

OSHAWA, ONTARIO

FEBRUARY, 1947

Signs of the Times





❧ C ❧ l o u d s

CLOUDLESS lives are not the most beautiful. A life with clouds of struggle and sorrow, all lighted up with the rays from the Sun of Righteousness, far excels in beauty any sunset ever seen. The spray thrown up by the rushing torrent of Niagara greatly adds to the beauty of the falls, because the sun paints rainbows upon it. And so lives with Niagara torrents of struggle are more beautiful for the clouds raised by such struggle, if they are flooded with light from heaven. There is one place where clouds are never seen, and that is the desert of Sahara. Desolation and death are twin monarchs there. The lives which have been richest in good works have been like the life of the Man of Sorrows, full of clouds, and a bow of promise on every cloud. — *A. C. Dixon.*

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CATASTROPHIES!

FAMINES! FLOODS!

Why Does a God of Love Permit Them?

AS the swirling waters of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers rose higher and higher, there seemed little hope that hundreds of homes along their banks could possibly be saved. As the darkness came on, the stillness of the night was rent with the cries of the stranded. The waters were rising so rapidly that all thought of property and personal belongings was soon forgotten, and the hope that hundreds of perishing people might be reached ere the water covered their housetops was the motivating action that urged scores into every craft available to search the inky blackness of the night for the cries of the helpless.

Morning brought the tragic news of the loss of several hundred lives and the hospitalization of many others. The damage ran into millions of dollars, and life-time savings were gone within hours, for many, as the area of the two rivers lay for miles under thirty to fifty feet of water. Many everywhere were asking, "Why?"

In New England a hurricane strikes, and in a matter of hours, 60,000 are homeless. In Atlanta a terrifying fire in the night claims helpless victims, and turns the so-called "fire-proof" structure into a molten mass of flaming ruins. A tornado comes sweeping across the western prairies, leaving in its path a wake of destruction. In the east, earthquakes and tidal waves claim the lives of thousands more. And so we might go on and on in a seemingly never-ending review of the tragedies that are striking at the human race. What does it all mean? Why does a God of love allow innocent people to be ruthlessly destroyed? Such is the question on many inquiring lips as they turn to God with murmuring and complaint.

Read Ephesians 6:12: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood,

By R. E. Metcalfe

but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Whom is Paul talking about? The verse before says, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." The devil is temporarily permitted by God to be ruler of this earth, for in the beginning man sold out to him and by man's choice he, and not God, is the prince of this world and the head of spiritual wickedness in high places. It is true that Christ paid the price for our redemption, and all who take Him as their shield and buckler may quench the fiery darts of the evil one, yet, until we are removed from this old sin-cursed earth, we are still in the land of the enemy and the devil is

the ruler of this world of sorrow and woe.

The question comes, "Is Satan unlimited in his destructive power?" No, for we read in Revelation 7:1, 3: "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, . . . nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." God will hold in check the powers of the nations until He sees that the time is ripe and a nation has filled up its cup of iniquity, and then the winds of strife will blow.

We see the things happening to-day among the nations of the world that a few years ago would have caused wars. But when things seem ready to break a-new, and throw the whole world into chaos and ruin, some unforeseen hand seems to hold them in check. It is because the angels of



When nature goes on a rampage, men naturally wonder if such power is controlled by a superior intelligence.

heaven are commissioned to hold the winds of strife until God's chosen ones are sealed; until those who love God are found and sealed with His seal.

When the angels of heaven release their hold upon the winds of strife, we will see things so awful in their reality that the cruel things we now see will seem mild in comparison! God says, "My spirit shall not *always* strive with men." And when that restraining power is withdrawn from this earth, then we can expect trouble and confusion such as human beings have never known, for Satan will have full control.

At the present time God still keeps His hand in restraint on the evil one, the prince of darkness, and continues to plead with stubborn man to reject a life of sin, and come out from the snares of Satan before His protecting power must be withdrawn and man left to the terrible destruction of the evil one, which is the devil's reward for all who are ensnared by him.

There are times when trouble comes to communities because of certain sins. "The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven: His eyes behold, His eyelids try, the children of men. . . . Upon the wicked He shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup." Psalm 11:4, 6. God oftentimes withdraws His protecting hand and allows tragedy to come to a community because of its sins, as a warning to others; but these calamities would be even more severe if God did not restrain the devil from carrying it as far as he would like.

If we could only realize it, the devil is waiting and anxious to destroy us, yet Jesus holds in check the power and attack of the evil one, that someone might come to love and serve Him, because he sees God's love in contrast to the hatred of the enemy. But still, man, in his selfishness, refuses to acknowledge God's protecting hand in not allowing the devil to completely have his way, and he blames God for the tragedies!

What do these alarming things mean that are coming upon the earth? The disciples came to Jesus privately, and asked Him, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matthew 24:3. As His spirit is withdrawn from the earth because of the hardness of men's hearts and the continued spurning and rejection of His love, Jesus tells them that, "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Verse 7. As we see these things being fulfilled on every hand, do they awaken

men and cause them to turn to God in repentance and contrition of heart? The great majority of men are doing just the opposite. They are going deeper and deeper into sin, carelessness, vice, and all its degradations.

Jesus mentions that one of the signs before His coming will be famines. It is part of the treatment the devil gives when we give ourselves over into his hands, and God's restraining power begins to be withdrawn from the earth. It is hard for us to imagine in well-fed Canada what famines are like. In China and India every year there are millions who die from starvation. We cannot comprehend, in individuals, what this means.

A few years prior to the Great War, one nation traded ten millions of her people for cannon and bombs. She drained every grain of wheat and seed from the land and exchanged it for war materials. It served her ruthless purpose better to do away with those who objected to her and exchange them for war machinery to kill off still others. I say again, we, in this country of bounty and justice, know very little of the troubles of the world; of untold cries of the suffering, the unuttered agony of millions around the globe as they silently perish each minute of every hour.

Is God visiting plagues upon the earth? No, but He is allowing them that men might take heed and awaken to the wiles of the evil one who *causes* them. He is silently pleading with them to prepare for the close of this world's painful history, and to prepare their hearts and lives to exchange it for a better world where sin and sorrow shall not rise up a second time. But, still, man in his hardened lethargy, manifests no more than shocked acceptance of the signs he sees increasing around him. Floods, pestilences, earthquakes, and even wars, make little impression on him and he makes no effort to change his evil and sinful ways, but murmurs instead, "Why does God allow these things to happen!"

God's mercy for sin-loving man will not endure forever. He has allowed humanity centuries of iniquity until their cup of allowance is almost full, and as His spirit is being withdrawn from the earth, Satan is taking more control. Yet, in His tender mercy, God does not leave us without a warning that these very things which we now see happening will come upon the earth as a result of our sinful allegiance to the devil, and He pleads with us to come out from the service of the destructive enemy before it is forever too late.

I read in Psalm 148:8, "Fire, and hail; snow, and vapours; stormy wind fulfilling His word." As Satan is given

more and more power on earth to carry out his wicked wiles by the withdrawing of God's presence, we shall see more destructive storms announcing the approach of the final day of judgment. There comes a time when God must withdraw his protecting power and allow the waves to beat upon our lands and the winds to blow upon our buildings. God did not want to allow a flood to envelope these helpless people about whom we read, but in giving their services to the enemy, they received but a part of the wrath Satan would have executed upon them if God had not stopped him. It is true Satan manages to include some innocent victims in the chaos and destruction which he causes, but God ever has His eye upon the righteous, and as they draw near to Him in their hour of need, He does not leave them without sustaining comfort and blessings.

God longs to take His people from this sin-cursed world which is under the dominion of the prince of darkness, and His ear is ever open to their cry. But, in permitting the devil to do his cruel work, God hopes that men will see the result of their service to Satan and will leave it while there is still time. If we would only go to the word of God, we would not be in doubt and confusion, for we see it is exactly as God says it would come: He would withdraw His power, and Satan would bring tragedy and trouble upon the land.

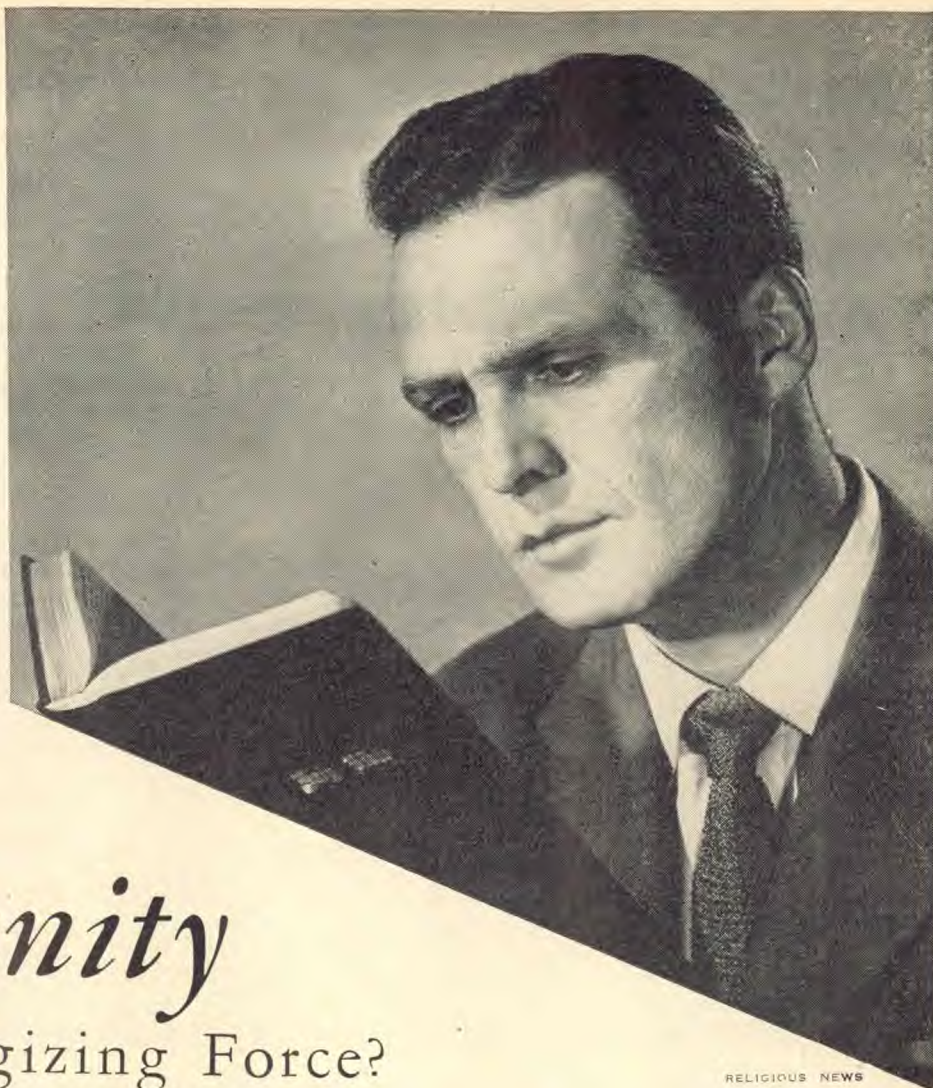
When you read about the disasters that are increasing around the globe, do you go to the Bible to find out what it says? Does it draw you closer to Him?

Truly this earth is waxing "old like a garment." Isaiah tells us, "Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but My salvation shall be forever, and My righteousness shall not be abolished." Isaiah 51:6. Christ is here describing the breaking up of the earth as it nears the approach of His return to this world.

