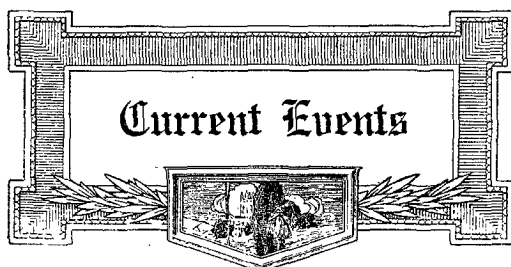


"THE FIELD
IS THE WORLD"



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Could we but draw back the curtains
That surround each other's lives,
See the naked heart and spirit,
Know what spur the action gives,
Often we should find it better,
Purer than we judge we should;
We should love each other better
If we only understood."



Current Events

THE daily cost of the war to England now does not quite reach £7,000,000.

DURING one week the sale of British war bonds in England totalled nearly £18,000,000.

AFTER October 1, all French soldiers actually at the front were to have ten days' leave every four months.

ONE steel corporation in America will pay £12,600,000 in taxation upon its profits for the past three months.

AUSTRALIAN soldiers have, since the commencement of the war, secured six thousand decorations, of which twenty-four are Victoria Crosses.

REGULATIONS have been issued at Washington under which 20,000 German and Austrian patents will be made available for use by Americans.

ACCORDING to reports from the German Reichstag, the number of iron crosses awarded in Germany up to June last was about two and one-quarter million.

THE Bell telephone system reports an average of 26,002,829 conversations daily, by means of its 9,151,221 stations and connections over its 18,505,545 miles of wire.

SEVERAL coal seams, which it is estimated will yield eighty million tons of coal, have been discovered at Coventry, about eighteen miles from Birmingham, England.

THE Bishop of London has decided that all Anglican churches beneath which there are crypts or cellars shall remain open to the public as places of refuge during air raids.

THE entire submarine cable system of the world forms a grand total of 290,887 miles, used by 2,584 companies. The first successful cable was operated sixty-seven years ago.

IT is declared that if the war expenditure in England continues at the present rate, each half year will add about £1,000,000,000 to the national debt, which is already a tremendous sum.

NEWSPAPER editors in the United States are to be their own censors, and it is left to the press itself to avoid printing information that would be of any use to the enemies of the Allies.

ENGLAND is helping in the restoration of the devastated orchards and farms in northern France, and has already despatched many thousands of poultry and nine thousand fruit trees.

TEN alligators are stated to be rendering efficient aid in cleaning sewers in an American city. A 12-inch sewer having become clogged with mud, the usual devices were tried, but without effect, when the idea occurred of lowering into the pipe a small alligator carrying a line. Travelling promptly to the next manhole, the animal drew after him the line, which was then used for drawing a knotted chain back and forth, soon clearing the pipe.—*Science Stiftings.*

THE sum of £4,000 a year, for a period of three years, has been offered to Harvard University by the National Cannery Association to defray the expense of an investigation of food poisoning, or so-called ptomaine poisoning, with special reference to canned goods. In accepting the offer, the university reserves entire academic freedom in the conduct of the investigation and the publication of results. The work will be done at the Harvard Medical School under the direction of Dr. M. J. Rosenau.

SAYS a scientific contemporary: "Improvement in tone, it is claimed by an American inventor, is obtained by equipping a violin with a tailpiece so made that the four strings are tied about a rounded bar which forms the end of the piece. The bar is long enough to permit the strings to be spread as far apart at their ends as at the bridge—an arrangement which the designer believes produces better musical tones. Furthermore, strings tied in this manner press against no sharp edges, and, therefore, are less apt to break."

THE number of Imperial gold coins struck at the London Mint in 1915 was 22,338,027, having a sterling value of £21,316,653 10s.; the number of silver coins 105,234,514, having a sterling value of £7,715,437; and the number of bronze coins 76,003,101, having a sterling value of £249,477 13s. 4d.; while the grand total of coins (inclusive of minting for oversea possessions) was 206,632,642, having a sterling value of £29,385,568 3s. 6d. During 1915 the profit on silver amounted to £4,694,378 10s. 6d., and for the financial year 1915-16 £5,194,138 3s. 5d., and the Mint paid over to the Exchequer £4,671,984 4s. for 1915 and £5,372,389 17s. 10d. for the financial year, representing the nett extra receipts in each of these periods.

PROFESSOR J. SHIELD NICHOLSON, lecturing at the Royal Statistical Society's Rooms in London, said there had been a remarkable decrease in cheques during the war, but Bank of England notes had increased by ten million pounds and Scotch notes by sixteen millions. In 1916 wages rose £595,000 a week, and the total increase in two years of war was nearly double the total increase for the previous nineteen years. The rise in family earnings had been greater than in the rates of wages. The rise in prices in the United Kingdom was greatly due to the relaxation of the normal restraints on the issues of currency. The Government might pay its contractors by cheque; they, again, might pay their sub-contractors and all the business people they employed by cheques, but in the end somebody had to pay all the wages bills in cash. If the inflation of the currency continued, the rise of prices would also continue.

Signs of the Times

Warburton, Victoria, November 26, 1917

Notes and Comments



Belting the Globe

"IN the last days . . . men shall be . . . lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." 2 Tim. 3 : 1-4.

