

Signs of the Times

BRINGS THE MESSAGE OF HOPE

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• Like a lighthouse on a rocky shore, prophecy lights the way to heaven.

Prophetic Beacons

Light the Road Ahead

FREDERICK LEE

THE Bible is pre-eminently a book of prophecy. It was written by prophets or men whose vision was moulded by what the prophets had spoken. Its historical passages often record the fulfilment of prophecies found earlier in its pages. Many of its stories of individual experience, the record of the wanderings and vicissitudes of Israel, the life and the parables of Christ, the admonitions found in the epistles, all are closely bound up with Bible prophecy. In fact, we cannot fully understand the basic teachings of this Book, or know God's purpose in giving us the Bible unless we seek to understand its prophecies.

The Bible is a book about the future—that better future for which men have longed since the day sin entered this world. From its divine predictions every generation has found hope, for they point to a day when sin shall be destroyed, death annihilated, and man restored to his Edenic estate.

Dangerous Times

As we approach the climax of earth's history to which the main prophecies of the Scriptures point, this Word of God becomes more and more important to us. It is like the need of a pilot being greater when one is nearing one's destination than when one is on the open seas. When a ship approaches the harbour the way is most dangerous, for it may run upon some hidden rock or miss the harbour channel unless the one guiding the vessel knows the way and closely watches the chart and compass.

It has always been dangerous to neglect God's Word. But now it is doubly dangerous to do so, because we are approaching the climax of human history. Multiplied dangers are on every hand. The day of the Lord so often referred to in the Bible is upon us. The destiny toward which the human race has been moving these six thou-

sand years is not far distant. How do we know that this is so? We know it through a study of the prophecies of God's Holy Book.

Day of Salvation Near

Imagine it, dear friends! The day toward which Adam and Abraham, the patriarchs, the prophets, and the apostles, the saints of all generations, have looked, is at hand. The land of peace and glory for which they longed is just before us. The glorious One for whom they were stoned, sawn asunder, scourged, slain with the sword, imprisoned, made destitute, and tormented, we may behold. The triumph over pain, sorrow, and death for which multitudes have prayed, we may obtain. For we have come to the day of days when the unfettered glory of redeeming grace will flash upon the world, and those who have felt the power of salvation will stand in the presence of the King of kings!

If it had been foretold that some potentate of earth was to visit a certain community during such and such a period of time, and that he would then speak the word that would banish all ills, remove all fears, and bring eternal peace and security to that place and its people, what a rush there would be to that city, town, or village, and how early people would come so that this great occasion should not be missed!

The Return of Christ

The Bible, my friends, foretells just such a wondrous thing as that, but more than that. Christ, the potentate of both earth and heaven, the One who has seized the keys of death and the grave, and who pressed back to some extent the tide of sorrow and disease when He was upon earth, is coming again to gather the repentant ones to Himself. Then He [Please turn to page 5.]

Current Topics Reviewed



Press Freedom Challenged

•THE recent dispute between the Commonwealth Government publicity censor and a number of influential newspapers of Sydney and Melbourne has sounded an ominous note whose significance must not be ignored by lovers of freedom.

Six large dailies and a weekly newspaper were abruptly suppressed because they failed to comply with the censorship order to print certain paragraphs in place of deleted matter.

Some are inclined to think that the question is one for the newspapers to settle, that it is no concern of the ordinary citizen. But the matter of press freedom is a vital concern of every man, woman, and child in the country. It touches the fundamental right of "freedom of speech and expression," essential to the life of a democracy.

A leading article in the Melbourne *Argus* sums the matter up in a masterful way:—

"As Mr. Menzies very properly pointed out in a recent statement on censorship, the question of law involved was one for the High Court to decide, but 'the political and social propriety of the use made of whatever powers exist can and must be debated, preferably in an immediate session of Parliament at Canberra.' For Parliament, in a democratic country, exists to discover and express the will of the people, and far more than any newspaper proprietors or groups of proprietors it is the people who are vitally concerned in the challenge that has been thrown down to freedom of expression. Whether the newspapers were right or wrong . . . and whatever the 'original offence' may have been that led to the seizure of so many newspapers, the main point at issue is this: censorship regulations may give the right to delete certain words or phrases or whole statements, but they cannot be allowed to give the right to alter words, phrases, or statements and substitute something else for them. Once admit that right, and democracy ceases to exist. It is the sort of thing that happened in the case of the French Press in 1940, and French democracy temporarily went under, submerged beneath the double tyranny of an invader who had been helped by this falsification of news and of an antidemocratic government that betrayed the Republic even to the extent of readily doing the invader's will.