You ask, "Haven't we always had some of these signs, earthquakes, etc.? Yes, In tracing the record of earthquakes we find the astonishing parallel of only fifteen in the first century compared with *three thousand* in the twentieth century! Surely if there had been no other sign given except this it should be enough. But God has given to doubting man signs in the elements, on the land, in the sea, and the heavens above (the falling of the stars on November 13, 1833, and the "dark day" on May 19, 1780, are recorded in any encyclopedia), and still

finite man in his pleasure-loving madness closes his eyes saying, "I can't see it," and races blindly on to his destruction! He thinks it won't happen in "his" day.

In old Mexico close to the recent volcano there, we saw the steeples of two churches protruding from the miles of lava-covered land as the only mute evidence of a once thriving village that had been beneath the twenty feet of lava. We were shocked to see new villages being erected near the site of the tragedy and asked the guide if they were not afraid the same thing would happen to them. He said, "No, they don't think it will happen in their day!" And so it is with procrastinating humanity. Many think, "Christ won't come in my day," and so they go on in gaiety and merriment while on the brink of destruction, and know it not! No wonder the Lord warns us over and over that He will come as a thief in the night, and pleads with us not to be found sleeping.



RELIGIOUS NEWS

Christianity

Opiate or Energizing Force?

OPIATE or energizing force—What was it that made Egerton Young, the dauntless Methodist missionary, pursue such a toilsome path in his efforts to help the red men?

It was almost a hundred and twenty years ago. There was neither railway nor good road to the north of Hudson Bay. The rude trail he travelled led him into all kinds of danger.

He was drenched through and through in fierce thunderstorms. One night a cyclone ravaged the camp. Quicksands lay by the side of the path. More than once he lost the trail. On the swollen rivers his canoe was in great danger of being overturned. At night he had to sleep on the rocks or sand at the water's edge with his two Indian companions.

But when he reached the little companies of Indians, and saw their joy as they heard the message of God's love, his heart was glad and light.

For that was the message which had touched his own soul. It had kindled in him the flame of love for these red men. No opiate this!—it was an energizing force which drove him gladly forward.

By Arthur Warren

That same love sprang up in his converted Indians' hearts. Once when smallpox raged in a white man's settlement in far Saskatchewan, eight score Christian Indians paddled twenty heavy canoes, laden with medicine and food, hundreds of miles up the Saskatchewan River to succour their White Brothers. The courageous Papenekis, their leader, died of strain, as a result when the canoes reached home again.

About the same time, while Egerton Young was teaching his Indians, John Williams, with his young wife, was working for the natives of the South Sea islands. He was often in danger from treacherous natives, from tempestuous seas, and sometimes from devastating hurricanes. He was finally killed by savages on the island of Erromanga, in the New Hebrides.

But the natives of many another island blessed the day when Williams had come to visit them. No longer did the dusky islanders of Mitiaro fear the once-savage chief Roma-tane, of the

neighbouring island of Atiu. Before he was converted he came with his swift war canoes, seized men and women, bound them hand and foot, and hurled them into the roasting ovens. He had dashed out the children's brains in the sight of their mothers. He had skewered the children together through the ears.

Now, thank God! that was a thing of the past. The terrifying war cries were heard no longer. The mothers and their children could lie down in peace and sleep safely in the night. John Williams, urged on by the energizing force of love, had taught Roma-tane to worship the great Creator, and mercy and kindness had come into the heart of the cruel chief.

But a century had passed since the days of John Williams. Does that force still work?

It certainly does!

Hear the tale of Missionary Stahl in his work for the Indians of Bolivia and Peru. He braved both danger and dirt to reach them. He faced the sticks and stones of fanatical priest-led mobs. He faced the discomfort of verminous sleeping places, and the distress in

breathing which comes in the high altitudes of the Andes.

But see the result! In the Indian huts where once reigned drunkenness, filth, superstition, sickness, misery and cruelty, can now be heard the happy laughter and singing of children whose parents have become intelligent, industrious, healthy, kind, sober, clean and high-principled. A great hope and joy has come to these poor people, 8,000 to 10,000 of whom have been converted through the efforts of Mr. Stahl and other Seventh-day Adventist missionaries since 1908. Such is the energizing force of the love of God in practical Christianity.

This same energizing influence has been working through Captain Jones and his friends in the Solomon Islands and New Guinea. He faced the perils of the stormy deep in a small boat; he faced mad natives possessed with devils.

But this mild, little man with the pointed beard, (who reminded you of "Captain Kettle" in outward appearances,) with his associates, guided thousands of natives into a new life of joy and usefulness. The devils were cast out: mercy and helpfulness took the place of cruelty and enmity.

See Kata Ragoso, son of cannibal forefathers. He was converted to Christianity as a young man. During the late war the energizing force of practical Christianity impelled him to organize his fuzzy-haired fellow converts into a rescue service to watch out for Allied airmen who might "crash" into sea near their island home. Altogether they saved two hundred from drowning, torture, imprisonment or death at the hands of the Japanese.

Happy were these Solomon Islanders!

What a gratifying outcome of the missionaries' labours and sacrifice!

Had these airmen crashed in these waters in the days of Kata Ragoso's cannibal forefathers, they would have been killed and eaten—or left to drown.

Just a few years ago a young American doctor named Marcus turned his back on the prospect of a well-paid practice and went to live among the natives of Africa. He built a home, and then a hospital, and then a home for lepers.

For a long time he was viewed with suspicion and distrust—a hard thing, that,—but finally he won the black people's confidence. He healed their lepers, he removed cataracts and caused their blind to see. He operated on them for serious troubles and treated them for innumerable minor ailments. He was a real friend to them at all times.

Young Mrs. Marcus was a trained

nurse, and taught the mothers how to care for their children. More than 70 per cent of the black babies were dying. All had sore eyes, colds or some other kind of sickness. Tender infants were fed with half-cooked porridge—coarse stuff, utterly unsuitable. They lived among flies, mosquitoes and vermin. They were fed at all times and hours from dirty breasts. Very seldom was a healthy baby seen.

But young Mrs. Marcus taught them how to wash their babies, how to feed them, how to keep their homes clean and tidy. She trained girls in her own home, that they might be teachers of their black sisters.

After a while the appearance of the whole village changed. The health of the babies improved visibly. No longer were the native women wild-eyed creatures living in miserable, dirty shacks. The village huts lined themselves in orderly fashion on either side of freshly-swept paths.

"Where are the usual tumble-down shacks?" Mrs. Marcus asks herself. "Where are the swarms of flies?"

They were gone!

A group of well-combed women, clean and attractive, awaited her with their well-washed babies nestled comfortably at their breasts. No wonder the babies' health had improved.

Yes, the energizing force of practical Christianity does not wait for over-worked governments to take action. It blesses the world through ordinary men and women.

But I started out to write an article, and I find that a book—nay, a library of books—would be needed to chronicle the exploits of men and women who have been urged on by the energizing force of Christianity.

What a list of noble missionaries since the time of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who left His home to show us poor mortals the way to happiness.

One thinks of the ardent Paul, the impetuous Peter, and the loving John—all missionaries. Nearer our own time, David Brainerd and Edgerton Young, who worked for the Indians of North America.

James Chalmers, John G. Paton, Captain Jones and large numbers of other self-sacrificing men, both black and white, worked in the islands of the South Pacific.

Hudson Taylor, Pastor Hsi, Griffith John, Dr. Miller—of China; William Carey, of India; Judson of Burma; Moffatt and Livingston of South Africa; MacKay and Hannington of Uganda; Studd, the famous cricketer, who gave away his fortune of \$115,000, and went as a missionary to China, India and Central Africa—how the world has benefited by the divine energizing force that inspired these men. Yet these men are just a few of a great multitude.

Thank God! the energizing force of Christian love is still seen in thousands of homes—in thousands of young men and women, in thousands of boys and girls and older folk.

Never be ashamed—I speak especially to young men and women and boys and girls—never be ashamed of Christ or His Church. His Church has a long list of noble names, not only of foreign missionaries, but of great reformers and philanthropists who uplifted mankind. Men like John Howard, the prisoners' friend; William Wilberforce, Whittier, and Harriet Beecher Stowe, who worked for the freeing of the slaves; Shaftesbury and Kingsley, who did so much to better the state of the working man. Great authors, poets like Milton, artists and musicians, men of business, scientists and explorers.

And a great multitude of obscure but noble men and women who loyally backed them up with their money and their prayers.

Throw in your lot with them!

One day, now soon to come, Christ will have a great triumph-procession of these noble-hearted ones—a great procession, welcomed by radiant angels and God Himself.

And when this triumphant procession marches down the golden streets to the great white throne—may you and I be there to see!

Jewish refugees, seeking to escape the national hatreds of Europe, find themselves excluded from their Land of Promise in Palestine. These wanderers are in a camp in Cyprus.



S. & G.

SIGNS of the TIMES



NAT'L FILM BOARD

The National War Memorial, Ottawa

A Date With **DEATH**

By Theo. G. Weis

I NEVER want to see Europe again," said a professional soldier friend of mine, leafing through an old scrapbook while sitting in an easy chair in the living-room. "I have dated death too many times to have any feelings in me for anything good in Europe."

"You are hard on the unfortunate people who wanted no war," I responded. "Those poor people were caught in a rushing Niagara. Escape was impossible."

"Well," he grumbled, "you should have seen what I saw. My job, near the end of the fighting, was to direct cleaning up concentration camps. If I had had to work in one more of those Augean stables of hell, I believe I would have gone crazy. Do you remember Kipling of Victorian England? He said something like:

"They will come back, come back again,

As long as the red ball rolls;
He never wasted a leaf or a tree,
Do you think He would squander souls?"

"Kipling never stuck his moustache in through the door of one of those mass-murder holes, or he wouldn't have written that stuff."

"Let's not be bitter," I consoled.

"Bitterness, like drops of acid, burns first the vessel which holds it."

There was a long silence while he kept turning the pages. Then he stopped.

"Listen to what you have marked here: 'There exists more evidence favouring than against the immortality of the individual human intelligence.' That's by Edison." And he closed the book. "The immortality of the soul was one of my pet subjects before I saw human beings piled up in huge dumps like so many skinned muskrats. I have lost faith in any kind of God and doctrine."

"Don't say 'lost'! You mean 'not sure'! There are times when I am not sure of my faith; and I didn't suffer the mental agony you must have suffered. I am afraid of the man who is *always* sure and positive of his faith. It seems to me he is either not telling the truth, or he is not living with a full heart open to the struggles and complexities of life. I have to renew my faith constantly. I have to water it, till it, weed it, and sometimes do a lot of reseeded. My boyhood days were spent on a farm in southern Saskatchewan. Heavy wind-dust storms would mutilate acres of newly seeded soil. Entire reseedings were sometimes necessary if any wheat crop was to be

expected. Reseed your faith. The growth of a full life is not possible without it.

"You are a fighting man, unshaken by the sight of death. Why not the three of us have a date right here—you, I and Death. Sit where you are. I'll sit here. Let Death sit over there. You tell some of your 'pet' arguments in favour of immortality and I'll take the 'unconscious sleep' side. Perhaps digging, stirring, vitalizing and reseeding some of the old soil of your thinking which has become so tramped by the march of bayonet-carrying men, will help your faith a little."

"It'll be impromptu stuff," he smiled.

For nearly an hour I was lost in the surprising beauty of his thoughts. He was a scientist and a capable student by hobby. There was a sincerity in his words that had an almost irresistible driving force. The particular field of his hobby was an open book to him. He had at his command quotations from the keenest scientific minds and from the books of the most verbose philosophers. The Bible was mainly a book of his childhood days.

