

SIGNS OF THE TIMES



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FORGOTTEN MOTHERS

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the flight of TIME

INTERNATIONAL



FORGOTTEN MOTHERS

A Survey of World Events

by the EDITOR

Pan-American's new Strato Clipper flying above the Cascades, with Mount Rainier in the background. This mighty plane, equipped with comfortable berths and rest rooms, travels in the upper reaches of the atmosphere at super speeds.

THIS year the celebration of Mother's Day finds the world at war again, and with so many harsh and fearful things happening about us it almost seems out of place to consider such tender things of life.

When war comes, mothers are forgotten. Not, of course, by the men who bid them good-by, but by those who make war and those who profit by it.

To them mothers don't matter any more. They have done their duty. They have borne and raised their boys to manhood. Now they can step aside and let the generals and the admirals get busy with them.

Mothers have played their part. Now they may stay home and knit socks and mufflers, and listen for news, and watch for the telegraph boy.

So it has always been, in varying fashion, down through the centuries.

Yet mother love is still as real and deep and true as ever—the greatest love next to the love of God. However much home life may have deteriorated in these degenerate times, mothers still suffer the

same heart pangs over their children as of old.

Thousands upon thousands are grieving now over the boys they have lost in this great new war.

Of course we have hardly thought about that phase of it yet. People have been talking about a "phony" war, and asking, with barbarous callousness, "Why don't they fight? Why don't they get on with it?"

Well, they are getting on with it now. And the telegrams are coming thicker and faster—to the mothers.

We read the other day of several transports being sunk. The papers told of thousands of bodies floating on the sea and being washed up on a rocky, desolate coast line. They were mostly boys,

barely in their twenties. Misguided boys, no doubt, part of a great heartless machine that dragged them to their untimely death. But they were boys with mothers who didn't want them to go away to fight, who would far rather have had them stay home on the farm or at college, and grow up to full, useful manhood and carry on the family name.

So it is on all the ever-widening fronts of this frightful conflict. Thousands have died already. More thousands will die perhaps today, and still more thousands tomorrow. And so the cup of human anguish, and of mothers' sorrow, is being filled to the full.

After the last war mothers said it wouldn't happen again. They wouldn't let it. They were going to rise up in their might—and mothers can be mighty when they will!—and change the ugly course of history once and for all. They were going to begin at the cradle and teach their babes to hate war. They were going to insist that all the education of their children should be directed toward instilling an ineradicable loathing for the hateful thing, until the day would dawn

OUR COVER PICTURE

This charming picture, from a photograph by Harold Lambert, adorns our cover this week in honor of Mother's Day, which falls this year on Sunday, May 12.

when a whole generation of youth would arise with one single purpose to live and labor in peace with all men.

That, at least, is what they hoped, and what they talked about in mothers' meetings and women's clubs and great international gatherings of one sort and another.

Now these dreams have faded. Something has gone wrong. Perhaps those cradle songs of peace were forgotten. Perhaps the education was not all it might have been. Perhaps—

But what is the use of thinking of that now? War is here again, dreadful and terrible, and spreading its trail of death and devastation in ever-widening circles around the earth.

The human race has failed once more to save itself, and we are left, mothers and fathers and all of us, helpless and hopeless, but for one thing. There remains but the divine assurance that God will send help.

In the Bible we are told: "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28.

Just as the Allies sent word to the suffering people of Norway, "Hold on, we are coming to the rescue," so from heaven to earth today come the glorious tidings that Jesus is on the way to save His redeemed from this sorrowful, war-torn world. In words that should bring new courage to all our hearts, He says to us: "Behold, I come quickly: hold . . . fast"! Revelation 3:11.

And the promises of God will not fail. Divine deliverance is coming. All the signs of the times tell us that He is near, "even at the doors."

So, poor suffering mothers, be of good cheer. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." Psalm 30:5.

And the night is far spent. The day is at hand.



Indicative of the vast rearmament program being carried forward in most countries today is this picture of anti-aircraft guns in mass production at an English ordnance factory.



AT midnight on April 8 President Roosevelt was rudely awakened from sleep to be informed of the terrible news that Denmark and Norway had been invaded.

Boarding a train for Washington a few hours later, he called press representatives to his side and discussed the new situation with them.

Presently one of the reporters broke in with the question: "Have you heard anything about the Illinois and Nebraska primaries?" whereupon the President properly rebuked him with these words: "There are certain things like primaries and politics that sort of get eclipsed by the news of the last forty-eight hours.

They don't seem to have quite the same relative importance they had before."

The President's judgment was right, and the pity is that more people do not appreciate the tremendous significance of the events taking place in the world at this time.

The war in Europe is not some local affair of no special concern to Americans. It is a battle of empires, perhaps the greatest struggle of its kind in the history of the world. The whole way of life for innumerable multitudes of the earth's population will be affected by the outcome. And whatever the course of battle, the subsequent impoverishment of all nations is bound to be calamitous in the extreme.

The deliberate, long-planned, and ruthless invasion of neutral countries indicates a complete breakdown of international law. The only law that remains is the law of the jungle. The strongest takes the prey.

That is the sort of world we are living in now.

As poor King Haakon said the other day, as he fled for his life from bombing planes, "civilization seems to have gone to pieces."

It has. Shaken as by a mighty earthquake, its foundations have already given way, and the whole vast superstructure is crashing before our eyes.

As in the days before the Flood, the whole earth is "filled with violence." Genesis 6:11.

Yes indeed, there are more important things to think about today than political primaries, or baseball results, or movie-star divorces, or bridge parties, or the latest picture show.

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The war comes to Canada, where men, classed as "enemy aliens," work in internment camps under armed guards.





"Honor Thy ... Mother"

A Mother's Day Message



by

LAWRENCE E. C. JOERS, M. D.

I wish to pay tribute to mothers. "Honor thy . . . mother," says the Bible; and blessed are those who remember to obey this commandment.

Much has been written, said, and sung about mothers. Painters have portrayed them, and great men have eulogized them. Baby's first word is usually, "Mamma," and in the final parting hour the last person called for is mother.

