

Signs of the Times

AMERICA'S

PROPHETIC WEEKLY

VOLUME 47

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA, NOVEMBER 23, 1920

NUMBER 46



Wide World

A few days ago four army airplanes completed the round trip from New York City to Alaska. They visited all the chief cities of Alaska, and the majority of the people in that far-away territory had their first glimpse of the machines of the air. The officers who made the trip are enthusiastic advocates of a regular airplane schedule between the United States and Alaska.

A Black Cloud Silver-Lined

By WALTER H. BRADLEY

THE Master was heavy-hearted. With tear-dimmed eyes, He passed through the temple gates, to enter them never again. That day, the truth had come to His heart, without a ray of hope, that His own had known Him not. Their hearts as sad as the Master's, the disciples followed Him through the court of the gentiles, pausing a moment beneath the massive arches of the royal porch. His words were still ringing in their ears, as, after that crucial hour with the proud Pharisees, He had prophetically exclaimed, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."

Loyal Israelites as they were, the thought that Jehovah had forever turned His face from His holy temple was beyond the immediate grasp of the apostles' minds. Surely this time the beloved Teacher was mistaken. He had spoken hastily, under the provocation of the Pharisees' continual taunting. Had not God told David He would dwell with them forever? Did He not tell Solomon to build Him a temple? Was not this house, embellished by the great Herod, and forty years in building, the earth's grandest testimony to Israel's God? In a tone almost reproving, they halted Jesus. "See, Master, these ponderous pillars, these thick, massy walls, the stones rivaling in size those of old Egypt's pyramids."

But the Saviour waited not. What cared He for piles of marble, when the men whom He had come to save, and who professed to worship Him in this temple, had despised and reviled Him! "Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down," was His answer, as, without pausing in the city, He retired to one of their secluded resting places on the Mount of Olives.

The disciples, however, could not dismiss the subject from their minds. Not for one moment thinking that so awful a calamity as the destruction of the temple could aught but spell the end of all things, they again came and besought Him, saying:

"Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matthew 24: 3.

What a splendid opportunity for Jesus to have rebuked them, if, as men would have us believe to-day, we are doing wrong in seeking to find from His Word what the signs of His return will be! But He did not rebuke them. He gave them a full answer.

Without pausing to dwell on the marvelous fulfillment of the signs foretelling the destruction of Jerusalem, let us consider the divine answer to the last part of their question, "What

shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

How clear His answer! No perhapses! No possibles! Not a supposition left for the varying fancies of fallible man to misinterpret! As Luke records, it was a simple declamatory statement, capable of but one meaning.

"There shall be signs; . . . upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; . . . men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth. . . . When ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." Luke 21: 25, 26, 31.

ECHOING THE WORDS OF CHRIST

I scan the scrolls of history from that day to this. There have been many, many dark moments. But to-day I hear a man who, being a world historian, should be a reliable witness, exclaim, "The supreme moment of history has come." Another man, president of perhaps our greatest university, tells us, "The curtain has gone down upon a world that will never be seen again."

What mean such statements from President Wilson and Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler? When Dr. Butler says, "The dazed perplexity of the world's most trusted leaders is characteristic of the days through which we are passing," he might be borrowing the words of Jesus and applying them to our day. That is the meaning. We "see these things come to pass."

"The homes of the people are the strength and hope of the republic," says Dr. John Roach Straton in his latest book, "The Menace of Immorality in Church and State." "The greatest danger point in our society to-day is the decay of the home life of the people." He is right. When the sanctity of the home is gone, the besom of destruction is about to sweep the nations. The Spartan mother ruled her house with virtue, and taught the youth the honors of temperance and rectitude, and the millions of Persia fell before the hundreds of Greece; but when chastity was banished, and rein was given to lust, we see the Grecian youth slaves at the chariot wheels of Rome. There is an axiomatic platitude that "history repeats itself." Rome, through luxury and vice, prostituted the home, and soon her fair domains were ravaged with the fires of Attila and the furies of the Hun.

To-day there lies before me an article in the *Christian Statesman*. It is written by a member of the International Committee of Marriage and Divorce. "The evils of divorce, as it now prevails, can hardly be exaggerated. It strikes at the very foundation of the home. If the home, which is the unit of national life, is seriously impaired, it is impossible to estimate the injurious results. In the United States there were 72,000 divorces in 1906. Ten years later the number was given as 112,000. Los Angeles had the unenviable reputation of 1,319 divorces to 6,910 marriages, San Francisco of 1,375 divorces to 5,981 marriages." One divorce to every four marriages! Appalling! No wonder the leaders of the world are in dazed perplexity!

Yet Jesus told us that there would be Sodom conditions on the earth just before the coming of the Son of man; that

men's hearts would be failing them for looking after the things that were coming on the earth. Why, scarce a novel is written that does not have its moral(?) three-cornered plot. There is hardly a "movie" that is not a sex imbroglio, as every noisy billboard will attest—"My Wife for a Night," "Where Is Your Husband?" "Is She My Wife?" "Sex," "—Bathing Girls' Shimmie Dancers." Friends, Jesus saw and prophetically portrayed our day.

The school, the first step a child takes away from home, is contributing its part in the general wave of a reign of lawlessness and depravity. William Jennings Bryan tells us: "We find in these days that the young people that leave their churches and Sunday schools and enter the universities for their learning do not return to the former. There is no one in our universities to defend the Bible." Says Dr. Straton again: "The notorious infidelity and immorality in many of our centers of learning is a menace to our nation. In some schools there are conditions of insubordination and gross immorality that are heart-breaking."

THE CHURCH HAS NOT PROVED A BULWARK

The church, ordained of God to stem just such fearful tides as this, has been recreant to her trust—yea, more than

The SONG of LIFE

THE Master Player touched His harp,
The harp of a thousand strings;
And the sweetest notes that mortals know,
Sped forth on silvery wings.

