STATEMENT OF THE LORD

The Bible Closes With a Bright Promise for the Future.

And there shall be no more curse.—Rev. xxii. 3.

That Genesis should be related to Revelations, although sixteen hundred years of time, with all their development and change, separated them, is a thing at once striking and inexplicable, except on the hypothesis that some great power saw to it that through the pages one increasing purpose ran. Nowhere is this relationship more strongly and strikingly shown than in the consideration of that with which the Bible begins and ends.

Genesis, after a poetic and beautiful description of the creation of men and things, begins with the curse that was laid upon mankind. However it may be accounted for theologically or philosophically, the fact that the world has been cursed is easily apparent. It is also undisputed that man in some dim, dumb, inchoate way has always striven to lift the curse, and it is equally true that as age has succeeded age some amelioration of conditions has gone on very unsatisfactorily at first and with meager results, considering the vast expenditure of life and effort. But it has gone on and it is going on.

THAT IS EVOLUTION.

But the gift which actually made it possible in any practicable way to lift the curse upon man is Jesus Christ. In His life, in His example, in His teachings are to be found the only possible means of really greatly bettering the world, and in proportion as they are perceived more clearly, entered into more thoroughly, understood and practised more obediently, the work progresses.

Some day dirt and disease will disappear. Some day poverty and inequality will be done away with. Some day lust and greed will be forgotten. Some day love and light will prevail. Some day the curse of these things and of whatever drags men down shall be lifted. This is not inference; it is the direct, positive, unequivocal statement of the Lord. It is a declaration from God himself through Jesus Christ, His Son, uttered in the last recorded words He addressed to the children of men when He spoke to St. John in the visions of Patmos.

Amid wondrous declarations, in the form of allegory, concerning the New Jerusalem, which is held before man's hope, there is one plain, grim, simple line thrown amid the poetry stamped across its mysticism like a bar of steel laid on the peal of a flower, abrupt, almost harsh in its lack of harmony with all that goes before and yet the more tremendously impressive for that very fact, for it is almost

THE LAST WORD OF JESUS

to His children which you may find in the last chapter of Revelations—the explicit declaration that "There shall be no more curse."

I think that the very fact that the Bible begins with a curse and ends with its lifting is one of the most tremendous of the many marvelous divine attributes of the great volume. The world reeling on in its dim, blind way, reaching after God, lifting up the bleeding hands of toil and struggle in petition, its sweat-covered brow lighted by hope, with what patience it can summon in its throbbing heart is enabled to proceed because it has the promise of the world of God, Who is absolute truth, that some day, in His own good time, the curse under which man has always labored shall be lifted once and for all.

Speed that day, Lord, and in the meanwhile let us each one here in our several stations do what we can with Thee for our help, our inspiration, our guide to lift the curse upon our brethren and ourselves now, to-day.

Cyrus Townsend Brady.

THE S. S. LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, JAN. 24.

Lesson IV. The Lame Man Healed. Golden Text, Acts 3. 16.

Verse 1. Peter and John — The acknowledged leaders of the apostolic company, and men having much more in common than is sometimes supposed. Both were typically Galileans in temperament, quick in speech and decisive in action. They were leaders because of traits of character which naturally command a following.

Going into the temple—Thus far there was no thought in the minds of the Christians of forsaking the Hebrew faith. The earliest disciples were all loyal Jews, devoted to the services of the temple, and faithful in their observance of the rites and ordinances of their national faith.

The hour of prayer—The hour for the regular afternoon service of prayer in the temple, corresponding somewhat to an early vesper service in many churches to-day.

The ninth hour—About three o'clock in the afternoon.

2. The door—Or gateway.

Which is called Beautiful — This more specific reference identifies the gate referred to with the eastern doorway leading from the court of the women into the inner court of the sanctuary.

To ask alms—The sight of lame and blind beggars is still common in all parts of the Orient.

4. Fastening his eyes upon him—Looking at him attentively and, no doubt, sympathetically.

6. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth—Literally "the Nazarsen." The name in this case is equivalent to the authority of the person referred to. Thus in the Old Testament the name of Jehovah is used in a similar way.

10. Took knowledge of him—Recognized that it was he.

11. Held Peter and John—Clinging to his benefactors, as was but natural under the circumstances.

The porch—The "portico."

That is called Solomon's—This portico, or colonnade, was one running along the eastern side of the temple. Here Jesus had been challenged by the Jews to speak more plainly concerning himself and his Messianic mission (compare John 10. 22f.).