How does the following statement read in the light of the Bible text above quoted:—

The motion picture film now belts the globe. Cinematograph theatres are found in Persia, China, Columbia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, and India. Kobe, Japan, has sixty motion picture houses. Leeds, England, has more picture establishments in proportion to the population than any other city in the British Empire.

Thus we see that away in the heathen lands of the far east, the love of pleasure is conquering the love of worship just as assuredly as it is in the cities of our own civilised lands, now torn by sorrow and mourning, and with the wolves of famine howling at many of the nations' doors. The passion and lust for pleasure must be gratified, at any cost and at all costs, regardless of surrounding circumstances. At such a time of distress as the present, it would seem that the only right thing to do would be to be lovers of God more than lovers of pleasures; but, sad to say, this is not the case. True, many are trying to divide their love and affections between the two, "but ye cannot serve God and mammon." Love for God means the banishment of this world's pleasures; while love for this world's pleasures just as surely means banishment of God.

Dr. John R. Mott declares that "the present world crisis is such that we would be justified in mortgaging *every church building* in order to immediately evangelise the world." But the world is not even willing to forego its weekly, and in many cases daily, visit to the picture house or the theatre or the concert, although the weekly visit to the Lord's house is made a matter of very little consideration, to say the least. And so we read:—

In the United States the average donation yearly for missions is 6½d. per head, while in one great American city, each inhabitant spent, on the average, £1 4s. 4½d. for picture shows last year.

Where could stronger proof be found that the average man of the world is a lover of pleasure more than a lover of God?—Nowhere!

Where could stronger proof be found that we are, therefore, living "in the last days"? We reply, Nowhere; unless it be in the equally striking and definite fulfilment of many another Scripture prophecy.

Read the prophecies, study them, believe them, and proclaim them, thus demonstrating that you are a lover of God more than a lover of pleasures.

Through Another's Spectacles

RECENTLY the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne delivered before an enormous crowd a stirring lecture on "Catholic Principles." As one writer declares, "he rambled for two hours and one-half over things in general, ranging from the virtues of the Roman Catholic Church . . . down to a 'living wage' and race suicide," and so forth. This famous divine, whose name has been echoing in the ears of the people of Australia for many weeks, delved into things political, social, historical, theological, traditional,

critical, and boasting, all under the heading, "Catholic Principles."

One of the first boasts made at the commencement of the lecture was that the Catholic Church had "marched for more than fifteen hundred years at the head of human civilisation." The speaker claimed that Gladstone paid them this tribute; but what of that? It is history that tells the facts, not always a politician. To follow in the paths wherein Rome has trod is to traverse lands steeped in ignorance, vice, darkness, and degradation. For verification of this, look at Southern Europe, South America, and the Philippines. Her place has not been at the front of civilisation but at the rear, and always protesting against the progress of the procession. Read a page here of the persecution of the Waldenses, and a page there of her tyranny over the Albigenses; trace the trail of blood of the Inquisition, and follow the reddened paths trod by the Huguenots; and then declare whether Rome can justly boast of her much vaunted position at civilisation's head.

AS his discourse continued, the archbishop, in referring to his Church, spoke of "her aloofness, her haughtiness." Undoubtedly she can claim these distinctions, as is certainly proved by the following enunciation of a foundation principle of the Church:—

The Catholic Church claims—I am not now saying whether rightly or wrongly—that she has been instituted by Christ, and she alone of all the so-called Christian Churches has been instituted by Christ. She claims that she is quite independent within her own sphere of king or emperor or people.

The archbishop claimed that the Roman Church alone was instituted by Christ, and that all who are not within her fold have no hope of salvation. Truly a lofty claim, but can it be upheld? Salvation comes through Christ, and the Papacy claims Christ as the One who instituted its Church. But upon whom does it *actually* claim to be founded? Christ? No. Peter is declared to be the rock on which the Church is founded. Christ should be, as we see from a careful reading of 1 Cor. 3:11, but in Catholic language, He is not. And this is not all. Christ has had to give place to the Virgin Mary also in the

Catholic religion. This point was mentioned during the lecture, *but was not denied*. Rather, it was upheld, for the matter was passed over with the comment that, at any rate, Rome had always been consistent in her views. But even here the lecturer erred. There was a time when the worship of the Virgin Mary was denounced by leading Catholic teachers, and described as "silly nonsense"; but not so now. Many cardinals and bishops in the early Christian centuries endeavoured to stop the growth of this false practice.

St. Epiphanius, a learned doctor of A.D. 403, said this on the point: "She was not a deity, . . . not given to us for worship. . . . Let no one worship Mary."

St. Chrysostom declares that Mary was subject to "excessive ambition" and "arrogance." Are these the characteristics of a deity?

St. Jerome agrees with Origen and St. Basil in charging the Virgin Mary with temporary unbelief, while St. Cyril of Alexandria actually tells us that not only did Mary fail "at the cross from grief, bewilderment, and feminine weakness, but that the special reason for our Lord's committing her to St. John's care was in order that he, as a theologian, might teach her those truths of religion with which she was unacquainted."

These few references from those whom the Catholic Church deems saints could be greatly added to did space permit, but certainly they prove the point that the Virgin Mary has not *always* been treated by the Catholics as a deity, has not always been placed above Christ, performing the duties the Bible declares are His, and His alone.