"In wartime, even in a democracy, the people have sufficient realism to admit the Government's right to prevent the publication of anything that would endanger the safety of the country or otherwise help the enemy. But a free people never admit, and never will admit, the right of any government, any minister, or any official to dictate to the press what it shall say. The German people admitted such a right, with the result that the German press became, not a medium for the free expression of views, but an instrument for moulding the masses according to the will of a tyrannous junta. In fact, the German press is not a press at all; it is a propaganda machine: and all because there was not in Germany a sufficiently strong and alert public opinion to

recognize that the first successful attempt to impose ideas instead of encouraging free expression of them would open the way to ever more shameful abuses."

The great majority of Australians have been ready to work and give sacrificially for the war effort, and to stand loyally by the Government. But autocratic actions on the part of the Government, dictated by a fear of criticism, will not result in greater effort or increased loyalty. Rather, they will cause uneasiness and concern. Unless these attempts to curb freedom of speech and of the press are abandoned, there will be good reason for Mr. Menzies' warning:—

"The stark and ugly truth is that freedom is undoubtedly in peril in Australia. Unless we wake up and resist the attacks constantly being made upon it, we may find that we have defeated one tyranny in the field and succumb to another at home."

Let us resist every invasion of our rights as free citizens of a democratic country.

H.

Promotion Rather Than Whisky

•A NOTE in the Melbourne *Sun* revealed the fact that Major Richard Bong, U.S. "Ace of Aces," who shot down his twenty-seventh Jap plane, would be promoted as a recognition of his gallantry, but would not receive a case of Scotch whisky or a case of champagne.

"General MacArthur said yesterday," continues the note, "that he did not regard liquor as an appropriate recognition of Bong's deeds. The airman had been promoted as soon as his record had been made official, and had previously gained practically all service decorations."

It is surely a poor way to show appreciation for a man's bravery to give him

something that will impair his judgment, dull his sensibilities, and slow down his reactions. The words of ex-President Taft are to the point:—

"To the man who is actively engaged in responsible work, who must have at his command the best that is in him, at its best, to him I would, with all the emphasis that I possess, advise and urge him to leave drink alone—absolutely. He who drinks is deliberately disqualifying himself for advancement."

Nobody questions the damage that has been done to the confirmed drunkard by the drink that has enslaved him. But many contend that no damage results from the moderate use of alcohol. However, a poison is a poison, in whatever form or quantity it is taken, and alcohol leaves its mark, in immediate impairment of efficiency, and in permanent injury to the brain cells.

It is a mistaken idea of hospitality that invites our service men to drink. It is a poor reward for bravery to give them that which will limit their efficiency.

H.

Wartime Marriages

•CONCERN has been expressed by many clergymen over the outcome of a large proportion of wartime marriages. They believe that the short acquaintance and the high emotional strain of a hurried courtship do not make for lasting happiness, and they are afraid that many such marriages are doomed to failure.

Rev. E. M. B. Southwell, vicar of Ellesmere Port, England, expressed himself strongly on the matter of "glamour" marriages, entered into by infatuated girls attracted by a uniform. He said:—

"Postwar years will bring a harvest of bitter disappointments in the divorce courts. Of the many marriages I have solemnized since the war began, the majority are almost certain to be flops. There are too many cases of young people getting married when they have known each other only a few days. Their reasons for marrying are mainly physical, and that is not a good enough foundation for marriage."

(Concluded on page 5)



Battle-bombers flying in formation high above the clouds.

The WAR BEHIND the WAR



●
S.
GEORGE
HYDE

TODAY, everywhere, and with everybody, war occupies first place in the daily life. It obtrudes itself into every phase of the national and individual life.

The average individual sees in the war-struggle merely an attempt on the part of the Axis powers to dominate the world, with the Allies fighting to prevent the realization of such a calamity. Such are obvious facts. But to state this is but to touch the fringe of the vast problem of modern total war.

Why War Follows War

Within the short space of twenty-five years, there have been two global wars, devastating, disintegrating, and destroying. And the second has proved worse than the first, bringing even greater disorganization, ruin, collapse, and chaos. Not only so, but even before the present conflict has died down, many are expressing fears that there may yet be a "third" world war in the future. If that is all civilization can bequeath—a cycle of unparalleled and untold ruin—then, indeed, there must be some sinister power at work. And there is!

