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The Union Jack being unfurled over Tripoli after the entry of the Eighth Army under General Montgomery.

ENGLAND'S *Sixth* COLUMN

● A. W. CLARKE

Douglas Williams, war correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, in his book, "Retreat from Dunkirk," page 14, has said: "The British people at this time had little inkling of the catastrophe that was threatening its army, but so desperate in fact was the situation that in official quarters the main body of the force had already been given up for lost."

THE Right Honourable Viscount Halifax, former Viceroy of India, later Secretary of Foreign Affairs for Great Britain, now Ambassador to the United States, addressing the Empire by radio, July 25, 1940, said: "I heard the other day of a Yorkshire village where, after all the talk about a fifth column, the people had agreed to form a sixth column, in which they pledged themselves to try to give a few minutes each day in God's house to prayer."

This is a solemn agreement of a brave people whose homes, palaces, historical landmarks, hospitals, schools for their children, colleges and universities for their youth, business places, asylums for the infirm and unfortunates, ports, and even houses of worship were gradually but indiscriminately being bombed out of existence.

"Form a sixth column to give a few minutes each day to prayer." Noble resolution! Not only in Yorkshire is a sixth column formed, but throughout the British Commonwealth of Nations and in the United States are to be found thousands of sixth columns where men and women in prayer groups, or in isolated districts, are beseeching God to make this cruel war cease unto the ends of the earth.

The people of England have seen the agony of soul brought upon the conquered nations of the Continent, and have come to realize that their

own arm of flesh might fail; therefore to survive this trying hour, they must have something more than carnal weapons, something more precious than the jewels of India, or the gold of Africa, they must have the help of God, whose arm is not shortened that it cannot save. Prayer is their way out—the only way out.

This sixth column has in the past and on many occasions proved a blessing where physical force has failed, been most effective where a nation's armed forces have proved disappointing. On many occasions King George has called upon his people to seek God in penitence, in humility, in sorrow for secret or open sins. Numerous are the instances where heaven has heard and signally answered their prayers.

This sixth column has been a bulwark against discouragements, and a spiritual stimulus to the souls of men and women beset by trial and environed by death, but who are determined to keep the flickering torch of liberty from going out.

On the tenth of May, 1940, the great German offensive against Belgium and northern France began. Within sixteen days the Belgian armies collapsed, the Maginot Line was outflanked, and the British army of more than three hundred thousand men was in retreat. Its only avenue of escape was by the way of the beaches at and in the neighbourhood of Dunkirk.

Mr. Churchill, speaking on the fourth of June in the House of Commons, remarked: "I had expected it would be my hard lot to announce the greatest military disaster in our long history. I thought that perhaps twenty or thirty thousand men might be remembered. The whole root and core and brain of the British army on which and around which we were to build, and are to build, the great British armies of the later years of the war, seemed about to perish or to be led into ignominious captivity."

Unaware of all this catastrophe and desperate situation, the sixth column was at work across the English Channel and the Atlantic. From thousands of friends, mothers, sons, daughters, clergymen, and even government officials, prayers were ascending to God on behalf of loved ones on the embattled shores of France. In the interim Germany boasted that not an English soldier would escape capture or annihilation; but the sixth column was working. The British army was given forty-eight hours to surrender or be annihilated, but they refused to surrender. The whole world stood tense, waiting—waiting the crushing news of unconditional surrender. The British would not surrender, yet the sixth column, unaware of all this, was working hard.

Some speculated as to the final disposition of the mighty British fleet, after the collapse of the army and the

invasion of the British Isles. The sixth column was now working harder. Others predicted the removal of the seat of the government from London to Canada. It was then that the sixth column worked the hardest.

The defenceless soldiers on the sands of Dunkirk could do nothing but wait to see if deliverance would come. Waiting develops patience. The British are masters at waiting. Before them was the English Channel, behind them the hosts of Germany. The sixth column remembered that the Hebrews under Moses found themselves upon their exodus from Egyptian slavery facing the Red Sea, which they could not swim. The hosts of Pharaoh, pressing from their rear, made escape an utter impossibility. Moses told them to do the only thing they could do—"Stand still," meaning, "Wait." If deliverance was ever to be wrought, it must be the achievement of the living God.

Man's extremity is God's opportunity! But man must learn to wait on God. No man was ever forsaken who waited on God. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." At Dunkirk they were waiting, and one of the greatest miracles of modern times must be wrought or the most terrific slaughter enacted. Hundreds of thousands of men would not surrender. Well, they must be annihilated. Oh, but that sixth column was at work. Prayer and more prayer was its password.

Enemy planes circled overhead directing the movements of the oncoming troops; other planes machine-gunned the soldiers waiting to be extricated. Other planes defied the British to send a single ship to the rescue of a single man. The situation seemed hopeless. It was disheartening, it was desperate to the men trapped between the sea and the German armies. But not so desperate to the sixth column at work on the British side of the English Channel.

As if in answer to the sixth columnists, that very night it began to rain. A mist accompanied the rain, and a fog the mist. That was all—rain, mist, fog. Three simple things. God had taken a hand. This is not the first time He has appointed the common things of nature as His servants. The stars in their courses fought against Sisera, and hail from the arsenal of heaven slew the confederate hosts of the Amorites. A rustle among the mulberry leaves was a sign to David, and the windy storm and tempest destroyed the Spanish Armada ere the foot of the invader could reach the shores of Britain.