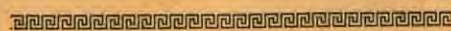
Why do mothers occupy this enviable position in the hearts of men? It is because they are mothers; because they know how to love. If you want to love someone sincerely, start doing things for him. That is why mother loves so much, because she is always doing so much. First, she gladly goes down into the dark valley to give life, and then any time along the way she willingly gives her all to sustain that life. She loves her little one before he is ever born. See the patience and care with which she makes tiny garments for him; later, hear the love in her voice as she croons a lullaby. There is love in every act as she keeps him from harm, and watches him become a man. Great honors may lift him high, or disgrace may strike him low, yet she reaches out her loving arms, and says, "My boy!"

A mother was informed by her physician that her little girl would be blind for life because of damage to the front part of her eyeballs. The only hope for sight for the child was to transplant the parts from someone's healthy eyes. This

operation would leave the donor blind for life. Without hesitation, this brave mother said: "Doctor, please take my eyes so that my little girl may see."

That is how mothers love.

Consider the heroism of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She reared Him amidst many difficulties and finally followed Him to Calvary, and watched them drive the cruel nails into His dear hands and feet. She knew that He had power to deliver Himself; but there is no record that she ever suggested that He exercise



FAITH OF OUR MOTHERS

MRS. CHARLES CUTHBERT HALL

Faith of our mothers, hold it true
As morning star in heaven's blue,
As peerless pearl from ocean's bed,
As guiding light seen far ahead,
Faith of our mothers, blessed faith,
It shall be ours to hold till death.

Faith of our mothers, hold in trust
That which is true and pure and just,
Her loving thought and constant prayer
For those held dear who leave her care.

Faith of our mothers, blessed faith,
In holy hope we'll hold till death.

Faith of our mothers, hold in love
This sacred treasure from above,
God grant it grace upon its way,
O'er wand'ring souls to hold its sway.

Faith of our mothers, blessed faith,
Triumphantly we'll hold till death.

that power. What a wonderful part a mother's love played in the great sacrifice for man's salvation!

Jesus set an example of respect and honor to one's parents throughout His entire life. Luke 2:51 says He was "subject," or obedient, to His parents; and He showed this when He was past thirty years old, by yielding to His mother's request at Cana.

The sorrow and grief of being rejected and the anguish and pain of being crucified did not cause Him to forget His mother. In fact, as He hung on the cross His last thoughts were of her and His last act was to provide for her care. John 19:25-27.

God says to us: "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you." Isaiah 66:13. He offers love comparable to that of a mother. He says: "No matter what the trouble, I will comfort you. If you stumble over the roughness in the pathway of life, I will help you up. If you are lost in the darkness of the world, I will lead and guide you. If you are heartbroken because you have lost a loved one, or because someone has been unkind to you, I will apply the 'balm of Gilead' to your aching heart. If you are tired, 'come unto Me, . . . and I will give you rest.' If you are worried about the future, remember I have gone to 'prepare a place for you,' and 'I will come again.'"

Let us respond to this wonderful love today!

Blessings of PERSECUTION

by
LEONORA
LACEY
WARRINER



*With the Master
on the
Mountainside—8*

THE last two Beatitudes reveal what will be the result to those who accept and follow in their own lives the principles outlined in the first seven. It is apparent that those who are truly poor in spirit; those who mourn; those who are meek; those who hunger and thirst after righteousness; those who themselves are merciful, pure in heart, and are striving to be peacemakers in this troubled world, must expect reviling and persecution at the hands of those who reject the teachings of Christ.

Among those who surrounded the Master were many who would be called upon in a few short years to suffer this persecution, and even to lay down their lives for His sake. Looking forward to that time, Christ sought to lead their mind from the trying experiences that lay before them to the glorious reward that they would finally receive. He said: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:10.

So deeply did the Master wish to impress upon His hearers the part that persecution would have in their lives if they followed His teachings and to emphasize the glorious outcome to the overcomer, that He repeated the benediction for the persecuted in the next and last Beatitude: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Verses 11, 12.

Later on in His teachings the Master reiterated the fact that persecution lay before all those who should confess His name before men: "They shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. . . . And ye shall be betrayed; . . . and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated

of all men for My name's sake." Luke 21:12-17.

Tradition tells us that with the exception of Judas Iscariot, who died violently by his own hand, all the apostles suffered martyrdom. It was no new thing for the righteous to meet with persecution and death at the hands of sinners. From the dawn of creation, those who obeyed God and followed His instructions were hated by those whose lives were not in accordance with the divine precepts. The first death among the human race of which we have any record was that of righteous Abel, slain by his brother "because his [Cain's] own works were evil, and his brother's righteous." 1 John 3:12. Ever since that far-off day, so near to the innocence of Eden, the forces of evil have continued to persecute the true followers of God, because the holiness and purity

of their characters is a constant rebuke to sinners. It is written, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12); and

the history of the ages bears tragic witness to the truthfulness of the statement.

Christ, speaking to the Pharisees, referred to "all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel" to the time of His own persecution at their hands. Matthew 23:35. At another time He said to His followers: "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you. . . . If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you." Giving the reason for this persecution and hatred, He added: "Because ye are not of the world, . . . therefore the world hateth you. . . . All these things will they do unto you for My name's sake." John 15:18-21.

We may question at times why the Lord allows His followers thus to be persecuted. Why does a merciful God permit His children to suffer? We can be assured that no child of God ever suffers needlessly, and that all that is allowed to befall him is for some good reason. Romans 8:28.

Compromise with sin brings no persecution; but, whenever the church or an individual is following closely in the Master's footsteps, tribulation sooner or later results. The fires of trial and affliction purify the church, and the seed of the word is watered by the blood of martyrs. Because so little heed is paid to the teachings of Christ, and so little true holiness is manifest in the lives of many professed Christians, there is little persecution against the forms of Christianity that are popular in the world today.

In the early years of the Christian Era, so long as persecution continued the church remained pure. When it ceased, many converts were added who compromised with the heathen religions around them, and a period of spiritual darkness descended

"The fires of trial and persecution purify the church, and the seed of the word is watered by the blood of martyrs."



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Before the JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

by
CARLYLE B. HAYNES

*How Shall We Fare Then?
Our Need of an Advocate*

THE work of judgment has already begun in heaven. This is indeed a solemn thought. It is made more solemn, however, when we consider that "we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." Romans 14:10.

In that day, "every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Verse 12. We each have a case pending in the court above, and that case is about to be called.

The solemn scenes connected with this judgment, which, since 1844, has been in progress in heaven, were shown to the prophet Daniel. Daniel 7:9, 10.