These global eruptions are the outward and visible sign of a seething struggle between great unseen spiritual sources, good and bad. Hitler and his satellites are but the present agents of invisible evil forces. Long ago, Paul was inspired to declare that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood"—the seen and the seeable—but against the unseen and unseeable "principalities, . . . powers, . . . rulers of the darkness, . . . spiritual wickedness in high places." And the Revelator spoke of that greater war, which includes all human and national eruptions, as a war between Michael and the dragon, or Christ and the devil.

The Dragon's Wrath

Nineteen hundred years ago, Michael, through the mystery of the Incarnation, came to earth to destroy this dragon. Jesus became the "Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief," in order that He might inflict a mortal wound upon the human family's most insidious foe—the devil. In His early days and throughout

the days of His earthly life, Christ Himself had to face a dogged and determined dragon, bent on destroying the "only begotten Son." And when Christ, after a bitter struggle, on the resurrection morning broke through the seal and guard of the dragon and rose triumphant over "all His foes," two great cries went up: "Now is come salvation," and "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

So, ever since the Father was able to give to mankind a message of hope and salvation, based upon the successful mission of His Son, the forces of evil have been stirring up ever-increasing strife among the nations. And the nearer the time of ultimate triumph of the cause of righteousness, the fiercer becomes the struggle and the more devastating the havoc. The devil knows that he hath but a short time! Hence war follows war, and millions march to battle at his instigation.

What Is Armageddon?

Once again, one hears the term "Armageddon" being used of this present crisis, even as it was in the last World War. Few, however, know the meaning of the term they use. Few know that it refers to the last great battle in the age-long conflict, in which the Son of God will personally intervene in the world to destroy the destroyer and a devil-possessed world. Yes, in Armageddon the unsaved and the rejecters of the mediation of the Lamb of God will experience the final "wrath of the Lamb."

Armageddon, then, will be no ordinary battle. It will be literally the battle of God Almighty. Revelation 16. Armageddon is one of the seven last divine afflictions.

But none of these plagues, not even Armageddon, will be inflicted until the message of salvation has accomplished its task, and the work of grace, and the day of mercy, have passed. So that these global wars are not themselves Armageddon, though they undoubtedly are precursors of Armageddon, manifesting the "wrath of the devil" as the manifesta-

tion of his triumphant antagonist, the Lamb of God, becomes imminent.

What will herald the actual battle of Armageddon?

From the sixteenth chapter of Revelation one glean the following facts:—

1. Preliminary to Armageddon, the "Euphrates" is "dried up."

2. The "spirits of devils" gather the nations of earth together for this battle of God.

3. The "kings of the East" are specifically mentioned as participants.

"Euphrates," according to prophetic interpretation, represents the nation or peoples which inhabit the Euphrates area, and the "drying up" of the river indicates the liquidation of the peoples so represented. Just who these will be is not yet clear. For a long time Turkey was thought to be the power or people indicated—and it may yet be—but obviously one cannot certainly say, for it all depends "who" occupies the area when the "drying up" takes place.

It is also noteworthy, that as the world nears the day of God's manifestation, so it has become increasingly possible for the "kings of the East" to be more closely identified with the life and policies of the great Western powers. This meeting of East and West is a prophecy in process of fulfillment and calls for a close watch upon developments in our own day and generation.

In the spiritual world, too, one sees today definite signs of the approach of Armageddon. In the Christian world great and far-reaching changes are taking place. The Lamb of God is, by many, even of His professed followers, being put "to an open shame." Modernism is a denial of Christ and of the fundamentals upon which Christ's gospel rests. Spiritual seduction is taking place on a large scale, and by it the devil is gaining control of all those who do not wear the spiritual armour which alone can withstand the "fiery darts" of the wicked one. The modern world has little time for the Man of Calvary. This following "afar off," this open rebellion against Him who alone can save, is paving the way for Armageddon, and bringing nearer the day when the Lamb of God will come the "second time" to rid the world of all that offends preparatory to making "all things new," and restoring all that which man, through sin, has lost.

Armageddon and the Advent

Armageddon and the second advent are associated events, and the nearer we get to the great climax of the struggle between good and evil—the unseen spiritual struggle in which all consciously or unconsciously take a part—the nearer we get also to the coming of the Redeemer.

Not until He comes, can man be freed from sin or its baneful fruits. Not until He comes will the weapons of war be for ever broken and forged for all eternity into the weapons of peace. Not until He comes will earth's inhabitants "not learn war any more." Only He can provide Paradise for men. Only through Him and "the blood of the Lamb" can man fight successfully the infuriated powers of hell and overcome them and enter into the overcomer's reward.

