

The Golden Age

A JOURNAL OF FACT HOPE AND COURAGE



in this issue

AN OVERPOPULATED PARADISE

present conditions in Porto Rico

RUMANIA AT BAY

revolt against Bratianu misrule

"ANNALS OF THE POOR"

struggles of the working classes in
America

THE BIBLE

its origin and purposes, and why
now better understood. By Judge
Rutherford

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DOLLAR A YEAR
July 11, 1928

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The Golden Age

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Porto Rico — An Overpopulated Paradise

ON NOVEMBER 19, 1493, Columbus landed on the western coast of an island which he named San Juan Bautista, but which we now know as Porto Rico. He found a paradise, an earthly Eden, a land of abundant rainfall, a mild and even climate, pleasant the year around, a land without beasts of prey or wild animals of any kind.

He found a densely-forested island approximately fifty miles wide by seventy miles long, inhabited by about eighty thousand happy, peaceable, lazy, fine-featured, good-natured red men, who called their island Boriquen. In the ensuing twenty-two years the cruelties of Columbus and his successors had put seventy-five thousand of these natives into their graves.

The invaders from the East seized the island, aptly described as the Switzerland of America, killed or imprisoned the native chieftains, made slaves of the inhabitants and practised such cruelties that thousands committed suicide or left the island to go anywhere rather than remain subject to such barbarities. These things are not mentioned on "Columbus Day".

The four thousand who were left gradually blended with the invaders, bringing a touch of hopeless resignation to their posterity. The placer deposits where their ancestors worked under the Spanish lash are long since exhausted. The ancient and musical name of Boriquen is no longer heard. "Rich Port," "Puerto Rico," came at last to be the name of the land. San Juan, the name applied by Columbus, is still the name of the chief city.

Porto Rico is fourteen hundred miles from New York, one thousand miles from Havana, and somewhat less than a thousand miles from the Isthmus of Panama. Two lines of mountains, with elevations over three thousand feet, traverse the island from east to west, affording large variety of exquisite panorama. The interior is a high table-land.

The Porto Rican mountains are peculiar. Each peak, all the way to the top, is composed of innumerable little peaks. Forty-five streams of considerable size find their way to the various coasts. Several of these are navigable for small boats near their mouths.

A Highly Favored Land

THE hot mineral springs at Coamo are now known to be the "fountain of youth" in the search for which Ponce de Leon spent his life. So valuable did the natives regard the waters from these springs that they never disclosed their whereabouts to the adventurous Ponce, but sent him on a "wild goose chase" to Florida and the American continent. The most they did was to name after him the second city on the island.

Both the soils and the climate of the island are specially favorable to vegetation. Palms and tree-ferns grow prodigiously. Oranges, grapefruits and bananas are indigenous. Reforestation is under way, to the extent of a million trees a year. Birds are multitudinous. The rivers are well stocked with fish.

San Juan, the capital, was founded by Ponce de Leon in 1511, and reveals his cleverness. It is on a small island, connected with the mainland by a bridge. On account of its fine harbor, with its narrow and difficult entrance, it is considered one of the most impregnable cities in the world, and history has proven it so to be.

Porto Rico is the land of the motor bus. One hundred eighty-five of these leave San Juan at all hours of the day and night, for all parts of the island. Named after the sound of their horns these vehicles are known in Porto Rico as GuaGuas. The round-trip fare from San Juan to Ponce, 170 miles, is only \$4.20, and the ride is said to be one of the most beautiful and one of the most crooked in the world. The high-

way crosses the mountains at 3,000 feet above sea-level.

The religion, what there is of it, is Roman Catholic, but is not taken seriously by anybody except those who have it for a business. Slaves from Africa were brought in within fifty years of the discovery of the island, to take the place of the Indians who had been worked to death or driven away. Slavery was abolished in March, 1873, having become unprofitable.

The Porto Rican Melting-Pot

IN PORTO RICO no one thinks anything unusual of it if a white woman marries a brown or black man, or if a white man marries a brown or black woman. But as a matter of fact the black race is as surely passing out as the red, and the last red man's village has been gone from Porto Rico for two hundred years.

In Porto Rican professional life there is a good mixture of whites, negroes and mulattoes among all the different occupations. The men seem to get along together all right, and to take it as a matter of course, but the women are less tolerant; so the tendency of the whites is to marry whites, and the tendency of the blacks also is to marry whites or mulattoes.

In 1910 the enumeration showed 65.5 percent of the population as white, 30 percent mulatto and 4.5 percent black. Ten years later the proportions were 73 percent white, 23.2 percent mulatto and 3.8 percent black. At this rate it will not be long before the blacks will all be gone. And other reasons are operating, too.

After four hundred years of Spanish rule the percentage of illiteracy in Porto Rico was, in 1899, over 83 percent. This has been reduced to 55 percent, and there are now 4,238 public elementary schools; yet there are about 300,000 boys and girls between the ages of five and seventeen who do not attend school. There are about twenty high schools, a normal school and a university.

The agricultural laborers, jibaros, as they are called, are naturally bright, generous, hospitable and loyal, but their poverty and ignorance are almost measureless. Barefoot, almost nude, living in straw huts of two rooms, the jibaro and his family of perhaps ten children subsist miserably on one meal a day of black coffee, polished rice and beans, with occasionally a little fried codfish. No fruit, no vegetables, no vitamins.

The jibaro's home has usually a built-in bunk, a shelf and a few boxes. The space beneath the house serves as a shelter for pigs, goats and chickens. There are no latrines, nor comforts of any kind. The one meal is cooked with charcoal.

Desperate Poverty of the Jibaro

THE usual wage of the jibaro is fifty cents a day, but may run as high as \$1.25, or fall to even thirty cents. On these wages he can not afford more than one meal a day, with the consequence that the return which he can render is meager. He is blamed for being shiftless, and so he is; but when the government tried feeding the laborers with three good meals a day the result was over one hundred percent increase in efficiency.

As a result of poor housing and poor food the jibaro is dying off rapidly with tuberculosis, and hookworm and malaria cut into his efficiency; yet his family grows astoundingly, as is often the case in lands where economic conditions make people hopeless. And the jibaro on one meal a day, with fifty cents wages and ten mouths to feed, is a hopeless man, from his point of view.

One wonders why the jibaro does not eat the fruits which grow so readily. The answer is that they do not belong to him, and he could not afford to eat them if they did. They are too valuable for export purposes. But he does eat many bananas and sweet potatoes. Otherwise he could hardly exist. These he raises on the little patch assigned to him by his employer.

Porto Rico is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, having been estimated, as of 1925, to have 407.22 to the square mile. The claim is often made by the shortsighted that there are too many Porto Ricans and that the only solution is for the surplus to emigrate; but they do not seem inclined to do this, and we are sure the Lord will have a better way.

Sugar a Blessing and a Curse

TWENTY-FIVE years ago Porto Rico had several hundred small sugar factories, with an output of 69,000 tons of sugar annually. Now it has about fifty modern factories, turning out ten times that number of tons. That looks like astounding progress, does it not, especially when the profits have been known to

exceed 100 % in one year? But there are two sides to it.

The Organic Law of Porto Rico, adopted in the year 1900, provides that no corporation shall own or control more than five hundred acres of land; yet the five hundred largest corporations and individual owners in the island have actual holdings of eight hundred thousand acres. The sugar interests have not kept the spirit of the law.

The need of Porto Rico is for many and small farms; yet in twenty years the number of small farms has fallen off so greatly that those holding less than ten acres have decreased in number from 31,959 to 15,981. The property is all going into the hands of the big fellows.

Sugar-cane is a bad crop in an island where the population is excessive. It is essentially a Big Business crop, calling for many workers from January to June, few from July to September, and very few from October to December. The profits are all sent out of the island, and with the sugar estates elbowing all other agricultural interests out of the island the sugar employes have a hard time to find food in their idle months.

It is estimated that from two-thirds to four-fifths of the wealth produced in Porto Rico goes abroad in the shape of dividends to absentee owners of stock in the sugar and tobacco industries. Is the country prosperous? The answer is Yes, if you mean the trusts; but it is No, if you mean the people.

Anxiety of the People

THE Porto Rican people seem to be anxious that the American people should know about their predicament; but they are a thousand miles off shore, they speak a different language, have a different religion and different customs, and it is hard to awaken a people to the cries of their fellow men as long as their dividends are coming in regularly.

Up to the present time the corporations that are interested in Porto Rico have succeeded in preventing any investigation of the conditions which hold the very poor down to one meal a day and prevent his getting a start, by fixing the interest and commissions on loans as high as 48%.

It is claimed that the federal income tax law works in such a way that the Big Business concerns operating in Porto Rico not only denude

the country of three-fourths of its wealth, but pay no income nor other taxes, and that the reason no investigation is made is because the rich Porto Ricans, who control 35% of the capital invested in the sugar and other businesses, have an all-powerful voice with the legislature and the courts.

There are on the island 619 industrial establishments, of which 55 are in the sugar and molasses business and 169 are tobacco establishments. Considerable drawn work is manufactured, but the work is done under such close contracts with the New York employers that none of the lace can be bought in Porto Rico at all.

Politics and More Politics

PORTO RICO has too much politics for its own good. The governor, the auditor and the commissioner of education are appointed by the president of the United States. The senate is composed of nineteen members and the house of representatives of thirty-nine members. The island is represented in the United States congress by a resident commissioner elected every four years. Its citizens are automatically citizens of the United States, except 277 who have definitely elected to be citizens of no country at all. The legislature meets every other year for a session of ninety days.

There are three political parties: the Unionist, which professes to desire complete independence of the United States; the Republican, which professes a desire that Porto Rico become one of the states of the United States and be governed like the rest of the states; and the Socialist party. The issues between these parties are believed to be, for the most part, insincere and trivial, as in the United States, and are actually used to obtain office, as is true here also.

The cry of the Unionist party for independence is believed to be entirely hypocritical, and put up solely with the object of making the people of the island think that independence would bring better conditions. Actually the Unionists do not wish independence and would be alarmed if it were thrust upon them.

The reason for this is that the Unionists are the party of money, power and privilege. Their financial support comes from the sugar and other great interests, and their job is to conserve their interests. It is to their interest to get

their sugar into the United States free of duty. Otherwise they would have to compete on even terms with Cuba, and this they have not the least wish to do. Independence is everything they do not want. But they do want the votes of the people, and meanwhile no investigations, please. How simple it all is. The poor people are always stung in the same way by their loud-mouthed deliverers and benefactors.

Restraint of Liberties

IT IS small wonder that a people whose desperate poverty limits them to one meal a day, and who at the same time are full-fledged citizens, each with just as much right to vote as if he were a millionaire, should wish to do something to change such intolerable conditions. Moreover, it is inevitable that somebody will rise up sooner or later to call attention to the conditions and suggest that they be changed.

This is the case with regard to Porto Rico. The American Federation of Labor of the United States knows of the conditions there and is agitating for a better state of affairs. Their spokesman and representative is Senor Santiago Iglesias, a Cuban by birth, president of the Free Federation of Workers of Porto Rico, and also, incidentally, head of the Socialist party. It is hard to see how Socialism could help spreading in Porto Rico under such circumstances.

Like most Porto Ricans, Senor Iglesias is the father of a large family; and this endears him to the people. Five of the daughters of his family of eleven children are named with the Spanish equivalents of the words liberty, equality, fraternity, America and justice. He is considered an exceedingly well-informed, intelligent and sagacious man.