The throb of a life was in the tune,
The warmth of a loving heart;
And each true passion that mortals know,
Claimed there its thrilling part.

A thousand souls the music heard,
And hope leaped to the breast;
For the tune, like a magnet, drew their hearts
Into the realms of rest.

And joy and pain were in the tune,
And the evening bells' sad toll;
For the tune He played was the song of life,
His harp, a human soul.

EDWARD J. URQUHART.

recreant; she has openly struck her blood-stained banner for the scarlet ensign of worldliness. She has bidden for wealth and numbers through questionable methods, craved popularity at the expense of purity; and to-day men sneer at her shame. Mr. Straton, before cited, tells of jazz bands of pantalooned women advertised to draw crowds to the holy(?) church; of vaudeville acts between hymns; of brass-band-whistler-banjo-opera-star-religious-drama religion. The most sacred things are commercialized. Result: In the *Christian Herald*, I note that in 1919, the church had the smallest increase recorded in thirty years.

With such homes and schools and churches in this land, and worse abroad, what must be the effect on the world? Europe's frightful conditions as painted by Sisley Huddleston are appalling. "The dominion of darkness has spread over Europe, and a slimy progeny of cruelty, of bestiality, of insensibility, of egotism, of violence, of materiality, has crawled into the light of day—a noisome brood, of which it will be long before we can dispossess ourselves." Terrorism in Russia, revolution in Italy, accented debauchery

in France, multiplied strikes in England, what not in Ireland, thirty million starving in China, half the rest of the Old World in chaos! "Distress of nations, with perplexity," such as Jesus told of when asked for a sign of His coming!

Even in America, we are rocked by one bomb after another. Coal strikes in the dead of winter! Corruption in high places! Wasteful extravagance and vice among high and low! Read how our social fabric is arraigned in one of our great dailies, the *Los Angeles Times*:

HOW FAITHFUL A PICTURE

"However calloused one may have become to human suffering, he cannot fail to be impressed by the increasing volume of frightful crimes which are sweeping the country like a strange mental malady. They are startling alike in number and variety. There are automobile killings that are nothing short of murder; there are holdups, crimes against chastity, burglaries, bank robberies, murderous assaults of husbands upon wives; mothers kill children newborn and yet unborn; wives and children are killed by husbands and fathers; addicts kill to secure money to buy prohibited drugs and liquors; defaulters kill to cover traces of their crimes; radicals burn and slay, cloaking their murders under the guise of patriotism. Daughters accuse their fathers and nieces their uncles.

"There seems to be an irrepressible mania for shedding blood and for experimenting with vice and the illicit. The laws of God and man are alike helpless to prevent that Saturnalia of Crime. A whole generation is seeing red. Some of the killings are from mere wantonness. Cults of reds commit murder in search of a new sensation. Often a crisis of nerves is deemed a sufficient justification for taking human life. The inhibition Thou Shalt Not Kill is as much out of date in certain social and unsocial circles as the other nine commandments. It matters not what vengeance follows swiftly after. Even the death penalty has ceased to be a potent preventive force. Pent-up passions burst forth regardless of consequences.

"Almost every day in Los Angeles some store is robbed. Almost every day there is a shooting and generally there is a woman in the case. Almost every morning brings a sensational divorce scandal or family break-up. Almost every week has its sordid court trial. The public records teem with depravity. One nasty horror succeeds another in the day's annals. . . .

"It is a haggard, affrighting picture that the press must portray. The modern vandals no longer cringe at the sight of the police. They seem to have lost all fear and respect for the law. The deeds of violence are greater in number and more horrible than ever before. Men seem to have grown more brutal. And the records of the courts show that women of a certain type are more faithless. Never before did so many men go home and beat their wives. Never before were men so heartless in their treatment of their children. We are in the midst of a storm and whirlwind of insurrection."

Thank God, the cloud has a silver lining. "When ye shall see all these things, know that He is near, even at the doors." Thank God, King Jesus is able to bring

(Continued on page 7)

THE revelations from the unseen world through spiritualism are proclaimed by its exponents as the "new gospel"; and judged by the rapid increase of spirit communication, and the favor this one-time disreputed occultism is gaining in every land to-day, this so-called "new gospel" is destined to sweep the world.

But do we need a new gospel? Has the good old gospel failed, that has proved an adequate remedy for sin-sick souls since man's fall? Has sin changed its nature, so that more liberal standards will suffice? Is the old gospel too old-fashioned to meet modern needs? Is the Bible out of date, or so unreliable that we need some modern messages from the invisible world?

ABSOLUTE AGREEMENT

The Bible, containing the everlasting gospel, was written by God's prophets, or mediums; and although penned by more than thirty different men, and covering a period of 1,600 years, the communications, or messages, all agree, indicating that they all came from the same reliable source. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." 2 Peter 1: 21. "God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3: 21.

A study of the Scriptures proves that the testimony of all God's witnesses agrees; and the more diligently they are searched, the more apparent their truthfulness. But what about this strange new gospel of the twentieth century? Is the source of the communications reliable? Does the testimony of different mediums agree? Do the messages inspire confidence in their origin? Or do they bring confusion and doubt?

Christ said that in the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word shall be established. Whether or not the witnesses agree in their testimony has great weight with a judge or a jury in deciding a case in court. The litigant whose witnesses tell different stories, will lose his case, or perhaps have it thrown out of court. If this new gospel of spiritualism were placed on trial, with the decision to be based on the agreement and truthfulness of those who testify for it, what would be the verdict?

