

# Signs of the Times

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Here is one way that "the greatest mother in the world" is making people happy wherever the war's horrors are found. The entire village of Lis-sur-Ourcq was made homeless by the retreating enemy; and to prevent suffering, they were put on large barges and transported to Paris. Food and warm baths were also furnished them. Here they are shown doing their cooking on the barges. Wherever they stopped, Red Cross workers were there to supply their needs.



## Coming of a Real Santa Claus

By STEMPLE WHITE



NOT all in this world have even heard the popular fable about the annual coming of Santa Claus, who descends chimneys at Christmas time with gifts for children; but every soul in this world will yet hear of a real Santa Claus, who is soon to descend personally to this earth, through Orion, the diamond-studded and jeweled-walled corridor of the skies, bringing unspeakable gifts to His children. Christmas—Christ-mas(s)—is not in any sense of Christian origin, although it is supposed to commemorate the birth of Jesus. All well informed people know that Jesus was not born on December 25. This merely human festival day is generally regarded by the nominal religious world as though it were a really divine institution; and not only is the Christmas tree found in many homes, schools, and churches, but we hear much these days about big municipal Christmas tree festivities.

Though the Christmas tree is foreign to Christianity, and is not mentioned in the Scriptures of truth, we read of "the tree of life" in both the first and the last book of the Holy Bible. In Genesis 3:22-24, we read of that wonderful tree of which our first parents were debarred from partaking after they had sinned; and in Revelation 2:7 and 22:1, 2, 14, we learn more about that new Jerusalem "tree of life" by the river of life, of whose twelve varieties of fruit, monthly matured, all overcomers may partake in the world to come.

Of that same tree from which Adam was driven, which was transported to heaven just previous to the Flood, and which is now in the new Jerusalem, repentant Adam and all his repentant children will yet partake. So, while the world is now engaged in the Christmas tree festivities that are sup-

posed to commemorate the first advent of the Son of God, I ask in all seriousness, Is the world as interested in the return of Jesus, who will then give all loyal doers of His word access to the tree of life?

It is a fact that for many centuries, the coming of a real Santa Claus has been announced to all the world; and the very description of this wonderful Gift-giver, as He shall descend in all His glory, has long been published to the human family. He is described as "the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire; and His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters." Revelation 1:13-15.

He is a real person, too. In fact, both Father and Son are real persons. (Hebrews 1:1-3.) Jesus was born "in the likeness of sinful flesh," in Bethlehem's manger. He grew up to manhood, and "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." As a very practical man and the "salt" of the earth, the Carpenter of Nazareth mingled among the people in His home town, yet kept Himself unspotted from the world. Later in His public work, as great Teacher, wonderful Counselor, and mighty Healer, He kept very close to humanity. He bore the sins of the whole world on Calvary's cross, was buried, and arose to life again.

The very day of His resurrection, He personally appeared to His disciples; and showing them His hands and His feet, and also eating with them, He gave every evidence possible as to His being the same personal Jesus (Continued on page 4)



# SAID IN FEW WORDS

## True Enjoyment

THE truest enjoyment is the glory of achievement. Natural, then, the truism that "work is more fun than play," just as the achievement of work is greater than that of play. Concerning the gospel worker, Christ said, "He that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal." Not the receiving of wages—that is mentioned merely as incidental—but the gathering of fruit to life eternal, the achievement, is the great glory. As this pursuit is the producer of the greatest achievement, so is it the most pleasurable and satisfying occupation on earth.

JOSEF W. HALL.

## Shutting the Gates

Do you find it difficult to keep the Sabbath holy?—More than likely, for Satan is very busy these days. Make these words, then, your Sabbath motto: "Shut the gates." Nehemiah 13:19. Shut the ear gate and the eye gate and all the other gates of your body to every worldly idea. Exclude from your mind every thought of business and the activities of the everyday life. Ascend the heights of God. Think loftily. Climb into the bosom of the divine, and rest peacefully there from every earthly worry. "Shut the gates!"

A. S. MAXWELL.

## True Brotherly Love

THE apostle Paul says: "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing witness in the Holy Ghost, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh." Romans 9:1-3. There are not many Christians who pray that prayer. I do not know that any of us can. Paul loved his brethren, his kinsmen—loved those who were stoning him, hunting him from place to place—so much that he said he could wish himself accursed for their sake. He was willing to be lost, to give up eternal life, if, in doing so, he might save his brethren! When that spirit is in the heart of each one, to the extent that he can truly say, Lord, I would yield, if necessary, my crown of glory, that my brother might be saved in the kingdom of God,—that is religion. This love can only be begotten in the heart by the power of the Spirit of God, bringing into our souls the love which Jesus had.

G. B. THOMPSON.

## Why Not Dance?

1. I CANNOT dance with a clear conscience, and therefore should abstain.

2. All branches of the church have condemned dancing as carnal and immoral, and inconsistent with the Christian profession.