When he first undertook the cause of the Federation of Labor in Porto Rico the authorities clapped him into jail; but clapping people into jail for thinking or using their vocal organs seems not to be as popular or successful as it once was, and the Federation of Labor cabled \$5,000 to secure his release on bail. Since then the Socialist party has grown by leaps and bounds, showing that his imprisonment was a very indiscreet thing.

Senor Iglesias charged that at the elections in 1924 government officials afforded no protection of the workers, who were clubbed by the police, driven from the polling places, and in

some instances were held on the plantations so that they could not vote. He claimed that thousands of other hungry, bare-footed peasants walked two or three hours from the country so that they might vote, but were held in line until the polls were closed. He claimed also that votes were not counted when cast; that observers for the workers' candidates were not permitted to function; and that in many instances when they first presented themselves at the polls they were told: "You have already voted."

The charge was also made that, contrary to law, the ballots were opened by election officers before being put into the ballot box, so that bribes could be intelligently paid. Also, that at the time of recounting enough ballots were declared null by election officers to change the results. In one town of 2,237 voters, 400 labor votes were thus declared null.

At Christmas time in the year 1924, the Porto Rican Elections Protest Committee sent the following message to the American congress at Washington:

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the people of Porto Rico. The Porto Rican elections, held November 4, 1924, are the greatest outrage upon American citizenship ever committed: Fraud, violence, corruption, wholesale robbery! When the time comes and all the facts are laid before you, please help to right this wrong.

The President's Attitude

OFFSETTING these charges, the government claimed that there was no intimidation of voters, and that the large percentage of illiteracy made it inevitable that many ballots should be rejected. In his refusal to authorize an investigation of Porto Rican affairs, President Coolidge made the following statement:

We found the people of Porto Rico poor and distressed, without hope for the future, ignorant, poverty-stricken, and diseased, not knowing what constituted a free and democratic government. We have progressed in the relief of poverty and distress, in the eradication of disease, and have attempted, with some success, to inculcate in the inhabitants the basic ideas of a free, democratic government. Perhaps no territory in the world has received such considerate treatment in the past thirty years as has Porto Rico, and perhaps nowhere else has progress been so marked and so apparent as in Porto Rico.

There is, no doubt, a great deal of truth in what President Coolidge has said, and there is

no possible question that the large and rapidly growing population of the island creates problems which are not easy of solution; but if it be true that three-fourths of what is produced in the island goes to absentee owners and stockholders, and if it be true that the people in gen-

eral are held down to one meal a day and their landholdings are being rapidly gobbled up by the sugar interests; then it would seem to be high time that an investigation be made, and the American people should face the facts as they exist and do something to remedy conditions.

The Rumanian Government at Bay

OF ALL the evil governments in the world the Rumanian government is generally conceded to be the vilest. Times without number the central ruling powers have encouraged local authorities to begin or participate in or condone violence against Jews and other in-offensive persons.

Rumania is under the complete control of Big Business. It has a firm grip on all the treasures of the country, including rich oil fields, coal mines, forests, fisheries, foundries, factories, granaries, water powers, transportation, banks, etc. It is a replica of what Big Business would like the United States to become.

In Rumania Big Business is married to the Eastern Orthodox Church; and there is no mistake about the union, either. All citizens are required to contribute to its gigantic building program and to its support. A man who refused to make such contributions had his taxes tripled. That was engineered through the political end of the Big Swindle.

A short time ago two representatives of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, Herrn Balzereit and Dollinger, visited Rumania to look after the Society's interests there. They were promptly arrested without cause, and thrown into prison with fifteen others "of this way", where they received much unkind treatment before they were released.

The Lord seems to be taking notice of these things, for since the above incident strange things have happened in Rumania. The Balkans have been shaken with many and serious earthquakes, volcanoes have been stirred into activity and the soot thrown into the upper air has fallen in the form of black rain, terrorizing the inhabitants. An Associated Press dispatch on the subject says:

Populace in Panic as Skies Are Darkened

CERNAUTI, Rumania, April 26 (AP).—The whole population was panic-stricken this afternoon when a

heavy, slimy rain converted the day into black night. People knelt in the slime-covered streets to pray for mercy.

The phenomenon was attributed to lava dust from the Balkan regions, which have been repeatedly shaken by earthquakes during the past week. The dust was believed to have been precipitated by mixing with rain. Similar occurrences have been reported from Bessarabia.

To the forces of nature have been added the terrors of two hundred fifty thousand peasants marching to their ancient capital of Alba Julia and demanding a change of government. Orderly and quiet they came, but in overwhelming numbers, and with overwhelming determination that there must be a radical change or there will be trouble of a very real kind.

The crafty Rumanian government played a despicable trick on the peasant at the close of the World War. To gratify his reasonable longings they gave him land, breaking up the great estates of the accursed Rumanian aristocracy. But when he needed money these same aristocrats charged him 30, 40 or 50% interest and economically he was worse off than when they owned the land.

They also gave him the ballot; but he has found from experience that his vote is not counted or else is counted opposite to the way it was given. No matter how strongly the peasants come out the Bratianu government always wins, because it polices the polls and the police of Rumania are mere tools to do what they are told by the higher-ups.

Conditions in Rumania are so vile, speaking from the standpoint of good government, that when Henry Ford was placing factories all over the world, and wished to place a factory in Rumania, and the people wished it placed there, he did not dare to take the risk, for there is no justice there at all.

Now the peasants are aroused. They declare that the present Rumanian government was

illegally elected, that it is incompetent, tyrannical and not representative of the will of the people. Not within the present generation has there been such a demand of the common people for better government as was shown in Rumania on May 6.

The peasants came for two hundred miles, using every known form of vehicle from wooden-wheeled ox-carts, gigs and surreys to automobiles. They slept in the open, shivering in the cold rain; and ate fried corn mush, which is all the peasants of Rumania can afford to eat. Every road leading to Alba Julia was crowded with thousands of pilgrims, quiet, orderly, determined.

Arrived at their destination the peasants by uplifted hands took the following oath: "We swear to the great and good God to fight a righteous fight against the government, which is a plague to the country, and which was nominated by a decree wrung from King Ferdinand on his death-bed. We swear that a new Rumania shall be created which shall stand for freedom and justice to all of Rumania's brave sons."

The assembly made solemn declaration that they are not revolutionists nor Bolsheviki but that they want an honest government. They

modestly begged the outside world not to identify the present corrupt régime with the people of Rumania. They declared that the government by its illegal seizure of power is ruining their country.

They solemnly accused the government of being domestic enemies who have tyrannized the country with unconstitutional government for ten years and who have treated the people as if they were subjects of some colonial possession; and they demanded the immediate removal of the prime minister and the inauguration in his place of a man of their choice.

They also notified the government that if all peaceful means to dislodge the government fail they will surely adopt active resistance and that as they represent the whole Rumanian people there can be but one outcome.

At last accounts the government maintained its sullen attitude of unconcern as to what the people want. They had ten thousand troops on hand at Alba Julia, but the troops had nothing to do. One thing ought to be very plain to them, however, and that is that 'the hand is already writing on the wall'. The end of the old order is in plain sight, and it seems to us to be the judgment of Almighty God against an evil and abominable rule.

A Study of the Soviet Government

"RUSSIA After Ten Years" is the title of a study of the Soviet government made during the summer of 1927 by the American Trade Union Delegation to the Soviet Union. It is a crisp and lucid account, giving a good general view of all sides of the situation.

The twenty-four members of the delegation, a majority of whom were college-educated men, went where they wanted to go and saw what they wanted to see in all parts of the country. Everything was open to them. They talked not only with those friendly to the Soviet government but with those bitterly hostile to it. They are of the opinion that Russia is unconquerable by external force of arms.

They found it difficult to judge Russia honestly because the East is so unlike the West, such a mixture of poverty and gaudy splendor. Many of the things they saw have been accurately reported in the press from time to time. The report paid special attention to trade unions,

wage scales, conditions of employment and social insurance. We quote a paragraph:

One must conclude that the Russian system of labor legislation affords the fullest protection, within the standard of living permitted by the productivity of industry, of any country in the world. The workers are in practice protected against unduly long hours, injuries, bad conditions of employment, and losses resulting from accidents, illness, old age, unemployment, and the death of wage earners, which menace the lives of workers in other lands. In no other country of which we know is there such a systematic protection for mothers and children and for tired and ill workers.

As to the condition of the peasantry the report states:

Statistics of food consumption show that the peasant is eating about the same amount of bread, but of better quality, 15 percent more meat, 43 percent more milk, the same amount of butter, and 28 percent more eggs. Although figures are lacking, we have reason to believe that the peasant is eating more vegetables and fruit. He is as yet securing less furniture, clothes and other

manufactured goods than were available to him in 1913, but he is enabled to use more of his own products.

There is no political liberty in Russia. Active opponents of the soviet system of government are not allowed to address public meetings. There is no liberty of press, the excuse being made that in capitalist countries there is also no freedom of the press. A poor excuse.

The position regarding pacifists is the same as in America and England. Pacifists must render non-combatant service in time of war or go to prison. Persons accused of being antagonistic to the government can not be represented at the trial by their own lawyers, nor can they exercise the free right to call witnesses in their own behalf. The court is at once the accuser and the judge, a truly diabolical judicial system. Many thousands of persons tried in these "courts" are in exile in Siberia and Turkestan.

Referring to the refusal of the United States government to recognize the Soviet system even ten years after its establishment, the report mentions the loan of \$193,000,000 made to the so-called Bakhmetiev government and says:

Most of this money was used by Bakhmetiev after the fall in November, 1917, of the Kerensky government, which he represented in the United States. Mr. Bakhmetiev subsequently remained in Washington for several years, being recognized during this time by the State Department as the official representative of the Russian government, although his government was non-existent. The major portion of these funds was used, with the knowledge of our government, to purchase military supplies for the armies of Admiral Kolchak and other counter-revolutionists, who invaded Russia and attempted to overthrow the Soviet government. It is obviously the height of unfairness for our government to insist upon collecting from the Russian government the cost of the munitions which were used in an attempt to crush it.

Here and There About the World

350 Miles an Hour

MAJOR MARIO DE BERNARDI, of Venice, Italy, now holds the world's speed record, having attained the astonishing speed of 350 miles an hour in a specially designed hydro-airplane. This is a speed of 514 feet a second.

Air Service in Alaska

AIR service has been maintained in Alaska for the past three years. Passengers are taken anywhere they wish to go at a rate of \$1 a mile, which is approximately the cost of travel by dog sled. Conditions are good for flying, as there is good visibility and little fog or sleet. Journeys that formerly required six to eight weeks are now made in seven and one-half hours.

Blind May Now Read Any Book

BY A new invention called the Visagraph it is now possible for the blind to read any book. The machine is a combination of the principles of radio, the televisior and the selenium cell. The reader analyzes one letter at a time, partly by sound, and partly by a feeler held in his hand, operated on the principle of the pantograph. What a wonderful day when all the blind eyes are opened by the Prince of Peace now present!

England Fighting Leprosy

ENGLAND is raising a huge fund to fight leprosy. It is claimed that there are not less than a million lepers in India, and about fifty in England itself. The disease is now considered curable.

Walls of Oxford Crumbling

THE rumbling of motor trucks is causing the historic buildings of Oxford University to crumble. The best thing to do with those historic old buildings is to take careful photographs of them and then tear them down and replace them with modern buildings. Nothing else has done England so much harm as trying to live in the past. It can not be done. The time to live is now.

