

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

WORLD EVENTS IN THE LIGHT OF PROPHECY

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ONE PENNY

Reaping the Whirlwind of War

*Ominous of the Immediate Future, Comes this Message from
the Centre of War-ridden China*

FREDERICK LEE

THE seeds of war and strife are being sown in every land. At present there is great activity in the sowing of these seeds in China. Some elements seem determined to raise a whirlwind in this land, far-famed for its passive existence. It is true that China has seen in recent years great activity among war lords in fighting one another. But the present agitation comes not from the professional warriors, but from humble people, who

through the centuries have worked peacefully at their trades and on their farms. They have been content to leave the organising and conducting of governments with the few who controlled such things. But we now find these otherwise peaceful people being agitated into a seething ferment of hate. They are determined on war. People who never before realised their power are now willing to face earth's mightiest nations. A cry for war is now arising in the once peaceful East.



ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST BATTLESHIPS

Sport & General Photo

This is a photo of H.M.S. Nelson, which, prior to the completion of her sister ship, the Rodney, was the world's largest battleship. These two ships are the only post-Jutland capital ships in the British Navy. Many war experts are of the opinion that the day of the big battleship is past on account of the effective part that will be played by submarines and aeroplanes in future wars.

As we view these agitations and read the declarations of radical elements, we sometimes wonder whither these things will lead us. Will the Pacific see a great war in the near future? Will the nations of the East line themselves up against the nations of the West, as some are declaring? What will be the result of the determination of Russia to bring about a world revolution? In what direction is the world headed? Is it toward peace? Or is it already far on the road to war? These are indeed pertinent questions. Many wish for an answer. Men know not how to plan for the future. Multitudes are fearful because of what may come upon the world.

One cannot deny that there are certain elements in the world that are planning war and destruction. They openly declare that the definite purpose of certain organisations is to establish a world revolution. The old structures are to be torn down. Ancient foundations are to be uprooted. Everything old and traditional must perish. Upon this ruin a new world is to be established. Ancient methods of government are to be completely overthrown. Society is to be broken up, and is again to be assembled on a different basis. Even the sacred precincts of the home are to be invaded, and past traditions are to be nullified. The world is to be completely turned upside down. The plan of these radical elements is to destroy, destroy, destroy—the more complete that destruction the better. Only in destruction, they think, is there hope for the future. What a terrible doctrine to preach to a peace-loving people! Such doctrine is plunging the world into gloom, from which it is hard to emerge. What ray of hope is there for those who long for peace? Is there any light that can be obtained that will show us what the future holds?

Men everywhere are seeking an answer to these things. Some are seeking out fortune tellers, soothsayers, and false spirits as they try to learn of the future. Is there no reliable source of information? How utterly helpless we are in the midst of this darkness if we have no light to show us the way. We are like an automobile driver who finds himself surrounded by darkness when he is far from home and without lights. He is in desperate straits. He fears to remain where he is because of the dangers that surround him, and he dares not move ahead for fear of driving off the road over a precipice. He is in a dilemma until some one comes to help him. Anyone who brings a light at such a time is most welcome.

HERE IS LIGHT

It is the same in the world today. The future is very dark and the present is full of danger. How can we ever reach the home of peace and joy without wrecking ourselves on the road? Friends, we have found a light to show us the way! It is a light that can pierce the most distant future. With this light all things are manifest. Listen! "We have also a more sure Word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

God who is the Creator of all things, who knows the end from the beginning, and who understands the thoughts of the heart, has told us concerning the future. He has given us a light, which we call prophecy. Not one of God's prophecies has failed. The Bible, which was written by holy men under

the inspiration of the Spirit of God, contains many prophecies. In fact, one-fourth of the Holy Scriptures is prophecy. Prophecies made over two thousand years ago are now being fulfilled. These prophecies found in the Bible are the lights that reveal the future.

Of the days in which we live, the Bible has this to say: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves." The root of war and strife is selfishness. Without ambition to exalt self, and a covetous, envious spirit, all war would soon cease. But in the last days selfishness will increase among men. Multitudes will seek to exalt self. Disregard for the rights of others will be manifested. General turmoil will result.

INCREASING SORROWS

IN reply to a question concerning the signs of the last days put to Him by His disciples, the Son of God said: "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." If ever the world was filled with these things it is now. The past decade has seen the largest war in history; the most dreadful famine has occurred, and the greatest earthquake has taken place. Every year sees the world filled with more floods, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes than ever before. This world, as foretold by the Son of God, is nearing its end. It is becoming like an old man who is unsteady and tottering and about to die.

Of wars that shall take place in the last days, the Scriptures have much to say. There are to be general wars, both civil and international, from year to year. The preparation for war is to be intense. But the culmination of these events will find the whole world arrayed on one side or another. Then the last great war will break out. With the marvelous weapons of destruction that men have invented, they will slay one another until the God of heaven intervenes and halts the carnage. We are even now face to face with this last world war.

THE MARSHALLING HOSTS

THERE are many passages in the Bible that tell of the preparation for this great event. With clear vision the prophets portrayed the very events that are now taking place in the nations of the East.

Nearly three thousand years ago the prophet Joel, under the inspiration of God, spoke the following words: "Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your ploughshares into swords, and your pruning-hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong. Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause Thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord. Let the heathen be awakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat; for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow: for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel." Joel 3: 9-16.

(Concluded on page 14)

PROFITING FROM THE LESSONS OF THE PAST

VALUABLE lessons may be learned from the history of the past, but how few seem to take advantage of these and profit by them. Before the Great War burst upon the world, causing devastation and sorrow incalculable, there were those who realised that the preparations for war that were being made so thoroughly and on such a large scale by all the leading nations, would surely come to a head in a world-wide outburst of hostilities. Warning voices were raised from time to time, but the world in general took little heed, and there can be no doubt that when the World War commenced most people were taken by surprise. Many thought that the nations were too civilised to go to war with one another.

In looking recently through a volume of a religious paper published in London, we noticed the following interesting comment in the issue of the paper dated August 18, 1904, ten years before the outbreak of the World War:—

"Thinking men can see that there is only one natural and logical result to the great preparations for war which are now becoming general. The burdens of militarism grow heavier and heavier. The Far East is involved in the troubles of the Near East. The world is hastening on to the battle of Armageddon. Looking east and west and north and south we see in every direction vast possibilities of trouble. International interests are becoming so involved that it is impossible to feel secure in any quarter against a sudden outbreak of hostilities, which may easily become general. In his much-discussed letter to the *Times* Tolstoy wrote:—

"Not to mention the economical problems which become more and more complex, those mutual relations between the states arming themselves against each other and at any moment ready to break out into wars clearly point to the certain destruction toward which all so-called civilised humanity is being carried."

Today, in spite of disarmament conferences and much peace talk, the nations are steadily building up armaments—huge battleships, deadly submarines, high-powered, swift, and effectively armed airships and aeroplanes—and dozens of scientists and experts are putting forth to the full all their inventive genius and highly developed mental powers in the originating or perfecting of means whereby life and property may be destroyed.