NO TWO TELL THE SAME STORY

The universal increase of spirit manifestations through its manifold mediums of communication and the widespread publicity given it, has caused thousands to delve into its mysteries, to investigate as to its merits or demerits. If the testimony of spiritualism's most prominent modern advocates, such as Sir Oliver Lodge, Sir William Crookes, Russel Wallace, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and many other eminent men of learning, were placed under the microscope of investigation, only endless confusion and glaring discrepancies could be seen. The testimony of no two agrees in every detail. The messages from the "spirit controls" especially of different countries, regarding conditions and religions and moral standards in the spirit world, are so contradictory and inconsistent we must conclude that either spirits are more ignorant than man and have poorly developed means of communication with each other,

DO WE NEED

a

"NEW GOSPEL"?

By

TAYLOR G.
BUNCH



or they are ignoble liars, organized to deceive the inhabitants of earth.

Mr. Harry Leon Wilson, after an exhaustive study of spirit messages that make up the "new gospel," gave his findings in an article in the *Saturday Evening Post* of January 17, 1920. His conclusion is stated as follows:

NO SPIRITUALITY IN THE MESSAGES

"And so far these messengers fail lamentably to agree. They unite in telling us they are very, very happy over there. But after that, testing one by the others, they are the most universal and inveterate liars that have thus far engaged the notice of man. Their talk—and I have lately plowed through a couple of hundred thousand words of it—is invariably of material things. They insist that they have only spiritual bodies, but garments are needed to cover these, and they rest, sleep and eat: nor have I found a single utterance from any of them that by any stretching of the word could be called spiritual.

"Further, they are a vain, windy, lying, bombastic lot, with their shabby patter and their ecstasies of flubdub and yapwhoodle. A gospel, indeed! The old-fashioned meetinghouse gospel has something in it you can bite on, but searching for substance in this windy, wordy mistiness of the Conan Doyles and the Sir Oliver Lodges is like trying to find the bones in a cup of custard. And no matter what impressive physical phenomena attend the manifestations of these spirits, no matter how definitely they seem to set aside the known laws of matter, their very contradictions show that they cannot be those they pretend to be."

What do these spirits pretend to be?—The disembodied spirits of the dead, our

friends who have preceded us in death. If they are not what they pretend to be, who are these "inveterate liars," and whence came they?

The Book containing the everlasting gospel gives us the desired information. In John 8: 44, Christ speaks of a being called the devil, or Satan, who is a liar, and the originator of lies. In Matthew 25: 41 and other scriptures, we learn that he has angels, who, being his followers, would of course also be liars.

Ephesians 6: 10-17 gives us a picture of the Christian's warfare against these wicked, lying spirits in heavenly places. They were at one time angels of God; but because of sin, they were cast out of heaven. (Revelation 12: 7-9; 2 Peter 2: 4.) Since that time, they have been working "with all power and signs and lying wonders" to deceive, if possible, "the very elect." 2 Thessalonians 2: 9-12; Matthew 24: 24.

The revelator pictured the present wave of spirit manifestation, giving the spirits their proper identity, and stating the final result of their work. "For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. . . . And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." Revelation 16: 14, 16.

The world is fast rushing to its last crisis, and lying demons impersonating the dead are and will be a strong factor in the case. In that day, those who have made the "refuge of lies" their hiding place, will find that it is a poor substitute for the good old gospel of salvation.

Can Man Generate Life?

THE story has been told of a noted French physician who claimed that he could create life. His formula for the creation of mice was as follows: Stuff a dirty shirt into the end of a cylinder nearly filled with corn, and after a given number of days, mice will be generated in the cylinder. Many as astounding ways as this of producing life were firmly believed in the scientific world as late as the middle of the nineteenth century.

Man's inability to generate physical life has been adequately proved, and today no one is foolish enough to believe these old stories. Yet, what is the attitude of many toward the spiritual life? Some are earnestly trying to work out their own salvation, saying to themselves, "If we do our best, we shall be accepted by God." They are blind to their own condition. Paul teaches that man is naturally "dead in trespasses and sins." Can man give himself spiritual life when he is unable even to produce physical life?

Again, in his letter to the Colossians, we read, "Ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." How appealing, then, is the invitation of Christ, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." Man of himself is helpless. He can but say with David, "Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law." "For with Thee is the fountain of life."

HAROLD BURDEN.



REVERSING THE SIGNPOSTS

on the Highway of Life

By TYLER E. BOWEN

IF only the substitution of one day for another were involved—Sunday, the first day of the week, for Saturday, the seventh day of the week—Seventh-day Adventists would not put themselves and others to all the inconvenience of keeping the seventh day. We repeat, that if only the transfer of the two days were involved, the contention of many would be well taken that because the majority of the people keep Sunday, therefore for harmony's sake alone, if nothing more, Seventh-day Adventists should lay aside their scruples and conform to the opinion and customs of the multitudes about them.

But vital principles are at stake. Involved in this Sabbath question is the principle of obedience that runs back over the centuries even to Eden itself; yea, to times before the world was.

"How can that be?" asks one. "I thought this Sabbath question was largely a modern one."

No; the Sabbath question has involved obedience to God down through the generations; and the principle underlying it dates back even to the rebellion that broke out in heaven itself, when sin was first conceived in the heart of Lucifer beside the very throne of the Eternal.

The question of *obeying God* is here involved. Lucifer struck the first discordant note in heaven when he said in his heart: "I propose to be honored equally with the Son of God, whom the Father has unduly exalted, commanding that all the angels worship Him. I propose to do nothing of the kind." Disobedience to the wise, reasonable, expressed will of God originated here.

Later, the Father said to the Son, "Let Us make man in Our image." So the earth was fitted up, by the Father's power and command expressed through the word of His Son, for man's home. And man himself, in the image of God, was by that same Son created from the ground, to dwell in this beautiful home and enjoy it.

After all these things had been created for man's happiness and pleasure and service, in six days, the record says: "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made. . . . And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made." Genesis 2: 1-3.

