



PRESENT TRUTH

CHRISTIAN HOME NUMBER

© A. B. SHAW & CO.



THE TIDE OF TIME

By the Editor.

© Fox Photos

A DIVIDED CHURCH

THE recently issued report of the Commission on Doctrine in the Anglican church is a revealing document. While it evokes satisfaction that a remnant at least stands unshaken upon the "faith once delivered unto the saints," it reveals how far many leaders in the national church have departed from it, on the one hand in the direction of Modernism and on the other toward Rome.

By the modernistic group within the church, the full inspiration of the Bible is definitely repudiated. That all the statements attributed to Christ are His is denied, and it is asserted that the Bible must stand corrected by the results of modern historical and scientific investigation. Its spiritual value also is

to be tested by the "mind of Christ" in modern consciousness.

The early chapters of the Bible are in no sense to be taken literally and the doctrine of evolution is regarded as entirely compatible with the Christian faith.

The virgin birth cannot be accepted as a literal fact any more than the physical resurrection of our Lord's body, and the Bible teaching concerning the "last things" is declared to be symbolic rather than literal.

Romish tendencies are very evident in the section dealing with the state of the dead and future rewards and punishment. In the view of the Commission, Anglicans are under no necessity to regard death as marking the end of human moral choice.

Death may be regarded as a period of purification and progressive growth. Prayers for the dead are theologically justified and the invocation of saints is regarded as legitimate.

Anglicans may hold the Romish doctrine of the Real Presence and practise the reservation of the sacrament. Private confession is also recognized as legitimate, and certain members of the Commission openly expressed the hope of a not inconsiderable section of the church that Christendom may one day be reunited under the primacy of the Papacy.

How long the church can hold together against such divisive forces remains to be seen. The evangelical section of the church has been wellnigh crushed out of existence. The modernistic group is large but makes very little propaganda. The ritualists are undoubtedly the most vigorous section of the church and this fact, coupled with the knowledge that the Roman Catholic Church now has almost as many members in its communion as the entire Anglican church, bodes ill for the future of the Protestant faith in the



© Keystone

Soldiers of China's Red Army, once opposed to General Chiang Kai-shek, but now fighting with him against the Japanese menace.

PRESENT TRUTH

land which for so many centuries has been its stronghold.

In this tercentenary year of the Reformation in England a determined stand should be taken against the onslaughts on

the one hand of "science falsely so-called," and on the other hand against the forces which are dragging this erstwhile land of freedom and truth back into the bondage of Popery.

days of the conquest of Canaan showed further that as early as the days of Moses, an alphabet in many ways similar to modern Hebrew was already in use. Moses, therefore, could have had no difficulty in penning so large a composition as the Pentateuch a millennium and a half before Christ.

ARCHAEOLOGY'S TRAGIC LOSS

THE murder of James L. Starkey, director of excavations at ancient Lachish in Southern Palestine, has robbed biblical archaeology of one of its most distinguished workers in recent times.

From year to year his outstanding discoveries in this historic Bible city have been brought to the attention of our readers and we are sure that all will wish to join with us who knew him personally in extending to his wife and family, in their sad hour, our sincerest sympathies.

One of the kindest of men, he will ever be remembered with affection by the staff of the expedition he led for so many years, and with respect by the native workers who came back season by season to work for him.

But though cut off at the early age of forty-five by foul assault, Mr. Starkey will ever be remembered for the notable contributions he has made to our knowledge of the Israelitish conquest and occupation of Palestine.

It was in 1932 that he led the first expedition to the great mound of Tell Duweir and in the second season definitely identified it as the site of Lachish by the discovery of the famous "Lachish letters."

Dating from the days just before the city was overthrown by Nebuchadnezzar, these fragmen-



The Gwinn Aircar flying over New York. This remarkable little plane has a tricycle landing gear and foot controls similar to a car. © Keystone

tary communications, scribbled on potsherds, threw a flood of light upon the organization of the national defence in the last tragic days of the Hebrew monarchy.

Incidentally they also doubled the small volume of Israelitish documents belonging to this era and demonstrated the high development of writing among the Hebrews, thus cutting the ground away from under those critics who had used the argument of illiteracy to discredit the antiquity of the books of the Old Testament.

The discovery of other inscribed vessels going back to the

Mr. Starkey found the fortifications which the Bible declares Rehoboa m erected at Lachish, as well as additions by later kings, and evidences were brought to light of Sennacherib's conquest of the city which he so proudly pictured in the wall reliefs of his palace at Nineveh. A great cave containing some two thousand skulls witnessed to the grim clearance of the city after its capture by the Assyrian armies.

It was by an examination of these human remains that Mr. Starkey was able to confirm the Bible record that in many of the cities of Canaan the original inhabitants were not utterly driven out but were permitted to dwell peaceably with the conquerors.

Space forbids further reference to the discoveries made and the valuable facts amassed by Mr. Starkey's work at Lachish. He lived and died in the service of truth and we can only hope that his example may be an inspiration and guide to those who take up the task he has, in such tragic circumstances, laid down.

♦ ♦ ♦

ACCORDING to the Hon. Edward Lyttleton in the *Times*, something between five and ten million pounds are spent every year in this country on sweets and cosmetics.

Our Cover

Jesus Blessing the Children

By E. S. Hardy

© A. B. Shaw & Co. Ltd.



© Dorien Leigh

Though we wander to the ends of the earth our thoughts are for ever flying back to the "old folks" and the haunts of early days.

THE Torbay express is almost ready to start for London.

An old man leans in at the window and kisses the young mother who sits with her baby in the corner seat.

"Good-bye, Mary."

"Good-bye, Dad."

And the train moves off.

Baby heedlessly waves his chubby hands, but the mother sits motionless as a statue, staring out of the window at the familiar scenes of the old home countryside—staring, but scarcely seeing because of the tears that blur her vision.

And, noticing her, another passenger's eyes become moist with a sympathetic understanding. How often in earlier years he, too, had looked out of the window for a last glance at his native moors, ere the train plunged into the tunnel and hid those majestic heights from view. He had loved the scenes of his childhood as she loves those of hers.

Strange how this love of home extends to all classes of mankind, to every country and climate! It exists in the far north; it appears in ignorant savages of the South Pacific. Poor town dwellers will

long and yearn for some familiar house once called home, even if this is in a dreary street which others would pass with disdain.