Truly the world is being carried forward to destruction, but the vast majority of earth's inhabitants seem to be indifferent to the lessons of the past and regardless of the impending danger. This is as the Saviour said it would be when describing the days just preceding His second coming. He likened these days to the days of Noah, when men were wholly given up to the pursuit of material things and heeded not the heaven-sent messages of warning and calls to repentance. "The Flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be," declared Jesus. Matt. 24: 39. And the Apostle Paul, writing of the way in which the world shall be overtaken by the day of the Lord, says: "When they are saying, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall in no wise escape." "But ye, brethren," he continues, "are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief: for ye are all sons of light, and sons of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep, as do the rest, but let us watch and be sober." 1 Thess. 5: 3-6, R.V.

Truly we need to take heed to the warnings and exhortations given to us by the Saviour and His apostles concerning the great danger that exists in these days of our being deceived by the many voices that

are crying, "Peace, peace," when all the time thorough preparations are being made for further war. Let us profit by the positive declarations of the sure Word of prophecy, by the lesson of the Great War, and by the many signs all around us announcing in no uncertain tones that time is rapidly drawing to a close, and that soon the Saviour will appear to put an end to this present world regime and to establish His everlasting kingdom. To be unprepared in that great day will mean our eternal loss; to be prepared will mean an eternity of bliss, the glories of which "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man."

F.

TRAVELLING TOWARD ANARCHY

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE spoke truly when, in discussing the threatened disintegration of government by the forces that are opposing the present order, he declared:—

"Such is not civilisation, but a plain reversion to the jungle. Without the protection of the law and the imposition of its authority, equality cannot be maintained, liberty disappears, and property vanishes. This is anarchy. The forces of darkness are travelling in that direction."

One of our contemporaries, in referring to this declaration and to the conditions which Communism is seeking to bring about, remarks:—

"Surely Australia will take warning by what is happening in other countries. Communists, who are responsible for the recent world-wide agitation, may well be referred back to Russia, the present institutions of which they are desirous of setting up here."

However, it is easier to refer them back to Russia than to see to it that they go. They will not go; for the agitation and propaganda of Communism are not being carried on for the purpose of taking people to Russia, but for the deliberate purpose of reproducing here and in all other nations exactly what is now in operation in Russia. The same agitation and propaganda are being carried on in all the nations of earth—not for the purpose of increasing the population of Russia, but to make the whole world a replica of the Russia that we know today. The world must yet pass through its "time of Jacob's trouble," and these contending forces are setting the stage for that troublous time. The clouds are dark and threatening; but he who dwells under the shadow of the Almighty will dwell securely, and none others will. "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust." Ps. 91: 2. "In the shadow of Thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast." Ps. 57: 1.

True Success in the Pulpit

THE future sphere of the pulpit is along the line of devotional inspiration, to elevate the spiritual part of man to a dominant position in his life, to make his religion not occasional but constant. This can be done only by men in the pulpit who have so entered into the spirit of the gospel that it clothes them with ambassadorial rank and makes them able to speak with regal authority. Such men can be found only among those who stand close to the Bible and whose allegiance to that Book is based upon a knowledge of its contents more profound than anything which intellectual astuteness can discover.—Quoted in *"The Work of the Ministry,"* page 274.

OUR WAR MEMORIALS

C. M. SNOW

ON these two pages facing each other we have reproduced two of the most magnificent war memorials that have yet been erected to the memory of brave men who went down in the fearful welter of war during the trying years, 1914-1918. Men have always praised the bravery of their fellow men in deeds of war and sacrifice, and every civilised country in the world has its war memorials; and every uncivilised country passes on from lip to lip its war memorials also in tales of hardship and conquest. Billions have been spent in wars and millions in commemorating wars, and in keeping alive in the hearts of men the sufferings and the valorous deeds of those who perished for their country's ideals.

It is a sad commentary upon man's ability to civilise himself that these ornate memorials of human sufferings and slaughter greet the eye of men in every "civilised" land of earth. Men may have differences with their neighbours, and they settle them, without bloodshed, in courts of law. The boundaries and the rights of municipalities and of states are settled by higher courts; and the great interests of the Commonwealth are adjudicated in the highest court. But the conflicting interests of nations with other nations it seems impossible to settle thus. The uncivilised barbarian in the days when the earth was young settled his difficulties with his neighbours with the club, the arrow, the spear, and the sling. Today, when the great nations differ, a kind of glorified barbarism grips the lever of the world's control. The club becomes a sword, the arrow becomes a bullet, the spear becomes a bayonet, and the sling becomes a modern cannon; and we have gone beyond those similitudes in the submarine, the mine, the flame-thrower, the disease disseminator, the poison gas, and the bomb-dropping airship and aeroplane.

These war memorials of this day do not memorialise only the brave deeds of those who sacrificed their lives for their country and their loved ones. They memorialise also the fearful tragedies enacted in the terrible work done by all those instruments of suffering and death. Every such memorial and every shaft erected in the acres upon acres of cemeteries where dead soldiers sleep, tell us that this world is not at peace. The world is hungry and is starving for peace. Where are the memorials and monuments to its achievement? They are yet to be erected; but they will not be seen this side of the Judgment day.

Beside or around one of these two great war memorials sleep 56,000 British soldiers—a fearful tribute paid into the yawning coffers of the god of war! But that contribution, great as it is, is a mere fraction of the mighty multitudes that went down in that one great war alone; and when we compare that great number with all the aggregate host that has perished in war since the world began, there is really no comparison. It, with all the sorrow and distress which it entailed, sinks out of sight in view of the fearful host that have gone down under the chariot wheels of the god of war.

Must it always be thus? Cannot man create a parliament of man that will control all the warring and clashing interests and settle all international disputes?—No. The odds are too heavy against him; the human heart is too subtle and too fickle; the selfishness of man too dominant; the clashing interests of the nations are too long-seated and their animosities too bitter. It will never be. The spirit of war



The Scottish National War Memorial Shrine on the castle rock in the grounds of Edinburgh Castle, erected to the memory of Scotland's 100,000 sons who fell in the Great War.

Sport & General Photo

created by devils in heaven, will never be quenched by puny men on earth.

Is there, then, no hope for peace and quietness on this earth?—There is; but it is not in plans or powers of man. It will come when the clashing nations have been broken by the rod of the Almighty, when the world war of Armageddon has demonstrated the futility of men's efforts to guarantee the peace of the world. The Almighty will then take to Himself His own great power and rule.

What about war memorials then? There will not be one left in all this world. When He comes whose right it is to rule, "A fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people." Ps. 50: 3, 4. Then will go forth the decree: "Gather My saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice. And the heavens shall declare His righteousness: for God is judge Himself." Verses 5, 6. That devouring fire which goes before the Judge of all the earth to execute judgment against sin and confirmed sinners, will leave nothing of the works of sinful men to mar the beauty of the restored earth. It was concerning this very consummation—the destruction of war for ever—that this scripture was uttered through the Spirit of Inspiration:—

"Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations He hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; He breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; He burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God." Ps. 46: 8-10.

When God has finished with sin and all the results of sin, He will purify the earth with fire from every-

their inheritance. God was thinking of them and of that time when this was indited:—

"Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from hearing of evil; he shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure. Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty: they shall behold the land that is far off." Isa. 33: 14-17.