In vision Daniel sees the judgment set. He sees the Ancient of Days approach and take His seat upon a throne, which is "like the fiery flame." He sees thousand thousands ministering unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stand before Him. An advocate appears before the throne, pleading in behalf of His people. This is Jesus Christ, our Advocate with the Father. He offers His blood and covers the sins of all who have sincerely repented and confessed those sins to Him.

The books are opened—ah, yes, those books of destiny, of life, of remembrance.

On the first page of the book of life appears the name of Abel—the first man who ever died, the first to have his record completed.

Abel's case is brought in review before God. There it is, all written down. The record is one of minute detail and exact precision. Every act, every word—all is open before the Judge of all the earth.

Here is written down whether his sins had been all confessed, all forgiven. There is recorded his acceptance by the Saviour.

When the evidence is all carefully weighed, a decision is rendered upon the basis of the record—a decision regarding the reward that shall be brought to Abel when Christ shall come and call him from his grave.

Then the page is turned. Here is the name of the second man who died. This case is similarly weighed and examined

and decided. This case, too, is decided for eternity.

Again the page turns—page after page through the years since 1844. The judgment is going on now. The books are open.

When the books are closed, and the last case is decided, then all the children of God—the millions of God's people in all ages—will have had their cases settled and their destinies eternally sealed.

Two decisions are possible in each case; either the name will be blotted out or the record of sin will be blotted out.

If Christ's atoning sacrifice has been accepted to cover the sin of a lifetime, and the life has by Christ's grace been brought into harmony with God's law, then *sin* will be blotted out.

But if the life has continued to be sinful, and sins remain unconfessed, and the life remains out of harmony with God,



In the RCA Building in Radio City, New York, is this mural, painted by an English artist. The central figure is Jesus, the Light of the world. Notice the inscription.

then the *name* will be blotted out. Revelation 3:5; Exodus 32:33; Ezekiel 18:24.

The time is bound to come in the judgment in heaven when the names of all who have died up to that time will have passed in review and been decided upon. This will be a solemn moment, for then the judgment will pass from the dead to the living. The next name to appear as the page is turned is the name of some person still living on earth.

No one knows today when his own name will come up in review before God in this solemn judgment work. And when his name does appear,—it may be yours or mine,—what shall be the record written there?

If Felix trembled before Paul when he thought of "judgment to come," ought not we who live in the very time of the judgment, feel upon our hearts constantly the fearful responsibility of this present hour?

Very soon—it may be today—our cases will come up before God for an eternal reckoning and decision. Doubt it, dispute it, deny it, now as we may, we must meet it then.

How is it with you who read these words? Have you heeded God's invitation to be saved? Have you repented of all your sins and confessed them to Christ? Have you cast yourself upon His mercy and received His pardon and peace? Have you publicly confessed your faith, and been buried with Christ by baptism into death? Do you know Him as your Saviour, prince, and king?

If not, let me entreat you to seek the Lord while He is near. Soon the Master is coming with rewards. What reward will He bring you? Will you be fearful and ashamed at His coming? 1 John 2:28; 4:17.

The subjects of the coming kingdom of Christ are to be determined by the investigative judgment—the judgment now taking place in heaven. When this is finished, and every case has been decided for life or death, Christ will lay aside His priestly garments, and issue this stupendous decree: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:11.

Then fixed for all eternity will be the destiny of every human soul. Every case has been decided; every destiny settled. Probation is ended. The day of salvation is closed.

This completes the mediatorial ministry of our High Priest. His long work of salvation is ended. Now He must establish His kingdom, and put on the robes of universal power.

But one thing remains to be done before this. And that can be summed up in the expression, "the execution of

Flashlines

by W. L. EMMERSON

ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS Whereas there were only 6,000 Europeans in Abyssinia in Haile Selassie's time, there are now 200,000 Italians. Already 130,000,000 kilowatt hours of hydroelectric power are being produced, and 8,792 new industrial and commercial concerns have been started.

JAPAN'S HOLY YEAR This year is a "holy year" in Japan, being the 2,600th anniversary of the founding of the present Japanese reigning dynasty and the Japanese Empire. Its beginning early in February was marked by an amnesty for 48,000 prisoners, and a reinstatement of the civil rights of 148,000 other persons.

EFFECTS OF FALLING BIRTH RATE Since 1915 the birth rate has fallen by one third. As a result of this, in New York, the elementary schools have lost 150,000 pupils during the past ten years; and last year the high-school enrollment for the first time showed a shrinkage.

ENCOURAGE BIBLE READING "How much practical result can be gained by discourses in Christian philosophy and ethics may be doubtful," says the *London Times*; "what is certain is that such talks presuppose a knowledge of the New Testament, which a large proportion of listeners no longer possess. To revive the habit of Bible reading, and to make the Bible reading intelligent, are immensely important today. It seems futile to urge that Christianity must be the basis of our national life if we forget that a knowledge of the Bible must be the basis of our Christianity."

judgment." The wrath of God against sin must be visited upon those who are the authors of sin, and who have refused to be separated from it.

The seven last plagues fall, bringing an end to sinners on this planet. The sins of God's people, atoned for and forgiven by Christ, are laid upon the antitypical scapegoat, Satan, who remains upon the earth during the millennium, or one thousand years. During this time the saints are removed from the earth, and live and reign with Christ in heaven.

At the end of the millennium the holy city descends with the saved of God in it. The time has then come for the execution of judgment upon the wicked. They are raised to life, and as they attempt to take possession of the city of God, fire descends and burns them up, leaving them "neither root nor branch." Sin and sinners are forever destroyed,

never again to curse the earth. Revelation 20; Nahum 1:9.

The fires that consume the wicked will also purify the earth, burning out of it all the works of sin, until the earth is fully cleansed from every stain of evil.

Then the holy city will become the capital of the regenerated earth. The whole earth will become like the Garden of Eden. The wilderness and the solitary place shall blossom as the rose.

And this renewed, regenerated, and purified new earth will then become the eternal home of the people of God.

How fearfully solemn do such considerations of the judgment appear! And how profoundly thankful should we be that we may avail ourselves of an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ!

Certainly each one needs such an advocate. Not only actions will come under review, but words as well. "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Matthew 12:36.

Nothing can be hidden in the judgment. God knows all about us. He has been beside us and by our paths day and night. He has searched out all our ways. He has searched our "reins and hearts," and understands all our thoughts. Revelation 2:23. "All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." Hebrews 4:13.

