PROOFS OF IMMORTALITY

We Enter the Future Very Much as We Have Left the Present Life.

Who hath abolished death and hath brought life and immortality to light.—II. Tim. i. 10.

The two greatest facts that confront man are life and death. In nature they appear as an alternate series. The life and beauty of spring are succeeded by the fading and death of winter. But this white sepulchre only proves a fostering cradle in which worn-out nature is resuscitated into all the charm and vigor of new life, and in this alternate series the process goes on forever. Nature, then, does not die, but is invested with immortality.

Man's death, contrariwise, is shrouded in mystery. No mortal man can follow the spirit's trackless path.

Are there, then, any means by which we can get light on this great question of immortality? Are there reasonable grounds for the trust that we shall survive death?

Philosophy is not against it, for the greatest philosophers have believed in it. Science brings affirmative testimony to it.

THE MODERN LAW

of the conservation of force shows no loss or destruction of force or matter. Energy changes, but does not die. Evolution points to a constant unfolding and progress to higher forms of being. The overmastering desire for immortality is one of the strongest grounds for the future life. Just as the lens of the eye points to a world to be seen, or the wing of a bird indicates an aerial medium for flight, so conclusively does the desire for continued existence prophesy its reality. Nature is not a lie. She does not taunt us with false promises. The vitality of the spirit in advanced years is another argument. "The soul does not age with the body," wrote Emerson. A normal man or woman grows in wisdom, spiritually, sympathy, tenderness, charm, and moral beauty, so that it is true of such "at evening time there shall be light." Such lovely personalities only seem to die. The husks and shell falls from them, but we feel that their spirits cannot but live on beyond the grave, beyond the worlds. Strong corroborations as are these they are not decisive. We crave for absolute assurance upon a matter of such vital moment. And it can come only from one source—revelation. Should not God speak to those to whom He has given this irrepressible longing and settle it with a word of certainty? And so the Scripture assures us that he has done. "Jesus Christ hath abolished death and brought life and immortality to light." He declared the great truth that "all live unto God."

OUR EYES SEE DEATH,

but God knows only life and sees death but to be a phase of life.

Death is, then, but a stage of development. We will progress in knowledge, in holiness, in happiness or in the evil courses and tendencies of our earthly lives, and, in view of this fact, how important becomes the state in which we enter life—prepared or unprepared, sensual or spiritual, the servants of God or of the evil one.

Lastly, in the light of this great truth of immortality, what grandeur attaches to life! How incalculably it is increased in value when we see it under the aspect of eternity! What care one should have to his acts when they are seeds reaching out into undying ages. How different become our aims and plans when they are not to be broken by death but to be carried forward on larger scale hereafer!

Junius B. Remensnyder.

THE S. S. LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, APRIL 25.

Lesson IV. What is a Christian?

I. The Tribulations of Christians —V. 19. What befell the disciples after Stephen's martyrdom? The disciples were scattered abroad. The Greek verb is based upon the thought of seed-sowing, and indeed every disciple was a seed of truth. May all Christians be such when they go abroad, traveling either for business or pleasure.

II. The Broad Sympathy of Christians.—V. 20. Why does this verse begin with "but" (R. V.) rather than and? To show the contrast between the exiled disciples who preached to the Jews alone, and the men of Cyprus and Cyrene (the chief city of Libya, the modern Tripoli, in North Africa, about halfway between Carthage and Alexandria). These men preached also to the Greeks.

What were the reasons for this broader spirit in them? They spoke Greek themselves, and so could converse freely with the Greeks, and intimate knowledge always tends to break down prejudice. The hope of this was in the mind of Dr. Zamenhof, the inventor of the international language, Esperanto, who lived in the many-languaged city of Warsaw. Moreover, they had been brought up outside of Palestine, the stronghold of Jewish prejudices. Besides, they had probably come under the influence of the liberal-minded Paul.

II. The Converting Power of Christians.—V. 21. What was the result of this preaching in Antioch? A great number believed, and turned unto the Lord. The reasons for this were many:

1. The Christians who established the Antioch church had been strengthened by persecutions, which they had met with unflinching bravery and fidelity.

2. The very vices of Antioch showed the need of a purifying gospel, and doubtless many were disgusted with them and eager to turn from them. The strongest Christians often grow up amid corruption. "It takes live fish to swim up stream." Witness the heroic type of Christians developed amid the barbarities of the Fiji Islands, of Madagascar, and of Uganda.

