THE FOOLISH VIRGINS.

They Were Forced to Endure the Period of Tribulation.

(Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Three, by Wm. Baily, of Toronto, at the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.)

A despatch from Chicago says:—Rev. Frank De Witt Talmage preached from the following text:—"And at midnight there was a cry made." Matt 25, 6.

Some of the most tragic and most momentous events in profane and sacred history have transpired during the quiet hush of the midnight hour. Man has frequently chosen that period to plot and to plan, to work and to execute, and God has often found it a convenient season in which to move among men and carry out his eternal purposes. The words of our text are taken from the parable of the ten virgins, and mark the advent of the Bridegroom as He comes to claim His bride and go into the marriage supper. But it must not be supposed that they fix definitely the hour of the second coming of Christ, for Christ Himself declared that "of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in Heaven, neither the Son, but the Father."

The waiting church, Christ's bride, represented by the ten virgins, hears the cry and trims the lamps in readiness to receive its coming Lord. The five wise virgins, with the oil of the Holy Spirit filling their hearts and keeping the flame of their faith burning brightly, pass quickly on to meet their coming Lord and go with Him into the marriage supper. The five foolish virgins, whose heads have received the truth in regard to the Christ, but whose hearts have not opened up to receive the Holy Spirit find that the lack quenches the flame of their faith in the crucial time of the coming, and while they go in eagerness, apparently, to supply that deficiency, the door is shut and the wail of disappointment and anguish bursts from their lips.

THE MIDNIGHT HOUR.

It was at midnight that the Bridegroom came. Darkness, grim darkness, sat on her throne, the conqueror of the day. Strange hour for the Bridegroom to come! It is not so with man. The king of day is at the zenith of his glory when the bridegroom of the fashionable church wedding comes to claim his bride at the altar. But, Christ, the Bridegroom, is coming at the black hour of midnight to take to Himself His bride, the church. It is significant. It is declared of Jesus upon His first advent into the world that He came as Light into darkness but "the darkness comprehended it not."

It was dark at Jesus' first coming. It will be the blackness of midnight which will wrap the world in its folds when He comes again. The morning light may be just breaking in the east, awaking the world to another day, but if it marks the advent of the returning Lord, it will be the midnight of the world's sin. The sun may have sailed majestically up the blue of the heavens and be riding gloriously in its midday splendor, but if the Lord, coming in the chariot of the clouds and heralded by the "voice of the archangel and the trump of God," shall then come, it will be the midnight of Satan's greatest triumphs over men. The birds may have caroled their last good-night to the mighty king of the day as gorgeously robed in scarlet and gold he withdraws into his palace behind the western hills, but if the hand on the dial of God's eternal purposes has moved to the hour set by God for the return of Christ, the Christ will come winging upon the fullness of God's time to earth, and His advent will find the world wrapt in the midnight of its own thoughts and plans and purposes.

"At midnight there was a cry made: Behold, the bridegroom cometh."

WE CANNOT KNOW THE DAY

on the calendar of time which will echo with the Heavenly shout and mark the flight of the triumphant church from the earth to meet its Lord in the upper air. We may not discover the wonderful secret by searching ever so long and diligently in God's Word, for it is not there, but is locked in the innermost recesses of the heart of God. We may not even dare to guess the hour, for when God says no man knoweth the day nor the HOUR, neither the angels, and not even the Son, but the Father only, it places the question absolutely outside the pale of human reason or the right to deal with it in an effort to fathom its mystery. It is worse than folly to attempt to figure out a problem that the mighty angels of Heaven are not able to solve, and of which even the Son on the throne is kept in ignorance, and which He has no desire to know, as He abides in the will of the Father. It is enough to know that God knows, and that in the fullness of His time the joy and hope of the Christian heart will be realized. It is enough to know that this same Jesus is coming again, and that when He comes the dead in Christ Jesus will rise from their graves, and with the living saints will be caught up into the air to meet their Lord. It is enough for us to know this, and to "comfort one another with these words." But let us heed Christ's warning word: "WATCH," and in faithful service be patient unto His coming. For, James goes on to say, "behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and the latter rain. Be ye also patient; establish your hearts; for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