This is a simple record, a straightforward story of how man, the earth, and all upon it, came into existence, and also how the Sabbath was made. Surely no one would contend for a moment that

God did not have a right to create the earth, with man upon it, or that at the completion of this creative work, He did not have a right to establish a weekly memorial of this great work by reserving the seventh day, the last day in each week, as His own holy rest day, and to command every man, every family, to observe it as a rest day—a Sabbath, holy to Him. How fitting that man should thus reverently acknowledge all the benefits received from his God by willingly keeping the Sabbath holy to Him!

SATAN WISHED TO OBSCURE GOD

But God's enemy saw that so long as man kept the Sabbath, so long the one true God, the Creator, would be the supreme object of his worship. And as Satan coveted this worship, due to God alone, he was quick to see that by attacking the Sabbath, leading men to disregard it, and in later generations, supplanting it altogether with a substitute day, in this manner, he could lead men into idolatry and away from the true God, who made the heavens and the earth. Hence he concentrated his efforts first upon leading God's own people to disregard the Sabbath. Then it was easy to lead them on into idolatry; and next came their captivity. Later, shortly after Jesus' sojourn on earth, he substituted the first day of the week for the seventh, and by human enactments, commanded that it be observed for the Sabbath, thus turning the world away from God by influencing them to disregard wholly one of the principal commandments of His law.

One writer likens this attempted changing of God's law to an ancient mischievous practice of turning about the signposts placed at important junctions where two roads met. People, by following the signboards thus turned around, would innocently, at first, find themselves upon the wrong road, headed for the wrong destination. But when they were properly instructed, and knew that the signpost had been mischievously turned, should they continue on the wrong road, they would do so on their own responsibility.

"A signpost was erected by God for those journeying through this world. One arm of this signpost pointed out willing obedience to the Creator as the road to felicity and life, while the other arm indicated disobedience as the path to misery and death. The way to happiness was as clearly defined as was the way to the city of refuge under the Jewish

dispensation. But in an evil hour for our race, the great enemy of all good turned the signpost around, and multitudes have mistaken the way.

"Through Moses the Lord instructed the Israelites: 'Verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you. Ye shall keep the Sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you. . . . Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed.' Exodus 31: 13-17.

"In these words the Lord clearly defined obedience as the way to the city of God; but the man of sin has changed the signpost, making it point in the wrong direction. He has set up a false sabbath, and has caused men and women to think that by resting on it they were obeying the command of the Creator.

"God has declared that the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord. When 'the heavens and the earth were finished,' He exalted this day as a memorial of His creative work. Resting on the seventh day 'from all His work which He had made,' 'God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it.' Genesis 2: 1-3.

"At the time of the exodus from Egypt, the Sabbath institution was brought prominently before the people of God. While they were still in bondage, their taskmasters had attempted to force them to labor on the Sabbath, by increasing the amount of work required each week. Again and again the conditions of labor had been made harder and more exacting. But the Israelites were delivered from bondage, and brought to a place where they might observe unmolested all the precepts of Jehovah. At Sinai the law was spoken; and a copy of it, on two tables of stone, 'written with the finger of God' (Exodus 31: 18), was delivered to Moses. And through nearly forty years of wandering, the Israelites were constantly reminded of God's appointed rest day, by the withholding of the manna every seventh day, and the miraculous preservation of the double portion that fell on the preparation day.

"Before entering the promised land, the Israelites were admonished by Moses to 'keep the Sabbath day to sanctify it.' Deuteronomy 5: 12. The Lord designed that by faithful observance of the Sabbath command, Israel should continually be reminded of their accountability to Him as their Creator and their Redeemer. While they should keep the Sabbath in the proper spirit, idolatry could not exist; but should the claims of this precept of the Decalogue be set aside as no longer binding, the Creator would be forgotten, and men would worship other gods. 'I gave them My Sabbaths,' God declared,

(Continued on page 7)



THE next day at college, the sermon, or lecture, of the night before seemed to be the general topic of conversation. There was a strong division of sentiment, though it seemed to Robert and Mr. Newton that a majority were in favor of the president's views.

Feeling was mounting higher with the passing of the hours. Many controversies were waged on the campus and in the halls; and loud voices, harsh words, and incriminations and recriminations were far too common to comport with the character of a Bible college.

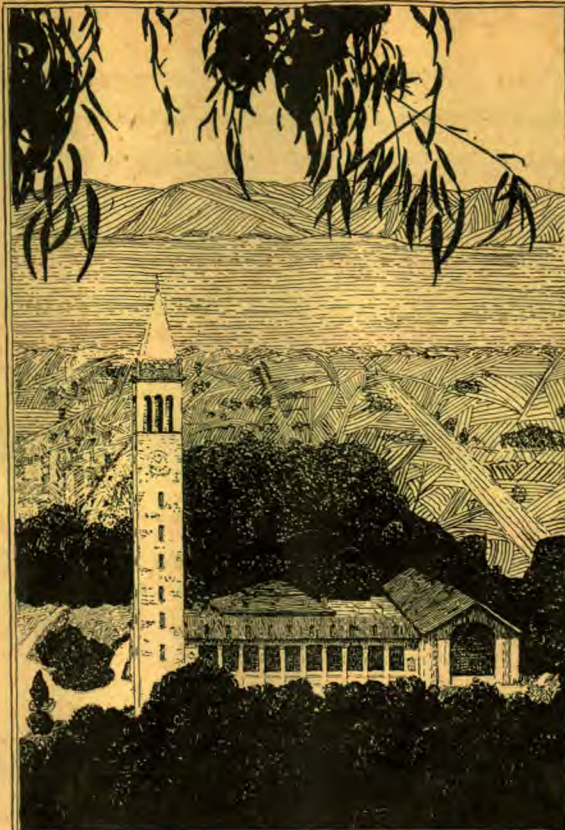
Around the Bible teacher, a group formed after each one of the class sessions, and the teacher's grave face and the remarks of both teacher and Bible students showed how serious they regarded the situation.

