

Our TIMES

SINCE 1891

A INTERPRETER OF THE NEWS

THE CALENDAR reformers have succeeded in bringing a bill for the establishment of a perpetual calendar before both the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States. It was not, of course, expected that any definite action would be taken in the last session, and its sponsors were well satisfied to have the bill passed on to the Foreign Relations Committee for study. They do, however, hope that legislation may be enacted in sufficient time for the new calendar to come into operation on January 1, 1950.

On first thought it would seem to be a good idea to have a calendar in which every date comes on the same day each year, and in which every quarter has the same number of working days and holidays.

It would, as the bill states, "facilitate comparative statistics and tables, computations of interest, pay rolls, costs, and many other operations in which time is the essence."

It would "facilitate train, ship, and plane operating schedules and time-tables, and the co-ordination of communications."

It would be "a very great convenience by having the dates of anniversaries and holidays fall on the same day each year."

It would undoubtedly be "to the benefit of commerce and industry, educational, social, and fraternal organizations, scientific bodies, and others."

It does strike one also as a very fine gesture to designate as Universal Peace Day and a World Holiday the 365th day of the year, which has to be taken out of the calendar in order to obtain a 364-day period divisible in the very convenient way described above.

Admittedly all this is highly commendable, but there is one vital thing about the plan which the advocates of the World Calendar keep very much in the background, especially in discussions with the churches. It is that the new calendar instead of having fifty-two weeks of seven days would have fifty-one weeks of seven days and one week of eight days, so destroying the unbroken succession of the seven-day weekly cycle which has obtained from time immemorial. The result, therefore, of the introduction of the World Calendar would be utterly to confuse all the great groups of humanity who observe a specific day of the week as holy time.

To make this clear, let us notice exactly what will happen if the old calendar is superseded by the new.

Because 1950 begins on a Sunday, just as the new calendar would do in perpetuity, there would be no difference

between the old and the new calendars right up to December 30, 1950, which day by either reckoning would be a Saturday. On the next day, December

By W. L. Emerson

31, 1950, the trouble would begin. It would be Sunday in the old calendar, but in the new it would become Year-End Day, while January 1, 1951, which would be Monday by our present reckoning, would be called Sunday. Observers of Sunday would, therefore, all through 1951 go to church on what would really be Monday. In 1952, by reason of the further inclusion of an un-

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Calendar Reform Mean Business

True Christians Must Oppose

Christians should always be alert to destroy their religious practices through



WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL

(SEE PAGE 13)

"So Thankful"

By Edna Atkin Pepper



MRS. RAFFERTY was so thankful that the way had been opened for her to move to the bustling little city where there was a church school that her daughter, Janet, could attend. Here, too, she could get work, waiting on dinner parties and washing dishes and polishing glasses afterward. She would have to work hard in order to pay the modest rental asked by her genial landlady and buy groceries and pay the tuition. But she was so thankful that God had heard her prayers and had seen fit in His wisdom to grant them.

Mrs. Percy lived in the country with her husband, their two little boys, and the most beautiful little four-months-old baby girl you ever saw! They had little of this world's goods, but there was plenty of milk for the children, and the garden had produced like the proverbial horn of plenty. Mrs. Percy felt blessed above women, for she had a husband to fend for her, and there was the precious baby!

She admired Mrs. Rafferty very much because she worked so hard and had such implicit faith in God. But she had visited the bare rooms, brave in new paint, with scarcely more than a blossoming plant, a table, and two chairs in the sunny kitchen, and a mattress on the bedroom floor, for furnishings.

She took counsel with her husband. She would have liked to send them a basket of cheer and encouragement on the eve of Thanksgiving Day. But, some-

how, she was not quite satisfied with the idea. A scrap of a poem came to her mind:

"Who gives himself with his alms
feeds three,—
Himself, his hungering neighbor
and me."

"I have it, dear!" she exclaimed to her husband. "When you are in town to-day, stop and ask her if she will be at home Thanksgiving Day. If she will ask her if we may bring our dinner and eat it with her and Janet."

And so it happened. The baby was dressed in her loveliest, and her black curls framed her sweet face in its ribbon bonnet. The little boys in the well-creased trousers and starched white shirts were cautioned as to manners, and the hot dinner was taken from the oven and set into a basket for the journey.

Mrs. Rafferty was beaming with happiness. Of course, afterward she would have to go down the street and wash dishes, but she had made one of her famous pumpkin pies. She had stretched out the old table as far as it would go and had borrowed chairs to go around it. Mrs. Percy had brought extra silver and dishes. Mrs. McLean had carried up a pair of new blankets, and a neighbor had dug out an old iron bedstead from her attic.

The Raffertys and the Percys bowed their heads, and the "thanksgiving" came from overflowing hearts:

"Dear Father, we are so thankful."

A THIN MARGIN OF TIME

The Day of Christ's Coming Is Near

By Smith A. Embry

FIFTY or one hundred years cannot be counted as of much consequence in nature's timetable in operating the world. If a thousand years is like one day to God, then one hundred years would be only the equivalent of two short hours to Him. This comparison of our time with spiritual time becomes very important when we consider what has happened in the world during the past century and a half. The time which has elapsed since 1800 would not make two hours of spiritual time, if we regard a thousand years as a day.

Yet consider all of the things which have happened since 1800. In 1800, America was still a youthful nation with not all of her states yet annexed, and none of her major wars then fought. The boom of '49 in California was still half a century away. In Texas, it would be more than thirty years before 100 Texans would fight 5,000 Mexican soldiers and die heroes in the Alamo fort. Our second war with England was still twelve years hence. The Civil War and the Spanish-American War were more than half a century away.

Some of the greatest names in American history were unknown in 1800. Lincoln, Jackson, Grant, Lee, Davis, and the two famous Roosevelts were all yet to march over the American horizon in all their glory.

All of the really great inventors of the world were unknown in 1800, as were their great and glorious inventions. Even

those inventions which existed then were young and in a state of imperfection. The steam engine was thirty-five years old in 1800, and the spinning jenny 37 years of age. The cotton gin was seven years of age. A railway of any kind was non-existent in the entire world in 1800. The first steamboat trip was yet seven years away, and no metal ships had ever been built in America. The fine art of vaccination was only four years old, and coal had been discovered in Pennsylvania only ten years previously. The first adhesive postage stamp in America was forty-seven years away, and the first testing of electric lights 80 years hence. The writing of the Star-Spangled Banner was fourteen years hence. The Louisiana Purchase was three years hence, and the Monroe Doctrine twenty-three years

away. The American Congress was only eleven years of age in 1800.

All of these things are brought out to show how different the world was in 1800 from the modern world as we know it. The foundation for the world of today was scarcely laid in 1800. No one would dare deny that there is little resemblance between the world of 1800 and the world of 1947. If a man who died in 1800 could be resurrected and brought into an American city, he would be terrified and awed beyond measure.

The world of 1947 is a world of magic when compared to the simple world of 1800. It is a world created entirely within the space of *two hours of spiritual time*! Before 1800 the world had not changed radically since the days of Christ. Before Christ, the world was fundamentally what it had been since

The upheavals of nature, the catastrophes of storm, flood, and drought, plus the great increase in scientific knowledge and speedy travel, give evidence of the fact that we are living in "the time of the end [when] many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:4.



Eden. In less than a half day of spiritual time, America was discovered by the white man, the Indians exterminated, all the major wars fought, all the modern inventions discovered, and the entire world completely made over. This has all been done in less than five hundred years of our time.