And now in our own time, and at Dunkirk, the rain, the mist, the fog, conspired against the Nazis. The Germans felt the rain, saw the mist, but could not penetrate the dense fog which had enveloped the coastal area of Dunkirk, hiding from view hundreds of thousands of defenceless men. The English were quick to seize this opportunity to rescue their men; so into the rain and through the mist and fog they embarked, determined to save as many as possible. Douglas Williams in his book "Retreat from

Dunkirk," said: "The Germans who had kept up an all-night barrage on the town [Dunkirk] started now to search for the boats with their guns on the town's outskirts; mercifully they could not find the range. . . . Luckily it was a cloudy, rainy day." Yes, this cloudy, rainy, misty day brought deliverance to thousands of men given up for lost.

Speaking of this very occasion, the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, said: "Suddenly a miracle of deliverance was achieved by valour, by perseverance, by perfect discipline, by dauntless service, by skill, by unconquerable fidelity. . . . Using nearly a thousand ships of all kinds [the actual figure of this improvised armada was eight hundred and eighty-five] it

carried more than three hundred and thirty-five thousand men, French and British, out of the jaws of death to their native land, and to the tasks which lie immediately ahead."—Quoted in "Retreat from Dunkirk," pages 14, 15.

The sixth column had triumphed! What Christian could believe that that rainy, cloudy weather was a mere happen-so affair—something just by chance? Mr. Churchill called it "a miracle of deliverance." The author of the book, "Retreat from Dunkirk," said: "Luckily it was rainy and cloudy." The members of the sixth column who kept their appointment with God declared that this "miracle of deliverance," was the answer to their prayers.

Bible Study, No. 34

Christ's Teaching About the Sabbath

1. CHRIST taught that the law of God would remain unchanged. Matt. 5: 17-19; Luke 16: 17.

2. Since the law of God was to remain unaltered, then it follows that the Sabbath command would remain unchanged.

3. Christ taught that the Sabbath was made for man, which includes all mankind. Mark 2: 27.

4. At Nazareth, where He had been brought up and had there worked at the carpenter's trade, it was His custom to rest and attend worship on the Sabbath, and thus He kept the Sabbath. Mark 6: 3; Luke 4: 16.

5. He taught that it was lawful, according to the Sabbath law, to do well, works of necessity and mercy, on the Sabbath. Matt. 12: 10-12. But this does not mean that the Sabbath should be a common working day, and that

men should keep another day, Sunday, instead of the seventh.

6. When Christ foretold the conquest of the Jews by the Romans, He warned His disciples to flee immediately from Judea, the field, or from the housetop, to the mountains; He admonished them to pray that their flight might not be in the winter nor on the Sabbath, and this proves that both the winter and the Sabbath would exist at that time. Matt. 24: 15-20.

Note.—The conquest of the Jews by the Romans ended with the capture of Jerusalem, A.D. 70.

7. "Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter; neither on the Sabbath day," Christ said. He who made the Sabbath did not abolish it, nailing it to His cross. The Sabbath was not rendered null and void by His death. Forty years after His crucifixion it was still to be held sacred. For forty years the disciples were to pray that their flight might not be on the Sabbath day.—"Desire of Ages," chapter 69, paragraph 8.

8. Christ enjoined His disciples to teach all nations, not the Jews only, to observe all things He had commanded. Matt. 28: 19, 20. Therefore, they must teach all that the Sabbath was made for all, and that all ought to pray for help to keep it. Mark 2: 27; Matt. 24: 20.

(Next study: "Sabbath After the Cross.")



Who Makes a Garden

Whoever makes a garden
Has never worked alone;
The rain has always found it.
The sun has always known.
The wind has blown across it
And helped to scatter seeds—
Whoever makes a garden
Has all the help he needs.

Whoever makes a garden
Has, oh, so many friends!—
The glory of the morning,
The dew when daylight ends.
The wind, and rain, and sunshine,
And dew, and fertile sod,
And he who makes a garden
Works hand in hand with God.
—Douglas Malloch.

THE longer I live, the more the temperance movement appeals to me. No matter what problem I approach, whether it be that of the children, of the unemployed, of the aged, or of housing, I find it complicated and made more difficult by its association with drink. There is not one social problem existing in the land which would not be infinitely more easy of treatment and solution if we had not to deal with drink.—The late Philip Snowden, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer.

If
the "Signs" Should
Come to You
Unexpectedly—

•We never send out papers that have not been ordered. Should you therefore be receiving the "SIGNS OF THE TIMES" without ordering it yourself, it is being sent by a friend with the hope that you will enjoy it. •If for any reason you should prefer not to accept, would you kindly advise the Publishers by letter. The wishes of all are respected.

NOTE and COMMENT

Current Topics Reviewed



A CRUEL DECEPTION

• THIS war, which has brought bereavement and sorrow to so many hearts, has brought also a revival of Spiritualism with its false comfort. An article in the *American Mercury*, "The Spiritualist Boom," tells of great numbers flocking to séances. It says:—

"The spirit mediums are in town again—your town and my town—trading on the gullibility of bereaved and lonely souls. Forlorn widows, restless wives, and mothers with boys overseas are the special victims of these catchpenny charlatans who profess to pierce the veil hanging between today and tomorrow, and bring back messages from beyond the grave. Phony as crystal-gazers, fortune-tellers, or turbaned swamis, they are today carrying on their hocus-pocus under the guise of religion!"

