

# The WATCH TOWER and Herald of Christ's Presence

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No. 1

## VIEWS FROM THE WATCH TOWER

God's children appreciate the fact that his Word is a "light unto their feet, and a lantern unto their pathway." To the divine Word and providence they look for guidance, instruction and comfort. They believe the Word of God and rely upon it, and thus walk by faith. They view current events in the light of divine prophecy. For several years Bible students have been expecting a great international war, followed by revolution and anarchy. (1 Kings 19:11-13) They expect the great ecclesiastical systems, conceived in sin, born in iniquity and operated in fraud and deceit, to be swept away with a great besom of destruction. (Revelation 18:5-21) They have looked for the governments of earth, built upon false and unrighteous foundations, to crumble away amidst a great storm of human passion. (Psalm 18:7-19; Jeremiah 25:8-38) They have expected a dark night just preceding the ushering in of the glorious kingdom of Messiah. (Isaiah 21:11, 12) They expect these things because the Bible says so. God's Word is true.

For the encouragement of his followers, the great Master said, "When these things begin to come to pass, then look up and lift up your heads, for your deliverance draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28) "Be patient, therefore, brethren; the kingdom of Messiah is at the door."

### EXPECTATIONS BEING REALIZED

Current events confirm our expectations. The new year dawns amidst great strife, turmoil and bloodshed. For nearly two and one-half years a mighty conflict has raged amongst the European nations, and the storm of destruction continues unabated. In that time more than a dozen kingdoms and nations have been involved; and upwards of thirty millions of men, armed with the most deadly weapons known to modern science, have engaged in wholesale destruction of human life and property. Approximately seven millions of men have been killed, and many more millions are insane or nervous wrecks by reason of the indescribable experiences through which they have passed.

Jehovah, through his Prophet, foretold the coming of this great storm, describing it as a "great and strong wind which rent the mountains and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord." The Bible deals largely in symbols. "Wind" is a symbol of war; "mountains," a symbol of kingdoms or governments, and "rocks" a symbol of the solid or more stable parts of the governments. In this picture, therefore, the rocks would very fitly represent the financial strongholds of the governments. When the financial strength of a government is gone, the government itself is practically gone.

It is apparent to all observing ones that the warring nations are on the verge of bankruptcy. For the purpose of procuring money with which to conduct the war, the belligerents have borrowed fabulous amounts, for which they have issued bonds, treasury notes and other promises to pay. The amount of bonded indebtedness of the warring nations is now so enormous that there is not enough money in all the earth to pay the interest on that indebtedness. How then, will it ever be possible to pay the principal?

Great Britain and her Allies have borrowed heavily from Americans through the instrumentality of certain American financiers. These nations are desperately attempting to negotiate other loans through the same channels. As an evidence of the desperation to which these nations are driven, we cite the recent attempt of Great Britain to borrow from American

investors one billion dollars upon unsecured treasury notes, which have no basis for issue and are strictly fiat money. Some time prior to this attempt, the British government obtained credits in the United States to the amount of \$1,100,000,000. About one-half of this amount was obtained upon unsecured paper, and was taken largely by munition manufacturers and other large creditors who expected to make enough profit out of the sale of munitions to cover any loss that might occur.

About the first of December last, the President of the United States became aware of the attempt of the British government, through its American agents, to sell to American investors a billion dollars of fiat credits, designated as "short time treasury notes." Foreseeing the uncertainty of the payment of such notes, President Wilson and the Federal Reserve board exposed this dangerous scheme by warning American investors against the purchase of these. Discussing this question editorially, one of the leading American dailies recently said:

"When the British government came back for more credit and wanted a real loan in Wall Street, then Wall Street was not so certain of the value of the treasury notes. It wanted security in the shape of American stocks and bonds, and insisted upon having it.

"The British government has no American stocks and bonds and not a great deal of gold to spare. After having taken care of Wall Street's preferred loans, still it wants more American money on credit. So certain English agents among American bankers attempted to persuade American investors, through American banks, to buy one billion dollars of unsecured treasury notes, when Wall Street was unwilling to lend half that amount against a year ago without additional collateral American security.

"It is probable that these Anglo-American bankers, whose prestige is very great, would have carried this disastrous scheme through without a hitch had not the President and the Federal Reserve Board interfered with their warning.

"These notes are unsecured, and are subject to the hazard of defeat in war, of national bankruptcy through prolongation of war, and of repudiation in case of social revolution after war.

"They have no gold basis; for the British government has already outstanding more of their promises to pay—more of this fiat money, in fact, than all the gold that has been produced since the Christian era began could redeem.

"There is not gold enough in all the countries of Europe combined to pay ten cents on the dollar of the paper fiat treasury notes that have already been issued by Great Britain."

Financiers everywhere are trembling, and "men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." (Luke 21:26) All these things that we see are but the beginning of greater sorrows. The end shall be "a time of trouble such as was not since the beginning of the world."