It would almost seem from the evidence herein submitted that God is hastening the affairs of the world toward the long-awaited destruction. Amid all the wonderful magic things which God has showered on the world, it seems that the world is so centered on them that it

Wisconsin, California, Japan, and Italy. This is practically world-wide in scope. It has not been very long since a violent earthquake in mid-Pacific caused a tidal wave, which the Hawaiian Islands felt painfully. A large meteor fell recently in Siberia, creating a crater 75 feet wide. It rained red rain in Europe over the whole continent. There have been wars and rumors of wars. All these are happenings of 1947—*now!*

Men of wisdom in the ways of nature and God can hardly ignore all these signs from heaven. The world is living on a thin margin of time in a spiritual sense.

the angels who have watched and lamented over the sad plight into which the earth was plunged during the past spiritual week.

Justified by Faith

(Continued from page 5)

is." 1 John 3:1, 2. Think of it! Not in some distant future time, but now—right now—it is our privilege to become sons and daughters of the great God of Heaven. Should we not consider the kind of lives we should live if we accept

"Oh That Men Would Praise the Lord"

By Chester A. Holt

Why should the Christian ever speak of pain
And weariness and weeping in the night?
Since I have known Thee, all to me is gain;
And Thou, O Christ, art an unfailing light.

The cares, the noisome dreads, and galling woes
I knew, where are they now? I gave them Thee,
And Thou, O blest Restorer, didst dispose
Of them beneath the deepness of the sea.

Sometimes I weep that I have grieved the heart
From which outpoured the crimson flow for me;
But Thou dost stanch the tears and quickly start
Afresh the song my spirit lifts to Thee.

O fairest Christ, whom all my soul dost love,
O flowing strength and ever new delight!
I crave Thy yoke, and all Thou speakest of
I wait for, knowing it is wholly right.

has almost forgotten the source of it all. The world needs to go back to the Holy Bible and absorb the lessons given in the lives of Job and King Solomon. There are important lessons given in the Old Testament, highly prized by our noble ancestors, which we need as a supplement to the New Testament. We should utilize the entire Bible for a fuller, richer understanding of His world, and to acquire a better understanding of God, His judgments, His laws, and His works.

What is the meaning of the magic world created in less than 150 years of our time? We are living in the midst of it whether we like it or not. Is the spiritual torch prepared to destroy a plush-lined nest of vipers? Or perhaps the earth holds the fire of its own destruction within itself!

Within the past two hours of spiritual time, there have been violent convulsions within the battle-scarred earth. Since 1800 there have been some tremendous earthquakes in the world. The island of Krakatoa blew up completely. Volcanoes erupted violently. Earthquakes have recently been recorded in

The world is living on a razor's edge now where time is concerned, yet it foolishly talks of annexing other planets, and it weaves on its way, completely blind to the signs of the times. Hear Christ's words: "Behold, I come as a thief." Revelation 16:15.

Above all else, God is just in His judgments. If the world has been given more diversity in its store of pleasurable things and amusements, perhaps it is only to prove that people love worldly things above all else. It is only to justify the terrible sentence which God has passed upon the world and its perverted offspring. This would appear to be good reason in showering all the luxuries upon the people from the magical spiritual storehouse of mechanical wonders.

When it has been clearly demonstrated before the heavenly hosts that mankind as a whole is an earthly creature, and not spiritually inclined, then will come the destructive torch.

The world is already condemned and sentenced. The illuminating factors of our time merely justify the infinite wisdom and integrity of God's judgment of the world. It is being proved now to all

such a wonderful invitation? It is no wonder that "the world knoweth us not because it knew Him not." We lead a different kind of life. We are children of the heavenly King.

Adopted into the family of God! What a high honor! And when this blessed transaction takes place our names are written in the Lamb's book of life. "Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved. . . . And I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow laborers, whose names are in the book of life." Philippians 4:1, 3.

Is your name written in the Lamb's book of life? "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels." Revelation 3:5. It is clear from this scripture that if, after surrendering to Jesus Christ, we should fall away, our names would be blotted out of the book

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The New Testament reveals that the apostles were faithful in keeping the Sabbath day holy, and the Book of Acts records eighty-four Sabbath meetings that they attended.

THROUGHOUT His entire life ministry upon earth, Christ honored and kept the seventh-day Sabbath; and His disciples and apostles ever followed the Sabbath-keeping example of their divine Lord. The record of the crucifixion states:

"That day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with Him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulcher, and how His body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment." Luke 23: 54-56.

The Gospel of Luke, written many years after the resurrection, refers to the day preceding the Sabbath as the "preparation" day, and designates the seventh day as "the Sabbath according to the commandment." This narrative emphasizes the great fact that in all the Bible there is but one weekly Sabbath mentioned, and but one Sabbath commandment,—the fourth precept of the great Decalogue.

Although Christ arose from the dead on the first day of the week, He gave no word or hint that the Sabbath commandment should be abolished, or that the

Sabbath should be changed from the seventh to any other day of the week. For three and a half years after our Lord's ascension, the apostles fearlessly preached the gospel in Jerusalem and Judea; but with the martyrdom of Stephen and the bitter persecution that ensued, "they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." Acts 8: 4.

By Roy Franklin Cottrell

"Out from the doomed Jerusalem, in the days of long ago,

By two and two they sallied forth, to the lands of sun or snow.

.....
Beside the slim, tall temples, where the tawny rivers run,

They set their tents where shining stars look down on Babylon.

Their bare feet pressed the beaten shore beneath dark Nubia's cliffs;

They ate their corn from out their srips by Karnak's hieroglyphs."

Wherever they went they carried with them the message of the true Sabbath,

The **APOSTLES** *and the* **SABBATH**

Third in a Series on the Sabbath

***What Did They Believe
and Teach on This Subject?***

and honored the day that had been sanctified by both Father and Son as the memorial of creation. In the meantime, Paul the persecutor was converted and became the mighty apostle to the Gentiles. Of this great missionary and his associates, the following is recorded:

"They came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and sat down." Acts 13:14.

"The Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath." Verse 42.

"And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God." Verse 44.

"And from thence to Philippi, . . . and on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither." Acts 16:12, 13.

"They came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: and Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the Scriptures." Acts 17:1, 2.

"After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; . . . and he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks." Acts 18:1, 4.

"And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them." Verse 11.

Of these religious gatherings upon the seventh-day Sabbath, two were held at Antioch, one at Philippi, three at Thessalonica, and seventy-eight at Corinth; making a total of eighty-four. It is also interesting to observe that all of these meetings were conducted by men who were God's chosen ambassadors to the Gentiles. The above expression, "Paul, as his manner was" bears a striking similarity to the phrase recorded of Jesus, "as His custom was." Yes, Christ's "custom" and Paul's "manner" of Sabbath observance were identical.

As these gospel heralds of the early church penetrated nation after nation, they established Christian churches, whose members observed the true and only Bible Sabbath. History reveals that in every country of Europe were witnesses for the seventh-day Sabbath, most notable of whom were the Waldenses of Northern Italy, and the Celtic Christians of the British Isles. The Nestorian missionaries to China, the celebrated Thomas Christians of India, and the millions of native believers in Ethiopia were also among those who rested and worshiped God upon the seventh day of the week.

But today as the claims of the Bible Sabbath are presented, many seek to justify their disregard of the fourth commandment by quoting the words of the Apostle Paul: "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days." Colossians 2:16.