The gist of his "chat" was somewhat on this fashion: Have you ever considered the greatness and the smallness of things? This universe is a vast and

inconceivable mass of complexity. Its expanse baffles us. Light travelling at the rate of 186,000 miles a second traverses the distance between the sun and the earth in approximately eight minutes. At the same rate light must travel 4.5 years to come to us from Alpha Centauri, one of the nearest stars, and 8.4 years to span the space to Sirius, another well-known first-magnitude star. This star is coming towards our earth at the rate of 100,000,000 miles a year, yet (astronomers assure us) it is doubtful whether in a thousand years there will be any noticeable change in its brightness.

The familiar Arcturus in the constellation Boötes, of which Job speaks, is a sun 500 times as bright as our own, and shines at a distance of 100 light years away from us. The star Rigel in Orion is a sun with at least 10,000 times the power of our own. In the same constellation is a nebula known as the nebula in Orion, with a diameter equal to the distance between our earth and Sirius—approximately 50,000,000,000,000 miles. That is an inconceivable body at a distance equally hard to comprehend. Many things have been said about this nebula, but little is really known.

Another monarch of the heavens is the nebula in the constellation Hercules. It appears as a fuzzy star to us. The telescope reveals thousands of suns vastly greater than our own planetary universe. If that Herculean mass of bodies is constructed like our solar system, with each sun as the centre of a series of planets—or worlds—thousands of miles in diameter, what a giant universe in itself that nebula is!

These are only a few of the wonders of the heavens. There are others equally spectacular. Yet not one of these giant bodies, at almost infinite distance, is discordant with the rest. There is harmony, unity, and continuity throughout the vast abyss of stars, nebulae, and worlds.

With the inner universe of the atom he was equally conversant. Fissions and the dread of atomic energy were not nearly as fascinating as the endless chain wonders in ordinary organic chemistry. The microscope revealed to him a universe just as vast and harmonious in structure as the stellar regions. Continuity was not lacking.

Somewhere between these two, it seemed to him, was man groping his way. He admitted that the continuity between two worlds—atom and universe—was somewhat uncertain, just as the continuity between matter and spirit is not fully understood. It, however, was hard for him to believe that life's accomplishments were merely the by-products of a motley array of hydro-

carbon molecules. If all possess continuity, he argued, it appears strange indeed that man should be the only manifestation in the universe that is completely annihilated after a brief seventy years. The soul, or whatever it be, that produced in Milton a "Paradise Lost", in Shelly an "Ode to the Skylark," in Beethoven a "Moonlight Sonata," can hardly be an exception to the universe. This "thing" must possess continuity. In other words, the soul of man must be immortal.

"That used to be my argument," he said. "Now, where do you begin the 'sleep' doctrine?"

"Just about where you left off," I continued.

The gap between the universe of matter and that of the spirit is big. We lack data in this field of research. What is more baffling, we know not where to obtain such data, if it exists at all. The chasm made by death is unbridgeable unless we take by faith the guiding hand of God. Honest study and investigation show the universe to be the product of an all-wise mind and controlled by an omnipotent power,—the power of God. If God exists, Surely He must have revealed Himself. The Bible is the only book that claims to reveal the true God. "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me." John 5:39.

The Book claims that death is the product of sin. Death is a penalty for the transgressions of humanity. "Who-soever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgres-

"The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten."

sion of the law." 1 John 3:4. "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23. When man bartered immortality for the pleasures of disobedience, he heaped upon his own head the full penalty for his lawlessness. The third chapter of Genesis tells us that. "Cursed is the ground for thy sake; in toil shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Genesis 3:17, 19 A.R.V.

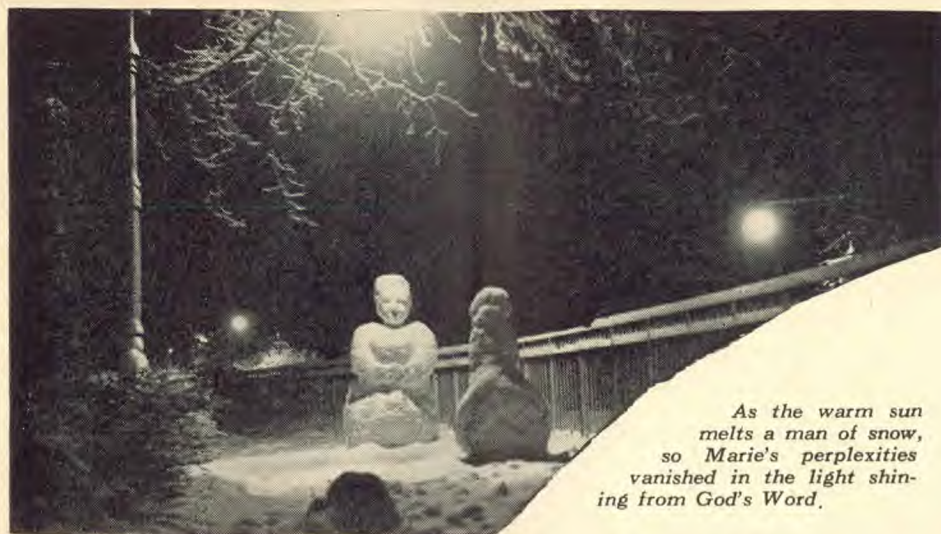
That immortality is a gift to humanity seems evident also from the very process of creation. "Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." Genesis 2:7 A.R.V. Paul, the apostle, speaks of God as Him "Who only hath immortality." 1 Tim. 6:16.

Immortality is man's only when given him by the Creator. The Bible makes no such claim for this life. Rather, it teaches that man is mortal, subject to death, and not possessed by an immortal spirit. "The living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, . . . for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in Sheol [grave] whither thou goest." Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10, A. R. V. "That which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: . . . All are of the dust, and all turn to the dust again." Ecclesiastes 3:19, 20. All factual evidence favours these plain, hard words. Man, like the beast, falls into the dusty grave a wasted rag unless some external force exerts itself in his behalf. Unless God restores the original state, man has no hope of immortality.

Life is the sweetest, the most clung-to gift that man possesses. There is no price in the form of pain, skill, silver, or gold that he will not pay for a few hours of prolonged life. Within the breast of every human being is the unquenchable desire to live on. The icy grip of death is mankind's most dreaded calamity. Perhaps this very dread is proof that the portals of death do not hold the keys to an immortality beyond. God spurs man to immortality. "To them who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life." Romans 2:7. This is the "holy grail" of human quest,—immortality, eternal life. Desperately our hopes cling to it.

God has not left us without assurance. Jesus died and rose again. He paid the penalty for our transgression and restored immortality as a possible gift. The apostle cheers us with these words: "In a moment, . . . the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality . . ." 1 Corinthians 15:52-55 A.R.V. It will take a sincere and unwavering faith, and much prayer to bring man back to Eden and immortality.

He looked at his watch. "This has been a pleasant afternoon," he smiled. The two of us parted. The third—Death—had, though not unwittingly, been the subject of, instead of a party to, the conversation.



*As the warm sun
melts a man of snow,
so Marie's perplexities
vanished in the light shin-
ing from God's Word.*

INTERNATIONAL

MARIE'S thoughts often turned back to that land where her father lay buried. That day when he had been laid to rest in the quiet graveyard she had felt he was just asleep in death and knew nothing more of what was going on around him. But somehow her young heart had been filled with the hope that she would see him alive again some day. As she grew older and learned more fully the teachings of her father's church and also those of her mother's church, she had formed the vague idea that the dead did not really die, but that some part of them still retained a state of consciousness somewhere.

As she had studied the Bible for herself, however, she had been continually confronted with portions of the Scripture which seemed to conflict with this idea which she had lately imbibed. She saw that Jesus had taught that death was a sleep. When He was called to the grave of Lazarus He had said, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth." John 11:11. Then to make His words more clear He had said, "Lazarus is dead." To Marie there could be no view of death more comforting than this. During her father's last illness she had often been grateful when sleep had brought rest and relief to him. Now, as she was assured from the words of Jesus that he was just peacefully sleeping in the quiet old graveyard, free from all sorrow and pain, she was greatly comforted.

How lovely too was the hope she had of the resurrection. Surely none in possession of a Bible need be ignorant on this point, for the inspired apostle Paul had said, "I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. . . . For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with

the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4:13, 16-18.

It was with a shudder that Marie recalled the time when she had gone to the spiritualist séance for light concerning the way of life and her duty to God. But it was in ignorance that she had made this misstep, and the Lord had not left her alone in the darkness. In His providence He had overruled so that she had been able to obtain this Bible which was proving to be "a lamp unto her feet and a light unto her path," at every step. Here in the Holy Bible she read God's admonition to those desiring light. "And 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? . . . To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isaiah 8:19-20. "There shall not be found among you any one . . . that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord." Deuteronomy 18:10-12.

As Marie continued to study her Bible she was assured that any apparitions which simulated the personality of lost loved ones were definitely not the spirits of the dead. The Bible so plainly taught that the "dead know not anything." Ecclesiastes 9:5. "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish." Psalm 146:4. "For there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge,

IN MEMORY of FATHER

Continuing a Story of
Adventure in Search of Truth

By Mary C. Murdoch

nor wisdom, in the grave." Ecclesiastes 9:10.

Then what were these spirit manifestations that were successfully deceiving so many that attended the spiritualist séance? The apostle Peter speaking of these times had said, "In the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4:1. It is Satan and his fallen angels that are the spirits which appear at the séance and masquerade as the spirits of the dead. Yet, no follower of Jesus need have any fear of these evil spirits, for He is infinitely stronger than all the combined forces of the powers of evil. Even just the mention of the name of Jesus uttered in love and sincerity is a sure and certain safeguard against the onslaughts of the rulers of darkness. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Proverbs 18:10.

It was indeed a dreadful deception that had led Marie at one time to seek council from the "spirits of devils" while thinking she was communicating with a dead loved one. As she came to a realization of the danger that had beset her path, and how the Lord had preserved her and delivered her from these powers of darkness, she knelt before Him and poured out her heart in thankfulness for the light of His holy word.

Before Marie had come to the understanding that salvation was a free gift of God, she had thought that by paying to have prayers offered for dead loved ones she could help to gain for them more favours from God. She had therefore been placing aside a portion of

her wages for this purpose. She intended to hold these savings until she had acquired a goodly sum, and then send it back to Europe, so that prayers might be offered that a very dear loved one might be saved in heaven.

Now, she had learned that death was but a sleep and further that it was only through repentance toward God and faith in the merits of Jesus, that anyone could be saved in heaven. As a result of the great revival brought about by

the preaching of Peter on the day of Pentecost multitudes were convicted of sin and had cried out, "What shall we do?" Then Peter said unto them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2: 37, 38. When a certain man, called Simon had approached Peter with money to purchase a gift of God, Peter had rebuked him saying, "Thy money

perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money." Acts 8:20.

As Marie thought of the fifty dollars she had laid aside for her loved one, she felt that it was sacred money. She knew now it could do nothing for the loved one who had passed away. So she decided she would give this gift of love to help carry the good news of free salvation to those who were still living.



THE MYSTERY OF THE GREEN BAY TREE

There was a green bay tree (or cedar of Lebanon, as another translation has it) which, from time immemorial, with its fellow trees, had been a symbol of power, prosperity, and longevity. It grew to the height of eighty feet. Numerous lateral ramifying branches spread out from the main trunk in a horizontal direction, tier upon tier, covering a compass of ground the diameter of which was greater than the height of the tree. It was evergreen, and very dense—in all, a sight to inspire the greatest admiration. How it did spread itself!

Along that way came a poet. He surveyed the majesty and beauty of the towering evergreen—and caught an inspiration. He wrote, "I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree." The more he mused over it, the more it obsessed him. The incongruity of it, the injustice of it, the stark cruelty of it. The wicked flourishing like a giant of the forest, and the righteous groveling like a bramble at its feet. Where was God, with such things going on? The singer almost lost his faith and every incentive to aspire.