The author contends that these would-be soothsayers deal largely in deceptiveness and fraud, but she does admit that there are exceptions. "A few really gifted practitioners believe they hear and see the supernatural; undoubtedly on occasion they do receive impressions that cannot be explained by ordinary means."

While much fraud and trickery are practised in the professed communication with the departed, there are manifestations of supernatural power which cannot be explained by human means.

Spiritualism has its being in the first lie told to mankind, and it is because most people believe this falsehood that they can be deceived by the claims of Spiritualism. In the garden of Eden God warned our first parents not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and told them that

the penalty of disobedience would be death. But Satan, under the guise of the serpent, said, "Ye shall not surely die." Death came as a result of sin, but the devil retorted that what seemed to be death was not death at all, but life continued in another and higher sphere.

In the Bible death is described as a state of complete unconsciousness, a sleep from which there is no awaking until the resurrection at the coming of Christ. "The dead know not anything. . . . Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in anything that is done under the sun." Eccl. 9: 5, 6. This is the testimony of "God, that cannot lie." Titus 1: 2. Therefore any communication with the dead is absolutely impossible. Against this we have the testimony of the devil, who "is a liar, and the father of it." John 8: 44.

His reason for wishing the human family to believe him is that he may ensnare them, and bring them under his power. The supernatural manifestations that appear in the séance chamber are not the spirits of the departed, as they claim to be, but the "spirits of devils," "seducing spirits," the fallen angels which are the agents of Satan in his work of destroying humanity.

If people would seek God for comfort in their perplexities and sorrows, they would find strong consolation, and in the clear light of revealed truth in the Bible they would see a plain path for their feet, without wandering in the dark and slippery mazes of Spiritualism. "When they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God?" Isa. 8: 19.

H.



THE POWER OF THE WORD

• THE Bible presents a strange paradox in our modern world. It holds undisputed the position of best seller, even in lands where it is condemned and suppressed. The story of its distribution and its translation is full of romance, and where it is hard to obtain it is accepted with joy and cherished as a gift from heaven. Yet in Christian lands the Bible is largely neglected, its standards ridiculed, and its teachings spurned.

It will not help us one iota to rejoice that the Bible has been translated into more than one thousand languages if we do not allow it to speak its words of life to our own hearts in our own tongue. It will not help us to rejoice that it is being distributed by the million if we let our own copy remain unread and unheeded.

Augustus Hare reminds us: "The Bible is not a charm that, keeping it on our shelves or locking it up in a closet, can do us any good. Nor is it a story book to read for amusement. It is sent to teach us our duty to God and man, to show us from what a height we are fallen by sin and to what a far more glorious height we may soar if we will put on the wings of faith and love."

The Bible transforms hearts and lives by being read, studied, assimilated into the life, and obeyed in every detail. It must be looked upon as more than a collection of early folklore, the history of the Jewish race, or even as a masterpiece of human literature. It is the living Word of God, speaking with authority to men and women of every race and every age.

In the judgment we shall be speechless if, having within our reach the divine standard of perfection, and the creative, life-giving power of His Word, we have drifted along carelessly in sin, too indolent to acquaint ourselves with His will for us. H.



RELIGION IN STATE SCHOOLS

• THERE is much mention these days about getting the state schools to teach religion. Religion is a very important thing, but it must be remembered that the state is secular, and must confine itself to secular things. The teaching of religion is outside the legitimate sphere of the state. History has shown that a union of church and state is a very bad thing, which leads to religious persecution of minorities, and that the best and wisest practice of all is to have the state confine itself to its own proper sphere, namely, secular or civil affairs, and the church also to keep to its own proper province, namely, the teaching of religion.

If only the churches would do their duty, there would be no need at all to ask the state to teach religion, a duty for which it is utterly unfitted. The proper agencies for the teaching

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An aerial view of zig-zagging barges carrying United States marines to the beach of Florida Island during the initial stages of the Solomon Islands battle. Not only would the principles of the Bible, if accepted and followed by the world, prevent war, but the Bible gives accurate information concerning the nature of man and the state of the dead.

The Bible and Science



A GEELONG reader says he does not understand Lord Kelvin's declaration to the effect that there is not a single ascertained fact of science that conflicts with any statement of the Bible.

But why should our reader doubt its veracity? Can he himself name any ascertained fact of science that is out of harmony with any statement of the Bible? If he can do so, there is, as we shall point out later in this article, a reward of 1,000 dollars (about £333 in Australian currency) waiting for him in America, in fact, has been waiting for years.

Lord Kelvin was not only the greatest of modern scientists, but he was also a Christian man, and regarded the Scriptures as the Sacred Book. He was the most celebrated university professor of his day, and his discoveries and inventions have been of the very greatest value, and the world owes him a very great debt. He always opened his classes at Glasgow University with prayer, and one scientist said that Lord Kelvin was the only man in the world who made scientific discoveries while lecturing. There can be no doubt that Lord Kelvin's habit of classroom prayer before commencing his lectures helped him greatly.