Does this scripture grant license for all to eat and drink as they please, and to keep any day, or no day whatsoever, according to individual whim or fancy? If this were its real meaning it would contradict all those Bible principles and precepts which enjoin sobriety, temperance, and Sabbath devotion. But study it carefully and you will observe that it counsels the believer to stand loyally and resolutely for the right; that in the face of bigotry and opposition, he is to remain unshaken in his new-found gospel liberty.

A parallel text gives the sequel. In that notable essay to the Hebrews concerning Christ, the writer refers to the earthly tabernacle, or sanctuary, which he declares "was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances [margin, "rites, or ceremonies"], imposed on them until the time of reformation." Hebrews 9: 9, 10.

Those ancient "gifts," "sacrifices," "meats," and "drinks" were but "a figure for the time then present," pointing forward to the atonement of Christ. A few years prior to the time these epistles were written, Jesus shed His precious blood on Calvary, hence it was no longer necessary to continue the Levitical rites and ceremonies. For this reason Paul was supremely anxious that the Christian believers be completely liberated from that obsolete system which terminated at the cross. Otherwise it might be regarded as an admission that their faith was weak, that they were not confident the Messiah had already come.

However, to those called into the freedom of the gospel, the apostle issued the inspiring charge: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1.

But to what "sabbath days" does the apostle refer? The text explicitly defines them as "the sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." Colossians 2:16, 17. Or as translated by Goodspeed: "That [the drinks, sabbaths, etc.] was all only the shadow of something that was to follow; the reality is found in Christ." (Italics ours.)

Again our thoughts revert to the sanctuary service of the Old Testament. In connection with the great yearly gatherings of Israel such as the Passover, Pentecost, the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Day of Atonement, there were annual sabbaths, consecrated by divine appointment, concerning which God solemnly charged His people, saying: "Ye shall do no servile work therein." Leviticus 23: 7, 21, 25, 35.

The annual sabbaths were wholly separate and distinct from the weekly rest day that was established in ancient Eden as a memorial of creation. After enumerating the various annual assemblies and sabbaths, the record continues:

"These are the feasts of the Lord, which ye shall proclaim to be holy convocations, to offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord, a burnt offering, and a meat offering, a sacrifice, and drink offerings, everything upon His day: beside the Sabbaths of the Lord, and beside your gifts, and beside all your vows, and beside all your freewill offerings, which ye give unto the Lord." Leviticus 23: 37, 38.

Observe carefully these words of inspiration. Lest anyone should confuse the two, God Himself makes clear the distinction between the yearly and the weekly rest days, and enjoins Israel to

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TERSE TOPICS

NEW, AWESOME, MYSTERY WEAPON—James Marion Snodgrass, a bio-physicist who aided a group of Anglo-American scientists in the development of a new mystery weapon, reluctantly discussed the matter with a group of persistent newsmen. The following information was given: "1. It is not connected in any way with the atomic bomb. 2. It is not a biological warfare weapon. 3. Development of the weapon, started during the war, was not completed until after hostilities were ended." Mr. Snodgrass stated that the weapon is "as awesome in its effects as the atomic bomb."—*The Nashville Tennessean*, June 15, 1947.

FIRE ALARM—"I don't like to speak of alarms. Those who have lived close to this thing (Soviet-U. S. relations) for a while are in a constant state of alarm. So to speak, I have been sleeping in my clothes for a year, at the top of the fire alarm ladder."—Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg.—*The Civic Bulletin*, May 16, 1947.

BRITISH CLERGYMAN DEPLORES U. S. STUDENT MORALS—A Church of England clergyman who visited the U. S. recently, told his congregation that the morals of American students were "deplorable." The Reverend Brian Green, pastor of the Holy Trinity Church, delivered a series of lectures to high school and college students in the U. S. He believes that "co-education—uncommon in England—must bear a large part of the blame."—*Knoxville Journal*, April 14, 1947.

REPORTS ONLY THREE CAPITALS DO NOT HAVE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES—"The Christian Church now exists in every capital city on earth with the exception of three: Lhasa, Tibet; Mecca, Arabia; and Kabul, Afghanistan."—*Religious News Service*, June 9, 1947.

SIXTY hours after the R101 had crashed in flames near Beauvais, France, Dr. Harry Price¹ conducted a test seance with the trance-medium Mrs. Eileen Garrett. At this particular seance Mrs. Garrett's "control," "entity," "spirit guide," or "familiar spirit," by the name of "Uvani," announced that "Irwin" was going to "communicate." By Irwin was meant the flight ship's commander H. C. Irwin. Immediately after the announcement the medium's voice changed and the supposed spirit of Irwin proceeded to give "an extraordinary detailed technical account of the causes of the disaster." The entity then proceeded to list the constructional deficiencies of the airship and Dr. Price adds, "At the public inquiry, held later, all the faults alleged by the entity were found to be facts."² Another interesting fact was that the spirit intimated that the airship had "almost scraped the roofs at Achy." Dr. Price, speaking of this interesting bit of information, says, "No one knew where Achy was, and the place was never heard of in connection with the disaster until the name emerged at the seance." At the public inquiry it was stated that in all probability the airship had scraped the roofs of Achy.

The entity also revealed a knowledge of highly technical information that at that time was known to only a few officials who were conducting secret experiments perfecting a new fuel for airships. Dr. Price asks, "How were these highly technical and secret terms known to the entity that communicated at this seance?" There were many other statements, later proved to be facts, connected with the ill-starred airship. Where did this information come from? As Mrs. Garrett did not know one end of an airship from another, and the sitters, too, possessed no technical knowledge of such things, it is quite certain that the facts about the R101 emanated from an external source." Dr. Price adds, however, "There is no evidence that it was the discarnate Irwin speaking."

At this same seance the alleged spirit of Conan Doyle conversed with Mr. Price for an hour. Speaking of this experience, Price says, "The Doyle entity and I discussed our old quarrels, and I must admit that the verbal mannerisms of the entity, the choice of expressions, and the style and diction were reminiscent of the living Doyle."³ It is evident from the phenomena of the modern seance chamber that an unknown world has made its presence known and demands investigation. Who were these entities who spoke through this medium? How were they able to impart informa-

tion unknown to the medium herself and others present? Do such spiritistic phenomena prove that the soul of man survives death? Did the disembodied spirit of Doyle actually converse for an hour with Mr. Harry Price?

A United States Senator, one of the early converts to spiritism, on two separate occasions asked two different mediums what the purpose of so strange a movement was at this particular time. The answer in each case was almost identical. The first said, "It is to draw mankind together in harmony and to convince skeptics of the immortality of

himself, independent of Christ, already possesses what the Bible says that only God has. In 1 Timothy 6:15, 16 the King of kings and Lord of lords is described as the one "who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto." Now if only God has immortality, man does not possess it within himself. If man is naturally immortal, then Paul was wrong in stating that God only is the sole possessor of immortality. It is obvious that the stated purpose of spiritism is to prove a doctrine that plainly contradicts the Bible. The apostle Paul is the only

Spiritualism

Can the Spirits of the Dead Return?

the soul." The second said, "To unite mankind and to convince skeptics of the immortality of the soul."⁴ Doyle adds this further comment, "The first half of the definition is particularly important, for I believe that one of the ultimate results of this movement will be to unite Christianity upon a common basis so strong, and indeed self-sufficient, that the quibbles which separate the churches

By J. A. Buckwalter

of today will be seen in their true proportions and will be swept away or disregarded." So spiritism proposes to unite all religion on the common basis of the survival of man after death, which they say is proved by the phenomena of the seance. And Doyle boldly asserts that in the light of this supposed new revelation "Christianity must change or perish."⁵