Then he made a great discovery—and composed this poem to commemorate the experience.

"I almost slipped,
I nearly lost my footing,
In anger at the godless and their arrogance,
at the sight of their success.
No pain is theirs,
but sound, strong health;
no part have they in human cares,
no blows like other men.
So they vaunt them in their pride,
and flaunt them in rough insolence;
vice oozes from their very soul,
their minds are rank and riotous,
their talk is mocking and malicious,
and haughtily they lay their plots;
lofty as heaven itself their speech,
lording it over the world below.

So people turn to follow them,
and see no wrong in them,
thinking, "What does God care?
How can the Almighty heed—when these,
the godless, prosperously fare,
thriving thus at their ease?"
'Tis all in vain I kept my heart from stain,
kept my life clean,
when all day long blows fell on me,
and every dawn brought me some chastening!
Yet, had I meant to utter this aloud,
I had been faithless to thy family.
So I thought of it, thinking to fathom it;
but sorely did it trouble me."

Psalm 73:1-16. Moffatt

So the poet with words painstakingly portrays the age-old problem of all who strive to do right, and says in short, "What's the use?" Why for even a minute does an omnipotent and loving God allow the evil to flourish and the good to languish?

To answer this last question, He doesn't, generally. Virtue still has its rewards and vice its punishments, daily, in this world of compensations and sow-and-reap. Much of the happiness of plutocracy is bluff and "front." And much grief of the lowly in heart comes from envy and unnecessary worry.

But we grant that the godless often do prosper, at least with money and all that which it will buy; and chiefly because their moral standards are such that they appear to have many more ways of acquiring riches than do those who are strictly honest. And the upright are more often poor, since their consciences will not let them turn the dishonest penny. But if man will see it so, this is only a petty annoyance compared with the keen satisfactions which accompany square dealing. With all said and done, however, the divine attitude is still a mystery.

There can be no question but that God has the power and the disposition to

straighten out these inconsistencies. Why doesn't He do it? Answer: He will do it.

The clue is in the next line of the poem so abruptly cut off above. It reads, "Till I find out God's secret, viewing their latter end." Finally, wickedness does not pay—and goodness ultimately does pay. The whole story reads thus:

"I saw a godless man once on a time, a terror—

towering like any cedar of Lebanon;
then, as I passed by, he was gone!

I looked for him—but he was not to be found.

Hold to integrity, remain upright;
there is a future for the peaceable.
But sinners shall be wiped out at a blow;
the future for the godless is perdition."

Psalm 37:35-38, Moffatt.

"Fret not over evildoers,
envy not the lawless;
soon like grass they fade,
and wither like a green blade.
Trust in the Eternal and do right,
be loyal to him within His land;
Make the Eternal your delight,
and He will give you all your heart's desire.

Leave all to Him, rely on Him,
and He will see to it;
He will bring your innocence to light,
and make the injustice of your cause clear as noonday.

Leave it to the Eternal and be patient;
fret not over the successful man,
who aims to slay the upright,
and carries out his wicked plan.

Cease your anger, give up raging,
fret not—it only leads to evil.
Evildoers shall indeed be rooted out,
and the land left to those who wait for the Eternal."

Psalm 37:1-9, Moffatt.

Nevertheless, the cynic explodes, "Why doesn't God do it here and now? We don't want to wait for pie in the sky bye-and-bye."

Child (since you talk of pie), whether you like it or not, eat your soup and vegetables—including salads and spinach—first; next there is a mannerly wait till all have finished; then the pie. You may grab a bunch of grass now and then during the growing season; but would you have the reaping and the growing at the same time? And, more, there is delay for the ripening after the growth is done. Wages come when the work is finished. Life is that way—and grown-ups have concluded that it is best that way.

Anyhow, it is God's way. And every aspect of life teaches its wisdom.

THE WORLD

TODAY and

New British Strategy in the Middle East

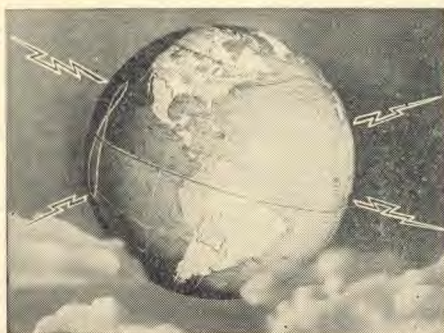
UNDER PRESSURE to withdraw her troops from Egypt, and evacuate that country to the Egyptians, Great Britain is reported to be scouting about for a new base of operations. Egypt has long been that base for the Empire's interests in the vital region of the Suez Canal and the all-important Lifeline.

East Africa is being considered for the new base, according to the London correspondent of the *New York Times*. In the course of the correspondent's report, he says: "Those who are engaged in the treaty negotiations with Egypt, however, know that sooner or later Egypt must be evacuated, and they are not at all optimistic that arrangements can be reached that would put Egypt quickly and amicably at the disposal of British forces in case of another war."

This indicates that hitherto Egypt has not been an independent and sovereign nation, and may not be so, even after the British evacuation, if arrangements can be made to put its territory at the disposal of the British in case of another war.

Our interest lies in the connection this has with the ancient prophecy of Ezekiel to the effect that Egypt would be ruled "by the hand of strangers," and that "there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt." Since its fall from world power centuries ago, Egypt has not been ruled by a native prince. The present kingly line started with Fuad I, an Albanian. (Ezekiel 30:12, 13.)

Will the prophecy be fulfilled that



Egypt, not to speak of her "stranger" prince, will still remain under the influence of strangers? We are more optimistic than the British treaty negotiators that Egypt will be at the disposal of the British in case of another war; or, failing that, it will be at the disposal of *some* outside power. God's prophecies never fail.

Above the Bible. In predominantly Catholic countries, where the common people can be kept in ignorance, the Bible is forbidden by the Church as free reading by its adherents. In some places the priests have made bonfires of discovered Bibles. But in countries where its adherents are in the minority and intelligent enough to demand that the Bible be placed in their hands, the Church encourages wide distribution of God's word. However, the Douay (Catholic) Version of the Bible is the only one allowed; and this is copiously interspersed with explanatory notes by the Church. Also, Cath-

TOMORROW

olics bend Bible translations to suit their purpose. They omit the second commandment in the Church's version of the Decalogue, for instance, because this command forbids image worship; and, plainly, Catholics are image worshippers. In keeping with this, the Douay Version translates Hebrews 11:21, "By faith Jacob, dying, . . . adored the top of his rod." Whereas the King James Version has it, "By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, . . . worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff." Did Jacob worship an image which was carved on the top of his staff; and, if so, what image? But the Church has always placed itself above the Bible, and claims to have the authority to change it at will to suit Church tradition.

Grudges. A grudge is "having it in for somebody" because of a real or fancied injury. But a grudge is excess baggage for a Christian or anyone else. It doesn't pay to carry one around, for the tax on it is excessively high. Many steer clear of poison in the form of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs; and yet will swallow copious doses of grudge poison, to slowly commit soul suicide. To hold a grudge against another is to punish yourself more than him.



Molotov and Vyshinski, United Nations delegates from Russia, were caught by the camera in a moment of laughter and good cheer. But these men and their fellow delegates surely can find little to laugh about in the problems which face them in the task of reorganizing the world for peace.

INTERNATIONAL



In old Scotland many years ago guilty men were chained by the neck in church to teach them respect for law and order.

Would the World Be Better Off

By Alfred R. Ogden

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. . . ." Obedience to this command has to do with the acknowledgment and worship of the true God. And thus tends to greater happiness more than comes into the human heart of the heathen who reverence and worship graven images.

3. "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. . . ." If we truly recognize the God of creation as the true and living God, men and women are truly happier in recognizing and reverencing Him by refraining from taking His name in vain. Thus a better and happier world would come as a universal recognition of God whose name we are never to take in vain.

4. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. . . ." To recognize God as a personal living God would lead all who worship Him to sacredly observe the day that He has designated as His sign and memorial of creation. Truly all the world would be happier if they would religiously set apart as a day of rest and divine worship the Sabbath of God.

5. "Honour thy father and thy mother. . . ." Every home, each child of the family who honours father and mother, is witnessing to a happier home, a better, more congenial family, and thus adding his quota to the sum total of human happiness. Thus is given again the affirmative answer to the question—the theme of this article. If every boy and girl in every home, of all the families of earth, really, truly honoured their earthly parents, it would add much to the sum

WOULD the world be better off without the Ten Commandments? Some, even of religious leaders of our day, advocate that the Ten Commandments—the moral law—has been abrogated. If that were so, would the world be better off? Christ really answers this question in His master discourse—the Sermon on the Mount, when He declared that the law was *not* done away. He said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." Matthew 5:17.

But again with all sincerity we ask the question, Would the world be a safer and better place in which to live, if the Ten Commandments, the Decalogue, were wholly set aside and ignored? Would the human family be happier without the law?

A brief examination of the ten precepts of that holy law which the Psalmist declares to be perfect (Psalm 19:7) might help us more to appreciate and comprehend the length, breadth and scope of the requirements and influence that the law of God has upon the human family. Therefore, one by one we will briefly note the statement embodied in each of the command-

ments as we find them recorded in the twentieth chapter of Exodus.

1. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Would the world be a happier, a better place in which to live, if the God of heaven, the Author of this commandment were universally honoured as the only true and the living God? Perhaps that question can best be answered by asking another. Are these countries which are more generally recognized as Christian, more advanced in civilization, science and invention than others? Are such countries among the leading nations of earth? or are the strictly heathen lands more advanced in all that goes to augment human progress and happiness? Clearly all who are acquainted with the history of the past ages and the conditions of the world at the present time, would spontaneously respond that the nations which most generally recognize the God of our Christian religion are the most advanced. Therefore all will agree that for mankind to recognize and obey the first precept of the Decalogue tends to the making of a better and happier world in which to live.

2. The second commandment says,

SIGNS of the TIMES

total of human happiness, would it not? So a most positive, affirmative, world-wide response would come from the four quarters of earth that this would be a happier, safer and better world in which to live, if all children of whatsoever race, nation and tongue would honour their father and their mother. It is only as children in their childhood and youth are taught to obey and honour their parents that they can truly obey and honour God their heavenly Father.

6. "Thou shalt not kill. . . ." It would be the utmost of folly for anyone to think that the taking of hu-

to the fact that the violation of this precept of the moral code leads to any limit of, "inordinate" acts, to become the possessor of that which rightly and lawfully belongs to another person. How many homes have been broken up by one man's desire, coveting another home, another man's lawfully wedded wife. The court records are full of the decrees of divorce—children are left motherless, because of this "inordinate desire" for one person to have that which rightly belongs to another. No person's home or property would be safe were it not for the holy command, "Thou shalt not

covet." So again, obedience to this command is fundamentally essential to the sum total of human happiness.

Thus as we have briefly taken a hasty glimpse of this moral law. Surely we all agree that this inhabited world can only be happy to the extent and to the degree that we bring into our individual hearts and lives the requirements of the law which is "perfect, holy, just and good." It was of this moral law that the Psalmist declared in the prophecy of Christ, "I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Psalm 40:8.

Without the Moral Law?