Darkness is not darkness to Him; the very night shines as the day. Since "hell is naked before Him, and destruction hath no covering" (Job 26:6), how much more open to Him are the hearts of the children of men!

In the judgment now taking place there will be disclosed every inward working of every human soul. The complex character of each person, together with every appetite, passion, inclination, affection, and the various combinations of these that affect the temper and disposition and go to make up character—all will be open to the eye of the Judge of the whole earth.

It will thus be clearly and infallibly determined who is righteous and who is unrighteous, and to what degree every person, action, and character is good or evil. "There is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known." Matthew 10:26.

Oh, how much, then, do we need an advocate! Our Lord stands ready to plead our case. How good, how precious, it is that we can place the matter in His hands! He has already dealt with our sins. He has made provision for complete pardon.

He substitutes His record for ours. And His record is perfect. In Him we are made complete. And we stand justified in the sight of God. Thus do we benefit by the intercessory and mediatorial priesthood of our blessed Lord.

A LONG time ago, when I was just a child, I remember learning the words of that little mid-Victorian couplet,

"The world is so full of a number of things,
I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings."

In some way or other that little verse has an appeal to the spirit of youth; for, in the days when we are young, how golden, how beautiful with light and promise, are the years that glow before us! How tempting are the possibilities, the opportunities! Before us stretch a thousand avenues of opportunity, and every career seems to invite and beckon. Art, literature, science, teaching, medicine, —how many fields, rich with promise, all unentered lie before us!

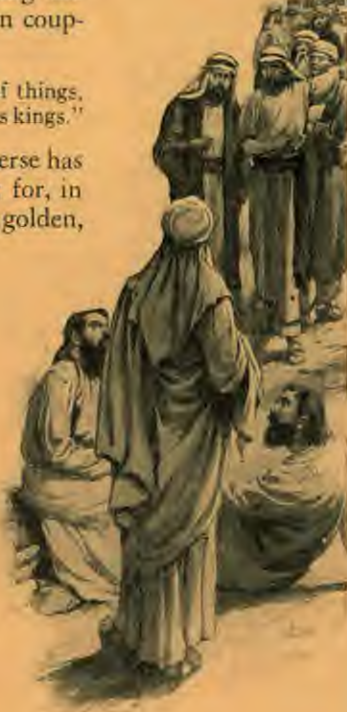
Now I am not going to say, as perhaps some of you have thought that I would say, that none of these things are worth while, and only the gospel of Christ matters. On the contrary, there are some things that are well deserving of our time and attention and energy.

Take literature. Who can deny the brilliance of Shakespeare or the solemn pomp of Milton? We all admire the stately periods of Macaulay and the crystal clearness of Parkman. Yes, there are wonderful things in literature, both English and American; and it is a fine thing for any young person to attain sufficient education so that he may enjoy and appreciate the writings of those men whom God has endowed with genius.

Take art. How many wonderful creations of human hands and human minds are enshrined in marble and on canvas! In the branch of architecture, think of the ancient grace of the cathedrals of France and England, or of the modern grace of the lofty skyscraper, sweeping upward, tier on tier, until it seems like a modern Babel, piercing the heavens.

Take music. It is a strange mind that is not thrilled by the beat and melody of Beethoven's "Turkish March," or stirred by the crashing chords that mark the opening of Liszt's "Second Hungarian Rhapsody." How much more lifeless, how much less worth while, would our world be without the harmony and appeal of music! It offers a field where one may study for a lifetime, and yet know in his heart that he has mastered, if we may use that word, but a little part of the wide realm of song and composition.

Take those lines of endeavor that are more prosaic than art and literature and



As Jesus called the fishermen long ago, so to-day He calls men to forsake the old life and live the new.



music. Consider the plain and humdrum business of making a living, of supporting one's self and his dependents. It is the apostle Paul, you will remember, who tells us very sensibly that "if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." 1 Timothy 5:8. I never see a farmer working in the field or a housewife kneading bread for the oven without thinking of how much, after all, of what we call our civilization is dependent not upon the extraordinary performances of genius, but upon the commonplace and ordinary and workaday people who "keep things going."

The gospel is more or less related to all these things. It touches upon literature and music, and even upon the humdrum responsibilities that go to make up the life of the world; but, though the gospel itself is literature, and much of it literature of a surpassing beauty and grandeur, it does not primarily concern itself with literature. Though the gospel is above all things practical, it does not concern itself primarily with the business of making a living.

What, then, is the gospel? What is its purpose, what is it for?

The gospel is God's way of helping us

on the very point where we all most need help. And that particular point, of course, lies in the realm of character.

Have you ever taken a few minutes for quiet meditation? Have you ever seriously thought yourself over? Have you ever asked,—and honestly answered,—"What kind of man am I?"

If your analysis has been fearless enough and deep enough and sincere enough, you must confess that the qualities it revealed were not wholly satisfactory, for we all have our faults, our failings, our depravities. It may be that we are blighted by some startling sin that even the world condemns—some habit, such as drunkenness or stealing. On the other hand, our sin may be a "respectable" sin, found quite largely in the best and most cultured society, such as the sin of selfishness and insincerity or the spirit of malice. Often in the latter case we half justify ourselves; yet in our franker moments we know that the flaw we would fain excuse is a fault, a blemish, an imperfection.

It is to change our characters, our natures, our dispositions, to bring them into harmony with God, that the gospel has been given. We cannot do this work of ourselves. Long ago the prophet inquired, "Can the Ethiopian change his

GOSPEL Can Do for YOU



PIERCE

skin, or the leopard his spots?" And he added the obvious conclusion, "Then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil." Jeremiah 13:23. Of course, by our own will power, by our own energy, by our own determination, we may make minor improvements; but really to transform the heart and life, to touch the springs of conduct and to purify them—how far this is beyond us!

But what we cannot do, that the gospel can do. In our article of last week we quoted the words of Paul: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth;" or, as Goodspeed translates it, "I am not ashamed of the good news, for it is God's power for the salvation of everyone who has faith." Romans 1:16. It is true we must have faith, we must sincerely believe, if the gospel is to do anything for us; but once we so believe, what can the gospel not do for us? The religion of Jesus Christ is not merely another form of faith, on a par with Buddhism or Taoism; it is not merely another form of philosophy, equal perhaps to the ingenious doctrines of Spinoza or Schopenhauer. Far more than that is the gospel—it is the power of God that can so change you that you will be saved in God's kingdom.