At Christmas the "Royal Scot" carries a trainful of southerners to London. On its return it takes a great company of happy Scots to their northern homes again!

Carnegie the millionaire and his mother had lived in a beautiful home in America, with the luxuries that wealth could provide. But on their return to Scotland, the homeland, Carnegie confessed that he was greatly moved as his eyes fell on the scenes of his boyhood. And his mother, as she first caught sight of the familiar yellow-flowered bush of Scotland's hills, cried out in ecstasy: "Oh, the broom, the broom!" "Her heart was so full she could not restrain her tears, and the more I tried to make light of it or to soothe her, the more she was overcome," wrote Carnegie. "For myself, I felt as if I could throw myself upon the sacred soil and kiss it."

Up in the far north of Norway, near Tromsø, beyond the Arctic Circle, where the sun does not rise at all in the depth of winter, a rich tourist talked with a sailor who

had been born in that district so uninviting to visitors from the south. Tromsø—dark, dreary, and cold for so many months a year.

"You say you have travelled all over the world. You have seen London, New York, Calcutta, Melbourne, and other places. If you made a fortune, what place would you make home in old age?"

The Norwegian sailor's eyes glistened as he replied: "Ah, there's no place like Tromsø."

Down in the South Seas, Makea, the friendly chief of the island of Rarotonga, had made his first voyage with John Williams, the missionary, to Aitutaki, several days' sail from his home. Contrary winds delayed the ship on this return voyage, and Williams noticed that there had come into the chief's heart the fear that he would never see again that mountainous island which he called "home." "I shall never see Rarotonga again," he lamented.

Great was the man's joy when, as the moon rose, he caught a glimpse of the white line of beating surf and the dark shapes of familiar heights beyond. He clapped his hands and leaped about the deck with excitement and happiness.

Two wild men from Savage Island were taken on board his boat by John Williams for a similar journey, but they yelled and tore their woolly hair as their island home disappeared into the distance. For three days they neither ate nor drank nor slept, fearful perhaps, but truly homesick for Savage Island.

Turning to the Bible—

"Bury me with my fathers," the

PRESENT TRUTH

dying patriarch Jacob admonishes his sons, as he thinks of Canaan the homeland, the place where his loved wife lies at rest, and "not in Egypt!"

But Joseph, his son, prime minister of Egypt, rich, honoured, influential—surely *he* will have no longing to return to the land of his humble birth. At his death he will be interred by the royal court in one of the costliest mausoleums in Egypt! Perhaps a pyramid!

But no! as his last hours draw near, he, too, thinks of Canaan's hills and valleys, the home of his fathers. "Carry up my bones from hence," he commands—and dies in peace when he has the assurance that his wish will be fulfilled.

In Nebuchadnezzar's time the rivers of Babylon may have been more peaceful and more beautiful than the rough hills of Judea, but as the Hebrew captives sat there, they wept when they remembered Zion of the homeland.

"How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" they mourned. "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning."

And what a change came over them when the proclamation was made that they might return! It seemed like a happy dream, too good to be true.

"Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them."

Were they more emotional than the people of our Western lands? The prosperous settler in other climes often feels he will never long for the old home again. "I'm much better off here," he says.

But, alas, for his self-deception! He suddenly hears the grand "Amen," on some church organ, or over the radio, and behold! a river of tears that the will cannot dam is coursing down his cheeks, and he would give anything to be at home again.

Strange, too—he is nearer to God in that moment than he has been for years. There is in this love of home a divine undercurrent of longing for Him, for peace, for the assurance of the heavenly Father's care. Often the heart that longs for home is very near to a revelation of the love of God.

The great Father is seeking to reveal His love in every such time of soul longing. "Through the things of nature, and the deepest and tenderest earthly ties that human hearts can know, He has sought to reveal Himself to us."

Would you win your way to the heart of a German? Tell him you would love to see the Rhine, and to visit the Wartburg!

Admire the Norwegian fjords and the canals of Stockholm, and you will have the respect of the Scandinavian traveller very quickly.

Tell the Spaniard that you have enjoyed *Don Quixote*, and that you have always admired the bravery of Columbus—and you may soon be able to win your way to his heart with the Gospel message.

Love of home! Divinely planted instinct, bring loyalty, family affection, and gratitude! It is an instinct felt in the human breast since angels, with flaming swords, barred the way to the Paradise home.

Yes, admire sincerely, truly, and unselfishly the beautiful things of other lands—other people's homes—and God will use you to bring happiness and blessing to many hearts.

Your own included.

A Mother's Opportunities

A MOTHER may not be able to sing a song which will inspire, comfort, and bless those who hear it, but she has the opportunity of making a home melodious with the blessed sounds of daily family life—the gay chatter of children, the cheerful laughter of adults, the serious undertone of real conversation, the happy accompaniments of purring kittens and singing tea-kettles. She can blend all the sounds of active, healthy life into a harmonious symphony of love and achievement.

A mother may not be able to write a sonnet or a sermon which will challenge the best in the reader and show the beauty lying all about; she may not be able to write a story which will help to

while away the hours or which will inspire one to a happier, richer life; but she has the opportunity of writing an actual story in the lives of her children.

A mother often longs for opportunities for creative work, but each day she has many opportunities for creative living, and she is building the bodies, the minds, and the souls which will create a newer and a better world in the years to come.—*Selected.*



In his despair the thoughts of the prodigal turned to home and parents.

Who Shall Rule in the Home?

Parents or children?

By Murl Vance



© Autotype Fine Art Co. Ltd.
*Jesus with His parents in the carpenter's shop
at Nazareth.*

"JOHNNY, come in out of the snow!" called one of my near neighbours recently. Johnny, aged four, ignored the summons, continuing to shovel snow into his little bucket.

"Johnny, do you hear Mother? Come in out of the snow!" Still there was no response.

Four more similar calls followed at intervals of a minute or two, while the mother stood out on the porch and watched her young son defy her commands. Then finally: "Johnny! why don't you mind Mother?"

"Don't want to," was the reply. "Want to play."

"You come in!" said the mother. "You might catch cold; and you have been out a long time already."