Lord Kelvin himself said:—

"I consider the most valuable discovery of my life was made when I discovered that Jesus Christ was my Saviour. He has been my constant friend and helper in my life-work; and every discovery I have made that has contributed to the benefit of man has been given me in answer to prayer."

Reward of 1,000 Dollars

Scientific theories change from time to time, but there is no proved fact of science that is out of harmony with the Bible. From an article in the *Challenger* we quote the following:—

"Does the Bible anywhere contradict a proven fact of science? Well, the Research Science Bureau for fifteen years has been offering a large sum of money to anyone who could prove a scientific mistake in the Bible. At one time the amount was 100 dollars, but it has now been raised to 1,000 dollars.

"There have been many claims made, most of which presented the same worthless, foolish arguments. For example, there are people who go to great lengths to prove apples could not grow in the garden of Eden when the Bible does not say they did. There are also those who try to prove that a whale could not swallow a man, but the Bible says definitely that it was a sea monster and in another place a fish that swallowed Jonah.

"A year or so ago, William Floyd sued Harry Rimmer, the president of the Research Science Bureau, for 1,000 dollars. He showed what he considered to be five scientific errors in the Bible, and tried to prove them. After the plaintiff had presented his case, the presiding judge, Hon. Justice Benjamin Shalleck, would not even allow the defendant to testify, and in speaking to the plaintiff he said, 'You have

wasted the time of this court for a day and a half, and you have failed to prove a single item.'

"Since no claim has been established for this 1,000 dollars, we can be reasonably certain that the Bible does not contradict science."

The main purpose of the Bible is to make clear the divine plan of salvation for fallen man. Its great purpose is not scientific, but rather redemptive, and to make known the will of God, but when it touches science it is remarkably accurate. Inasmuch as nature and the Bible have the same divine Author, all true science and the Word of God must agree, and will always be found to agree.

Scientific Facts in the Bible

Many scientific facts of modern discovery were mentioned long centuries and even millenniums ago in the Bible. Take, for instance, the Bible statement early in the Book of Genesis: "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground." Gen. 2: 7. This is a chemical fact. In the dust there are the same different chemical elements that there are in man. Said the late Dr. Edwin E. Slosson, a chemist of international fame:—

"The greatest miracle of the Bible is its chemical accuracy. The first book of the Bible says man was made out of the dust of the earth, and this is literally and scientifically true."

Modern science has discovered that the strata of the earth were formed by the action of water, and that the mountains were once under the sea. But those facts were mentioned in the Bible thousands of years ago. We read in the Book of Psalms: "Thou coveredst it [the earth] with the deep as with a vesture; the waters stood above the mountains. At Thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of Thy thunder they hasted away (the mountains rose, the valleys sank down) unto the place which Thou hadst founded for them." Ps. 104: 6-8, American Revised Version.

Thousands of years ago the Bible declared, "The life of the flesh is in the blood" (Lev. 17: 11), and this is in accord with modern medical science.

Modern science has discovered the general law of the circulation of the air on the earth. The air moves from the poles to the equator, and then rises to continue the cycle, or circuit. But thousands of years ago the Scriptures said: "The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits." Eccl. 1: 6.

A few centuries ago, science discovered that air has weight, but the fact of the air's possessing weight is stated in the Book of Job, which is the oldest book in the Bible and in the world, and was written more than three thousand years ago. To quote: "For He [God] looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven; to make the weight for the winds." Job 28: 24, 25.

The Bible says repeatedly that the world was created by God. And Sir James Jeans says that science now definitely points to creation. He says:

"Everything points with overwhelming force to a definite event, or series of events, of creation at some time or times, not infinitely remote. The universe cannot have originated by chance out of its present ingredients, and neither can it have been always the same as now."—"Eos," page 55.

Said Professor Arthur H. Compton, head of the physics department of Chicago University:—

"If a scientist is to have a God, he must take the God of Newton. He must understand that the mechanical laws believed by other and earlier scientists to be sufficient in themselves are but expressions of His desires. . . .

"We have had this world of nature presented before us, and its Ruler must be great beyond our comprehension. The present-day scientist is rapidly coming to the point of view that there is a God and a creative Intelligence back of the world. . . .

"The physicists' problem of reconstructing the atom points to a tremendous Intelligence back of creation. We cannot ascribe the properties of the atom to chance. Chance could not create the atom any more than it could a salad."

Many other scientific facts of modern discovery are also mentioned in the Bible. Lack of space prevents our mentioning them here.

The Bible Divinely Inspired

The very first verse of the Bible, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1: 1), is a very wonderful one. Hebrew letters have numerical values, and in the original Hebrew Gen. 1: 1 is a complicated maze of sevens, and sevens occurring within sevens in the most astonishing and astounding manner. No man could have written that wonderful verse. Only Deity could have written it!

In the Bible, too, astronomical periods are mentioned which were unknown even to the most astronomical nations at the time. Those wonderful astronomical periods were undoubtedly given by divine inspiration.

The numerous wonderful prophecies with which the Bible abounds also show it to be a divine book. The Saviour's baptism and crucifixion were foretold to the very year more than five hundred years in advance.

