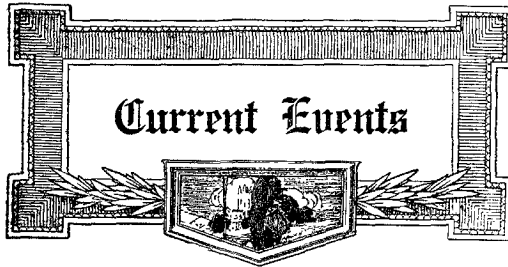




'THE FIELD  
IS THE WORLD'

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

**T**HERE'S a wondrous lot of power  
In an honest, wholesome smile;  
For it often starts a blessing  
That will travel for a mile.  
And when hearts are sad and heavy  
And the days are dark the while,  
You can notice that things brighten  
From the moment that you smile.



HALF a million men are at work on the United States shipbuilding programme.

UP to the present time, the war has cost the United States £2,760,000,000.

THE ruins of what is believed to be the tower of Babel are now being used as a wireless station.

THE British Government has decided to close down entirely all the German banks in London.

THE American Senate has passed a bill authorising an expenditure of £1,081,600,000 for fortifications.

THE King has expressed the desire that August 4, the fourth anniversary of the declaration of war, shall be observed as a national day of prayer.

BRITISH shipping journals declare that the German mercantile tonnage, which amounted to about 5,500,000 tons at the outbreak of the war, has since been reduced by 2,900,000 tons by confiscation or loss.

CAREFUL investigation shows that the majority of New York's street accidents occur between five and six o'clock in the afternoon; and they also reveal the startling fact that men are three times as liable to injury as women.

THE recent epidemic of influenza in England was so serious that the staffs of many shops, factories, and offices were so depleted that a closing down was necessary in many cases. In one town in the Midlands, four thousand children were affected.

WHAT is the origin of the term "tank"? Here it is: When the great land-ships were first being manufactured, the employees were told that "they were water carriers for Mesopotamia." This was soon shortened to "tank"; and when the real nature of the peculiar contrivances was revealed, the name remained and went to the battle-field with the machines.

RALPH C. BENEDICT has just finished a four-year study of the clothes-hungry little pest, the moth, and he has discovered that camphor and naphthalene in closed places kill them surely. It is almost impossible to poison them to death. Cedar chests and tobacco do not repel them. Any tight-closed box, if none are already in, will keep them out. They may be in your clothes, even though you can't see them, because they take on the colour of the garments they eat. He turned one red, white, and blue on the proper diet.—*Youth's Instructor*.

THE Kaiser is grandson of Queen Victoria and cousin of King George of England. The ex-Czar was nephew of Queen Dowager Alexandra and cousin of King George. The Queen of Spain is granddaughter of Queen Victoria and cousin of King George. The Queen of Norway is granddaughter of Queen Victoria and sister of King George. The King of Norway is nephew of Dowager Queen Alexandra and cousin of King George. The King of Denmark is brother to the King of Norway and therefore also cousin to King George. King George of England is son of the late King Edward and Alexandra, daughter of King Christian IX of Denmark. The ex-Czar was son of the late Czar Alexander III and Dagmar, daughter of Christian IX. The Kaiser is son of Frederick III of Germany and Victoria, daughter of the late Queen Victoria of England.—*The Christian Herald*.

AMERICAN manufacturers, architects, and all draftsmen are called upon to render an important service to their country. When the workman has finished with the piece of cotton or linen cloth used in his trade, it is flung aside to be destroyed. The Red Cross is asking now for that discarded material. All over the country thousands of women are earnestly engaged in the manufacture of surgical dressings to be used in the hospitals for our wounded soldiers and sailors. The problem of getting enough white goods for this work is enormous. Two kinds of cloth are available—draftsman's tracing cloth and old linen and cotton articles to be donated from private households and, often in large quantities, from hotels. These are easily collected and handled by the modern laundries, which have now been called upon to perform this work for the Red Cross. With their facilities for collecting, washing, sterilising, and delivering to the local chapters, the laundries are performing an invaluable service.—*Scientific American*.

THE following particulars concerning the class of wounds received by the soldiers during a big offensive are interesting. We clip from the *Scientific American*:—

Figures on the various kinds of wounds are of interest, for this offensive was typical of big operations carried out with good artillery preparation, the best of organisation and characteristic French dash. So far as the site of the wound is concerned, 16 per cent were head wounds; 33 per cent legs; 34 per cent arms; 10 per cent thorax; 4 per cent abdomen, and 2.6 per cent spine. Twenty per cent of the men suffered from multiple wounds. Shell fragments caused 72 per cent of the wounds; bullets, 17 per cent. The general mortality among the wounded has been 5.18 per cent, due to hæmorrhage, to shock, and to the gravity of the wounds. Complicated gangrene had a rate of 3 per thousand, and tetanus of 5 per 10,000. The abdominal wounds were always the most severe. They caused 61 per cent of the mortality; on the other hand, wounds of the thorax yielded the greatest number of successes (20 per cent mortality). The fractures and wounds of joints comprised 77 per cent of the sutures. The wounds of the soft parts gave most remarkable results (83 per cent cured), so that after 45 days there remained in the army zone posts only 1.43 per cent of the wounded.