Each warring nation has hoped for victory, but it has not come. Discouraged and dismayed at the utter failure to deal a crushing blow, the rulers of some of the nations have impressed their strongest men, that mightier efforts might be put forth. In desperation, government officials have resigned their positions; and others have been asked to take their places.

The British ministry recently fell; and a new ministry, organized with David Lloyd George as Premier, is now threatened by those who favor peace. In November last a new ruler ascended the throne in Austria; a new cabinet was organized, and within one month that cabinet has fallen.

#### CRY FOR PEACE—GREATER SORROWS TO FOLLOW

Germany desires peace and proposes terms. It is believed that all the ruling nations desire peace; but some of these nations, particularly the British, are too proud to make peace yet. But may we not expect peace among the nations at an early date? We are not inclined to that opinion. The nations must be further weakened. It may be expected, however, that the warring nations will agree upon some sort of peace terms in the not far distant future. But such a peace will not be a lasting one; it will be merely temporary.

It may be expected that politicians will from henceforth have much to say about peace; that the ministers of the nominal church systems, who have been advising their respective nations to war against other nations, contrary to the Word of God, will also say "Peace"; that people in general, unaware of God's purposes, will say "Peace" and will believe that safety has come to them. There will be, doubtless, a short period of peace; but it will be merely a lull before a greater convulsion. We base our conclusion upon the Scriptures. These clearly indicate that there will be a great earthquake (symbolic of revolution)—"an earthquake such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake and so great."—Revelation 16:18.

St. Paul, writing of the "day of the Lord," which he declared would come upon the earth as a thief in the night, said: "For when they shall say, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."—1 Thessalonians 5:3.

#### REVOLUTION CERTAIN

Corroborative of this, the Lord in 1 Kings 19:11 describes the second stage of the trouble on the earth in these words: "And after the wind an earthquake." This picture is symbolic of revolution. Having faith in God's Word, let us look about us and see whether there is any evidence that this mighty earthquake is near at hand. The Apostle assured the watchers that they would not need to be in ignorance respecting that day, saying: "Ye brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief."

Revolution is the result of discontent on the part of the governed, and a determination on their part to be no longer subject to the rule of constituted authority. Before the war the people of Europe were greatly burdened with taxation. The increase of national indebtedness, resulting from the war, is now so great that the burden of annual taxation must be increased more than 400% in order to raise the interest on the debt. Seven millions of Europe's able-bodied, wealth-producing men have perished on the battle-field. The earning capacity of those surviving is less than prior to the war, because of their weakened physical condition, even if after the war there be sufficient employment for them to earn money. The war has so impoverished the nations engaged in the conflict that they cannot further issue bonds to rebuild the destroyed property. Hence the opportunity for earning money by daily labor is greatly reduced.

In addition to this, while the men have been at the front, women have been installed in the positions held by men prior to the war. To put the women out in order to give the men the positions would be an injustice to the women, and would cause trouble from that source. If the women are permitted to hold the positions and perform the work, there will be a large army of unemployed men. These unavoidable conditions will produce increased discontent. Add to this the scarcity of food supply, the increased cost of living and the lack of opportunity to procure food in a legitimate way, and the ultimate result will be a great army of starving men, women and children.

Naturally, such an army of unemployed discontents will ask, "Why do we find ourselves in this miserable condition? Have not our comrades given up their lives for our country? Have we not suffered great loss for the same cause, and are we not now entitled to food and shelter? If war is responsible for this miserable condition, why should we have gone to war at all? Who sent us to war?" Of necessity the answer must be that they went to war at the behest of the kings, and rulers; that the clergy of the various nations have long advised these kings and rulers that they were ruling by Divine right, and that therefore they were justified in whatsoever course they might take; and that the same clergy class have urged the people to go to war. Hence the political and ecclesiastical ele-

ment will be held responsible by the common people for their miserable condition.

Bloodshed becomes commonplace in time. The shedding of blood upon the battle-field month after month develops the disposition in men to shed more blood under different circumstances. The conditions that led up to the French Revolution exist among many nations today. A small act at that time started the "earthquake"; so now but little will be required to provoke a world-wide revolution. Once started, it cannot be stopped until the fire of anarchy, begun by the revolution, has burned itself out.

#### STATESMEN EXPECT REVOLUTION

Statesmen and worldly-wise men see that revolution is unavoidable. Max Nordau, one of the greatest of modern scientists, in recent months published an article calling attention to the conditions in European countries and stating that revolution is certain to follow in every country now engaged in the war.

About September 1, 1916, the *London Times* published an article from the pen of Lord Beresford in which he stated the following:

"We began the war with two great assets—the fleet and our wealth. The second asset is being squandered by millions without business supervision or adequate return. We shall soon be bankrupt if this goes on."