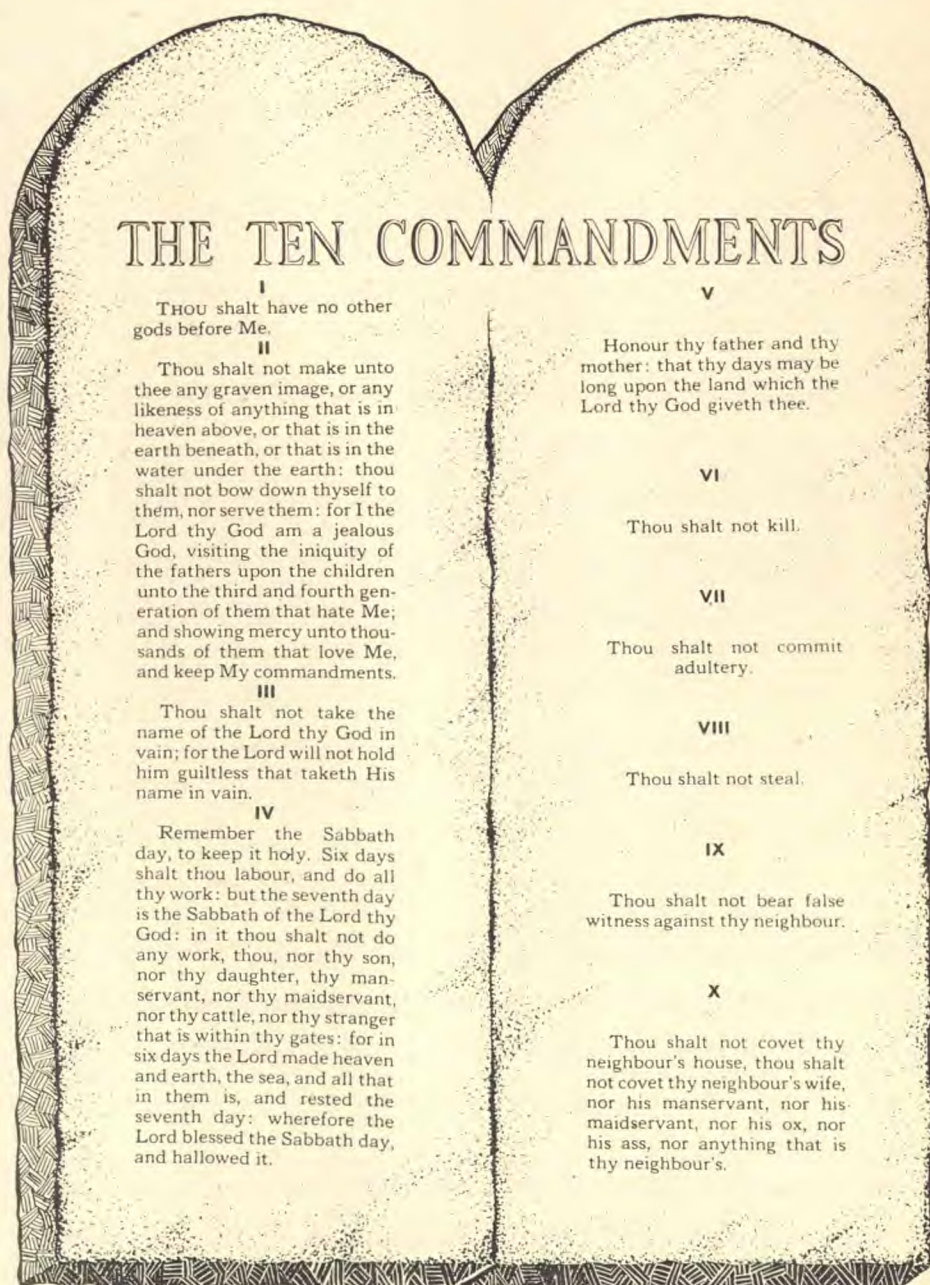
man life could add joy and happiness, or in anyway bring blessings to humanity for any human being to take the life of his fellow. The answer to this commandment is so self evident that it would be the height of unreasonableness to argue that taking the life of another of our fellows could add at all to the joys and blessings of humanity. The converse, to take life brings sorrow and suffering.

7. "Thou shalt not commit adultery." The home society and human relationship would be utterly put into a most miserable state if this commandment were universally violated. So again the reply is so self evident that no one could for a moment think that the violation of this commandment could bring any joy and added happiness to the human family.

8. "Thou shalt not steal." No man's property of whatsoever class would be safe were it not protected by the divine decree, "Thou shalt not steal." Bad as this world is in its present state of lawlessness the mind cannot grasp the terrible conditions which would exist were it not for the restraint of this the eighth precept of the law of God.

9. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Could anyone imagine that by bearing false witness, telling that which is untrue, could add at all to human happiness? Again we ask the question, Would this world be better off without this precept of the Divine law? The answer is so self-evident that it would be positively sacreligious for any one to argue in favour of abrogating this ninth precept of the law of God.

10. "Thou shalt not covet. . . ." The word "covet" is defined by Webster as "to desire earnestly," "Trust after," "to indulge in inordinate desire." The definition of the word answers clearly



It is only as the men and women of all nations of the earth have the principles of this eternal and holy law in their hearts, and guiding their lives, that they can individually be made happier and the world a better place in which to live. May the Spirit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ give us individually the grace and love that leads to obedience to the heavenly Father's law.

Then this world would be happier and better because of your and my having lived in it, thus giving testimony that obedience to God's law makes men and women genuinely

happy and truly better. How foolish, then, for anyone to think that obedience to such a perfectly good law could otherwise result than for a better and happier world in which to live. To all this the prophet of God, Isaiah, and other Bible writers agree.

"Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them." Psalm 119:165. World peace—true peace—will come only as men love and obey God's law. The wise man in the Proverbs states it truthfully when he says, "My son, forget not My law; but let thine heart keep My commandments: For length of

days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee." Proverbs 3:1-2. And again the gospel prophet Isaiah declares, "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever." Isaiah 32:17. And again we read, "O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." Isaiah 48:18. Only as men hearken to and obey God and keep His eternal law can they have true joy, happiness and peace.

PROPHECIES OF EGYPT

By C. O. Smith

THERE is something fascinating about the study of the civilization and power of ancient Egypt. Large sections of our museums are devoted to a display of her wonders—the evidences of her past greatness. These reminders of Egypt's civilization—once mighty, now dead—bear mute testimony to the accuracy of God's word.

When the great prophets of Israel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, lived, Egypt was one of the greatest nations on earth. She had been a dominating power for a millennium or longer. When, judging from analogy, other men would have predicted her unending prosperity, Isaiah (chapter 19) and Ezekiel (chapters 29 and 30) foretold many remarkable things about Egypt—predictions of her decline—that have been fulfilled to the letter during the more than two thousand years which have elapsed since they wrote.

Let us notice a few of the outstanding prophecies of the book of Ezekiel regarding Egypt:

"They shall be there a base kingdom. It shall be the basest of the kingdoms; neither shall it exalt itself any more above the nations: for I will diminish them, that they shall no more rule over the nations." Ezekiel 29:14, 15.

"The pride of her power shall come down: . . . and they shall be desolate, . . . and her cities shall be in the midst of the cities that are wasted." "And I will . . . sell the land into the hand of the wicked: and I will make the land waste, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers:

I the Lord have spoken it. . . . And there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt." Ezekiel 30:6, 7, 12, 13.

Not many years after this prophecy, Egypt was subjugated by Babylon, and some time later more completely humiliated by Cambyzes, the second king of Persia. During the more than two thousand years since that time there has not been an Egyptian line of kings. No prince of the land of Egypt has ruled the country.

The prophecies of doom regarding Babylon and Tyre predicted utter extinction. But of Egypt, the doom was to be a state of continual abasement. The kingdom of Egypt was not to be destroyed. "They shall be there," the prophet said. But he added: "It shall be the basest of all kingdoms." And no longer was it to rule the nations. On the contrary, strangers were to rule over it. Never again was it to be ruled by native princes.

This prophecy could not be the result of merely human foresight; for it was many years before it was completely fulfilled. Even in the first century A.D., some six hundred years later, it was still rich, and was far from being a base kingdom, although not ruled by native princes. When Augustus Cæsar defeated Mark Anthony, he spoiled Egypt of great riches, and still Egypt had such potential wealth that the emperor feared it as a rival of Rome. He treated it as his own private property, and would not permit any senator to take office

there, or even to set foot in the country without his special leave. Only one of lower rank might be governor. In spite of these restrictions, Alexandria was esteemed the first city of the world after Rome. And even when Rome fell into the hands of the Teutonic barbarians, Alexandria continued to enjoy the distinction of being one of the world's greatest cities. Some idea of the greatness of the city can be judged by the fact that the Arab general who took it in 641 boasted that he had taken a city of 4000 palaces, 4000 baths, and 400 theatres or places of amusement. It was only after a siege of fourteen months that the Arabs were able to take the city, and then, it is said, its fall was due to the treachery of the Egyptians themselves who, after all, were just exchanging rulers. However, the Arabs destroyed the city with its great light-house, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, and its magnificent library. Historians tell us that so great was the number of manuscripts destroyed that the furnaces of the public baths were supplied with fuel for six months.

Thus we see the prophecy waited years for its fulfilment. The abasement of Egypt was gradual, but nonetheless certain.

Now let us allow infidel writers to testify to the truth of prophecy. First, the French skeptic, Count Volney (*Travels*, Vol. 1):

"Deprived two thousand, three hundred years ago of her natural proprietors, she has seen her fertile fields successively a prey to the Persians, the Macedonians, the Romans, the

Greeks, the Arabs, the Georgians, and at length, the race of Tartars distinguished by the name of Ottoman Turks. . . . Everything the traveler sees or hears reminds him that he is in the country of slavery and tyranny."

Indeed, for more than two centuries and a half, Egypt was actually ruled by slaves. The rulers were known as Mamulukes, from an Arab word meaning slaves. These Mamuluke sultans were drawn from the enfranchised slaves who constituted the court, and officered the army. Thus the Egyptians were really the slaves of slaves. Surely, she was the basest of kingdoms, as the prophet had said.

The historian, Edward Gibbon, in his great classic, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, chapter 59, paragraph 20, says:

"A more unjust and absurd constitution cannot be devised than that which condemns the natives of a country to perpetual servitude under the arbitrary dominion of strangers and slaves. Yet such has been the state of Egypt above five hundred years."

What a remarkable confirmation of prophecy this is! Just as the prophecy foretold, Egypt has been sold into the hand of the wicked, and has been laid waste by the hand of strangers. Infidel historians testify that Egypt has so declined that she has become the basest of kingdoms, ruled over for more than five hundred years by strangers.

And here is a most important point to notice. Prophecies of the other great kingdoms of that day,—Babylon, Assyria, and Tyre,—called for their utter extinction. Had the prophet Ezekiel been predicting by analogy, he would have said that Egypt,

too, would come to a complete end. But not so. He prophesied that Egypt would continue to exist, but as the basest of kingdoms. Think of how skeptics would scoff and point to the cities of modern Egypt with their millions of inhabitants, had the prophet made this mistake! But no mistake was made. The prophecy was exactly fulfilled.

Ezekiel also brought to us the following prophecy (Ezekiel 30:13): "Thus saith the Lord God; I will also destroy the idols, and I will cause their images to cease out of Noph."

The city of Noph is better known to us by its Greek name, Memphis. It was the ancient capital of Egypt, the great seat of idol worship. You will notice that the prediction of the prophet was that the idols would be destroyed, and the images caused to cease. Hundreds of years passed by, and Memphis was known as "the great temple city of Egypt." She had idols in abundance. Was the word of God to fail? Were her idols ever to be destroyed? What do we find to-day? Here is the testimony of a modern Egyptologist, Amelia B. Edwards, in her book, *A Thousand Miles Up the Nile*, pages 97-99:

"And this is all that remains of Memphis, eldest of cities: a few rubbish heaps, a dozen or so of broken statues, and a name! . . . Where are the stately ruins that even in the Middle Ages extended over a space estimated at half a day's journey in every direction? One can hardly believe that a great city ever flourished on this spot, or understand how it should have been effaced so utterly."