Thus spiritism teaches that death is but the continuation of life in an unknown world. The spirits themselves have stated that their purpose is to convince skeptics of the immortality of the soul. Spiritism claims to prove that man





Two noted Spiritualists (left) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and (right) Sir Oliver Lodge. (Above) A blindfolded Spiritualist giving messages in a Spiritualist meeting, and (below) a young lady chatting with a Spiritualist medium who is supposed to be able to bring back the spirits of the dead.

writer in the Bible who makes use of the words "immortal" and "immortality." He never applies either term to the righteous or the wicked in this world nor to the soul before or after death. He uses the word "immortal" as an attribute of the King Eternal. (1 Timothy 1:17.) He

declares that God is the only possessor of it. (1 Timothy 6:16.) The righteous are to seek for it by patient continuance in well doing (Romans 2:7), a fact which proves that they do not naturally possess it. He tells how it is revealed in the gospel of Christ (2 Timothy 1:10), and finally he describes how the change from mortal to immortal will take place in the great resurrection morning (1 Corinthians 15:51-54). It is abundantly clear that no man outside of Christ has eternal life abiding in him. (1 John 5:11-13; 1 John 3:15; Psalm 22:29.)

Spiritism teaches that our departed friends can return and communicate with us after death, but the Bible tells us that the dead shall no more return to their place. In Job 7:9, 10 we read, "As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away; so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more. He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more." Again the Bible and spiritism disagree. Spiritists speak of the disembodied entities of the departed returning to their own homes and even materializing before their friends. But in death man, according to the Bible, can return no more to his house. And David said of his son who had passed away, "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." 2 Samuel 12:23.

Spiritism teaches that the "whole personality survives 'death' with a character and power similar to those displayed by the old bodily organism." And Oliver

Lodge adds that the dead "do not seem to be deprived of any of the intellectual pleasures which they enjoyed here."⁶

During the one-hour interview with the supposed spirit of Doyle, referred to above, Mr. Harry Price asked the entity: "Can you tell us anything of your life; of your present condition?" The following answer was given, "When I say that I am living in a world considerably like the one I have left, people will be surprised. I find myself doing many of the things which I did here (on earth). I find I am living in a world as dark as that I have left, more's the pity. It is a country where pain is forever ended; where emotion is born a thousand times stronger; where inspirations reach me much easier. I find myself in a bodily state. It is a world where the sinister life is still to be dealt with. This is neither heaven nor hell. It is a combination of both. Believe me, it is only the beginning. I understand that it tends to confirm the theory of reincarnation, and the soul goes through many phases. It is really the substance or soul of me in bodily form. The scientists will disagree with me, but I am still 'material' and so long as I am material, I feel myself the man I was on earth."

Let us compare some of the statements of this spirit entity with those of the Bible. The spirit entity said, "I am living in a world as dark as the one I left." The Bible says that when a man dies, he does not live. (Isaiah 38:1.) The spirit entity spoke of emotions born a thousand times stronger, but the Bible says of the dead that "their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished." Ecclesiastes 9:6. This entity said, "I understand, I feel," but the Bible says that "the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything." Ecclesiastes 9:5. How could language be more plain? He who knows while he is alive that he shall die is the same intelligent being who when dead knows not anything. It is therefore clear according to the Bible that this entity could not be the spirit of a dead person, because the conditions of which he spoke do not describe the condition of the dead. It was some living personality that was not dead.

The teachings of spiritism not only contradict the Bible, but they are against reason itself. If you hit a man on the head with a brick and knock him unconscious, you are told that the man does not know anything; but if you hit him still harder—enough to crush in his skull and cause his death—then spiritism comes along and tells you that he knows

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Can the Weather Be Controlled?

ACCORDING to *Science Illustrated*, May, 1947, certain types of weather conditions can be controlled. It is claimed that fog can be dissolved, rain can be induced, snow can be prevented in cities, hailstorms can be reduced, thunderstorms averted, and possibly hurricanes can be detoured. These would truly be marvelous achievements if the scientists could do all these things. There are still doubts in many minds that very much can be accomplished along these lines. There would, of necessity, have to be elaborate and expensive efforts put forth. Scientists would have to be ever on the alert for storms that strike without warning, and sometimes in places where they are least expected.

We sometimes wonder if the increase of knowledge so characteristic of our day is solving our problems of life on earth. Consider the floods of last winter and the tragic airplane wrecks of recent months, as well as the increase of diseases, famines, fires, tornadoes, explosions, and earthquakes. And then we think of the diabolical weapons that the scientific minds are bringing forth for

another war. Perhaps too much knowledge is not good when placed in the hands of sinful men. There needs to be a restraining power over these things. Atomic power is safe only in the hands of God. Men know not how to use it.

Scientific developments are good if they are brought forth for the betterment of mankind. It would be wonderful if the weather could actually be controlled, but it is seriously doubted that the destructive storms will cease until Christ comes. The increase of tragedies in recent times is a fulfillment of Bible prophecies pertaining to our day. They are evidences that the end is near. Jesus spoke of the signs of His coming as follows: "And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven." Luke 21:11.



Miracle Workers

MIRACLE men seem to be appearing quite frequently in the world today. One magazine had this to say about the matter: "In times of stress 'miracle men' have a habit of bobbing up with 'messages' for a world in search of signs and

wonders. Some swallow swords, some are buried alive, some sleep on tacks. Others—the more conservative kind—merely possess 'supernatural powers.'"—*Time*, June 23, 1947.

The latest miracle man to appear is one by the name of Mirin Dajo, who is performing nightly in the city's largest music hall in Zurich, Switzerland. Dajo claims to be a prophet, and maintains that he is indestructible. He says that God has given him the will to dominate the body, and all the attempts to destroy him have failed even though he has been stabbed in the heart, shot, and deluged with boiling water. Dajo states, "I'm invulnerable. I just don't exist."—*Ibid*.

Another purported miracle man appeared in this country not long ago whose name is Avak Hagopian. He came to America at the expense of K. Arakian, a wealthy man of Palm Springs, California, to try to heal his son. Avak claimed, "God has sent me." Avak the Great, as he is called, is said to be a man of unusual healing powers. Thus far, however, the young man that he particularly came to heal has not been restored.

Thousands of people become excited over the unusual feats of the so-called



(Above) A new flame thrower which releases liquid fire about 100 yards long, and which accomplishes horrible results in destructiveness.
(Left) The Rev. Mr. Hainsworth, of Dexter, Michigan, plans a spectacular campaign of preaching from the rooftops in all principle cities west of the Mississippi.

miracle workers. Many believe that it must surely be a demonstration of the power of God. Great numbers flock to see and hear these individuals. Many come to be healed. Some come to hear their words in the hope that they may hear a profound revelation. Others come to see the show. It is doubtful that God would ever cheapen His dignity by performing circus tricks through an agent such as Dajo in a crowded commercialized music hall. We have never known of God working for and through human agents for their personal remuneration in spectacular miracles before theater audiences.

There is no question but that God does heal the infirmities of those who have faith in Him and who are willing to comply with the Bible conditions that He has given. His promises are not limited to a select few, but are for all who will come unto Him.

I do not mean to imply that miracles do not take place. However, we should be careful to distinguish wherein the hand of God is manifest and where the adversary of souls is working to deceive. The devil worshipers of India walk on red-hot coals, and perform many other unusual acts. All miracles should meet the test of the Word of God. We must ever remember that one of the signs of the end of the world as given by Christ was, "There shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matthew 24: 24. Also, we read that Satan will do "great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles." Revelation 13: 13, 14.