A few weeks after Earl Loreburn, in the House of Lords, warned Parliament and the nation of the tremendous revolution which will result if the European conflict is prolonged. He said, "Unless the collective common sense of mankind prevails before the worst comes, Europe will be little better than a wilderness peopled by old men, women and children. It is no exaggeration to say that if the war continues indefinitely revolution or anarchy may well follow."

In the House of Commons Andrew Bonar Law, Secretary for the Colonies, recently said that England had to risk bankruptcy to bring the war to a successful conclusion, and that the situation was extremely dangerous. He further said, "The moment the country cannot raise indefinite loans—and if the war lasts long enough that moment will come—the country will have to find other means for carrying on the war."

Sir George Paish, the ablest financial authority in England, in a recent public address, said:

"England is carrying the financial burden of the war. The adverse trade balance, if we include what we have done for our Allies, is already between three billion and three billion, five hundred million, to balance which we have succeeded in borrowing about two hundred and fifty million, our moiety of the American loan."

"If we go on spending money as we are now, we shall see another break in American exchange, accompanied by a break in Canadian, Argentine, Australian and Indian exchanges. This probably will mean the suspension of specie payments, and we shall have to tell the world that we are unable to pay our debts."

#### AMERICAN UNREST

Suspension of specie payment by European governments would produce the greatest financial panic the world has ever known, and would especially affect the United States, thereby increasing the discontent here.

The Lord Jesus, describing the condition through which the world is now passing, said that the wars would be followed by "great earthquakes (revolution) in divers places, and famines and pestilences." (Luke 21:11.) A glance at the present situation is convincing that the world is rapidly advancing toward famine and pestilence.

Broken, bleeding, starving Europe is frantically grasping for food in American markets. Exportation of food stuffs has been so great, and the supply in America reduced to such an alarming degree, that Congress is considering the placing of an embargo upon all food supplies. Congressman Fitzgerald is quoted as recently saying:

"I favor an embargo on food stuffs. The embargo should be imposed for purely domestic reasons: the prices of food stuffs have reached levels that are bringing widespread distress to the country. Many thousands of our people are suffering from the lack of the necessities of life. Wholesale prices in many commodities are less abroad today than they were a year ago; and here the retail prices have advanced alarmingly."

*The Los Angeles Tribune* editorially says:

"We venture the prediction that unless radical action is taken to prevent the exportation of food stuffs, now proceeding at a rate that presently will strip the country

of its supplies, the early months of the coming year will behold bread riots in American cities."

From the *St. Louis Star* we quote:

"The food production in America in the year past has been greatly reduced from that of former years, as will be observed by noting the following figures: There is a falling off in the corn production of 374,000,000 bushels. Wheat is less by 504,000,000 bushels. Oats show a loss of 300,000,000 bushels. The potato crop is short 70,000,000 bushels. Apples are short 9,000,000 bushels. Sweet potatoes, beans, tomatoes, cabbage and everything in the vegetable line are also short crops, so that both in fresh and canned vegetables there is comparative shortage of supply."

In parts of the United States there is now an unhealthy prosperity prevailing. Many factories engaged in the production of war munitions are paying increased wages, which enable the workmen in a measure to meet the increased cost of living. Even a temporary peace will stop the manufacture of war munitions, resulting in a great number of unemployed in America and greatly reduced wages for those who are employed. But the cost of living will not be reduced. If the cost of living is governed in a measure by the law of supply and demand, it could not be expected that prices will be lower; for the supply is decreasing.

January 1, 1917, marks the day for the opening of the great legal battle in the United States Supreme Court between the Railway companies and the Railway employees over the eight-hour law. Should the court sustain the law, which is hardly probable, government ownership of railways would quite likely result. Such a victory for a portion of the labor element would encourage other labor organizations to demand national legislation in their behalf; and the failure to get it would add more fuel for the flame. If the railway employees are defeated in their legal battle, a nation-wide strike is almost certain.

The evidence points strongly to the fact that the world is now nearing the great earthquake, the great revolution, to be followed shortly by the fire of anarchy. In symbolic language the Prophet of the Lord described it as follows: 'For he (Jehovah) commandeth and raiseth the stormy wind (great trouble), which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven (higher ruling powers), they go down to the depths (the lowest stratum of society); their soul (the very being of the government) is melted because of trouble; they reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.'—Psalm 107:25-29.

Thus the Lord describes the passing away of the present order, preparatory to the establishment of the kingdom of righteousness under the Prince of Peace.

#### WARNING TO THE CHURCH

The great "hour of temptation" (Revelation 3:10) is upon the world. Selfishness, discontent, insubordination, refusing to be subject to the constituted authority or order of things, is the great temptation or trial upon the world that is leading straight to revolution and anarchy. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man." (1 Corinthians 10:13) In other phrase the Apostle says, "The temptation that has come to the world comes to all, including the church. The same great trial that is upon the world, the church must come in contact with."