Thus we see that in reality the Roman Catholic Church has been founded on doubting Peter and mortal, faulty Mary—not upon the sinless Christ. To uphold this principle, then, of its being the only Church instituted by Christ, and of having been always consistent in its belief and practice, the archbishop will have to look elsewhere—and his search will be in vain.

Next week we will continue our brief review of the sermon as given in the Catholic *Tribune*, from which all of our quotations of the lecture are taken.



Signs of the Times

WARBURTON, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 26, 1917

All manuscript should be addressed to Editor. For further particulars see last page.

C. M. Snow, Editor

To Reveal Antichrist

REV. W. W. SIMPSON, an eminent missionary, who has spent twenty-five years in China, predicts that the present world war will terminate in a revelation of the great antichrist predicted by Paul and John; that this antichrist will appear as a great deliverer, and that his manifestation will be accompanied by a mighty movement among men; but when that movement reaches its fullest development, the mask will be thrown off, and the movement will stand revealed in its true character as a religious persecuting despotism. Dr. Simpson's prediction is in perfect harmony with the predictions of the prophetic Word in reference to that development. The divine prediction concerning that event is found in Revelation 13, particularly verses eleven to eighteen. The world is fast ripening for that development. Another writer pertinently declares:—

Truly these are days in which we read our Bible with the newspaper in the other hand, so rapidly are the predicted events of God's Word being fulfilled before our eyes. With what interest we turn to the prophecies of Daniel,—the "image" of chapter two and the "beasts" of chapter seven! Daniel was told to "shut up . . . the book, even to the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

We see to-day men running to and fro as never before, and by vehicles never before used, and knowledge in every department of science so increased that it would seem there never could be any further progress. Nothing of ordinary scope, no ordinary achievement, attracts attention now; and in that attitude the world now awaits the greatest development of the age—a movement that will swing the vast majority of the world into line under the leadership of one directing mind. That mind will be the mind of

the one who has set himself to the task of accomplishing the overthrow of the Christian Church and the defeat of the purpose of Christ. That he succeeds in deceiving the great mass of mankind is plainly foretold in Rev. 13:12, 14-17. "He maketh the earth and them that dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose death-stroke was healed"; and he does this under the penalty of the boycott and of death.

But God has faithfully warned the world against that deception. In the very next chapter we read: "Fear God, and give Him glory; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made the heaven and the earth and sea and fountains of waters." Rev. 14:7, R.V. And some give heed; for we read: "Here is the patience of the saints, they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14:12, R.V.

Very naturally there arises in our minds the question, How may I know that working of deception so that I shall not be deceived by it? God has given us a touchstone by which we can test every such movement: "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them." Isa. 8:20, R.V. If they declare the law of God abolished, then "there is no light in them." If they twist the law to make it teach contrary to its plain reading, again, "there is no light in them," and the work they seek to promulgate is a part of that deceptive work which leads to ultimate ruin. If they speak against the testimony [God's Word], or out of harmony with its plain teachings, the work they do takes hold on death.

But note: the world is ready for that culminating deception. Theologians have taught the abolition of God's law; other theologians have taught that the law now enforces a different sabbath from that which it clearly specifies; some of these theologians and others have for years been teaching that God's Word—the Bible—is a collection of myths and fables and uncertain moral teachings. This destructive criticism has become one of the chief features of some of the greatest theological institutions. So the work of the higher critic

and the work of the antinomian and the work of misinterpreting God's law,—these all collaborate to make possible the culmination of the great deceiver's purpose. But the divine declaration is: "There is no light in them." Under such tutelage, however, multitudes will be deceived and welcome as a deliverer him who ensnares souls to accomplish their ruin. Let us not forget God's touchstone—"to the law and to the testimony."

What is out of harmony with them can never minister to the salvation or to the good of mankind. The loyal child of God should be so in love with God's Word, so submissive to His will, that when the antichrist is fully revealed, the faithful one will see through the mask of pretention and deception, see the true nature of that deadly counterfeit, and turn from it to the light of the living God.



Questions and Answers

441—Germany and Universal Rule

I would like to ask if Dan. 2:41-43 is a divine prediction of Germany's defeat in this war.

ROB ROY

We do not believe that the scripture cited has any direct reference to Germany. We do not know of any scripture which proves that Germany will or will not win the present war. That scripture does teach that there will never be another universal empire in this world ruled over by man. If it was the Kaiser's purpose to subjugate the whole world, we know by this scripture that His purpose will never be carried out. If the Kaiser should win this war, it does not necessarily follow that he would be able to bring the world under his rule. In other words, the scripture in question has no direct reference to this present war and its outcome.

442—Day of Crucifixion

What proof is there, other than being the day before the Sabbath, that our Lord died on a Friday?

A. S. M.

When Inspiration gives us a direct answer to our questions, why should we look for other proof? Can there be stronger? Mark says: "And when even was now come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath," etc. Mark 15:42. Luke says: "And it was the day of the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on." Luke 23:54. John says: "The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath," etc. John 19:31. Sabbath has always followed the sixth day—Friday; and as divine proof is always the strongest we can get, we do not know where to look for stronger, nor do we see the need of looking.

443—The Law in the Heart

Explain Rom. 2:14, 15. If the heathen have received the law in their hearts, why is the Sabbath not found, as well as other precepts.