There seemed to be a particular realization of the crisis because the attack upon the Bible had come from a man posing as a Christian, retaining membership in a church, and bearing such a responsibility in an educational institution.

More than one criticism was voiced against the college board. One student said: "Why does the board permit such a man to serve in a Christian institution, and one that takes its name from the book he attacks? Bible college, indeed!"

"Well, they are either in sympathy with this higher critical propaganda," ventured another, "or they are asleep and know nothing of what is taught here."

"But, if so, then in either case, they are incompetent to serve in such a position of honor and responsibility. It's perfectly scandalous!"



McDONALD=

Defender of the Faith

"The story of a battle with 'liberal theologians' of the day."

By LUCAS ALBERT REED

THAT night at the supper table, the lecture of the night before and its effects in the college were quite the topic of conversation. It was the first time Robert had seen Mr. Blakely since the president's address.

"Well, what did I tell you? Some smoke, eh?" remarked Mr. Blakely.

"Fire and smoke both," Robert answered. "It seems to be stirring up a little hades, I should say."

"Hades' is right. 'Sow hades, reap hades'—that's the law. What you sow you reap. Think of a man's calling himself Christian and calling Christ a deluded zealot!"

"Yes," Robert exclaimed, "and a president of a Bible college telling us the Bible is a grand parcel of lies!"

"Or a minister," ventured Mrs. Blakely, "attacking both Christ and the Bible as not even Ingersoll or any other infidel ever did!"

"It is as Mr. Newton said last night," added Robert. "There is no need of infidels outside the church now; the strongest infidels, the ones who can have most effect, are those who can fight inside and create dissension within. Christians of to-day crown the modern Judas a hero. Betrayal has come into fashion."

"Yes," assented Mr. Blakely; "but what is to become of a country where the campaign of distrust and doubt and skepticism is aimed particularly at the young? These youth, having confidence in their teachers, will follow what they say, and the rising generation will soon become

allied with the forces of the higher critics and the so-called new religion. And when they do, what will become of America? It surely cannot remain long at heart really Christian."

The next day, in conversation with Mr. Newton, Robert expressed his feelings. "It all seems very discouraging to me. I knew there were differences of opinion among Christians, but I did suppose they were all loyal to the Bible and to Christ. Such a thing as this is a great shock to me."

"I am not at all surprised at that," Mr. Newton replied. "But in that case, it is well to remember what the old gentleman said Sunday night in the church. It was all foreseen and foretold. It is plain, then, that God has permitted it for some good purpose."

"But what good can there be in a thing like this?"

LET us consider the problem of evil a minute; for this is but a part of that great problem, a problem so vast and terrible and important as to have puzzled the minds of thousands in all ages past.



"Let us remember that evil is by nature and intention deceptive. You have noticed the vast division already existing in this college. Many think the president is right. In some way, if he is wrong, they must be convinced of it.

"In every age, when men have refused the witness of God's Word, the final issue in the controversy has been left to the great law of cause and effect.

"No evil can come from the purely good, neither can good come from the really evil."

"Just as Jesus said," Robert suggested, "a good tree cannot yield evil fruit, nor a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit."

"Exactly; and when men have thus been left to reap what they sow, in some wonderful, remarkable manner, truth eventually triumphs, and that particular phase of evil is branded by popular opinion for just what it is.

"But there are new lessons to learn. The Dark Ages demonstrate what it meant to the world to suppress the Bible and the religion it begets."

"AND what," asked Robert, "do you think the lesson for today is to be?"

"It is, I believe, to show that an age of secular knowledge is no guarantee against immorality and spiritual decadence when the Book from which all moral and spiritual influences rise is openly scoffed at, disbelieved, and laid aside. The Dark Ages came because of a suppression of the Bible, and the religious ignorance that inevitably followed. The new time of darkness will come from a rejection of a Book that, though found almost

everywhere and in every tongue, is very largely ignored and repudiated. Ignoring the Book will have the same effect as, or worse than, destroying it.

"Don't you remember the allusion to a time like this in Christ's words, 'When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?' and His other words, 'Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold?'"

"Yes, I recall the words, but I do not seem to have applied them to this time. If you are right, it is indeed a great help to know that all these things are in the plan. All we need to do, is to be faithful in our part."

"Yes, that's the right attitude. Remember again Christ's word: 'Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.'"

"Of course, to the end," Robert interrupted. "A good beginning is all right; but what does it amount to, if it does not go on? What use is a house that gets no further than the foundation? Where is the profit in a ship's voyage that does no more than leave the home port? God help us to endure to the end."

"Yes, my young friend; some good Christian has said that in these times, there will be those who gather warmth from the coldness of others, and zeal from their indifference. May it be so with us and many others!"

"In the meanwhile, of one thing we may be certain. There is sure to come a right retribution for every act. It is as Thomas Jefferson once said: 'A man passes for what he is worth. Very idle is all curiosity of other people's estimate of us, and idle is all fear of remaining unknown. The world is full of judgment days; and in every assembly that a man enters, in every action that he attempts, he is gauged and stamped.'

"We find this to be true everywhere. The farmer may idle away his time in the spring. He can sit around smoking his pipe and spinning yarns. He can forget the seedtime, and neglect to put in a crop. But there will come for him a judgment day in the fall. He will have no harvest, no food for his family, no fodder or grain for his stock. He reaps what he sowed—nothing.

"The merchant can be careless with his accounts and negligent of his business; but a judgment day awaits with its sheriff and its bankruptcy.

"So the student in college can waste his time, and for a while seem to get by a settlement while he spends his father's money. But sometime his bluffs will fail to work and his judgment day will come. Every college examination is a sort of judgment day. It labels us to a certain extent for what we are.