Is it possible that the spirit of revolution will try the church? We repeat our definition of revolution—"discontent, insubordination, a determination not to be subject to the constituted order of things." The Lord Jesus is the Master of the harvest, and is present directing the work thereof. For many years during the harvest he has had one special servant in the world to give out "meat in due season to the household of faith." The Great Master, through his chosen servant, instituted the order of things amongst the harvest workers; and a disposition persistently to refuse to conform to that constituted arrangement would ultimately lead to disaster.

While it is indeed gratifying to note the spirit of loyalty manifested by the friends from every part of the land, yet as we enter upon the year 1917, which will of necessity be fraught with great trials, we deem it proper to call the attention of each other to the dangers that may be lurking in the way. Shall we continue faithfully to recognize and to partake of that "meat in due season" provided for us by the Lord through his "wise and faithful servant," and strictly conform ourselves to the order which the Lord has instituted for the proclaiming of the kingdom message? Or shall we take a contrary course? Shall we keep in mind that "in unity there is strength," and

be governed thereby? Or shall we pursue an opposite course, and disregard the Lord's appointed way? Shall we walk in humility before the Lord and continue earnestly to seek divine wisdom and more of his Spirit? Or shall we be self-willed?

These are some of the questions that must come to the church; for they involve the principles in the temptation that is now upon the world. These words are not written to discourage, but for the purpose of helping each one of us to keep before his mind the true situation which we are facing. "He who is for us is greater than all that can be against us."

We deem it appropriate, therefore, to call attention here to the final warning and admonition given to the church by that "faithful and wise servant," published in the November 1, 1916, *WATCH TOWER*. This warning from Brother Russell seems to indicate that after his decease special trials would come to the church. Since his death his words appear even more striking and appropriate than while he was among us. We quote them as follows:

"So far as we are able to judge, the same conditions prevail today among Bible Students, which the Apostle pointed out to the elders of the church at Ephesus when he charged them, saying, 'Take, therefore, heed unto yourselves and to all the flock over which the holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with the blood of his own' (Son).—Acts 20:28. Diaglott.

"St. Paul's prophecy came true: 'After my departure shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock; also of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore, watch, and remember that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears: and now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of his grace.'"

We commend a careful rereading of that entire article, entitled "The Hour of Temptation."—Z. '16, P. 327.

In this connection we suggest to the various Ecclesias that a wise and prudent course to pursue is to refrain from giving information to anyone requesting it as to the names and addresses of the members of your class and similar information as to the character of meetings, etc., unless such information be requested by our Society for reasons assigned.

Notwithstanding the fact that we may expect such trials, thanks be to God that his grace is sufficient for every time of need, and will be abundantly supplied to all who faithfully follow in the Master's footsteps and loyally obey his Word. Courage, then, brethren! Hear the Lord again speaking to his own, through St. Peter, "Wherefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."—1 Peter 1:13.

We believe that there is yet much work to do before all comprising the kingdom class are gathered into the garner of the Lord and the kingdom is set up. This seems to be particularly true with reference to the United States, which has been especially favored of the Lord in his harvest work.

#### PASTORAL WORK

The pastoral work is opening wider fields of service for the sisters and for many of the brethren. This work was begun and conducted more particularly under the supervision of Brother Russell as Pastor. Since he was Pastor over many of the congregations, it was quite appropriate to designate it "Pastoral Work." While the name may not seem so appropriate since his passing away, yet for want of a better name the Society will continue the work under that title. Our dear Brother Sturgeon will have the oversight of that department at the Brooklyn office. All communications concerning the same should be addressed:

WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY,

Pastoral Department,

13 Hicks St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

It is the desire of the Society to co-operate with the classes everywhere in furthering this work. We recommend that it be organized in all the cities and towns, and that each one who has some ability and opportunity have some part in the work. The Society will appreciate reports from time to time from the lieutenant in charge of the work at each place.

#### SMITING JORDAN

Time and again our attention has been called to the fact that the Jordan must be smitten. We understand the "Jordan" to represent people, and the "smiting" to symbolize that which will divide or separate the people, and the message of the kingdom to be the instrument with which the smiting will be

done. We cannot, of course, be sure how this smiting or division will take place; but we venture here a suggestion which it may be well to consider. At least, the suggestion may stimulate us to greater sobriety of mind, watchfulness and zeal for the Lord's cause.

We may not hope to improve our method of advertising and thereby draw out greater crowds to hear the message. The message itself cannot be improved upon. We cannot hope to have greater ability with which to present the truth. We may not be supplied with any unusual amount of money with which to spread the kingdom message. Then how may the smiting be done?

We answer, A great change may take place in the minds of the people. "Man's extremity is God's opportunity." "A broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise." (Psalm 51:17) "I will look even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and trembleth at my Word." (Isaiah 66:2) Nominal Christendom—Catholic and Protestant—numbers her members by the millions. She is proud and says, "I am rich and have need of nothing." Evidently there are quite a number in these nominal systems who love the Lord, but who because of weakness of faith and pride of heart are held in bondage to the systems. But when the great "earthquake" becomes evident to all, when the people become thoroughly convinced from evidence aside from the Bible that all earthly institutions are doomed to complete and utter destruction, when their pride is humbled, and when they become of a broken and contrite spirit, may we not expect this to work such a change of mind that many will seek to know the real reason for prevailing conditions?