But although we may not know the day nor the hour, God in His Word has set certain sign posts which will indicate to the believing heart that the day is approaching. But, Paul declares, "that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he, as God, sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that like God." The disciples desired to know the sign of the coming of the Lord, and Jesus in the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew outlined to them some of the conditions which would prevail in the world previous to His second coming, and closing with the declaration that "this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

And these words of Jesus open up to us two certainties in connection with the second coming of Christ which help us to more clearly understand the significance of the midnight hour as marking the advent of the Bridegroom, in the parable before us. First, the unbelief of the world will be full, and second, the church, the body of Christ, will be complete. The preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ always does one of two things: It either brings salvation to the soul, or it hardens the soul to the point of at last finally rejecting the Christ.

THE WORLD'S MIDNIGHT.

It will be marked by two great circumstances or conditions, as follows: The withdrawal of the Spirit of God, in fulfillment of the early declaration of God in Genesis 6:3, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." And the unrestrained power of Satan which will lead him to "sit in the temple of God, and Shew himself that he is God." What this will mean is hinted at in the Scriptures, and is referred to as the time of the tribulation. The expression "hell on earth" will then certainly have its full realization. Human wisdom, human virtue, humanitarianism, sociology, fraternalism, philanthrophy and all the other lauded bulwarks of civilization will have their boasted strength tested. The deceitfulness of the human heart will be laid bare in the presence of the unrestrained power of the arch deceiver, for there will be nothing then to hold him in check. The human arm will be shown to be too short and too weak to wrestle with the arts and devices and skill of the devil. Man is not yet ready to give up the task of overcoming and controling the evil in the world. He still thinks he can succeed and will ultimately triumph, but if one will be honest with himself and read the newspapers he will have to admit that there are no present indications that success is any nearer than when the Babelites sought to build to Heaven and link the two in lasting union. But in the time of the tribulation the power of Satan will be manifested and realized, and man will see the utter folly of hoping to forge the chains which will bind him. Christ forged the chains during His forty days in the wilderness which alone are strong enough to bind Satan, and when He returns at the end of the tribulation period to rule with His saints over the world the chains will be put into full use and Satan will be bound. John in prophetic vision saw this when he wrote: "And I saw an angel come down from Heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled." That will mark the dawning of a new day for the world. But the midnight must yet come bringing in the woes of tribulation before the millennial age can come.

THE CHRISTIAN'S MIDNIGHT.

It is bright with hope. It is filled with joy, for its stillness will be broken by the shout of triumph of the descending Lord; it will ring with the heavenly voice of the archangel, it will thrill with the awakening trump of God. The bride longs for the return of the bridegroom and rejoices exceedingly when she hears his hurried tread and feels his love clasp about her. The church, made up of the true believers, by whatever name or denomination called, is the bride of Jesus Christ. She is expectant of her coming Lord. Her joy will be complete when he does come and takes her to be forever with Him.

The delicately adjusted receiving instrument of the wireless telegraph will readily respond to the vibrations of the sending instrument across the ocean which is tuned to the same pitch, but all the instruments which are not so tuned would be as insensible to the ether waves flashing over the ocean as a dead body is insensible to pain. The Christian heart which is tuned to the expectant hope of a returning Lord need not fear that the thrill of the midnight cry will not be felt. The shout of the coming Christ will set the chords of the true believers' hearts to vibrating, and they will mount on the wings of faith to join their voices with the voice of the archangel while the trump of God fills the Heavens with its triumphant music. Ah, at midnight, what hope to make the dark hours of waiting bright! Ah, what need of watchfulness, that the heart may be turned to hear the cry! Ah, what sad appointment to be among the five foolish virgins who are shut out of the marriage supper! Oh, Christian, WATCH YE! You may be ready to go in with your Lord when He comes if you will.

TWO TON ELEPHANTS.