A Tragedy of Unemployment

IN BALTIMORE, the last of March, a fine-looking young man, possessor of three medals of honor gained in the Belgian army during the World War, unable to find work and unwilling to be a burden upon his mother, deliberately staged a ten-cent holdup with an empty gun for the purpose of getting arrested. Technically guilty of robbery he is held under \$10,000 bail, with a possibility of a twenty-year sentence.

Transcontinental Bus Service

TRANSCONTINENTAL bus service, with through trips from coast to coast in six days, is now projected. If the plan materializes two busses will leave New York for Los Angeles every day, with rates one-half the railroad fare.

Era of Corporation Farms

THE era of corporation farms which has been discernible in the offing for many years has already arrived in several parts of the country. The multiplying of chain stores has brought this era much nearer. Large sections of the best land in California are now under control of some of these stores.

The Average Store

THE average independent store is reckoned as taking in about \$65 a day, which is not so much as it seems, when all the expenses of the establishment, rent, heat, light, clerk hire, losses, stealage, insurance, and many other items have to come out of the profits represented in these sales.

Chain Stores in Eight Cities

IN EIGHT cities, Chicago, Baltimore, Providence, Kansas City, Seattle, Denver, Atlanta and Syracuse, the chain stores last year did slightly more than 30% of all the business, showing that the chains will soon be doing it all, as is indeed the natural thing to expect, the way things are now moving.

Staten Island Cop a Burglar

A STATEN ISLAND cop has made himself famous by robbing forty houses on his beat. Among the things stolen were a furnace and complete heating outfit and a three-hundred-pound hair-drier. His undoing came when he stole a valuable lamp and clock from a fellow policeman.

International Bridge at Detroit

TWO thousand men are now hard at work building at Detroit what will, when completed, be the longest suspension bridge in the world. Excellent progress is also reported on the Hudson River bridge at New York city, which will, when completed, have a span twice as long as that across the Delaware River at Philadelphia, now the longest span.

France-Brazil Air Mail Service

AIR mail service has been opened between France and Brazil, but the gap between the African and Brazilian coast is spanned by swift steamer service instead of by airplane. All the rest of the journey is by air.

Transatlantic Dirigible Fare \$400

THE transatlantic dirigible fare between England and the United States has been fixed at \$400 for a berth in a four-berth cabin and at \$600 for a single-berth cabin. The R-100, the first dirigible for the service, is expected to make its trial flights in July.

Costes and Lebriz Across Asia

NOTHING in the history of aviation has ever surpassed the flight of the Frenchmen Costes and Lebriz across Asia. These men, who have literally flown all over the world, were in Tokio on Sunday, Calcutta on Tuesday, Aleppo on Thursday and Paris on Saturday, a most extraordinary achievement.

Mechanically Controlled Parachute

A SWEDISH inventor has designed a mechanically controlled parachute which makes it possible for an airplane to deliver mail enroute without the sacks being blown from their destination as has often hitherto been the case. The parachute does not open until near the ground.

Another New Radio Wonder

ANOTHER new radio wonder has been invented. A tube two feet long and five inches in diameter furnishes very short radio waves at very high power. It lights electric bulbs without connecting wires, breaks instruments, runs meters wild and kills rats in the vicinity. It is not yet known what uses this form of power may have. It may be an aid in cookery.

German-Irish Airplane Landing

THANKS to the courtesy of the New York Times, Station WBBR was the first radio station in the vicinity of New York to give the correct announcement to the public that the "Bremen" had safely landed on Greenly Island off the coast of Labrador. Twenty-eight minutes after the WBBR announcement another radio station gave the same information.

Radio Changing the Weather

CAPTAIN PARKER of the Steamer Homeric is said to be of the opinion that the unstable weather conditions of the world are due to the development of the radio, which is sending forth a veritable network of conflicting forces moving in every direction.

What the Machinery Will Do

SECRETARY OF LABOR DAVIS is authority for the statement that now all the steel the country needs in a year can be produced in eight months, all the boots and shoes can be produced in six months, all the glass that is needed can be blown in twenty-seven weeks and all the textiles needed can be made in the same time.

Domestic Electric Rates

WHILE large users of electricity get favorable rates, domestic rates for electricity have been and are from five to ten times as great as wholesale power rates. In 1923 the small users paid 4.8 times as much as the large users; now they pay 5.7 times as much. The ordinary citizen is helping to pay for the power used to run the factories.

Grapes as a Cancer Cure

IT IS claimed that a diet of grapes exclusively for a period of two months will cure a cancer. While the cure is in progress there may be excessive weakness, loss of weight, fever, vomiting, headaches and eruptions on the skin. The meals are taken every two hours. In cases of extreme weakness pure grape juice is administered every fifteen minutes.

Big Business and Socialism

A THOUGHTFUL writer in the New York *American*, noting the steady trend toward mergers of Big Business, with the dismissal of all workers over thirty-eight years of age, raises the following significant question: "Can no one in Big Business foresee that the more they consolidate, the easier, simpler and more logical it will be for the government to take over all their mergers, if the voting class from thirty-eight to seventy finally get starved into activity?" It thus appears that Big Business is determined to drive America into Socialism, the very thing they profess to hold in utmost horror.

Misrule in British Guiana

INCREDIBLE as it may seem, the native laborers in British Guiana, big strapping fellows used in the building of the Panama canal, receive but twenty-five cents a day as their wages. Nothing but misgovernment could explain so wretched a state of affairs.

Aid For Destitute Mothers

ALL but five states of the United States have provisions for aiding destitute mothers. Investigators find that this practice works out well. They express the opinion that "home made children, cared for by their own mothers, have the best chance of becoming healthy, normal citizens". All of which is as it should be.

Abolition of Poverty Imminent

DEAN DEXTER S. KIMBALL of Cornell University, addressing the Society of Mechanical Engineers, declared that "for the first time since the world began we are in touch with the abolition of poverty through the tremendous output of our products". That is only another way of saying that the Millennium is at the door, and the best of it is that it is all true.

Moving Pictures of the War

ACTUAL moving pictures of the World War, taken by official cameras, have been shown in Paris and Berlin. In each instance it was declared that the pictures are too horrible to be shown to the public. For just that reason they ought to be shown to every person in the world so that all may see the Devil's organization just as it is and decide to have no more of it.

Protests Against Espionage

A WELL-DEFINED movement is on foot in the United States, backed principally by a lot of old ladies who should spend their time doing fancy-work, which aims to prevent men and women of America who have ideas which they wish to present to the American people from having any chance whatever to express themselves. Needless to say, these people are not true Americans, whatever their claims. The joke of it is that some are on their blacklist who were foremost in their demands for public legislation of the same sort during the World War, and who are now thoroughly angry that their liberties are being interfered with.

France's Prison Ship

ON TUESDAY, April 3, 1928, the French prison ship sailed from Rochelle, France, with 680 French convicts for Devil's Island, the worst of all possible penal settlements, off the coast of South America. There were four tiers of cells below deck and an elaborate system of pipes so that convicts can be flooded with scalding steam at the whim of the commandant. The ship is the only one of the kind in the world. Thank God for that.

The Great Shannon Scheme

THE development of the River Shannon, Ireland, hydro-electric power is the biggest thing of the kind in the British Isles. It is expected that current will be available by the middle of 1929, and that more than twice as much power will be developed as is now used in the entire Irish Free State. The installation of the plant is costing \$25,000,000. In the construction of the plant the River Shannon was carried twelve miles in an artificial bed. The work was done by German engineers.

Nothing Wasted in China

NOTHING is wasted in China. Truck gardens are planted on rafts which are anchored in the rivers. Fields are reclaimed from the ocean, and hillsides are terraced where great walls have to be reared on three sides. The utmost care is taken to conserve all manure of every kind. Small boys carefully collect the droppings from passing caravans. In some provinces every acre of land maintains six persons and their farm animals. A traveler in China says that the Chinese farmer is always smiling, polite, apparently contented, and blessed with great physical endurance.

What Denmark has Shown

FREDERIC C. HOWE, in his work "Denmark, A Cooperative Commonwealth", states as follows: "Denmark shows that the state can control the distribution of wealth and increase its production as well. It can destroy monopoly and privileges of all kinds. It can put an end to poverty. It can make it possible for all people to live easily and comfortably." Sounds like the Millennium and makes us wonder if we could swap a few of our Teapot Dome statesmen for the horny-handed farmers that are just now running Denmark.

Illegal Entry of Homes

IN THE city of Philadelphia a policeman and a Lithuanian priest forcibly entered the home of Charles Pleda, Lithuanian of Philadelphia, broke up a class of twenty-five or thirty being taught by Anthony Laurinavich, a naturalized Lithuanian, and roughly treated the latter's wife. When asked to show a warrant the policeman had sense enough to leave the house. The priest, as usual in such cases, considered himself above all law and free to commit any act of anarchy he might desire to perform.

Cleveland's New Union Station

FOR a generation Cleveland has had a union station that has been the butt of ridicule of the entire country. Now it is to have a new one that will attract as much praise as the old one did ridicule. Over the entrance to the concourse of the new station is a magnificent building forty stories high, including a department store and a hotel. The new station will be located on the public square, in the heart of the city, and will be used by all the railroads, with the possible exception of the Pennsylvania.

Lubowsky the Magnificent

ALEXANDER LUBOWSKY, looking for work, returned immediately a package of \$52,000 which he found in the street, and earned the undying respect of millions who have come in contact with power-trust magnates, coal operators and Teapot Dome statesmen, and who needed just such an object lesson to prove that there are still some honest, and therefore decent, people in the world. Lubowsky's most cherished reward was a gift of \$1.50 sent to him by the children of the Sherman School, of East Mill Creek, Utah.

Cadman and Pastor Russell

CADMAN advises all mankind to ignore the books of Pastor Russell because he shows up the preachers for what they are, unbelievers in the Bible and contradictors of its teachings. At the same time Cadman expresses his great admiration for Chauncey M. Depew, who confessed on the witness stand that his only reason for accepting a yearly payment of \$20,000 from the funds of one of the great life insurance companies was because of his general standing in the community. Like as was said of Chauncey we can say of Cadman, "He is a peach."

Fellowship of Great Multitude

AT THE Pilgrim Congregational Church, Duluth, Minnesota, when new members are admitted into the church the entire congregation rises and in well chosen words welcomes the newcomers "to the fellowship of that great multitude which no man can number". Be it noted that these newcomers are not invited or accepted into what the Scriptures designate as the "little flock", or "remnant" class, of which there is abundant evidence that there are but few on earth.

Chinese Dogs Go Savage

AS A result of the terrible famine which has depopulated seven counties in Shantung province, the dogs of that part of China have gone wild and are overrunning the country, making it unsafe for human beings to dwell in. This has frequently happened in Chinese history, and was a prominent feature of the Boxer troubles in the year 1900. The natural ferocity of the Chinese dog has been increased by interbreeding with German police dogs.

Galapagos Tortoises for America

ONE hundred of the giant tortoises of the Galapagos islands have been imported into the United States with the hope of colonizing them in California, Texas, Arizona and Florida. The tortoises propagate rapidly and grow quickly, and the meat is excellent; and it is believed that this may ultimately become a valuable addition to the food supply.