If so, then such will learn that the nominal preachers throughout the land have been deceiving the people; that Pastor Russell for more than forty years has been telling the people the truth when he called attention to the approaching storm, earthquake and fire. They will then recognize that the real servant of the Lord was among them, and that they heard him not. They will realize that the vicious assaults made upon him by nominal preachers were without any justification, and were made really to cast sand into the eyes of the people and blind them to the truth. Then may we not expect many of these to hear the message of the kingdom gladly? If so, then will be the time for every consecrated child of God to grasp the sword of the Spirit and go forth to "smite."

Clearly, Brother Russell had a purpose in sending out the V. D. M. questions to all the church. Those who are able to give clear and proper answers to those questions manifest that they have a sufficient knowledge of the truth to give to any one who may ask an outline of God's plan. All who have this knowledge, who have the Spirit of the Lord, and who possess a zeal for his cause, will gladly avail themselves of the opportunity.

## CHRIST COMING—AND COMING TO CHRIST

[Except the paragraphs printed below, this article was a reprint of that entitled "The Heavenly Jerusalem," published in issue of June 1, 1905, which please see.]

DECEMBER 31.—Revelation 22:6-14.

"The spirit and the bride say, Come. And he that heareth, let him say, Come. And he that is athirst, let him come; he that will, let him take of the water of life freely."—Verse 17. R. V.

### "THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY—COME"

Our Golden Text is the inspired statement respecting that glorious time and its blessed message. There will be a bride then; but there is no bride now. The church is an espoused virgin; but the marriage of the Lamb is still deferred. (2 Cor. 11:2) The last members of his church must complete their course, must pass their final examination and enter into glory with him, before the marriage can be consummated.

After the marriage of the Lamb, not only will there be the holy city, representing the church in her official or governing capacity under Christ her Head, but there will also be the blessed work of the church—the calling of the world's attention to the river of the water of life, to the leaves of healing, to the fruits of the Spirit. Then the Spirit, the power of God, will co-operate with the message then promulgated; and the result undoubtedly will be that all the world shall hear, and that all who love righteousness and hate iniquity will re-

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SMITING

Are you prepared, dear brethren? Have you put on the whole Armor of God? Then in due time may all who thus have on this Armor go forth like the faithful little band of Gideon and participate in the "smiting" by giving the light from the divine Word!

It is not to be expected that all in the nominal systems who claim to love the Lord, will hear the message. Those who do hear and believe the truth will say, "Thank God, there is hope for the salvation of mankind!" And they will rejoice. Others will take an opposite view; and hence there will be a division.

The smiting of the Jordan—the dividing of the people—and the separation of the antitypical Elijah and Elisha classes are two different things. THE WATCH TOWER has repeatedly pointed out this fact. It was the chariot of fire that separated Elijah from Elisha. The chariot of fire seems to represent severe trials and persecutions. Zeal for the Lord and for the message of his kingdom will bring upon the faithful ones such persecution and fiery trials as would separate them from those having less zeal. Then the picture seems to indicate that the Elijah class will be taken up—changed in the great whirlwind of anarchy, indicating that some of the Lord's true saints may suffer some special persecution.

### "GO YE AFTER HIM AND SMITE"

What Bible Student is he who thoroughly appreciates the divine plan and yet doubts that Brother Russell was the "man clothed with linen with the writer's inkhorn by his side," described in Ezekiel 9:2? He has finished his course, completed the work given him to do; and truly could he say, as stated in the 11th verse, "I have done as thou hast commanded me." In the 5th verse of this chapter we read, "And to the others he said in mine hearing, go ye after him through the city and smite," etc. It has been suggested that the five mentioned in Luke 16:28 refer to a class. Is it not also reasonable to suggest that the five others, mentioned in Ezekiel 9, refer to all of the true followers of the Master who will gladly take up the message of the kingdom, and with it "smite" the people, thus accomplishing the work that is left for the remaining members of the church to perform?

We merely offer this suggestion, dear friends, that it may stimulate our faith and zeal. Who knows but that 1917 may be the greatest year yet for activity in the service of our King? Truly we are living in a fearful and wonderful time! "What manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation and godliness!" Let us not become disturbed or excited; but, striving to appreciate the importance of the time in which we are living and the wonderful opportunities that are set before us, let us be of sober mind, and watch and pray, that we may be enabled to take advantage of every opportunity that comes to glorify the great King of kings!

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turn to life everlasting. It will require the entire Millennial age for the delivery of the message to every creature and for mankind to avail themselves of the privileges then afforded to whosoever will.