The average term of an elephant's life — although there is no precise information on the point — is 70 or 80 years. The elephant is not in full vigor and strength till thirty-five. The most ready way of forming an approximate idea of the age is by the amount of turnover of the upper edge of the ear. In young animals, sometimes up to the age of eight or nine years, the edge is quite straight. It, however, then begins to turn over, and by the time the animal is thirty, the edges lap over to the extent of an inch, and between this age and sixty this increases to two inches, or slightly more. Extravagant ideas are held as to the height of an elephant. Such a thing as an elephant measuring ten feet at the shoulder rarely exists in India or Burmah. Saunderson, who is admitted to be the best authority on the subject, says the largest male he ever met with measured 9 feet 10 inches, and the tallest female 8 feet 5 inches. The majority of elephants, however, are below 8 feet, and an animal rarely reaches nine feet, the female being slightly shorter than the male. The carcass of an elephant 7 feet 4 inches tall weighed in portions, gave a total weight of 3,000 pounds; so an elephant weighing two tons should be common enough. The skin was about three-fourths of an inch thick.

THE S. S. LESSON.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, APRIL 26.

Text of Lesson, Acts xxi., 3-12. Golden Text, Acts xxi., 14.

3, 4. And, finding disciples, we tarried there seven days, who said to Paul through the Spirit that he should not go up to Jerusalem.

I cannot but wonder if it was through the Spirit that the lesson committee selected the portions assigned in this and the following two or three lessons, as they seem to have chosen the least helpful portions and omitted the best, but we must make the best of the portions chosen. Paul and his party, having landed at Tyre on their way to Jerusalem, find disciples, with whom they spend a week, and, knowing Paul's custom, we cannot but rejoice in the special Bible studies which they must have had in the blessing which must have come to them. Knowing that Paul's desire was to hasten to Jerusalem for Pentecost (chapter xx, 16), we see him in the school of patience as he journeys. It is a great victory when we learn to practice I Sam. x, 7—"Do as occasion serve thee, for God is with thee" — and not to fret because the occasion does not happen to be to our liking.

5, 6. We kneeled down on the shore and prayed, and when we had taken our leave one of another we took ship, and they returned home again.

The men, women and children with Paul's party, all kneeling on the shore praying, must have been a testimony to all who witnessed them not soon forgotten. The faithfulness and fearlessness of those who under no circumstances omit their devotions are always to the glory of God and owned of Him. Even the heathen condemn us by their faithfulness to their imaginary gods. The faithfulness of a Hindoo on the dock of a pilotboat as we sailed up the river to Calcutta and of a Chinaman on the wharf at Singapore made a great impression on me, not easily forgotten.

7, 8. We came to Ptolemais, and saluted the brethren and abode with them one day, and the next day we * * * came unto Caesarea, and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and abode with him.

It is very refreshing to meet the redeemed of the Lord here and there as one journeys from place to place. There is no bond that can be compared to it. Those who think that the bond of Free Masonry and Odd Fellowship and such orders is the best bond of travelers either are not Christians or if they are they do not know Him as they might. I as a professing Christian tried the first named order faithfully, and, while I have nothing to say against it for those who have nothing better, I am glad I have found something better and have proved it for more than thirteen years and around the globe and in many lands. It is that bond of oneness with Christ which so bound together Paul and his party and the believers at Tyre and Ptolemais and Caesarea and makes true believers one everywhere to-day.

9. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

The last we heard of Philip was that after he baptized the treasurer of Queen Candace he was found at Azotus and that he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea. We are now glad to find him still witnessing and keeping open house for Christians and that his daughters are so one with him. It must have been a happy home, a very delightful place, to sojourn, and we do not wonder that Paul was able to overcome his haste to be at Jerusalem in order to tarry there many days. As to women prophesying, being the Lord's messengers, see Joel ii, 28; Ps. lxviii, 11, R.V.; Phil. iv, 3, and think of Deborah, Huldah and others and see further indorsement in I Cor. xi, 5.

10, 11. Thus saith the Holy Ghost So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle and shall deliver him into the hands of the gentiles.

Thus testified Agabus, a prophet from Judaea, and this added to the voice of the Spirit at Tyre (verse 4) makes me inclined to believe that Paul was not journeying to Jerusalem by command of the Spirit and that the years of imprisonment and some other things might have been avoided had he been more obedient to the Spirit. There is only one perfect man, fully controlled by the Spirit, set before us in Scripture—the man Christ Jesus. He never failed. All others have. We do not pretend to say that Paul was in the wrong in Acts xv, 39, but we do know that the time came when he was glad to have Mark (II Tim. iv, 11). We do not know why Paul wanted to go into Asia and Bithynia when the Spirit did not want him to (Acts xvi, 6, 7), and the twice repeated message from the Spirit in our lesson makes us somewhat perplexed as to why Paul insisted on going to Jerusalem.