In speaking, in the same chapter, of the restored inheritance, these words are used by the same divine authority:—

"But there the glorious Lord will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby. For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us. . . . And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity." Verses 21-24.

The gallant ship and the galley with oars represent the vessels of war. They will not be seen in the earth made new. Nothing that can offend will be there; the spirit of war will be gone; and the only war memorials that will ever be seen in the universe when God has finished with sin, will be the memorials of the war against sin that will be seen in the side, the hands, and the feet of our blessed Redeemer—the wounds of the spear and the scars of the nails. Those wounds are the divine signature that witnesses to our freedom from sin and from the condemnation of death, the fruit of sin.

When that shall have been accomplished—and the time of its accomplishment draws near—then shall the tongue of the dumb sing, the ears of the deaf will be opened, the eyes of the blind will be unsealed for ever, those that had been sick will be as though they had never known pain or disease, and those that were lame or deformed as though they had been born in perfection of body and had never known lameness. The desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose, and the parched places be made glad

with water in abundance. The rough and rugged places of this present earth will be made smooth and beautiful by the hand that fashioned its loveliness before sin came in to mar and ruin, and the whole earth will be as the Garden of Eden.

That is the blessed promise and prospect which the Book of God holds out before the eyes of the children of earth today. We have demonstrated its truthfulness and dependability in so many ways that we know these promises cannot fail. We build



Sport & General Photo

A view of the opening ceremony of Britain's new Menin Gate Memorial Arch overlooking the Ypres Salient, where lie 56,000 British soldiers with no known graves.

thing that would remind us of the days and ways of sin, everything that has been out of harmony with His purpose of righteousness. The people will then indeed learn war no more; for the Prince of peace will have made an end for ever of war and all that had to do with war. We will neither see nor hear of war memorials in the earth made new when the fires of God's cleansing judgment have burned out every seed and root of sin. Those cleansing fires will not injure the righteous redeemed nor endanger

upon solid rock when we build upon them, and in the comfort of their blessed assurances we rest and trust until His time of deliverance shall come. Then, if faithful, we can look up and say, "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.

A STRIKING LESSON

THE lesson of the Queensland strike is a striking one. The leaders of discontent among industrialists are usually unbelievers in the Bible. We do not know of a single prominent leader in the industrial strife of the present day who is a professed Christian. There may be many in the ranks of labour who would subscribe themselves as Catholics, Anglicans, or Methodists, or of some other denominational connection; but not so of those who have forced themselves to the front in the contest against capitalism. The leaders in Communism and Bolshevism are avowed infidels, and are warring as much against religion as against capitalism, because they look upon religion as a kind of opiate by means of which capitalism holds the common people back and holds them down and keeps them from asserting themselves against the present order of things.

Nevertheless, the very fierceness of the contest between these two factors of society demonstrates the truth of the Scriptures which they deride. Labour feels that it has been defrauded of its just share in the wealth which it has helped to produce; that it has been enslaved in the service of the capitalist, and the term "wage-slave" is frequently used. It feels that it should not only be in control of all industrial activities, but that it should control the governments of earth as well, and operate them in its own class interests. "Class consciousness" is a term which it frequently uses in urging fellow employees to band together and hold together in the interests of its class.

Now all these developments and this struggle were seen by the eye of the prophets long ago. Their appearance in our day demonstrates the truth of the Scriptures, and they demonstrate also that we are even now living in "the last days." These developments were to appear in the last days. They are here now; therefore we are in the last days. But they are not the only sign we have to prove where we are living. They furnish a striking proof; but only one of many. If they had appeared in some previous age, they would prove nothing as to the nearness of our Lord's return, for they would not corroborate other signs. But they were to appear in a time when other signs also were fulfilled or fulfilling. These also have been seen and recorded, and demonstrate by their fulfilment also that the time of the end is near. This sign of industrial strife is corroborative evidence to the same effect.

The Apostle James was given a view of the strife and discord and terror that would arise in the last days of this world because of the animosity between the employer and the employed. He makes it very clear that the labourers would rise against their employers, and cause distress, perplexity, and anguish of soul. How striking and emphatic are these words:—

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure

together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you." James 5: 1-6.

That is God's indictment of the capitalist who has dealt unjustly with his employee, who has defrauded the employee of that which he had justly earned. Now while God does not justify the labourer in taking vengeance into his own hands, He does declare what the labourer will do; and He shows plainly that the labourers, when they have risen against capitalism, will wreak a vengeance that will leave sorrow and woe and desolation—miseries that will cause the capitalist to "weep and howl" over what has come upon him. Let the reader note also that the riches which were gathered by fraud and which the labourer destroys in vengeance, were "heaped together" "for the last days." Therefore the developments described in these words are developments of the last days of this world. The labourers make these demonstrations in different states and nations, always increasing that feeling of class-consciousness, and with every defeat growing more bitter and more determined. In Russia every specification of that scripture has already been fulfilled. How soon it will occur in the other nations no one as yet can tell. That it will be fulfilled to the letter is just as certain as that it has already been partially fulfilled. It is a sign of the last days, and therefore a sign of the nearness of our Lord's return.

The end of the world is always associated with the Judgment. So in this same scripture we read God's admonition to His own people while these developments are taking place, and they warn us of the Judgment associated therewith. These are His words: "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. . . . Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. . . . Behold, the Judge standeth before the door." James 5: 7-9.

The Christian, knowing what these developments mean and what they portend, will not be contentious. If he is an employer, he will deal justly with his employees; if he is an employee, he will render faithful service, and will suffer wrong rather than do wrong. The time left to us in this world, little as it is, is better employed in winning souls and winning eternal life, than in winning higher wages, even though they are really earned, or in winning bigger dividends at the expense of other people's rights and other people's comforts. "Behold, the Judge standeth before the door." The time is short at best; the Lord's coming draweth nigh; let us be concerned over that rather than over the gathering of things that will perish when He comes.

He who waits to do a great deal of good at once will never do any. To found a university may not be in our power, but we can give a cup of cold water in the name of Christ.—*Samuel Johnson.*

THE world's Redeemer was treated as we deserve to be treated, in order that we might be treated as He deserved to be treated. . . . He was condemned for our sins, in which He had no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share.—*Ellen G. White.*



World Events in the Light of Prophecy

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Our Coming Alterations

FOR years this journal has been published at a loss. Its publishers have never expected or cared to make a profit out of the circulation of a journal whose purpose was purely evangelical. This publishing house through all the years of the history of this journal has considered its losses on the SIGNS OF THE TIMES as a contribution to missionary work, and has suffered it gladly. Our mission is to bring light and comfort and hope wherever the pages of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES are read.

Nevertheless, there is a limit to most things in this world; and we have reached the limit of our ability to bear the burden of the financial loss which the publication of this paper, at its present price, entails. We have decided, therefore, that with the first issue in November, we would alter our journalistic appearance, appear in a new dress and new make-up, and ask our friends and acquaintances to help us a little more liberally than in the past in bearing the cost of our publication. While the cost of single copies will be raised from one penny to twopence, our annual subscription rates will be increased only by 50 per cent. That is, yearly subscriptions will be increased from five shillings to seven shillings and sixpence; half-yearly subscriptions will be increased to four shillings. It is our design to make the paper more attractive in every way and more worthy of the great cause which it represents.