3. The people of Antioch were energetic, vigorous, in the habit of doing things. The aggressive character of Christianity appealed to them, and when they accepted the new religion, they carried into it the same activity that had brought success in the worldly enterprises of Antioch. In his college religious work, Professor Drummond always sought to win for Christ strong, athletic, popular young men, the leaders, no matter how wild they were; and his sagacity always proved itself.

4. And the chief reason for the growth of the Antioch church is given in the text. The hand of the Lord was with them. "The hand" is the symbol of power and of work. willing Christians are God's hands. Through them God can easily accomplish what would be impossible to their unaided efforts. Here were a little group of refugees, poor, despised, pursued. Here was one of the world's proudest, mightiest, richest, wickedest cities. And the handful of refugees so moved upon the city that three centuries later its greatest son, Chryostom the golden-mouthed preacher, said that half its population were Christian.

IV. The Christian's Source of Strength.—Vs. 22-24. What did the Jerusalem Christians do when they heard of the Gentile Christians at Antioch? They sent forth Barnabas, that he might (1) learn the exact state of affairs, since rumors, untrustworthy even in these days of the telegraph, were doubly doubtful then; (2) encourage the new disciples; (3) warn them against error, and (4) prevent discord between the Jewish and Gentile converts, of which the sequel showed the real danger (Acts 15: 1-25). They might have sent a letter, but face-to-face methods are always best.

V. The Christian's Open Allegiance.—Vs. 25, 26. Why did Barnabas need help? Because of his success. Every true worker builds up a task greater than he is alone, and benefits the world by creating work for others.

Why did he seek Saul? Because of his acquaintance with him. Because of Saul's wonderful experience. Because Saul was precisely adapted to the need of Antioch. Because he was different from Barnabas, more logical probably, a better teacher, and the church in Antioch was ready for instruction. He would supplement Barnabas, and not duplicate him. A large part of any worker's success consists in the wise choice of assistants and co-workers. He found Saul in Tarsus, which seems to have been his headquarters since his escape from the Jerusalem plot (Acts 9: 30), and the splendid pair labored together in Antioch for a whole year . . . and taught much people.

What is the most important fact noted in regard to this Antioch church? That the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. A name, what a man or a body of men is called, is always significant.

VI. The Christian's Practical Helpfulness.—Vs. 27-30; 12: 25. What opportunity to show the fruit of their Christianity came to the Antioch church? A great dearth throughout all the world . . . in the days of Claudius, the Roman emperor who reigned A. D. 41-54. The famine probably occurred in Judea A. D. 44-46. Josephus tells us that the Syrian queen Helena of Adiabene, a Jewish proselyte who was then in Jerusalem, imported corn and figs from Egypt and Cyprus, which she distributed among the people to save them from starvation.

VII. Are You a Christian? This account of the Antioch church is a mirror in which we may view ourselves. Are we true to Christ amid trials and temptations? Is our Christian fellowship broad? Are we practically helpful to others? Are we bold to confess Christ, and able, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, to bring men to Christ? All this is involved in the picture of the church whose members were the first to be called Christians.

MR. MACBLINK ON BOOKS.

Gems in All, Though Often With a Good Deal of Setting.

"It is some satisfaction to me to think," said Mr. BacBlink, "that if ever I should be cast away on a lone desert island I could get along very comfortably if I had any books at all.

"I say any books, with the emphasis on the any advisably, because I have never yet seen any book that did not have at least something in it worth reading for the pleasure conveyed by it or for the knowledge it contained. The dullest of us have happy thoughts that please ourselves, and sometimes we have fancies bright enough to please others; and we may be able out of our experience to put into a bushel of chaff a grain of information that will be of real value.

"I have never yet talked w— anybody from whom I did not learn something; and I have never yet read a book, however dull or apparently hopeless, from which I did not gain some pleasure or profit.

"Lately I have read a long story that was all talk and ruffles, nothing to it, but having started I travelled on, and in the middle of it I came upon five lines that contained a wise suggestion for our guidance, something really worth knowing, and I felt that I had been far more than repaid.

"This is not a method of reading that you can, as you might say, apply backward. For instance, I remember reading once two lines of poetry that impressed me greatly, and I thought to myself that the man who could write poetry like that must be a noble poet; and so I bought his complete works, in two volumes, but with some few exceptions I found his poems pretty dry reading.