12. And when we heard these things both we and they of that place besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.

So in spite of the warnings of the Spirit and the entreaties of Luke and others of his own party and of Philip and his daughters and the other disciples Paul determines to go on, expressing his readiness to be bound and to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. The others could therefore only pray the Lord to accomplish His will and commit all to Him. So in due time they arrived at Jerusalem, and the brethren received them gladly (verses 13-17). I know of nothing more necessary for a child of God than to be filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit, but that certainly means obedience to the Spirit in all things. It means a great deal to humble ourselves to walk with God (Mic. vi, 8) and have no will of our own.

PAINTING THE WORLD.

Indian Legend of the Way Spring Came Into Existence.

Once, long before there were men in the world, all the earth was covered with snow and ice.

White and frozen lay the rivers and the seas; white and frozen lay the plains. The mountains stood tall and dead, like ghosts in white gowns. There was no color except white in all the world, except in the sky, and it was almost black. At night the stars looked through it like angry eyes.

Then God sent the spring down into the world — the spring with red lips and curling yellow hair.

In his arms he bore sprays of apple blossoms and the first flowers—crocus, anemones, and violets, red, pink, blue, purple, violet and yellow.

The first animal to greet the spring was the white rabbit. The spring dropped a red crocus on his head, and ever since then all the white rabbits have red eyes.

Then the spring dropped a blue violet on a white bird, the first bird to greet the spring; and that is the way the bluebird was made. Ever since then it is the first bird to arrive when the spring comes down from heaven.

So the spring went through the world. Wherever he tossed the leaves from his fragrant burden, the earth became green. He tossed the blossoms on the frozen seas and the ice melted and the fish became painted with all the tint of his flowers. That is the way the trout and the minnows and salmon became gaudy.

Only the high mountains would not bow to the spring. So their summits remain white and dead, for they would let the spring paint only their sides.

The snow owls and the white geese and the polar bears fled from the spring, so they, too, remain white to this day.

RICHEST CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral of St. Isaac, in St. Petersburg, which was recently robbed of about $25,000 worth of diamonds, is considered to be the richest cathedral in the world. It cost more than $12,500,000 to build. The gold along used for gilding and ornamenting the interior amounted to about 3½cwt. All the vessels of this sacred edifice are composed entirely of gold and silver and weigh about four tons. The interior of the building is most gorgeous, and contains a great number of statues, mosaics, bas-reliefs, and precious "ikons," or holy pictures, which are of great age, and are supposed to possess miraculous powers.

KILLING PAIN.

A Russian doctor, chief of one of the military hospitals of St. Petersburg, has made a discovery which he claims will eliminate many of the risks incident to the use of chloroform in surgical operations. He has arrived at the conclusion that blue light possesses the properties of killing pain. His first experiment was made quite recently. During the operation he, so to speak, steeped his patient in a flood of blue electric light. The operation lasted fully twenty minutes, and the patient, who had not been put to sleep by any artificial means, found it almost painless.

Young Wife — "I want to buy a hat for my husband." Hatter — "What size does he wear?" Young Wife — "I declare I forgot to find out." She — "Do you think women have no sense of humor?" He — "Oh, I don't know. It isn't hard to amuse a girl who looks pretty when she smiles."

"Do you want war?" asked the Prime Minister. "Certainly not," answered the King. "Then why do you assume such a defiant and bellicose attitude?" "Because I have reason to suspect that the other country is even more averse to war than I am."

FOR THE HOME.

Recipes for the Kitchen, Hygiene and Other Notes for the Housekeeper.

DOMESTIC RECIPES.

Cabbage—Equal to Cauliflower. Remove the outer leaves from a solid, small-sized head of cabbage and cut the remainder fine as for slaw. Have on the fire a spider or deep skillet, and when it is hot put in the cabbage and pour over it instantly a pint of boiling water. Cover closely and allow it to boil rapidly for ten minutes. Draw off the water and add half a pint of new milk or milk and cream. When it boils stir in a tablespoonful of flour that has been wet with a little cold milk, season with salt and pepper and serve as soon as it comes to a boil. Cabbage is very delicately cooked in this way, and is made so digestible that it may be eaten with impunity.