3. The Vedas of India and the Koran declare that dancing is an immoral amusement.

4. Pagan moralists, like Cicero, condemn dancing as exciting licentiousness.

5. Dancing was one great means by which Nero corrupted Rome.

6. It has a bad name for professing Christians.

7. The best and most devout Christians do not want to dance.

8. Backsliders and unconverted persons love it.

9. It is not a favorite amusement with even conscientious worldlings.

10. It is one of the most favorite amusements of the vile and degraded.

11. The world has no confidence in the piety of church members who dance.

12. It is a distinctive badge of worldliness and worldly conformity.

13. It destroys a professing Christian's influence and usefulness.

14. The promiscuous dancing of the sexes was not approved nor practiced in Bible times.

15. Dancing grieves and offends pastors and all devout Christians.

16. It is a companion vice with drinking.

17. It dissipates the mind, corrupts the heart, and sears the conscience.

18. The décolleté dress of the dance is the immoral invention of procuresses and harlots.

19. The "German" and other round dances were invented in brothels, and they prevail there.

20. The liberties indulged in the dance are nowhere else allowed in decent society.

21. It brings virtue in close connection with vice, at late hours and under excitement.

22. Men do not choose to dance by themselves, nor even with their own wives and sisters.

23. The peculiar charm of dancing, beyond music and motion, seems to have a sex reference.

24. Indeed, it is so allied to licentiousness that brothels are commonly called dance houses.

25. The confessional and police reports show that a very large proportion of abandoned women were ruined in connection with the dance.

26. I cannot dance to the glory of God.

27. If Jesus Christ were here, I know He would not go with me to a dance, and I cannot ask His blessing on it.

28. I would not like to meet death at a dance.

29. I would not like to be found in a ballroom when the Lord comes.

30. And, finally, I have no desire to dance, because my soul is filled with the joy of God's salvation, and my life with the privileges of His service.—E. P. Marvin.

## Getting out of Tune

PIANO tuners tell us that if a piano were always in an atmosphere of the same temperature, it would never get out of tune. So it may be with us. The reason we have our "up-and-down" Christian experiences is because we are not always in "the atmosphere of heaven." Prayer is the atmosphere. Paul says, "Pray without ceasing." If we could learn to stay in this constant atmosphere, might we not be spared the hard trials that come to many of us? But God has to use these tuning-up processes to bring us back to harmony with Him. Let us save ourselves the tuning by getting into and staying in the right atmosphere.

W. G. WIRTH.

## Trifles Often Decide

BEING conscientious in trifles is not a small thing; for in what may seem the little things, the conscience has its real test. Being faithful in little things gives faithfulness in the larger. In the small things of life come the opportunities for developing a conscience. The question of what is right in our reading, what we wear, how we amuse ourselves, what associations we keep, what we eat and drink, where we go, *et cetera*, gives daily occasion for discipline of the conscience. These questions may not seem to mean much, but how they are settled day after day means everything in one's life.

L. A. HANSEN.

## Right to Obey

ALL men desire to be free, yet the majority of the world are slaves. Satan is a hard master, and holds as his servants all who do not yield themselves to God. It is but right for the creature to obey the Creator. The will of God is expressed in the Bible, and those who obey it become the children of God. Jesus said, "If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31, 32. It is certainly better to be God's own free men and women in Christ Jesus than to be servants of the devil.

ELIZA H. MORTON.

HEARTS that have been the battle ground of the conflict with Satan, and that have been rescued by the power of love, are more precious to the Redeemer than those who have never fallen.

ELLEN G. WHITE.

RIGHT is always victorious; but in this present evil world, its victories are often concealed by the blaring huzzas of the host of wrong. Yet its victories are none the less secure, and its triumph is for eternity.

ALBERT CAREY.

## THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES WEEKLY

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# More than Civilization Required

*Just One Power Can Transform a Native Heathen*

By EARLE ALBERT ROWELL

THE historian Niebuhr tells us that all the toilsome and varied research of our age with respect to the origins of civilization has discovered no single savage race which has risen to civilization apart from help without. This fact is a death blow to the theory of the evolutionist and higher critic that every race has within itself the seed of a divine civilization—that time is the only cultivator needed.

Slovenly, filthy, diseased, starving savage races have been but little benefited by civilization apart from Christianity. Civilization without Christianity only teaches the savage to add the white man's vices to his own. To-day the "darkest Africa" is not where the white man has never been, but where the white man without Christianity has longest been. Christ did not send forth His disciples first to civilize and then to evangelize.

## EXPERIMENTED ON SAVAGES

Bishop Colenso, of England, was the first avowed Christian to attempt to civilize and then evangelize savages. He selected twelve boys of the superior race of the Zulus to train at first only in civilization. Though purposely omitting all religious instruction, he conscientiously and persistently devoted himself, through a course of several years, to their intellectual and industrial training. The susceptible Africans made rapid progress.

At last, when the bishop thought them civilized, he set them free. He then told them that their training was incomplete without their acceptance of Christ and the gospel. He appealed to them to receive their religious instruction. Every motive of kindness, every instinct of love, urged them to remain, but without avail. Next morning, every man had gone back to his mud hut and native life. Their only sign of gratitude was to leave behind the European clothes that had been furnished them by the generosity of the bishop.