"So it may be that in many books we shall find but a very small gem and a good deal of setting; and I would not counsel reading poor books for the sake of what we may find in them; we shall do better than that if we can get good books, but I do say that if I were cast away on some lone desert island I could get along very comfortably if I had any books at all; for I have never yet seen any book that did not contain something."

STEEPLEJACK'S BIGGEST JOB.

Decorating the Nelson Monument With Forty Tons of Laurel.

"The biggest job I have undertaken," declares one English steeplejack, "has been the decorating and repairing of the Nelson column in Trafalgar Square, London. Nearly forty tons of laurel were used and the greater portion of this had to be carried aloft and fixed to the column at varying heights up to the top.

"I thought out many plans," he said in the Wide World Magazine, "but eventually decided to lash ladders to the structure by means of ropes passed 'round and 'round it. It was a ticklish, trying job, but it was accomplished without hitch or mishap of any kind.

"Two sets of ladders were used, placed opposite to one another. This was necessary, as the column measured forty feet in circumference—too far to pass a rope around with ease. The most difficult part of the ascent to negotiate was the cornice at the top of the column. This is the heaviest projection for throwback work in England and I had to climb up and over it with my back to the ground, for all the world like a fly on a ceiling.

"I am not ashamed to confess that I breathed more freely when I had rounded the obstruction and was able cautiously to slide myself onto the platform which supports the statue. From below this appears flat, but it is really bevelled with a sharp slope outward.

"I found it, too, covered with an inch thick layer of greasy soot, so that to walk about on it was exceedingly risky. However, once I got the lifeline secured to the statue all was plain sailing.

"I discovered a crack in the hero's arm, which I repaired. When I tell people this they not infrequently ask on the spur of the moment, 'Which arm?' Of course the figure has only one."

LIKE STATUES.

The old lady with the pale blue umbrella had been standing at the stationery counter for ten minutes.

"I want to be waited on," she snapped impatiently.

"Certainly, madam," hastened the tall floorwalker. "Do you wish a stationery clerk?"

"Stationary clerk! Gracious! They all seem stationary. They don't want to move."

The Home

SOME DAINTY DISHES.

Milk Toast.—Toast some squares of bread, trim off the crust, prick all over with a fork, and season with butter and salt. Boil some rich new milk, and pour over the toast sufficient to make it thoroughly moist. Serve very hot.

Treacle Pies.—Line some small saucers with pastry, put in some treacle and cover with a thick layer of very fine breadcrumbs, with a little ginger mixed in them. Ornament the top with bars of pastry and bake in a sharp oven.

Potatoes Fried Whole.—Peel and parboil potatoes in salted water, take from the fire and drain dry. Brush each over with beaten egg, roll in breadcrumbs, drop into boiling fat, and fry a golden color. Drain on paper by the fire and serve alone, or with chops.

Scrambled Eggs and Ham.—Beat up three eggs and half a teacupful of finely chopped fried or boiled ham. Put a dessertspoonful of butter into a saucepan, and when hot pour into the mixture; stir carefully until the consistency of custard. Pour on to hot buttered toast or into scallop shells, and serve at once.

Portable Lemonade.—Take half an ounce of citric acid, four ounces of finely crushed or caster sugar, and ten drops of essence of lemon. Mix all thoroughly and pass twice through a clean wire sieve. Two teaspoonfuls of this powder will make a splendid glass of lemonade at a small cost.

Black butter to serve with fish, must be prepared as follows: Put ounce of butter in a saucepan, and leave it on the stove till the butter becomes a dark color, but not burnt. Add a tablespoonful of chopped parsley, a little tarragon vinegar, some ketchup, salt, and cayenne pepper. Serve at once in a small sauceboat or jug.

Water Melon Jam.—To every pound and a half of melon add one pound of sugar, the juice of one lemon and its grated rind. Add one-third of a pint of water to every three pounds of lemon, remove the seeds, and pare thickly so as to remove all hard parts. Cut the melon up finely, put all ingredients in a pan together, and when it comes to the boil cook fast for an hour, stirring all the time. This is a delicious jam and one that keeps well.