# Signs of the Times

Warburton, Victoria, August 5, 1918

## Notes and Comments

### After the War

WHEN peace has been secured (according to the expectations of many of earth's great thinkers), the conditions of this world socially and economically are certain to be very different from what they were before war was declared. One of the chief purposes which Germany had in mind in entering upon this war was to a very large extent to control the commerce of the world in her own interests. She had to a very large extent control of certain of the industries of the world already, especially in the line of inventions of chemical products. All the other nations were to a large extent dependent upon Germany for certain commercial fertilisers, the higher class of dye stuffs and other important products; and Germany thought that through a short, sharp, and decisive contest she would improve her condition strategically, geographically, economically, and financially. Having these new advantages she would also continue to hold what advantages she had already gained in the sciences and industries. Thus she would be in a much more favourable condition than ever before to control these great functions of civilisation and supply the nations of earth to her commercial advantage.

The long continuance of the war has very largely frustrated her designs as far as the continued control of these economic advantages is concerned. The

other nations have been compelled by force of circumstances to set their chemists at work to produce for themselves and for their neighbours the various articles for which they have been depending upon Germany in the past.

Before the war Germany sold to the United States somewhere in the neighbourhood of £50,000,000 worth of chemicals every year. By the time the war is over, Germany, in the words of a writer in the *New York Times*, "will have lost that valuable special commerce, because the chemists of the United States, spurred by necessity, have learned to do what the Germans accomplished." Prof. D. D. Jackson, of Columbia University, is quoted, after surveying more than three years of war, as seeing it as a "struggle of the chemists, who were called upon to furnish materials for bombing and gassing, fuels for ambulances, supplies for automobiles and airplanes, guncotton for torpedoes, high explosives for depth bombs, cement for concrete defences, gas-masks, oils, and concentrated foods, potash, nitrogen, and phosphorus compounds for fertiliser, khaki colour for soldiers' uniforms, and numerous pharmaceutical products for hospitals." Before the war Germany supplied the world with the better grades of chemical apparatus and reagents, and the United States alone bought many millions of dollars' worth of laboratory glassware annually. Since all these importations ceased, "we have been able," Professor Jackson states, "to make our own glassware, and of a quality superior to that manufactured in Germany or Austria." Professor Jackson is quoted in detail:—

Before 1914 every pound of synthetic phenol came from Europe. Now a score or more plants are producing it in large quantities, chiefly for the manufacture of picric acid for war purposes. The September *Chemical Engineer* stated that the Edison works at Orange, N. J., are furnishing regularly 3,000,000 pounds of phenol a month.

At the beginning of the war potash salts, as, for instance, pearl ash, were selling at less than three-halfpence a pound, and shortly after the price rose to six shillings a pound, or more. Industrial establishments were obliged to use substitutes for all potash compounds or go out of business. Germany produced practically all the potash at that time. To-day many methods are employed in America to produce potash, some of which may well compete with the German products after the war.

Before the war Germany made most of our colours used in textiles, leather, straw, feathers, paper, ink, pigments, varnishes, and for innumerable other products of our manufacture. At present we are ourselves manufacturing a quantity of colour-compounds equal to that used by us in normal times, and the number of colours produced is constantly increasing. Many concerns now manufacturing dye-stuff intermediates have their own nitric acid, oleum, nitration, sulphonation, and acid recovery plants.

With proper legislation we can manufacture on a competitive basis practically every chemical product which we now import. Cheap labour is not a factor of importance. The tremendous advantage which Germany had at the beginning of the war has taken more than three years to counteract, and the result has been an awakening in other countries to the necessity of furthering the chemical and metallurgical industries in every possible way.

The Germans have for many years realised the grave necessity of furthering the work of the chemist and the chemical engineer for warfare, as well as for the necessities of industries in time of peace. They knew that by developing their enormous colour establishments in peace times they were producing factories which could readily be changed over to explosive works in time of war.

They realised that the industries for the fixation of nitrogen used in fertilisers in time of peace could also be used for the production of enormous quantities of picric acid and trinitrotoluene in war time. They realised the necessity for acetone, synthetic phenol, industrial alcohol, and all the numerous solvents and compounds used in peace as a still greater necessity for war.

Thus are the markets of the world being lost to the Central Powers, whereas their plan was to increase and control them.

## Germany and American Trade

ONE of the most striking developments in the present world turmoil is an action that has been taken by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America, whose headquarters are in Washington City. The Chamber of Commerce of Boston, Mass., having presented to the National Chamber the question of how to prevent excessive military preparations after the war, recommended that this be guaranteed

through discriminations against Germany in export trade if such should be considered necessary for self-defence. The matter was presented in the following preambles and resolutions:—

*Whereas*, The size of Germany's present armament and her militaristic attitude have been due to the fact that her Government is a military autocracy, not responsible to the German people; and

*Whereas*, The size of Germany's armament after the war will be the measure of the greatness of the armament forced on all nations; and,

*Whereas*, Careful analysis of economic conditions shows that the size of Germany's future armament will fundamentally depend on her after-war receipts of raw materials and profit from her foreign trade; and,

*Whereas*, In our opinion the American people for the purpose of preventing excessive armament will assuredly enter an economic combination against Germany, if governmental conditions in Germany make it necessary for self-defence; and,

*Whereas*, We believe the American people will not join in discrimination against German goods after the war if the danger of excessive armament has been removed by the fact that the German Government has in reality become a responsible instrument, controlled by the German people; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America earnestly calls the attention of the business men of Germany to these conditions and urges them also to study this situation and co-operate to the end that a disastrous economic war may be averted and that a lasting peace may be made more certain.