## A SKEPTIC'S TESTIMONY

In contrast with this attempt to civilize savages, it is interesting and illuminating to read the effect of Christianity on a savage race as observed by the skeptic Charles Darwin, who circumnavigated the globe in the Beagle. Comparing a heathen with a Christian Fuegian, he says:

"It was without exception the most curious and interesting spectacle I ever beheld. I could not have believed how wide was the difference between savage and civilized man. It seems yet wonderful to me when I think over all his [the Christian Fuegian's] many good qualities, that he should have been of the same race, and doubtless have partaken of the same character, with the miserable, degraded savages whom we first met here. Viewing such men, one can hardly make one's self believe that they are fellow creatures, and inhabitants of the same world.

"The success of the mission is most wonderful, and charms me, as I always prophesied utter failure. I could not have believed all the missionaries in the world could have made the Fuegians honest. The mission is a grand success. . . . The march of improvement consequent on the introduction of Christianity throughout the South Seas probably stands by itself in the records of history. . . . The lesson of the missionary is the enchanter's wand."—"Journal of Research."

This testimony is all the more valuable since it is the honest personal experience of a man who was an unbeliever, but who nevertheless recorded faithfully what he saw. His experience is that of every one who has traveled among lands afar.



The conclusion of the whole matter is that Christianity and Christianity only will lift men, savage or civilized, out of sinful, wasteful lives to pure, useful, godly lives.

Do not neglect the housetop meeting. It was while there praying that Peter saw the open heaven, and received the anointing which enabled him to meet the other man of prayer, who was seeking light. To-day, as then, God brings praying men together. He makes the connection between the man who is seeking light and the one who has light to impart.  
D. H. KRESS.

THERE must be no artificial limbs in the church of Christ. All must be living members.  
M.



## Power for Discouragements

ARE you, my fellow man, striving to live the Christlike life, and thus be a true, devoted, humble Christian? If so, does your pathway seem exceedingly rough and thorny? Do barriers each day loom up before you as did the Red Sea before the children of Israel when they started on their journey toward the land of Canaan? From time to time, do the clouds of spiritual darkness gather around you until it seems that heaven above is brass, and the earth beneath is iron, and you are shut in from both God and man? Because you endeavor to serve God and walk as Jesus walked, have friends and loved ones turned a cold shoulder to you and forsaken you? Does it seem that you have given up all and received nothing in return? Do Satan's little imps of discouragement often make you a visit? As the world at present is overwhelmed in perplexity, and men's hearts are "failing them for fear," do you ever feel that you can no longer bear up under the burden, the strain and the heat of the day? And alas, to sum it all up, have you felt that your life is worthless, your Christian experience is a blank failure, and you see nothing else left to do but give up in despair?

Then let me bring to you that comforting, cheering, and sustaining promise made by our loving Father above, who is "the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth," who "fainteth not, neither is weary," but carefully watches over and cares for His own. In tender, pathetic tones, yet in words of full assurance, He says: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness. Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish. Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of naught. For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." Isaiah 41:10-13.

Now God is no respecter of persons, and this promise is for you. So if you accept it in faith, and step out upon it, there will come to you a fulfillment of it in every time of need, as God sees best for you, and there will enter into your experience, peace and joy, and your path will be "as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

J. F. WRIGHT.



# Had an Ax on His Conscience

BY B. M. GRANDY

A MAN recently approached me and placed two dollars in my hand.

I asked him why he did so; and looking at me rather strangely, he replied:

"You know why. I owe it to you."

"But I do not know why," I replied. "And furthermore, I cannot take the money under such circumstances; for, as far as I know, you do not owe me a cent."

"You haven't forgotten the trip we took together several years ago," continued my friend, "the time I moved your outfit from Long Valley to Boise, Idaho, after you had held a meeting at Roseberry."

"No, I haven't forgotten that trip," I replied. "I remember we were four days and three nights on the road, and how it rained, and that we could find shelter at night only in the settlers' barns. My wife well remembers the trip, too; for she and our little girls accompanied us, you know."

"Do you remember that you had an ax in your outfit?" he asked.

"I suppose I did, although I do not now recall anything about it."

"Well, you did have an ax; and when we unloaded your stuff, we failed to take out the ax, and consequently I took it home with me. I thought at first that I'd send it to you, but I did not. It lay around my place for a long time, and finally was lost; but I didn't forget it even then."

## WILL HELP ME FORGET

"I've seen you several times since we took that trip together; and every time I've seen you, I'd think of that ax. The two dollars is to pay for the ax. Keep it. It will help me to forget the matter."

I again assured my old friend that I had forgotten the circumstance completely; but he shook his head, and replied:

"Do you know that every time I saw you, I was sure I could see that ax in your eye? It troubled me, too; but I didn't know just what to do about it, so I didn't do anything."

For many years, my old friend has been rebelling against the Spirit of God and stifling a troubled conscience in more ways than the one mentioned. He once had a good Christian experience, but became discouraged; and, while he perhaps doesn't know just what he should do to get things straightened out, he certainly makes a mistake in doing nothing.

## UNFORTUNATE AND GUILTY

His conscience, however, continues to remind him of his duties; and the fact that it worked so effectually in the case of the missing ax gives promise that it will do the same in regard to the other matters.

The Pharisees had brought an unfortunate but guilty woman to Jesus. "They say unto Him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest Thou? This they said, tempting Him, that they might have to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground, as though He heard them not. So when they continued asking Him, He lifted up Himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again He stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst." John 8:4-9.