Please note this, however: All new subscriptions or renewals of subscriptions reaching us before November 1 will be accepted at the old rate of five shillings for the year for one or more years. Why not take advantage of this liberal offer, and secure the paper at the old rate in its new and improved appearance for one or more years to come? We thank you for your patronage through the past, and pray that God may greatly bless both readers and publishers in the winning of souls and the proclamation of His message through the danger-fraught days that yet remain.

The Hope That Cheered and Always Cheers

WHEN the heart loses hope, the soul goes down. When hope comes into a downcast soul, that soul is lifted into the sunlight, and new life thrills the being.

The true Christian is the happiest being in this world. He knows that he has this life, with all its opportunities for service and satisfaction, to whatever span it may reach out, and beyond that there loom the grand vistas of the eternal world and eternal life in which to enjoy them. That hope is what

has turned the deserts of sin into the glad gardens of the Lord; that is what has turned many a dreary life of selfishness into a life of service for others, and given gladness and satisfaction for gloom and disappointment.

That grand servant and hero of the cross of Christ, the Apostle Paul, writing to Titus, whom he loved as his own son, speaks of that experience in words that cheer the heart of the Christian today: "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Titus 2: 13. That buoyed him up. In that hope he could cross the stormiest seas, face the fury of the mob or the prospect of the arena with its hungry lions, or the cruel sword of Nero. It gives joy for sorrow, satisfaction for disappointment, sunshine for shadows, health for sickness, and life for death. Why should not the Christian be glad with such a prize and such an inheritance in his possession?

The Bible is full of this glorious hope; the Saviour Himself has declared its certainty; the angels have declared it; and the restoration of the lost dominion will come only when that hope is realised, and the servants of the great God, the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, are gathered into the inheritance man forfeited through sin, and that was won back for him again in the life and sacrifice and love of Christ.

TO DOUBT THAT HOPE IS TO INSULT GOD

"I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14: 2, 3. Jesus Christ was the accepted Messenger and Gift of God the Father. What He spoke He spoke as from God. The comforting promise just quoted was spoken by His own lips, and He spoke as the mouthpiece of the Father. To doubt that declaration is to make Divinity a liar and block every avenue of our approach to the Godhead.

When those lonely and sorrowing disciples to whom that promise of comfort was given stood looking up into heaven, following as long as the eye could follow the course of their departing Lord, the promise of the One who had been their Companion and was indeed their Saviour, was reiterated and emphasised by the two angels who stood by their side. "This same Jesus," they declared, "which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." Acts 1: 11. The Apostle Paul repeated the promise, and made it a most striking declaration: "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thess. 4: 16-18. But Inspiration does not leave us even with such important witnesses as these; for, speaking through the Apostle John in the Revelation, He declares: "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen." Rev. 1: 7.

How Inspiration piles up the evidence, testimony upon testimony, so that no one who reads the Word of God should be able to say he did not know, or was not warned, that Christ would return to this earth again. There is the witness of the Bible through

all the prophecies of old, the witness of the Spirit, the witness of the angels, and crowning it all, the direct and positive testimony of that One Himself who is to come. Some have received an impression that His coming is at the death of His children; others that he comes in a secret manner and quietly gathers His own and leaves the rest of mankind behind; and still others declare that He never will return. Such must declare untrue the testimonies to which we have referred. They take issue with God Himself as He has declared Himself in His holy Book. In the 50th Psalm we have this positive declaration:—

"Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people. Gather My saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice. And the heavens shall declare His righteousness: for God is judge Himself." Ps. 50: 3-6.

This declaration of the Almighty is in perfect keeping with many other scriptures, and there are none that it is out of harmony with. It is a part of the programme of God for mankind and for this world. It is the culmination of His great and eternal purpose concerning both. The moment sin entered into this world, that programme was put into operation which must culminate in the second coming of Christ, the punishment of sin by the cleansing fires of the last day, and the eternal reward of those who have proved faithful to Him in spite of all the allurements of "the world, the flesh, and the devil."

It is of no use for man to say, "Such a thing can never be; it is impossible." If man had looked upon the empty void of space where this universe now floats, and had heard an angel say that God was going to create a universe here, where at that time there was nothing visible, he would doubtless have said, "Such a thing can never be; it is impossible." Nevertheless, the universe stands today, and we stand upon one portion of it, because God "spake"; and because He spake, "it was," and still is—and we are here, our very existence a mute testimony to the power of His word. And that word is ever powerful in everything concerning which it speaks. Because His word is thus powerful, we know that we can depend absolutely upon every promise which He has made concerning our redemption and concerning the reward of His own people.

The declaration of John the Baptist concerning Christ took in His second coming as well as His first, when he said: "I indeed baptise you with water; but One mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: He shall baptise you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor, and will gather the wheat into His garner; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire." Luke 3: 16, 17. How like is this to the statement of the Psalmist previously quoted! There judgment, punishment, cleansing, and reward are combined in one great event; and so it is here.

Note the similarity between these declarations and the declaration of the Saviour Himself when speaking of the events connected with His return to this world: "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and He shall set the sheep

on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. . . . Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Matt. 25: 31-41.

ARE WE NEARING THAT TIME?

EVERY element of nature and every relationship of life point to the realisation of the Christian's hope in the coming of his blessed Lord. It will be a time of glory and a time of gloom; a time of light and a time of darkness; a time of great joy and a time of deepest distress; a time of reward most precious and of punishment most terrible; a time of life and a time of death. And which kind of time it is for us will depend entirely upon what relation we have sustained to the gospel of Christ, to the Gift of God, to the offer of salvation. Signs which Jesus Himself gave to forewarn the world and the church of the nearness of His return have been fulfilled to the letter. Signs given by the Spirit of Inspiration through the apostolic writers have been fulfilled or are in process of fulfilment now. The heavens, the earth, and the sea all are giving their unequivocal testimony that the coming of the Judge of all the earth draws nigh. The appeal of the world to the human soul will drag multitudes down to perdition. On the other hand, the appeal of a risen Saviour, of a gospel of love, will win out of every land some who put the things of eternity above the things of time, and the riches that are imperishable above those that tarnish with time and have in them the poison of death. Choose, O child of dust, and choose on the side of God and the things that endure.

Mr. Law Mutilates the Law

An Examination of a Tract Attacking a Fundamental Doctrine of the Bible

(Concluded)

IN our issue of last week we reviewed a portion of a tract entitled "Rest," and pointed out the weakness of some of the arguments used by the writer of the tract, Mr. A. Law, in his endeavour to prove the abolition of the seventh-day Sabbath. One of his statements that we disproved reads: "That the apostolic church met for worship, and to keep the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week is plain enough to any candid mind that reads Acts 20: 7 and 1 Cor. 16: 2." Our examination of these two texts showed that they in no way furnish any proof that Sunday was observed in a religious manner by the apostolic church, much less that the first day of the week had been substituted for the Sabbath as the weekly rest-day.