Nowhere do the Scriptures speak of the river of the water of life as existing now—during this Gospel age. There is none, and there can be none until the heavenly city descends from above, for the river must flow from the midst of it, from the throne. Describing the condition of the Lord's saints at the present time very differently, the Master declares that those who are his have in them a well of water springing up into life eternal. (John 4:14) We know what this means. We know in what sense each individual of the church has received of the holy Spirit, and has in himself a fountain of grace and truth for his refreshment. But there is no river of the water of life to which he could go or to which he could invite others to go.

## "BATTLE IN ECCLESIASTICAL HEAVENS"

We now have a good stock of "A Great Battle in the Ecclesiastical Heavens," by Brother Rutherford. In view of the fact that Brother Russell's death has stimulated some of his enemies to renewed attacks, in hope of injuring the work of the Society and weakening the cause of the truth, this seems a propitious time to offset the influence such attacks create.

While much injury often recoils upon those resorting to

such methods—in one instance recently, three men went forward to their minister and informed him of their displeasure over his remarks and of their intention never to return to the church—it is our privilege to help those not so able to see the real object of these attacks.

Orders for the above booklet will be filled at \$2.00 per 100 for a limited time. When ordering, please mention "Battle."

## JESUS THE LIFE AND LIGHT OF MEN

[This article was a reprint of that entitled, "The Life and Light of Men," published in issue of December 15, 1904, which please see.]

### "THE SPIRITS OF JUST MEN MADE PERFECT"

[This article was a reprint of that published in issue of August 15, 1913, which please see.]

### "FROM GLORY UNTO GLORY"

2 Corinthians 3:18.

[This poem was a reprint of that which appeared in issue of January, 1891, which please see.]

## SOME LETTERS OF INTEREST

### A VOICE FROM LONDON

DEAR BRETHREN:—

Loving greetings in our Heavenly Father's name! At a meeting of the London Tabernacle Congregation, it was unanimously agreed to send you a cable message and also a letter of loving sympathy.

The news of our beloved Pastor's death came as a great shock to us. We realize more clearly than hitherto how much we owe to him, and how much occasion we have to praise the Lord on his behalf.

In a special sense he was Pastor both to the New York Temple and the London Tabernacle congregation. Both were so very near his heart that we feel specially drawn to one another.

Our hearts go out to you especially, dear Brethren, because the closeness of your association with our dear Brother will cause you to feel the break more keenly than others who have not been so privileged.

We thank our dear Father for sparing Brother Russell to us so long. For forty years his faithful ministry has testified his courage, zeal and love. He has been a constant stimulus to us—a wonderful copy of God's dear Son!

Whether there be much work to be done by the Church in flesh, or little, we prize highly the privilege of bearing the precious vessels left in our charge, and of feeding the Lord's dear sheep. Our chief concern must be to watch and pray that we may be ready and, whilst pressing on with all diligence, our eyes will be fixed on heaven yet more earnestly, looking for a happy reunion. Pray for us, as we will continue to do for you.

With sincere sympathy and fond love in the Lord to you,  
Your brethren and fellow-servants,

LONDON TABERNACLE CONGREGATION.

### WILL CONTINUE IN THAT WHICH HE BEGAN

DEAR BRETHREN:—

Greetings in the name of the Lord! Mercy unto you; grace, peace and love be multiplied unto you.

We take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of our dear Pastor's labor of love, our implicit confidence in his purity and integrity, his sterling qualities, and our determination to continue in that which he began.

While recognizing our exceeding great loss, we rejoice that our dear brother has passed beyond into his reward, to the inheritance of the saints in light. We feel sure that he is now with our dear Lord, crowned; having ceased from his labors, but his works continuing.

Words would fail us to express the spiritual help, comfort and encouragement we have received from the Lord's hand through this faithful servant.

Having before us his noble example of self-sacrifice—laying down his strength and life in our interest and service—of faith, love, loyalty and cheerful and uncomplaining endurance of persecution and misrepresentation—we are resolved that, by the Lord's assisting grace, we shall endeavor more faithfully to walk humbly in our dear Redeemer's footsteps, daily striving to grow up into him, and to develop the fruit of the Spirit—love.

We desire to continue our co-operation with the Bethel family in the harvest work, in harmony with our dear Pastor's labors, and pray the Lord's richest blessing upon all participating, to the honor and praise of our glorious Head and our heavenly Father.

HAMILTON CHURCH—Ont.

### "HE WHO HATH LED WILL LEAD"

DEAR FRIENDS AT BETHEL:—

Together with representatives of the Thayer, Mo., Class, we held a memorial service in memory of our dear Brother Russell and his faithful services toward us all.

At this meeting I was requested to extend the love and sympathy of both classes in this hour of trial, which we realize comes especially hard upon those of his immediate family, although we are glad to feel that we are all of one family, because we share one another's joys and sorrows. "Blest be the tie that binds."