Fried Carrots.—Wash and partly boil the carrots whole, cut them into thin slices, dip in egg and roll in finely grated bread crumbs, and fry ten minutes in hot lard or butter. Cold boiled carrots may be warmed up in this way, and be made more palatable than in their first estate.

Onions a la Creme—Peel four Spanish onions, boil in salted water until done. Drain on a sieve, put into a stew-pan with three ounces of butter rubbed smooth with a tablespoonful of flour, and a little salt and white pepper. Shake the pan constantly and stir in by degrees a half pint of cream or new milk. The onions may be served on toast with the sauce poured over, and the ordinary onions cooked in this fashion are as nice as the Spanish.

Walnut Souffle—This is made by soaking a sponge cake of medium size in ½ pt. boiling milk. Break up and mix with them a small piece of butter, 1 dessertspoon of sugar, a few drops of any flavoring desired, 4 oz ground walnuts, the yolks of 3 eggs well beaten, and the whites of 4 thoroughly whisked. Place in a plain mold and steam for ½ an hour. Turn out and serve with cream.

Pancakes without Eggs—For family of five, use 1½ pts buttermilk or sour milk will answer, 2 heaping teaspoons soda dissolved in ¾ cup of water, 2 cups graham flour and 2 cups white flour, salt. Use the kind you get when you take wheat to the mill. These pancakes eaten with butter and a syrup made by boiling coffee C sugar dissolved in water until it syrups, are the best we have ever had.

Molasses Cake—Take 1 cup molasses, 1 cup sugar, 2 tablespoons lard, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, ½ teaspoon cloves, 1 cup buttermilk, 1 teaspoon ginger, 1 teaspoon soda, 1 cup) raisins, flour to make a stiff batter.

Orange Cream—Take ½ pt. good cream whipped to a froth, the juice of 3 oranges, 3 tablespoons white sugar and the juice of 1 lemon. Rub the rind of 1 orange smooth in the sugar, then scrape off with a knife. Mix all together and add 3 tablespoons gelatine, boiled in ½ pt water. Stir all together and set away in a mold. When wanted, turn out as for jelly. Eat with or without cream.

Bread Cake—Half a cup butter creamed with 1 cup sugar, into which add 2 well-beaten eggs; beat and add 1 cup bread sponge (batter). Stir in 1 cup flour, with which has been sifted ½ teaspoon soda, ½ teaspoon cinnamon, ¼ teaspoon cloves, ¼ teaspoon nutmeg; lastly add 1 cup raisins well chopped, over which were sprinkled 2 even tablespoons flour. Bake 45 minutes in a slow oven.

RECIPES FOR CANDIES.

To make marshmallows, dissolve half a pound of gum arabic in a pint of water, strain it, add a pound—one cupful—of granulated sugar; place over the fire and stir constantly until the mixture is like honey. Add gradually the whites of four well beaten eggs, stirring the mixture steadily until it will not adhere to the fingers. Pour into a pan dusted with starch, and when cool cut in small squares.

Some new touches are being added to the college girl's favorite "fudge." The fudge is the same, but just after it is taken from the stove, bits of chopped fruits, candied or dry, may be stirred into it to afford variety.

Nuts coated with chocolate are thought a special dainty. To prepare them, first blanche the nuts—if almonds, etc., by pouring boiling water over them, letting them stand a minute or two, then rubbing off the hard brown skin—of. Cook together a pound of granulated sugar and a gill and a half of water. Do not stir after the sugar is dissolved, but boil until a fork dipped in the mixture has a floating thread or fine hair from the tip. Now test by dropping a little into cold water. If it forms a soft ball between thumb and finger remove immediately from the fire, turn into a shallow dish and beat to a white cream. (Do not scrape the dish when you turn it out: sugar crystals in the mass will spoil it.) When too hard to stir work it to a smooth paste with the fingers. Take as much unsweetened chocolate as you have fondant; melt it in a saucepan, add the fondant and when this melts, stir, remove from the fire and set the saucepan in a dish of hot water. Quickly roll the nuts in the mixture, take out quickly and spread on waxed paper.