M. H. W.

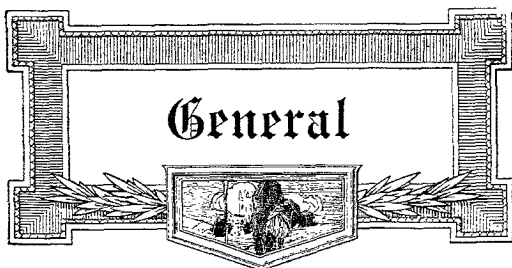
It would be, if the law were there, but the trouble is that sin has obliterated the writing of God's law in the hearts of the heathen. We could meet this question by other questions similar: If the heathen have received the law in their hearts, why is not the second commandment found there? Why have they multiplied gods and idols? Why is not the seventh commandment found there? The heathen have really made the transgression of the seventh commandment a part of their very religion. It is certainly clear, as history recorded on tablets of brick and stone, and in the traditions of ancient peoples, that in ancient times the Sabbath did have place among the heathen nations, and in fact all the perversions of all the commandments of God show that they once had the truth. For instance, the observance of Sunday in honour of the sun is only a perversion of God's true commandment. They feel that Deity demands worship, and that a time should be set apart to worship. Worshipping the sun, therefore, they dedicated a day to him. All these things, all these perversions, show us that the truth existed among the people of the world in the beginning.

444—Backsliding

Does Heb. 10:26-31 mean that if we have a knowledge of the truth and backslide, there is no forgiveness?

A SUBSCRIBER

No, it does not. Some of the strongest pleas that there are in the whole Word are made to backsliders. Read Jeremiah, chapters 2 and 3. Read the whole of Hosea, in which God pleads again and again with backsliding Ephraim. The conditions presented in the above scripture show not simply a backsliding, but an utter turning away from the only means that God has of reaching souls—His Spirit-filled Word and the Lord Jesus Christ. There is hope for the backslider. Listen: "Who is a God like unto Thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger forever, because He delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."



Sodom and Gomorrah Eclipsed

A Terrible Fulfilment of a Wonderful
Prophecy

Horace G. Franks

NEVER in the history of this world have the inhabitants been so enlightened as to coming events. Never before have so many lines of prophecy been in process of fulfilment. Twenty prophetic visions are now in the process of materialisation; a materialisation which is demonstrative in the extreme. Although not generally recognised, we are living in a generation blessed with an outburst of Biblical light never before witnessed. It would seem that at the time when the "prince of darkness" is reaching the zenith of his power, God, in His all-seeing wisdom, has opened the covers of His light-giving Word, causing to stream from its holy pages floods of heaven-sent light to penetrate the realms of darkness and sin. The rays of this precious gospel have pierced earth's remotest bounds during the past century, and the Saviour's love is being felt in the hearts of countless heathen amid the snows of the frozen north, under the blazing sun of the heart of Africa, in the jungles of India, and among the coral homesteads of the Pacific islanders.

But what is happening nearer home? What are the conditions of life around us? Unfortunately, in the so-called civilised portions of the earth, Satan has now made his stronghold. He fought hard to retain those heathen lands, and is still putting forth earnest efforts in those same regions, but if we turn our attention to the cities and nations of the "Christian" world, we find the deceiver working there also in great power and with great fury.

He has succeeded in rousing the na-

tions of this world to a state of unprecedented anger. History's pages contain no counterpart of what we read as we peruse the volumes already published on the history of the "great war." This is the greatest war in history; none can or will deny it. In vain do we search the records of the dim ages of the past for anything like such an upheaval, although we do read of one great battle of four kings against five fought in days of yore. Read Gen. 14:1-12. Undoubtedly here was great slaughter, but of puny insignificance in comparison with the deluge of blood on Europe's soil.

Satan has also been very successful during recent years in revolutionising the moral ideas of this world. Things are permitted, in fact, legalised, now that would have called forth the greatest indignation a few decades ago. Where in history do we find accounts of such suggestive plays, pictures, and pleasures as can be seen in any of our large cities to-day?

Some reply, The pages of history contain no such description, and no such age or generation.

But, sad to say, history *has* put on record for us two accounts of a social condition most degrading and unspeakably immoral. We quote from the works of Josephus, the eminent Jewish historian, and ask our readers to notice his statements very carefully:—

Now this posterity of Seth continued to esteem God as the Lord of the universe, and to have an entire regard to virtue, for seven generations; but in process of time they were perverted, and forsook the practices of their forefathers, and did neither pay those honours to God which were appointed them, nor had they any concern to do justice towards men. But for what degree of zeal they had formerly shown for virtue, they now showed by their actions a double degree of wickedness; whereby they made God to be their enemy. . . . And begat sons that proved unjust, and despisers of all that was good, on account of the confidence they had in their own strength. . . . But Noah was very uneasy at what they did; and being displeased at their conduct, persuaded them to change their dispositions and their acts for the better;—but seeing that they did not yield to him, but were slaves to their wicked pleasures, he was afraid they would kill him, together with his wife and children, and those they had married; so he departed out of that land. —"Antiquities," Book 1, chap. 3, par. 1.

This condition of affairs is summed up in the Bible thus: "And God saw that

the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that He had made man in the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart." Gen. 6:5, 6.

Truly this is a terrible description of social conditions prevailing just before the flood, and which formed the reason for that deluge. But yet Christ says:—

them for their pride.—"Antiquities," Book I, chap. II, par. I.