As formerly, these remarks were ignored. The mother waited a few moments longer, then turned and went back into the house. I passed by about half an hour later to see Johnny still out shovelling snow.

In this case, the mother was not nearly so persistent as one in another home I visited. Here the ruler of the family, whom we shall call Jimmy, had reached the ripe age of six. He became hungry about half an hour before time for the evening meal, and began to beg for something to eat. His mother's emphatic "No!" was finally changed to a "Yes" upon Jimmy's promise to go to bed as soon as he had finished eating.

How Jimmy Obeyed

About an hour and a half later, when we had finished our meal and were ready to leave the table, Jimmy was still in his chair, playing with the remnants of his bread and milk. Then began the battle.

Twenty-two times by actual count Jimmy was told to go to bed, either by his mother or by some other member of the family. And twenty-two times Jimmy refused to keep his promise or to obey. Finally he was dragged off to bed, kicking, biting, and scratching, by a nerve-racked mother, while the nerve-racked guests and other members of the family looked on.

These examples are not isolated extremes, although perhaps the persistence of Jimmy's mother might be. Similar cases of open disobedience can be seen on every hand. We who are one generation removed from this rising group of revolutionists well know that had

we in our infancy attempted to overthrow the established government in the home, we would have had our "hides tanned" so thoroughly that it would be a rare day indeed before such an attempt would be repeated.

To-day this spirit of disobedience seems to pervade the very air. Almost every home where there are children has serious disciplinary problems to contend with. Why?

The causes of this breakdown of parental authority are not hard to find. Probably the most prominent is the vanishing of religion from the home. Modern scepticism has undermined the faith of many of the parents, and our modern age of hurry and bustle has completed the work of destruction. Many of us have been rushed out of our spirituality. The Bible is seldom if ever read, and family worship is almost unheard of. When neither parent nor child feels that he is answerable to God for his conduct, it is natural for that conduct to become careless if not lawless.

The duties of both parents and children are clearly outlined in the Scriptures. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph. 6:1-4. But of what use are these instructions if

they are not studied or heeded? When religion goes, the parent loses his strongest lever in governing the conduct of his child.

Our speeded-up society has also thrown another barrier between parent and child. It has destroyed the "pal" spirit, and made them almost strangers to each other. Most of us feel that we are a part of a machine that keeps running faster and faster. When we want to stop, we are carried along by the momentum of the crowd. We do not take the time to establish with our children that feeling of love and intimacy so essential to good discipline.

Irritation Toward Children

The pressure of making a living and of "keeping up with the Joneses" sets our nerves on edge and, along with other irritations, causes us to make the truly serious mistake of disciplining our children in anger. This arouses anger in the children likewise, and turns what should be discipline into a fight, with the stronger winning and the weaker vowing revenge. Discipline under these circumstances is worse than useless. It serves only to widen the gap between parent and child.

With religion gone, love weakened, and nerves tensed, the parent is glad to have the child amuse himself in almost any way he chooses, so long as he is quiet. The result is that much of the training that the parent should give has been taken over by the cinema show and the "comic paper." Here, under the heading of crime or comedy, the child sees others enjoying unrestrained liberty, not respecting the property or rights of others, and ignoring the law that attempts to uphold these rights.

The child learns that it is "smart" to oppose authority. Some of his escapades may be intended as fun, but too many boys and girls are not able to tell when fun ends and crime begins. When a child learns that he can overthrow the authority in his own home, it is natural for him to oppose the authority of the civil government.

Lack of discipline does not produce a happy home. As soon as a child learns that he can get his own way part of the time, he

naturally wants to get it all of the time. Whenever his will is crossed, a "scene" results. To avoid these "scenes," the parents give orders without enforcing them, and then fret because they are disobeyed. There is more or less constant jangling back and forth, for the

parent dislikes to be ruled by the child almost as much as the spoiled child dislikes to be ruled by the parent. And when several, each with a different idea on the subject, attempt to run the same household at the same time, har-

(Continued on page 11.)



WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

CONDUCTED BY H. F. DeATH

THE THREEFOLD COMING OF CHRIST

How did the angel of the Lord describe Mary's first-born son to the shepherds?

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11.

What relation had His birth to the plan and purpose of God?

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh." 1 Tim. 3:16.

What words of Jesus to Philip confirm this pronouncement?

"He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; . . . the words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself; but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works." John 14:9, 10.

Just before His death what promise did Jesus make to His disciples?

"I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." John 14:18.

How was this to be fulfilled?

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26.

When did this promise meet its initial fulfilment?

"When the day of Pentecost was fully come, . . . they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:1-4.

How is the promise fulfilled to-day?

"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Rom. 8:14.

What promise was made to the disciples forty days later, when Christ ascended to heaven?

"This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." Acts 1:11.

What then may we most confidently look for?

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven." 1 Thess. 4:15.

For what glorious purpose will He come a second time?

"And unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Heb. 9:28.

What will this mean to the dead and living who have made Him king of their lives?

"For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thess. 4:16-18.

What is the position of the professed believer in Christ who fails to find "comfort" in "these words"?

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." 1 Cor. 15:19.

MORE PRECIOUS T

In your own home you have a price. Have you found it?

By J. L.



© Topical
Gold seekers intently watching for the glistening specks of metal which will bring them wealth and ease.

WHILE a soldier was in France during the World War, his mother sent him a Bible. The other day she found it in the breast pocket of his old army uniform. On being asked if he had read it, he said he had, from cover to cover. "Look at page three," she said. He did, and found a pound note which she had sent with the Bible.

There may not be a pound note between pages two and three of your Bible; but, if you will read your Bible only as far as page three, you will find something worth more than a pound. There are wonderful treasures between the covers of your Bible, awaiting your discovery. The difference between an unread Bible and a searched Bible is like the difference between the undug Klondike of years ago, when nobody knew about the gold it contained and the mined Klondike of our day, as it yields its precious metal to the industrious diggers.

The Bible will do for us what

no other book can do, yet strange to say, people read everything but the Bible. There is hardly a home where the daily paper is not read. But how few there are who read the book of God daily! People read a thousand columns of newspaper to one square inch of Bible.

"They read the *Journal* and the *News*
The *Green Book* and the *Red*;
They kept the serials of the month
Securely in their head;
They went through books both old and new,
Best sellers too, they thought;
They read the jokes and studied styles;
No item went for naught.