It is imperative that Christians be careful not to be carried away by the unusual feats of these miracle men. They will do their miracles in the name of God; but in many cases their power comes from Satan. Be not deceived!

A CORRECTION

We are indebted to Mrs. Hazel Grant Davis for correcting us on a statement made in an editorial in the August issue of OUR TIMES. We said that she wrote a letter to the *National Voice* regarding her husband's failure to obtain any recognition for his outstanding service during the war, but actually her letter was sent to the *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, Quincy, Massachusetts, and was quoted in the *National Voice*.

We Should Be Thankful

AN INTERESTING statement was made recently by Wally Brennan, editor of the *Dunkirk Observer*, which reads as follows: "I guess people all over Europe must be in bad shape. We're lucky here—mighty lucky. And we'll keep on trying to help others who haven't been so lucky."—*The Reader's Digest*, August, 1947.

Mr. Brennan, and other leading men of the city of Dunkirk, New York, directed in the program of soliciting aid from the people of this town of 20,000 for the inhabitants of Dunkerque, France. Thanksgiving day of 1946 was designated as the time for the people to bring their gifts. Huge quantities of donated things soon piled up. There were canned goods, clothing, medical and surgical supplies, dental equipment, farming implements, seeds, toys, blankets, and cooking utensils. Livestock and money were given also. More than \$100,000 worth of goods was received in the drive. A few weeks later the city decided to help Poland. It was drained again, this time the goods and money given amounted to \$150,000.

John McCauliff, a citizen of this charitable town, said: "The hearts of our people will never have to be defrosted. God smiled on us and made Dunkirk the best . . . city in America."—*Ibid*. The churches reported a greater interest and more liberal donations. Labor troubles disappeared. The chief of police said: "I'm liable to be out of a job around here."—*Ibid*. The community has become a model law-abiding place since Dunkerque Day. It is also believed that it has become more prosperous. "Dunkirk has learned that no one ever became poor by giving."—*Ibid*.

What an example! This seems like a marvelous solution to community problems. It would give us a little bit of heaven right here on earth if more of our cities and

towns would follow this example.

The editor of the *Dunkirk Observer* said: "We're lucky here." Yes, we are. We should be thankful that we are in America. We have many good things. We have a bountiful supply of the necessities of life. A large area of the world is in a tragic condition. Many people are hungry, ill-clad, destitute of the things that are necessary to normal life. This is not so in America. We are prosperous, we are overflowing with "milk and honey;" yet we hear complaints and dissatisfaction. There are grumbles over high taxes, the high cost of living, the lack of consumers' goods because manufacturers cannot keep up with the demand. But most of us have more than we ever had. We should be mighty thankful.

If we could look around in, say—Poland. Perhaps it would do us good to observe our fellow human beings living in rubble-strewn, dark basements of bombed-out houses. We would probably see ragged clothes that would make our worst dress or suit seem like our Sabbath's best. And then those meals—if we could call them that, soup made from tree leaves or grass. Perhaps there might be some cabbage or turnips. We would see a lack of medical facilities, filth (because soap is scarce and money to buy it is scarcer), disease, families huddled together trying to keep warm, with almost no fuel to make heat.

As Thanksgiving day of 1947 is celebrated, let us give thanks to God for the sunshine of His favor that we so fortunately bask in. I think we should go a step further and give, to the local agencies handling such matters, some gift for those in other lands who are less fortunate than we. On this Thanksgiving day by all means remember your fellow man, and do unto him as you would have him do unto you if you were in his place.

THE EXISTENCE of elephantiasis was largely forgotten by the great majority of us up to the time of the second World War, when our men had been doing hard duty on a number of South Pacific Islands for over a year. We knew of the millions of mosquitoes there, and that malaria would probably be more or less abundant. But we either forgot, or never knew, how many other parasites besides the malarial parasite (plasmodium) mosquitoes are capable of carrying. Among the many casualties arriving on every ship from those outlying tropical stations, were numerous cases of infection with a tiny worm

The filariae (the worms causing elephantiasis) develop in a marked cycle, so in tracing the development one may start at any point. We will assume that the mosquito has been infected from a man in whose blood there are circulating millions of these tiny worms.

Mosquitoes are able not only to transmit the disease, but are necessary for the development of the young parasites, which pass part of their growth period in the mosquitoes, as do malarial parasites. Not only malarial mosquitoes, but a number of other mosquitoes, are capable of transmitting elephantiasis. It is a curious fact that the little worms are

person, many parasites, born active from the mother worm, are taken into the mosquito's stomach. From here they migrate to the chest muscles, where they become almost inactive. In about a week their internal organs develop. In another week they become long, thin, very active worms and migrate to the mosquito's head where they lie in little coils, waiting a chance to slip down the mosquito's "saw-equipped" blood-sucking apparatus. When the mosquito bites (saws) through the skin, the filariae slide down the tube to the warm skin, where they are capable of boring through quickly on their own power. Usually

A RARE DISEASE

Measures Must Be Taken Against It

(*Wuchereria* or *Filaria bancrofti*) carried by mosquitoes and causing the dreaded disease, "elephantiasis."

While the number of infections from now on will probably be much smaller, so long as we are in active contact with infected populations in tropical islands, there will probably be a few cases from time to time. Mosquito control will greatly limit this infection. As men from all parts of our land have been in tropical service, this infection is no longer a distant "tropical disease," but one that is possible in every community, North or South.

Elephantiasis (named from the huge size to which the legs or other parts of the body swell after the disease is fully developed) is the result of a mechanical blocking of certain vessels (lymphatics) that normally carry the products of digestion to build the body and remove wastes.

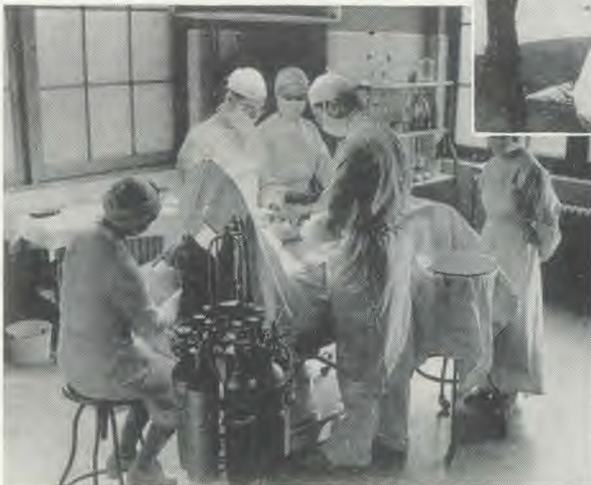
As with most parasitic infections, the complete life cycle of the parasite was worked out only after many years by many keen observers. Cases of elephantiasis (formerly called *Lepra arabum*—Arab leprosy—to distinguish it from *Lepra graecorum*—Greek, or true, leprosy) have been known in most tropical and sub-tropical lands for many centuries. But the cause was discovered only in 1878 when the connection of the mosquito with this disease was first recognized.

By Col. George A. Skinner

likely to be most abundant in the blood vessels of the human skin at the time the mosquitoes of the locality are flying. So in some places filariae can be found in the blood from 10 P. M. to daylight much more readily than in daylight. In other places, where the mosquitoes are mostly the day-biting variety, the parasites are most active in daytime. Parasites seek the deeper parts of the body much of the time. Why this is, is not known. But the facts have been observed for many years.