Fawning, hypocritical Pharisees, themselves guilty of the crimes they condemned in others, hiding their sins from their fellow men, and even deceiving their own selves by their prayers and protestations of holiness! Still in each soul God had planted a something that would not sleep, something that would not forget. That something is conscience.

## IN EVERY MAN'S SOUL

Yes, in every man's soul it abides. Ignore it, neglect it, stifle it, smother it, sear it as with a hot iron, it does not die. It struggles on, sometimes feebly, but ever struggles to guide the soul from the dark and dismal path of sin and death to the light and shining path of righteousness and life; and should it fail in this, it will stand at last in the Judgment, and mutely trace on the tablets of the soul the impending doom, and witness to the truth of the condemning record that shines forth in letters of fire on the books of heaven.

Paul, the fearless preacher of righteousness, stands before the Sanhedrin, and in ringing testimony proclaims that his conscience is void of offense toward God and man.

His accusers and judges would still his voice and stop his hated work, by putting him to death.

Yes, they can put him to death, but not for long; for he will live again. That man who could truthfully witness that his conscience was clean, can also testify to the fact that he will live again. Hear him: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but

unto all them also that love His appearing."

"Holding faith, and a good conscience," he died triumphantly, to awake in that glad day, to receive the crown immortal.

Faith and a good conscience will characterize the lives of all those who love the appearing of the Master.

## Coming of a Real Santa Claus

(Continued from page 1)

who had previously mingled with them for three and one half years. In Acts 1:3, Luke writes that Jesus "showed Himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." Before His ascension, Jesus said, "I will come again." John 14:1-3. At His ascension, angels declared, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." Acts 1:11. This same Jesus is He of whom the beloved disciple wrote, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life." 1 John 1:1. The inspired Paul both preached and wrote that "the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God." 1 Thessalonians 4:16. This real and divine Christ, coming down from above, will deliver His wonderful gifts in person. (Revelation 22:12; Matthew 16:27.)

## HIS ESCORT

The real Santa Claus will not be conducted to earth by reindeer, but in a far more august, glorious, and terrible manner. He will not return alone. As to number, glory, and power, His train will infinitely eclipse any procession that has ever before been chronicled. In Matthew 25:31, Jesus tells us that in His glorious retinue will be found "all the holy angels." In His post-ascension special revelation, Jesus mentions these "many angels"; and the expression "ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands" (Revelation 5:11), merely suggests their innumerable number, even as Paul writes of that "innumerable company of angels." Hebrews 12:22.

When we think of the power and glory manifested by one angel at the sepulcher of Jesus (Matthew 28:2-5), and of the angel that defended Jerusalem in the days of Hezekiah (2 Kings 19:34, 35), we can form some faint conception of the blazing glory and infinite power of that train whose Captain is the light of the world.

The Gift-giver will descend from heaven, not in sleigh drawn by reindeer to the tinkle of bells; but we read thus





in the figurative language of the revealer to meet the military setting of world-wide preparedness: "I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. . . . His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean." Revelation 19:11-14.

Those innumerable angel attendants assist the Gift-giver, and are sent to "gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matthew 24:31), that they may receive unspeakable gifts, which the Lord will personally bestow. Though He descends with mighty train, yet, in the light of 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 and John 14:1-3, we learn that He will return to the courts above with a far more numerous train than that which descended with Him. Songs of eternal victory containing no minor strains or discords, and all to the accompaniment of golden harps, will loudly peal forth, echoing and reëchoing through the vaults of heaven, as the real Christ shall lead the way back to the Father. (Isaiah 35:10; Revelation 5:8; 14:2.)

Not until the redeemed are placed in Eden restored, can they understand or really begin to appreciate fully the value of the gifts that the Gift-giver is preparing for those who wait for Him. (Isaiah 64:4.) However, in the light of advance information, we may name a few:

(a) A new body like that of Jesus. (Philippians 3:20, 21.) The living will be changed (1 Corinthians 15:51, 52), and the sleeping saints will be resurrected, without any trace of sin's effect upon them, yet each will retain his own personality and individuality. They will know each other (1 Corinthians 13:12), as certainly as the disciples knew and handled Jesus, and as certainly as Martha and Mary knew Lazarus, for whom they made a supper. (John 12:1, 2.) In fact, He is to provide a supper for His children. (Revelation 19:7-9.)

(b) The eternal boon of immortality will also be bestowed; for at that time, "this mortal must put on immortality." 1 Corinthians 15:51-57, 22, 23. Thus "a crown of righteousness" will be given to all those who love His appearing. 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

(c) Think of "the tree of life," whose twelve varieties of life-imparting fruit matures consecutively from month to month! (Revelation 2:7 with 22:1, 2.) The future "tree of life" privileges are worth far more than all the gold and diamonds that could ever be hung on all the Christmas trees in all the world.

#### THE IMMORTAL CITY

(d) Immortals will have a place in which to spend eternity. (John 14:2.) In harmony with God's original purpose in creation (Isaiah 45:18), that place must and will be the earth renewed. (2 Peter 3:10-13.) Imagine, if you please, Utah, Nevada, or Arizona irrigated and fully reclaimed to blossom as the rose, and then presented to you at Christmas time by Santa Claus. Now enlarge faith's vision to include the entire earth's surface at that time when not new things will be created, so far as

the earth is concerned, but when will be fulfilled what is written, "Behold, I make all things new." Revelation 21:5.