Thus, again, we see a most careful fulfilment of God's word.

Note one more prophecy from the book of Ezekiel: "I will make the land

waste, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers: . . . and there shall be no more a prince of the land of Egypt." Ezekiel 30:12, 13. Never in the past twenty-five hundred years has Egypt been ruled by her own prince, but always by strangers, without an exception,—Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Saracens, Turks, French, British,—strangers, always strangers!

The present king, Faruk, son of Fuad, is not an Egyptian, but an Albanian. He is a descendant of the Albanian general, Mehemet Ali, who was made ruler of Egypt by the European powers, under the nominal suzerainty of the Sultan of Turkey. Britain has been the virtual ruler of Egypt for many years now, and although, after the first World War, nominal independence was granted Egypt, World War II has demonstrated that Egypt is not free, but is subject to the direction of Great Britain. She is still ruled by strangers, and has a foreign prince as king.

How could the prophet Ezekiel predict so accurately? There is only one explanation. He was God's prophet, and was speaking by inspiration.

And why are such prophecies given? They are given to establish our faith in God's holy word. Jesus Himself said: "And now I have told you before it come to pass, that when it is come to pass, ye might believe." John 14:29.

Prophecy is given as a light to guide us. "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19.

Fulfilled prophecy points us to God, the One alone to whom we must look for salvation. God challenges us: "Who hath declared this from ancient times? who hath told it from that time? have not I the Lord? and there is no God else beside Me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside Me, Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else." Isaiah 45:21, 22.

God has provided that salvation for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. "To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins."

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Acts 10:43; 4:12.



The shifting sands of Egypt blow over an ancient civilization which testifies to the accuracy of God's Word.

WHY GOD SAYS NO

By Upton R. Pearce



MOSES was a man of prayer. He never undertook anything without going to God in prayer first. He did as God commanded him. He was the great leader of Israel's host. He had been called of God to lead His people out of Egyptian bondage to Canaan's fair land. When on the borders of Canaan, he was informed that he could go no further, and that he should die. It was a bitter disappointment, for no greater joy can come to any human being than to see his plans matured. Again and again he urged the petition that he might be permitted to enter the land of promise which, during all the wilderness experience, had been his hope and inspiration. Finally God had to say to him, "Speak to me no more of this matter."

God did not grant his request because it was not best. Another was to be chosen to lead the people. God in His mercy had something better in store for Moses. Moses died and was buried, but the grave could not hold him. He had a special resurrection and was taken to heaven. No doubt he had a work to do there for which his long and trying experience on earth especially fitted him. On the Mount of Transfiguration, he appeared and was able to bring comfort to the Son of God. There was no other being who had passed through an experience that would give him the fitness to do this. When Jesus came to the crucial test and was to be laid away, Moses was able to comfort Him with the same comfort wherewith he had been comforted of God. He could assure Him that He too would have a resurrection, and that it was not possible for the grave to hold Him. Moses was led as he would have chosen to be led could he have seen the end from the beginning. What appeared to be against him was working out God's plans concerning him.

Paul was a man of prayer, but he possessed an infirmity. He considered

it a great handicap and hindrance in his work. God had seen fit to not wholly restore his sight when stricken with blindness while on his way to Damascus to persecute the saints and put them to death. His defective vision was to be a constant reminder to him of his natural tendencies which if obeyed would prove his ruin. But Paul thought he could serve God more acceptedly by having this infirmity removed. The Lord knew better. Thrice he besought God most earnestly that this infirmity might be removed. To him God said, "My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Paul responded, "Most gladly therefore will I glorify in my infirmities that the power of Christ may rest upon me, for when I am weak then am I strong." Paul, near the close of his life, could pen the words, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, who are called according to His purpose." These lines would in all probability never have been penned had his petition been granted and had this infirmity been removed.

Jesus, the "man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief," in Gethsemane's Garden, sweating great drops of blood, suffering as no human being ever was called upon to suffer before or since, felt that it was more than human nature could bear as the sins of the world rested upon Him. In despair He cried

out, "Father if it be possible, remove this cup from Me." The Father could have removed it, but the salvation of the world was at stake. Knowing Himself what was involved, He added, "Nevertheless not My will, but Thy will be done." This was a true prayer of faith. Fortunate for us that Jesus came to this point of submission to the will of His Father. When He had reached it, "an angel came and strengthened Him," and enabled Him to drink the bitter cup. How thankful we now are that He prayed thus.

Why is all this recorded? Is it not that "we through comfort of the Scriptures might have hope?" We too shall be called to pass through experiences that may seem too much for us to bear, and we may be led to say, "Father, if it be possible, remove this cup from me." It is not wrong to offer such a petition, but we must not end our petition there, and demand that it should be done. There may be too much involved. The salvation of others may depend upon it. We too must come to the point of complete submission to the will of God and say, "not my will, but Thy will be done." Then just as surely as an angel from heaven came to bring comfort, peace and strength to Jesus, so surely will the angel of God come to bring comfort, peace and strength to the humble petitioner who has reached this point of submission to the will of the Father.

JESUS CHRIST *Our Example* in SABBATH KEEPING

EVEN before Christ came down from heaven to die for the lost He kept the Sabbath in a very special way with the Israelites for forty years, while leading them through the wilderness. The divine record reads: "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." 1 Corinthians 10:1-4. Then the One who was enshrined in the pillar of cloud by day and in the pillar of fire by night was none other than Christ, the divine Son of God, who gave the children of Israel a double portion of manna on every sixth day of the week, preserved what was gathered of it over the seventh day, and withheld the manna on the seventh day, thus having a part with them in the observance of the Sabbath. So Christ, in whom the Israelites trusted for salvation, hovered over them, pouring out abundantly upon them the blessings of the Sabbath day as they kept it in His hallowed presence.

Jesus Kept the Sabbath As a Carpenter at Nazareth. We read as follows: "Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee." "And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read." Luke 4:14, 16. It was therefore the "custom" of Jesus to keep the Sabbath before He entered upon His ministry. That He had been a carpenter is seen from the question asked concerning Him in the earlier part of His ministry: "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James?" Mark 6:3. What an example of faithful Sabbath keeping for those who would follow Jesus fully in the common walks of life.

Christ Observed the Sabbath During His Ministry. After Christ had been tempted in the wilderness "He

By John W. Halliday

returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of Him through all the region round about. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all." "And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the Sabbath days." Luke 4:14, 15, 31. Mark declares, "And they were astonished at His doctrine: for He taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes." Mark 1:22. Thus our divine Redeemer, bearing the burden of the world upon His heart, was loyally obedient to His Father's Sabbath commandment during His sacred ministry.

Christ Was Obedient to His Father's Law. Of Christ it was recorded in prophecy long before He came down from heaven to die for the sins of mankind, "Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of Me, I delight to do Thy will, O My God: yea, Thy law is within My heart." Psalm 40:7, 8. In the plainest of language the Saviour therefore said to His disciples, "I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love." John 15:10. In these words He revealed also the great secret of abiding in the love of God, for according to His beloved apostle John, "This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous." 1 John 5:3. Thus our divine Redeemer found peace and joy in keeping God's Sabbath commandment, because love for His Father was in His heart.

Jesus Endured Persecution for Keeping the Sabbath Aright. After Christ had given rest and peace to a woman in a synagogue by healing her on the Sabbath, one who "had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself," "the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath day." Luke 13:11, 14. At another time, after He had healed on the Sabbath a man who had been greatly af-

flicted for thirty-eight years, "therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath day." John 5: 15, 16. What bitter persecution was thus endured by the pitying Redeemer for bringing relief and gladness to those so greatly afflicted, in this way enabling them to enjoy much more fully the divine blessings of the Sabbath day.

Jesus Rested on the Sabbath from the Work of Redemption. It is written of the women believers in Christ who witnessed His burial, "They returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment." Luke 23:56. So the Saviour rested in the tomb on the true Sabbath, the commandment Sabbath. On the day of Pentecost, speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, the apostle Peter said of the Redeemer's rest in the tomb: "David speaketh concerning Him, I foresaw the Lord always before My face, for He is on My right hand, that I should not be moved: therefore did My heart rejoice and My tongue was glad; moreover also My flesh shall rest in hope: because Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell, neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption." Acts 2:25-27. When Christ died on the cross He cried out, "Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit." Luke 23:46. In doing this He died at rest. Since He was divine as well as human He could and did rest in the tomb, as He had foretold of Himself in the prophecy made clear by Peter. How clear therefore are the following earnest words:

"In the beginning the Father and the Son had rested upon the Sabbath after their work of creation. When 'the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them,' the Creator and all heavenly beings rejoiced in contemplation of the glorious scene. 'The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy.' Now Jesus rested from the work of redemption. When there shall be a 'restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the

mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began,' the creation Sabbath, the day on which Jesus lay at rest in Joseph's tomb, will still be a day of rest and rejoicing. Heaven and earth will unite in praise, as 'from one Sabbath to another,' the nations of the saved shall bow in joyful worship to God and the Lamb."—*"The Desire of Ages,"* pp. 769, 770.

By resting in the tomb on the Sabbath from the work of redemption, Christ, the Maker of the Sabbath of creation, confirmed it as the Sabbath of redemption. Thus the death of Christ on the cross of Calvary resulted in the full establishment of the Sabbath of creation as also the Sabbath of redemption.

Jesus Ever the Same Redeemer. When Christ ascended to heaven the message of the angels to His awe-stricken disciples was, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven." Acts 1:11. How positive also is the following scripture: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and forever." Hebrews 13:8. Since our Redeemer will be the "same Jesus" when He comes again that He was when He ascended to heaven, it is clear that He must therefore be the "same Jesus" now, and that He recognizes no other Sabbath day than that which He taught while on earth, that He kept during His life on earth, that He kept after His death on the cross while resting in the tomb, and that He will keep in the great hereafter "forever."

The Sabbath of Christ Ever the Same. How vast and wonderful was the creative work of Christ in the beginning. We read that He is God's "dear Son: in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins: who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by Him, and for Him." Colossians 1:13-16.

Once again Christ will create a world, for He will make a beautiful new world out of this sin-scarred one. So it is prophesied, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away." Revelation 21:1. The Creator of the new earth declares, "Behold, I make all things new. . . . I am Alpha and Omega." Verses 5, 6. Who is Alpha and Omega? We find the answer in the following chapter, Revelation 22:13-16: "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. . . . I Jesus." Then Christ

Jesus, the majestic Creator of the heavens above and the earth beneath, our glorious Redeemer, is the One who will make the new earth, which will be so glorious that Isaiah predicts concerning its light, "The light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be seven-fold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of His people, and healeth the stroke of their wound." Isaiah 30:26.

The positive statement is made by the Creator of the new earth, "As the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before Me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, . . . from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me." Isaiah 66:22, 23. Then through the eternal ages all the redeemed will come "from one Sabbath to another" before their beloved Redeemer in worship of the Father and the Son.

It was Christ the Son who sanctified the seventh day as the Sabbath when the world was newly made in the beginning, for all mankind to keep through the eternal ages. It will be Christ the Son who again, in the new earth, will have all its inhabitants, the redeemed, actually keep the same true Sabbath through the eternal ages. He will also keep the Sabbath Himself, as well as receive the worship of His redeemed ones, for He will ever be the Son of man as well as the Son of God. How glorious will be the scene "from one Sabbath to another," as the entire vast host of the ransomed in their excellent beauty and perfect joy, reflecting the image and glory of God and their beloved Saviour, lift up heart and voice in their highest praise for the unspeakable blessings of everlasting salvation purchased for them on the cross of Calvary! What a testimony to the eternal truth and blessedness of the Bible Sabbath, and what an inspiration to keep it *now* with all the heart, through the grace and power and blessing of the Lord Jesus Christ, our loving Creator and divine Redeemer!