Source of Life-Changing Power

Talks With Young People About the Gospel—2

by GWYNNE DALRYMPLE

In one of the records of Jesus' life we read: "Again the next day after John [the Baptist] stood, and two of his disciples; and looking upon Jesus as He walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto Him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest Thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where He dwelt, and abode with Him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

"One of the two which heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, He said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

"The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow Me. Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found Him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see." John 1:35-46.

Even so today Christ calls men. He calls them to forsake the old life and live the new. He calls them to leave the ways of sin and narrow selfishness and walk in the ways of righteousness and love toward others.

This is exactly what the gospel will do for you; and it is exactly what you need most done for you. Accepting Christ may change—will change—your plans. It will lead you, as it led Peter and Andrew and Nathanael, into ways you have not planned, into situations you have not foreseen. Above all, it will lead you, as

it led them, into the kingdom of God.

"What shall it profit a man," asked Jesus, "if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36. And upon this very point turns the whole question of what the gospel can do for you; it can save you, transform you, change you from what by heredity or environment you happen to be, into what, in God's wisdom and love, you should be.

The Flight of Time

(Continued from page 3)

The world is on fire! The whole structure of life as men have known it for generations is in process of dissolution.

And the most important thing of all just now is our own personal relationship to God; for this is not only a time of judgment on earth, but a time of judgment in heaven. Indeed, these very happenings that are shocking the world are the divinely predicted heralds that "the hour of His judgment is come." Revelation 14:7. The destiny not only of nations but of individuals is being settled now. Soon the final scenes of human history will burst upon the astonished eyes of a careless and dissolute generation, and the warring peoples will flee from the presence of the King of kings.

In that day "the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every freeman" will hide themselves "in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains," not from bombing planes, but from the effulgent glory of the returning Christ. And they will cry to the mountains and rocks, saying, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:15-17.

Yes, who shall be able to stand?

That is the question of supreme importance for each of us to consider now.



Round the World With the Gospel

INDIA

RESPONDING TO CHRIST

by EARL R. REYNOLDS

THE "Bombay Mail" was quite crowded when I took my seat in an intermediate compartment one hot summer afternoon in a city in northern India. Apparently the adjacent women's compartment was full too, for two Muslim women—their white *burqas* covering them from head to foot, and the thick mesh across their eyes completely concealing their features, entered our compartment. They were accompanied by numerous small children, and packages, boxes, and rolls of bedding were hastily bundled in after them. Then a corpulent man, whom I took to be the husband and father of the family, came in, and with him was another man, apparently a near relative. The men were soon engaged in conversation, while the women, at one side of the compartment, the more easily to care for the wants of the children and to get some relief from the oppressive heat, had shyly draped their *burqas* around their heads, all the time watching carefully to see that their faces were averted from strange men.

Watching these little family activities, the young Hindu scientist in the seat beside me and I were soon engaged in a discussion of the question of what Christianity has done and could do for the women of India. I affirmed that it was my deep conviction that the one hope for a real change in the home life of this country lay in a fullhearted acceptance of the gospel and the ordering of the lives of its members according to the simple pattern of godliness Christ had demonstrated.

Imagine my surprise to hear this Hindu graduate from a large British university respond in words to this effect: "I agree with you. The Spirit of Christ is the one force able to change and to beautify life and make it worth while. Practically all the men who are working for the spiritual advancement of this country have been influenced by the teachings of the Bible and the example of Christian missionaries." In similar vein, Dr. E. Stanley Jones, in his book, "Christ at the Round Table," tells of a

prominent Hindu's remarking at one of his conferences: "Jesus is lighting up the soul of India as the sunrise first strikes the high peaks of the mountains and then gradually the light sifts down into the valleys. He is lighting the finest among us, and the light is gradually permeating down through to the masses. And we are glad to be conquered by that light."

The great mass of the people of India are deeply religious, and there is a fervent desire on the part of many to uphold their religious tenets. Here in the extreme north there is not the idol worship that one sees in other parts of the country; but there is strong support to their traditional beliefs by the predominant Sikh, Hindu, and Muslim believers. One can easily become deeply attached to the people of this country as he becomes acquainted with the fine, high-minded, cultured souls among

them. We find a kindliness and a consideration for the stranger and a hospitality not exceeded anywhere.

Into such a group of people have come the missionaries of the various denominations, and, with their practical exemplification of the spirit of Christ, as shown in the fine hospitals, the self-sacrificing work of the many teachers in the Christian schools, the little-noted work of the village evangelists and social workers, together with the changes that have been made in the lives of so many of the less fortunate members of society, intelligent India has been made deeply aware of that vital force that God has put into the gospel of the Lord Jesus. Few can resist the appeal of the character of Jesus, especially when it is presented in living, loving form in the life of one devoted to His service. Through the years since William Carey and his fellows began

the modern era of missions to this land, so many devoted followers of the lowly Nazarene have poured out their lives in loving ministry here in His name that imperceptibly India is changing under their influence.

The story has been told before, but it is worth repeating here, of the young man of one of the primitive hill tribes, who, having wandered out of his own community, heard from another the story of Jesus and His labor of love while He was here on earth. He heard of how the Great Physician had gone into the homes of the sick and the dying, and had comforted and helped them; of how He had healed the sick and delivered those weary of heart from their sadness and suffering; of how He had taken the little ones in His arms and blessed them. As the young man listened, his eyes

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We pity the "holy man" of India, who prostrates himself before a "sacred cow," but is western religion free from similar fallacies?

WHILE many professedly Christian churches are openly repudiating through their representatives the possibility of miracles, past and present, the true church of Christ must more and more stress the miraculous in the saving power of the gospel; for it is indeed a miracle that the stony heart of sinful man can be made flesh by the power of God.

When the church is pure, it has nothing to fear from outside opposition; the true church of Christ has ever thrived on persecution. Only when it becomes corrupted from within need it fear for itself. It is when those inside the church openly deny its fundamental teachings or habitually fail to live up to their profession of faith that the church becomes weak and ineffective.

The foundations of the Christian church were laid by men who knew quite definitely the miraculous power of God in the gospel of Christ. Indeed, their whole faith rested on the fundamental miracle of the resurrection of Christ, which was the central theme and the source of power in their preaching. This crowning proof of the gospel of Christ so took possession of them that, under the Holy Spirit of God, it produced in themselves a miracle of transformation. Such were Peter and John as they wended their way to the temple to join their fellow worshipers in prayer to God.