The Latest Encyclical Letter of PIUS XII

A Thought-Provoking Analysis
of a Papal Pronouncement

● CHARLES S. LONGACRE

SEVERAL periodicals have recently published the latest encyclical letter of the Roman bishop, Pius XII, entitled "The Mystical Body of Christ." In this encyclical letter the pope makes the claim that the mystical body of Christ is the "true Church of Jesus Christ—which is the One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic, Roman Church." The pope further asserts that the proposition "that those who exercise sacred power in this body are its first and chief members, must be maintained uncompromisingly. It is through them, commissioned by the divine Redeemer Himself, that Christ's apostolate as teacher, king, priest, is to endure."—"Our Sunday Visitor," October 24, 1943.

The pope further declares in this encyclical "that Jesus Christ, hanging on the cross, opened up to His church the fountain of divine graces, which protect it from ever teaching men false doctrine, and enable it to rule them for their soul's salvation through supernaturally enlightened pastors." "Our divine Redeemer," he says, "also governs His mystical body in a visible way and ordinarily through His vicar on earth."

On the doctrine of the primacy of Peter, the pope says that Christ "never ceases personally to guide the church by an unseen hand, though at the same time He rules it externally, visibly through him who is His representative on earth. After His glorious ascension into heaven, this church rested not on Him alone, but on Peter, too, its visible foundation stone."

But the most startling statements in the pope's encyclical are the following: "And first of all, by the death of our Redeemer, the New Testament took the place of the old law which had been abolished. . . . On the cross, then, the old law died. . . . in order to give way to the New Testament, of which Christ had chosen the apostles as qualified ministers." The pope in this encyclical letter refers to the "old law" as embracing "the handwriting of the Old Testament" and the law which called for "many sacrifices," but the doctrinal catechisms of the church make it clear that the Roman Catholic Church included in this more than "the old law" of sacrifices that was nailed to the cross and abolished also the Sabbath commandment of the Decalogue. These Catholic catechisms claim that the Catholic Church has been empowered to

Pope
Pius XII
wearing
the
triple crown.



change the Ten Commandments, which they call "the old law." Concerning the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, which enjoins the observance of the seventh day of the week, a Roman Catholic publication says:—

"It was the [Roman] Catholic Church which, by the authority of Jesus Christ, has transferred this rest to the Sunday in remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord. Thus the observance of Sunday by the Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the church."—"Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today," page 213.

In "A Doctrinal Catechism," written by Stephen Keenan, which bears the imprimatur of John Cardinal McCloskey, archbishop of New York, the following questions and answers appear:—

"Q. Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept?"

"A. Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her;—she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority."—Page 174.

Let us examine these claims of the Roman Catholic Church and of the pope in his recent encyclical letter. Is the Roman Church "the mystical body of Christ" and the "only true church" to the exclusion of all other Christians who are not members of the papal communion?

If this claim were true, none but members of the Roman Church would have any hope of salvation. And this is exactly what the Papacy teaches and has taught since she assumed the role of being "the one and only true church." Boniface VIII does not allow any salvation to anyone who does not submit to the authority of the Roman pontiff. He says:—

"We declare, say, define, pronounce it to be necessary to salvation for every human creature to be subject to the Roman Pontiff."—*Corp. Jur. Can. a Pithæo, Vol. II, Extrav. bk. 1, tit. 8, chap. 1.*

The doctrine that salvation cannot be found outside of the Roman Catholic Church has been repeatedly asserted in its periodicals.

The Apostle Paul refers to the church triumphant, which is the body of Christ (Eph. 1: 22, 23; 5: 23, 30), as "the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven." Heb. 12: 23. This body is made up of all the redeemed from Adam to the last person to be redeemed when probation closes. Christ did not say to rejoice that your name is on the records of the Roman Catholic Church, but that you should "rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." Luke 10: 20.

The Apostle Peter once entertained the idea, together with all the other Jews, that salvation was only for the Hebrews. But the Lord gave him a vision in which He taught Peter that salvation was freely offered to every man and not to the Jews

only. After this vision Peter said: "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth Him [God], and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him. . . . He is Lord of all." Acts 10:34-36. Peter taught no such doctrine as is now taught by the Roman Catholic Church concerning salvation. Neither did he ever call himself pope, nor claim that he was given the primacy over the churches. Instead of calling himself a pope he said that he was merely an elder and a servant in the church. He said: "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ: . . . feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." 1 Peter 5:1-3.