Our reader tells us that Joshua's long day was impossible, but what right has he to say that? He is making the same mistake as the Sadducees, to whom the Saviour Himself said: "Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God." Surely the same wonderful God who created the sun and moon and stars, and who called light, and the seas, and all vegetable life and animal life, etc., into being by a word (Ps. 33: 6, 9), and

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● A recent photo of the "Great Lady" of China, Madame Chiang Kai-shek, the wife of the Chinese generalissimo.

MY RELIGION and YOURS

Does It Please God? . . . And Inspire Others?

● F. A. ALLUM

IN that wonderful broadcast by Madame Chiang Kai-shek, entitled "My Religion," is set forth in a most charming manner the religious experience that, to a degree, we all pass through. We give this message with the earnest prayer that you, dear reader, will find the courage and peace and calmness that dwells in every heart where Jesus reigns and the Bible is treasured.

"My Religion"

"By nature I am not a religious person. At least not in the common acceptance of that term. I am not by nature a mystic. I am practical-minded.

"Also, I am more or less sceptical. I used to think faith, belief, immortality were more or less imaginary. I believed in the world seen, not the world unseen.

"I knew my mother lived very close to God. I recognized something great in her. And I believe that my childhood training influenced me greatly, even though I was more or less rebellious at the time. It must often have grieved my beloved mother that I found family prayers tiresome, and frequently found myself conveniently thirsty at the moment, so that I had to slip out of the room. Like my brothers and sisters, I always had to go to church, and I hated the long sermons. But today I feel that this church-going habit established something, a kind of stability, for which I am grateful to my parents.

"My mother was not a sentimental parent. But one of my strongest childhood impressions is of mother going to a room she kept for the purpose on the third floor to pray. She spent hours in prayer, often beginning before dawn. When we asked her advice about anything, she would say, 'I must ask God first.' And we could not hurry her. Asking God was not a matter of spending five minutes to ask Him to bless her child and grant the request. It meant waiting upon God until she felt His leading. And I must say that whenever mother prayed and trusted God for her decision, the undertaking invariably turned out well.

"Perhaps this is why I sometimes think that I have grown spiritually because mother was taken from me. Or to be perfectly honest, I sometimes think perhaps God took mother from her children in order that we might grow.

"A Lesson Learnt"

"It was shortly before she left us. She was ill and already confined to her bed. One day I was talking with

her about the imminent Japanese menace, and I suddenly cried out in irresistible intensity of feeling:—

"Mother, you're so powerful in prayer. Why don't you pray that God will annihilate Japan—by an earthquake or something?"

"She turned her face away for a time. Then, looking gravely at me, she said: 'When you pray, or expect me to pray, don't insult God's intelligence by asking Him to do something which would be unworthy even of you, a mortal.'

"That made a deep impression on me. And today I can pray for the Japanese people, knowing that there must be many who, like Kagawa, suffer because of what their country is doing to China.

"During the last seven years I have suffered much. I have gone through deep waters because of the chaotic conditions in China, the lopping off of our

richest provinces, the death of my saintly mother, flood, famine, and the intrigues of those who should have been helping to unify the country. In contemplating history I began to feel the futility of life. Sometimes I would say to myself (never to my husband): 'What if we do achieve a strong, unified country? In the sum total of things what does it amount to? As surely as a country rises to the zenith, so surely does it decline!'

"Three Phases Passed Through"

"First, there was a tremendous enthusiasm and patriotism. With my husband, I would work ceaselessly to make China strong. I had the best of intentions. But something was lacking. There was no staying power. I was depending on self.

"Then came the second phase. A terrible depression settled on me—spiritual despair, bleakness, desolation. A foreign foe was on our soil in the north. A discontented political faction in the south. Famine in the north-west. Floods threatening the millions who dwell in the Yangtze valley. And my beloved mother taken from me. What was left?

"And then I realized that spiritually I was failing my husband. My mother's influence on the General had been tremendous. His own mother was a devout Buddhist. It was my mother's influence and personal example that led him to become a Christian. Too honest to promise to be one just to win her consent to our marriage, he had promised my mother that he would study Christianity and read the Bible. And I suddenly realized that he was sticking to his promise, even after she was gone. In common parlance, I have to 'hand it to him' for sticking to his daily Old Testament reading when without illumination there was little help in it for him.

"I began to see that what I was doing to help, for the sake of the country, was only a substitute for what he needed. Life was all confusion. I had been in the depths of despair. Out of that, and the feeling of human inadequacy, I was driven back to my mother's God. I knew there was a power greater than myself. I knew God was there. It seemed



The Call of the Church

The church is calling you, O youth,
To fellowship strong and true;
To bearing of burdens for Christ and truth;
She is needing, youth, just you.

The church is calling to service wide;
All your talents she can use.
The call comes ringing from o'er the tide;
'Tis the moment for you to choose.

The path may be strange and "different" too,
As was Peter's, long ago;
But your Master calls—the church needs
you—
To help and to heal earth's woe.

The church and the Christ await, O youth,
The answer your heart shall give;
Then dedicate yourself to truth,
For Christ and His church to live.
—Selected.

to be up to me to help the General spiritually, and in helping him I grew spiritually myself.