When a mosquito bites an infected

they make this migration in pairs, reach small blood vessels and pass on until they find suitable locations in glands. Here they mate and start rearing their numerous families. Such worms may live many months.



(Above) A case of elephantiasis and tropical ulcer under treatment at a mission clinic in Africa.

(Left) Medical science has performed many wonderful things, but it continues to meet new and more dreadful diseases all the time.

In the great majority of cases there are no symptoms to all this infective process. In most tropical lands a large part of the native populations will show the filariæ in the blood, yet only a few are afflicted with elephantiasis. It is only when the adult worm is injured or gets into so small a space that the lymph (a colorless fluid that surrounds all cells) cannot circulate that serious symptoms begin. This blocking causes the fluid to back up, resulting in swelling that may reach great size. Most of the trouble then is from the weight of the part, which may become so massive and heavy that the person can carry it around with difficulty. Sometimes under such conditions surgery offers the only relief.

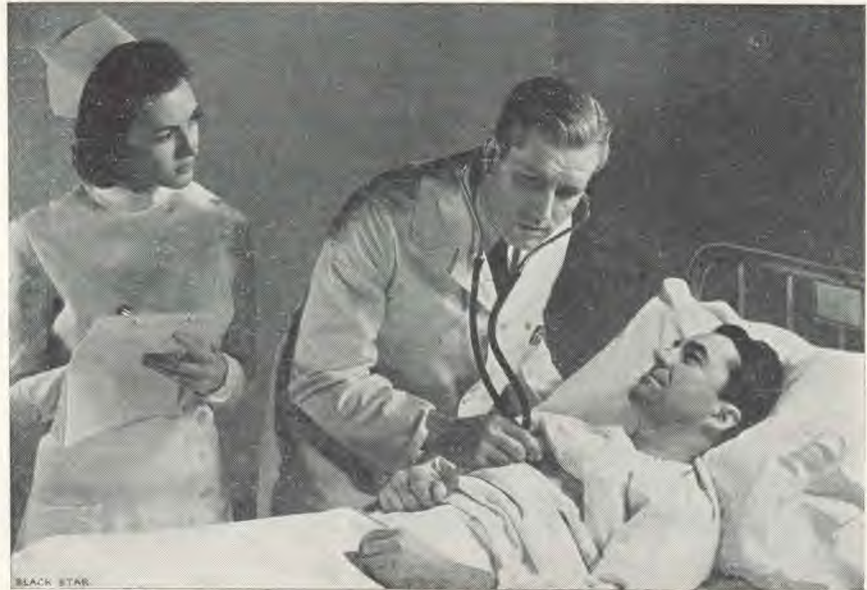
All this sounds very depressing, but is not as serious as it seems. Apparently a person must live for years in an infected locality and constantly be reinfected before there is much likelihood of the swelling taking place. Hence in the large number of our men who were infected no case of this complication has yet been reported.

Our anti-mosquito measures greatly and rapidly reduced the number of mosquitoes. As both mosquitoes and infected people must be present to carry on the disease, the near exclusion of native populations from our camps greatly reduced the possibility of infections. Our men were removed from infected areas as soon as filariæ were found in the blood. Most of the difficulties were psychic, as men infected were likely to be terribly depressed and frightened at the prospects, from what they had seen in advanced cases. Hence they were at once sent home and soon recovered.

Until recently no treatment has been of much value except preventive measures that destroyed mosquitoes and protected from mosquito bites. Recently a remedy has been announced which appears to be of value, and the results so far announced have been excellent, in that the patient is practically freed of parasites. The treatment is slow and not without disadvantages, but will, we hope, be improved in the near future.

Those who have most carefully observed such infections in our men state that there is a very remote danger of complications, and that a prompt removal from infected areas is equivalent to a cure.

"The Christian life is a battle and a march. In this warfare there is no release; the effort must be continuous and persevering."—*Ministry of Healing*, p. 453.



Cancer, Sneak Thief of Life

Frequent Medical Examinations Will Lock the Door Against It

WHEN you bolt your door at night, the principal objective is to keep out intruders, to guard against thieves and to safeguard your property and your life. Sometimes thieves get in anyway. They pry open a window or jimmy the back-door and under cover of the darkness, rob you of whatever is valuable. But, although burglars may force an entrance to your home in spite of precautions, you find it only common sense to lock the door every night.

Then why don't you lock the door against cancer? Cancer is the greatest sneak thief of life in the whole underworld of disease, yet few people take the proper steps to keep this prowling murderer from their homes.

Cancer, still unshackled, will be responsible for the deaths of 184,300 Americans in 1947, but a vast police force of scientists is on its trail and some day will bring the killer to book for all time. Until then, all we can do is lock the door as best we may against this stealthy footpad. These facts were pointed out by officials of the Ameri-

can Cancer Society in a recent report.

Through the use of radium, X-ray, and surgery, most cancer can be cured if detected in its early stages. At least one-third of those who die of this disease may be saved if treated in time.

The way to lock the door against cancer is to have frequent medical examinations, either by your family physician or at a cancer detection center. You, too, can help to keep out the intruder if you are alert for "signs" of cancer. If any of the following conditions occur, see your doctor immediately. It might mean cancer or it might be nothing serious. See your physician at once if you have—

(1) Any sore that does not heal, particularly about the tongue, or lips; (2) a painless lump or thickening, especially in the breast, lip, or tongue; (3) irregular bleeding or discharge from any of the natural body openings; (4) progressive change in the color or size of a wart or mole; (5) persistent indigestion; (6) persistent hoarseness, unexplained cough or difficult swallowing; (7) any radical change in the normal bowel habits.

THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

47 Beaver Street, New York 4, N. Y.

WAR, PEACE,



and the FAMILY

*The Part That the Home
Plays in Producing Peace*

By H. F. DeAth

WHILE nations continue to spend crippling sums on armaments, and prattle about man's desire for peace, the publication of books on the causes and cure of war go on apace.

As Dr. Edward Glover, in his latest book on War, "*Sadism and Pacifism*," observes: "The post-war antics of the combatant nations exhibit a degree of purposeful irresponsibility that is more bizarre than anything to be observed in a madhouse."

The United States of America must aim to become the strongest nation in the world, we are told, in order to be able to head up the United Nations in the enforcement of world peace. Russia must have the finest army and navy in existence, we learn from Soviet spokesmen. Her scientists, it is said, will beat the scientists of the Western nations, in the discovery and development of the most deadly weapons of warfare.

Meanwhile Britain carries on a feverish recruiting campaign for her army, navy, and air force. She, of course, must maintain an ever-increasing degree of military, naval, and air strength, in order to play her part in the great campaign for peace.

We are assured by the same spokesmen that no nation desires war. Whether this be so or not, the nations, through their accredited representatives, are doing the very things that make for war, the very things that destroy peace on earth and good will toward men.

Obviously, rulers have little faith in



I Believe

By Weldon Taylor Hammond

I believe in God unitedly;
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—the Trinity.
Matthew 28: 19; 1 John 5: 7.

I believe the Bible—Old and New—
From Genesis to Revelation true.
2 Timothy 3: 16; Psalm 12: 6-7.

I believe that God to earth drew nigh,
And spoke His fiery law from Sinai.
Deuteronomy 33: 2; Nehemiah 9: 13.

I believe God's holy law demands
Obedience to all of its commands.
Matthew 19: 17; James 2: 8-12; Ecclesiastes 12: 13.