Christ never gave any man the primacy over His church. On the night that He was betrayed "there was also a strife among them [the apostles], which of them should be accounted the greatest." Luke 22:24. In other words, it was a dispute about which of the apostles should have the primacy in His church after He should go to heaven. Here was an excellent opportunity for Christ to have settled the matter if He intended that Peter was to be the head of the Christian church. But what did the Master tell His apostles, who were each seeking for the highest position? "He said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve." Luke 22:25, 26.

Another proof that Christ did not give Peter the primacy over His church is that at the first church council held in Jeru-

"All That Matters"

ALL THAT REALLY MATTERS is the way in which we live, the way we face our troubles and the happiness we give. The way we deal with others whom we contact on Life's way, the way we work, the things we think, and the sort of prayers we pray. :: ::

ALL THAT REALLY MATTERS is our attitude of mind, the way we meet Life's rough and smooth and the setbacks that we find. The way we try to right the wrong, and the way we check despair, the way we use our talents, and the things for which we care. :: ::

ALL THAT REALLY MATTERS is the character we build, the way we shape its glory by the missions we've fulfilled. The rays we cast through goodness across the ways we've trod, these are the things that matter to ourselves as well as God. —J. M.

salem, after Peter, Barnabas, and Paul had spoken, they all held their peace, and then the Apostle James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me. . . . Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: but that we write unto them." Acts 15:13-21. They all agreed to what James said, which is positive proof that at this general church council, the first held under the auspices of the newly organized Christian church, the Apostle James was the presiding officer. (Concluded next issue.)

Prophetic Beacons

(Concluded from page 1)

will renovate the earth and make it a fit dwelling-place for the newborn race. If this is so, surely all men would want to know of it before it is too late.

There still is time for you, dear reader, to investigate this promised event. It will pay you abundantly and eternally to study the prophecies of God's Word. Take your Bible down. Open it reverently, and determine to give more of your time to a study of this blessed Book.

A Merciful God Reveals the Future

God greatly desires that you should know the important events yet future that have to do with your eternal welfare. He is a merciful Father, and does not want anyone to walk blindly to perdition. He sends His warning messages that men might heed them and escape the wrath to come. Listen to God speaking to His prophet: "Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Eze. 33:11.

God sent His prophets to be as watchmen on city walls, who are to warn men of approaching danger. We read concerning the prophet Ezekiel: "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman

unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at My mouth, and warn them from Me." Eze. 33:7. If the prophet warns the sinner and he repents of his sin, the sinner is delivered. But if the sinner hears and does not repent, he dies in his iniquity. Again, if the prophet does not warn the sinner of coming judgment and the sinner dies in his wickedness, his blood will be required at the prophet's hands. Eze. 33:7-9; 3:17-21. How important it is then that the warnings which are recorded in the Scriptures and which have to do with the salvation of men should be heralded far and wide!

When some epochal event in the plan of God approaches, it is God's purpose to warn men concerning that event. The prophet Amos declared: "The Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets." Amos 3:7.

The prophet Daniel declares: "He [God] revealeth the deep and secret things: He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him." Dan. 2:22.

When God was to destroy the city of Sodom He said, "Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?" (Gen. 18:17) and immediately thereafter He told this man of God concerning His plans. Furthermore, He sent His angels to warn Lot, who was dwelling in Sodom, in order that he and his household might escape.

Christ made it plain that the prophecies of the Bible are not mystic utterances that man cannot understand. When He was telling the disciples of the coming destruction of Jerusalem, He referred to a prophecy that is recorded in the Book of Daniel, chapter 9, which foretold the rejection of the Jews and the destruction of their temple. Of this prophecy He said, "Whoso readeth, let him understand." Matt. 24:15.

Noah's Warning Message

A pertinent illustration of why God gave prophecy, and how He gave it, is found in the experience of Noah and the Flood. When God saw "that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually," He determined to destroy man from the earth. But He did not wish to do it suddenly and without warning. He was willing to give men opportunity to repent if they desired to do so. Thus He sought out a righteous man to whom He could reveal His purpose to send an overwhelming flood upon the earth. Noah was selected and sent forth to tell men of the coming destruction. He preached for one hundred and twenty years, calling upon men to repent and prepare for the judgment that was to come. He not only preached, but he revealed his faith in his message by building an ark in which believers might be saved. And he called upon others to assist him in this work.