12. At this man—Or, at this "thing."

As though by our own power or godliness we had made him to walk—Peter would have his hearers understand the real significance of the miracle which was but a part of the glorification of Jesus, which centred in God's having raised him from the dead.

15. Prince of life—"Author of life."

Whereof—"Of whom."

17. In ignorance ye did it—Paul in his first letter to Timothy (1 Tim. 1. 13) pleads this same ignorance as the ground for his having obtained mercy. Thus it appears that the Jewish people as a whole had not realized the gravity of the offense committed in bringing about the death of Jesus. It was this ignorance on the part of the majority of the nation which at first made the apostles hopeful of a general national repentance, such as Peter pleads for in verse 19 below.

18. By the mouth of all the prophets—All those who prophesied concerning the coming of the Messiah.

He thus fulfilled—The hatred of a few of the Jewish leaders and the ignorance of the many were thus providentially used to bring about the fulfillment of prophecy.

20, 21. That he may send the Christ—The hope thus expressed by Peter reflects the general expectation of the Christian community in apostolic times of an early return of Jesus and a consequent restoration of all things, that is, a reestablishment of the Jewish national independence under the personal rule of the Christ.

22. Moses indeed said—The reference is to Deut. 18. 15, which reads: "Jehovah thy God will raise up unto thee a prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken."

23. Every soul that shall not hearken to that prophet—Peter has in mind the statement of Deut. 18. 19, following the prophecy just alluded to. This statement in Deuteronomy reads: "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him."

25. And in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed—Compare Gen. 12. 3; 22. 18; 26. 4; 28. 14, which passages contain the original promises of God to Abraham.

26. Unto you first—The blessings of the Messianic kingdom are to be world-wide, but the prophetic promises referring to these blessings have a peculiar significance for and claim on every member of the Hebrew race.

Sent him to bless you—The work of Jesus was primarily among his own people, and only through these did the gospel message ultimately reach others also.

In the northern part of India sheep are used as beasts of burden.

Hogan—"Have ye hear-rd me daughter Mona sing lately?" Dugan—"Both lately an' earlier, bedad! 'Tis th' fine instrumintal music she do make." Hogan—"Ye ignoramus. Shure, singin' ain't insthrumintal music!" Dugan—"Begorra, thin, Keegan towld me it wuz insthrumintal in causin' him t' move two sthreets away from yer house!"

A FAITHFUL BAND.

Remarkable Story of Two Years' Trial and Struggle.

Many instances of remarkable gallantry and devotion to duty are to be found in the "Story of the Guides," by Col. G. J. Younghusband. At present this is a corps of native East Indians, fourteen hundred strong, with twenty-seven British officers. King Edward is colonel-in-chief. It was raised in 1846, to furnish not only fighters, but also men who could, at a moment's notice, act as guides to troops in the field and to collect trustworthy information. As it was for service, and not for show, the time-honored scarlet of the British army was laid aside for the dust-colored uniform now known as khaki.

In one of their expeditions on the northwestern frontier, from the tribes of which many of the men were enlisted, they camped near a village, the home of one of the guides. His relatives and friends entreated him not to fight against them, and a favorable opportunity coming, he deserted, and carried with him two rifles.

"How many men of that man's tribe are there in the regiment?" demanded the commander, Colonel Jenkins, when the fact was reported to him. It was found there were seventeen, all told.

"Parade them all here," said the colonel; and they were duly summoned and paraded in line.

"Now take off every scrap of uniform or equipment that belongs to the sircar."

Each man did as he was bid, and placed the little pile in front of him on the ground.

"You can now go, and don't let me see your faces again till you bring back those two rifles."

He hoped that they might overtake the fugitive, but he was disappointed. Day followed day and week succeeded week, but no news came of pursued or pursuers.

The matter had been forgotten; the vacancies had long since been filled; indeed, two whole years had passed, when one day there walked into Mardan cantonment a ragged, rough-bearded, hard-bitten gang of seventeen men, carrying two rifles. It was the lost legion.

Of those two years' trial and struggle, wounds received and given, a stark, unburied corpse here and there on the mountainside, days in ambush and bitter nights of silent, anxious watch, they spoke but little; but their faces beamed with honest pride as their spokesman simply said:

"The sahib told us never to show our faces again until we found the rifles, and here they are. Now, by your honor's kindness, we will again enlist and serve the queen."