"Thus I entered into the third period where I wanted to do not my will, but God's. Life is really very simple, and yet how confused we make it! In old Chinese art there is just one outstanding object, perhaps a flower, on a scroll. Everything else in the picture is subordinated to that one beautiful thing. An integrated life is like that. What is the one flower? As I feel it now, it is the will of God. But to know His will and do it calls for absolute sincerity, absolute honesty with oneself, and it means using one's mind to the best of one's ability. My firm conviction is that one's greatest weapon is the simple, unassailable weapon of sincerity and truth.

"I used to pray that God would do this or that. Now I pray only that God will make His will known to me. God speaks to me in prayer. Prayer is not self-hypnotism. It is more than meditation. The Buddhist priest spends days meditating. In meditating the source of strength is oneself. But when one prays he goes to a source of strength greater than his own. I wait to feel His leading, and His guidance means certainty.

"Two Bible Emphases

"There are two things in the Bible that impress me more than others. One is, 'Thy will be done,' and the other, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.' We have to use our minds as well as our hearts. I am often bewildered, because my mind is only finite. I question and doubt my own judgments. Then I seek guidance, and when I am sure, I go ahead, leaving the results to Him.

"Our finite minds beside His infinite mind seem to me like this: I go walking; and the hills loom above me, range upon range, one against the other. I cannot tell where one begins and another leaves off. But from the air (I seldom have time to travel any other way now) everything has a distinct colour and form. I can see things so much more clearly. Perhaps that is like my mind and God's. And when I talk with Him, He lifts me up to where I can see clearly.

"I do not think it is possible to make this understandable to one who has not tried it. To explain to one who has had no experience of getting guidance what it means, would be like trying to make a stone-deaf person understand the beauty of a Chopin sonata.

"It's like tuning in on the radio. There's music in the air, whether we tune in or not. By learning to tune in, one can understand. How is it done? As Brother Lawrence told us long ago, 'By practising the presence of God.' By daily communion with Him.

"Guidance Available

"In conclusion, with me religion is a very simple thing. It means to try with all my heart and soul and strength and mind to do the will of God. I feel that God has given me a work to do for China. This is no small task. But despondency and despair are not mine today. I look to Him who is able to do all things, even more than we ask or think. Constantly exposed to danger, I am unafraid. I know that nothing can happen either to the General

or to me till our work is done. After that, what does it matter?"

This truly moving story should lead us to be all that is called for in the following inspiring poem. Let us make it the prayer of our hearts, and when this is so, then we shall gather warmth from others' coldness, courage from their cowardice, and faith from their unbelief.

LET THY WILL BE DONE

"Lord, who didst send, by two and two before Thee,
Thine own disciples, those threescore and ten,
That they should show the lost ones where the path was
And bring the light to eyes of blinded men:

"We are Thy lost ones, humble guides of others,
We are Thy blind, poor leaders to the light;
Show us the way, when ways seem past all finding,
Teach us to guide, when all seems dark as night.

"Make us to see the light that shines in all men,
Help us to learn how thorns can make a crown,
Show us how love will keep ourselves from falling
And pity lift up others who are down.

"We must be gay when weaker hearts are weary,
Looking ahead when tired eyes look back;
We must see hope when others are despairing;
We must be guides to those who lose the track.

"Thou art our Captain: teach us to be like Thee,
And where Thou leadest we will follow on;
We do not know what orders may await us,
Save the great order, 'Let Thy will be done.'

"It shall be done, if we be strong to follow
The path which led Thee to that awful day;
It shall be done, if true to Thy example
We guide ourselves and others in Thy way."

—Steuart Wilson.

A missionary friend who has spent more than a quarter of a century in missionary work in the Orient, has written the following stirring, heart-searching lines, entitled "Your Religion":—

"Is your religion Christlike?—silent under chastisement? patient in tribulation? strong through disappointment?

"Is your religion dynamic?—driving you onward? urging you upward? impelling you forward?

"Is your religion love incarnated?—uplifting the fallen? encouraging the weary? strengthening the weak?

Life's Purpose

ROBERT HARE

Yes, I would think sweet thoughts today,
Speak beautiful words, upon life's way;
Do kindly deeds, as I pass along,
And help to fill some life with song.

And I would wear a smiling face,
Would dress my form in simple grace,
Remembering One, in days now fled,
Who had not where to lay His head.

Then, in my service I would be
A servant of God in liberty;
True to my Master's business here,
So would I serve, with conscience clear.

And I would make the Word of God
My friend and guide as I onward plod;
Daily its hallowed precepts find
An inspiration to my mind.

Above, beyond, and with all these,
I would, too, bow on bended knees,
Asking my God through every day
To guide and guard and point life's way.

Thus would I live through passing years,
Accepting joys and sharing tears,
Treading where heavenly footsteps shine,
Till life at last becomes divine.

"Is your religion a purifying fire?—consuming the dross? devouring the unlovely? beautifying the gold?"

"Is your religion an abiding faith?—allaying doubts and fears? seeing light through the darkness? claiming heaven today?"

"Is your religion a constraining influence?—keeping you from evil? helping in discouragement? holding you to the path?"

"Is your religion an animating hope?—expecting victory? looking for progress? awaiting the consummation?"

"If your religion is less than this, it is a matter of grave concern, calling for deep heart examination, sincere study of the Word, and earnest prayer. If your religion is all this, yet there is no room for boasting, no place for exaltation, only an opportunity to 'praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men.'"