Of this the Bible description is: "The cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and . . . their sin is very grievous." Gen. 18:20.

These words, though few in number, are full of meaning. They describe, as only Holy Writ can, the condition of the inhabitants of those two cities, Sodom



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THE WORK OF THESE IMPLEMENTS OUTRANKED BY LUST

But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Matt. 24:37.

Another Terrible Epoch

We quote again from Josephus concerning another period of this world's history—the time when Sodom was at its height. Of the customs and practices of these ancient people, the historian writes:—

About this time the Sodomites grew proud, on account of their riches and great wealth: they became unjust towards men, and impious towards God, inasmuch that they did not call to mind the advantages they had received from Him: they hated strangers, and abused themselves with Sodomitical practices. God was therefore much displeased with them, and determined to punish

and Gomorrah. But although the cities of the plain were destroyed by the fires of divine judgment, their names are not yet done with. When on earth, our Saviour said: "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot, . . . even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Luke 17:28-30.

This definitely shows, then, that when conditions in this world become as they were in the days of Noah and Lot, the conditions themselves become heralds of the second coming of Christ.

Are these conditions *now* prevalent?—Of a truth they are! Never since that awful flood of waters and rain of fire

have men and women universally conducted themselves with less propriety and more immodesty. It is brought before everyone's notice. The blind recognise it in the songs and talk of the times; the deaf recognise it in the dress and deportment of the average person; while the crippled and bed-ridden may recognise it just as easily as they read modern literature. Words fail to describe modern conditions of society, although the following two quotations are certainly good attempts. Both are clipped from recent issues of the *Southern Cross*, and demand earnest attention. As they are read, keep in mind the quotations already made describing social life in days of old, and which called for the intervention of Jehovah.

Here is the first clipping:—

For its failure to deal with the drink trade Great Britain is paying a price which is dreadful beyond all speech. "War brings out strange surprises of high living and fine temper," says Canon Scott Holland, "but it still manages to drag about with it its ancient and traditional heritage of lust. It is dogged by this black shadow as by a curse. Something in it stirs bad blood here. We have never seen in peace such an England as we see to-day. It is an ugly revelation, and ahead lies the terror of disease. No glamour can disguise these dark things." "The demoralisation," he declares, "is appalling."

Mr. Max Pemberton, in a London journal, draws a picture in almost blacker lines: "Undoubtedly," he says, "the days are hysterical beyond experience. Every kind of vice flourishes rampantly. War invariably breeds this season of physical excitement, and this war has been no exception. Men and women who led sober lives in 1914 have abandoned themselves in many cases to orgies which are incredible.

"The enormous increase in the number of cases of syphilis would justify the most drastic action even in peace time, but we are fighting for our very existence, and how shall we ask those who save our homes to bear this burden of our impotence?"

In the following issue of that good paper, we find the following terrible indictment:—

In our last issue we said that, for its failure to deal with the drink trade, "Great Britain is paying a price dreadful beyond all speech"; and part of the price is that the evil flame of lust is kindled to a new intensity, and brings with it a dreadful increase of the diseases bred of lust. Australian lads, of course, under such conditions are beset by deadly perils. A Melbourne lad, the son of Christian parents, who has joined the air service, and for a time was in camp at Oxford, says in a private letter that "Oxford is worse than Cairo"! "Sodom and Gomorrah," he says, "are not in it compared

with the English city of to-day." A doctor has sent this tragic letter to Mr. Max Pemberton: "Before me, as I write, is a letter from a doctor practising in a camp where there are many stricken colonial soldiers. He is a man of imagination and has read his history. 'What,' he asks me, 'is the Black Death which is going to sweep over the world, presently? It is not typhus nor typhoid; not small-pox nor the bubonic plague. It is the death of the syphilitic, not here in Europe alone, but afar in lone countries, in settlements distant from men and cities; in the camps of pioneers; in the ranches which border the forest. Thither the men who have fought the battle of civilisation, and have won it, are about to carry to pure wives and brides, that know nothing of the human story, the germs of the disease with which we, their protectors, allowed them to be infected here in London or the cities of our provinces. And their children will pay the price unto the third or fourth generation.'

What ugly pen-pictures of fighting England! "Sodom and Gomorrah are not in it compared with the English city of to-day!" Terrible, piercing words! These descriptions show that there is a war being fought in England of even greater dimensions, and certainly fraught with even greater probabilities, than that in Europe, and what refers to England refers also to all the other great nations. In fact, from all accounts, there are nations whose social conditions are even worse than in our homeland. As proof we quote the following from a daily paper of recent date:—

The Berne correspondent of the London *Sunday Observer* says that the German Government has offered a premium of £25 to every poor unmarried woman bearing a child, and has also promised to contribute to its support for the first fourteen years. All such children will be considered legitimate.

The Emperor Karl of Austria has already issued a decree legitimatising illegitimate children born in Austria since the outbreak of the war.

We need not comment on this bribery to live an immoral life—for it is nothing else.

Or again, *Leslie's* magazine says: "The diseases of immorality played greater havoc with the armies of Europe in the early months of the war than machine guns or shrapnel. . . . The 'black plague' claims more victims than the 'white [red] plague.'"