THE CREDITOR WORRIED.

Oversensitive About a Debtor Who Took Time to Pay Up.

Well, thank goodness, there's one man I can meet now without feeling uncomfortable," the man said.

"How's that?" asked his companion. "Did you owe him money and settle up?"

"Just the other way round," said the speaker. "He owed me a small sum of money for more than a year.

"I met him a great deal, and several times he dunned himself about the money, but he never paid. After a while I got so I didn't like to meet him, because I felt all the time he was saying to himself, 'I owe this man money and he knows I ought to pay and still he doesn't like to remind me.'

"Absolutely it got so I would go blocks out of the way to avoid him. I felt that he felt he never could mention spending money for anything when he was in my presence without my feeling that that money ought to have gone to pay the debt he owed me.

"Maybe he didn't feel that way about it at all, but I felt that way, and now I'm glad he has paid up, so that in this detail at least I am comfortable in my mind."

WHY DID SHE MARRY?

Was it—

Because she wanted a home of her own?

Because she dreaded a lonesome old age?

Because she wanted influence and social position?

Because she was afraid of being called an old maid?

Because she needed someone to earn her clothes?

Because she was misunderstood by her parents?

Because she was afraid some other girl would get him?

Because not to marry would look peculiar and unsociable?

Because he urged her to, and she had nothing else in particular to do?

Because she was infatuated by his figure and flattered by his attentions?

Because she thoughts she saw in him qualities no one else had discovered?

Because she actually loved him, and believed she could add to his happiness and welfare? (N. B.—This is sometimes the reason, of course.)

A DAY WITH THE KING

HOW HIS MAJESTY SPENDS HIS TIME IN LONDON.

Generally Understood That He is One of the Hardest-worked Men in His Kingdom.

Though by no means one who retires to bed early—it is usually after midnight before King Edward goes to his own room—he is astir at an hour that would surprise those who have not been brought into close contact with him. After a cup of coffee and a roll, when at Buckingham Palace His Majesty makes his way to what might be termed his "office," a large apartment on the first floor overlooking the beautiful gardens, and proceeds to go through such papers and documents as he may not have had time to examine on the previous night.

NEWS FROM THE HOUSE.

Every night the King receives, no matter where he may be staying, from the Prime Minister or some other member of the Cabinet appointed to do the work for him, an account of what has transpired in the House of Commons during the sitting, and this His Majesty reads with the closest attention. When he has gone through this, and noted any points of special interest, it is passed on in due course to Lord Knollys, the King's private secretary and right hand, who has it filed carefully away so that it may be available for instant reference.

THE KING'S OFFICE.

The room in which the King transacts his work at Buckingham Palace is a very spacious one and furnished with the utmost simplicity. In one of the windows stands a large knee-hole writing-table for the King's use, and upon this are placed small piles of paper in perfect order and one or two despatch boxes in royal red leather. In front of this table stands an armchair of comfortable dimensions, while another smaller table stands close at hand bearing pipes, cigarettes, cigars, etc., since the King is rather a heavy smoker. At the other side of the room is a very large roll-top desk, at which Lord Knollys works, and here is also the telephone that enables communication to be held with every other portion of the Palace, as well as another connected with the Central Exchange. A third writing-table has recently been placed in this room for the accommodation of the Prince of Wales, who has lately taken over a large amount of the work formerly attended to by the King in person, and His Royal Highness visits the Palace every morning when in London for this purpose, usually arriving between 11 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

The King breakfasts about 9.30 a.m., and then takes a walk through the Palace grounds for about an hour, usually accompanied only by his favorite fox-terrier, though sometimes he is joined by one of his equerries. His Majesty takes very great interest in gardening, and often pauses to watch the men at work in the grounds.

WHEN REAL WORK BEGINS.

It is about eleven o'clock that His Majesty commences the real work of the day. By this time his secretaries have opened and arranged in its proper order the enormous correspondence that arrives at the Palace for His Majesty every morning. This collection of letters is really amazing, and ranges, probably, from a holograph letter from some European Sovereign to the incoherent writings of that large number of weak-minded people who seek to get some real or fancied grievance remedied by an appeal to the King. The whole of this correspondence passes through the hands of Lord Knollys first of all, and is carefully sifted before being passed on to His Majesty, so that it may be said at once that no letter, however it may be addressed, can possibly reach the King unless his private secretary considers it of sufficient importance to warrant His Majesty's personal attention.