THE LORD'S DAY

FOLLOWING the statement just quoted, Mr. Law says: "The Apostle John, in Rev. 1: 10, calls it the Lord's day, and John's disciples did likewise." There is no proof, however, that by the term "the Lord's day" John meant the first day of the week to be understood. In his Gospel, which was written after the Book of Revelation, according to the opinion of the best scholars, John does not use the term "the Lord's day," but merely "the first day of the week." As one writer (not a Sabbath-keeper) says, "If a current day was intended, the only day bearing this

definition, in either the Old or New Testaments, is Saturday, the seventh day of the week."—W. B. Taylor, in the *"Obligation of the Sabbath,"* page 296.

In Isa. 58: 13 the Lord speaks of the Sabbath as "My holy day"; and Christ declared Himself "Lord also of the Sabbath." Mark 2: 28. Certainly the seventh day of the week is more entitled to the term "the Lord's day" than is the first day, a day which the Lord has never claimed as His, or given any title of sacredness whatsoever.

In a note on Rev. 1: 10, Dr. Weymouth, in his "New Testament in Modern Speech," says: "In the 'Teaching of the Apostles,' XIV, we read, 'Every Lord's [day] of the Lord come together and break bread.' Otherwise we have no reason to suppose that Sunday had yet received its present name of 'the Lord's day.'"

It will be noticed that Dr. Weymouth has placed the word "day" in brackets, for it is not represented in the Greek of this passage. It is very doubtful, too, whether the expression that he has translated "every Lord's [day] of the Lord" can be so translated. In the Greek the phrase is *κατὰ κυριακὴν κυρίου* which translated literally would read, "according to the Lord's of the Lord." It seems evident that the Greek text is incomplete or else corrupted. The passage furnishes no proof, surely, that Sunday is here referred to as "the Lord's day"! And yet, according to Dr. Weymouth, apart from this passage, "we have no reason to suppose that Sunday had yet received its present name of 'the Lord's day.'" We may mention that the document known as "The Teaching of the Apostles" is one concerning which there is much difference of opinion among scholars. Its author, or authors, and the date and place of its composition are unknown. Concerning it Dr. Schaff says: "It is not free from superstitious notions and mechanical practices, which are foreign to apostolic wisdom and freedom."—*"The Oldest Church Manual,"* page 138.

THE STATEMENT OF IGNATIUS

MR. LAW also appeals to the writings of Ignatius and of Barnabas. To quote:—

"Ignatius wrote A.D. 100. Those who were concerned with old things have come to newness of confidence, no longer keeping Sabbath, but living according to the Lord's day."

Mr. Law has not placed this statement from Ignatius within quotation marks, but we presume he meant his readers to understand that he was giving an exact quotation of the words of Ignatius. However, this statement as given by Mr. Law, and as it is commonly quoted by those who use it in defence of Sunday sacredness, does not correctly represent the expression as it is found in the epistle of Ignatius.

It may be as well to state here that there are two recensions (the "shorter" and the "longer") of the Ignatian epistles. Of the shorter recension Neander says:—

"Even the briefer revision, which is the one most entitled to confidence, has been very much interpolated."

In this shorter recension the expression in the Greek is as follows: "*μηκέτι σαββατίζοντες, ἀλλὰ κατὰ κυριακὴν ζωὴν ζώμετες.*" As translated by Dr. J. A. Hessey, these words read: "No longer observing the Sabbath, but living according to the Lord's life." Cox gives the same translation except that he has "observing Sabbaths" instead of "observing the Sabbath." As may be seen from the Greek text and the English translation, there is here no mention whatever of "the Lord's day." This is but a sample

of the ways in which so-called Sunday sacredness is bolstered up by garbled quotations.

THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL AND THE SABBATH

AGAIN we quote from Mr. Law's tract:—

"Of course many converted Jews and Judaizing teachers ever tried to force on the church, the Sabbath, and circumcision, and other rites, and the apostles had to write to the Gentile Christians saying they had given no such commandment." We are then referred to Acts 15. If this chapter is read carefully it will be seen that the question of Sabbath observance did not enter into the dispute at all. Mr. Law has read into this chapter something that is not there even by inference.

CONSTANTINE'S SUNDAY LAW

AFTER the statement quoted above Mr. Law says:—

"Such influences continued to work till Constantine, A.D. 274 to 337, professed conversion. He soon began to make Christian practices become national laws, and the conflicting teaching respecting the Hebrew Sabbath and the Christian's Lord's day was discussed at the Council of Laodicea, A.D. 364, and the council decided for the first day of the week."

From the beginning of the second century and on, the church became more and more corrupt, owing to the influx of pagan practices and philosophy, and Constantine's connection with the church and his laws pertaining to its ordinances are no credit to the church. Concerning Constantine's action with regard to Sunday observance Dean Stanley remarks:—

"The retention of the old pagan name '*Dies Solis*,' or 'Sunday,' for the weekly pagan festival, is, in great measure, owing to the union of pagan and Christian sentiment with which the first day of the week was recommended by Constantine to his subjects, pagan and Christian alike, as the 'venerable day of the sun.' . . . It was his mode of harmonising the discordant religions of the empire under one common institution."—*"Lectures on the History of the Eastern Church,"* page 184.

The action of the Council of Laodicea shows how far the leaders in the church had gone in their compromise with paganism. It was only one of many councils that were needed, by threats of excommunication and by anathemas, to suppress true Sabbath keeping in favour of the observance of Sunday.

THE SABBATH ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

IN a closing paragraph in his tract, Mr. Law says:—

"Friend, whoever you are, study your Bible carefully, prayerfully, obediently, and be on your guard against false teachers, and books that contain much error."

We would advise our readers in the same words, for we know that if the Bible is studied carefully, prayerfully, and obediently, it will lead the student to see that the only day that God asks us to observe in a sacred manner is the Sabbath, the seventh day of the week. If this is observed in the spirit of Christ, we shall indeed find rest unto our souls. F.

"You may not be able to change the temperature or regulate storm and sunshine, but you can adjust your mind concerning these things, and thus determine your pleasure or pain."

The Crowning Event of the Ages

GEORGE W. WELLS

ALMOST every one has heard of the scarlet thread that runs through all the rope in use in the British navy. The golden cord of gospel truth regarding the second advent of the Lord is likewise found running through all the warp and woof of the Holy Scriptures. Open the Book where you may, either in the Old Testament or in the New, and you find this blessed truth unfolding. What may appear in the Old Testament rather hidden or concealed, in the New Testament is clearly opened and revealed.

This glorious doctrine cannot be left out of the teachings of the Sacred Book if we are to have the living word that cheers and blesses the hearts of men. As well think of extracting the entire nervous system from the human body, and expect to find a living organism left. Around this great truth and the divine statement of the Lord Himself cluster many of the assuring promises of final reward.

THE TOUCHSTONE

TAKE this golden cord of truth from the faith of the church, and you leave her without one of the chief fundamental pillars of Scriptural doctrine—one that has led her through the years to be faithful to her trust. Say what you may, the fact stands out clearly. Through all the travels of the church of Christ, whenever she has believed in the visible, personal return of her blessed Lord, she has always exalted the infallibility, the authority, and the binding claims of the Word of God. She has lifted up the crucified and risen Saviour and His priestly work for sinners in the court of heaven as man's only hope. Likewise, she has emphasised all the doctrines of grace, and trusted in the Holy Spirit as Comforter and Guide.