"But in their home there was a Book
With pages never turned,
Whose messages of truth and hope
Were still by them unlearned—
The Book that tells of Him who came
To earth that we might know
The beauty of a sinless life,
Lived here so long ago.

"What pity 'tis they do not know
This Man of Galilee,
Who healed the lame, the blind, the deaf,
Beside the sapphire seal
And still they read and laugh and cry
O'er stories of the hour,
And let the Book dust-covered lie
Unopened in its power."

Money in your pocket or in the bank will not supply your necessities unless you use it. An unwound watch will never keep time. A full petrol tank without a cranked-up motor will never take you anywhere. So an unread Bible will never do you any good.

I hear some say, "I just can't get interested in the Bible!" If you found an old rusty iron tea-

kettle buried in your garden, you wouldn't be much interested in it. But if when you opened the lid of this kettle you found it packed full of gold coins, you would be tremendously interested.

If you are not interested in the Bible, if you do not love it, there can be only one explanation—you do not know it. "You have not been drinking deeply enough of its living waters to wash the dust of common things out of your throat. Drink deeply, and you will long for it 'as the hart panteth after the water brooks.' Drink deeply, and you will seek it as the desert traveller seeks the cooling spring."

No one will ever enjoy the Bible if it stands dusty on the shelf, or even dusted on the living-room table! It must be read. It must be searched. It must be meditated upon, eaten, digested, assimilated.

"Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read." Isa. 34:16. "Search the Scriptures." John 5:39. The Bereans are commended in Holy Writ because "they received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11. The joys and treasures of the Bible are not discovered by cursory reading of the Book. Hence Jesus bids us, "Search the Scriptures." This word "search" means to "look through and through."

You say, "I do love the Bible, but simply don't have time to read it." May I ask, Are you ever too busy or rushed to eat at least one or more meals a day? Job said he esteemed the word of God more than his necessary food. (Job 23:12.) And when we really so esteem it, we will take time to feed on its spiritual food daily.

PRESENT TRUTH

AN GOLD

asure beyond

huler

You can read the entire Bible through easily in one year by reading three chapters daily, and five on the Lord's day. The New Testament may be read through in just one year by reading five chapters each Sabbath.

Through one of the ancient prophets God said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Hosea 4:6. A lack of knowledge of God's Word is a serious thing. It results in destruction.

In these days of stress and uncertainty we should turn to the Bible for understanding and assurance. The Bible is the divinely inspired guidebook for the human race. It contains the very instruction and help that we need for these trying times. On its pages you will find a sure answer to those questions which lie the closest to your heart. When you turn the dial of your attention to station TRUTH of Scripture, you will hear, clear and distinct above the clamorous voices of this strange and confusing age, God's message for you.

An understanding of the truths of the Bible constitutes the essential knowledge that we need at this time. Roger Babson says: "The need of the hour is not more factories or materials, not more railroads or steamships, not more armies or navies, but rather more education based on the plain teachings of Jesus."

The Unknown Book

There is surely a serious lack of

© Keystone

Discussing a gold strike. Oh, that souls might manifest the same enthusiasm for the treasures of God's holy Word.

February 10, 1938

knowledge of the Word of God today. Some startling facts were recently made public. Tests were made in 213 secondary schools, and a total of 18,434 students attempted to answer twenty certain questions. One of the requirements was to name three prophets of the Old Testament. This was missed by more than 16,000 out of the 18,434. Twelve thousand of these students were unable to name the four gospels; and nearly 10,000 were unable to name three of the disciples of Jesus. In a similar test made on a total of 1,373 children in a grammar school, 499 did not know the Ten Commandments, and 351 had never even heard of them. One writer goes so far as to assert that only one person in ten thousand really reads the Bible to-day.

Ignorance of the Bible is really astounding. Notice the results of a test among a body of students in a university. Eight quotations from the Bible were asked of 139 students, and only eight and a half per cent of the students passed an average of seventy-five per cent, the average for the whole body being less than forty per cent. Seven per cent of the university students could not name even one of the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament. Less than one-half of them could give ten of these thirty-nine.

Their answers in regard to the New Testament were still more unsatisfactory. Twelve of these 139 university students were unable to mention a single book out of the twenty-seven which comprise the New Testament. Only one out of three was able to name ten of these twenty-seven. The

names that many of them listed as titles of books in the Old and New Testaments were astonishingly inaccurate.

Surely the time is ripe for a back-to-the-Bible movement. Was there ever a time when people needed the interpretation of the Bible more than to-day? Is it not high time that we search our Bibles for the wisdom that makes wise unto salvation? Does not this hour call loudly to us to become familiar with the Word of God, that we may know Him whom to know aright is life eternal? Are not the eternal verities of the Bible the primary knowledge we should seek?

Speaking of the time when the Bible was first put into the language of the English people the historian John Richard Green wrote:

"England became the people of a book, and that book was the Bible. . . . It was read in the churches, and read at home, and everywhere its words, as they fell on ears which custom had not deadened to their force and beauty, kindled a startling enthusiasm."—"Short History of the English People," chapter 8.

Charles Dickens wrote:

"It is the best book that ever was or will be known in the world, because it teaches the best lessons by which any human creature who tries to be truthful and faithful to duty can possibly be guided."

And our late beloved King George V added his own personal testimony to the Scriptures when he said:

"The English Bible in a secular
(Continued on page 13.)



What Meaneth These Things?

Has the marvellous development of communications a place in the divine purpose?

By
Carlyle B. Haynes



© Fox Photos
An Imperial Airways flying-boat passing a sailing ship in Durban harbour, South Africa. A striking illustration of our changing times.

THE striking fulfilment of the remarkable prophecy of Daniel 12:4 in the developments and inventions of our time has been emphasized in the articles which have preceded this. Attention has been directed to the fact that the ancient prophecy which foretells a time when "knowledge shall be increased" points, with unerring accuracy, to the century in which we live.

There is a second feature of this prophecy of Daniel which doubly identifies the "time of the end." Daniel reports the angel Gabriel as saying to him: "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Here is another great sign that our day is "the time of the end."