The National Chamber took the matter up at once and presented it to the 535 subsidiary organisations situated in the various States, and the results of their balloting showed 1,204 to be in favour of the resolution and only 151 against. The National Chamber is committed to the question if more than one-third of the voting strength of the Chamber is recorded and if more than two-thirds of the votes cast are in favour of the proposition. This proportion was greatly exceeded, so that the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America is committed through this action to the policy of discrimination against Germany in the matter of export trade after the war providing Germany should take a course that would indicate that she was preparing for another great war. Whether this action on the part of this very influential body will have such a sobering effect upon the commercial men of Germany that they will use their influence not only to oppose the military

tendencies of the present Government, but also to curtail the military preparations of the nation following the war, we are unable to predict; but the action taken is a most significant one, and is bound to have some effect upon the future relations of the nations involved.

### Rome Keeps Spain Neutral

THE leaders of the Roman Catholic hierarchy at the Vatican have professed the neutrality of the Papacy toward the various belligerents in this war and yet Rome has been far from neutral from the beginning of the war. The attitude of Rome in Ireland, toward England, has been distinctly pro-German. In Italy the Vatican was very nearly in serious trouble, through the unneutral activities of one high in the councils of the hierarchy, who fortunately escaped into enemy territory before he could be apprehended. Mr. Gerard, who was the American ambassador to Germany at the time when America and Germany broke off diplomatic relations, is now running a series of articles in the Louisville (Kentucky) *Herald*, in which he shows that in Spain, as well as in Canada, Rome is using the old plea of this war being a definite visitation of divine punishment upon France for having severed the Papal Church from the French Government and expelled the Roman Catholic orders. Thus speaks Mr. Gerard in the issue of that journal of March 21:—

On the war Spain is hopelessly divided—Conservative against Conservative, Liberal against Liberal. The usual German propaganda is furiously at work, all the paraphernalia, bought newspapers—bribes. Roman Catholic prejudice against former French Governments is a great stumbling-block in the way of the Allies in Spain, for that country became the refuge of many orders and priests driven from France. Many of the Spanish Catholics still resent the action of previous French Governments toward the Catholic Church.

Mr. Gerard speaks not only as an American diplomat, but also as a member of the Roman Catholic Church. We can safely conclude that he would not manufacture evidence against the Church of which he is a member, and his testimony proves conclusively—were it needed—that the Roman Church is far from neutral in its attitude toward the war.

### Plenty to Worry Over

THE following is taken from the Chicago *Continental* and portrays what the writer terms "one of the greatest miracles of modern times":—

Not a person living to-day in any civilised land is beyond danger of starvation. A few years ago it was stated as a truism that modern agriculture had rendered famine impossible anywhere in Europe and America at least. Nobody is saying that now.

Likewise, through all the present winter only a small proportion of people have had reliable assurance of getting from week to week enough fuel to warm homes and cook food.

In fact, quite apart from the supply of food and fuel, comparatively few families can feel secure against such failure or insufficiency of income as may soon subject them to severe privations. Already most homes have surrendered many comforts.

Above all else, there hang over unnumbered millions of households portents that threaten the direst of sorrows whenever the big guns boom on the battle-front.

And with those whose minds dwell on the larger affairs of humanity—the world's politics, education, and religion—optimism can not possibly be strenuous enough to shut out of view a dozen kinds of red-hot ruin that may flow from this war.

Assuredly there is plenty to worry over.

And yet—veritably it is a human miracle!—nobody worries.

This is not because men are insensitive to the discomforts of their current situation or blind to dangers ahead. The truth is instead that the generality of men are more alive than ever to the seriousness of conditions that daily twist tighter the pinch of difficulty and hardship.

And so we repeat, "Assuredly there is plenty to worry over" for those who wish to worry. Said the Christ, when speaking of a certain time, "men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." Luke 21:26. But, says the writer above quoted, "Nobody worries." He admits the intensity of the times and the sensibility of mankind to the troubles of a world in distress, and yet he says, "Nobody worries." He gives the reason for this serenity of mind in that very common trait of character which allows mankind quickly to brace itself together and vow to take whatever comes without whining—a modern stoical religion.

But it seems to us that we may look in another direction for the cause of this "non-worrying" miracle. On the one hand disasters have come with such rapid frequency during the past few years that the majority of people have by this

# Signs of the Times

WARBURTON, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 5, 1918

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

*C. M. Snow, Editor*

## That Ancient Deception

WITHIN the last few years there have sprung into being many teachers and many periodicals whose purpose is to teach men to think themselves gods or a part of God. That was an ancient plan, conjured in heaven by one who chose the worship of self above the worship of Him by whom he had his being. It proved the angels' deception in heaven; it proved man's deception in the earth. It was a generic falsehood; for from it have sprung a great crop of other falsehoods and false systems of worship.

That teaching in the garden of Eden was the fountainhead of the doctrine of the immortality of the soul; for it was coupled with, and had in it the essence of, that other statement, "Ye shall not surely die." The tree which sprung from that seed-lie has been dropping down fruit that had in it inherently the essence of death. That teaching which was the foundation of all heathenism has not been left to the heathen world—it is with us yet, clung to, and propagated by, much of the professed Christian world.