It is inconceivable to think of an individual or a church that fully believes and understands the nature and purpose of the soon return of the personal Lord in visible power and great glory being neglectful of intercessory prayer, or growing worldly and self-centred. The very thought of His coming leads to deep devotion, enlarged beneficence, and great earnestness in personal service for the salvation of others. It leads to holiness of life, purity of heart, and a definite preparation for this glorious event.

This thought is in perfect accord with the teaching of the Scriptures, for the beloved disciple, in commenting on this great event, speaks of those who "shall be like Him" "when He shall appear"; and they "shall see Him as He is." And, he states, "Every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." 1 John 3: 2, 3. And why should this not be so? We know that in the judgment work that precedes His coming, and is now in session, every case will be carefully examined, and the final decision reached that must irrevocably determine the destiny of every soul. When the righteous Lord appears, His searching eye will look man through and through; and, if sin and impurity still lurk in the heart, cherished and covered, he cannot stand, for only the pure in heart can see God.

OUR MEDIATOR

THE blessed Lord, our only Mediator, now stands at the right hand of the throne of God. He ever lives to make intercession for us, pleading the merits of His shed blood that cleanses us from all unrighteousness; therefore, why should we not daily breathe out

the sincere prayer, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Ps. 139: 23, 24.

Why should men think it a thing incredible that Christ should come again? Two thousand years ago He was here; was born in Bethlehem, and thus identified Himself with earth-born children by ties of nature that are as enduring as the eternal ages, and to this very hour He is still "the Man Christ Jesus," whose heart and interest are centred in His followers and in their preparation and readiness to meet Him at His second appearing. It is true, He was not a welcome guest of earth, for "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1: 11, 12. While here on earth, He organised His church, established it upon the Rock, Himself being the chief corner-stone. Defective and enfeebled, needing to be corrected and instructed, the church is the only object of earth upon which the Lord bestows His supreme love and regard. He "loved the church, and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it, . . . that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

WAITING FOR HIM

SOME decades ago the *Royal Charter*, a magnificent English ship, was making her tour around the world, touching at all important ports. On her return voyage, as she approached her destination, a message was sent from Queenstown that she would arrive in Liverpool next morning. It is said that many sat up all night waiting for her; also, that the Lord Mayor of London, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, and thousands were there to welcome her.

But the time for the return of that "certain Nobleman," who went "into a far country to receive for Himself a kingdom" (Luke 19: 12), has arrived. The definite and personal promise of the Lord to His disciples that He would come again, is about to be realised. He comes as Captain of the Lord's hosts. And why should He not send an advanced message of His approach to cheer the hearts of His children? Yes, the word has gone out, and is still going to all the world, "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." Rev. 3: 11. "Behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as His work shall be." Rev. 22: 12.

THE CONSUMMATION

THROUGHOUT the inspired Word special mention has been made of this all-important event, and a ringing call is made to all mankind to make speedy preparation to meet Him. In the Book of Revelation, chapter fourteen particularly, we have the basis of God's everlasting message unfolded. It is the gospel message which reveals God's power to save. It is a warning message against false worship and against giving allegiance to any other god than the true God and His holy, unchangeable law. It is Heaven's last warning to all violators of God's Ten Commandments. The call is, "Break off thy sins by righteous-

ness," and, "Keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

It will be observed that this message is world-wide. It goes to all nations and tongues, and when it is consummated, it has found in every land a class of whom it may be said, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14: 12. Following this Heaven-appointed gospel work, John said, "I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud One sat like unto the Son of man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle." "For the time is come for Thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe." Verses 14, 15.

Oh, the joy, the superlative joy, that will come to Jesus Christ and His holy angels when, as a result of His first visit to this earth, His death on the cross, and His blessed life, He sees men and women of all nations ready to meet Him; and when by Him and every angel, the redeemed throng are welcomed and led to the throne of glory, where they stand washed and cleansed and saved! A mighty throng that will be—a throng that no man can number. Rev. 7: 9. There the Lord presents this redeemed company faultless before His presence with exceeding joy.

The Captain of the old ship Zion is having the message of His near approach heralded to earth's remotest parts. The advent message is going by land and by sea; but, my dear reader, the mere fact that we may have heard the message and have a clear knowledge of its solemn import, and know that the day of the Lord's coming is near, will not of itself fit us for the event. Sin is a tremendous evil. It was sin that brought the Son of God from glory to suffer and die for a lost race, and set man free from its dominion and power, and God has decreed that it shall be brought to an end, and shall never again

enter His universe. Therefore, it must be purged from our hearts. And if we fail to seek most earnestly for holiness of life, cleanness of thought, and perfection of character, and are found at the day of our Lord's coming still tainted with cherished sin and our lives governed by unholy desires, we shall be weighed and found wanting, and thus be unprepared for translation day.

There must be a mighty turning away from sin in all its forms, a complete surrender of our very selves to God, a living connection with the personal Christ, and a consciousness of His abiding presence in the life. We should permit nothing in all the world to stand between us and the necessary personal heart preparation to meet the Saviour.

The reappearing of our blessed Lord and King is the crowning event of the ages. He will then take this sin-cursed, storm-tossed, blood-drenched, and sinking world under His control, for its full and complete reconstruction. The cruel reign of sin will be brought to an utter end. Everything that pertains to the Christian's future home and eternal happiness is dependent upon our Lord's return. Therefore, the second advent is spoken of as "the glorious appearing." It is pre-eminently and definitely the "blessed hope" of the Christian church. It is the glad home-coming of the ages. It is the one all-commanding event for which the good and holy of all past centuries have looked.

The redeemed of earth will then stand before the throne of God, to unite in strains of sweetest music and songs of everlasting praise, never again to shed a tear, or to know the pang of sorrow, disappointment, or pain; but, in the very presence of God, they may stand, where there is fullness of joy and pleasures for evermore. Let us live and pray to hasten that blessed and glad day.

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WOMAN'S REALM

Those Dark Moments in Discipline

EDITH LOCHRIDGE REID

NO matter how earnestly we have tried to guide our children in the right, there occasionally occurs for most of us a disappointing surprise at their conduct. And the way in which we meet these strange and disturbing situations is the test of our sympathy and strength of understanding.

George and Alice were neighbouring playmates. One morning they each took an apple from the waggon of the vegetable man when he wasn't looking. They giggled and ran behind a tree and ate the stolen fruit. The act was purely on impulse, and after the thrill had died away, they decided to confess.

Alice's mother scarcely waited for her to finish before she exclaimed in a trembling, tearful voice, "O darling, how could you be so wicked! You have hurt mother so that her heart is almost broken! That was a terrible thing for you and George to do!"

George's mother quietly listened to what her son told her of his difficulty. Her heart ached, of course, at this disappointing act, but she did not burst into hysterical reproaches. She was silent for a moment, and thoughtful. Then she inquired in a sympathetic tone, "Can you think of anything more that you would like to tell me about this?"