And so it is written, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5. This ideal world-farm was promised to Abraham through the righteousness of faith (Romans 4:13); and "if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:29. And what a farm, too, will that be! Not three fourths under water, nor made up of large desert waste whose only vegetation is cactus and sagebrush; not covered with swamps or cutovers; not affected with extreme torrid heat in the center, while both ends are hampered with frigid weather, with great bleak stretches of snow and ice; but a world-wide Eden.

(e) "He hath prepared for them a city," too,—"a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:16, 10. A splendid description of that city which will never be visited by earthquake, fire, tornado, pestilence, or famine, is found in the New Testament time-table. (Revelation 21:10-27.) And in that city are the "many mansions." John 14:2. Figuratively speaking, the new Jerusalem dwellers need have no fear that the beautiful landscape will be marred by shacks and hovels erected by sinful "squatters"; for the golden city authorities will grant no permits, in that world-wide restriction district, for sinners and criminals to build. "Mansions" for all! And all may be there if they will.

(f) Each dweller will receive "a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." Revelation 2:17. Highly prized by each child of God will be that little souvenir, which, methinks, will represent the experiences of life through which each has passed, and no two alike, either. Eternity alone can reveal the number, variety, and value of God's unspeakable gifts.

The fabled "Santy" comes and goes annually. Not so with the real Christ. His very name is "Emmanuel" (Matthew 1:23), which means, "God with us." Of His coming we read, "So shall we [the children of God] ever be with the Lord." 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18. After the tares are consumed, and the wheat has been gathered into the new-earth garner, the real Christ will tabernacle with men. (Revelation 21:3.) "They shall see His face." Revelation 22:4. Amidst the glory of that place, "they need no candle," and none will be found upon "the tree of life."

So the divine invitation reads: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto Me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto Me: hear, and your soul shall live." Isaiah 55:1-3.

## A Prize Worthy of Our Utmost

BY CLARENCE SANTEE

"AND He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new." Revelation 21:5.

Although this earth will "melt with fervent heat," and will be made "empty" and "waste" (Isaiah 24:1), the Lord has promised to make all things new. So we, with the apostle, can say, "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3:13. Peter here evidently referred to the promises made to Abraham, and to the one recorded in Isaiah 65:17.

To Abraham was given the promise of the land which he could see with his eyes, and that upon which his feet could walk. Genesis 13:14, 15, 17. To Isaiah the Lord said, "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth." Isaiah 65:17.

These two statements combined, assure us that this old world, torn and rent as it now is, the earth over which Abraham walked, will some day be made new, and that God's people will then receive it for their eternal inheritance.

While the Lord has said that "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" (1 Corinthians 2:9), yet through the Word, God has revealed by His Spirit some of the changes that will be made.

Here is one: "Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun,

and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of His people, and healeth the stroke of their wound."

#### WHERE THE SUN CASTS A SHADOW

Even with this added glory, the moon shining as the sun now shines, the sun shining with seven times its present brightness, there will be one place of settled and eternal glory, before which these resplendent orbs will fall into shadow. It is the light of the eternal city that the Lord has promised shall come down from God out of heaven, to become the metropolis of the renewed earth.

John said, "I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." Revelation 21:2. Also in verse 10, "He carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God."

As this new city becomes the capital of the renewed earth, the promise of God which said, "Behold, I make all things new," will be literally fulfilled. The city for which Abraham and his posterity long looked and waited (Hebrews 11:10, 13), will have come; the looking and the waiting will be forever ended.

View with me the glory of the city. Abraham "looked for a city which hath



foundations, whose builder and maker is God." John, looking upon the same, said, "The wall of the city had twelve foundations." Revelation 21:14. These different foundations were most precious stones, and their combined colors formed the hues of a mighty rainbow around the city; and the glory of God shining out through the transparent walls gave a glory that mortal cannot see and live. Its walls were of jasper (verse 18), its gates of pearl, and its streets of gold (verse 21).

#### NO NIGHT THERE

The city was laid out in a square, and its total wall measure was 12,000 furlongs, or 375 miles on either side. (Verse 16.) All the cities of earth combined would not equal this. They are built to crumble and decay; this will stand forever.

While day and night will not cease in the new earth, the city will know no night. "The city had 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 the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there." Revelation 21:23, 25.

This is because of the light proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb, which will be located in the city. But you may ask, Will the throne of God the Father be in the city when it comes down to this earth, and when the earth is renewed?

It is easy for all to believe that the throne of the Father is now in the new Jerusalem, as that is in heaven; but not so many believe that it will be in the city in the new earth. Though this may seem too good to be true, as was the resurrection of Jesus to the disciples when first told, yet God has promised it. He says, "There shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it." Revelation 22:3.

In the divine plan, the sun was made to rule the day, and the moon to rule the night. (Genesis 1:16-18.) From Isaiah 30:26, we have learned that this will continue in the new earth, but they will shine with many times their present brightness. The city, with the brightness of ten thousand suns, proceeding from the throne, will know no change. The prophet has said, "Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the Lord of hosts shall reign in Mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before His ancients gloriously." Isaiah 24:23.