BOOK REVIEW



*"SOCIAL INSURANCE and ALLIED SERVICES"

Report by Sir William Beveridge

THE English-speaking world was thrilled when, toward the end of last year, Sir William Beveridge's plan for social security was made public. The plan was called "magnificent," and it was stated that its adoption would end poverty in Britain.

The phrase, "Social Insurance and Allied Services," is taken from the report itself. Sir William believes and asserts that want can be abolished in Britain.

The plan is stated to be not Utopian, but a practical one based on known facts. It aims to abolish want by compulsory social insurance, with national assistance and voluntary assurance. Its main feature provides for social insurance against unemployment due to sickness and other causes, and also for special expenditure arising from birth, marriage, or death.

Copies of Sir William Beveridge's "Report" have reached Australia. The "Report" is in two volumes, the first containing 300 pages and the second 244. These volumes contain full information concerning the Beveridge plan for social security, which has excited so much interest in English-speaking lands. Sir William says his plan resembles no other scheme except that operating in New Zealand.

Our copies are from Robertson and Mullens Ltd., 107-113 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, C.I. Retail price, 3s. 7d. per volume. K.

I KNOW this—a crowd of young people have a great deal more fun without drink than they have with it. Without drink, they are their own natural, unaffected, robust, vigorous selves. With it, they are slightly self-conscious, probably trying to act older than they are at the very time when they should be delighted to act their age. They become maudlin and sentimental or silly and sticky. Drink is not oil on their wheels; it's wet asphalt into which the party bogs down.—Daniel A. Lord, S.J.

RELIGION IN STATE SCHOOLS

(Concluded from page 3)

of religion are the church, the Christian home, the Sabbath school and the Sunday school, and the church school.

Where the church and the home do their duty, wonderful things can be done, as has been abundantly demonstrated.

As was well stated recently by Professor G. S. Browne, Dean of the Education Faculty at Melbourne University: "It was hardly fair to blame the schools for what the church had failed to do."

Wherever the church and the home do their duty, great things can be accomplished, and there is no need whatsoever to call for the assistance of the state in the teaching of religion.

For the church to call for state aid is a confession of the loss of spiritual power, a confession of spiritual weakness, an acknowledgment of the lack of spiritual truth and life. It means that the church needs a new conversion, a new accession of Bible truth and power. The church should seek to the Lord, not to the state. "Not by [earthly] might, nor by [earthly] power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zech. 4: 6. K.

THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE

(Concluded from page 4)

who upholds the universe "by the word of His power" (Heb. 1: 1-3), could easily delay the sun in its going down!

Professor Arthur H. Compton, head of the physics department of Chicago University, in speaking of the make-up of the universe, composed of molecules and atoms, of electrons and protons, added: "A God who can control a universe like that is mighty beyond imagination."

God is the Author of all the laws of nature, and as such is above them, and can suspend them if He so desires, and overrule them according to His divine will. If it be His will to suspend or overrule a law, He can easily do so.

Some years ago Dr. Willis R. Whitney, the director of the research department of the General Electric Company, declared in an interview that appeared in the *New York Times Magazine* (November 2, 1930), that such phenomena as those of magnetism and electricity are due to the "will of God." "And," he added, "no man today can give a more precise answer."

If that same wonderful God willed the delaying in the going down of the sun on that memorable day of Joshua's time, why could He not carry His will into effect? He who made the sun and ordained the laws of our solar system, and of the universe, why could He not delay the going down of the sun?

People little know what they are losing in every way by doubting and disbelieving Scripture. They shut themselves out from the wonderful Scriptural and spiritual world, and their loss is incalculable. K.

It is glibly assumed that Prohibition in the United States was repealed in favour of something better. Listen to the voice of the Methodism of that country speaking through the General Conference of 1940: "Repeal of Prohibition has been a more ghastly failure than the enemies of that repeal predicted. The new saloon is attended by shocking evils, unknown to the old saloon."

A CORNER
forthe
CHILDRENA Girl
in Poor Company

COMING down to the office on a train a few mornings ago, we noticed a girl of our acquaintance eagerly reading a book. Our seat was just behind the one occupied by her, and it was almost impossible not to see the title of the volume she was devouring. It was a well-known sentimental novel of questionable moral teaching. That evening we chanced to meet this young friend, just as we reached the station, and upon entering the carriage, we sat down together. Presently I said:—

"I was sorry to see you in questionable company on the train this morning."

The young woman looked startled and said:—

"Why, you are certainly mistaken; I was alone."

"No, not alone," we said; "and you seemed to be very much delighted with your company."

"What do you mean?" our young friend demanded, her eyes flashing with indignation.

"Simply this," was the reply; "you were reading a silly book. You were reading it with evident relish. You



The Girl Who Smiles

The wind was east, and the chimney smoked. And the old brown house seemed dreary. For nobody smiled, and nobody joked. The young folks grumbled, the old folks croaked.

They had come home chilled and weary. Then opened the door, and a girl came in. Oh, she was homely—very! Her nose was pug, and her cheek was thin. There wasn't a dimple from brow to chin. But her smile was bright and cheery.

She spoke not a word of the cold and damp. Nor yet of the gloom about her; But she mended the fire, and lighted the lamp, And she put on the place a different stamp. From that it had had without her. Her dress, which was something in sober brown,

And with dampness nearly dripping, She changed for a bright, warm, crimson gown; And she looked so gay, when she so came down.