As they approached the Gate Beautiful, a man, lame from birth, looked up appealingly for alms. This was a familiar sight to them, and doubtless the man saw nothing out of the ordinary in these two men. They were just two of the many worshipers who passed in and out of the temple. The man succeeded in arresting the attention of the two apostles, "and Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us."

Now why did Peter appeal to the man thus? What would the lame man see in the persons of Peter and John that would help him? Who were they that they should say to this stranger, "Look on us"? By their priestly persecutors they were described as "unlearned and ignorant men," and, from the world's viewpoint, so they were. Both were, in the first place, rough, hardy, uneducated



MEN and Miracles

by H. F. DE'ATH

fishermen, with all the self-confident hardihood of men who had spent a large part of their lives battling with the elements. Yet Peter had, in a late crisis, shown himself a coward, a liar, and a blasphemer. Matthew 26:69-75.

John was one of "the sons of thunder," and had displayed the spirit of a blood-thirsty tyrant when he, with his brother James, had urged Jesus to bring down fire from heaven and consume those who were opposed to their Master (Luke 9:51-56); and not many days before this, both Peter and John, with the rest of the disciples, had contended angrily for the chief place in a material kingdom of their own conception. But, as was observed and commented upon, these men "had been with Jesus." The Holy Spirit of God had changed their lives, and they knew they were changed men. Hence they were certain they had something to offer the lame man, something he needed most of all, something he had not been offered before.

Was it, then, that the faces of Peter and John shone with the glory of God as Moses' face had shone hundreds of years before in the mount of God? Exodus 34:35. Was it that the transfigured glory of their Lord, which they had seen for themselves (2 Peter 1:16) had left its mark upon their countenances? If "there is life in a look at the Crucified One," as the hymn says, may it not be that the halt, the maimed, the blind, the sad, and the sinful, may find some inspiration and help in the glory of the Crucified, reflected in the faces of those who have been transformed by Him? At any rate, the man "gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter

said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." Acts 3:5, 6.

"Silver and gold have I none"! Not a penny, by the way, to begin the greatest enterprise that has ever been launched in the world! Not a penny to lay the foundation of the greatest regenerating movement the world has ever known! Peter makes no complaint about a restricted budget. He simply states a fact. He had what money can never buy—spiritual power, born from above. And such power can easily produce money when money is really needed. The resources of the Holy Spirit are incalculable.

The story is told of how Pope Innocent, of the thirteenth century, was present when substantial sums of money were being checked before being passed into the papal coffers. The celebrated Catholic theologian, Thomas Aquinas, was also present. The pope, in a humorous vein, remarked to Aquinas: "Well, Thomas, it cannot now be said by the church, 'Silver and gold have I none.'"

"No, holy father," replied Thomas Aquinas, with grave earnestness, "neither can it be said that the church can say to a lame man, 'Rise up and walk.'"

"And he [Peter] took him by the right hand," says the scripture, "and lifted him up; and immediately his feet and ankle-bones received strength." Acts 3:7.

Then came a new test to Peter and John—a test that comes to every truly

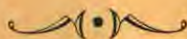
(Continued on page 14)

by
MURL VANCE



GOD or SATAN?

*Whom Shall We Serve?
Counterfeit Customs We
Must Renounce*



NOTHING that has ever occurred in history can more truthfully be described by the expression, "The song is ended, but the melody lingers on" than Babylonian devil worship. Today we find in the Christian church the same rituals, customs, and doctrines that were common in pre-Christian Rome, Persia, Egypt, and Babylon, and this in spite of repeated warnings in the Scriptures to flee from such teachings.

Satan, the master counterfeiter, has been successful in establishing a counterfeit for practically every doctrine and teaching given by God to man. Thus while many imagine themselves to be worshiping the God of heaven, through their nonscriptural practices they are in reality honoring "the god of this world," as Satan is called in 2 Corinthians 4:4.

There are only two major systems of religion in the world—God worship and demon worship. As "no man can serve two masters," so no one can serve God acceptably by clinging to the remnants of devil worship. Every individual must choose for himself whether he will study the Bible and follow its teachings or whether he will continue to accept traditions and doctrines that had their origin in Babylon.

Summary of Counterfeits

Having once decided that we will choose to worship God rather than Satan, we must come to a definite decision concerning the following counterfeits, originating in devil worship, which have been discussed in this series of articles, and which are summarized here in brief:

1. The counterfeit godhead, consisting of a demonlike father, a mother, and a babe. According to the Scriptures, the only three divine Beings are "the Father, . . . the Son, . . . and . . . the Holy Ghost," Matthew 28:19. Worship, or adoration, of any other being breaks the first commandment in the Decalogue, which says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me," Exodus 20:3.

2. The counterfeit story of creation. A thousand years before Christ, Babylonian devil worshipers were teaching that all life came from the water; that the water was at first full of "imperfect first attempts of nature to create life as

we see it today," thus deifying nature and removing the knowledge of the Creator from the minds of men. The Bible declares that "in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is," Exodus 20:11. Peter declares that scoffers shall come in the last days who are willingly ignorant of the fact that God is the Creator of heaven and earth. 2 Peter 3:3-5.

3. The counterfeit memorial of creation. Pre-Christian demon worshipers of Babylon, Egypt, Persia, and Rome kept the first day of every septet, or week. Since that time, this first day has been known as the day of the sun, or Sunday, the sun being worshiped by the ancients as the incarnation of Lucifer, or Satan. The Bible teaches that "the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work" (Exodus 20:10), stating in the following verse that the Sabbath is the memorial of creation. This day was kept by Christ (Luke 4:16), by Paul (Acts 17:2), and will continue to be kept throughout eternity (Isaiah 66:22, 23).

4. The counterfeit memorial of redemption. Since the dawn of idolatry, holy water has been used to purify the devotees of the evil one. This is the source of the church's practice of sprinkling her converts. The Bible clearly teaches that when Christ, our Example, was baptized, He went down into the water of the Jordan River. Matthew 3:13-17. Paul declares that baptism represents the death and burial of the old sinful nature and the resurrection of a new creature. Romans 6:3-9. Only immersion can properly represent a death, burial, and resurrection.

5. The counterfeit nature of man. The Babylonians taught that men were, or could become, divine beings; that they had an indestructible, immortal soul. The Bible teaches that God only has immortality. 1 Timothy 6:16. All thoughts perish at death (Psalm 146:4), and the

individual ceases to exist until the resurrection morning (Daniel 12:2).