As might be expected, appeals upon behalf of charitable institutions form a very large portion of the King's correspondence. These are all carefully examined by his private secretary, and a list of the appeals received is carefully prepared for the King's inspection. This list shows the name and address of the charity, the precise object for which the money is required, how much the King or the Queen have previously subscribed, together with other details, and here and there a remark from Lord Knollys. His Majesty then notes on the margin the amount he wishes to subscribe, and cheques are forwarded in due course by Sir Dighton Probyn, the Keeper of the King's Privy Purse.

WHEN MINISTERS ARRIVE.

Scarcely is the morning correspondence dealt with than important public officials, members of the Cabinet, etc., begin to arrive to have audience with the King. His Majesty keeps in very close touch with all that transpires in every Government department, and but little escapes his notice, and it is rarely that a day passes without the King receiving at least one member of the Government. As a rule these audiences last for about twenty minutes, but upon occasions they are considerably longer. In addition to Cabinet Ministers the King has frequent audiences with the permanent officials of the various departments, such as Sir Charles Hardings, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, Earl Roberts, Sir John Fisher, General Sir W. G. Nicholson, etc., and follows events in the Army and Navy very closely.

AFTERNOON VISITS.

The afternoon is usually spent in visiting of one kind or another, or in filling public engagements away from the Palace, but the interval between tea and dinner usually finds the King back at his writing-table once more dealing with matters that have cropped up since the morning. Dinner is served between eight and nine upon ordinary occasions, and the evening, as a rule, is then spent at one of the theatres.

The foregoing is but a brief outline of the manner in which the King spends his day when in London; but more often than not there are many other important duties to be got through—such as levees, investitures, Court balls, and so on, all of which make very great demands upon both His Majesty's time and physical strength, and it is only by the adoption of a thorough business system, and the observance of a regular life, that the King is able to carry out his onerous duties month by month and year by year.—London Tit-Bits.

CURED BY STRATEGY.

How a Great Doctor Treated a Man of Wealth.

Of the eminent physicians of England during the early part of the last century not one was more justly celebrated than Dr. Sydenham. Of the anecdotes of his medical experience, related by himself, the following is worth telling.

For a long time the doctor had been consulted by a gentleman of wealth and leisure who was persistent in his demands for medical help, who took all the medicines prescribed, but who did not appear to improve. At length Dr. Sydenham said to him:—

"Sir, I have done all I can do. If you would be thoroughly cured you must consult Dr. Robinson, at Inverness, in Scotland. He is exceedingly clever in such diseases as yours; and if I give you a letter to him, I can assure you he will give you relief."

It was a long journey from London away to the extreme North of Scotland, but the patient had plenty of leisure; he had money enough, he had good horses and carriages, and, above all, he was anxious to be cured. So away he went.

But, arrived at Inverness, after a laborious jaunt of fully three weeks, he searched for Dr. Robinson in vain. He could find no such doctor. And, what was more, he was credibly informed that such a doctor had never lived there. The patient bottled up his wrath, had his horses harnessed and their heads turned homeward, and the distance which had occupied him three weeks in going he covered in ten days on his return. Upon reaching London he made at once for the house of Dr. Sydenham, upon whom he burst like a whirlwind.

"Ha! Sir George; I am glad to see you, and to see you looking so well."

"But no thanks to you, you graceless rascal. Why did you deceive me?"

"Deceive you, Sir George?"

"Yes. You told me I should find Dr. Robinson, and you knew there was no such man there. Now, what is your excuse? What your explanation?"

"Sir George, answer me. Are you not better now than you have been before for years? In short, are you not entirely recovered from that old malady?"

The baronet thought a little, and was forced to confess that such was the case.

"That, sir, is my excuse; that my explanation," returned the physician, frankly. "I knew that a journey into the Highlands of Scotland would cure you, and I took the only means in my power to send you off. Had I told you the truth you would not have gone; but to see Dr. Robinson you were willing to venture. So, Sir George, let us bless Dr. Robinson."

And Sir George surrendered.

THE HISTORY OF NIAGARA.