That Word of God teaches this truth, that he who is made a new creature in Christ Jesus has Christ in him, "the hope of glory." It teaches men also to let the mind of Christ be in them, that it may direct them in the ways that are in harmony with the law of God; but the doctrine of that ancient error teaches Christ or God incarnate in our flesh. The ideas may seem to some akin, if not in harmony; but they are as far apart as light and darkness, as life and death, as far apart as the poles of the heavens. The one exalts man, and brings in as a natural consequence the worship of self; the other exalts Christ, and puts away

from us every form of worship save the worship of God; the one is the counterfeit, the other is the genuine; the one turns men into the ways of destruction, the other leads them by the straight path up to the throne of God; the one must explain away all Scripture that is not in harmony with it, the other takes the Word of God and hews itself to the line of that Word, "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

Satanic in its inception, that doctrine of deception can end only in the destruction that uproots every plant that has not been planted by the eternal God. Satan said, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: . . . I will be like the Most High"; and that is the doctrine which he preached to the innocent pair in Eden, for them to believe and work upon for their own self-exaltation.

In this New Thought, this New Theology, which is new only in its metamorphosis into a sort of Christian-ethics stage, man is declared to be able to compass his own salvation, to be his own saviour, able to liberate himself from sin and its consequences, having within himself the power to cure himself of sickness and all the ailments of the flesh, and being in himself "the highest expression of God."

In this not only is God's Word utterly discredited, but the plan of redemption, all that God has done for man, is flatly denied, cast aside, trampled underfoot; and then man is put in the place of God, to do for himself that which only God can do for him. Some time ago there came into being a society whose express purpose was the exaltation of man, the setting forth of his divinity, and his all-sufficiency in himself. That society has many supporters now in the journals that are devoting their strength and influence to the propagation of that very idea. Books are multiplying rapidly which advocate the same ideas, the pith of which is contained in this expression: "Man will yet fling his form into the heavens, and root himself in God." That is what Satan tempted Eve to attempt to do; that is what the builders of the tower of Babel tried to do. The same idea is

voiced in these presumptuous words: "Order is our only saviour, and, like the picture in the soul of the artist, it lies within us waiting to be revealed." In other words, we are in need of no Saviour but ourself.

This all works toward the exaltation of self and the worship of self. It is man's attempt to do in the earth what Satan attempted to do in heaven, and the two things are branches from the same evil root.

That one subtle purpose has run through the work of Satan from the day he conspired against his Maker, even down to the present day, and will continue thus until his last victim has been ensnared. His power over those who have not the mind of Christ will continue unto the end, and increase as it continues. The subtlety of his sophistry will continue to grow keener unto the end. The rapid increase of these teachings of heathenism to which we have referred proves this to be so. There has been an awakening among the adherents of these teachings in the lands that have been the longest enslaved and darkened by them, and they are now rapidly spreading in the lands that had not known them hitherto. They are even to some considerable extent permeating the pulpit orations of Christian churches, and are winning their disastrous way wherever the power of God has not come in to dominate the life.

The harvest of the earth is almost ready for the sickle—the weeds as well as the wheat. It is time to seek God, "to watch unto prayer," that the overspreading delusions of the last days may not reckon us among their victims.

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### Plenty to Worry Over

(Continued from page 485)

time become heart-hardened, and have ceased to *worry* over them, even though at times their hearts fail them with fear. But in far too many cases it is a fear which quickly fades into indifference.

On the other hand there are many Christians who see in this terrible cataclysm of disaster with which this world

has been visited of recent years fulfillment of prophecy—a herald of the coming of Jesus to redeem them and this earth from the destructiveness of sin. And so they see no need to worry over these things. Naturally they sympathise with the sufferers in their misfortunes—at times they themselves are the victims of disaster—but it is a sympathy mingled with hope, a dark cloud edged with gold and having a silver lining, for the Bible declares that this dread disaster-disease which has attacked this world is a sure sign that the end of all things is at hand.

In the first case—that of the heart-hardened class—this is not veritably "a human miracle," but a *satanic* miracle, for the enemy of souls is doing his utmost to blind the mental and spiritual eyes of the inhabitants of this planet.

But in the second case—that of the second advent believers—it is in very truth a *divine* miracle, for, knowing as they do the terrible events of the future as proclaimed by Bible prophets, nothing but the power of God could sustain these Christians and fill them with hope and energy and zeal.

There are no *human* miracles; miracle working is confined to two great powers: Jehovah, earth's Creator, and Satan, heaven's apostate. And in the spirit of the times we see these two great powers at work. But soon the greatest miracle of all time will be manifest—that of the second coming of Jesus, whereupon "the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." I Thess. 4:16, 17.

Therefore do not worry over the sad condition of this earth, but "comfort one another with these words." I Thess. 4:18. F.

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"THAT heart which cherishes only good and pure thoughts is doubly guarded,—within by the very thoughts themselves, without by heavenly spirits; for 'the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him and delivereth them.'"



## General

### The God Who Knows—No. 13, Cont.

Thos. H. Craddock

THE "seven last plagues" follow on the heels of the judgment. The seventh plague is a mighty hailstorm, "every stone about the weight of a talent [about fifty pounds]." This terrific storm will batter down every monument of human pride. "And the songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord God: there shall be many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast them forth in silence." Amos 8:3. Here the plagues are again referred to by "the God who knows."

#### A Spiritual Famine

When probation closes, the lips of God's messengers of mercy and salvation will be sealed.

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: and they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the Word of the Lord, and shall not find it." "In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst. They that swear by the sin of Samaria, and say, Thy God, O Dan, liveth; and, The manner of Beersheba liveth; even they shall fall, and never rise up again." Amos 8:11-14.