I believe God's grace alone can fill
The heart with power to do His blessed will.
Ephesians 2: 8-9; Hebrews 4: 16; John 1: 12.

I believe the blood atonement made
By Jesus Christ the debt for sin has paid.
Matthew 26: 26-28; 1 Peter 1: 18-19.

BELIEVING in the Holy Trinity,
Believing that the Word of God is true,
Believing that God's holy law reveals the right-
eous deeds that He would have me do,
Believing in God's grace for keeping power,
Believing that Christ's blood atones for sin,
How can I but rejoice each day and hour
That I, through faith, the crown of life may win!

the race begins with the story of a home and a family, and carries us forward through the saintly lives of patriarchs and prophets who were nurtured in godly homes, until it reaches its climax in the humble Nazareth abode of Joseph and Mary, where Jesus, the Saviour of the world, was nurtured in the law and love of God.

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and Daniel, all became men "after God's own heart" through early family influences which started them on the right road and kept them walking with God throughout life.

The influence of home and family, therefore, is the strongest and most lasting of all influences. We recall the experiences of our childhood days long after we have forgotten those of the school or even of the church. The influence of parental teaching and example outlives that of the teacher and the preacher. Man's declining years are largely given over to reflections of early childhood days in the parental home.

Of all the sacred institutions that are affected by the baleful effects of war, home and family suffer most. Hence "the need for a renaissance of family culture, for the family, not the state, is the custodian and transmitter of moral and spiritual values. With every increase in the scale of modern war the family loses more authority than it regains in the subsequent peace; and the state, which has usurped family authority, being devoid of love, cannot establish checks on its own violence of purpose."

So one of the chief problems, as Dr. Glover sees it, is: "How to extend the cultural authority of the family and to curtail spurious cultural authority assumed by the state."

And we entirely agree. Nor do we hesitate to say that the solution of the problem lies in the restoration of the Ten Commandments as the guiding and controlling factor of the home. These alone perfectly represent those absolute moral values without which home and family life must fall to pieces. God's inviolable law, as taught, exemplified, and magnified by Jesus, His Son, is the only sure guaranty of that love which issues in peace—personal, domestic, and national. "Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them." Psalm 119:165.

Of the universal acceptance of these sacred precepts there is neither sign nor prospect. Nor does Holy Writ, this side of heaven, encourage us to anticipate it. On every hand the law of God and its divine Author are rejected and despised of men. But the kingdom of God on

the future of world peace. The same old suspicions and fears, the same old distrust of one another, are rampant. Each nation thinks far more of its own preservation, power, and prestige than of the welfare of all peoples.

After all, the "seeds of war are in the heart of man." The apostle James told us this long ago. "From whence come wars and fightings among you?" he asks. "Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" James 4:1.

As the seeds of war are in the heart of man, so also do the seeds of peace germinate and grow there. In the heart of man, therefore, peace must be cultivated. But peace has its roots in love—

the love of God, shed abroad by Him in man's desperately wicked and deceitful heart by the Holy Ghost. (Romans 5: 5.)

Hence to produce peace on earth and good will toward men, the forces of love must be strengthened. And there is no more fruitful ground for the cultivation of love and peace than in the home. It is there first of all that people learn to live and work together. It is in the home that the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man call most loudly for recognition. It is there that the love of God and the love of mankind can be most effectively illustrated and practiced, since the family is, and always has been, "God's first circle of society."

The Bible story of the regeneration of

earth is still represented by the faithful remnant who "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus;" by the scattered flock who bear aloft the torch of truth, until God shall mightily intervene from heaven, to take unto Himself a people prepared to enter that eternal home, where the law they have learned to love is universally acknowledged. (Revelation 14:12; 22:14.)

Justified by Faith

(Continued from page 7)

of life. And we would lose the kingdom.

How is it with you? Is your name written in the book of life, the book in which Heaven keeps the record of those who through Jesus Christ shall be saved through all eternity? Let us make sure, right now. What a wonderful opportunity and privilege for a sinner once lost, to be saved by grace through all eternity! Come now, you may never have another opportunity.

Calendar Reformers

(Continued from page 3)

garding Sabbath observance, that is, the observance of the seventh day of the week according to the fourth commandment, we could say this: If God at creation established the seven-day weekly cycle and commanded man to observe the *seventh day* as a perpetual reminder of His creative work, we cannot with impunity keep any day we like.

Sabbath observance is not like keeping Good Friday, Christmas Day, or even Sunday, for these are all ecclesiastical ordinances of purely human origin. The Sabbath is a day of rest and worship divinely associated with "the seventh day" of the "week," and this latter period is unalterably related to the original seven-day week of creation.

The fact that the law of the Sabbath was included by God among the Ten Commandments shows clearly its importance for man's spiritual as well as material well-being, and, consequently, to do despite to it is as serious as the elimination or alteration of any other of the commandments in the Decalogue.

The fact, too, that the last recorded message of God to mankind before the end of the world is, "Fear God, and give glory to Him; . . . and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters . . . for the hour of His judgment is come." Revelation 14: 7. This closing appeal of mercy calls out a people described as keeping "the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:

12. These facts are further evidence that the commandments of the Creator, in their entirety and without modification, are to be the moral standard of the people of God to the end of time.

True Christians, therefore, can give no support to this tampering with the divine timetable in the interests of industry and commerce. Rather do they regard the World Calendar agitation as yet another sign of man's final apostasy and a challenge to them to take their places "on the Lord's side" in the approaching climax of history.

The Apostles and the Sabbath

(Continued from page 9)

observe all of these holy annual convocations "*beside the Sabbaths of the Lord.*" Again, these ceremonial sabbaths were fixed days in the annual Jewish calendar, and occurred on the various days of the week, even as the Fourth of July and Christmas do now.

After Christ died on the cross, disciples and Christians who accepted the Lamb of God as a crucified and risen Saviour, no longer brought their sacrifices to be offered upon altars of stone or of brass. They no longer celebrated the feast of unleavened bread, the sprinkling of blood, the feast of tabernacles, the day of atonement, or the other ceremonial sabbaths; for, with Paul, they gloried in the knowledge that Christ their passover had been sacrificed for them. (1 Corinthians 5: 7, 8.)

However, the Sabbath memorial of creation, established before the entrance of sin, and forming no part of the shadowy, ceremonial law, remains the same throughout all generations and dispensations. As Article IV of the "royal law," it is not subject to amendment or repeal. While the apostle to the Gentiles emphatically proclaimed that the Levitical ritual had passed away, he adored the law of God as the very constitution of Christianity. To the Romans, he said: "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law." Romans 3: 31. And again: "The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." Romans 7:12.

In spite of these definite pronouncements of scripture, many conscientious Christians have somehow received the impression that the Ten Commandments, including the Sabbath, were nailed to the cross; and to support this belief, they quote the following words: "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way,

nailing it to His cross." Colossians 2:14.

Read again, and read carefully. This text does not refer to the law of God, which is changeless and eternal, but to "the handwriting of ordinances" that regulated the "meats," "drinks," "sacrifices," and annual sabbaths, all of which were "a shadow of things to come." See Colossians 2:16, 17; Hebrews 9: 9, 10.

This "handwriting of ordinances" may be found in the closing chapters of Exodus, in Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, and gave specific regulations for civil government, diet, sanitation, the priesthood, the temple ritual, and the annual feasts. Much of that service took the form of visual education "for the time then present;" but when at length Christ offered Himself on Calvary, the animated drama of the sanctuary was no longer required.