"It is certain the law must reach higher and enter all existence. There will be a

settlement for every deed. I believe implicitly in a judgment day, when all accounts will be rightly settled. Let us have no fear of the outcome. God, though unseen and unheard, will not always keep silent. Sometime will come His judgment day. It will merely brand us what we are."

"Your words do me good. They ring true," the young man answered. "It depends on ourselves, doesn't it, as to whether the thought of a judgment day shall give us hope or fear?"

"Yes, that is just what the Bible says: 'Whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap;' and in the same connection, it declares, 'Let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.'"

The conversation served as a spiritual tonic to the young man. He no longer was tortured with fears and doubts. He saw the issue clearly, and determined that as far as he could, he would help every one within his influence to hold steady under the stress of cross currents and adverse winds.

(Continued next week)

Hold On to Your Faith

NOAH preached to the last generation before the Flood. The very people who saw him build the ark, and heard his warning message, were the ones who perished in the Flood. "As the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24: 37. Some of the very people who are now hearing the warning message of Christ's second coming, will be the ones who will see the Son of man come in the clouds of heaven with "power and great glory." "Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled." Matthew 24: 34.

The Lord knew that it would be hard for some to believe this. He knew that the faith of some would waver on this point. He clinched His prediction by saying, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." Matthew 24: 35. Whatever else may fail, His prophetic Word cannot fail. "God is not a man, that He should lie; . . . hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?" Numbers 23: 19.

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. . . . For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry." JOHN L. SHULER.

MERCY is a God attribute, and is frequently ascribed to Him. Jude 21, however, is the only place in the Scriptures where the word is used in reference to Jesus. Yet many appeals to His mercy are mentioned, which reveal the recognition of His power and love: There were four blind men (Matthew 9: 27; 20: 30); ten lepers (Luke 17: 12, 13); a Canaanite mother whose daughter was "vexed with a devil" (Matthew 15: 22); and a father who had a lunatic son (Matthew 17: 15).

Mercy is defined as an act of kindness, compassion, clemency. When a woman was brought to Him who had been caught trafficking her virtue, He made a home thrust at her iniquitous inquisitors, by saying, "Go, and sin no more." John 8: 11. He did not condone or palliate her evil, but He would temper justice with mercy. And when those whom He came to save, and whom He had favored, rushed Him to the cross, He exhibited mercy, by praying for their forgiveness. (Luke 23: 34.)

Jesus was merciful. The spirit of cruelty to anything or any one was foreign to His nature. Methinks the birds and animals all loved Him. It was a rebuke, and is a rebuke, to those who take delight in the destruction of the feathered race, when He said, a sparrow "shall not fall on the ground without your Father." Matthew 10: 29.

The mercy of Jesus is described by James as "tender-mercy" (James 5: 11), and the length of it as "long-suffering" (2 Peter 3: 15). Compound words with compound thoughts! One can show mercy without that delicacy and softness of touch or feeling. One can be patient—quiet, unresisting, uncomplaining; but human nature knows an end. But Jesus was mercy with a mother's touch and a mother's voice. He was patient at great length.



The MERCY of JESUS

By
WILLIAM P. PEARCE

Jesus taught mercy, added a benediction to it, and made a promise to the merciful: "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Matthew 5: 7. He condemned the Pharisees because they made such a display in their religion and "omitted the weightier matters," among which He said was mercy (Matthew 23: 23); and He commended the lawyer for his answer when asked who "was neigh-

bor unto him that fell among the thieves" (Luke 10: 36), for he said, "He that showed mercy."

Mercy is a prime condition of happiness. Florence Nightingale, the "angel of the Crimea," was presented by Queen Victoria with a ruby-red enameled cross, in the center of which were the letters "V. R." surrounded by a crown set in diamonds. This cross bore the words, "Blessed are the merciful."

The mercy of Jesus is in the present tense. Paul wishes us to "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy." Hebrews 4: 16. Sometimes we rush into God's presence abruptly, which is unbecoming piety. We merit no divine benediction. We have sinned and do sin, so we stand in need of forbearing and forgiving mercy. Mercy is the entrance to friendship, fellowship, and favoritism. It is the password to ecstatic experiences in the holy of holies. Not till we realize our need of divine mercy will we pray for it; and not till we pray for it will we have it.

The mercy of Jesus is also in the future tense. Jude urges us to look "for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life." He has in view the second advent of our Lord. At that time, Christ is coming in power, with a destructive mission to the wicked, but with eternal salvation to all "that love His appearing." 2 Timothy 4: 8. This is verified in two things Jesus proposes to do: first, to present us "faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy" (Jude 24); second, to give us "a crown of glory that fadeth not away" (1 Peter 5: 4).

"Sweet is Thy mercy, Lord;
Before Thy mercy seat,
My soul, adoring, pleads Thy Word,
And owns Thy mercy sweet."

Reversing the Signposts on the Highway of Life

(Continued from page 4)

'to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.' Yet 'they despised My judgments, and walked not in My statutes, but polluted My Sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols.' And in His appeal to them to return to Him, He called their attention anew to the importance of keeping the Sabbath holy. 'I am the Lord your God,' He said; 'walk in My statutes, and keep My judgments, and do them; and hallow My Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between Me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God.' Ezekiel 20: 12, 16, 19, 20."

DEVILISH STRATEGY

The wicked design of Heaven's enemy in all this substitution of another day for God's own chosen and sanctified rest day made at Eden, recommitted to man at Sinai in written form by God's own hand, kept by Jesus and His apostles, and nowhere altered or changed in the Bible, is graphically and impressively set forth in the following words:

"During the Christian dispensation, the great enemy of man's happiness has made the Sabbath of the fourth commandment an object of special attack. Satan says: 'I will work at cross purposes with God. I will empower my followers to set aside God's memorial, the seventh-day Sabbath. Thus I will show the world that the day sanctified and blessed by God has been changed. That day shall not live in the minds of the people. I will obliterate the memory of it. I will place in its stead a day that does not bear the credentials of God, a day that cannot be a sign between God and His people. I will lead those who accept this day to place upon it the sanctity that God placed upon the seventh day.