When the judgment shall close, human probation also closes. The cases of all mankind will be forever settled "for weal or for woe." There will be no second probation.

The Master's parable of the ten virgins (Matt. 25:1-13) is a divine comment, so to speak, on the words He spoke through His prophet Amos.

"As Christ sat looking upon the party

that waited for the bridegroom, He told His disciples the story of the ten virgins, by their experience illustrating the experience of the Church that shall live just before His second coming. . . .

"The two classes of watchers represent the two classes who profess to be waiting for their Lord. They are called virgins because they profess a pure faith. By the lamps is represented the Word of God. The psalmist says, "Thy Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light unto my path." The oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 406.

"The sin of Samaria," referred to by Amos, resulted from its mixed religious system, which was partly Jewish and partly heathen. It is recorded in the Scriptures as a type of confused Christendom in the last days. The Patmos seer designates it by the symbol Babylon—confusion. The end of fallen Christendom is told by the revelator in these forceful, terrible words:—

"And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all." Rev. 18:21.

Thus, reader, we repeat and emphasise the glad truth that God is neither ruled nor overruled by circumstances. Jehovah is the God who knows the end from the beginning. He is the Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient God. Of Himself He declares: "I am the Lord: that is My name: and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images. Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them." "I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, *My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.*" Isa. 42:8, 9; 46:9, 10.

Jehovah designed from the eternal past that our world should be the everlasting home of sinless man. That eternal purpose will not, *cannot*, be frustrated. The gospel plan, as already pointed out, is not the outgrowth of cir-



cumstances, but was designed by "the God who knows" from everlasting, and was included in His eternal purposes. It is Jehovah's purpose that His universe shall be *clean*. Sin will, therefore, be finally obliterated. "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts; that *it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*" Mal. 4:1.

**Armageddon; The Trenches, the Airships, and Under-water Boats Predicted by the God Who Knows**

After Jehovah had measured up the life-history of His professed people, and every man's case had been tried by the "plummet of righteousness"; and, when in vision the prophet saw that the Investigative Judgment had ended, and the books of records were closed, Amos writes:—

"I saw the Lord standing upon the altar: and He said, Smite the lintel of the door, that the posts may shake: and cut them in the head, all of them; and I will slay the last of them with the sword: he that fleeth of them shall not flee away, and he that escapeth of them shall not be delivered. Though they dig into hell [SHEOL, a grave, a pit, a hole in the earth], thence shall Mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven [*in the airships*], thence will I bring them down: and though they hide in the top of Carmel [*in the mountain fortresses*], I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from My sight in the bottom of the sea [*in the submarines*], thence will I command the serpent and he shall bite them: and though they go into captivity before their enemies, thence will I command the sword, and it shall slay them: and I will set Mine eyes upon them for evil and not for good. And the Lord God of hosts is He that toucheth the land, and it shall melt, and all that dwell therein shall mourn: and it shall rise up wholly like a flood; and shall be drowned, as by the flood of Egypt. It is He that buildeth His stories in the heaven, and hath founded His troop in the earth; He that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them

out upon the face of the earth: the Lord is His name. . . . Behold, the eyes of the Lord God are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from off the face of the earth; saving that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, saith the Lord. . . . All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword, which say, The evil shall not overtake nor prevent us." Amos 9:1-10.

The remnant spoken of in verse 8 is evidently the living righteous who will be saved from death and the grave at the coming of Christ. Says the great apostle to the Gentiles:—

"Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." 1 Cor. 15:51-54.

"The God who knows" presented the gospel-prophet with a vision of this waiting people, and, as they viewed the coming Christ on the clouds of heaven, he heard their shouts of victory:—

"Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." Isa. 25:9.

This present dreadful, devastating war is regarded by many as the Armageddon of Scripture prediction. We do not regard it as such. That it is a prelude, so to speak, of that future world-slaughter is evident from many viewpoints that have been considered in this series of articles. The methods employed in this present world-war,—the dugouts, the airships, and the under-water boats,—will be among the means employed in the final clash of nations. "The God who knows" has predicted this, and His word is *true*.

After pointing out the final acts in the great controversy with sin, the prophet

tells of God's completed purpose in the creation of our world, and of His gospel plan for its redemption, in the following words:—

"I will bring again the captivity of My people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gar-

dens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God." Amos 9: 14, 15.

Our next and closing article in this series will be, "A Glimpse of the Home of the Redeemed."

## The Hour Has Come

### A Great War Boom Among the Spirits of Satan

HORACE G. FRANKS

FOR some years before the commencement of the great war of 1914, the military despots of Germany had their minds fixed on one stupendous event—an event which they termed *Der Tag* ("The Day"), and which is now giving the world a devastating, sickening, suffocating blood-bath. And on that fell day, exactly four years ago, when the ravenous war-hounds broke their chains and when the trumpets of Mars sounded the gathering call to the nations, there was rejoicing in the camp of Satan. For years he and his confederates had been at work organising the terrible catastrophe which has set the world a-quivering; they had cajoled men into toasting "The Day" at their feasts; and August, 1914, saw the great enemy of the race happier than he had been for many a long year. It took him back to the time when he engineered that terrible institution known as the Inquisition, when he bathed Europe in blood and choked the air with gas and smoke. But this time he has even outdone his doings of those dark Middle Ages. Where streams of blood flowed then, rivers of blood roll now; where countries were pauperised then, continents are devastated now; where hundreds were imprisoned then, hundreds of thousands are enslaved now; and where whole families were murdered then, whole nations are wiped out of existence now.