The so-called "law of Moses," or ceremonial law, had served its purpose; "the middle wall of partition" between Jew and Gentile was broken down; for the Redeemer had "abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the *law of commandments contained in ordinances*; for to make in Himself of twain one new man, so making peace." Ephesians 2:14, 15.

Into city after city and land after land the apostles of Christ advanced on their great mission. Walls and shadows, castes and classes, disappeared; and after long centuries of Hebrew bigotry and exclusiveness, how beautiful the sight to behold Jew and Gentile congregating side by side in church or synagogue, and there, as brothers and sisters in Christ, enjoying sweet fellowship together on the holy Sabbath of the Lord!

Spiritualism

(Continued from page 11)

everything and that "five minutes after death" he is "much the same as he was five minutes before." Strange reasoning this!

We have space for only one more text on the subject of the condition of man in death. It is found in Ecclesiastes 3: 19, 20. There are four fundamental facts set forth in these two verses which deny the claim of spiritism to be in contact with the dead. Fact number one is: "As the one dieth, so dieth the other." God is here speaking of both man and beast. Insofar as the actual physical phenomena of death are concerned there is no difference. The second fact is that "they have all one breath." The word "breath" is taken from the Hebrew word *ruwach*, from which the word spirit is translated, which words are used synonymously in describing the life-giving spirit

of God which gives life to both man and beast. Fact number three is that "all go unto one place." Now is that place heaven? Do all beasts and all men whether wicked or righteous go to heaven? Obviously the answer is no. Then is that one place hell, as it is commonly conceived as a place of torment? Would the righteous go to hell at death? Again the answer is no. In other words the departed are not assigned various places at death. *They all go to one place.* That one place could not be heaven for the wicked do not go there, nor could it be hell as the righteous do not go there. Neither is it purgatory or the spheres of spiritism's spirit world. Fact number four reveals that the place to which all go at death is the dust. The text reads, "All are of the dust, and all turn to the dust again." Here is a "Thus saith the Lord" telling us that *the one place to which all go at death is the dust.* Only when the life-giver returns in the resurrection morning will the dead escape from their tombs. (John 5: 28, 29; Daniel 12: 2.)

Who then are the spirits? A medium's knowledge of facts unknown to those at the seance can never be taken as conclusive proof of the presence of a dead person. The statements have first to be verified, and if verification is possible, that in itself is conclusive proof that these facts can be ascertained by means other than the direct memory of a dead person. Nor can mere likeness be taken as proof of identification. Even men can oft times successfully impersonate other men. The Bible teaches that intelligent invisible forces exist and that there are both good and bad angels, and that the evil entities, or fallen angels, can materialize in the form of men or angels of light. We read in the Scriptures, "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." 2 Corinthians 11:14. Inasmuch as the angels are a higher order of being than man and are familiar with man's habits and customs, their natural ability to artfully impersonate the dead should be recognized. Surely no better avenue of communication between the fallen angels and men could be provided than the spiritistic seance.

The gathering of facts would be a simple matter to such an army of fallen angels. The Bible attributes to them miracle-working power and it is certainly evident that could they but gain the control of an individual's mind they could through that medium impart messages containing facts unknown to many present and then make the claim that those facts came from the dead.

The inevitable conclusion from the

evidence of the Bible is that spiritism does not bear divine credentials. It does not open the portals of the tomb. Only Christ holds the keys to the grave. (Revelation 1:18.) The door of the tomb remains locked until Christ unlocks it on the resurrection morning. Spiritism provides an avenue by which fallen angels can impersonate the dead in an effort to vindicate Satan's first lie. It was in the first seance of history that the devil, acting as the control, chose as the medium the serpent and by supernatural phenomena led Eve to disobey God. He told Eve that she would not surely die and when as the result of sin death came and Satan was proved a liar, he resorted to the same method of impersonation to make men see and believe that when they died as God said they would, they had actually not died at all, but merely changed their condition. Thus by a miracle Satan deceived the mother of the human race and by the wonders of spiritism he still seeks to deceive her children in these closing hours of earth's history.

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I recently heard a speaker say that God and the angels would rejoice as they watched the wicked burn. Does the Bible say this?—R.P.

No. To the contrary, it teaches the very opposite. The following makes this plain: "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?" Ezekiel 33:11. To charge God with pleasure in the suffering of His created children is a terrible accusation. The Bible tells us that the punishment of lost sinners is "His strange work, . . . His strange act." Isaiah 28: 21. It is a strange act for the God of love to punish. Sin has brought much grief to Him since its entrance. He has made great sacrifices in the endeavor to rescue men from its results. God desires that men be saved. That is probably the reason why the world's probation is being prolonged, for God "is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3: 9.

Does the Bible anywhere teach that once saved always saved?—L.J.

This is a subject that requires a fuller explanation than can properly be given in this column. It is planned that a full-length article will be published in this magazine on the subject at a later date. However, the following texts are presented as a brief answer to the question: "But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all My statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. . . . But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die." Ezekiel 18: 21, 24.

In the New Testament, Peter has presented the same truth as follows: "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ [saved by grace], they are again entangled therein, and overcome [fall from grace], the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness [saved by grace], than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them." 2 Peter 2: 20, 21.



That Plantain

As Hard to Eradicate as Some Sins



A YEAR ago I moved into the house which is now home to me. The yard was full of plantain seedlings growing as only they can when there is an abundance of rain. Through the warm days I pulled plantain and cut off more plantain at the crown thinking all the while that next summer my lawn would be a sweep of velvet grass.

When June came this year I went away for an extended visit. I thought often of my stretch of green lawn, only to find on my return that the plantain was thicker than a summer ago. Now I admire its persistence in growing rank and large, even to killing out the grass, but I was resolved that my determination to eradicate it should more than match its persistence in growing. Then, one evening as I worked, verses in the old Book suddenly had deeper meaning for me, especially this one: "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." 1 Cor. 2: 2.

One cannot allow the plantains of selfish thought and self-caring to grow in the heart, for soon they will choke out the fresh, living greenness of God's presence there. "No man can serve two masters," Christ said one day as He was teaching. (Matthew 6: 24.) He knew how impossible it is to keep self and His interests both in the heart. One will surely crowd out the other. The love of self, the living for self, cannot exist with love for God and living for Him. Christ must have complete control of the heart and life. Our wills must be subject to His will. Then He lives in us and our lives bear evidence to it.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." 1 John 2: 15-17.

Just as I eradicated the plantain in the lawn so that the grass once more covered it, Christ, through His indwelling presence, will possess our lives. We shall want to do His will alone. As one author expresses it: "He who beholds the Saviour's matchless love will be elevated in thought, purified in heart, transformed in character."—"Gospel Workers," p. 29. We shall say, with Paul, "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world." Galatians 6: 14.

We must allow Christ to have constant control of our hearts, even as I worked day after day to keep the lawn from plantain. Only He can keep sin and selfishness from them. Each day we must make sure His will is our will. Each day our prayer must be, "Keep my heart, Father, for I cannot keep the weeds of sin from growing there. I fear to trust myself for I shall fail of Thy purpose for me. I shall fail of reaching Thy perfectness. So work Thou in me. Take the evil from me that only the flowers of Thy planting shall blossom there."

When this is our prayer, we shall know Him in His tender care. We shall know Him crucified, a saving keeping power in us. The experience of Philippians 3: 13, 14, 7-9 will be ours in its fullness. "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith."



By Inez Brasier