"Through my vicegerent, I will exalt myself. The first day will be extolled, and the Protestant world will receive this spurious sabbath as genuine. Through the nonobservance of the Sabbath that God instituted, I will bring His law into contempt. The words, 'A sign between Me and you throughout your generations,' I will make to serve on the side of my sabbath.

"Thus the world will become mine. I will be the ruler of the earth, the prince of the world. I will so control the minds under my power that God's Sabbath shall be a special object of contempt. A sign?—I will make the observance of the seventh day a sign of disloyalty to the authorities of the earth. Human laws will be made so stringent that men and women will not dare to observe the seventh-day Sabbath. . . . The earth will be wholly under my dominion."

Thus seventh-day observers politely disavow that, in their attitude to the law of Jehovah, in observing and teaching others to observe the seventh day of the week, they are responsible for bringing confusion into the world. This has already been done in the wicked changing of God's signpost by the enemy of all truth. They are seeking the happiness and life of every one by pointing out to those who are on the wrong road, that at the end is not the city of God, as they suppose, but that to continue persistently

in this path of disobedience, this willful disobedience to God, can but end disastrously.

All the men on earth combined cannot change the Sabbath day. Human laws and human penalties, however stringent, have no power to change the simple words of God, "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God," and, "It is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations," "It is a sign forever." Ah, no! There stands God's own word, true, steadfast, unchanged, *unchangeable*. And who can successfully fight against God?

The Sabbath question, therefore, resolves itself into the simple weekly test as to whether a man will obey God, or whether he will obey men. Peter put it straight to the Jewish Sanhedrin, when their commands conflicted squarely with the plain command of Jesus: "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye." "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 4: 19; 5: 29.

A Black Cloud Silver-Lined

(Continued from page 2)

order out of this universal chaos. And He is coming soon—coming in the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory; and every eye shall see Him. He is coming to take us to those mansions He went away to prepare. Then there will be no more death, nor sickness, nor sorrow, nor crying, no more hatred and cruelty and greed; for all will love one another. Of course, those who will not learn to be pure here, and to love Jesus and their brethren, cannot go there. If they will persist in cherishing sin in their hearts, they will perish with sin when the brightness of His coming destroys it. But today He is inviting all men to wash away their sins in the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ, and become pure even as He is pure. Whosoever will may come. No money is required. There is no price. He just wants to exchange a new heart for your old wicked one. And best of all, Jesus says that if we will let Him, He will keep us clean, and preserve us spotless against that day. And that day is so near!

Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

Wanted for Missionary Work

Sumner B. Taft, U. S. Indian Agency, White River, Arizona, desires secondhand Bibles, also *Our Little Friend* and *Youth's Instructor*, for use among the Apache Indians. Send postpaid and well wrapped.

Mrs. H. M. B. Hardin, Ola, Arkansas, desires a continuous supply of SIGNS weekly, *Signs Magazine*, and *Watchman Magazine*, for reading racks in her town.

The Junior Missionary Society, 6846 Compton Avenue, Los Angeles, California, desires copies of the SIGNS weekly, *Signs Magazine*, *Watchman Magazine*, *Our Little Friend*, *Youth's Instructor*, *Liberty*, and *Life and Health*, also tracts on various subjects, for missionary distribution.

George B. Dillon, of McArthur, Ohio, thanks some one for the sample copy of the SIGNS sent him.

Signs of the Times

Published weekly by the Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, California, a Corporation of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

Entered as second-class matter September 15, 1904, at the Mountain View, California, post office, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage, provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, and authorized September 18, 1918.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Three months	\$.50
Six months90
One year (50 numbers)	1.50
With "Questions and Answers"	2.15

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Expiration: The wrapper bears date of last issue due on your subscription. Unless renewed in advance, the paper stops with expiration date.

Change of address: Kindly give both old and new address.

We send no papers from this office to individuals, without pay in advance. When any one receives copies without ordering them, they are sent by other parties, and we can give no information in regard to them. Persons thus receiving copies of the SIGNS are not indebted to the office, and will not be called upon to pay for them. Please read the papers you may receive, and hand them to your friends to read.

J. H. COCHRAN, Circulation Manager

"SIGNS" WANTED!

I SHOULD like to get some SIGNS OF THE TIMES, dates to be January 1, 1915, to the present, especially the last two years. If any of the readers have copies that they want to do good with, I can use them.

Reader, 716 Seventh Street,
Oakland, California.

The Big Day

THERE is a big day in each week, for the children. Sometimes the big day is the weekly holiday, sometimes it is a chance to go visiting or to attend a game. There are thirty thousand children whose names are on a list, and who count it a big day for them when their own paper, *Our Little Friend*, is delivered to them, each week.

Through their paper, they receive a vision of the world outside; they read stories of boys and girls, and men and women, of other lands; they look at pictures showing animals, insects, birds, and fish; they make the acquaintance of the heroes of the past; and best of all, there are stored up within their developing minds ideals and noble thoughts that will become an integral part of their characters.

Careful and wise parents appreciate this. The number of those who are ordering *Our Little Friend* for their children is constantly increasing. The cost is negligible when the results and needs of the children are considered. You may have it for your children, for your relatives' children, for 1921, for but 90 cents, delivered weekly. It has eight pages, and is well illustrated and printed.