But, even though this in itself would be enough to make the "spirits of devils"

gleeful, Satan saw another great plan come into fruition on the same day. For years he had been working for and planning for and looking forward to "The Day" of Spiritualism. Profiting by his knowledge of the tremendous impetus given to Spiritism by the American Civil War, Satan knew that a war commenced at the time when leading scientists and authors were studying and accepting Spiritualism would result in a tremendous war boom for Spiritualism; and he knew that if he could make the conflict a *world* war, Spiritualism would reap world-wide benefit.

And so we now read in the attractive literature of spiritualistic exponents such declarations as these:—

The hour of Spiritualism is come. I get word from all quarters of the formation of spirit groups, composed mainly of intellectual people, teachers, professors, and retired officers. The circulation of our books, pamphlets, and reviews has greatly increased.—*Leon Denis* in "*La Revue Spirite*."

The time is fast approaching, even if it is not already here, when the man who knows nothing whatever of the amazing phenomena of Spiritualism will be considered sadly deficient in intellectual equipment. It is unquestionably the coming theme, and a few years hence will transcend every other subject in majestic importance.—*Harbinger of Light*, December, 1917.

Every week I know of a new case where a stranger goes to a medium and gets in touch with a relative.—*Sir Oliver Lodge*.

The psychic journals of England are full of cases of parents "discovering" their boys who were "killed" in the trenches.—*Harbinger of Light*, November 1, 1917.

I look forward to the time when there will be a

well-regulated psychic medium in every church.—  
*The late Rev. Charles L. Tweedale, England.*

We could fill many pages with similar extracts; but let us hear the culmination of the whole matter in Australia. It is found in the *Melbourne Age*, of April 8, 1918, and has this wording:—

At a largely attended meeting held in the Auditorium last night to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of "modern Spiritualism," a resolution submitting to the Government "just claims to be recognised as a religious denomination and to enjoy all conditions and privileges similar to other denominations," was carried by acclamation.

Here then is irrefutable proof that the hour of Spiritualism is come. It has become one of the most troublesome of the vexed problems of our day. It is fast reaching the high-water mark of its popularity. But this does not mean that it has reached the summit of its career. Far from it! Speaking on the authority of the Bible, the word of Him who rules the universe, we dare definitely affirm that not long hence the inhabitants of this world will see astounding "miracles" worked in the name of this powerful system, signs and wonders in comparison with which the present manifestations of Spiritualism are but very ordinary and commonplace occurrences.

#### Whence Is Spiritualism?

The reader will notice that the recent gathering in Melbourne was celebrating the seventieth anniversary of what it was pleased to call "modern Spiritualism." And the term was rightly used. What, then, was *ancient* Spiritualism and where was it practised?

We have not far to go for an answer. In the trance address given by Mrs. Knight McLellan at the anniversary meeting, these words occur:—

You are gathered together here to hold an anniversary of what is called Spiritualism—Modern Spiritualism—but you are holding an anniversary as old as the hills—as *old as the advent of mankind*. For with the advent of mankind came the fuller, higher knowledge of immortality, as all the evidences of the past are able to show you; . . . you will now be able to understand that what you commemorate here to-day has been all through past ages the belief of all humanity.

Or read the following boasting of an editorial article entitled, "The Antiquity of Spiritualism," in the *Harbinger of*

*Light*, the leading spiritualistic paper of Melbourne:—

Spiritualism is as old as mankind itself, its teachings are hoary with antiquity. Thousands of years ago it pervaded the religions of Greece and Rome, of Assyria, Phoenicia, Persia, India, Egypt, and China; . . . in every savage race we find the prevailing belief in the survival and return of the spirit to earth. . . . And to-day it commands the attention of the intellect of the world, and seems des-



KATE FOX—ONE OF THE FIRST OF MODERN  
 SPIRIT MEDIUMS

igned to cover eventually the earth as the waters cover the sea.

In the issue dated October 1, 1917, there was printed an intensely interesting article headed, "Egyptians and Spiritualism," the concluding sentence of which made the following admission:—

Such phenomena as that testified to by Dr. Crawford—the various phases of physical [or perhaps the word should be psychical] phenomena witnessed at the present day—were familiar to the Egyptians.

And being familiar to that ancient kingdom of renowned wisdom and civilisation, there was every danger that those living in that great empire would believe in and practise those soul-blighting rites. Such was the case with God's own people—the Israelites; hence we read the following divine warnings issued to them

after their exodus from the land of the pyramids and the sphinx:—

Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God. Lev. 19: 31.

A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death. Lev. 20: 27.

Speaking as the mouthpiece of God, the great leader of the children of Israel made the following prohibitive proclamation as the company was on the borders of the promised land:—

When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Deut. 18: 9-13.

#### The Beginning of Sorrows

Here then we see that we must go farther than the sunny sands of Egypt for the genesis of these mysteries of the dead. The declaration of Moses last quoted links up Spiritualism with the occult influences that obtained in the time of the Pharaohs, the astrologers and soothsayers of Babylon, the high priests of the Persian mysteries, the oracles of Greece, the demonism of the Hindus, the revolting practices of Brahminism, the widow-burning of all India, the ancestral worship of China, the magical incantations of the medicine men of Africa, the fire-walking of the islands; in fact, it is inseparably connected with all the hideous rites, abominable practices, obscene idolatries, tyrannical castes, and unbelievable cruelties of heathenism in all its forms. It is in these lands of idolatry and darkness that we can observe the fruits of Spiritualism, for there we see its ripened harvest; and this forces us to ask the question: If this superhuman confederacy has wrought such world-wide havoc during the passing of the ages, what may not result from its acceptance by this present world overflowing with marvellous knowledge? The wandering spirits that were cast out of heaven have planted the principles of heathenism in

the midst of lands that are called Christian lands, and we see before us the sad spectacle of this invader eating into the very vitals of that one thing, Christianity, which keeps the pulse of the world beating.