Dr. J. W. Spencer, who has made a specialty of the study of the geological history of the Niagara gorge and falls, returned to this subject at the July meeting of the American Association. He believes that about 3,500 years ago the drainage of Lake Huron was turned into Lake Erie, thus vastly increasing the eroding power of Niagara. It had taken 35,500 years for the gorge to eat back from Lake Ontario to the point where the falls were situated when the Huron discharge was added. Five hundred years after that the falls reached the Whirlpool. Between 2,000 and 2,500 years ago they were passing the site of the Whirlpool Rapids. The rapids themselves were completed less than 300 years ago

SPEED OF VARIOUS VEHICLES.

Table of Speed Made on Land by Vehicles, Horses and Men.

For convenience in comparing speeds made on land by various vehicles, as well as by horses and men, the following table has been prepared:

For the mile:—

Electric locomotive, 27s, 1903.
Automobile, 28½s, 1906.
Steam locomotive, 32s, 1893.
Motor-paced cycle, 1m 6 1-5s, 1904.
Bicycle, unpaced, 1m 49 2-5s, 1904.
Running horse, 1.35½, 1890.
Pacing horse, 1.55, 1906.
Trotting horse, 1.58½, 1905.
Man skating, 2m 36s, 1896.
Man running, 4m 12¾s, 1857.
Man walking, 6m 23s, 1890.

It will be observed that the difference between the locomotives and the automobile is trifling. For 100 miles the record of the steam locomotive is much better than that of the auto. However, both the electric locomotive and the auto may be expected to show further improvement, as their development is incomplete, while their steam brother has attained about the limit. It is also interesting to note that a so-called automobile locomotive has been constructed, this being a railway locomotive designed to use gas, after the fashion of a gasoline auto. The horse-racing and foot-racing records added to the table were all made in recent years. Evidently we breed better and train better than ever before.

PROOF POSITIVE.

A prudent housewife in Albany, New York, once appealed to the well-known American prelate, Bishop Doane, for advice about the provision of literature for her children. They considered and discussed many juvenile books, the Bishop criticizing them as they came up for judgment, until, finally, "Robinson Crusoe" was named.

"Do you think it suitable for my boy?" asked the lady. "Oh, yes," replied the Bishop. "It is quite a harmless narrative, and has pleased boys for ages. Besides, there is some reason to believe that Robinson Crusoe was an Episcopalian."

And the Bishop's eyes twinkled. "Indeed!" exclaimed the lady, much gratified, "why, I never knew that." "Yes," continued the Bishop, "you will remember that he kept Good Friday."

RAN IN THE FAMILY.

A gentleman having an estate in the Scotch Highlands, as he was going abroad for some time, advertised the shootings to let, and told his gamekeeper, Donald, who was to show the ground, to give it a good character to anyone who wanted to see it. An Englishman came down, and, inquiring of Donald as to how it was stocked with game, first asked if it had any deer. Donald's reply was: Thoosands of them."

"Any grouse?"

"Thoosands of them, too."

"Any partridges?"

"Thoosands of them, too."

"Any woodcock?"

"Thoosands of them, too."

The Englishman, thinking that Donald was drawing the long bow, asked if there were any gorillas.

Donald drew himself up.

"Weel, they are no' so plentifu'; they jist come occasionally, noo and agin, like yoursel'."

EUROPE'S CLOUD-SHOOTING.

"Cloud-shooting" is becoming a regular form of artillery practice in many European countries, the object of this atmospheric gunnery being to dispel threatened hailstorms. The most recent form of gun is a funnel-shaped barrel of iron with a broad muzzle, so that the discharge shall be distributed over as large a space as possible. The effect of the discharge is to create a small but powerful whirlwind, which, it is found, disperses clouds that would otherwise descend in hail. So strong is the gust of wind sent upward that it sometimes kills or disables birds flying at great height overhead.

VICE VERSA.

"Let me see some of your black kid gloves," said a lady to a shopman.

"These are not the latest style, are they?" she asked when the gloves were produced.

"Yes, madam," replied the shopman. "We have had them in stock only two days."

"I didn't think they were, because the fashion paper says black kids have tan stitches, and vice versa. I see the tan stitches, but not the vice versa."

The shopman explained that vice versa was French for seven buttons, so she bought three pairs.

GLASS TO MATCH.

"Dear," she said trembling, as she nestled against him on the first night of their honeymoon, "I have a secret to tell you."

"What is it?" he hissed tragically.

"Can you ever forgive me for deceiving you?" she sobbed. "My left eye is made of gl-gl-glass!"

"Oh," he murmured, with a sigh of relief, "don't say any more, dearest; so are the diamonds in your engagement ring!"