They forgot that the air was nipping.

They forgot that the house was a dull old place.

And smoky from base to rafters; And gloom departed from every place. As they felt the charm of her mirthful grace, And the cheer of her happy laughter. Oh, give me the girl who will smile and sing, And make all glad together! To be plain or fair is a lesser thing; But a kind, unselfish heart can bring Good cheer in the darkest weather.

—Selected.

were held so by its fascinations that you noticed nothing that was happening about you, and looked up in real surprise when you found yourself at your journey's end. A book is a companion. A silly book is a silly companion. A silly companion is a questionable one. A questionable one is a dangerous one. You judge people by the society they seem to enjoy. Is it not fair to judge them also by the books they choose?"

The question was not pressed, and we passed on to more agreeable themes.

The books and periodicals we read influence us tremendously. Next to the people with whom we mingle, the literature we devour shapes our sentiment, determines our convictions, and makes us what we really are. We cannot afford to spend one day, one hour, one minute, in the company of a questionable book.—Selected.

A Hero

THIS little incident, which comes to us from over the sea, teaches us what a true hero is:—

A few years ago a fire broke out in a charming little Swiss village. In a few hours the quaint frame houses were entirely destroyed.

One poor man was in greater trouble than his neighbours even. His home and cows were gone and so also was his son, a bright boy of six or seven years. He wept and refused to hear any words of comfort. He spent the night wandering sorrowfully among the ruins.

Just as daybreak came, however, he heard a well-known sound, and, looking up, saw his favourite cow leading the herd, and coming directly after them was his bright-eyed little boy.

"Oh, my son! my son!" he cried, "are you really alive?"

"Why, yes, father. When I saw the fire, I ran to get our cows away to the pasture lands."

"You are a hero, my boy!" the father exclaimed.

But the boy said: "No, no! A hero is one who does some wonderful deed. I led the cows away because they were in danger, and I knew it was the right thing to do."

"Ah!" cried the father, "he who does the right thing at the right time is a hero."—Selected.

THE ALL-RIGHT BOY

"HARRY, come in and wash your hands," said his mother.

"I don't want to," said Harry.

"Roy, come here and sweep this room," said his mother.

"All right, mother," he said.

"I think," said mother, "that I shall call you my all-right boy. You say it very often."

Little reader, will you not be that kind of boy? —Selected.

AROUND the WORLD

• It is estimated that only 1.5 per cent of the steel production of 1943 will go into consumer products.

• PAPER underwear is now being manufactured for experimental use by the armed forces, says an American journal.

• ANOTHER source of natural rubber is the *Cryptostegia*, a flowering vine found growing wild in Florida, California, and Mexico.

• A FOUR-MINUTE supply of ammunition for a machine-gun contains enough copper to make a mile and a half of telephone wire.

• A NEWS forecast says that synthetic, water-repellant stockings, which can be washed and worn after a mere shaking, are planned for the post-war market.

• CONSOLIDATED AIRCRAFT is spreading its wings in preparation for a post-war "air age," and planning a giant high-speed, 400-passenger air liner, which will be able to span the Atlantic in a few hours.

• ICE engineers were assigned by the British Ministry of Transport, for the task of keeping open, during the winter months, England's 2,500 miles of canals through which is transported much of the country's coal and coke.

• A GROUP of English scientists has made a call for back issues of scientific journals and other reading matter to be supplied to scientist-prisoners of war in British camps in order to acquaint them with the latest developments in their particular fields, so that they will be able to resume work in their own countries when the war is over.

• THE first discovery of a planet outside our solar system was announced by Dr. K. A. Strand of Sproul Observatory, Swarthmore College, United States.

Although this newly discovered planet is 4,070 times as large as our earth, it cannot be seen by the largest telescope, and astronomers are aware of its presence only because of its disturbing influence upon one of the suns in the double star, 61 Cygni, around which it revolves.

The latter is eleven light-years, or 66,000,000,000,000 miles, from the sun. The new planet has been named Osiris.

• A PASSENGER-CARRYING vehicle called the "war waggon trailer" has been submitted for the inspection of the Office of Defence Transportation and the United States War and Navy Departments.

It consists of a station waggon with a capacity of fifteen passengers and a trailer attachment fitted with "stand-sit" seats, which will hold twenty-four persons.

The principal advantage of the vehicle is the saving in rubber it would make possible, since its tyres do not require the large percentage of crude rubber necessary in large bus tyres.

• Wood ashes from fireplaces and stove grates contain valuable soil fertilizers in the form of potash, lime, and phosphate, and are well worth saving till gardening time. They must, however, be supplemented by other fertilizers to provide nitrogen.

Ashes from paper cannot be used, because the chemicals needed in processing pulp are harmful to plants.

• THE total eclipse of the sun which occurred on February 4 along a path which crossed Japan, the Pacific, and Alaska, received little or no attention from astronomers busy at tasks of military significance.

They may look forward, however, to observing the next eclipse on July 9, 1945, to be visible in north-western United States, northern Canada, Greenland, Europe, and Asia.

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"FOR WE ARE LABOURERS TOGETHER WITH GOD." 1 Cor. 3: 9.

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