The tree of life will be there with its twelve manner of life-giving fruits. (Revelation 22:2.) But the time of probationary test for man being forever past, there will be no tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This thought is emphasized by an eminent writer on Bible topics:

#### NO TEMPTATION NOR SORROW

"No tree of knowledge of good and evil will afford opportunity for temptation. No tempter is there, no possibility of wrong. Every character has withstood the testing of evil, and none are longer susceptible to its power."—"Education," page 302.

In Nahum, the thought is expressed in these words: "What do ye imagine against the Lord? He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time." Nahum 1:9.

Thank God that when you pass the portals of the city of God, your eternal home, you bid farewell to affliction, pain, and death. No presentiment of evil to come will cast its shadow on your present joy. With eternal youth, you will enter into the pleasures of heaven.

"All the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's redeemed. Unfettered by mortality, they wing their tireless flight to worlds afar,—worlds that thrilled with sorrow at the spectacle of human woe, and rang with songs of gladness at the tidings of a ransomed soul. With unutterable delight the children of earth enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings. They share the treasures of knowledge and understanding gained through ages upon ages in contemplation of God's handiwork. With undimmed vision they gaze upon the glory of creation,—suns and stars

and systems, all in their appointed order circling the throne of Deity."—"Great Controversy," page 677.

John, the beloved disciple, caught the inspiration as, when speaking of the redeemed, he said, "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth." Revelation 14:4. Following their Creator through the vista of worlds that His own word called into existence, and His power holds in their undeviating course, they will have the privilege of holding converse with unfallen beings, and viewing the handiwork of God.

"Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the Lord!" Deuteronomy 33:29.

"Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended." Isaiah 60:20.



### Providing for the Disabled Soldiers

It is well that we keep in touch with the nation-wide plans of our government for demobilizing the soldiers and passing them back to civil life.

The work of handling those who are not disabled is comparatively easy, for it does not present the complications incident to the soldier who returns with one of the scores of disabilities that have come to him in the service. The surgeon-general of the United States army, W. C. Braisted, has set before his department the great task of helping each soldier, regardless of defects produced by wounds or disease, to find a useful place in the vocations of civil life.

The surgeon-general's office has begun the publication of the magazine *Carry On*, which is published and circulated by the Red Cross organization. Copies of this magazine may be secured by addressing *Carry On*, 311 Fourth Avenue, New York City. If you have not seen copies, you should drop a card at once for a sample. Up to the present time, the magazine has been circulated free; and possibly, in order to reach the largest number of people, it may continue to circulate in that way.

The surgeon-general is coöperating with the secretary of the interior in making very definite plans for the care of the returning soldiers, and especially the disabled ones. It is believed that the soldiers will enjoy life much better if they have opportunity for independent self-support rather than being made paupers and kept in institutions as public charges. The majority of men much prefer to help themselves, regardless of handicaps; and it is a duty this nation owes to its soldiers, to help them secure employment where their disabilities will not necessarily keep them from making a success of their work.

In order to help the disabled soldiers, a careful survey is being made of all the activities of the nation. Positions

are being sought out that men can fill who have only one arm; other positions are being looked up where men who have lost one or both legs can do the work quite as well as a man who is not so unfortunate; and so on through the list.

The government is making a close study of all the different classes of injuries the men have received, and is instituting schools where these defects may be overcome by special training. The surgeon-general and the secretary of the interior should have the hearty coöperation of every community in this good work, and we should unselfishly and willingly give these disabled men the preference in supplying the positions they may be able to fill. Become a regular reader of *Carry On*, the "magazine on the reconstruction of disabled soldiers and sailors," and thus keep in sympathetic and helpful touch with what your nation is doing in that line.

### Make It a Christmas Feature

The leaders in the Red Cross Society in Washington early in October suggested the idea of having all the Red Cross workers in the various chapters throughout the nation stop their busy work for one minute at the noon hour while all engaged in silent prayer for our soldiers who are facing difficulties across the seas.

The war has now ceased, and the Peace Conference is the next thing on the program. But peace will add to the burden and responsibilities of the Red Cross rather than diminish them. Millions of suffering people in various nations will need our attention; and would it not be well to continue this season of earnest prayer, including in our petitions the request that each individual throughout the nation may be moved to bear a part in supplying the needed facilities for our worthy Red Cross organization?

This is the time of Christmas giving. This is the time, above all others during the year, when our attention is called to



the thought of what we may do for a friend or a relative. Would it not be well, during this Christmas season, to open our hearts to the needs of the whole world, and to recognize the fact that our Christmas program is not complete until we have renewed our membership to the Red Cross Society, or if not members, have joined this organization? The work should extend to each member of the family, including the children.

Let us strive, through our efforts in behalf of the Red Cross, to give to humanity at this Christmas time the most bounteous material help known to history. Be a part of the Red Cross yourself, and seek to win every one else with whom you may come in contact.

### Marvelous National Wealth

In a late *Wall Street Journal*, Holland carefully reviews "a statement recently made by one of the leading banking authorities of the United States, that our national wealth would be appraised by skillful actuaries at not less than \$300,000,000,000."