Although the effect will be very far-reaching, it will not be felt "unto the third and fourth generation." Just as certainly as Jehovah visited the strongholds of vice with destruction in ages past

just so surely will He visit it again. For not only did God visit Sodom and Gomorrah, but we read that Babylon's destruction came when it was indulging in riotous living and heinous practices, and that the commencement of Rome's rapid decline is to be found in her profligate and immoral life when at the height of her career. These two mighty nations felt the hand of God's displeasure and judgment; for where are they now? One

applicable to the people of these times, as Paul and Peter declare in their writings. See 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3, 4; and 2 Peter 3:3-7. Read these, and you will surely be further surprised at the remarkable likeness.

The editor of the *Southern Cross* lays the cause of the trouble at drink's door, and we think that he has not erred; although the "honour" might be shared, as one writer declares, by the many de-



J. W. Small & Co., Photo.

LUST AND DISEASE CAUSE GREATER HAVOC THAN THIS

does not exist as a nation, while the other is classed as a third-rate Power.

These signs of modern demoralisation point to the second coming of Christ, who will destroy all things wicked with the brightness of His coming. His advent, in its turn, heralds the birth of a new heaven and a new earth, wherein will dwell for eternity the righteous and all things righteous.

If we place the extracts from Josephus side by side with those from the *Southern Cross*, we must see a startling similarity. Each sets forth undeniable facts, and these facts bear witness to the soon-coming Saviour. That which Josephus and Moses declare of the ancients is just as

mons of Satan in all his activity. But, after all, King Alcohol is a humble subject of the "prince of the power of the air," the "prince of darkness," the "prince of evil," the "outcast of heaven," Satan.

Thus we see in course of rapid fulfilment a wonderful, yet terrible, prophecy. None but Jehovah could have foreseen that there would be a second Sodom and a repetition of pre-deluge conditions in this wonderful twentieth century, the "age of wonders" and the "acme of civilisation." But now that His wisdom and foresight have been proved, the warning attached to the circumstances should certainly be heeded.

Marvellous Accuracies of the Bible

Its Astonishing Chronologies—How They Have Stood the Test

STEEN RASMUSSEN

THE chronology of the Inspired Word of God unmistakably indicates that six thousand years have not yet expired since the Lord formed the world we dwell in. Innumerable and mighty have been the efforts of some of the enemies of the cross to prove, by guesses of geology, by cunning fables, by ancient fiction, by modern exaggeration, and in many other ways, that the Bible chronology is not true; and if that is untrue, the Book is spoiled, and the account of the creation must be false, as well as the account of the flood. Many of the best students and scholars of modern times still bend their greatest energies to this very work of disproving the truthfulness of Bible chronology, and, in many cases, with apparent success.

Antiquity of China

We shall not enter into any discussion upon this disputed subject, but briefly give a few historical extracts from standard historians and chronologists. Chinese history is often cited by Bible opposers as an indisputable contradiction to Bible chronology. So are Grecian and Egyptian history and geology. But let us see what some of the great authorities on the history and geology of these countries have to say:—

In the memoirs concerning the history, arts, etc., of the Chinese, extracted from the grand annals, and lately published by the missionaries of Peking, it is asserted that all the relations of events prior to the reign of Yao, or You, which they date 2057 B.C., are fabulous, composed in modern times, unsupported by authentic records, and full of contradictions; and that neither the Chou-king, or Xu-king, their most ancient and authentic record, nor the book of Confucius (who died 479 B.C.), or of his disciples, make mention of any genealogies, or princes, before Yao. It is also proved that the origin of the Chinese empire cannot be placed higher than one or two generations before Yao.—*Dr. Hales's Chronology*, Volume 1, page 296.

Grecian Chronology

A little after the death of Alexander the Great, they began to set down the generations, reigns, and successions in numbers of years; and by putting

reigns and successions equivalent to generations and three generations to an hundred or an hundred and twenty years (as appears by their chronology), they have made the antiquities of Greece three or four hundred years older than the truth.—*Chronology of Ancient Kingdoms*, Sir Isaac Newton, page 3.

The Egyptians held that on account of the "rich soil," the first men were formed in Egypt, or grew up out of the ground. From Osiris and Isis to the reign of Alexander the Great, who built a city after his own name, the Egyptian priests reckon above ten thousand years, or (as some write) little less than three and twenty thousand years.—*Diodorus Siculus*, volume 1, pages 18, 19, 29.

How did they make out so many years? "In their fabulous stories, they said that the most ancient of their gods reigned twelve hundred years . . . apiece." "The Egyptian priests, in their computation of time, do reckon above three and twenty thousand years from the reign of Sol to the passage of Alexander the Great into Asia." *Idem.*, page 32. It is said that they had *lunar years* of thirty days each.

The apostle's statement has strikingly been fulfilled, in which he says: "With all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." 2 Thess. 2:10, 11. Or as Peter expresses it, "We have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:16.

An astonishing feature of the Word of God is that, notwithstanding the time at which it was written, and the multitudes of topics to which it alludes, there is not one material error in it, not one assertion or allusion disproved by the progress of modern science.

The Rev. Edward Hitchcock has remarked: "Hitherto the Bible has never been proved to come into collision with any scientific discovery, although many of its books were written in the rudest and most ignorant ages. It does not, in-

deed, anticipate scientific discovery. But the remarkable adaptation of its language to such discoveries, when they are made, seems to me a more striking mark of its divine origin than if it had contained a revelation of the whole system of modern science."