In spite of these years of warning, only the household of Noah believed unto salvation. All others were destroyed by the waters that God sent to cover the earth. But God had done all He could do. He had given men time to think. He had given them opportunity to repent. He had provided a way for them to escape destruction. He was merciful and long-suffering, for He waited many years after men had become so corrupt that He was sorry He had ever created man. He could have destroyed the human race in an instant and created another race. But He did not do this. He delayed action, and sent them a message of salvation.

We have come today to another time of judgment. The cup of man's iniquity is overflowing. The cup of God's wrath is about full. The Bible tells of a day when God's patience will end and His wrath again will be poured out upon the earth to destroy it. Says the Psalmist: "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." Ps. 50:3, 4. This time of judgment is referred to in many passages of Scripture as the end of the world, the day of the Lord, the last days, etc.

POWER

We can hardly imagine one so foolish as to attempt to run heavy machinery by hand when wires but await connection to convey the irresistible electric current from the dynamos of the great power house, but most people are living in just such a neglectful, shortsighted way. What an inspiration it is to meet the men and women whose lives are filled with divine power and love and passion for serving and who are doing the great and transforming work of the world!—Selected.

Wartime Marriages

(Concluded from page 2)

"These young people are going to wake up one morning to find they are married to someone to whom they are completely unsuited. I am frightened of what is going to happen after the war, when all the glamour is worn out and there is nothing left to hold these young people together."

Happy homes do not just happen. They are built upon a deep, unchanging love and mutual respect. Understanding, sympathy, unselfishness, forbearance, and faith must be guiding principles in the lives of the home-makers.

If these things are needed to make marriage a success in ordinary times, how much more are they required in war marriages, when the strain of uncertainty and long separation must be met and

overcome! There are young people who enter the door of marriage fully realizing the difficulties of the way, but ready to meet them by prayer and by keeping in constant touch by letter. Such marriages can be successful.

But there is grave danger that marriages hurriedly entered into by young people without the restraint of self-discipline, and under the spell of a passing infatuation, will not survive the test of really becoming acquainted.

Marriage is ordained of God to be a blessing to humanity. It will preserve the purity and promote the happiness of society when it is entered in the fear of God. But when entered from impulse, and without due regard of the responsibilities involved, instead of being a blessing, it can become a source of heartache, misery, and bitter disappointment. H.



Stories for the Children



When Connie Forgot

DAPHNE LACEY

CONNIE was dancing with excitement. Here was the day she had looked forward to for a whole long year—her birthday! And there was such an upheaval in the house. The pantry shelves were laden with good things to eat, and the drawing-room furniture was being carried down into the garage to leave room for games, and the dining-room table was having all the leaves put in to make it large enough to seat all the friends who were coming to her party.

Connie's brain was whirling with all these exciting thoughts when suddenly she heard her mother's voice calling to her. She ran into the drawing-room where her father and big brother were still arranging the furniture.

"Connie," said her mother, "I want you to sweep out the room now, and dust it very carefully, because I'm so busy cooking that I shan't have time to do it."

So Connie tied on her apron, and armed with a long broom she set to work.

Now, I am sorry to say that although Connie was always ready and eager to do anything, she was very fond of getting through it in the easiest possible way; so when she found that she had forgotten to bring in the dust-pan, she decided that she wouldn't trouble to go and get it. There was a nice handy cupboard against the wall under which she could sweep all the dust, and nobody would be any wiser! Then she dusted the room carefully, because that *would* show, and finally she shook the duster out of the window and ran off to tell her mother that she had finished.

Just for a minute Connie's conscience pricked her when she saw mother look toward the cupboard, but she breathed a sigh of relief that the dust underneath remained unnoticed.

"I'm so glad you've done it so nicely, dear. I think you're learning the meaning of the little proverb that says, 'If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing well,'" said mother.

Connie flushed and turned away rather quickly.

At last the time came when Connie put on the new dress and smoothed out the lovely pink sash. It was going to be such a wonderful party, she was sure. Then the bell began to ring, and one by one all the guests trooped in. Everything



The Household Fairy

Have you heard of the household fairy sweet,
Who keeps the home so bright and neat?
Who enters the rooms of boys and girls,
And finds lost marbles, or smooths out curls?
Who mends the tear in a girl's frock,
Or darts the hole in a laddie's sock?
If you don't believe it is true, I say,
You may search and find her this very day
In your home.

You must not look for a maiden fair,
With starry eyes and golden hair;
Her hair may be threaded with silver grey,
But one glance of her eyes drives trouble away,
And the touch of her hand is so soft and light
When it smooths out a place for your head at night!