Our Restless Age

This is a time of unparalleled travel. Going back and forth over the earth, "to and fro," are countless multitudes of people. Fast as the development of rapid transportation facilities has been, it has not been fast enough to accommodate all who desire to travel. Railways have penetrated everywhere. Steamship lines are operated on all the seven seas. Motor-cars crowd the highways and city streets to the point of grave danger to life and limb. How to care for them, to provide space and room for them, to guide and control them in

their swift passage, has become one of the most puzzling of civic problems. Aeroplanes roar over our heads, subways rumble under our feet.

On the earth, over the earth, under the earth, on the sea, over the sea, and under the sea, myriads are running to and fro, going here and there to the ends of the world, fulfilling the ancient word spoken twenty-five hundred years ago, and pointing with divine accuracy and infallible precision to this day of ours as "the time of the end," "the last time."

Go to any railway station, to any steamship terminus, to any flying field and watch the thousands, the tens of thousands, yes, the hundreds of thousands, coming in, going out, moving here and there, endlessly, night and day, hour after hour, through the weeks, and months, and years. The whole population of the earth seems to be in ceaseless motion, restlessly going from one place to another, crowding every conveyance, and continually calling for more speed.

How Our Grandparents Lived

Assuredly this unparalleled running to and fro is a special characteristic of this particular time. Former generations did not travel as we do. Our grandfathers and grandmothers stayed at home. They did not run about. The

whole period of their lives was spent in a narrow area. A few miles from home was the extent of their journeying. To travel a distance of a hundred miles to some large city, or visit some relative, such a trip as we would take and return from in a day, and think nothing of, to them was an event to be prepared for for months, and to be talked of afterward while life lasted. Their chief business was building the home. They stayed by it, and never wandered far from it.

Not so with the present generation. Home seems to be considered a place to leave, not to stay in. It is just a starting-point for somewhere else; a place in which to catch one's breath before hurrying to the next place.

Our forebears did not travel as we do. They did not want to. And if they had wanted to, they could not. They had no means of transportation such as we have.

In One Century

Up to a century and a quarter ago, when men travelled, they travelled in the same way and by the same method as Abraham journeyed from Ur of the Chaldees to the land of promise—on the back of some beast or in some primitive cart pulled by a domesticated animal. For thousands of

years no other way of travel had been devised.

It has been in our own time that rapid transportation has had its astonishing development. We fail to see the wonder of it because we have grown so accustomed to it. We look up into the heavens, and see great airships passing from end to end of the continent or gliding over the thousands of miles of ocean; aeroplanes that leap across a continent in a few hours, or that fly straight up toward heaven until they are beyond the reach of human vision; passenger planes that bind great cities and nations together by regular routes of travel; commercial airships for the transportation of merchandise.

We look on the water, and see gigantic ships with furniture and fittings surpassing the palaces of ancient emperors, containing people sufficient to populate small cities, and cleaving the waters with amazing speed, binding the continents together as never before.

We look on the earth, and see wonderful trains hurrying here and there, bearing tens of thousands of human beings from city to city, at a rate of speed which would have been incredible a few years ago. And we see motor-cars by the million, at rates of speed scarcely slower than the trains, bearing other multitudes wherever they choose to go.

And we know that under great cities, in the subways, and under broad rivers in the tubes and tunnels, are other hundreds of thousands hurrying about with restless energy all over the world.

It is all ordinary, so usual, indeed, that our sense of wonder no longer functions. We take it for granted. We are used to it. It seems as if it had always been going on.

A Sign from Heaven

But, dear friend, it is unusual; it is extraordinary; it is amazing; it is wonderful. There never has been anything like it before. And it has a tremendous meaning, a meaning which you must not miss, which you must not lose, for your very soul. It marks this time. It is a special feature of this time; and this special feature of this

time identifies our day with certainty as "the time of the end."

(Next time: "God's Solution for Earth's Ills.")

Who Shall Rule in the Home?

(Continued from page 7.)

mony cannot be expected to result.

Unless the child is taught to obey from babyhood, with a quiet, dependable, loving discipline, it becomes a serious matter indeed to control him. It is problem enough with the best of efforts, and may put many a grey hair on the heads of the parents. But at least they have the comfort, if they do their part, of the Biblical assurance, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6.

Since parents to-day, however, are not, except in rare cases, giving this kind of discipline, we find a real revolution on our hands—a revolution led by our children against parental and civil authority.

One, and only one, phase of the problem offers real encouragement. To the student of the Scriptures, the revolt of youth marks another mile-post in the history of the world. It is one of the road signs telling us that the journey is almost over. In 2 Timothy 3:1-5 Paul declares that "in the last days perilous times shall come," and goes on to cite disobedience to parents as one of the signs by which we may recognize these last days.

The Son of man shall soon return, as He promised while here, to bless those who "do His commandments" (Rev. 22:14), and His coming will end the long reign of lawlessness on the earth.

In that day parents will be held accountable for the upbringing of their children. Concerning no less a man than the prophet Eli, God declared, "I will judge his house for ever, for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not." 1 Sam. 3:13.

Even though parents to-day have become loath to punish disobedience, the proverb, "Spare the rod and spoil the child," is as true as it ever was. Parents must resist the rising tide of lawlessness. Like Christ, their great example, they must "magnify the law, and make it honourable." Isa. 42:21.

Only the parent who will, like Abraham of old, "command his children and his household after him" (Gen. 18:19) can look forward with joy to the day when "the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God," "to give every man according as his work shall be." 1 Thess. 4:16; Rev. 22:12. The revolt of youth against law and order, coupled with fast fulfilling Bible prophecies, proclaims that day at hand.

Japan's Population Increase

THE latest statistics reveal the population of Japan to be 71,252,800, an increase during the past year of 960,000. Of this population 35.2 per cent dwell in 145 cities. Thirty-nine of these have a population over 100,000, while four have more than 1,000,000. The two largest are Tokyo with 6,274,000, and Osaka with 3,210,000 inhabitants.

To Our Readers

IF you would like to know more of the message contained in PRESENT TRUTH, or desire to attend a meeting of the Advent Fellowship in your district, write to any one of the following addresses:

SOUTH ENGLAND:

Midland Bank Chambers, 506 Holloway Road, London, N.7.

NORTH ENGLAND:

22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham.