Mexican kisses you make by putting into a saucepan three cups of brown sugar and a cup of milk. When boiling, add a lump of butter the size of an egg. Boil till a little dropped in cold water will almost harden. Beat for three minutes, add a teaspoonful of vanilla and a

...nd of chopped walnut (or pecan) ...ts, beat again and turn into but...ed pans.

ASPARAGUS IN AMBUSH.

...t a slice of bread an inch thick ... a square loaf. Trim off the ...s and then scrape small pieces of the center. Brush the little ...s thus formed lightly with but... and toast them in the oven until ...olden brown.

...t a bundle of asparagus into ...-inch lengths, soak with boiling ...er, add 1 teaspoon salt and ...mer gently for three-quarters of ...hour.

...rain the asparagus. Save ½ pt. ...he water in which it was cooked. ...g this to the boiling point ...n, and pour it while hot onto ...yolks of 4 eggs well beaten. Stir ... hot water until thick and ...

...ke from the fire and add care... 2 tablespoonfuls butter that has ... cut into bits; one bit at a time, ... teaspoon salt, a dash of pepper and then slowly 1 tablespoon ...gon vinegar.

...d to this the cooked asparagus ... into the bread boxes and serve ...nce. This will prove a delicate ...e for a luncheon.

USEFUL HINTS.

...t eggs very light, yolks and ...s separately, for omelet ... small onion, chopped fine is a ...sing addition to the hash. ...en curing your meat use good, ...ashioned home made stock from ...ry chips.

...e "no parlor" era, that is, the ... of using the prettiest room ...e house for the living room of ...he family, is becoming popular. ... clean the zinc under the ... stove, dampen it all over with ...ts of turpentine, and after a ... minutes wash it with warm ...uds.

... have many of the qualities of ... and are very hanging and ...some if very well cleaned before ...owing, and eaten with a very ... salt. Be moderate as to quantity.

WHEN THE MOUSE COMES

... the many suggestions to prevent mice from entering the pantry, the best is to paste a cloth ... the mouse hole, first freely ...kling it with red pepper. This ... effectually stops them for all.

TROUBLESOME THROAT.

A reliable remedy for hoarseness is ...ice of a lemon, half an ounce ...ycerin and a teaspoon of sugar; ... one teaspoon every two hours ...le, and within the reach of every ...dy. Honey is also good for ...seness. Another simple but effective cure is: the juice of a lemon, ...teaspoon of sugar and the stiffly ...n white of an egg.

A PREVENTIVE OF CRACKS

...n warming the contents of a ... in the oven, or when baking ...ing in a pretty dish from which ... to be served, place it for over a ... of hot water and no harm will ... to the dish.

A CLEAN TOWN.

... town of Broek, in the Netherlands, holds the distinction of being ... of the neatest towns in the ... and no municipal expense is ... to uphold the place. The inhabitants are encouraged by municipal ... that to a piece of paper ... end in the public streets ... ling fine, and it ... horses have been allowed in streets. Once ... every ... is visited by the ... clean ... scrub from top ... bottom, and out, without any expense ... tenants.

"ORDER! ORDER!"

... had been ... siness of the ... in a strictly ... e proceedings, ... with noise, ... ious.

...ast one ... control over ... ed to his opponent ... k here, you are ... ass that I ever ... to get eyes ... er! order!" said ... pompous little ... ted lisp. "You ... at I am in the ...

...ING-BAZAAR TERRORS.

... e recent charity ... one of the men ... as they had ... price 20fr. ($1) ... them from all ... saleswomen. ... ed to be those ... r the Prevention ... n." Most of ... good deal, but ... wn pleasure ... might make a ... of buying ...

...NGE ESQUIMAUX TRIBE.

...mnant of a strange tribe of ...aux has been discovered on ...pton Island, at the north ... Hudson Bay. These people ...er seen a white man until ... Their huts are built of the ...ws of whales covered with ... In the middle is an elevation ... which is a stone lamp used ...ting, heating, cooking, melting, and drying clothes. The ... almost extinct, only some ... being left.

... know the size of the collars ...s, though. It's fifteen. He'd ... but size eighteen or twenty ...t, wouldn't he?"

AN UNSOU...

Or The Mystery ...

CHAPTER XIV.