Christ's True Sabbath Keeping Helped Bring Him to the Cross. In the days of Christ the Pharisees, a sect of the Jews, were to quite an extent responsible for His rejection and death. They became His bitter enemies in the earlier part of His ministry over the right way to keep the Sabbath, and definitely tried to destroy Him, as has been already seen. Their enmity against Christ deepened for other reasons of their own until at last He was crucified. Thus the Saviour's faithfulness in keeping the Sabbath in accordance with the sim-

plicity of the Sabbath commandment, was in part responsible for His crucifixion. And what a scene it was to behold as the dying Saviour willingly suffered for even the weakest of the weak, bearing their burden on His heart, suffering their penalty, and giving them His matchless example of faithfulness, while looking forward to the home beyond with its abiding peace, its endless joys, and its eternal glory. His little flock of faithful followers gathered home at last into His eternal mansions, to enjoy the wonderful reward of those who have truly followed Him as their great Example!

God longs with inexpressible desire for His children on earth to follow the example of His beloved Son, of whom He has said, "This is My beloved Son: hear Him." Luke 9:35. As many behold the example of their Saviour in keeping the Sabbath, a deep desire is awakened within them to follow His perfect example. They have also a longing desire for His utmost help in so doing. So the Saviour, who has passed through their difficulties and proved His love on the cross, encourages them to follow Him fully as He deeply impresses upon them by His Spirit His earnest plea, "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me." As they long to bear the yoke like Him, He shows them how by His further words, "I am meek and lowly in heart." And for their final encouragement He says with tender, sympathetic words, "My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Matthew 11:29, 30.

As their hearts go out to Jesus in responding meek and lowly acceptance and faith, they become transformed by His saving grace and power, and looking forward to continuous victory they fervently say with Paul: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . Nay, in all these things we are *more* than conquerors through Him that loved us." Then the firm decision of each one is, with full assurance of faith, "I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, . . . nor things present, nor things to come, . . . shall be able to separate 'me' from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus" my "Lord." Romans 8:35-39. And walking daily with Jesus, refreshed by His love and care, and looking forward to the glory to come, they joyfully say,

"Moment by moment I'm kept in His love;

Moment by moment I've life from above;

Looking to Jesus 'till glory doth shine;
Moment by moment, O Lord, I am thine."

Canada's Newest Radio Broadcast



H. M. S. Richards

THE Voice of Prophecy has come to Canada to stay! Nine radio stations in the Dominion, from CKPG Prince George, British Columbia in the West, to CFCY Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island in the East, air the programme every Sunday. In the Dominion of Newfoundland, radio station VOAR at St. John's, broadcasts The Voice of Prophecy twice each Sunday afternoon. This popular religious programme has been picked up as far north as Baffin Island by servicemen who were stationed there during the war; and can be heard by trappers in the North West Territories and the Yukon as it is broadcast from station KFAR Fairbanks, Alaska. Preaching Christ to the millions of every land, and bringing hope and salvation to distressed peoples in all the world, is the purpose of this Christian radio mission for God which now releases broadcasts over 540 radio stations.

It was the privilege of The Voice of Prophecy radio group to visit Canada during the summer of 1946. H. M. S. Richards the radio speaker, D. A. Delafield, Announcer and Bible School Director, and the King's Heralds radio quartette, appeared at great public mass meetings in Oshawa, Ontario; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; and conducted services at Edmonton, Lacombe, and Calgary, Alberta. What a glorious reception was accorded the visiting broadcasters! Hundreds of thousands of Canadians had heard the programme but had never seen the

broadcast personnel. It is hoped that The Voice of Prophecy listening friends throughout the provinces were not too much disappointed, for it was the opinion of the six itinerating radio evangelists that Canadians are among the world's most cordial and fine-spirited people.

How thrilling are the stories that come to us from preachers all over Canada who contact Voice of Prophecy listeners in the most remote places. A minister writes to The Voice of Prophecy, Box 55, Los Angeles, California: "One of your listeners lives at a northern outpost where there is only one church and this church building has no baptistry. This lady requested the administration of this sacred ordinance. It was a cold day, but we took her to the icy waters in the upper reaches of the Fraser, and there, with glaciers fringing, we had our baptism amid the mighty Canadian Rockies. It was thrilling to me, and I wish you could have been there."

It would have been thrilling for every listener in Canada to have witnessed this stirring incident. No better testimony to the worthwhileness of the broadcast could have been observed anywhere.

At Bearvallon, Alberta, sixteen youth were brought to Christ and found the new and glorious Christian experience through the co-ordinated efforts of Albertan evangelists and the radio programme.

Two well-known contributions made by The Voice of Prophecy to a Bible-hungry world are the World-Wide Bible correspondence lessons for adults, and the Junior Bible correspondence course for youth and children. Nearly one-half million students in the Western Hemisphere have enrolled by mail. The adult course consists of thirty-six Bible lessons with simple yet forceful explanations of Bible prophecy and the teachings of Jesus. The Junior Course features twenty-four beautifully illustrated Bible studies printed in twelve colours with about one hundred pictures.

German, Chinese, and Japanese Bible series are also available free—to say nothing of the neatly written Spanish course and the Portuguese series. The Braille

course for the sightless has blessed the lonely lives of thousands of blind people, and literally scores of thousands have come to recognize the Bible as a new and living voice from God as they have read these stirring Bible lessons.

"Your World-Wide Course," writes one enthusiastic graduate, "has been like attending church for thirty-six times."

A Junior student declares, "My mother became a Christian through the study of your Bible lessons, and I want to be like mother."

A blind student declares in a letter to The Voice of Prophecy, "I am very much pleased with your Bible course in Braille. When I sent for this course I had no idea it would be so wonderfully instructive, and I can hardly wait until the next lessons come. I have never before read anything so complete and yet so clear. I have often wished that I could get a full explanation of the coming of Christ, and then came your lesson explaining the subject so simply and clearly that a child could understand it. I was delighted! For years I had wondered what was the difference between the soul and the spirit and lesson twelve straightened that all out. I can not tell you in words how happy I am, and how I look forward to the coming of Christ."

Throughout the Dominion of Canada sincere hearts send up to God fervent prayers for help and spiritual

The King's Heralds inspire their listeners with sacred music.



guidance. Perhaps The Voice of Prophecy programme and the Bible lessons, which are available absolutely free with nothing to purchase at any time during the course of instruction, are the answers to your heart's cry for help. One lady tells of her experience in a recent letter to The Voice of Prophecy: "It is funny," she states, "but last night I half-heartedly asked the good Lord for a chance to study the Bible, for something or someone to help me, and to-day I happened to tune in to The Voice of Prophecy programme. I have been wanting to join

a Bible study class and to-day I heard of your free Bible lessons. I would like to enrol. Will you please send me the lessons? I guess God does move in a mysterious way when He answers our prayers."

On page 23 of this issue of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES the reader will find a radio log of The Voice of Prophecy stations in Canada and Newfoundland. A Bible correspondence school enrolment blank is also printed on the same page. Why not tune in? If the reader desires to enrol in the Bible Course, check the course desired, clip

the application blank and mail immediately to The Voice of Prophecy, Box 55, Los Angeles, California. The Voice of Prophecy is at your service to provide inspiration and Bible study help for your home entirely without cost to you.

The Voice of Prophecy has come to Canada to stay! Eleven programmes carry the gospel message, and more will be added soon. Thousands of Canadians are already enrolled in the Bible Course. Perhaps you will be next to be helped toward the kingdom of God by The Voice of Prophecy.

Spare Children Tragic Scenes

"Have you been over to see Mrs. Noble? You know her mother died yesterday," said Mrs. Ellis to her neighbour, Mrs. Holmes.

"No, I haven't," was the reply. "I have no one with whom to leave my little Hildah, and I shouldn't want her to see a deceased person nor to hear the kind of conversation that is apt to go on at such a time."

"Do you know, the only way I can remember my sister is as she lay in her casket? I was a tiny tot at the time of her passing, and was lifted up frequently to look in. The sight of her, so white and still, fascinated and at the same time terrified me. After that for many months, I was afraid to sleep in a room without a light. The experience obliterated the memory of all the happy times we must have had together, and because of it my earnest care has been to prevent my small daughter from being subjected to any thing of that nature."

"You remember when Mr. Hayhurst died suddenly some people criticized his wife for sending their little boy away to the country, but I felt that she had done the right thing. He was spared all the distressing manifestations of sorrow which take place upon such occasions, and he will always remember his father as he was when alive and well."

"Yes," responded Mrs. Ellis, "Mrs. Hayhurst acted wisely, and you are right in protecting Hildah."

"I feel very strongly that children should never witness any intense emotional scenes if it can possibly be avoided," continued Mrs. Holmes. "They should be kept away, for instance, from persons who are critically ill, not only to protect their physical health but also their mental health. In a house where someone was seriously ill, haven't you seen children huddled together with fear on their faces while they listened to remarks such as, 'He can't last much longer'?"

"My daughter, Susie, seems so happy and bubbling over with fun. I feel certain, however, that if she were to be present at accidents, deathbed scenes and funerals, a portion of that joy of living would be taken away from her forever. I shall



shield her from such doleful sights as long as I can."

Hunger For Beauty

Dean had been bringing red poppies to the summer-school class. Every few days he came in with another of these gorgeous flowers. Miss Corwith was happy to have them, for they were so gloriously colourful. One gay red poppy in a bowl of white and yellow blossoms made an attractive showing.

Dean spoke a dozen times a day of the poppy he had brought.

"See, Miss Corwith, it's opening out now!"

"Look! Look at the poppy now!"

"See my poppy? It's getting bigger."

The blossom, it seemed, was more to him than a flower which would soon wilt. It was an expression of beauty. Dean was a sturdy, vigorous boy, at times almost rowdyish, so it was rather surprising to find him manifesting his keen interest in anything as aesthetic as the beauty of flowers.

Each poppy had meant so much to him that Miss Corwith was sad indeed when it was brought to her attention that Dean had been taking the poppies from a neighbour's garden. He did not deny it.

"Didn't you know that I wouldn't want flowers that were not your own?" Miss Corwith asked.

Dean did not know, or he had not stopped to think. He himself was excep-

tionally generous and affectionate, and he was eager for approval. He had no flowers at home to bring, although his was a home that supplied good food and clothes, the best children's magazines, and other evidences of thoughtful parental care.

At recess, on the day she had learned of Dean's wrongdoings, Miss Corwith made two telephone calls—one to Mr. Stone, the neighbour whose garden had been invaded, and one to the boy's parents. It was agreed that Dean should return the poppy that he had taken that morning.

Mr. Stone had been inclined to show annoyance when the subject was first mentioned, but his irritation subsided when the teacher praised his flowers and described Dean's delight in them.

When talking with Dean's parents, Miss Corwith made much of their son's appreciation of the beautiful and urged that he be given an opportunity to have a garden of his own. Later, his parents, who had no ground that could be used for gardening, tried to locate a small plot elsewhere, but nothing suitable was to be found. The best they could do was to secure the promise of a small corner garden bed for the following year.

Dean returned the last-picked blossom to Mr. Stone, who accepted it gravely. "I think you should pay for the other poppies you took," he said.

"All right," answered Dean rather weakly, thinking of his very small allowance and wondering how long it would take him to do this.