The Bible is a Book that speaks of everything. It describes nature; it tells us of the water, of the atmosphere, of the mountains, of the animals, and of the plants. It teaches us about the first revolutions of the world, and it foretells its last; it recounts them in the sublimest strains of poetry. It speaks of things visible and things invisible. It was written in the centre of great culture and civilisation, in the sands of Arabia, in the deserts of Judah, in the courts of the temple of the Jews, in the schools of the prophets, in the palaces of Babylon, on the banks of Chebar, and finally in the centre of Western civilisation. Its first writer had been for forty years a pupil of magicians of Egypt, a writer who preceded, by more than nine hundred years, the most ancient philosophers of ancient Greece and Asia, the Zalućses and the Pythagoreans, the Xenophons and the Confuciuses. It carries its narrations even to the hierarchies of angels, even to the most distant epoch of the future, and the glorious scenes of the last day.

Search for the Thousand Errors

Search among its fifty authors, search among its sixty-six books, its eleven hundred and eighty-nine chapters, and its more than thirty-one thousand verses, search it from Genesis to Revelation, and search it for one of those thousand errors which ancient and modern men of skill and learning have heaped upon it; search diligently, but you will find none.

The Master spoke an everlasting truth when He exclaimed, "Because I tell you the truth, ye believe Me not." Yet it shall forever be an unmovable fact that "Thy Word is truth"; and through its sanctifying and cleansing power, the truth, and the truth only, shall blow out the last flickering light of all the fables and lies that man in the learned ignorance of his earthly career has found time to devise.

The Lesson of the Past

B. E. Hadfield

WHO can say that the outlook for this present world is a bright one? Our Redeemer said when upon earth, "As the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." In Noah's days God saw that every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually. "All flesh had corrupted His way on the earth." They had left God's ways, and their wickedness called for judgment from heaven in the destroying flood of waters.

Isaiah the prophet, in speaking of our times, says, "The earth is polluted under the inhabitants thereof," and again, "All joy is darkened, the mirth of the land is gone." How true are these words!

But how shall we change these conditions? Only by changing the heart of mankind, for as a man "thinketh in his heart, so is he." But the bulk of mankind will continue their evil way until judgment is called from heaven upon them. With this agree the words of the Apostle Paul, "Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." And also the words of Christ, "When the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" The deeds of men are everywhere calling out for divine interposition. God says of the wicked, that He seeth that their day is coming.

The issue is an individual one. No one need be lost. God is still saying, Turn ye from your wicked ways, for why will ye die? A new heart and a new spirit God alone can give. He is even now waiting for the man who will humble himself and taste of the joy of heart which He can give. Peace may be ours here, even amid earth's turmoils, and throughout eternity we may dwell in peaceful habitations, sure dwellings, and quiet resting places.

May the sorrows of earth soon cease, and the new earth with its heritage of blessings soon be ushered in.

SELFISHNESS can no more exist in the heart that is exercising faith in Christ than light and darkness can exist together.—Mrs. E. G. White.



Birthdays in God's Household —No. 21

The Birth of the Kingdom of Feathers

Horace G. Franks

AT the usual hour on the usual day the usual little party of children were knocking at the door of Big Brother's house. It did not take them any longer to find their usual seats than it took Big Brother to see that all the children had something which they were anxious to say.

They all commenced to talk at once, thus preventing Big Brother from hearing anything distinctly, so he said:—

"Now, now, wait a minute! One at a time. Suppose I ask Robert to tell me the reason for all the excitement."

"It appears," commenced Robert, "that we have all discovered an answer to the question you asked us to think about last week."

"Oh! have you? I thought it would be too hard for any of you to answer. Now let us repeat the question before we hear the answers. What was it, Alice?"

"Well, you asked us two. 'Why were fishes and birds created on the same day?' and 'Is there any likeness between them?' she replied quickly.

"Good! Suppose we ask Katie to tell us her answer to the two questions."

"The birds and fishes are very much alike in their build and habits," replied Katie.

"They both live in nests and come from eggs," quickly said little Marjorie, eager to show her knowledge before one of the others gave her reason.

"Birds fly in the air with wings and tail, and fishes fly in the sea with fins

and tail," laughingly said George next.

"Oh! that is nearly the same as I was going to say," cried Alice, "except that my reason was that birds swim in the air and fishes swim in the sea."

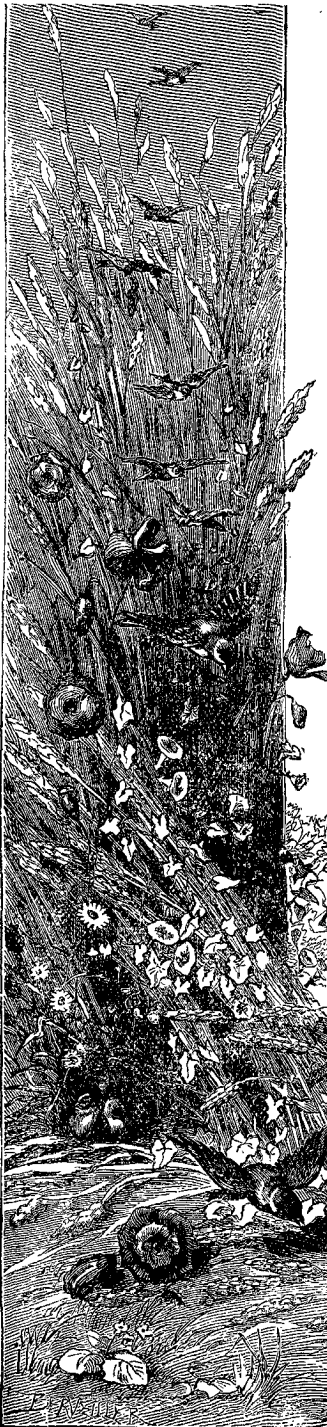
"Never mind, we will call it two reasons. Now Robert, what other reason can you give in answer to my two questions?"