Americans and Englishmen

COUNT KEYSERLING, philosopher, who has recently made a tour of the United States, following one made here sixteen years ago, declares that Americans and Englishmen are psychologically more different than any other two nations. Americans lack reserve; Englishmen cultivate it. Americans seek publicity; Englishmen avoid it. Americans lack political sense; Englishmen are past masters of politics. Americans are developing society as a whole; Englishmen are seeking development of individuals. Americans believe in democracy; Englishmen are advocates of hierarchy. Count Keyserling claims that there is an almost complete lack of any essential likeness between the two peoples.

Cigarettes in England

A WRITER in the *New York Times* says that "the cigarette habit has spread beyond the wildest expectations of the tobacco manufacturers: young women and girls smoke all day long. They puff their cigarettes in offices in which their male predecessors never dared indulge in a pipe until the business of the day was over. Employers assert that the women will not work for them unless they are permitted to smoke."

Women Cigarette Smokers

A STARTLING evidence of the increased speed with which American women are ruining their own and subsequent generations by cigarette smoking is found in the fact that in the first nine months of 1927 there was an increase of over seventeen million dollars in the cigarette taxes of North Carolina alone. In the same period there was a five-million-dollar increase in the same taxes in Virginia. Some of the best artists in the country are prostituting their talents to glorifying one of the nation's greatest curses.

Women All Over Asia

WOMEN all over Asia are discarding their veils, bobbing their hair, wearing Western hats and going to the "movies". The World War is supposed to be the direct cause of this sudden change, due to the fact that so many men were involved in hostilities that women necessarily took their places in business and thus became in a measure emancipated. Moreover, it is claimed that Ford cars are common now in all the deserts and remote spots of the whole wide world. Silk stockings are all the go among the women of Afghanistan, the same as in Europe and America.

United States Being Sovietized

THEODORE DREISER, noted American author, after eleven weeks in Russia, is of the opinion that it is but a step from a nation of chain stores, chain railways, chain hotels, chain newspapers and chain industrial and mercantile establishments of every description to a chain soviet system. If this be so, the most ardent foes of the soviet system seem to be the very ones that are creating it and extending it; for if it comes in America what can prevent it from spreading to the ends of the earth?

Overalls in an Iowa Church

AN IOWA pastor will wear overalls in the pulpit to induce those to attend his church who have nothing else they can wear. Now if he will wear the overalls outside and use them in honest toil, and persuade all the other ecclesiastics to do the same thing, he will help inaugurate the Millennium.

A Fuelless Motor

THE *Chicago Tribune* publishes a dispatch from Detroit to the effect that a new motor has been tried out at the Selfridge landing field which has demonstrated its ability to run for 2,000 hours without fuel. The only information obtained is that the driving power is electromagnetic and that the magnet centers have to be recharged after the motor has run between 2,000 and 3,000 hours. Col. Charles A. Lindbergh is said to have been present at the test of the motor, the tryout of which exceeded the hopes of the inventor.

Corporate Disaster in Wales

AT THE present time there are mining sections in Wales in which the whole community, everybody in it, as well as the townships themselves, is virtually bankrupt. There is no work for anybody, and no likelihood of future work. People are living entirely on their own past savings, insurance benefits, public relief and charity. Nobody can pay taxes, for nobody has any income to pay with. The wages of British miners are today \$200,000,000 a year less than in 1924. Conditions in the mining industry are fully as bad as for fifty years back.

Mussolini and the Tyrol

REFERRING to the brutal oppression of the German people in the Tyrol, The *London Daily News and Westminster Gazette* says: "So far as we are aware, no foreign minister of a single member-state (of the League of Nations) has had the spirit to utter one protest in the public interest, or to say one word for a stricken people. The Fascist dictator rides roughshod over all the international decencies, and intimidates the statesmen of all the leading powers. British ministers, like Mr. Churchill and Sir Austen Chamberlain, bestow bouquets in public upon the man whose megalomania is the gravest menace to European peace since the palmiest days of the German Kaiser."

Whaler Filled in Three Weeks

THE filling of her tanks with 48,000 barrels of whale oil in three weeks was the astonishing record of the Norwegian whaler "Sir James Clark Ross" off the Antarctic continent early in February. The cargo is valued at \$2,500,000 and means handsome compensation to every one of the 160 men on board. In several instances more than a dozen whales were killed and turned into oil in a single day.

Blasphemy in Washington

AT THE First Congregational Church of Washington, on March 25, Lieutenant Commander W. M. Witherspoon, navy chaplain, speaking of the work of marines in Nicaragua in slaying their fellow men, compared it to the work of Christ, in the following words: "The men of the marine corps walk in the way first laid out by Christ. They are two-fisted fighting men, as he was. They have courage, as he did. They serve their fellow men, as he did." Who can imagine Christ in Nicaragua, gun in hand, fighting on behalf of Seligman Brothers and the Pope?

The Holy Whisker of St. Charles

THE *Literary Digest* gives a fine picture of a priest of the Episcopal Church, at St. Andrews, Tennessee, marching in solemn procession, carrying on a satin-covered pillow a beautiful gold box in which reposes one lone solitary sacred and holy whisker of Charles I, King of England, otherwise known as St. Charles. All mankind awaits with a hush the important news as to whether he made home plate with the holy whisker or was touched out enroute.

Rumania—Pariah Among Nations

IN THE House of Representatives on March 22, 1928, Hon. Emanuel Celler, of New York, denounced Rumania as a pariah among nations, condemned before the world as a country that has never kept a promise or a treaty and that has been and is guilty of unbelievable atrocities against the Jews. Mr. Celler is using his influence to prevent a loan of sixty million dollars to a country that is unworthy of recognition, much less assistance, and points out that the United States government has in the past closed American money markets to France, Italy and Belgium and now has them closed against Russia.

Excerpts from the Manual for Military Training

THE following is taken from the 1925 edition of "Manual of Military Training", by Colonel James A. Moss, U. S. A., and Major John W. Lang, U. S. A. This section is from Chapter 27, Bayonet Drill. This manual of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps has attained a circulation of more than 300,000 since the termination of the World War. It is a standard college text book.

Vulnerable parts of the Body. The point of the bayonet should be directed against the opponent's throat, especially in hand-to-hand fighting, so that the point will enter easily and make a fatal wound on penetrating a few inches. Other vulnerable and frequently exposed parts are the face, chest, lower abdomen, thighs, and, when the back is turned, the kidneys. The arm pit, which may be reached with a jab, if the throat is protected, is vulnerable because it contains large blood vessels and a nerve center.

Description of the parries. From the position of guard the body is forced forward to the full extent of the reach. . . . The barrel (of the gun) is kept up, the point threatening the opponent's body, preferably his throat. If the parry right is properly made, it is easy to kill the opponent with the thrust which immediately follows. In fact, the opponent will usually impale himself on the point. . . . Parry left is followed

up at once either with a thrust or a butt stroke to the ribs or jaw.

French or vertical butt strokes. (a) Butt stroke No. 1. Swing up the butt at the opponent's crotch, ribs, forearm or any exposed part of the body, using a half arm blow, advancing with the rear foot.

(b) Butt stroke No. 2. If the opponent jumps back so that the first butt stroke misses, the rifle will come into a horizontal position over the left shoulder, butt leading. The attacker will then jump in and dash the butt into the opponent's face.

(c) Slash. If the opponent retires still farther out of range, the attacker again closes up and slashes his bayonet down on the opponent's head, or the neck if the opponent is wearing a steel helmet. . . .

Open ground or horizontal butt strokes. (a) Butt stroke No. 1. With a half arm blow, swing the butt up at opponent's jaw, advancing the rear foot.

(b) Butt stroke No. 2. The butt can now be dashed into the opponent's face as described under vertical butt stroke No. 2 above.

Fend off opponent's thrust with the left hand. Step in and kick him in the crotch or on the shin. Grasp the rifle just below the bayonet with the right hand, back of hand down, and swing it upward and over to the left: force the point of the bayonet to the ground, and, stepping in, back-heel the opponent.

In Tennessee in the Good Old Days

THE *Tennessean*, of Nashville, Tenn., contains a report of an interview with an aged ex-slave named Anderson. We copy a portion of the report:

Asked of slave times, Anderson said "dey was hard times", and told several hair-raising tales of treatment as slaves. They had to have permits to get off their masters' land, and if caught off without one, they were severely flogged. They were buckled over a barrel and beaten with a lash. The lash resembled a lion's tail, being about two feet long and split in five prongs at the

whipping end. It was kept soaked in oil so as to be heavy and also pliable. Food was not cooked in separate pots or served in separate dishes, but beans, potatoes and corn were all stewed together in one pot and poured out in long troughs from which the slaves ate without knives, forks or spoons.

If any order was disobeyed or punishment resisted, a hundred strokes more than usual were added. The negro was then taken to the sale barn, where for several days he was fed on good food, then sold to the highest bidder "jes like er mule, boss, jes like er mule", Anderson says.

A Chance for a Dietician By Mrs. Maude H. Carder

I HAVE been using aluminum vessels exclusively for twenty years, in which time my health has gradually declined, until this winter things came to a crisis and my physicians said I must undergo an EXPLORATORY major operation AT ONCE.

Just before the time set for the operation, Mr. Held's article was published and came to my attention. He diagnosed my case so fully

that I immediately discarded all aluminum vessels and have since been slowly gaining both in strength and in red blood corpuscles.

Since my physicians claim to know nothing of such poisoning, I ask you to put me in touch with some one who can advise me as to diet, as I am convinced that is all the aid that I need to fully recover.

Mussolini and Pope at Loggerheads

MUSSOLINI and the Pope were supposed to be on the verge of kissing each other when the Pope started something by declaring that the educational principles of the Catholic Church and the Fascist government were too much at variance for him to take part in the proceedings. Mussolini retaliated by suppressing all youth organizations in Italy except his

own. Now the Pope says he was only joking and assures everybody that he only meant to say that he wanted a share in teaching the youth. Will the "charming consistency" of his explanation be appreciated? Maybe this will pacify Mussolini, and maybe it will not. We wait to see. When two tyrants start for each other somebody is liable to get hurt.

A Trifle Raw, But—

A COMMUNICATION from subscribers in Greece states that they have positive proof that in Kabbala, Neapolis, under the presidency and protection of the bishop of the city, one Chrysostomos, there has been organized a Comitadji, or association of assassins, which has in view and has received a commission to accomplish the assassination of all Bible Students.

This would be a perfectly regular thing for

a bishop. To some of our readers who are not familiar with the duties of a bishop, this might seem a trifle raw; but the most important thing, to a bishop, is to keep his job, no matter what happens to a Bible Student. And the Bible Students are making the jobs of all bishops unpleasant and unsafe.

As to the proposed assassinations themselves, the Lord will have something to say about that when the time comes.

What Reverend Caldwell Would Do

A BIBLE Student in North Carolina asked a number of pointed questions of the Reverend R. R. Caldwell, bearing upon man's destiny at death, the resurrection of the dead, the origin of hell, the soul of man, and the nature of Christ Jesus, the Savior of men. The Reverend seemed to think that the kindly-put questions were in the nature of a reflection on his theology, and in order to make his attitude perfectly clear he opened his replies to the ques-

tions with the following interesting statement:

If I thought there were no eternal torment, I would not suffer want of money or anything of this world; for if I found one who had money I would knock him in the head and take it.

I want to, in a kindly spirit, suggest that you give your Bible a more impartial and general study. That is the great thing you need. Your interpretations of scripture is absolutely in error of the worst type.