Says the *Christian Workers Magazine* :

Spiritualism has taken hold of death-stricken England, and people are flocking to spiritualistic séances as they did to the churches at the beginning of the war.

This is Spiritualism's war boom. Satan's confederates—the evil angels—have become war profiteers of the basest character as they impersonate the dead friends of those who mourn. But this has always been the method of Satan, to make capital out of the misfortunes of his dupes. And why is he so successful? Not because of weakmindedness, but solely because so-called Christians do not know the simple teachings of the Bible. The Word of God is very explicit in these matters—it teaches plainly that "the dead know not anything." Eccl. 9: 5. And as though especially to refute the declaration that the "spirits of the dead" can, and do, return to their loved ones, Inspiration has placed in the Scriptures the following definite words:—

As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away; so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more. *He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.* Job 7: 9, 10.

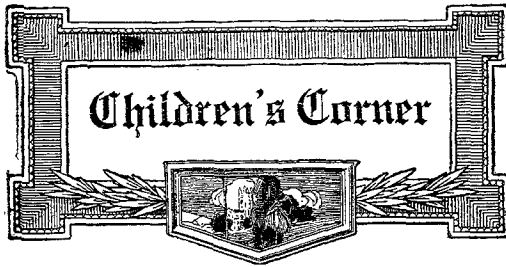
Beyond the grave there is no life—until the voice of the Life-giver calls forth the dead at the resurrection. John 5: 28. Until that glad time the dead—both righteous and wicked—sleep; and when Christ comes the former will be raised from their long sleep and be carried away to enjoy the pleasures of eternal life, while the latter class will wait for the second resurrection and then suffer the penalty of eternal death.

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"THE Christian is like the ripening corn; the riper he grows, the more lowly he bends."

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WHEN I consider what God has done for my personal salvation, I count all that I have and am as belonging to Him.—*C. G. Hammond.*



### The A.M.B.

OF course, you do not know yet what those capitals stand for, but Betty does, and you have only to whisper them to her to see her blush a rosy red and toss her curly little head.

You see, Betty was just eight years old and inclined to be very careless. If her mother sent her to the shop to buy beans she was sure to come back with peas; or if she was instructed to purchase butter, she would buy bread.

"Did you see Miss Higginson today?" asked Betty's mother, meeting her at the door one evening.

Betty stopped still on the doorstep. "I forgot it, mother," she answered.

"Oh, Betty," said her mother reproachfully, "this is the third day that I have told you, and the house is just across from the school. How can you forget so many times!"

"I came out through the back yard today," Betty answered contritely, "and I never thought about the dressmaker. I don't see why she doesn't have a telephone."

"That has nothing to do with your forgetfulness," said her mother.

"I will surely tell her to-morrow," promised Betty earnestly.

But the next afternoon when school was let out she was so busy thinking about her approaching birthday that she forgot the message completely.

"It is next Thursday," she said to herself. "Last year it was on Wednesday, I remember. I wonder if I shall have a party this year."

Nothing at home had been said about a party, but nothing was ever said and the event was supposed to be in the nature of a surprise; but Betty always caught glimpses of the stealthy preparations and joyed accordingly.

"Of course there will be a party," she said to herself, going right past the dressmaker's house without a single thought of her errand. "It wouldn't be a birthday without a party."

She was still thinking about the coming event which she was confident would soon transpire when she hopped up the porch steps. Her mother was standing in the door. Then Betty remembered suddenly and hung her head shamefacedly.

Her mother saw the look, and, with a sigh, opened the door.

"Oh, Betty, Betty," she said sadly, "something will surely happen to punish you, if you do not try to do better."

"I do try," said Betty, "but it doesn't seem to do any good."

Mrs. Davis shook her head. "You do not try very hard," she sighed, "or there would be a difference in your conduct."

Monday came, and although Betty lingered in the halls as long as she dared before going to school, she could see no sign of any birthday preparations. Tuesday passed as uneventfully without any of the delightful air of mystery that usually preceded her birthday, and Betty commenced to be worried.

"Surely I will smell the cake baking to-morrow," she said consolingly. "They always make the cake the morning before the party." And the next morning she made many unnecessary trips to the kitchen, during one of which she heard the cook regretting they had no eggs.

"Hadn't I better stop on the way to school and order some?" asked Betty, anxiously.

"And have them send up a dozen tennis balls," sniffed the cook, who knew Miss Betty's failing. "No, the egg man comes to-morrow afternoon, and I guess we shall not need any before then."

Betty turned and walked rapidly out of the room to hide her tears. The day before her birthday and they did not need any eggs. And the birthday cake took six!

That day she did not study very attentively and at supper she was unusually quiet, while she hurried away to bed a half-hour earlier than usual to wet her pillow with tears. But if she felt disappointment then, the following morning



was heart-breaking. It was the custom of the family to greet the person whose birthday it was with the number of kisses corresponding to their years, upon their arrival at the breakfast table, but this morning no one sang out "Birthday Greetings!" and no one kissed her.