The friends here wish to assure you that their love, co-operation and support in every way possible will continue just the same as heretofore. While we feel keenly our great loss in the death of one to whom we were so deeply indebted every way, yet we rejoice with him! Our hearts are made glad by the thought that his days of pain and weariness are over; that he has entered into the joys of the Lord. We are praying that divine guidance, wisdom and courage may be given you for the great responsibilities resting upon you, trusting that "he who hath led will lead us still."

MAMMOTH SPRINGS CHURCH.—Ark.

### MORE AND MORE DETERMINED TO PRESS ON

DEAR BRETHREN IN CHRIST:—

Love and greetings in the name of our dear Redeemer! We desire to thank you for the visit of our dear Pilgrim Brother Thorn. How the Lord blessed our fellowship together, and how our pure minds were stirred up by way of remembrance!

Instead of our Pastor's death slackening our zeal, it has wonderfully increased it, and we are more determined to press on, cheerfully and patiently doing with our might what our hands find to do. We want to work while it is called day, for a dark night is coming.

We can't properly express our appreciation of the dear messengers of the truth whom you send to us—those who are developed in the fruits and graces of the holy Spirit. They are doing a wonderful work, ministering to the saints. Please send us one as often as possible.

We are still praying the Lord's rich blessing upon you, that he may continue to bless your efforts and labors of love.

Yours in His glad service, FT. SMITH ECCLESIA.—Ark.

### MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER

DEAR BRETHREN:—

Enclosed you will find ——— for my Good-Hopes for the last half of 1916. And, dearly Beloved, I wish to say that I have received a great blessing from the Lord for my Good-Hopes offerings of the past year. I know the amount is small, but I feel sure it is precious in His sight. I hope to do even better, if I can. Truly our hearts are willing; and God looketh upon the heart. One of our Good-Hopes for next year is that we continue to serve the Lord faithfully, either on this side the veil or on the other side. We hope soon to see him face to face.

I wish to assure you of my love and interest in you. Since our Pastor's change, I am more determined to continue to follow him as he followed the Lord. As I delighted to follow him while he was here, I now expect to follow him on until I shall see him in the kingdom glory.

I sometimes think how you brethren must miss the presence of our dear Brother; but then I know that the kingdom is becoming more and more real to you. My prayers ascend for you. With much love, I am

Your fellow-servant,

ALEXANDER LOWE.—Pa.



**FINISHED HIS COURSE TRIUMPHANTLY**

DEAR BRETHREN IN THE LORD:—

We were deeply affected by the sudden, unexpected death of God's faithful servant. Particularly do we mourn his loss because of the love, sympathy and help he has at all times so freely given us. We realize now more than ever how completely he laid down his life for the brethren. But while we mourn our loss we rejoice in the thought that he has finished his course triumphantly and gone to his eternal reward.

We wish to assure you of the love and loyalty of all the brethren here, of their earnest desire and intention of co-operating with the Society in carrying on the kingdom work so lovingly begun by our Pastor and so untiringly continued by him until his death, thus setting such an inspiring example.

Our consecration, too, is unto death; we would not have it otherwise. So, dear Brethren, you have our prayers, supplemented by our best efforts in holding high the banner of Truth until the work is finished; whether the time for its accomplishment lies in the early future, as we hope, or is deferred for "yet a little while longer."

ST. LOUIS ECCLESIA.—Mo.

**A VOICE FROM ABROAD**

DEAR BRETHREN:—

We cannot say much; our hearts are full; but we sympathize with you in the loss (pro tem.) of our Beloved Brother Russell. We, too, feel keenly that the Lord has seen fit to remove from us our brother-friend.

How glad we are that he has ever urged us to rest in the Lord and in him only! And how glad we are of his repeated warnings against pride, selfishness and wolves! Through his unique faithfulness, thank God, we have been aided in putting on and utilizing the whole armor of God.

We trust that we, with you, may remain faithful and courageous to the end, and that you may individually and collectively be enabled to enter into such parts of the re-adjusted work as will bring honor to our God, to his truth and permanent blessings to yourselves.

Yours in the love. F. GUARD AND FAMILY.—Eng.

**CONTINUED DEEP INTEREST AND COOPERATION**

BELOVED BRETHREN:—

Deepest sympathy in the mutual loss of our dearly beloved Pastor! We realize with sorrow our great loss in the passing over of "that wise and faithful servant"; but we sorrow not as others, realizing that while he has ceased from his earthly labors, his work follows with him.

"Therefore, beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." We desire to assure you of our continued deep interest and co-operation with you in the furtherance of the Lord's work during the remaining time that the Lord may permit us to continue to serve him in the flesh. Your servants in the Lord,

SPRINGFIELD ECCLESIA.—Mass.

**FAITHFULNESS IN LITTLE THINGS**

DEAR SIR:—

I do not know the persons doing your work here—distributing literature; but whoever they are, the papers are not placed as they should be to get results. I find them on door-steps, in yards and on the sidewalks; not one-fourth appear to get into the homes. I should like to have a trial, and would guarantee to do the work thoroughly and satisfactorily.