With no evil spirit nor ill will I write.

Most sincerely, R. R. Caldwell

The God of the Lousy

NOBODY who has a particle of sense, to say nothing of an understanding of the majestic Word of God and its sublime Author, can feel other than pity for the unfortunates of the past who have so misunderstood their relation to the divine scheme of things that they imagined God would be honored by their being uncomfortable, unhappy and even lousy. Only a lousy god could be happy in seeing lousy humans, and only a lousy religion could think of lousiness as anything but lousy.

Sidney Dark, writing of one of the most famous "saints" of the dark ages, says of Thomas à Becket:

Becket was deliberately verminous. He wore a hair shirt and permitted his body to be constantly bitten as part of the discipline of his life. When the monks picked up Becket's body after his death they discovered this for the first time: his hair shirt and close-fitting hair-drawers "were covered with white linen, so that no one should know of his daily agony to which the Archbishop submitted himself."

"The Short and Simple Annals of the Poor" (Contributed)

I AM going to give you a little of my own experience to show you what the poor laboring man rearing a family in the present generation has to undergo and contend with. My mind goes back to the nightmare, in this case actual, of my own starving little girl begging her mother piteously for a biscuit which her mother was powerless to supply. This same daughter of mine grew up in suffering and weak from extreme malnutrition because the peculiarities of her appetite caused her to reject even to the point of starvation, certain articles of food, to which the rest of the family through circumstances were restricted, and which circumstances prevented giving this girl the diet she should have had. It was not until she was old enough to obtain a job herself that she was able to better her condition. If the present state child labor laws had been in force then she could not have done this at the age she did.

At one time in Alabama I had an experience that can not be forgotten. I was in a badly worked-down condition, when I contracted malarial fever. I was trying to support a wife and three children on wages that were a mere pittance. All were weak from malnutrition. I could not afford to stop work. Imagine, if you can, working in a factory eleven hours a day during a period of burning fever. I had just been transferred to a very light job or it would have been impossible. As it was I collapsed about the time the fever broke up. I went back to work again when so weak that my legs felt like rubber tubes under me, and my work was of a walking character. Was some time getting over the ill effect of this. Indeed I am not sure I have yet fully recovered. If the kindness of divine providence had not enabled me to get away and better my condition as it did, and at the time it did, I believe that there is little question that my two oldest children would have been buried, and quite possibly myself also. But how many, oh how many sad cases in which Providence has never come to their relief!

After the above experience I moved to a state noted for good wages and industrial prosperity. During the years I was there I had far more steady work than the average laborer, and my wages most of this time were above the minimum wage received by common labor on light work; yet during the most of this time I was unable to give my family the diet they should

have had, and with their inherited weak physical tendencies the most of them were not free from malnutrition. Kitchen waste was reduced to the lowest reasonable minimum. Food was purchased in the most economical form that could reasonably be obtained in the small quantities at the time when usually necessary to buy. There was no extravagance in clothes. In the more than a quarter-century of married life I have bought one eight-dollar suit of Sunday clothes, one ten-dollar suit, two fifteen-dollar suits, and one ten-dollar overcoat. My wife has dressed accordingly.

Serving usually as my own family physician I have saved myself and family the burden of the heavy doctor bills most poor people have to meet. My family have been far better provided for than a large element who have been subject to the evils of sickness, doctor bills, funeral expenses and unsteady employment. I have been and still am heart-sick from the cases of suffering from dire want and poverty that have come to my attention. Yet in spite of my better financial condition, during most of the time I lived in this prosperous state I had to put my family on as restricted a diet as I dared to. I watched carefully their state of health, and, when it appeared to be approaching a danger point, in some way made, at least temporarily, such changes or additions to their diet as my pocketbook would admit. I myself have for days in and out suffered from lassitude and lack of energy with an intense longing for certain foods I did not feel able to afford, like the appetite of the drunkard for the liquor he is deprived of.

The fact that my children have succeeded in obtaining more or less work after reaching the age of fourteen has lifted from me what would otherwise have been a crushing burden, and has saved the children themselves from much suffering. The cost of a child's rearing is in ratio to its age. A child at fourteen is on the average an expense of one-half more than the living expense of either of its parents. At sixteen and on it is double that of its parent. A child put to work suited to its strength at fourteen will usually adjust itself to labor. At sixteen and over one has more or less difficulty in doing so, as one has formed habits and desires adverse to manual labor. This is not theory. On the contrary, it has been demonstrated in thousands of

hundred years it would be \$4,096,000,000. In a thousand years it would be \$32,768,000,000. In twelve hundred years it would be \$262,144,000,000 and in fourteen hundred years it would be \$2,097,152,000,000 and its possessor could buy

the entire land surface of the earth at sixty dollars an acre and have millions left. In 2,000 years his fortune would be \$1,057,901,824,000,000 and he could erect a \$30,000 house on each acre and still have plenty to live on.

The Value of Life *By Dr. T. G. Linebarger*

MOST of us make great preparations for old age and death; few of us prepare for long life. Death is an unnatural condition and life is a natural one; so why not prepare to live longer? Why not pay more attention to living and less attention to dying? More attention to health and less attention to disease? More attention to uplifting things and less attention to degrading ones?

The average person carries life insurance in order that his estate may be wealthier by a few thousand dollars at his death; but suppose he could take that few thousand dollars and buy with it one year's additional health and life, do you think that he would do it? There is not a reader who would not pay five or ten thousand dollars for one year of health and life. Of course we do not care to gamble to that extent, but we would do that if we were positive now that a year's additional health and life could be bought for that much money.

On the one hand we see human beings every day who by neglect shorten their lives more than one year in a period of only a few years; on the other hand some of us live to be fifty or seventy-five years of age in spite of our present civilization. Note some of the products of this civilization: Highly refined starches, sugars and other foods; foods that have had life-giving elements destroyed or removed; foods that contain little or no value; the automobiles that take from us, to a great extent, the necessity of walking; the street cars, hard pavements, hard floors, all of which tend to cause improper structural conditions and also cause us to become exceedingly lazy.

A part of our civilization is the speed that we employ. In fact, unnatural and abnormal methods of living shorten our lives; but some one will say, "We live more in ten years than our forefathers lived in a lifetime." Possibly this is a fact, but why die more in ten years

than our forefathers died in twenty years? Why live on our nerves all the time? Why can not we make living a sensible business? Let us expel superstition, hate, greed, envy, and all of those improper mental conditions. Let us become loyal, forgiving, patient and helpful.

We are here to live, not to die. Disease and death are curses, not blessings. Naturally, under present conditions death is sometimes a blessing; but if disease could be destroyed, death would then become the greatest curse. No one wants to live, say with a broken back, for an indefinite period of time. In the case of such an affliction death is a blessing. However, if disease did not exist, life would indeed be sweet.

A great deal of the disease to which we have fallen heir is brought on by some or all of the unnatural conditions mentioned. Improper food is the cause of a very great deal of our suffering. Mental conditions also cause us suffering, both mental and physical. A physical abnormality, no doubt, causes more suffering than any other one thing.

As a general rule, while other organs of the body are comparatively healthy, some one organ becomes seriously diseased and causes the death of the patient. Life is generated in the brain by the aid of other organs and in turn distributed from the brain to each and every organ of the body.

Health depends upon the proper distribution of this life. All of us have had these things forcibly brought to our attention.

Would it not be a wonderful thing to know that our lives could be extended ten, fifteen or twenty years? In most cases it seems not only possible but probable that such an extension of life may be accomplished. However, in order to accomplish this, some serious thought must be given to our process of living. Our food must be better; our mentality must be better; and our physical condition must be made proper by

causing proper relationship between organs to exist.

Why is it that all of us expect to die and, prepare to at the age of fifty or seventy-five years, when it has been shown that cells placed in a proper environment may live indefinitely and that cells in an improper medium, which have become aged, placed in a proper medium take on the appearance and activity of youthful ones?

Does it not seem reasonable that if the medium of our bodies could be corrected by better eating, better thinking, better living, by correction of the relationship between tissues, life in these individual cells could be maintained for a longer period of time, and the process of old age retarded? Does it seem reasonable that we should die from old age or disease at seventy-five, when it has been shown so definitely that cells need not die?

Dr. Carroll, of the Rockefeller Institute, and other men of like character, have proven this fact. Then why do we go ahead committing suicide daily?

It is stated that in the United States about 300,000 babies die during their first year. Some of this loss is unavoidable; but I assure you that a great deal of it is caused by improper feeding of either the infant or the mother, thereby causing the infant's inability to properly generate and distribute life to its various organs; and, because of its exceeding tenderness, it is doomed to die. Think of this enormous, unnecessary loss!

We have time and money to spend on our automobiles, on our fishing paraphernalia, on our golf sticks, but very little time to encourage the proper growth and life of our babies and children. If Tommy has a cough, he will soon recover from it and we pay little attention unless it is exceedingly serious, according to our conception of it. But, let one knock occur in our wonderful new automobile, and we are worried sick because of it.

Think of the utter selfishness and disregard for our poor helpless charges! Can you understand why we have grown to be such selfish monsters that we, through avoidable ignorance in some cases, actually murder our children? No, I don't mean murder them in such a manner that we are accountable to the State because of it; but I mean by improper feeding, by improper care, by neglect generally, by thinking that it is necessary for our children to contract

all sorts of so-called child's diseases, by wilfulness and ignorance generally.

Do you think that it is not time for us to become educated, thinking individuals? Do you not think that our children deserve as much attention as our automobiles? Do you think proper food and proper care, I mean necessary physical attention and adjustments of our children, are such a hardship on us, when we are the cause of their presence here?

Do you think that if we can afford to pay \$1.50 a gallon for oil for our automobiles we can not afford to buy proper food for our babies? If you think that, then I would advise you now to sell your automobile tomorrow. Your life, your wife's life, your children's lives, have a far greater value than any other possession that you own.

Is it impossible to cause you to see the great value that life has? Will you guard this treasure that has been entrusted to your care more closely than you have ever done before? Will you promise now to be honest with yourself? Won't you care for your body before your health is ruined?

Won't you allow your children to grow into manhood and womanhood in such a manner that they may be capable of bringing honor to you? Won't it give you a thrill to have your children, when grown to manhood or womanhood, point to you with pride and say, "That is my father," or "That is my mother"?

Life is our most valuable possession. Money, diamonds, lands, buildings, railroads, steamships, if you had all of these that the world contains, they would not be worth the life of yourself, your son, your daughter, your wife, or your friend.

May I appeal to you again to take care of your body, to take care of those bodies that are in your keeping, to give every individual the chance to live that he or she has inherited, to fight death as an enemy, to fight disease as a worse enemy, to pay attention to your condition before you are incapacitated and an incurable wreck?

May I ask you to respect yourself and others with whom you come in contact. From today forward, let us prepare to live; let us look forward to life and happiness instead of gloom and death; let us take proper care of our bodies. It pays.

Big Business Smiles on Big Church

BIG Church has found that it does not pay to do business on a small scale. No more small churches, small buildings, small collections or anything else small will do in this day of big things, so the churches are going in for Business Temples. That is what they call them, and that is what they are.

Among the cities that are provided with such temples are Boston, Syracuse, Chicago, Minneapolis, Kansas City and Los Angeles; and now New York is having one, the Broadway Temple. During six days of the week the building is a high-class store and office building. But on Sunday it is what is usually called "a church". The rentals more than provide the running expenses of the enterprise. Big Business puts up the money to build the structures.