6. The counterfeit destruction of the wicked. It was the general teaching of paganism that the wicked will be tormented throughout eternity in hell-fire, thus representing God as a cruel, merciless demon. The Bible teaches that the wicked shall be burned up root and branch, and shall be ashes under the feet of the righteous. Malachi 4:1, 3. In Isaiah 47:14 we read that the fires burning the wicked will completely go out; and Psalm 37:9, 10 declares that the place of the wicked shall be no more.

7. The counterfeit veneration of the instrument of torture, upon which Christ died, rather than veneration of the Being who offered Himself for mankind. The cross was sacred to the sun-god from the time of Babylon on down, and before the advent of Christianity it was widespread in paganism in both the Old and the new World. Crucifixion was a standard means of offering human sacrifices to Satan for centuries before Christ. The Bible teaches nothing about the veneration of a physical cross, and contains no record of its being called holy by either Christ or His disciples.

8. The counterfeit holydays and seasons. Practically every holyday of the Christian church today comes from Babylonian devil worship, and is related to the various phases of the sun rather than to events occurring in the Christian church. These days are still celebrated in much the same manner as anciently, and are still accompanied by many of their pagan symbols, such as holy fire, holly berries, mistletoe, the yule log, rabbits and eggs, witches, intoxicants, etc. None of these days was made holy by God, and no one else could make them holy, least of all ancient devil worshipers. The only holyday mentioned in the Scriptures as belonging to the Christian church is the weekly Sabbath, the seventh day of the week.

The master counterfeiter also brought into the Christian church many other remnants of ancient demon worship that we have not space to discuss here. Suffice it to say that both the Bible and history are united in the declaration, "Babylon the great is fallen, . . . and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of

every foul spirit. . . . For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." Revelation 18:2, 3.

With the knowledge that paganism had its origin in demon worship, every professed Christian is in duty bound before God, if he has not already done so, to "search the Scriptures" (John 5:39), to see whether or not the charges herein made against Satan, the master counterfeiter, are true. No true worshiper of God can continue in the doctrines, beliefs, and practices of devil worship if he is willing to obey the scriptural injunction, "Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Revelation 18:4.

India Responding

(Continued from page 10)

grew bright, and the speaker was moved to ask why he was so happy.

"Ah," he said, "I know Him! I have seen Him many times; He often comes into our villages. You are talking about the missionary who lives near to where I live."

How often as I have talked to men here about Christ, have I been told of the godly life of some teacher of their younger years. As I have visited the office of some responsible government official, I have been delighted with the Indian gentleman's remark: "I am glad to be able to do this for you, for I was a student in a mission school when a boy, and I can never forget the influence of those godly teachers."

Yes, India has been mightily changed by the impact of the Christian gospel. Just yesterday, a Hindu pundit told me: "Yes, I do read your Christian Bible, and I believe the most of it, too. I believe that God is near us, and is helping us here; and that, before long, He will, as you say, destroy all sin in this world, and the source of sin too, and will establish His own kingdom of love. And I believe that in Him alone is salvation, and that it is all of grace."

Today many are inquiring the way of life. Hearts have been moved to listen to the wonderful story of the gospel. In this land where once little time would have been given to a discourse on Christian themes, men now gather by hundreds to hear the message of salvation; and while only few as yet have the courage of their convictions to follow Christ as their Master and Saviour, yet some hearts are convicted by the truth. Tragic indeed it is, that when the simple story of God's gracious gift of redemption is being received by the people of these Eastern lands, so many of the people of the Western world are at the same time losing their hold upon God, and are content with a crass materialism or are de-

basing themselves in sensual pleasure. The devotion of these Eastern people to religious thought and life ought to challenge us to a deeper appreciation of all that God has given us in the Sacred Scriptures, and effect a new consecration to that spiritual heritage we have received.

In this effort to win the world for Christ, the missionaries of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination are active in India as in other lands. In our Lord's own prophecy of His return, He tells us that "this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14. The prophet John, in the Revelation, also tells of that mighty movement just before Jesus returns to earth, which would go to "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people," proclaiming the everlasting gospel and the message of the coming King, and how to be ready to meet Him at His appearing. Revelation 14:6-14. These scriptures are being fulfilled today.

While the missionaries of the organization represented by the *Signs of the Times* have done much in the villages of India and much still remains to be done, just now they are also working for the educated groups in the populous cities of this great country, and their message is receiving close attention. I am sure that many from India will shine as diadems in the crown of our Lord Jesus Christ.



TRUTH MUST PREVAIL

R. HARE

We tremble in the struggle,
And often by the way
We cast our anxious glances
Across the passing day.
It may be truth has fallen,
While wrong stands in its might;
The struggle waits unsettled
Until it's settled right.

Kingdoms and empires perish,
But truth lives on and still
It molds the passing ages
As by an iron will.
And when at last the reckoning
Appears in judgment light,
The things forever settled
Will all be settled right.

Man in his haste proposes,
But higher than the stars,
The Hand that holds all destinies
Its purpose never mars.
Then perish every fancy
With all that hates the light;
There's nothing ever settled
Until it's settled right.

Blessings of Persecution

(Continued from page 5)

upon the professed church of Christ.

As the church awakens to her lukewarm condition, and strives to regain her early purity, the fires of persecution will again break out. Already they are raging in countries where despotism is trying to stamp out the knowledge of the true God; and, today, as always, the blood of martyrs serves only to water the seeds of truth and to bring forth a rich harvest to the glory of God.

Where persecution reigns, the honest in heart, witnessing the suffering and resolution of those who gladly give up liberty and life itself for conscience' sake, seek the reason behind the sacrifices made by the followers of Christ, and in turn join the ranks of those who serve under the bloodstained banner of Prince Emmanuel.

Since the days of the apostles, when the keeper of the Philippian prison washed the stripes of Paul and Silas and tremblingly asked to be shown the way of salvation, down through the centuries men and women have continued to take their stand for Christ through witnessing the faith and steadfastness of His followers under trial.

Mute Witness

When Judson was released from the dark dungeon in Burma where he had suffered severely for preaching the gospel, he asked the king of that region if he might preach in a certain Burmese city. Pointing to the scars that bore mute witness to the terrible tortures Judson had endured, the king refused his request, saying: "My people might not listen to the gospel you preach; but their hearts would be touched, and they would yield to the scars upon your body."