"The feathers of the birds and the scales of the fishes perform the same kind of work. I was also reading during the week that although all blood looks the same with the naked eye, when seen under the microscope, the little globules of blood of the fishes and fowls are the same, but they do not resemble the globules of the blood of the animals created on the sixth day," replied the earnest boy.

"Splendid! You have all done exceedingly well. Do not all these things, some of them discovered only in comparatively recent times, prove the wonderful wisdom and power of our great Creator?"

"I wish I had time to tell you more about the many kinds of fish I told you about last week, but it would take me hours to tell you all the curious habits of the flying-fish, the lantern-fish, the sword-fish, the crying-fish, the fish that changes its colour to match the nearest rock, the fish that makes noises like gun reports, and the fish that catches its food by shooting insects with little bullets of water. But you will all doubtless remember those wonderful things we saw as we examined that drop of water under that large microscope.

"Now let us talk about the inhabitants of the feathered world. We could spend days on this study alone, for the wonders of a single feather would astonish you. These wonderful dresses of the birds are perfectly made, and not only provide clothing to keep the bird warm and enable it also to fly, but they distinguish one bird from another by their many colours. For many hundreds of years man has been trying to copy the bird, and fly; but until recently he has found it impossible. And do you not think it is a pity that now that man has discovered the secret of flying, he is using



his power to kill and to destroy men, women, children, and property?

"All the flying creatures, from the mighty eagle to the humble bee, or from the proud peacock to the wee gorgeous humming bird, were created by the great Creator. And up and up they fly, at an enormous speed, travelling long distances over land and sea, all preserved and fed by their Creator. Christ our Saviour tells us of His loving care in Matt. 6:26. Read it when you get home."

Just here Robert asked a question: "Did God create the flies, for I have heard that they are great carriers of disease and should all be killed?"

Big Brother smiled as he replied: "Undoubtedly the first flies were made by the Creator, for if you look at one under the microscope it reveals God's handiwork; but you must remember that at creation there was no disease for them to carry. At the beginning the fly was perfect in build and in habits, but has now accustomed and adapted itself to living and thriving on dirt. Because man sinned, God cursed the earth for his sake, and thorns and thistles sprung up. And so we see that one of the results of man's sinning is that many insects and reptiles are now poisonous and very dangerous.

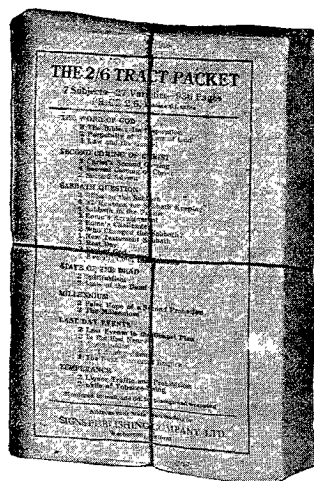
"Let us, however, return to the birds. We are told that there are at least three thousand different kinds of birds still existing, besides sixteen hundred species now extinct. The birds of the world are divided into seven groups: Birds of prey, such as the eagles and owls; perching birds, like the thrushes and larks; climbing birds, such as parrots and cuckoos; scratching birds, among which are pigeons, pheasants, and hens; running birds, of which ostriches and emus are representatives; waders, such as storks and cranes; and the swimming birds, comprising ducks and swans. Some birds can fly as well as swim, their legs being placed far back in their bodies, thus enabling them to do both."

(To be continued next issue)



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WE learn that our publishing house in Shanghai is now publishing seventeen books, eighty tracts and pamphlets, and three periodicals in the Mandarin and Wenli languages. For this demonstration of the prospering hand of God over the work in China we are indeed grateful. May His blessing still be over the publishing work there and His guidance be manifest in all its undertakings.

THE superintendent of our aboriginal mission at Monamona, Queensland, is once again petitioning for one of the mission's greatest needs—cast-off clothing. Clean garments in good repair are needed for men, women, and children, and if any of our readers can help in this matter, we are sure the workers among these native Australians will appreciate the kindness. Parcels may be forwarded to the nearest of our agents at the head of this page, or through the post direct to the mission, addressed as follows: Monamona Mission, Oaklands, via Cairns, Queensland.

TWO of our conferences in England, in their recent annual gatherings, have petitioned the Government to strengthen the hands of those who are working for economical living by prohibiting the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages during the war. We sincerely hope that now when every resource of the empire is needed to combat its

enemies, the Government will listen to the reasonable petitions of its right-thinking and clean-living constituency, and prohibit the operations of that agency which is destroying the food of the people to manufacture that which weakens England's powers both of offence and defence.]

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