Mutton in a Brown Pot.—Line a greased brown cooking-jar (that has a cover) with a wall of cooked rice. Free some cooked mutton from fat and gristle and chop it finely. Season to taste. Add a little onion juice, and moisten all thoroughly with gravy. Cover with a layer of rice, place the lid on the pot, and bake in a moderate oven for half an hour. Then take the lid off the pot and return to the oven until nicely browned. Send to table in the pot.

USEFUL HINTS.

A stiff paint brush is much better for cleaning down stairs than a whisk broom.

When cooking fish allow ten minutes to the pound and when thick ten minutes over.

Hang away in their proper places before you sleep garments you have worn in the evening.

A great many blemishes may be removed with a rubber on a lead pencil.

A little borax boiled in the coffee pot twice a week, fifteen minutes, sweetens and purifies it.

Combs soon warp and break if washed in water. A good stiff nail brush cleans them well.

Potato water is excellent for cleaning mud stains from nearly any kind of cloth or garment.

Where the colors are not "fast," use a cupful of salt to each gallon of water when washing garments.

A ham is greatly improved if after being boiled it is wrapped in buttered paper and baked for an hour.

Table linen in order to bring out the bright gloss that makes it attractive should be dampened considerably.

Before mixing canned tomatoes with any dish try putting in a pinch of soda. Will prevent many a failure.

Embroideries and colored garment should be ironed on the wrong side.

To relieve neuralgia light a piece of brown paper, blow out the flame, and inhale the smoke through the nostrils.

When giving babies a bath if mothers would place a towel in the bottom of the bath it would prevent baby from slipping.

When boiling salt meat or pork allow twenty minutes to each pound. Salt meat should always be put on in cold water.

To cool an oven while baking never leave the door open, but cool it by the drafts, or removing one of the plates over the oven.

Vinegar will remove the disagreeable odor of paraffin from earthen and tin ware. Dip a rag into vinegar and scour the vessel with it.

Depend on regular brushing of the hair rather than on tonics. Ten minutes stiff brushing twice a day will do wonders for thinning hair.

Unpainted wire netting not only makes a good rest for flatirons when several thicknesses are used, but is most effectual to clean them on.

Potatoes should not be eaten by those who are disposed to get stout, and those who suffer from liver trouble should give them up entirely.

Do not turn irritable when the cakes or biscuits burn. Wait until they turn cold, then gently grate away the burnt part with an ordinary cheese grater.

To clean a fishy frying pan, fill with cold water and place on the fire to boil. When boiling put a red hot cinder in, then wash in the usual way.

If when making children's dresses a double piece is placed under elbows and under arms a lot of trouble will be saved when the dress begins to wear.

Remove grease stains by saturating the spots with alcohol rather than benzine. Alcohol does not leave a ring around the spot afterward. Wash with cold water.

Keep patent mustard leaves where you can get them quickly in the night. Many a case of pneumonia has started from "mother's" making a mustard plaster in a cold kitchen.

Never use a sharp instrument under the nails. Remove all particles with a flattened orange stick, or ivory nail cleaner, to avoid scratching furrows on the under surface.

When making coffee add a pinch of salt to it before pouring on the water.

A spoonful of kerosene in boiled starch keeps it from sticking, but do not use enough to make it smell.

When ironing a starched garment and part of it becomes dry do not dampen with water, but with a cloth wet with a little cold starch. This will keep all parts of the garment of equal stiffness.

If one wishes a little stiffness in the veil which is being washed add a tiny bit of sugar to the rinsing water. Then stretch the flimy substance in a doorway where it will have a free current of air as it dries.

After washing lace curtains lay a curtain on the floor in some empty room, spread the curtains on the blanket, stretching them carefully, and they will keep their place without any fastenings until dried.

WHERE TIPS ARE INEVITABLE

What is Expected of You on Ocean Liners.

Every passenger who travels on an ocean liner, even in the third class, is expected to tip the stewards, and the expectation is seldom disappointed. Few people save old travelers, however, know how much they ought to give.

In the first and second class on Atlantic liners $2.50 to the table steward, and the same to your state-room steward is the proper fee. If you give more, you will not benefit the man materially; for, as a rule, all tips are pooled, and shared round among the stewards. The bath-room steward should have 60 cents, the smoking-room steward 60 cents or $1.25, according to the demand made on his services.

If the stewards have provided an orchestra for the passengers, as they often do, a collection is usually made at the end of the voyage. It is not usual to give less than $1.25.