["He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." We believe that the greatly increased cost of paper will be one of the aids to greater care in the distribution of the BIBLE STUDENTS MONTHLY—that every paper may reach the hands of a reader. No doubt our Lord would be very careful in putting out literature, that there be no waste; and we believe he would be pleased to have his brethren endeavor to exercise equal care.]

**STAND TOGETHER AS GOOD SOLDIERS**

DEAR BRETHREN IN CHRIST:—

Christian greetings to you in the name of our dear Redeemer and Advocate! Keenly do we feel the loss of him who so faithfully laid down his life for the brethren, and who with untiring devotion to the service of the Lord, provided that which is "meet in due season for the household of faith"; and though he has "gone before," he ever liveth in the memory of those to whom he has been a lasting benefactor.

We sorrow not as those who have no hope, but rejoice inasmuch as he has ceased from his labors and has entered into the joys of our Lord. We assure you of our faithful support in the work.

Yours in the service of our Redeemer,

WHEELING CHURCH.—W. Va.

**CONFIDENCE IN THE SOCIETY**

DEAR BRETHREN IN CHRIST:—

We have confidence in your abilities. As you have been so long in close contact with our Pastor you will have understanding necessary to finish the proposed services, according as the Lord has directed him, and we shall do all in our power to uphold your hands.

We express our hearts when we tell you that we shall the more fervently love you in your desire to continue in the service of the "Glad Tidings," even unto death. You have our daily prayers and sympathetic interest in this dark "Hour of Temptation." "Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one—our comforts and our cares." ABILENE ECCLESIA.—Kan.

**WILL HELP "HOLD UP THE HANDS"**

DEAR SAINTS IN THE BETHEL HOME:—

As a Class, and also as individuals, we realize that in the death of our Beloved Pastor we have lost that "faithful and wise steward," who laid down his life so faithfully in the Lord's cause, even unto death. His faithfulness has been the means of giving us more determination than ever to continue in the work which he loved so very much, and we assure you that the Allentown Ecclesia is anxious to "hold up the hands" of those upon whom the work of the Society falls, and to assist in every way possible to carry on the work, until "the night cometh wherein no man can work."

ALLENTOWN ECCLESIA.—Pa.

DEAR FRIENDS:—

Five hundred Memorial Numbers of THE WATCH TOWER are desired, for which please find remittance covering amount.

A. M. ZIMMERMAN.—Pa.

**TRUTH-HUNGRY ONES AMONG THE SOLDIERS**

DEAR BRETHREN:—

We are sure you are remembering us in your prayers as we are continually bearing your names in our petitions to the heavenly Father. The work of showing the DRAMA to the soldiers on the Mexican Border is a wonderful privilege, and is surely having the Lord's blessing! Dear brother (Gen.) Hall is being used of the Lord very wonderfully, and we are glad to co-operate. Many of the officers take very kindly to the DRAMA, and evince considerable interest, and the soldiers are very eager for it.

At the close of one finale talk twenty-eight written questions were handed in, and several told the speaker it was the first real appeal that came home to their hearts to induce them to surrender all to the Lord.

Our living in the tents and "roughing it" with the soldiers brings us into close contact with them and gives us many privileges of service. There are indeed truth-hungry ones among them!

In personal conversation with two military prisoners, one told how he had heard several of our "pilgrims." Often some one mentions a mother, sister, father or brother in the truth. We desire a further interest in your prayers. I am so glad our dear Pastor offered me this precious privilege of service before he was called home!

Your brother by his grace.

WALTER H. BUNDY.

**MOURN NOT AS THOSE WHO HAVE NO HOPE**

DEAR BRETHREN:—

We of Vernon, B. C., Ecclesia wish to express our deepest love and heartfelt sympathy for all at the Brooklyn Tabernacle, who mourn the passing of our beloved Pastor Russell. But although our hearts are sore, we do not mourn as do others; for we know our brother has entered a glorious reward, having "borne the cross, despising the shame," and we rejoice that his course of "suffering" is finished, his crown won.

We pray that the Father's richest blessing may rest upon all who are taking up the work in Pastor Russell's stead, and that our great High Priest, our Lord Jesus Christ, will soon come forth in his garments of beauty to bless his people.

Yours in His love,

VERNON ECCLESIA.—B. C.

**WORLD HAS LOST A REAL FRIEND**

MY DEAR MR.:—

This is to thank you for the two copies of THE WATCH TOWER containing an account of the career, so illustrious, the life, so full, sweet, wholesome and truly good, of that much beloved Pastor Russell, whom I learned to admire and love in the brief time I was his guest on two occasions only a few days before his death. The whole world has lost a real friend. How I wish he could have been spared another span of life that he might continue to teach us meekness and love!

I have many friends who will be much interested in Pastor Russell and his teachings, and if you can favor me with a half dozen or more copies of the above issue, I will take