George looked right into his mother's eyes. He saw there a great constant love shining, and he took hope.

"I was just getting kind of hungry, when Tony came along with his truck. I didn't want to take time from play to come clear over home, so I grabbed the apple—and, mother, I'm sorry. I think I can run down the street and give Tony threepence from my allowance, if I hurry."

Outside George met Alice. "Say, listen," she said, and she was nervous and worried, "the next time we steal an apple, I don't dare let my mother know it, or she'll cry."

As a result of this one incident Alice became a less-confiding daughter. She had glimpsed a false standard of conduct. The fact that she had taken Tony's fruit was minimised and overshadowed by the thought that her mother had been hurt. Alice had not been met by an understanding attitude. She was in no way reformed, but she was more or less awed by the reaction of her mother, and her one thought had been to escape from her presence.

Naturally any of us are shocked at certain flagrant departures from normal conduct. But we cannot afford to lose our self-control and act shocked. The big issue that we face is not that our own pride has been dragged in the dust and our faith tested. What we must do above all is to hold tight that tie of confidence that will encourage our children to tell us everything, even though they have erred in judgment and conduct.

We must help our children to choose wisely. We

must direct our love and efforts toward training them in right standards and values, but they must not infer that lapses which "make mother feel bad" must be kept from her. These are the very confidences that they should bring to us. And when those confidences have been freely forthcoming, to scold or act grieved is to betray the trust, the hope of help and comfort, that the telling displayed.

Any child who is frank and penitent enough to admit a mistake is in no mood to be scolded, and any suggestion of sympathy and help that mother can give will create more genuine loyalty and desire for improved future conduct that a shocked attitude could ever do.

Any discipline, no matter how close its relation to the mother's personal feelings, must always be administered from the child's viewpoint and with loving regard for the effect of the incident on his future. He can, of course, be made to understand that his lapse has been serious, but mother can best show him this by her intense earnestness in analysing the situation, no matter how heartbreaking it may be. Her purpose must be to assist in character-building, and not to defend her own soul from grief and shock, though as she strives for and attains the higher aim, her own peace of mind will result.—*Issued by the National Kindergarten Association, New York, U.S.A.*

WORK as if you were working for your life to save the children from being drowned in the polluting, corrupting influences of the world.—*Ellen G. White.*



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THE BIBLE STUDY

Manner of Christ's Coming

1. Is Christ coming again?

"I will come again," John 14: 3.

2. At His ascension, how did the angels say Christ would come again?

"And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." Acts 1: 9-11.

3. How did Christ Himself say He would come?

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels." Matt. 16: 27. "Then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Matt. 24: 30. "For whosoever shall be ashamed of Me and of My words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He shall come in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels." Luke 9: 26.

4. What wonderful demonstration will accompany the Lord's coming?

"The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first." 1 Thess. 4: 16.

5. What warning has Christ given concerning false views of the manner of His coming?

"Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets; and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not," Matt. 24: 23-26.

6. How visible is His coming to be?

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Verse 27.

The Holy City

J. F. HAY

THERE is the greatness of His power, His love
Mysterious, ineffable, sweet "love."

Hiding itself in glorious majesty,

Acknowledged queen of all the attributes.

Expecting, yearning, for responsive beat

Rewarding such, with warmer, closer throb.

Hallowed, by Thy name, such tender love

Commands a soft approach, to guard its flow.

On sacred ground we stand, within these walls

Where "love" may safely here unveil its face.

Lo! all are holy here, and holier still,

A company awaits in temple near,

Yet more and more of unveiled love to know,

And sing its mysteries in unrivalled song.

Conquest of grace, "the Conqueror" here "locates,"

And shares with "captives" His palatial court,

Installs His throne, His angel retinues,

And here unveils His face to "captive" eyes.

The King of the eternities becomes

Like tender "mother" to His captives' tears;

Yearning for deeper love, He "captures" still,

And thrills the universe with deeds of grace.

Of INTEREST TO OUR READERS

THE publishers of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES wish to thank their many readers for their letters of appreciation which are continually being received. It is quite encouraging to know that our efforts to make this periodical the best of its kind have been more or less successful. Our aim has been to reach the largest number of readers, so that we have endeavoured to keep the price of the paper as low as possible. Even though we have had to record a heavy loss of several hundred pounds each year, we have hesitated to make a change in this respect. We find, however, that owing to the continual increase in the cost of production, we are now compelled to change the retail price from one penny to twopence per copy. We feel sure that our readers will agree with us that comparing the SIGNS OF THE TIMES with other religious periodicals, this increase is not unreasonable.

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On and After November 1, 1927

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Reaping the Whirlwind of War

(Continued from page 2)

THE ACTS IN THE DRAMA

FROM these words, which depict the future like a light piercing the darkness, we can clearly see the events that are soon to take place in the earth. Let us note the progressive steps in this last drama of the world:—

1. There is to be a general awakening among all nations, both large and small, both mighty and weak. This awakening, while taking place in every field of endeavour, will have its greatest manifestation in the preparation for war. The intensity of this work is revealed in the declaration that ploughshares will be beaten into swords, and pruning-hooks into spears. Those nations which have exalted the pursuits of agriculture and husbandry, and which have in former days lived peaceably, will now arise and prepare for war. Where in former days they have given much thought to the tilling of the soil and the pursuits of peace, they will now give time and attention to the preparation for war. How truly this is being fulfilled in China today, as well as in other nations of the East!

2. The so-called weak nations will declare their strength. There have always been powerful and weak nations dwelling side by side. The strong have oppressed the weak. The weak have been almost unresisting, feeling unable to cope with the situation. But that day is now past, and the general awakening has encouraged the weak nations to declare themselves against the strong. They determine no longer

to be oppressed. They desire to arise and shake off the yoke that has been placed upon them. This movement is gaining great strength in China, the same as it did a number of years ago in Turkey. Other weak nations under the thumb of mighty nations are bestirring themselves, and there is a general movement in all the earth among the so-called oppressed peoples. Some call this a movement of the East against the West. Others say it is a movement of the coloured races against the white race. It matters not how we may look at it. All can see that there is a restless preparation among all nations for war, and sooner or later a mighty conflict will take place in the earth.

3. These events take place at the time of the harvest of the earth. This is a symbol relating to the end of the world. At this time the Scripture says, "Multitudes" will be "in the valley of decision." This is the time of judgment. As the nations draw together in warlike array and set themselves for the battle, God is closing up the affairs of men. He is about to harvest the fruits of earth. There is the fruit that is worthless, and has in it the elements of decay. There is the fruit that is perfect. God prepares to gather in the good fruit of the harvest, and the bad fruit He will cast aside to perish.

4. When the conflict between the nations of earth is at its highest pitch, the Lord's voice will be heard from heaven. The earth will shake at the presence of the Lord of all the earth. The warring elements will cease their strife, and tremble before the judge of mankind. At that time the wicked will be destroyed, but the Lord will be the help of His people. Amidst the chaos of earth, and the terrible onward

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march to war and destruction, there is a note of hope. The Almighty God watches over all and is guiding and protecting those who live lives of righteousness and trust in Him.

Again we read in another scripture: "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits. . . . For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. . . . And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." Rev. 16: 12-16.