Do not tip any of the sailors aboard. Most of them dislike it; they would tell you they are not flunkeys. But they would always appreciate a good cigar, if you want to make some acknowledgment of the many little things they do for the comfort and amusement of the passengers.

On a longer voyage—say, to India or Australia—the tips mentioned should be doubled; but more should not be given, however, long the voyage may be, unless some very exceptional demands have been made upon the stewards.

NUGGETS.

Vanity bears flowers, but no fruit.

Wisdom follows experience. If it would only catch up!

Try to get rich in a year and you will go broke in six months.

Youth and folly think that $20 and twenty years will last forever.

GOOD TIME.

In an Irish daily paper there recently appeared this advertisement: "Wanted—A gentleman to undertake the sale of a patent medicine; the advertiser guarantees it will be profitable to the undertaker."

Boarder—"What's for breakfast? Hope it's not ham and eggs again." Servant—"No, sir, not ham and eggs this morning." Boarder—"Thank goodness! What is it?" Servant—"Ham."

HAGGARD ON DRUNKARDS

GREAT ENGLISH AUTHOR STATES HIS VIEWS.

Comes Into Contact with Many of Them, in a Professional Way, of Course.

Rider Haggard is at present taking a deep personal interest in the cure of drunkenness. He is chairman of one bench of magistrates and senior member of another, and, in the course of his career, has dealt with some thousands of drunk and disorderlies. He has recently given his view on intemperance in a British government report. Some of his suggestions are quite radical. For instance, among other things, he says:

"I submit that the best way to promote sobriety is to make it exceedingly uncomfortable for the individual who gets drunk. I am quite certain that if public intoxication ceased to be treated as a kind of troublesome and malodorous joke, and if its repetition were punished with sentences of confinement increasing in length in proportion to the frequency of the offense, instead of being condoned by a five-shilling ($1.25)

OR EVEN SMALLER FINE,

we should hear and see a great deal less of it than we do at present."

The famous author of King Solomon's Mines, She and other books, then goes on to recommend the following drastic measures for eradicating this vice:

"First offense, dismissal, with a caution; second offense, the ordinary fine; third offense, committal without the option of a fine. Committal should not be to an ordinary prison," he says in his report, "but to a special department, where inebriates could be suitably treated with a view to their reformation." His views on the drunk that goes in for making a row are very strong. "If the drunkenness should be complicated with violence," he says, "or with the use of that filthy language in which drunks are wont to foam out their own shame in public, or if the intoxicated person should be in charge of a vehicle or of children, then I think the magistrates should commit upon the second, if not upon the first offense; and to the common jail."

With habitual drunkards he would resort to incarceration whether their own consent or that of their family were obtained or not. In England,

HABITUAL DRUNKARDS

cannot be put away without their own consent for any length of time, but Rider Haggard would alter all this, and treat an habitual just as if he were a lunatic. If the government carries Rider Haggard's recommendations into effect there is a sad time coming for the man who loves the flowing bowl not wisely, but too well. As the drink question in England is one of the biggest sociological issues, Rider Haggard is much to the front with his recommendations. He has also taken a prominent part in the land agitation and is considered a great expert on the subject.

MARVELLOUS FEAT.

Surgeon Extracted Tumor From Woman's Brain.

Considerable interest has been aroused in the surgical world by an operation performed at the Kaiserin Augusta Hospital, Berlin, Germany, by the surgeon-in-chief, Prof. Fedor Krause. The operation was the extirpation of a tumor which had grown from the hypophysis of the brain.

This gland is situated in the very midst of the skull. The tumor, which was larger than a hen's egg, was reached by forming a very large skin bone flap on the right forehead, and temporal region. Notwithstanding the depth of the tumor, which was buried more than 3 inches deep in the substance of the brain, the whole of it was successfully extirpated by lifting the anterior part of the brain, and the patient, a woman of about 35, is doing well.

This is described as one of the most extraordinary operations of its kind that have occurred in the history of surgery.

UP TO THE GROUND.

"The soil," remarked the political economist, "is what supports us all."

"Yes," rejoined the lawyer, "I must admit that real estate is at the bottom of three-fourths of all litigation."

"And," added the doctor, "a great deal of sickness is due to the effluvia from the ground."

SYMPTOMS.

When you see a girl pasting a scrapbook full of cooking recipes out of the newspapers, you know pretty well that some young man is in a position to be congratulated; and yet, when you think of the recipes, you feel rather sorry for him, too.