Everyone treated her as if she were a very ordinary little girl and not a birthday girl at all, and she was not even told to put on her best dress to wear to school. At three o'clock she sped home, thinking perhaps that they would have remembered and would be preparing to atone for their forgetfulness, but to her surprise the house seemed deserted.

"Where is mamma?" she asked the cook, whom she found in the garden.

"I think she went to town with Mrs. Sheffield," said Norah. "She called for her and they went away together. Why, what's the matter?" For Betty had burst into tears and was running into the house as fast as her two fleet little limbs could carry her. She flung herself down upon her own bed and sobbed unrestrainedly.

To think that mother—her mother—had gone away to town, leaving her alone on her birthday! Then she remembered her mother's words. "You surely will be punished if you do not try to do better." That was the way that Betty remembered them, and this was the way that they had chosen to punish her! But it seemed a cruel, cruel way.

"But I guess I deserved it," Betty admitted at last, as she ceased her sobbing. "At any rate, I don't think I will ever forget again."

That night she pleaded a headache, and crept into bed without any supper, so that her mother was quite alarmed, and sat by her side putting cooling cloths upon her head until she fell asleep.

"Well, I am glad the day is over," she sighed to herself in the morning, when she awakened. When she went down to breakfast, no sooner had she opened the door than she was caught by half a dozen hands and kissed repeatedly. She struggled away and stared.

"A happy birthday!" cried her father, and Brother Tom caught her up and hugged her. Betty stared, open mouthed.

"But yesterday"—she faltered.

"Yesterday?" Her mother's tones were puzzled.

"Yes, yesterday was my birthday," said Betty.

Her father led her to the calendar upon the wall. "See that," he said. "To-day is the eighteenth."

Betty stared at the number in astonishment. "But last year my birthday came on Wednesday," she stammered.

Her father laughed heartily. "But you know that 1916 is leap year, don't you?" he said.

Betty hung her head. "I forgot about that," she confessed.

"But if you had looked at the calendar you would have known," her father told her.

"I didn't think to do that," Betty whispered. They did not say much, because it was her birthday, but led her to the stack of presents beside her plate.

That morning, instead of going to school, Aunt Kate and Uncle John came in their car and took them all for a ride, after which they returned—not home—but to Aunt Kate's wonderful house, and here a gay mob of Betty's little friends burst in upon her.

"We thought we should really surprise you for once," exclaimed Aunt Kate, laughing, "so we decided to have the party here."

And such a party as it was! Never will Betty forget it.

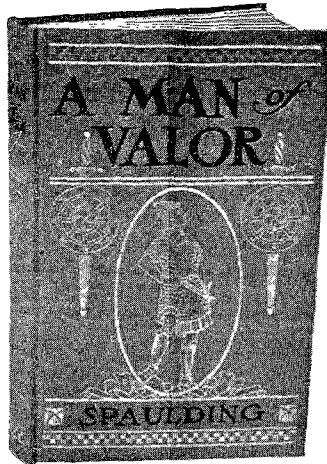
"Even if I am allowed to," she laughs, for the story of how she had absent-mindedly anticipated her own birthday was too good a joke on her and too much of a lesson to be readily forgotten by her family. But after her day of misery Betty really did stop forgetting—not all at once, you understand, but gradually, until now she is the most dependable, trustworthy little maiden imaginable.

But just the same she always blushes when anyone says "The A. M. B." as they sometimes teasingly do, for you have guessed by now that it means—"The Absent-Minded Birthday."

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"I was up north visiting with an old native chief, one of the old Batonga tribe. This tribe is about as wild as any I have ever seen.

"Temba Temba is the head man of all that district. Poor old man, he is blind now. I asked him if he remembered Dr. Livingstone, because Dr. Livingstone had gone right through that very territory. He said, 'Yes.' Then he told me how, when he was a boy, Dr. Livingstone came into his father's village with a book—the Book of God. Livingstone told them about God's letter which He had sent down to this world, in which He tells us what He wants us all to do, and the chief then said: 'Teacher, when Dr. Livingstone left my father's village, he promised that when he went home he would send some one to teach us about the Book of God; and all these years I have been watching the path, I have been looking for that man to come that Dr. Livingstone promised us.'

"Temba Temba grew up to manhood, his children grew up around him—and his grandchildren,

and his great-grandchildren; and as I sat there talking with the blind old man, he reached out and took hold of the Bible I had in my hand. He opened it and held it up before his eyes, saying: 'Teacher, I watched the path all these years for some one to come and help us, and you have waited, and Temba Temba has grown old, and today when you have come to me with the Book of God I am blind and cannot see it. You can teach my children and my grandchildren, but as far as I am concerned, you have come too late.'

#### SIGNS OF THE TIMES EXTRA

IN view of the many difficult problems which are confronting the whole world at the present time, we have decided to publish a "Signs of the Times Extra," bearing the date Aug. 1, 1918. This special issue will be devoted exclusively to the consideration of world-wide questions of the greatest importance. The leading article is entitled "Great Problems of To-day: What is Their Solution and When Will It be Demonstrated," by C. M. Snow. This deals not only with the difficult problem of the present awful struggle in Europe, but also with the bitter fight between Capital and Labour. The writer states that the only solution of these and all other problems is to be found in the Word of God. "The Problem of Life" and the "Problem of Death" are also fully discussed. A striking illustration appearing on the first page illustrates the ideal of the pacifists—"Unseating the God of War."

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