Mr. Holland, who is a careful student of our material and financial resources, affirms that this estimate is possibly not very far out of the way. At the beginning of this century, less than twenty years ago, our national wealth was estimated at about one third of that sum. But in his review, Mr. Holland calls attention to the increased wealth in our railroads, our various mineral products, the large beds of coal, iron ore, oil, and other like commodities. He also refers to our timber and our increasing agricultural products, and affirms that electro-chemistry and other advancements in science are rapidly making of great value materials that formerly were considered as of no use. The enormous stores of wealth in water power, through the development of electricity and in other ways, will conserve and at the same time make more valuable many other natural resources. Reference is made to the estimate of the late James J. Hill, that our farm labor should be able to produce an aggregate annual wealth of \$15,000,000,000 exclusive of cotton, which item alone is considerable.

Mr. Holland believes that our expanding merchant marine will be, at the close of the war, the greatest that has ever been floated by any single nation in the history of the world, and thinks that the possibilities of trade expansion are beyond the comprehension.

Without question or cavil, there are great commercial and material prospects ahead of this nation. But the matter that eclipses all others is, How will we relate ourselves to these problems and opportunities? Will men become so absorbed in the commercial and the purely material that the spiritual and the moral will be degraded beneath our selfish interests and our grasping for gain, so that things which otherwise might have been blessings will be turned into curses? In other words, will men madly drive on to fulfill the prediction of the apostle Paul that the last days will be made perilous through the love of self and the love of money? We must not allow ourselves to become so absorbed in the material things of this world that we forget to study the warnings God has given us concerning this very time.

### The Proposed Change in the Calendar

THERE has long been a feeling that our present calendar, in which the months vary in length, and the weeks and the months are incommensurate, is an inconvenience that should be remedied. But, as with the non-decimal system of the British pounds, shillings, and pence, and of our measures of extension (inches, feet, yards, rods, miles, etc.) and weight (grams, ounces, pounds) and capacity (pints, quarts, gallons), the difficulties involved in making a change have always seemed greater than the difficulties of the present system.

But war has accomplished some things that a thousand years of peace could not bring about. For instance, nothing in

day of the week. Calendars would no longer be needed, and there would not be the present confusion arising from the varied lengths of the months and the difficulty of making out weekly reports and balancing books once a month.

But by such a scheme, the week as such would be destroyed. Sunday would be the next day after the Sabbath [Saturday] for one year, then two days after Sabbath, then four days (two days' skip on leap year), and so on. And sometimes it would nearly coincide with the Sabbath, beginning and ending a few hours later.

That any such scheme could in no wise affect the Bible Sabbath is evident. But it might make more trouble for those who conscientiously observe the Sabbath, and might, by causing an increasing dis-



When your wounded or sick soldier boy wrote to you, it was probably made possible through the wonderful corps of women known as the Red Cross Home Communication Service, who make it their exclusive business to visit the sick men in hospitals and convalescent homes, gathering information, and writing letters to "the folks back home."

peace time could have given the President a small fraction of the power he has wielded—a power greater by far than that of any constitutional monarch—but the American people grant it readily as a war emergency.

Again, there is a serious proposition to decimalize the English money—a very practical plan, retaining the pound, and a number of the silver coinages, such as the sixpence, the shilling, the florin, etc., but replacing the penny by a coin representing 1-500 rather than 1-480 of a pound. The plan is practical, though to make the change will involve almost superhuman effort. But the new conditions brought about by the war may eventually give England a decimal coinage.

It has been proposed for some time that we have thirteen months of twenty-eight days each, with an intercalary day, "New Year's Day," every year, and on leap years, a second intercalary day, "Midyear Day"; these days being both inter-monthly and inter-weekly. That is, so far as the calendar is concerned, they would be ignored. Doubtless they would be holidays.

Such a scheme would give us exactly thirteen months, fifty-two weeks, to the year, each month beginning on the same

regard of the sacredness of any weekly rest day, render the work of the last-day missionaries more difficult.

Such a change in the calendar has actually been proposed in Congress; and while it might now seem impossible of enactment, stranger things have been enacted.

G. H. HEALD.

If you would not have affliction visit you twice, listen at once to what it teaches.—Rev. A. L. Knox.

### Wanted for Missionary Work

Mr. M. W. Beckett, Mt. Vernon, Arkansas, requests that clean copies of the SIGNS weekly and magazine, *Watchman*, and tracts be sent to him for free distribution.

Back numbers of SIGNS, *Little Friend*, *Instructor*, or any of our publications wanted for free distribution. Mrs. G. Anliker, Goble, Oregon.

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.



### Omitted Next Week

THERE will be no issue of this paper next week. We advertise to supply fifty numbers each year; and according to our usual custom, the last publishing date of the year is canceled, and the next issue will be dated January 7, 1919.

The new year holds many rich experiences in store for us, provided we are standing with God and for His great principles of eternal righteousness. On the other hand, if we are not standing with Him, the year may hold for us untold perplexities and disappointments. Surrounded with all the possible contingencies of the immediate future, now as at no time in this world's past history, men need to have a vital connection with the living and all-powerful God. It will be our constant aim, during the coming year, to meet the great need of the time by so holding forth God's word that its clear light may show the meaning of the perplexing conditions that confront us.