Stephen, his face shining with the glory of heaven, sealed his testimony with his blood, and gave a mighty impetus to the spread of the gospel, many of those witnessing his death becoming followers of the crucified Nazarene.

Without the death of the Son of God on Calvary, the plan of salvation would have been of no avail. The cross of Christ is the greatest drawing power in the universe.

Each Beatitude leads into the next, and is related to it. Beginning with renunciation, and following through a progressive course of Christian experience, they end in persecution; but on a joyous and triumphant note, as illustrated in the last two. Finishing the Beatitudes, the Master declared that those who made these qualifications for citizenship in His kingdom their own would be "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world."

They were to bring illumination and comfort to sinners everywhere, and were to let their light so shine before men that they, seeing their good works, would be led to glorify God in heaven. "Trials faithfully borne, blessings gratefully received, temptations manfully resisted, meekness, mercy, kindness, and love habitually revealed, are lights which flame forth in the character in contrast with the darkness of the selfish heart into which the Light of life has never shone."

Many beautiful promises are recorded for those who are called upon to suffer for righteousness' sake. Let us recall a few of them. "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness. . . . They that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." Isaiah 41:10-13; 43:2.

Paul, nearing the end of his long, strenuous life of ministry, wrote: "I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God." Romans 8:18, 28. "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." 2 Corinthians 4:17.

John, viewing in vision the final triumph of those martyred for the cross of Christ, gives this glorious picture of the blood-washed throng: "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude . . . stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands. . . . These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the

throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Revelation 7:9-17.

Let us close this series on the Beatitudes with the beautiful verses of Bishop W. How, published in 1864. Referring to the hosts of those who had suffered persecution and given their lives for the cross of Christ, he wrote:

"Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou in the darkness still their one true Light.

"And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.

"The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest.

"But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array:
The King of glory passes on His way.

"From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia!"

Men and Miracles

(Continued from page 11)

successful preacher of the gospel. They found the eyes of the multitude fastened on them with awe and admiration almost amounting to worship. But the Holy Spirit was at hand to aid them, and they were ready and willing to submit to His guidance. Hence they looked with horror on any attempt by the multitude to aggrandize them as the workers of a miracle. "Why look ye so earnestly on us," protested Peter, "as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?" Verse 12.

Like Daniel of old, and all the true prophets of God, Peter loyally disclaimed any power of himself or of his companion, and emphatically drew the attention of the priestly council at Jerusalem, be-

SIGNS of the TIMES

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EDITOR . . . ARTHUR S. MAXWELL

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fore whom he was charged, to the great source of the miracle: "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by Him doth this man stand here before you whole." Acts 4:10. Thus did Peter turn this test into an opportunity to preach the gospel of the resurrection to his accusers, that they perchance might lay hold of its power and so rise from their dead selves and be saved from the power and penalty of sin.

The formation and power of the Christian church was truly based on the miracle of Christ's resurrection. Its foundations were laid by miraculously changed men, who were witnesses to that transcendent event. Hence those today who name the name of Christ cannot make too much of this glorious and well-attested basis of their faith. To deny the miraculous in the Scriptures and in human experience spells spiritual disaster to the individual and to the church.

The Reverend C. Ensor Walters, ex-president of the Wesleyan Conference, tells a moving experience of the early days of his ministry. He had then, he says, no faith in miracles; so he preached ethics. Then he was called to a Durham mining village to preach.

Before the service, he was invited to rest in a miner's cottage. As he sat in a chair beside a roaring fire, his host, a giant of six feet, entered. After the usual salutations, the man exclaimed, with evident feeling, "You know, sir, I'm a miracle."

"Oh, how's that?" replied Mr. Walters.

Then the man told the story of a rationalist lecturer who had visited the village recently. "I was present at that lecture," said the miner, "and the man began to pour scorn on the Bible and its miracles. I couldn't keep my seat any longer. 'Look here, Mr. Lecturer,' I said, 'I'm a miracle.'"

"What do you mean?" asked the lecturer.

"Then I turned to the audience and said, 'Now mates, you know me, don't

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you? I was a criminal and a blackguard. What am I now?"

"You're a gentleman, Bill!" called out one of my mates, to which the audience gave a ringing assent.

"Oh, I see," said the lecturer, patronizingly; "what you mean to say, my friend, is that you've turned over a new leaf."

"Aye," I said, "that's true, Mr. Lecturer; but I couldn't have done it without the power of the Lord Jesus Christ."

His contact with that miracle of grace, in the person of the Durham miner, Mr. Walters declared, brought about a miracle in his own life. Thenceforth, instead of preaching dry, dusty ethics, he preached Jesus Christ and Him crucified, and risen again, "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth;" and he has been preaching it ever since, with blessed results.

That gospel is the only really effective one for this distraught world in which we live; hence the only one worth preaching. It still saves sin-sick souls and so most effectively silences the gainsayer.

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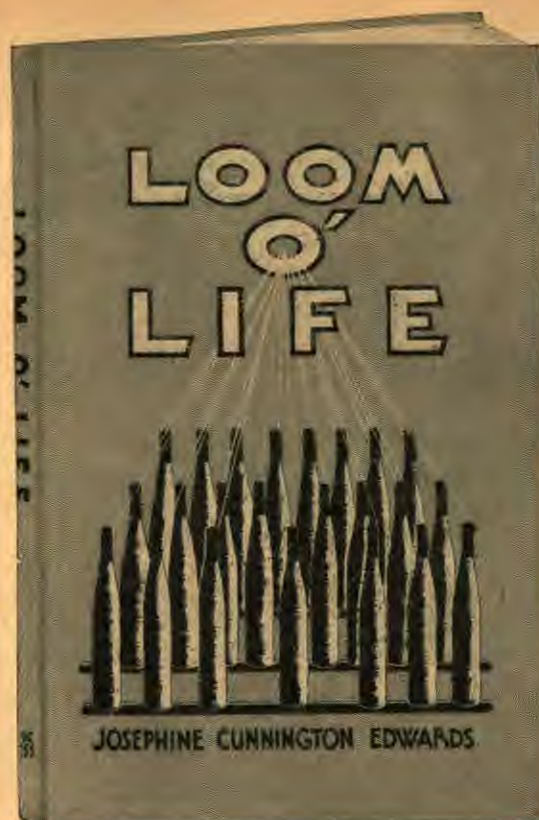
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