With the attractive premium, the *Little Friend's* "Big Book," which has 96 pages, is bound in board and printed in colors, the cost for both ("Big Book" and the *Little Friend*) is but \$1.50, sent postpaid. It is an opportunity for an ideal holiday gift to your child or your friend's child.

Order from *Our Little Friend*, Department K, Mountain View, California.

Do We Participate in His Workings?

ONE of the predictions of Jesus was, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24: 14.

When Jesus gave that remarkable prophecy, He was practically alone in the world. His own nation as a people had *en masse* rejected Him. Only a few humble fishermen and other common folk had openly expressed any confidence in Him.

Under the circumstances, a wise man of the world would have said that His prophetic forecast was merely a frothy utterance of blind, fanatical zeal. But to-day we see that all the world has been explored, subdued, and conquered. There are no new continents to discover and people. And most remarkable of all, the Bible, which tells the story of Jesus, is now translated into more than half a thousand languages, and is carrying the gospel message of prophecy and promise into every land, among all kindreds, tribes, and people. Are we not beholding a marvelous fulfillment of the Saviour's prophecies? Even to-day His gospel of the kingdom is sounding in all the world.

In view of the undisputed facts, is not the warning which the apostle Paul addressed to the people of his generation very applicable to us living in this time? The apostle's words read: "Beware therefore, lest that come upon you which is spoken in the prophets: Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish; for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, if one declare it unto you." Acts 13: 40, 41.

God is indeed working mightily throughout the world to-day. Will we stand among those who are joining Him in carrying forward this world-wide work, or will we merely be among those who, while they behold, nevertheless despise, and wonder, and perish?

The Most Disturbing Element

AN editorial in the *Christian Work* is presented under the caption "The Second Coming and the Second Blessing." The first paragraph in this editorial reads:

"The two most devisive doctrines in the Christian church to-day are the doctrines of the second coming and the second blessing. These two doctrines, literally preached, have caused more divisions in the church than all other doctrines combined. This is a statement of fact, and as such will be supported in this editorial, not by exegetical, but by historical evidence."

Speaking of a "world-famous evangelist," head of a large "Bible institute," the buildings of which "cost over a million dollars," the editorial furthermore says, "The 'Bible institute' first mentioned is the most disturbing and proselyting religious element in the city where it is

located." A later paragraph in the article reads:

"We are not arguing the merits of the doctrines of the second coming. We are simply stating the fact that the proponents of this doctrine are a divisive element in the Christian church. Moreover, they glory in the fact that they are divisive. Many of them teach that the true believers must come out of the apostate church and band themselves together. Belief in the imminence of Christ's bodily presence looms as of more importance than living a life in conformity with His teachings. Creed, not deed, is the shibboleth of these second coming advocates."

As these quoted paragraphs would indicate, the principal charge brought through the editorial in question against the advocates of the second coming of Christ is that they are a "most disturbing and proselyting religious element." Something more serious than this should



Wide World

Francisco Villa, the thorn in the side of Mexico, has surrendered to the Obregon government, and an era of peace is prophesied for distraught Mexico. Villa and his 900 confederates have been treated very generously by the government, a large and valuable estate having been given to Villa himself, and a generous gift in cash to each of his soldiers.

be brought against the Adventists if they are to be discredited. Any aggressive movement that is founded upon deep-seated conviction in the hearts of its proponents is bound to win converts; and if these converts chance to come from some other church, we call it proselyting. But the gospel as presented to the world through Jesus Christ Himself and by His personally trained apostles was the greatest proselyting agency that the world has ever known. Christ and His apostles went right into the heart of the old dead Jewish church, to reveal its hypocrisy and its wrongs, and to present instead the living power of the living gospel of the living God.

The leaders of the Jews evidently thought that they had scored a great point against the apostles when they declared, "Behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your teaching." Acts 5: 28. That is, the apostles were a "most disturbing and proselyting religious element in the city" of Jerusalem in their day.

Since no clear point can be made of this disturbing, proselyting business, why not consider "the merits of the doctrines of the second coming"? Why not, for instance, give some careful thought to the following very plain words of Jesus?

"Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come again, and will receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14: 1-3.

There is no process of reasoning, neither is there any juggling of words, by which the plain promise of Jesus, "I will come again," can be set aside. God fulfills all of His promises. No word of promise that He has ever uttered can possibly fail; therefore Jesus will come again, and we believe that the evidence is simply overwhelming which shows that that coming is very near.

Then why not study the subject on its merits, brushing aside all this proselyting talk? For if the Adventist people are correct in their positions, there is no theme before the world that is so all-absorbing in its importance. We believe, in our very souls, that the end of this reign of sin is right at hand, and that the coming of Jesus Christ is even at the door. And if the assertion of the clear evidence upon which our hope and faith in the soon coming of Jesus Christ rests, wins converts in all parts of the world, and if men will insist upon calling this work "proselyting," we cannot help it. We must declare the faith that is such a positive reality in our minds and hearts.

Ultimately a League

Now that the presidential campaign in this country is over, it may be possible to express a conviction in regard to the League of Nations without being accused of political bias.

The perplexing revolutionary conditions throughout the world will yet drive men to undertake to stabilize things through a league of nations, and the one they will form will eventually be at heart a religious combination, and will be the most tyrannical expression of despotism this world has ever known.

God in His prophetic Word warns against it; and we should study that Word carefully, so that as individuals we may know where to take our stand.

No Word Has Failed

SOLOMON could say with intensity of feeling: "Blessed be Jehovah, that hath given rest unto His people Israel, according to all that He promised: there hath not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised by Moses His servant." 1 Kings 8: 56.

The Christian living some three thousand years this side of Solomon can say with equal positiveness that no "word" of any of the good promises of our God ever has failed or ever can fail. Happy is the individual who is storing mind and heart with these exceeding great and precious promises, for they are a citadel of strength and satisfaction in every condition of life.