From this prophecy we learn the following:—

1. The drying up of the river Euphrates prepares the way of the kings of the East to come together to battle. This is a symbol, and is to be understood to mean the nation once governing the territory along the river Euphrates. This can mean no other nation than the Turks who have governed this region for over 1,000 years. It is also true that the present territory of this government has shrunk until very little is left. However, we find the Turk stronger in spirit than ever before. He is one of the weak and oppressed nations who have declared their strength. Because of his grievances against the strong nations of the earth he is ready to throw in his lot with other oppressed nations and open a way for the kings of the East to come against the kings of the West. Activity in all lands is making ready for this event.

2. The place of battle is called Armageddon. This is a definite place in the land of Palestine. It is a famous battle-ground where many of the ancient nations fought one another. It will be the final battle-ground of the earth. There God will fight against the nations of earth in their wickedness and greed. There He will punish men for marring the earth with sin. There He will descend in a cloud of fire and destroy the nations of earth.

3. When this great battle takes place, it is the final sign announcing the coming of the Prince of Peace, who will take over the affairs of earth. Then will be fulfilled these words, "And there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever." Rev. 11: 15.

We are fast approaching the final conflict of earth. Even now every nation of earth is feverishly preparing for war. Dreadful instruments of destruction are being invented. Millions are being spent to train and equip armies, to build battleships and airships. The world is an armed camp, the seas teem with ships of war, and the air is clouded with air-craft forming in battle array. There is no place hid from the elements of destruction.

We should think seriously whither the world is headed. Read the signs of the times that are taking place in China and in all the world. Prepare for the events about to take place. Seek Him who is your fortress. In God there is hope. Above the winds of strife and the waves of destruction He is watching over His own. Confess your sins, surrender to Him, and you will have nothing to fear. Then when the besom of destruction sweeps over the world your heart will be at peace, knowing that God is near to keep and to save. This event rapidly approaches. Make your peace with God today, and assure yourselves of His salvation.



"Always Tell Mother"

ALWAYS tell mother, she's willing to hear,
Willing to listen to tales of despair;
Tell her when trials and troubles assail,
Seek her for comfort when sorrows prevail.
Take mother's hand when temptations entice;
Ask for her counsel, seek mother's advice.

Always tell mother, in mother confide;
Foster no secrets from mother to hide.
Train your thoughts nobly, nor let your lips speak
Words that would kindle a blush on her cheek.
Mother stands ready her aid to impart;
Open to mother the door of your heart.

Always tell mother, your joys let her share;
Lift from her shoulders their burdens of care;
Brighten her pathway, be gentle and kind,
Strengthen the ties of affection that bind.
Tell her you love her; look up in her face;
Tell her no other can take mother's place.

—Selected.

The Children's Enemy

I HAVE heard a story of an old fox who, seeing a flock of ducks swimming in a stream quite near the shore, and, wishing to get one, began breaking off branches and floating them down.

At the first branch the ducks were much frightened and flew away, but, looking around and seeing no enemy, they soon came back and began enjoying themselves again.

At the second branch they flew a little way off, but, still seeing no harmful cause, they came back.

At the third branch they scarcely moved, though wondering, no doubt, what could be the cause of so unusual a thing; but soon they made up their minds that it must be a perfectly natural thing for branches to float down the stream so regularly, and kept on with their play.

When the old fox, who was hidden, saw that they were off their guard, he took a large branch in his mouth, so they could not readily see him, and swam into their midst, snatched a duck, and carried it off to his den.

This is just the way Satan is trying to destroy children. He knows that if he should show himself at once, the children would all shun him, so he begins, as it were, floating branches, very little ones at first.

We are startled at the sound of the slang word, but we soon get used to it, and by and by it does not sound so rude to us, so we go on.

Soon the hidden enemy sends down a larger "branch." We are horrified to hear some playmate use God's name in vain. But the next time we hear it, it does not startle us so, and after a while we get used to swearing and think that men should swear; then some day the enemy comes suddenly and tempts us, and almost before we know it we use words that at one time it shocked us to hear.

Let us all beware of the little branches, so that Satan cannot catch us and cause us to sin.—Selected.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

World Events in the Light of Prophecy

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AROUND THE WORLD

WOMEN students at various English universities now number nearly 9,000. In 1877, fifty years ago, there were only 71.

ANYONE may now fly from Chicago to San Francisco, U.S.A., with the speed of air mail. This route was opened on July 1. Those who prefer wings to steel may now travel from Boston to New York for the sum of £6, a distance of about 200 miles. The large expansion of the different aerial passenger lines began when the Post Office Department of the United States relinquished actual operation of the air-mail lines, on August 15, and let them out on contract. Private air-mail contractors are now able to carry passengers and express along with mail just as the railways do.

Work has been started on the Jordan-Yamuk section of a big scheme for utilising the River Jordan for the generation of electrical energy. In the Jordan, between Lake Tiberias and Jiselmijeh, about eight miles, there is a fall of 130 feet, which will be utilised. A supplementary part of the scheme, which is estimated to produce 130,000,000 kilowatts, provides for harnessing the water of the Yamuk, which flows into the Jordan five miles south of Lake Tiberias. The Jaffa, Haifa, and Tiberias sections have already been completed. It is anticipated that the Palestine Government will be a big consumer of current, that the railways will be eventually electrified, and that electric power will be extensively used for irrigation pumping.

THOUSANDS of soldiers in the World War suffered injuries to the brain. Shrapnel and gunshot, sometimes the surgeon's knife, removed part of the cerebellum, and thereafter the patient was deprived of those faculties previously controlled by that part of the brain. The aftermath manifested itself in shell shock, nervous diseases, and brain lesions. August Heckscher, New York philanthropist, some time ago endowed a hospital in Munich to treat such cases, in which unusual cures have been effected. The treatment consists in teaching the remaining sound portions of the brain to take over the functions, physical and mental, formerly under control of the cells no longer existent. Patience and perseverance are pre-requisites, and although many of the patients are merely improved rather than completely cured, hundreds have been restored to important places in society.

AMERICAN fire losses have increased from £34,400,000 annually to £110,000,000 in ten years, according to the National Fire Protection Committee. Losses in that country, it was stated, are ten times as great per capita as those in Europe.

A NEW source of paper supply is shortly to be exploited in Northern India—bamboo. Extensive tests have shown the feasibility of converting bamboo into paper pulp by treatment: first with sulphate of soda, giving unbleached pulp; then with bleaching powder, producing finished pulp.

ELECTRICITY generated by dust and high wind storms on the western sweep of Kansas prairies, U.S.A., has been added to the foes of the Kansas wheat crop. Reports of "electrocution" of thousands of acres of growing wheat this spring have been given cognizance by the state weather bureau and by the division of agriculture of the Kansas State Agricultural College at Manhattan. "It is a well-founded theory," said S. D. Flora, state weather observer, in commenting on the reports. "During dry seasons, the dust carries charges of electricity. Wire fences and windmills are charged, and the electricity will give off sparks half an inch long. I have no knowledge that growing plants will give off sparks. After such disturbances growing wheatfields turn brown and the wheat dies. The after-effects are similar to those of a severe frost."

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