WALES:

"Ventnor," Tyglas Road, Llanishen, Cardiff.

SCOTLAND:

Saughton House, Midcalder Road, Corstorphine, Edinburgh.

IRELAND:

"Dalkusha," Belfast Road, Bangor, Co. Down, Ireland.

You will also be very cordially welcomed at

(Local Address)



LOVE'S DEMANDS

"For we are His workmanship, created . . . unto good works."

By H. F. DeAth

TRUE love is much more than mere sentiment, it is never weak; it is eminently strong and practical. And the love of God, full, free, and amazing though it be, is no exception.

He is "our Father," and His great heart of love is much too wise and far too concerned about the highest welfare of His children to leave them without proper guidance and definite direction. Being, as He must, the very embodiment of all that is true, and just, and holy, His standards are necessarily the highest and the most perfect of all. These He not only sets before us, but also promises and pledges to us the power to reach them in the measure that we surrender our lives to Him. For not only has He power to rescue us from the slavery of low ideals, but also to sustain us in our desires and efforts to attain to the loftiest heights of spiritual experience and power. We, being His own crowning handiwork, He justly claims for Himself the right to every service we can pay.

We find the gifts and demands of divine love strikingly associated when God proclaimed His holy law to Israel on Sinai. Before declaring His law, He declares who He is and what He has done for His people, that He

claims their allegiance. "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." Exod. 20:2.

With perfect adaptation of His methods to human frailty, and with never-failing skill, He ever meets men just where they are. He selects the most recent evidence of His power and love, because it is still fresh in their minds, and the least open to dispute.

Fresh from His almighty conquest over the mighty Pharaoh and all his hosts, He had a perfect right to say to His miraculously delivered people, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." Exod. 20:3. He had given ample and signal proof of His love for them; they should likewise in return evidence their love for Him.

Thus does the Almighty reveal Himself first as the God of a powerful delivering love, and then as the God of a perfect inviolable law.

In this He discloses the perfect consistency of His character, His love for man is infinitely strong and practical, and infinitely fruitful in blessing and power to those who receive it. And He is so infinitely desirous that man should get the full benefit of His great heart of love, that He has given him a law to guide his wayward footsteps into the path of that incomparable love. In man's obedience to God's law, the highest wel-

fare of man and the greatest glory of God are inseparably bound up.

Unchangeable as His character, God's law cannot be watered down to meet the frailty and weakness of human nature. Oh no; that would be disastrous alike to the prestige of God and to the highest welfare of man. But what He bids man do, that He enables him to do. As one has well said, "All His biddings are enablings!" So God, in His love, gives us a perfect law, and then places at our disposal all the power of His holy being to enable us to meet His perfect and inviolable standard of righteousness.

When God proclaimed His law to His people from Mt. Sinai, amid most terribly majestic and awe-inspiring conditions, they quaked with fear. What made them quake? The consciousness of sin. That is the first inevitable and salutary result of coming face to face with a holy God. The consciousness of sin is the necessary condition that prepares the way for the desire to get rid of it. Hence we find Moses, with the spirit of a true leader, saying to his fearful shrinking, sin-stricken people, "Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that His fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not." Exod. 20:20.

There is a fear that dreads the consequences of sin. There is a fear of God that makes us hate to do wrong, because we know how much it must grieve the loving

heart of God. Moses demonstrated to his fearful people that he possessed the true fear of God by going forward into the very presence of God (Exod. 20:21), trembling certainly with a deep sense of his own unworthiness, yet knowing that at the back of all that awful majesty and power was a love that infinitely transcends all that is human.

Into that infinitely awful and holy, yet gracious presence, Moses went as the representative head of his erring, fear-stricken, sin-stricken people, the mediator between them and God. He was their visible spiritual leader. Through him God graciously communicated His law to Israel that they, too, through obedience to its precepts, might be fitted to enter into intimate relations with Him.

So, as we face God's perfect and holy law, we become fearfully conscious that we are sinners exceedingly in God's holy sight. But like Israel of old, we may hear from the lips of One who is greater than Moses, the graciously reassuring words, "Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that His fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not." Exod. 20:20.

More Precious Than Gold

(Continued from page 9.)

aspect is the first of national treasures; and is, in its spiritual significance, the most valuable thing this world affords."

Let us then search our Bibles. "If thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God." Prov. 2:3-5.

"Holy Bible! Book divine!
Precious treasure, thou art mine!
Mine to tell me whence I came;
Mine to teach me what I am;
Mine to chide me when I rove;
Mine to show a Saviour's love;
Mine to guide my wayward feet;
Mine to judge, condemn, acquit;
Mine to comfort in distress,
If the Holy Spirit bless;
Mine to show by living faith,
Man can triumph over death;
Mine to tell of joys to come,
In the saints' eternal home;
O thou holy Book divine,
Precious treasure, thou art mine."



UNSTINTED ADMIRATION

"ONE's unstinted admiration," writes the Rev. W. H. Hudspeth, Bible Society Secretary for China, "goes out to a great band of col-porteurs whose labour is maintained doughtily and cheerfully despite hardships, dangers, and sickness."

WORLD ROAD CARNAGE

"I UNDERSTAND," declared Dr. Burgin, Minister of Transport, "that in France, with a population of 42,000,000, the number killed in 1935 was 4,415, but this was from motor vehicle accidents only. In Germany, with a population of 67,000,000, I understand that 8,381 persons were killed in 1936, and that figure includes all road accidents. In the United States, with a population of 128,000,000, I understand that in 1935 there were 37,000 deaths."

PALESTINE'S NEWSPAPERS

"PALESTINE Jewry," states Mr. Herbert Sidebotham in *Great Britain and Palestine*, "has five Hebrew dailies and thirty-two other Hebrew periodicals, and five English, one French, and two German journals. Sholen Asch has declared that more good literature, in all the seventy tongues, is read in Tel Aviv than in any other Oriental country."

YEAR OF TERROR

THE year 1937 in the Soviet Union, says the *Observer*, will go down as the "Year of Bloody Terror." Its correspondent states, "According to information published here, as many as 300,000 arrests were made in the first nine months of this year. While the actual number of those executed is semi-officially mentioned as being 4,800, competent observers are of opinion that those liquidated on the stereotyped charges of being Trotskyites, sworn enemies of the proletariat, saboteurs, and spies, number no fewer than 10,000."

