just beyond. And as we possess such a hope, our energies will be devoted to every possible service for mankind, so that each individual who may be touched with the joys of salvation may be brought into the experiences of Heaven's rich blessing.

## Wine in the Sacrament

A CERTAIN religious paper representing a great Christian denomination—the name of the paper and of the denomination are immaterial—affirms that wine is the corner stone of its sacramental office, and that the destruction of this edifice is really aimed at in some of the judicial decisions in certain prohibition states.

Without any question, wine is an essential of the sacramental service. The wine taken in the communion is representative of the blood of Christ that was shed for the redemption of mankind. But does it follow that this wine must be fermented? Is there not clear evidence that the wine of the sacramental service should be the pure, unfermented, sweet juice of the grape, with no alcohol whatever in it?

The unfermented wine appropriately represents the blood of Christ; but the fermented wine, with its blight of alcoholic poison, should never be used in the sacramental service. Christian people of all denominations should stand strongly and squarely upon this ground.

## Two Hours Against Forty Years

DR. JOHN H. FINLEY, head of the Red Cross Commission in Palestine, who has recently returned to the United States after spending a number of months in Palestine in Red Cross work, says in recounting one of his experiences: "I went from Palestine to Egypt by aeroplane in two hours. It took the children of Israel forty years to cover the same distance."

There has been, indeed, a great change in our old world since the days of Moses; and is it not truly remarkable that the greater part of these material changes have been brought about within the lifetime of men who are still in active service? And we may ask the further question, Are not these things a most literal fulfillment of the prediction in the twelfth chapter of Daniel, that in the time of the end, many would run to and fro, and knowledge would be increased? The bewildering increase of knowledge in our days, and the running to and fro of men, not only on the land and on the sea, but even under the sea and in the air over our heads, should show us, without the shadow of a doubt, that we have reached the time foretold by the prophets.

"CURSE ye Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

"LIFE is a short day, but it is a working-day."