### "Off-Color Sects"

A METHODIST paper of the Northwest speaks of the Seventh-day Adventists as being very active in the circulation of their literature, and calls them one of "the off-color sects."

The writer of this note was brought up in the Methodist Church, and has very vivid recollections of the stories told by his grandfather, who for something like half a century was an official member of that society. Grandfather's stories about the mobs that attacked and insulted Methodist ministers and Methodist church members, together with the history of the experiences of John and Charles Wesley, and many of the other respected leaders of that society, give a very clear conviction that there was a time when the now popular Methodist Church was an "off-color sect." Who, knowing the history of the valiant and good men who founded that church, would say that they did not do a mighty and a greatly needed work in this world?

Christ and the apostles themselves were "off-color" among the great mass of the men and women in the world in which they lived and acted.

So it would seem from these two noteworthy examples, and from many more that might be given, that it is not wholly reprehensible to be "off-color." Indeed, the fact that an individual or a church is a bit "off-color" may be something worthy of studying into to ascertain if after all there may not be something of value beneath the color that is all out of harmony with much that is passing as current in the world.

### What Holds the Planets?

THROUGH the columns of a secular paper, an individual asks a noted scientist "whether it is absolutely proved what holds the planets in their orbits." The scientist wanders over considerable space in the endeavor to put forward some satisfactory theory.

The Bible speaks of Christ as "upholding all things by the word of His power." Hebrews 1:3.

And again it is affirmed of Christ that "He is before all things, and in Him all things consist." Colossians 1:17, R. V.

A marginal note defines the word "consist" as "hold together."

It is by the mighty power of the infinite Creator Himself that all the worlds continue in their orbits, or "hold together." It is "by the word of His power" that all things are held intact. We are not left to some fitful chance or fate; but the Being who was infinite in His creative power, also upholds and directs that which He has created.



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The recent taking over of the German fleet by the allied navies again calls attention to the valor, bravery, and daring of such naval heroes as Lieutenant H. T. C. Walker, who in his action during the attack on Zeebrugge ranks with the bravest of the brave, and such naval heroes as Nelson. Lieutenant Walker directed the operations that sank the *Vindictive* in the mouth of the harbor. When the rush was made from H. M. S. Warwick to the gang-plank that led to the land attack, Lieutenant Walker had his arm carried away by a shell. He fell in the darkness and confusion, and the attacking parties raced over his prostrate body. He was at last recognized and dragged aside. He waved a greeting with his remaining arm, and called "Good luck" as his friends had to leave him. He was rescued when the attack was completed. He is now visiting in the United States and making a large circle of friends.

### Was It an Earthquake?

A PROFESSOR with a doctor's degree, according to one of the Sunday papers, thinks he has discovered a natural determining cause for the throwing down of the walls of Jericho by the armies of Israel in the days of Joshua. He thinks that the blowing of the trumpets and the shouting produced an earthquake that threw them down.

One of the favorite occupations of many men in this time seems to be that of trying to find some "natural cause" for every miracle recorded in the Bible. But why not accept and enjoy the simple, straightforward Bible story? The Author of the Bible is the infinite God, who has an innumerable company of angels continually waiting upon Him, and all the power in the universe is His. If we learn to know Him, we learn to enjoy these displays of His mighty power, and do not find any occasion for accounting for them through the ordinary processes of nature.

### May Know God

AN individual may so come in contact with the Bible, that he not merely believes it as the word of God, but he actually knows, from a living, vital experience, that the sacred book is infallible, inspired truth. This knowledge does not come through argument or research, but it is the result of the action of the Spirit of God working upon the individual soul through the inspired Word.

By the personal study of God's divine book, His Spirit so operates upon minds and hearts, that we know our heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ as our most personal, intimate friends, and we know Them just as truly and just as really as any friend upon earth. This living experience, this soul-satisfying personal knowledge, is the one thing above everything else that each individual needs.

THE first five verses of the third chapter of 2 Timothy indicate that the last days will not be cursed because of a lack of religion, but rather the difficulty will be brought about through too much of a certain kind of religion. Those who have "a form of godliness" but who deny "the power thereof" are the ones who, according to the prophetic warning of the apostle, will make the last days perilous.

"WHOSOEVER hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." 1 John 3:15. The murderer does not have eternal life abiding in him, so says the foregoing text of Scripture; and how good it is to know that murder and hatred are not to be eternally perpetuated! It is God's decree that these evils shall be everlastingly destroyed from His universe, so that love and kindness may reign supreme.

AN Eastern editor who is said to have an estate of something like fifty thousand acres in Mexico, presents us with a quite convincing editorial in regard to the "peril of large landed estates." That editor believes that the land should be preserved in such a manner that the soldiers returning from Europe may have farms. One of the greatest curses afflicting humanity has been that of preaching good things and practicing something else.

WHEN Peter and John were called before the council and commanded "not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus," their reply was: "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Acts 4:18-20. The voice of God must be supreme to the truly converted soul, and none other must intervene. But in carrying out this divine principle, the follower of Christ is never arrogant, stubborn, or unkind; and while he is willing to sacrifice everything for his convictions, even to the giving up of life itself, yet the Christian is ever gentle, courteous, and mild, even though his heart may pulsate the courage of a martyr.