ISLAM'S BID FOR AFRICA

"THERE is a wave of Mohammedan proselytism sweeping down from the north of Africa and from the east coast into the interior," declared Father H. J. Farrell in a recent lecture. "Africa is now ripe for conversion, but if we do not send sufficient to win the Dark Continent for Christ, there is a grave danger that millions of the people will turn to Mohammedanism."

DENY OR DEFY?

"NOWADAYS," said Archbishop Downey of the modern attitude to religion in a recent sermon, "the spirit that denies is not the spirit that defies: it is almost impossible to find a man who does not pay at least lip service to some form of religion. One hears on all sides a jargon of religions, religions of everything and anything except of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ."

MOUNTING EXPENDITURE

"IN 1913-14," stated Sir Thomas Inskip, Minister of Co-ordination of Defence, "we spent something like £77,000,000 on the two defence Services. In a typical year after the war—1924—we spent £113,000,000. In the last post-war year after the depression we spent £103,000,000 on what were then the three defence Services. In 1937 we have spent £278,000,000. In 1938-39—the estimates have not been prepared, and it is possible to speak of them only in the broadest terms—something between £320,000,000 and £340,000,000 will be spent on the three Services."

CHANGING SCIENCE

"THERE is cause for thankfulness," says Professor Duncan Blair, "that modern science, both because of its advance in knowledge and because of its deeper appreciation of its own ignorance, is much less opposed to Bible truth than the crude, cocksure materialism of the last century."



The CHILDREN'S PAGES

"Thy Word is a Lamp"

By H. HUMPHRIES

"It is getting so dark and I cannot see to finish my work. Will you please turn on the light?" John obeyed his mother at once and pushing down the switch near the door flooded the room with electric light. Then John returned to his chair and forgot all about the marvel he had accomplished, for it was such a commonplace thing to do.

The psalmist wrote of God's Holy Word, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." And just because people may buy the Word of God for a few pence they do not prize it as a treasure.

Many years ago, before clever men invented the art of printing, scribes used to write out the Bible by hand, and it would take them ten or twelve months to finish one book of the Bible. Those who wanted to buy one had to pay £100 for it.

Very few of the devout Christians could afford such a high-priced book, so they used to get their young men and women to learn chapters off by memory; some learnt whole books by heart. Then when they had their meetings—and these particular Christians had to have their meetings in the open-air on the mountains or in the valleys because of the persecution of the cruel Romish priests—the leader would say, "Will brother John please give us John 14?" Then John would say his chapter, perhaps another would give a psalm, or a part of the prophets. In this way the people could hear the Word of God and use it as a

lamp to guide them in a dark world.

After the Bible had been printed there was a family who lived in France who said they must have a Bible. But it was not easy to keep one, for the priest would come and search the homes if he thought a Bible was being read. These priests got very clever in their searching. They knew all the best hiding-places and soon found the Bibles; then those poor people were cast into prison, and sometimes were put to death.

Well, this particular family had a wooden stool with sides round the top of it. The father turned it over and fastened the backs of

the Bible to the underneath of the stool. Then he made a sliding lid which protected the book from sight and injury.

That father treasured his Bible. How strange it would seem to us, if we could have been with that little family while they worshipped, to see their father take that very commonplace stool on his knees, turn it upside down and read very earnestly from something inside the stool.

The priest often came in and tried to find it. He searched high and low, and once when he was tired he came and sat down on the very stool to rest himself.

A missionary in the West Indies had a poor aged negro to teach. This man wanted to learn to read, but it was such hard work, as he was not at all quick to under-



Paint this picture and send to Miss Watson, The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts, with your name, age, and address by February 25th.

stand. At last the missionary got tired because his pupil did not appear to make any progress. So he said, "Give up, it is too hard for you." "No massa, me nebber give up till me die."

Taking his Bible he laboriously began to spell out John 3:16, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." With tears rolling down his face, he said, "It's worth all the trouble, massa, to read that one verse."

Hoxton Market Christmas Fund

Sunbeams.—Stephanie, 6d.; Roy, 3d.; Edna, 2/6; David and Barbara, 3/-; Joan, 1/6; Derek, 1/-; Peter, 2/-; Christine and David, 1/-; Jean and Cherry, 4/-; Barbara, 4/6; Ruth, 1/-; Phyllis and Grandma, 1/6.

Friends of the Corner.—Anon., 1/0; H.A.C., 5/-; Anon., 2/-; E.B., 10/-; B.W., 8/-; C.B., £1; X.X., 10/-; Miss C., 3/11; Member—Southend Church, 1/-; Mr. and Mrs. H., 2/6; Anon. (Walthamstow), 1/6; Anon., 1/-; Dr. and Mrs. J., £5; D.E.B., 2/6; Mrs. P., 10/-; "A Sympathetic S.D.A.", 2/-; "One of His", 2/6; E.W., 3/-; S.A.W., 2/6; S.A.K., 5/-; "Feathers", 2/6; Chiswick Church, £3; Mrs. B., 2/-; Mrs. B., 2/6; Mrs. M., 1/6; Liverpool Church, 5/-.

Parcels

Sunbeams.—Joy, Glynn, and June; Stephanie; Muriel; Violet; Fred; Olive, Lois, and David; Joan; Gwennie, Gladys, and Francis; Dennis and Mavis; Norman and Dorothy; Derek; Betty; Olive; Patricia; Peter; Christine and David; Margaret and Jean; Beryl and Kenneth; Vera; Peter; Sally; Derek, Hazel, and Raymond; Roy; Heather; Ruth; Sheila; Kathleen, David, Rustington Sunbeams; Lowestoft Sunbeams; Stanborough Park Children.

Friends of the Corner.—Anon., Hastings; C.O.H.; Anon., Boreham Wood; Mrs. B.; H.S.; C.G.A.; Chiswick Dorcas Society; E.W.; Bromsgrove Y.P.S.; S.A.W.; Anon., St. Leonards; Mrs. C.; D.S.; Mrs. M.; "One of His"; A.W.; Mrs. B.; Granose Foods, Ltd.; Anon., Watford; "Well-wisher"; C.B.; S.C.; W.G.; Warren Dean; R.E.; S.J.; Mrs. R.