Big Business approves of the new style of church. The crowd that are making such fabulous fortunes today from power, light, gas and water companies find such investments profitable. It soothes their conscience for making electric current at less than one cent a kilowatt and selling it to the dear public at ten cents a kilowatt. And collections are unnecessary.

It soothes their conscience for bribing legislatures, judges, councilmen, newspapers, and everybody and every thing that could defend the rights of the people, the plain people. It is as near to bribing God as the apostles of Big Business know how to make it.

The joke of it is that while the clergy snap at the bait and swell up with wisdom and piety and imagine what wonderful things they will all do when they all get together—all the Big Preachers, all the representatives of Big Business and all the Big Politicians—the true and only Jehovah God in the heaven of heavens is laughing at them, holding them in scorn and derision. The Bible says so. Read the Second Psalm and see for yourself.

When one of these "temples" was blessed recently with a \$500,000 donation from the president of an electric light and power company the dominie burst into ecstasy with the following statement:

We are coming to the day when notable church structures are vying with the city's other notable buildings. This is only possible when small ones are eradicated by combinations. And that will be increasingly possible as the various denominations are combined into one.

The Methodist General Conference in session at Kansas City voted last week—852 to 3—to appoint a commission to make overtures to other Methodist bodies and to the Presbyterian and Congregational churches for union. And it is not beyond the possible, for these very denominations are already successfully united in Canada.

There is no excuse for so many denominations. In all lines of business sane combinations are increasing efficiency and it can be done in the church. And the large city church, similar to Broadway Temple, is always crowded wherever erected, as is demonstrated by such institutions in Boston, Syracuse, Chicago, Kansas City and Los Angeles.

The only missing note in this is the absence of the Big Politician. His blessing is also needed, because, theoretically, he has the power to make Big Church honored, respected, authorized, approved, endorsed and legal. None of them know that all together they constitute the backbone of the Devil's organization, and will all go down together, dishonored, despised, in garments of shame and confusion.

Today they are happy together, betraying the poor, loading him with their accursed "service charges", charging him five times what they should for everything they control; tomorrow they will learn what the Lord meant in James 5:3: "Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days."

Uncle Sam and the Motherless Girl

A LITTLE motherless girl wrote to Uncle Sam, begging that in case of war he would not send either her papa or her Uncle Oliver, because they were all she had. Secretary of

War Davis wrote the child that Uncle Sam hopes from the bottom of his heart that there will be no more wars, and we hope it too. He is going to try to prevent them, and so are we.

The Bible and its Purposes

[Radiocast from Station WBBR, New York, by Judge Rutherford.]

THE past three months I have been spending in California and therefore have not had the opportunity to speak to the radio audience regularly listening to this station. It is now my pleasure to again speak to you concerning the teachings of the Bible, which is of the greatest interest, convenience and necessity for man.

Big Business owns and operates a chain of the most powerful radio stations on earth. Those stations regularly broadcast a religious feature. The claim is made that in the religious feature Bible instruction is given to the people. That claim is not supported by the facts. The official spokesman of those religious programs is Doctor S. Parkes Cadman. Recently the following question and answer were broadcast by Doctor Cadman. That question and answer by Doctor Cadman I read:

Question: "What is your personal opinion of Judge Rutherford and his publications, viz., *Deliverance*, *Harp of God* and other books that he publishes on Bible questions?"

Answer: "I have not made a very careful study of his utterances, but what study I have made convinces me that he is not in the apostolic succession. If any man claims to have the sole interpretation of the Bible, which affects the whole human race, you may be sure he is mistaken."

I have been asked to make comment upon Doctor Cadman's words. My sole purpose in doing so is that the people might have further enlightenment upon a question of importance to them. A frank and fair discussion of any question of importance may result beneficially to those who hear.

As to apostolic succession, I make no such claim. Probably Doctor Cadman claims for himself that he is in the apostolic succession. I hold that he is not. There is no man on earth that is a successor to the apostles. The twelve apostles of Jesus Christ were clothed with plenary power. They have never had any successors.

As to the interpretation of the Bible, I do not claim, as Doctor Cadman says, the sole interpretation thereof. The Apostle Peter, who spoke with divine authority, said: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."—2 Peter 1:20.

The clergymen of the world, including Doctor Cadman, are not empowered to interpret the Bible. They have no more authority to interpret the Bible than I or other laymen have. As a lawyer I write a brief and cite the authorities from the standard law books. As a student of the Bible I make a statement of fact, produce an argument, and cite in support thereof the sole authority, which is the Bible. The people who hear can determine for themselves whether or not my position is supported by the Bible. My only desire is to place my argument beside that of the clergymen and then let the people determine whether or not the Bible supports the clergymen or supports what I say. All honest people should desire the truth.

In the first place, the clergymen do not believe the Bible. They deny its inspiration and rely upon their own wisdom or the wisdom of some of their predecessors. For this reason they do not broadcast Bible instruction. They broadcast the wisdom of this world, which the Apostle Paul declares is "foolishness in God's sight". It is important to know the origin of the Bible and its purposes. This morning I shall devote myself to a consideration of that subject. Beginning next Sunday morning I shall give a series of lectures concerning the reconciliation of man to God. In those lectures I will state well known facts and cite the Bible as my only authority and let my audience determine whether or not the statements made are true.

Doctor Cadman will not follow that rule. It is the custom of clergymen to make statements dogmatically and expect the people to take those statements as true, without regard to any supporting authority. As an illustration, recently the question was propounded to Doctor Cadman and broadcast, namely, "Does the Bible teach immortality?" His answer was: "Most emphatically, Yes." He failed absolutely, however, to cite a single Scriptural authority in support of his statement. In the Bible he will find no support for his dogmatic statement. Now let us consider the Bible and its purposes.

The Bible is the expressed will of God. It is a light unto the feet of man to guide him in the right way. (Psalm 119:105) It is light from Jehovah. "Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart." (Psalm 97:

11) The man who walks in the light of God's Word and delights in His law is a blessed one of the Lord.—Psalm 1:1, 2.

The first five books of the Bible were written by Moses. These are known as the Pentateuch. How would Moses know what to write? And how may we know that he wrote the truth? To answer these questions it is necessary to review some of the facts that are known to man. Man is endowed with reasoning faculties, and such he is expected to use. The Bible is so arranged, and was produced under such conditions, that when understood it fully establishes man's confidence therein as the Word of God.

Noah was a man devoted to God. He was brought over from the world that was destroyed by the flood, and in obedience to God's command he began to replenish the earth. (Genesis 9:1) Noah was the most important man on the earth of his time. He brought with him to this side the flood a knowledge of things that no other man on earth possessed. From the creation of Adam to the end of the great deluge was a period of only 1656 years. In the period from Adam to the flood men lived for nearly a thousand years.

Enoch was a good man, wholly devoted to Jehovah, and would naturally gather all the information possible concerning the purposes of God in relation to man. Adam lived more than 300 years after the birth of Enoch. Adam died at the age of 930 years. Enoch was the seventh generation from Adam, and he lived 365 years. During his lifetime he would obtain all knowledge possible concerning the history of man and transmit those facts to his son Methuselah, because it is the natural course for a father to transmit important knowledge to his offspring. Methuselah lived to the ripe old age of 969 years.

Noah was only the third generation from Enoch. Only a few years after Enoch was miraculously taken away Noah was born. Noah must have had personal contact with Methuselah, his grandfather; and from him, and his father Lamech, he would receive all possible information concerning man that God had given to his forefathers. Noah was 600 years old when the flood came; and in that period of time he would have gathered all the information obtainable from other men who lived contemporaneously and prior to him, and would of course transmit the same to his children and grandchildren.

Noah and his son Shem came out of the ark together. Noah lived 350 years after the flood, and Shem lived 502 years after the flood. Two years after Noah's death Abraham was born. For 150 years thereafter Shem and Abraham were on the earth together, in the same part of the earth, and must have known each other. Undoubtedly Abraham would learn from Shem the details concerning the flood and the relationship of the human family to Jehovah.

Abraham is known as "the father of the faithful". Knowledge is essential to faith. Abraham could not have had faith without knowledge; therefore he must have received knowledge of God, of His creation of man, and of man's relation to Him; and this knowledge he would receive from his forefathers.

Isaac was the beloved son of Abraham, and most naturally Abraham would fully instruct his beloved son in all things in which Abraham was learned. Isaac was devoted to God, and God greatly blessed him. (Gen. 26:4) Being descendants of Shem, brought up and residing in the same part of the earth, naturally these men would transmit knowledge from one generation to another. The favored son of Isaac was Jacob. (Genesis 28:5-14) Jacob had twelve sons, and he bestowed his greatest affection upon his son Joseph.

Joseph was sold into Egypt, and after being there for some time became the most important man in Egypt. Then Jacob and his other sons went to spend the remainder of their days in the land of Egypt. Joseph rendered great service to the people of Egypt, and honored the name of Jehovah God. Joseph would receive instruction directly from his father Jacob, and did receive special instruction from him. (Genesis 49:1-28) This information transmitted to Joseph, and from him to his offspring, would not be easily forgotten.

Less than fifty years after the death of Joseph, Moses was born. His life having been miraculously preserved at the time of his birth, and he having been reared in the royal family of the nation, Moses became a man of importance and of learning; and it is written of him that he was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. (Acts 7:20-22) When he reached manhood's estate he took his stand on the side of Jehovah God and God's chosen people. He preferred to suffer for the sake of righteousness rather than to enjoy the pleasures and

riches that Egypt and her royalty could provide for him. (Hebrews 11:24-27) Egypt was the Devil's great world empire. It held all the allurements to Moses, but these Moses spurned with contempt; and having faith in God he became a faithful witness to the name of Jehovah.

It is only reasonable to conclude that Moses was thoroughly familiar with the traditions of his fathers. There must have been handed down to him from generation to generation the history of man. He would know about what had transpired amongst men from Adam to his time. It is not unusual for an American boy of the present time to learn from his parents important facts of American history. Nor is it unusual for an English boy to learn from his parents the history of the British Empire. With stronger reasoning would a man of Moses' type learn from his ancestors the facts relating to the human race up to his time. He was therefore eminently qualified to write the history of man, which by the grace of God he would do faithfully.

The physical facts well known at this day bear eloquent testimony to the truth that long centuries ago the great Master Workman Jehovah laid deep the coal beds and oil fields, and made the mountains and the valleys, the rivers and the oceans, and brought into existence plant and animal life, and made the earth a habitable place. Even the most ignorant can see that man is fearfully and wonderfully made, and that he is the most intelligent of all the creatures of earth.

Man has a natural trait, or tendency, of keeping a record of events for his benefit and that of succeeding generations. This is proof that God intended it thus to be. God planted this faculty in man. Since the evidence shows that man is the highest form of God's earthly creation, and since man has a tendency to keep a record of events, it is only reasonable that Jehovah would provide a means for man to keep a record of the most important things concerning himself. If Jehovah had to do with the keeping of such a record, then be it known that that record is correct and contains the truth.

The Bible is a history of God's creation of things earthly, and gives such information concerning His heavenly creation as the same relates to man and his home. It is God's revelation of Himself to His intelligent earthly creatures. It is His expressed will, and therefore is

the statement of His law for the government of His intelligent earthly creatures. Most of the Bible is a record of things which have transpired and which foreshadow greater things to transpire. That part of the Bible we call prophecy is the foretelling and recording of events that must transpire, before they come to pass. Prophecy is therefore the history of man written in advance. For this reason prophecy can not be understood by man until it is in the course of fulfilment or has been fulfilled.