If you know of someone just like this,
My household fairy you cannot miss—
It's mother!

—Alice B. Huling.

went on splendidly until Freddie Dean slipped on a rug and bumped his head against the sharp edge of the cupboard, and daddy decided that it must be moved farther into the corner to avoid any more accidents.

Connie's heart sank—whatever would happen when all that dust was suddenly uncovered? In a stammering whisper she explained the situation to her mother and begged her to do something. So mother came to the rescue, and suggested that as it was almost lunch time they should all go into the dining-room while daddy and John moved the cupboard.

Tears of shame came into Connie's eyes as she rushed into the kitchen for the dust-pan and brush. She forgot all about the excitement of the new frocks and the party as she saw mother's grave face.

"Whatever made you sweep all the dust under there?" she asked.

"Well, you see, I—I forgot the dust-pan, and I didn't want to bother to go back for it. I didn't think anyone would see it!" faltered Connie, as she swept up her guilty secret.

"But, dear, I'm always telling you that the things which people don't see must be just as well done as the ones they do see. If we start doing little things badly, then we go right through life doing the big things carelessly as well," explained her mother.

"I'm so sorry, mother, I really will be more careful now," promised Connie. "If you hadn't got everybody out, they would all have seen it. I think I shall always remember the dust under the cupboard when I want to do anything carelessly again."

A Cat's Mother-Love

THERE was an aborigines' camp not far from the homestead. In the camp were cats by the dozen, of all sizes and kinds. The blacks could not feed so many, and there were not many birds for the animals to hunt. Most of the cats were thin and hungry.

One day, while feeding my own cats, I saw an old grey tabbie, very thin, coming nearer to the saucer of milk. I gave her a saucerful all to herself. Although she was hungry, she merely sniffed the milk and made straight back to the camp.

About five minutes later she came back carrying a tiny kitten, which she placed near the saucer. When it had begun to lick the milk, she went back for another kitten, and made repeated trips until she had her five kittens there.

Still the old tabbie was not happy. Once more she went back to the camp, and came back twenty minutes later, dragging by the neck a half-grown cat. The latter did not want to come, but the tabbie would not let it go until they came to the milk. The blacks told us that this kitten was not her own, but that she had mothered it when its own mother had left it.

Such wonderful love could not be forgotten. The whole seven cats were well fed and kept at the homestead from that day onwards. Old Tabbie never stopped thanking us with loud purrs whenever we went near her.—From the Sydney Morning Herald.

Who does the best his circumstance allows,
Does well, acts nobly; angels could do no more.
—Edward Young.

from Every Land

• MISSIONARIES in the Solomon Islands have reduced to writing twenty-four of the native languages.

• ORDINARY pine needles contain a vast amount of vitamin C. In a week's time a party of French explorers under Jacques Cartier, in Canada, used all the foliage of a large tree in an endeavour to save themselves from scurvy. Recovery began at once. Four hundred years ago the American Indians prescribed pine-needle tea for scurvy.

• LIMITED quantities of food yeast, or nutritional yeast, are being shipped to United Nations nationals to augment diets too frequently lacking in proteins. Source of the yeast may be cultures fed by molasses and ammonium sulphate or brewers' yeast, with the taste of beer removed. Full-grown food yeast contains 45 per cent protein, and is high in vitamin B content. One and one-half ounces of yeast are equivalent to two eggs in protein content, and half an ounce can supply the daily B-complex requirements of the normal diet. Annual production of food yeast, about four million pounds, is to be increased for the benefit of our allies and liberated nations. Nutritional yeast can be grown in twenty-four hours.

• THE presentation of the King's Sword to the City of Stalingrad revives a traditional honour which has not been conferred on any city for many centuries. Only four English cities can boast a Royal Sword. Three of them, York, Lincoln, and Chester, were given their swords by Richard II in the 14th century. Perhaps this not very popular sovereign was trying to secure the support of the burghers of the main fortress cities of Britain and to impress the citizens with colourful ceremony. The fourth city—London—did not get its Royal Sword until 1571, when the famous Pearl Sword was presented by Queen Elizabeth. At that time England stood alone while the greater part of the Continent was in league against her, and the City of London was the audacious outpost of independence.

STAMMERING

... can now be definitely cured in your own home, thanks to the discovery of "THE MAGIC ALPHABET"; particulars of which may be obtained from Philip O'Bryen Hoare, Consulting Psychologist, 270 Queen St., Brisbane, Queensland.