"Suppose you help me with my weeding for fifteen minutes after school for as many days as you helped yourself to my flowers," he suggested.

"In this garden?" asked Dean quickly, his eyes big with wonder and delight.

"No, in the vegetable garden," was the grim response. Then after a moment's silence he continued, "But when you've paid for the poppies, we might do some weeding here, if you wish. For that work, a few of the flowers would be rightfully yours."

A little more than a week later another flaming red poppy appeared on Miss Corwith's desk. Dean gazed at it ecstatically. "This one is really mine," he confided. "I earned it."—National Kindergarten Association.



Hobbies and proper recreation all during life will do much to increase the life expectancy.

*"Grow old along with me,
The best is yet to be."*

The white population of New Zealand enjoys an average length of life of about sixty-seven years; by contrast the people of India and China live on the average a bare thirty years, corresponding to the conditions among the Romans in classic times. These and many of the statistics to follow were submitted by Louis I. Dublin and Alfred J. Lotka, and first appeared in the "Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science," January, 1945. They were reprinted in the *Diplomate* of March 1946, because of their special significance. These writers point out that "these divergences are not due to basic differences in human stock. The upper limit of life—the span of life as it is called—for those who do survive is much the same for most of the inhabitants of the earth to-day, and has undoubtedly been much the same throughout historic time. There have been a few centenarians in various eras and various nations, but the century mark has never been greatly exceeded by anyone."

In the middle of the eighteenth century males in Sweden had a life expectancy of 33.2 years. This figure was appreciably above that for India in 1931, and no doubt even to-day. At the opening of the nineteenth century Sweden's figure had risen to 40 years, which was maintained until towards the last quarter of the century. There

was then a definite upward trend, culminating in the period 1931-35 to 63.2 years. The figures for the other Scandinavian countries are not dissimilar. This group of countries now ranks second only to the record performance of New Zealand.

On a somewhat lower level are the figures for Germany (59.9 years in 1932-34), France (54.3 years in 1928-33), and Italy (53.8 years in 1930-32). Of the Balkan and neighbouring countries, Hungary had an expectation of life at birth of 48.3 for males in 1930-31, and Bulgaria 45.9 in 1925-28. The latest figure available for Russia (1926-27) is 41.9. In 1937 England and Wales had an expectation of life of 60.2 as compared with 60.6 in the United States in 1930-39. This is of interest in that the food habits of these two are much alike.

In the United States the average length of life about the time of the Revolution was probably about 35.5 years. By the middle of the nineteenth century this had increased to forty-two years, and in 1942 the average length of life was 63.7 years for males and 68.6 years for females. The average length of life has thus increased by practically one-third in four decades.

The gains made have largely been in the early ages. Some of the prominent factors which have been considered responsible for this are:

1. General rise in standards of living.

2. Better housing, with elimination of slums (e.g. the \$275,000,000 slum clearing project in New York, largely financed by the Equitable Life Insurance Company).

3. Diversified food due to brilliancy of the achievements of industry since 1750. It is to be noted that the generation who moved into the cities in England during the industrial revolution, and who thus were cut off from their usual abundant supplies of natural foods, suffered frightfully from the ravages of tuberculosis and all other forms of disease. It was at this time that slums in huge proportions came into being.

4. Improved agricultural methods.

5. Better distribution of foodstuffs—refrigeration cargo space on ships, freight cars, auto trucks, and airplanes. These things, by the way, aid in preservation of the all-important vitamins.

6. Education and social services which have been efficiently organized to a remarkable degree. Social security legislation might also be mentioned.

7. Improved working conditions. During the war it was found in the great industries that maximum production efficiency and health of workers could be maintained on a six-day week, men working about nine hours a day, and women not more than eight.

8. Advances in medicine and public health administration, with control of infectious diseases. For instance, at

Trends in Longevity

By W. H. Roberts

the beginning of the century tuberculosis had a death rate of 185 per 100,000, which is at the present time reduced to 40. Spectacular advances have been made against pneumonia, particularly since the introduction of the sulfa drugs and penicillin.

9. Advances in surgery. The researches of Pasteur and Koch in the field of bacteriology, and of Lister in antiseptics have made these possible. The mention of these names makes one think of the great celebration in Paris in 1892 on the occasion of Pasteur's seventieth birthday at which Lister was an honoured guest. It is interesting to note that in 1868 when he was only forty-six, Pasteur had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage while working on the epidemic that was destroying France's silkworm industry. Twenty years later he had another stroke which slowed him down but did not stop him. On the occasion of the great Paris celebration Pasteur was able to say, "Do not let yourselves be tainted by deprecating and barren skepticism, do not let yourselves be discouraged by the sadness of certain hours which pass over nations. Live in the serene peace of laboratories and libraries. Say to yourselves, first, What have I done for my instruction? and, as you gradually advance, What have I done for my country? until the time comes when you may have the immense happiness of thinking that you have contributed in some way to the progress and good of humanity."

10. Decline in mortality from degenerative diseases. "The principal diseases of the heart, arteries, and kidneys as a group have exhibited a marked decline in mortality over the past third of a century."—*Statistical Bulletin*, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, 27:5, 1946. This is attributed to the following factors: (a) reduction of bacterial infections in childhood; (b) decline in syphilitic heart disease in men; (c) lessened frequency in childbearing among women; (d) better medical care and higher standards of living; (e) use of machinery in carrying the burden of heavy work, (it does make a difference whether or not one has to carry on with heavy manual labour after the age of forty. The preacher lives longer than the Welsh coal miner who continues working at the old job after forty); (f) chemotherapy (penicillin and sulfa) controlling infections, particularly upper respiratory, such as pneumonia, "the old man's friend."

This would seem to suggest that the accelerated tempo of modern living is not quite so harmful as once thought. Actually more people are dying of these degenerative diseases due to the gradual ageing of the population. As

suggested the individual, however, stands less likelihood of contracting these disorders than formerly.

11. Insect-borne diseases (mainly tropical) are better understood and better controlled.

12. Deficiency diseases, including tuberculosis, are on the wane. There are still countries not benefiting from advances of science, e.g., Chile, where even to-day tuberculosis claims 260 per 100,000.

The hypothetical life tables provide a lesson in optimism. Forecasts are found to be too conservative. The reason is that knowledge continues to advance. For instance, one group in Wales expected to live 41.4 years, actually lived 46.3, because of advances in their lifetime.

It cannot be over-emphasized that proper nutrition is all important. In fact, Sherman and others estimated that by liberal inclusion of protective foods in the diet (milk, greens, fruits, etc.), life could be extended seven years. These foods in the diet assure adequate intake of minerals and vitamins. Vitamin B of course is obtained in legumes, nuts, and whole grain products.

The statistics quoted above are of interest in view of the fact that one is greatly impressed by the tremendous feats of endurance of the Chinese coolie, the Japanese, and northern Indian races on the most simple fare.

However, the comparative ignorance in regard to child-upbringing, the tremendous overcrowding in many areas, the yearly floods, famines, and pestilences, not to speak of prolonged wars and unsettled political and social situations, certainly make life a vale of tears for them. This in no way detracts from the healthful habits of many of these people, many of which are worthy of emulation.

There is great room for improvement in all countries. For instance, think what a boon it would be if the liquor and tobacco industries could be eliminated from our national economy, and if there could be a more equitable distribution of the necessities of life.

Dr. Roger I. Lee of Harvard College recently emphasized the importance of preparing for old age at least in the forties by developing a useful hobby. Some hobbies that come to mind are woodwork, radio, nature study, gardening in all its ramifications, study of foreign languages, and taking part in the Social work of the community in which one lives, such as Red Cross and other relief agencies. None of these latter can ever fully take the place of a personal responsibility in these matters. In conclusion it might be well to refer to Solomon's injunction: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." Ecclesiastes 12:1.



The Doctor Has an Answer for It

ANKLE SWELLING

For several years I have had trouble with my ankles swelling, and electrical treatments have not helped. I have been told that my arches are perfect and therefore it must be something in my system. I am 30 years old, and have no children. I also have a severe pain in the lower abdomen which I would like to find the reason for. Can you tell me what to do?

In about 50% of cases, swelling of the ankles is due to varicose veins. There is a hereditary predisposition to this condition and it may occur even if there have been no children. If this is present, ligation of the veins and injection with a sclerosing agent to "dry them up" is usually curative.

Cardiac failure due to valvular damage or to any other cause is accompanied

sooner or later by ankle swelling. Nephritis (kidney damage) following, for example, Scarlet Fever is usually associated with the passage of albumin in the urine. This would lead to a more generalized form of edema and serious impairment of the general health. In both these conditions constant medical supervision is necessary.

Pelvic tumors such as uterine fibroids and ovarian cysts (usually begin in a young woman) sometimes exert pressure on the pelvic veins. Operation of course is the only treatment. Whether or not the abdominal pain of which you complain is due to one of these causes would be determined by a physical examination and perhaps X ray if indicated.

Moderation in the use of salt and an adequate intake of protein in the diet

SIGNS of the TIMES

sometimes alone clears up the so-called nutritional edema. A quart of milk a day plus two servings daily from cottage cheese, legumes (beans, peas, lentils) or nuts usually gives one an adequate start on his protein requirements. A blood count is one of the best indexes of dietary intake.

Tight garters should not be worn; in fact stockings should be supported from the waist. Standing for long periods in one position, or being seated with pressure behind the knees is to be avoided also. This will prevent the development of "air-raid shelter legs" or "deck chair legs." Even long bus trips can cause an alarming swelling of the ankles.

BLURRING OF VISION

What could be the cause of an occasional blurring of vision while reading, which continues for from fifteen minutes to half an hour? I wear glasses for reading only, having been fitted four years ago.

Vasospasm of meningeal and cerebral vessels as so often accompanies migraine headaches, is often associated with blurring of vision. The headache or blurring of vision alone is often brought on by worry, emotional strain and undue fatigue.

In elderly people blurring of vision is one of the first signs of glaucoma, which

if untreated leads to serious impairment of vision. An optometrist would not be able to rule out this condition so a visit to an eye specialist would be necessary.

Vitamin B and vitamin A are said to at least postpone the eye disorders to which elderly people are disposed. A good source of the former is wheat germ and of the latter carrots and cod liver oil.

RICKETS

We have a baby boy three years old who has had convulsions or rickets ever since he was a year old. The attack usually comes on in the morning, lasting for about half an hour, leaving him with cramps and very weak and limp. He has never walked, and says only, Mama. Could you tell us what to do, or is an operation necessary? Would penicillin help him?

Occasionally, as you suggest, a severe degree of rickets is accompanied by a tendency to spasms or even mild convulsions. This of course is readily controlled by administration of cod liver oil. It would be unlikely that rickets alone could be responsible for the marked retardation of development in your child. A birth injury is a reasonable explanation. It is very unlikely that an operation would be of any value. Penicillin would not help.

It is possible that the convulsions might be controlled by the administration of an anticonvulsant which would have to be administered and regulated by your local doctor. Aside from this, cod liver oil and wheat germ (two tablespoonfuls daily) would improve his general health.

LUMP ON SOLE OF FOOT

What can be done for a lump about one-half inch in diameter, on the sole of the heel? It becomes quite painful at times after a short walk, causing pain for twenty-four hours or more.

The condition referred to here is most likely either a sub-calcaneal bursitis, or calcaneal spur.

In the first instance, the inflamed bursa in the fatty pad over the heel becomes very tender, making walking or standing difficult. If rest, heat, or pads worn in the shoes fail to bring relief, it may be necessary to have the bursa excised through a lateral incision.

A calcaneal spur could be ruled out by X ray. If present, it, too, would have to be excised.

Accordingly it would seem advisable to consult a regular physician, since simple methods have failed to bring relief.

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