The Bible discloses Jehovah as the great Eternal One, the Maker of heaven and earth, the very embodiment of wisdom, justice, love and power, and the Giver of every good and perfect gift. He is the complete expression of unselfishness. Therefore it is written of Him in the Word: "God is love." The Bible tells why man was created, why he turned to wickedness and was sentenced to death, and makes known God's gracious provision for the redemption, recovery and restoration of mankind to life and to his perfect home.

The Bible contains a statement of philosophic rules. It completely and fully contrasts good and evil. It shows why evil results in death and why good leads to life everlasting in happiness. It is God's law concerning man, and therefore contains the perfect and complete code of rules of action by which man can be governed and walk in the way of righteousness. This code of rules also names the penalty for the violation of the law of righteousness. The Bible was written for the benefit of man and to the glory of God.

In view of the foregoing facts, and in response to the question heretofore propounded, there are two good and sufficient reasons why Moses knew what to write, and why he wrote the truth: *

(1) The experiences of men, as they transpired, were handed down from generation to generation, and Moses made record thereof. There would be no reason for this record to be anything but the truth.

(2) Moses was devoted to God. He was chosen by Jehovah to make the record, and in preparing it God's unerring wisdom guided Moses. In truth and in fact Moses acted merely as an amanuensis of Jehovah. He was the very kind of man whom we should expect God to select for such a work. He spurned the Devil and his organization with all of its allurements,

and amidst adversity espoused the cause of righteousness. Not only was he alert in mind and learned in all the ways of men, but his chief qualification was his complete devotion to Jehovah. Many of the great truths stated by him show that they could not have emanated from the mind of a man, but that they were the result of the invisible power of Jehovah operating upon the mind of man.

What is said concerning Moses can be said of all the writers of the Bible. God chose those men for the work because of their faith in and faithfulness to Him. As His unlimited power operated to create the things of the earth, so that power operated to direct and influence the mind of Moses and of other holy men to make record of God's will concerning man. David was one of these faithful men devoted to the Lord, and concerning that part of the Bible which he wrote he said: "The spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue."—2 Samuel 23:2.

These faithful men of old are called prophets, and they wrote prophecy. The Apostle Peter, who was chosen by Jesus as one of His disciples, under inspiration wrote: "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the holy spirit."—2 Peter 1:21.

It is exceedingly interesting to observe how God arranged for important facts to be transmitted from generation to generation, from Adam to Moses, then to have Moses to write, and thereafter other men to write, that His expressed will might be put into proper form for the benefit of man.

Manuscripts

That part of the Bible which we call the Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language. That which we term the New Testament was originally written in the Greek language. Copies of the original writings of both were afterwards made, and these were called manuscripts.

The chosen people of God were made the custodian of the sacred writings of Moses and the other prophets. The people of Israel used the greatest possible care in safeguarding these writings and in informing their people concerning the contents thereof. Of the twelve tribes of Israel the tribe of Levi was set aside to attend to things pertaining to the education of

the people in matters relating to God and His Word. From this tribe the priests of God were chosen. These priests were representatives of Jehovah, and were to minister unto the Lord in the name of the Lord for the benefit of the people. The priest was selected to minister unto God in the priest's office.—Exodus 28:1-4.

God laid the obligation upon the priests to read before the people His law which He had caused Moses to write. They were required to inform the people concerning God's Word spoken through the prophets. In the instruction given to the first high priest the Lord God said: "And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean; and that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses." (Leviticus 10:10, 11) "For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts."—Malachi 2:7.

The people were instructed to seek knowledge at the hands of these priests. "And thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and inquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment." (Deuteronomy 17:9) One of the purposes of Jehovah is here manifest, to wit, to keep the people informed concerning His Word, to the end that at all times there might be some people on the earth who would have faith in the Bible as His true and sacred Word.

Centuries after the giving of the law the Apostle Paul, a Jew and an inspired witness of God, wrote that "the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith", and that "the law was a shadow of good things to come". (Galatians 3:24; Hebrews 10:1) The purpose of a schoolmaster or pedagogue is to instruct and impart knowledge. Here then is the expressed purpose of the law of God, to impart to the people a knowledge concerning Himself and His relationship to man.

This confirms the thought that God arranged for the handing down from generation to generation of the truths that He desired men to know, and that this transpired from Adam to Moses in particular. From the time of Moses and thereafter God has caused His Word to be written down by true and faithful men, whom He directed; and this Word constitutes our Bible.

All the original writings have been lost and do not exist. This, however, does not at all interfere with the authenticity of the Bible. The original manuscripts were kept in the temple or house of the Lord, and at stated times they were brought forth and read to the people. (2 Chronicles 34:14-16) When the Israelites returned from Babylonian captivity, and rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem about the year 454 B. C., the Word given by Jehovah to Moses was brought forth and read to the people.

"And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel. And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation, both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month. And he read therein before the street that was before the water gate, from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law. And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam.

"And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up. And Ezra blessed the Lord, the Great God: and all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read in the book, in the law of God, distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law."—Nehemiah 8:1-6, 8, 9.

The indisputable and historical evidence aside from the Bible is to the effect that from the time of Ezra forward there was a rewriting or copying of the original manuscripts, and that

such rewriting or copying by faithful and devout men continued until about the year 900 A. D. Many of the manuscripts were destroyed by fanatical Christians (so called) during the persecution of the Jews in the middle ages, particularly in the time of the Crusaders. Others were destroyed by Jews themselves, evidently for the purpose of preventing them from falling into the hands of their enemies. The evidence therefore shows an unbroken chain of transpiring truth from Eden down to this period of 900 A. D., and that this was done under the direction of Jehovah.

There are now in existence three ancient manuscripts. These are copies of the original tongue or language. These manuscripts are, to wit, The Alexandrine, the Sinaitic and the Vatican. These manuscripts show the Bible as it existed shortly after the time of the apostles of Jesus Christ.

The Alexandrine Manuscript was presented by Cyril Lucar, Patriarch of Constantinople, to Charles the First, king of Britain, in the year 1628, and is preserved in the British Museum to this day. It bears on one page the inscription that it was written by the hand of Thekla the Martyr.

The Sinaitic Manuscript was discovered by Tischendorf, the German scholar, in a convent situated at the foot of Mount Sinai. This manuscript is kept in the library at Leningrad, formerly St. Petersburg, Russia.

The Vatican Manuscript is the most ancient manuscript in existence. It is kept in the Vatican Library at Rome. These manuscripts have in recent years been accessible to scholars. None of these ancient manuscripts is entirely complete, but is nearly so.

Versions

THE Scriptural text, copied in the same language in which it was originally written, is called a manuscript. A translation of the original language into another language is called a version. The ancient versions of the Scriptures consist of the translations of the Scriptural text from the original language into another language, in the early period of the Christian era. Many of these translations were written by men not more than one generation removed from the time of the apostles.

Among these versions is the Syriac, representing very nearly the language employed by

the people with whom the Lord Jesus communicated and amongst whom He moved. The Syriac is a very reliable version. Near the close of the fourth century Eusebius Hieronymus Sophronius, otherwise known as St. Jerome, who for many years lived at Bethlehem, revised the old Latin version of the Bible. This version is called the Vulgate. It is a translation into the Latin, and compared with the Greek and Hebrew manuscripts. This is one of the most valuable versions of the Bible. It is often referred to in other versions or translations.

The Bible was first given to the people in the English language by the efforts of John Wycliffe, about the year 1367. This version was copied literally from the Latin. Although translated that early, it was not printed for nearly 400 years thereafter. Both Jerome and Wycliffe suffered much persecution because of their faithfulness in translating the Scriptures. Their persecution came chiefly from the clergy. Satan has always opposed those who have been witnesses to the name of Jehovah God. So violently did Satan stir up opposition to the Wycliffe version of the Bible that many of these leaders were burned to death with copies around their necks.

The next version of the Bible of importance was that brought forth by William Tyndale, something more than 100 years after Wycliffe's day. Tyndale published many editions of the New Testament. He translated the major portion of the Old Testament. In the making of his version Tyndale used such original Greek and Hebrew manuscripts as were then available to him. Tyndale's version of the Bible is really the Bible that all the English-speaking people of earth use now. It has been revised several times.

Satan the enemy used the clergy of England to persecute Tyndale because of his faithfulness in translating the Bible. This is one of the proofs that Tyndale was a faithful servant of the Lord. After translating a portion of the Scriptures he was forced into exile in Germany, where he finished the translation and there published many copies of the New Testament. He was determined to get this translation into the hands of the English people. He smuggled it into England by sending his printed copies in barrels, in bales of cloth, in sacks of flour, and in many other secret ways.

The bishops of the Church of England and

others of the clergy used every means within their power to stop the publication of Tyndale's version of the Bible. Thousands of copies were seized by them and publicly burned at the old cross of St. Paul's. Tyndale was kept in exile and refused many attempts to induce him to return to England, knowing that if he went back to England the bishops and other clergymen would cause his death. He was betrayed by a clergyman in Germany and was forcibly seized and imprisoned in a dungeon, and thereafter suffered much from cold and want of food; and he was taken from prison and burned at the stake. This was done at the instance of the clergy.

But Satan and his agencies could not prevent the people from having the Bible, because God's time had come for them to have it. Shortly after Tyndale's death there appeared what is known as "Matthew's Bible". It was really Tyndale's Bible published under a different name. Then followed the publication of what is known as the "Great Bible", which was published in 1539; and later what is known as the "Geneva Bible", published in 1560. All of these were but revised editions of Tyndale's translation.

In the year 1611 A. D. what is commonly known as the Authorized Version was produced. It is otherwise known as the King James Version, because King James of England was the prime mover in having it prepared. The revisers who did the work were divided into six companies, and a portion of the work was assigned to each company; and every aid or help that was accessible was used by these revisers in their work. These men carefully studied the Hebrew and the Greek and the translations into the Spanish, Italian, French and German, and compared them one with the other.

Doubtless there has never been a more masterful and more nearly perfect English publication than the Authorized Version of the Bible. It is more generally used than any other Bible or version of the Bible in existence. Its translation is not perfect, however, as it contains a number of mistakes, as was later shown by comparison with the ancient manuscripts. Those who prepared our Authorized Version of the Bible did not have access to the three ancient manuscripts above mentioned.

In the year 1870 A. D. a company of distinguished English scholars assembled and be-

gan the work of a revision of the Authorized Version of the Bible, and within a short time thereafter an American committee of distinguished scholars joined in a like work. When the Authorized Version was made, the ancient manuscripts, to wit, the Vatican, Alexandrine, and Sinaitic, were not accessible. The commission of revisers who prepared the Revised Version from 1870 forward had access to these manuscripts, however. The ancient manuscripts were studied, together with the various versions; and the greatest possible care and means were employed to bring forth a Bible expressing, as nearly as possible, the thought expressed by the original manuscripts.

In 1881 the first edition of the English Revision was published, and in 1885 the American Revision was published. Tyndale's translation was largely used by both of these committees, and blazed the way for the labors of the revisers. These Revised Versions are doubtless the best of all translations, because they express the thought in plain English. In addition thereto, there has been a decided change of meaning in many of the English words during the past three hundred years. It was the effort of those who prepared the English and American Revised Versions to express the proper thought in plain English.