Results of Special Hoxton Competition

DRESSED DOLLS. *Prize-winner.*—Jean Mullane, 31 Cavendish Place, Eastbourne. Age 9.

Those who tried hard.—Edna Miller (Loughborough); Doreen Chown (Rustington); Christine Beddall (Torquay); Margaret Mullane (Eastbourne).

Toys. *Prize-winner.*—Phyllis Ackerman, 4 Wallace Road, Rustington. Age 11.

Those who tried hard.—Betty Lamb (Withernsea); Joan Merritt (Rustington); David Hansler (Saltash); David Beddall (Torquay); Kenneth Hammond (Fareham); Irene Henson (Rustington); Peter Rix (Gosport).

KNITTED GARMENTS. *Prize-winner.*—Lois Hansler, 7 Brazacott Terrace, North Road, Saltash, Cornwall. Age 10.

Those who tried hard.—Olive Reid (Bath); Sally Dudley (Hull); Vera Bird (Fareham); Olive Hansler (Saltash).

NOVELTIES. *Prize-winner.*—Kathleen Merritt, 23 Wendy Ridge, Rustington. Age 12.

Those who tried hard.—Rosemary Warden (Rustington); Phyllis Wood (Rustington); Gladys Stapley (Rustington); Joan Pickering (Rustington).

February 10, 1938



My dear Sunbeams,

THE New Year is still quite new yet and so it won't be a bad idea to listen to a New Year's message sent by Marion Blackmore of Bristol to her fellow-Sunbeams. Her group has formed a Nature Ramblers' Club and here is her first "News Sheet."

"We are now starting a new year which we all hope will be a success. We are having a fund started to raise money which we will send to Hoxton, this being the centre of Sunbeam work, and as we are all Sunbeams this will be a chance of doing our good deeds. We hope that we shall be going camping at Easter on Horfield Common for a day or two but it is not yet decided."

"Morro: God made the flowers to be admired, not destroyed."

Marion is not at all content with finding ten new Sunbeams in one year, but wants to add ten more to her list by June. We feel sure she will do it. I think I can give you the name of a new Sunbeam, Marion. She is Margaret Willmott of 10 Third Avenue, Northville,

Filton, Bristol, 7, and wants to know other Sunbeams living in or near her district. Can you not write to her, and if not too far away, invite her to your meetings?

This Bristol group, and our already famous Rustington Band, have helped to inspire two more groups at Hitchin and Luton.

The Hitchin group is now well and truly started, and we shall be hearing soon of the real hard work they are doing.

Luton's first members and organizers are smiling at you from this page. Joan Henley—the tallest Sunbeam in the picture—is the newly-appointed secretary, and we are looking forward to her letters.

Perhaps some of you would like to start groups but are not quite sure of how to arrange a programme. Here is a suggestive one. Have an opening hymn or choruses. Let each Sunbeam repeat a verse from the Bible from memory. Do some practical sunshine work for the next half hour or so such as knitting, sewing, scrap-book making, etc. Have one or two jolly games in which all the Sunbeams can join, and then finish with another bright hymn and ask Jesus to bless your work and be with you till the next time you meet.

If you carry out a programme something like this I am sure you will all succeed in having some very happy times.

Yours affectionately,
DOROTHY WATSON.



Joan, Grace, and Miriam Henley of Luton with their parents.

PRESENT TRUTH

Printed and published in Great Britain fortnightly on Thursday by

THE STANBOROUGH PRESS LTD.
WATFORD, HERTS.

Trade Agents: Horace Marshall & Son, Temple House, Temple Avenue, London, E.C.4.

EDITOR: W. L. EMMERSON

Annual subscription 4/6 post free.

Vol. 54. No. 3.

Price 2d.

Let Us Build

MORE GODLY HOMES

A MINISTER who frequently visited prisons was one day accosted by an elderly lady, who said that she understood that he was going to a certain prison to address the convicts. She then handed him a package neatly wrapped in tissue paper, and asked him to give it to her son, with her love. "Tell him," she said, as tears rolled down her cheeks, "that his mother is praying for him every hour of the day, and that she still loves him."

Two weeks later the minister visited the prison, and the young man was called in. He carefully unwrapped the package, and a picture of his mother slipped out.

He looked at it carefully. "This is Mother, isn't it?" he asked.

The preacher nodded.

"She has wrinkles and lines that were not there when I left home," he slowly murmured.

"Yes," the clergyman replied, seeking to drive home a lesson, "and you are probably responsible for them, my boy, for she has been eating her heart out with love for you, and this disgrace has nearly killed her."

The young man gazed at the picture for several minutes. Then he carefully rewrapped it, and handed it back to the minister. "Take

it back," he said as the attending guard prepared to return him to his cell.

The minister showed his surprise.

"Take it back," the boy repeated, "and tell Mother that I feel like cursing her, and that I never want to see her face again!"

Was this sheer heartlessness and depravity? Let us not judge this young man too harshly. He had been reared by his mother to regard the dance as necessary to culture. He had drifted into "society," and had learned to play cards. Then he had killed a man in a quarrel, and had been sent to prison for fifteen years. Naturally, he blamed his mother, who had started him on the downward road. A parent can lift a child up, or drag him down. Many years ago there lived a woman who loved good books; and, although she was not well acquainted with literature in general, she knew her Bible well. Three times each day she would gather her children round her, talk to them about Christ, and breathe a word of prayer on their behalf. This woman was the mother of the Wesleys.

To-day, alas, we find too many homes with no signs of a family altar. The members of the household are too busy to pray together. There is no reading of the Bible. To take its place are magazines and novels. The Saviour is crowded out by the love of this world. It is a dangerous trend.

A Swedish missionary, who had returned home on furlough from her work in India, related this story: She had been teaching a group of children one day, telling them of Jesus, and explaining bit by bit incidents which showed His character. As she was talking, one of the children who was listening grew more and more excited. At last the child could restrain herself no longer, and she blurted out eagerly, "I know him; he lives near us."

Could your children give such a testimony of you? How wonderful it is to live so close to Christ, to follow Him in such a way, no matter what may be your everyday duties, that His character is seen in you! Let us strive to make our lives and our homes like this.

By "L.C."