When Mr. Hookham at last retired to Mitre Court, he made him...fast within his chambers. He ...ed his oak, bolting, barring, ...locking it, and securing it by ... means within his power. Then ... went through a similar process ... the inner door, and when he ... made his fortress what double ... sufficiently impregnable, he stood ... a moment, listening. There was ... a sound. All was still. Then ...turned, and let his eyes travel ... the room.

It was certainly a large room. ...It was certainly ill-furnished — ... light of the solitary tallow ... revealed so much as that. At ... opposite end of the room ... door, which led into his sleeping room. Next to the door was a ...cient carved-oak mantelpiece. It ... not a bad mantelpiece in its ... but it added to the sombre ...ance of the room. There was ... huge old-fashioned open grate, ... enough, in the colloquial phrase, ... roast an ox! Just then it was ... with rust, and littered with ... and ends and scraps of paper ... looked desolate and dirty. ... was no carpet on the floor ... Hookham dispensed with such ...ury as that—and the floor itself ... worm-eaten and old; it looked ... though it had never been washed ... years. The principal article of ...niture the room contained ... large old oak table, which occupied the center. It had doubtless ...inally been intended to serve ... dining table, but since those ... it had apparently done duty ... nursery or schoolroom, for it ... been scarred by knives, covered ... names and initials, which had ... cut, and in some cases burnt, ... into the wood, and blotched ... ink. A ragged old couch stood ... one side against the wall; three ...dinary chairs, and one arm-chair ... it was such a ruin of an ancient ...—occupied positions about ... room. And, if we except the ... that was all the furniture the ... contained. The safe was half ... into the wall. It had once ... painted green, but the paint ... long since gone. Small patches ... it were visible here and there ... for the most part the safe appeared to have been constructed ... cast-iron, was as rusty ... grate.

Nor was the cheerless look ... apartment lessened by the intolerable state of litter it was in. ... floor was half hidden beneath an ...traordinary conglomeration of ...trasting articles. Among them ... two or three tin boxes, with ... locks wrenched off, a cash box ... same condition, account books ... and ends of clothing, crockery ... greater part of it shattered ... fragments, scraps of food, a ... great lost of papers and ... of every size, shape, and color ... one place a paint pot, half ... black paint, had been turned ... down; probably it was the paint which Mr. Hookham had ... to cover the inscription on the ... In another a lamp had been ... The presence of the oil which ... been issued from it was unpleasantly perceptible. On the table ... was covered with the same ...gnous collection, a quart bottle ... ink had been emptied. It seemed ... though some malignant spirit ... set himself to work as much ...fusion and do as much mischief ... was possible.

Mr. Hookham stood, in grim ...ence, observing his amiable ... of things. As he gradually ... the various details, and began ... fully realize the effect of the ... his features became, if ... harder and sterner than before.

"If ... knew the lad who had ... this, he should have a lift." ... There could be no doubt, ... from the tone and manner in ... the words were spoken, that ... had anything to do with it ... referred to would. He moved ... table.

"The lamp broken! What ... do?"

He looked at the candle. ... one of those tallow dips ... we scarcely see nowadays, ... chandlers' shops in out-of-the-... places.

"I must manage with that ... it is done for, I'll go to bed." ... Hitherto he had not removed ... hat. This seeming to occur ... all at once, he took it off. ... up his hand, he passed his ... through his thick growth of ... grey hair. Going to the ... threw the door wide open. ... caught the open cash box by ... the ... floor. His glance wandered round the room. It lighted on ... old red-leather box. He picked ... up. It was empty — shattered ... most into fragments.

Nearly nine hundred pounds ... worth of jewels! Curse the thieves! ... Dropping the fragments of the ... leather box, he began examining ... hot haste the litter on the ... At last he came on a sheaf of ... narrow slips of blue paper, ... round with a piece of red tape, ... were bills of exchange — and ... form of security in which he ... He snatched them up. He ... through them, with eager eyes, ... fingers.

"Safe! The fool!"

That was the form of thanks ... which he recorded the fact that ... had not gone with the jewels.

"I'll put them in my pocket, ... the present they'll be better ... To-morrow I'll deposit them ... Chancery Lane. I ought to ... put them there before, but I ... thought of burglars, so I always kept them ready to my hand."