For instance, the old English word "hell" meant a dark place, such as a hole in the earth, in which one covers his vegetables for preservation. In modern times the clergy have defined hell as meaning a place of conscious torment, which of course was not the thought in the original text. Another instance: The English word "damnation" originally meant to judge; and sometimes to judge adversely or to condemn. The modern ecclesiastics have made the word damnation mean the consigning of one to a place of eternal torment.

The translators of the Revised Version have left the word *hades* untranslated, it being the word which the clergy use for hell fire and torment. The word damnation they have translated *judgment* because the word damnation in the original English, and judgment in modern English, mean the same thing; and this proves that the clergy have placed an entirely wrong meaning upon the word. (Acts 2:27; John 5:29, *R. V.*) In both instances, those who prepared the Authorized Version and the Revised Versions used the proper word as the word was

used at the time written. It has been the clergy, however, who have seized upon the occasion to misrepresent God's Word by improperly using it. In view of all the opposition to the Scriptures it is remarkable how pure the text has been preserved after divers and numerous copyings from the original.

The *Emphatic Diaglott* is one of the purest translations of the New Testament. It is translated from the original Greek. The Vatican Manuscript was chiefly used in its preparation, reference being had also to the Sinaitic and other manuscripts. It expresses the thought in modern language and greatly aids the Greek and English student in studying the New Testament.

Without doubt the invisible power of Jehovah God guided the minds and hands of faithful men of old in preparing the original manuscript of the Bible. It is God's Word, and He had it prepared exactly right. Because it is the Word of God, Satan the evil one has used every means within his power to destroy the Bible and to destroy those who faithfully translated it. God has permitted him to go just so far in his wicked attempts, and then has stopped the enemy. At different periods in the history of mankind honest men, wholly devoted to the Lord, have made copies of the Bible. Shall any one deny that the Lord God guided these men in their work? We may be sure that since they were faithfully and honestly trying to represent Jehovah, He would safeguard His Word from serious error.

Satan, through his agencies, killed many of the men who faithfully performed their work, but not until after their work was done. Thousands of copies of the Bible were destroyed by these same evil agencies, but Satan with all his efforts could not stop the progress of God's unfolding plan and the revelation of Himself to the people through His Word. Being unable to stop the publication of the Bible the Devil has sought through his representatives to corrupt the meaning thereof, and to put into the minds of the people an improper understanding of its text. He has used every power and means to turn the minds of the people away from Jehovah and from His pure Word of Truth. For centuries many of these wonderful truths were obscured and taken away from the people by the Devil and his agencies. In God's due time

these pure doctrines have been restored to the honest seeker after truth.

The creature who is magnified in the Scriptures above all others is the beloved Son of God. The Jews have, for 4000 years, centered their hopes upon the Messiah, and have looked for His appearing. For nearly 2000 years Christians have centered their hopes upon The Christ and have looked for His second coming. The beloved Son of God, the Logos, Jesus, is the Messiah, the Anointed One of God, The Christ. The time for His second appearing has come, and now He is here. With His coming there has come to the honest seeker of truth greater light upon God's Word, even as the Lord promised that it should be. (Proverbs 4:18; 1 Corinthians 10:11) The second presence of Christ dates from about 1874. From that time forward many of the truths long obscured by the enemy began to be restored to the honest Christian.

As William Tyndale was used to bring the Bible to the attention of the people, so the Lord used Charles T. Russell to bring to the attention of the people an understanding of the Bible, particularly of those truths that had been taken away by the machinations of the Devil and his agencies. Because it was the Lord's due time to restore these truths He used Charles T. Russell to write and publish books known as *Studies in the Scriptures* by which the great fundamental truths of the divine plan are clarified. Satan has done his best to destroy these books because they explain the Scriptures. Even as Tyndale's version of the Bible was destroyed by the clergy, so the clergy in various parts of the earth have gathered together thousands of volumes of *Studies in the Scriptures* and burned them publicly. But such wickedness has only served to advertise the truth of the divine plan.

It is God's time when the truth shall be known, and nothing Satan can do or will be able to do can prevent the truth from being known. The time has come for the standard of Jehovah to be lifted up that the people may know which way to go. Around this divine standard the righteous and truly honest-hearted will rally. The tide of truth is rising higher and higher, and will continue to rise until it fills the whole earth as the waters fill the deep. All this shall be to the glory of Jehovah God. The time has come for Jehovah to make known His name in the earth, and He will make this known through

His Word and through the manifestation of His power. And be it noted that the truth does not belong to any man. It is God's truth. God has used men or human instruments at different times for His own purpose and to His own glory, but the truth always has been and always will be Jehovah's. The Bible is His Word of Truth, given to guide those who seek righteousness.

Among the holy men of old who wrote prophecy was Daniel, a man much beloved by Jehovah. God moved his mind and hand to write of the marvelous things that should come to pass. Daniel did not understand what he wrote, and so stated. God gave him some evidence by which those living at the time of the fulfilment of his prophecy might understand. He locates the fulfilment as being the time of the second coming of the Lord, "the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people." Then to Daniel he said: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."—Daniel 12:4.

The peoples of earth on every hand see the fulfilment of this prophecy. This is the age of much running "to and fro" and great increase of knowledge. It is the time for the Scriptures to be understood.

After Daniel had written down the history of the world powers, and what should happen long after his day, he said: "And I heard, but I understood not; then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?" (Daniel 12:8) In answer to his request Jehovah replied: "Go thy way, Daniel; for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." (Daniel 12:9, 10) Without doubt the time has come when the Bible is to be understood; and those who trust in God and in His Word, and in the great sacrifice of His beloved Son, shall be purified, made clean and white, that their faithfulness to God may be established.

The "wicked" are those who have once had some knowledge of God and who have used this knowledge for their own selfish ends. They shall not understand. This explains why the modern clergymen do not understand. The "wise", within the meaning of Daniel's proph-

ecy, are those who have some knowledge of God and His Word and who apply that knowledge according to God's holy will. These are they who humbly and joyfully obey the truth as they see it. These great and deep truths, long kept

a secret from man, are now due to be understood; and to those who honestly seek to understand the Lord says: "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant [plan]."—Psalm 25:14.

Bible Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Was Jesus ever dead?

Answer: Yes. He said so Himself. In Revelation 1:18 the resurrected Christ Jesus said, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore." In Romans 6:9 we read, "Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him."

Question: If an individual has taken a certain oath to remain loyal to a certain religion, and afterwards comes to a knowledge of the truth and recognizes the former religion as error and out of harmony with the Bible, will the heavenly Father forgive such an individual if he determines to do the Lord's will thereafter?

Answer: Yes. To turn from a course of error and cling to the truth is always approved by the Lord. The Lord will forgive the individual making the oath in ignorance, and before one came to a knowledge of the truth. Let us remember that a wise man who sees the error of his ways is willing to change to the truth seven times a day; but a fool, never. The Christian himself expects chastening and correction from the Lord, and he rejoices to follow the instructions of the Lord. In Proverbs 3:11-13 we read: "My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: for whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."

Question: In Matthew 4:10 we read, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Should we worship Jesus or God or both?

Answer: While it is perfectly proper to honor Jesus, the highest praises are due to Jehovah because He is God, and because all things and creatures were brought into existence for the purpose of praising Him. In Psalm 145:10 we

read, "All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee." Eventually all the obedient of mankind will praise Jehovah God. This will be accomplished at the end of Christ's kingdom. We read in Psalm 67:3-7, "Let all the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad, and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him."

Question: Please explain Genesis 22:1,2 a portion of which reads, "God did tempt Abraham . . . and he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of." Then reconcile this with James 1:13 which states, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man."

Answer: In Genesis 22:1,2 Jehovah God tested the faith of Abraham. God has a perfect right to try the loyalty of an individual who is on trial, in order that good may result. It is through the many trials that the faith of the individual is made stronger and stronger, and as a result God is able to determine the heart loyalty of the individual. We will note from Genesis 22:1,2, we do not read that God tempted Abraham that evil might result; God tries the individual that good may result. On the other hand, the Apostle James is speaking of the temptation that is based upon evil design, which if yielded to leads to sin and unhappiness. One can truly say that God does not tempt any one with evil, nor does He tempt any man from an evil motive.

The Children's Own Radio Story

Story Eight

WE HAVE now come to the part of our story of the life of Jesus, God's Son, where we leave the account of Him as a baby and hear of His first wonderful adventure as a young boy.

You know that there is a Jewish holiday called the Passover. This is a feast in remembrance of something that occurred away back in the days when Moses was at the head of the Children of Israel. It was at the time of their sojourn in the land of Egypt.

The Lord was ready for the Israelites to be delivered from the hands of the Egyptians. He caused Moses to tell the people that a sacrifice should be made. This sacrifice was the killing of a lamb, which was then to be eaten roasted by the people who partook of the sacrifice.

The blood of the lamb was to be sprinkled upon the door posts of the houses wherein the Israelites dwelt. That the Lord had a reason for this we shall presently see.

Now it was the Lord's purpose to free the Israelites from their Egyptian captors, and this is how He did it. In the night following the observance of the lamb-sacrifice the angel of the Lord God passed over Egypt with a great and sudden plague, killing all the first-born of the Egyptians, and even the first-born of their cattle. From the great palace of Pharaoh to the humblest hut of the Egyptian laborers, nothing but wailing was heard. The Lord had punished those people for their cruelty to the Israelites, the worst of which was the drowning of every little Israelite boy baby as soon as it was born.

But Jehovah had warned the people, through Moses, to stay within doors on that certain night, and lo, the great and terrible plague with which the Lord smote Egypt *passed over* the houses whereon the blood of the sacrificed lamb had been sprinkled. The children of Israel were untouched by the terrible plague which slew all the first-born of Egypt.

The Egyptians were then glad to let the Israelites go, and Jehovah God commanded that thence for ever the feast of the Passover, as it was called, should be observed once a year by all Israelites and their descendants. Thus it came about that Mary and Joseph went every year to Jerusalem to observe the passover feast, and they took Jesus with them. He was by this time quite a big boy, strong, and beautiful, and

very bright, because He was perfect and was blessed by the grace of Jehovah, His Father.

When Jesus was twelve years of age, Mary and Joseph went up to Jerusalem as usual, and He accompanied them. When they had observed the passover in the manner commanded by the Lord God in His words to Moses, Mary and Joseph set forth on their return journey to Nazareth. They did not notice until they had gone a long way, that Jesus was not with them, for they were traveling with a large company of relatives and friends who had come up to Jerusalem to partake of the passover.

When they discovered that Jesus was missing from the company, they turned back the way they had come and once more entered the gates of Jerusalem. For three days Joseph and Mary searched the city, high and low, and then found the boy Jesus sitting in the temple in the midst of a gathering of wise men and priests, listening to their discourse and asking them questions so difficult that they could not answer, to their very great surprise.

The Bible tells us of this incident: "And it came to pass, that after three days, they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed, and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them."

You see, when Jesus spoke of His "Father's business", He referred to the purpose with which He had left His high place as the Logos and come to the earth. Joseph had not sent Jesus into the temple on any business, so naturally he and the others were at loss to understand this statement of the young boy Jesus. But Jesus Himself knew, through the grace of God, that He had a great and wonderful purpose to fulfil, which was the business of Almighty God, His Father. And though He was a human being, He was perfect, for He was the Son of God just as truly as when He sat at Jehovah's right hand in heaven.

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