• IF YOUR INQUIRY is on behalf of a child of ten years of age or under, DO NOT SEND for booklet, but remit the sum of £1 (one pound) for special exercises for children of tender years.

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

• AN edition of the *Time* magazine is printed in Australia for General MacArthur's men, and one in Honolulu for Hawaii and our island outposts in the mid-Pacific. *Time* is also printed in three Latin American countries—in Mexico City, Buenos Aires, and Bogota. Recently an edition was begun in Persia. This makes six editions being printed thousands of miles away.

• INDUSTRIAL plants concerned for the health and efficiency of their workers are installing "lighthouses of health," ultra-violet-ray equipment which will treat fifteen people at a time as they stand in a circle around the machine.

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• THE Celanese Corporation has developed a process whereby seams in clothing are welded together instead of being stitched with thread. The conventional needle is replaced with a wire which sends a volt of electricity through the fabric to a sewing-machine shuttle on the opposite side. This generates a heat which welds the materials together. A thin strip of thermoplastic material is placed between the seams of ordinary fabrics before they are electrically sewed.

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IN CHRIST

MEADE MACGUIRE

IN the first verse of Romans 8 Paul says, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." In the tenth verse: "If Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin."

Here is a striking paradox, very similar to that given by the Saviour in His beautiful lesson on the true vine, "Abide in Me, and I in you." John 15: 4.

We know that no man can enter into and abide in another man, but it is not difficult for the child of God, instructed by the Spirit, to understand the possibility of the actual indwelling of Christ. He walked the paths of earth in former days, clothed in human flesh. Today, through His divine representative, the Holy Spirit, He enters into the yielded life and takes up His abode.

Indeed, the blessed Saviour even now awaits outside the door, and pleads for the invitation to enter: "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him." Rev. 3: 20.

But it may not appear so clear to some how they can be "in Christ." This is a favourite expression with Paul, occurring in his epistles more than seventy times. Six of the epistles are addressed to the saints and faithful who are "in Christ."

In the first chapter of Ephesians he enumerates some of the blessings secured to those who are in Christ, declaring that "in Him" they are blessed, chosen, accepted, redeemed, heirs, united, and sealed with the Holy Spirit.

It is evident that while Christ enters into His children as a divine, living personality, He also surrounds them as a heavenly atmosphere. It is

thus that He becomes a wall of separation between every true believer and the world, and He not only separates, but protects, so that no evil influence from without can harm him.

The diver puts on his specially prepared suit, and goes down into the water, an element in which he could



not live. But he is surrounded with an element which is continually supplied and renewed from above, and which preserves his life.

In a similar way the child of God is born from above, and his home is there. But for the present he is in this earthly element in which he cannot live. His life therefore depends absolutely upon that which is continually supplied from above. That element is Jesus Christ.

The plant could not live out of the earth, for that is its element. The fish could not live out of water, for that is its natural element. The bird cannot live under water, for the air is its element. So the child of God who has been born from above, delivered from the power of darkness, and translated into the kingdom of His dear Son, can live in this world of sin only by abiding in that element provided from above for his existence. And this is the secret of the great deliverance from sin and the transformation of the life of a true Christian.

"The Father's presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which Infinite Love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. The blow that is aimed at him falls upon the Saviour, who surrounds him with His presence. Whatever comes to him comes from Christ. He has no need to resist evil; for Christ is his defence. Nothing can touch him except by our Lord's permission."—"The Mount of Blessing," page 110.

"If a piece of iron could speak, what could it say of itself? 'I am black; I am cold; I am hard.' But put it in the furnace, and what a change takes place! It has not ceased to be iron; but the blackness is gone, the coldness is gone, and the hardness is gone! It has entered into a new experience. The fire and the iron are still distinct, and yet how complete is the union! They are one. If the iron could speak, it could not glory in itself, but in the fire that makes and keeps it a bright and glowing mass.

"So must it be with the believer. Do you ask him what he is in himself? He answers, 'I am carnal, sold under sin!' For left to himself, this inevitably follows; he is brought into captivity to the law of sin which is in his members. But it is his privilege to enter into fellowship with Christ, and in Him to abide. And there in Him who is our life, our purity, and our power—in Him whose Spirit can penetrate into every part of our being—the believer is no longer carnal, but spiritual; no longer overcome by sin and brought into captivity, but set free from the law of sin and death, and preserved in a condition of deliverance. This blessed experience of emancipation from sin's service and power implies a momentary and continuous act of abiding."—Hopkins.