

### For The Quiet Hour

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3.16.

Changeful the world, at best,  
Yet doth the Christmas chime  
Tell of abiding rest,  
And love outlasting time!  
—D. Baines-Griffiths.

SCIENTISTS CAN MAGNIFY THE HUMAN VOICE 12,000 times, but they seem unable to do a thing for the voice of conscience.—Brockville Recorder.

MORE THAN HALF THE BAPTISTS IN THE WORLD ARE in the Southern States. The Southern Baptist convention claims three and a half million adherents and the Negro Baptist convention about three millions.

BECAUSE OF THE RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL CHARACTER of Islam and the fanaticism of its adherents, its hatred of the infidel, and its veiled women, missionary work in Moslem lands is the most difficult and perhaps the most pressing problem before the Christian church.

IT IS A COMMON SAYING ON THE CONTINENT THAT THE result of the war was a military victory for France, a political victory for England, an economic victory for America, a cultural victory for the Jew, and a religious victory for the Roman Catholic Church.—Dr. Adolph Keller.

WELL-WISHING IS BENEVOLENCE, WELL-DOING IS beneficence; and the reason why poverty is allowed always to confront us is that our benevolence will may find exercise in beneficent doing. "The poor ye have always with you." that whosoever ye will ye may do them good.

A POOR MAN IN CHINA, WHO IS A CHRISTIAN, HAS TO work all day away from home. He has put on the door of his house this notice: "I am a Christian and if any wish to go in and read my Good Book while I am out, they may. The Buddhist priests need not come here; I do not want them any more." People often go into his house and learn whole chapters, which in many instances make them wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

WHAT DR. HOWARD SOMERVELL, WHO ACCOMPANIED the Everest party as a physician, could not see from the height of Mount Everest, he saw clearly on the plains of India's desolate part.

Listen to him!  
"En route for South India immediately after the Everest climb, I found a district containing a million souls with only one doctor to look after them. I took ten days' duty for the overworked doctor, and what I saw during those ten days of appalling need changed the whole course of my life."

He offered himself to the London Missionary Society as a missionary doctor and was appointed to Travancore.

HERE IS A DELIGHTFUL MESSAGE THAT TELLS ITS OWN story:

The greatest, the most majestic, the symbol of longest duration of all words, is

**GOD**

The shortest, in point of time, of all words is

**NOW**

The sweetest of all words is

**LOVE**

The most profitable thing to do.

The most reasonable thing to do.

The best thing for each and all to do, is to

**LOVE GOD NOW**

When God incarnate came to earth  
Then woke the silent heavens to song,  
As, sweeping down the azure steeps  
The minstrels of the morning throng.

The choirs angelic, bending low  
Above that far Judean hill,  
Loosed such immortal waves of song  
That hearts attuned are listening still.

Not many saw that heavenly light  
Or heard the first divinest strain.  
But all the world will see and hear  
When God incarnate comes again!

—Edwin Botham.

RELIGIOUS PAPER HAS QUOTED FROM ANOTHER JOURNAL sedative excuses for the non-church-goer. It calls them "excuses," and they are eminently worthy of attention by all who profess and call themselves Christians:

Church pharmacy there are at least four bromides which might induce a quiescent conscience, and gently put to sleep:

Fact is, I work so hard all the week that, when "my time comes" (Vary to suit the age of patient.)

was a boy I was made to go to church three times a week—? (Useful, also, for a woman patient.)

came just as we were about ready—"

... and not a soul spoke to me." (Succeeds in getting you to church.)

... by Dr. F. B. Meyer:

... "Why do you buy margarine for butter?" said an excited customer one day.

... "There is no harm in selling margarine," said the salesman off on an innocent remark.

... you must know, the only difference between the two is price, and price, you must know, is the only thing that counts.

... "There are two other pronounced causes," went on Mr. Heaton. "Gasoline and lantern explosions, etc., which we may classify as resulting from petroleum and its products; and threshing accidents. There has been a particularly large number of

### SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION CAUSES MANY BARN FIRES

Ontario Fire Marshal Claims Damp Or Poorly Cured Hay Greatest Agent of Mysterious Outbreaks.

"There is no question in my mind that the chief cause of the unusually large number of barn fires in Ontario this year is spontaneous combustion of the crop stored in the barns," said Fire Marshal E. P. Heaton in an interview recently. "The shortness of the harvest season and the scarcity of labor have led to the use of mechanical devices in haying and harvest—and mechanical devices have no intelligence. The heavier grade of hay now grown is too often rushed into the mow before it is properly cured, and often spontaneous combustion results. If all hay went into the barn in thoroughly cured and dry condition, barn fire losses would be very greatly reduced."

#### A Prophecy.

Mr. Heaton produced his bulletin for the second quarter of 1923, published in July last. "This was written on July 20, before the heavy fire losses commenced," he remarked. "While I am not a prophet or the son of a prophet I felt I should send out a note of warning. Here it is: 'Reports coming to our office indicate that crops of alfalfa and the clovers are particularly heavy, and that there is evidence of much immature drawing into the barns. I am very reluctant to express the opinion, yet I am compelled to do so, that 1923 will afford a very clear and distinct evidence of an unusually large number of fires arising from the causes natural to the storing of improperly housed crops. We are just on the threshold of the season when we must look for very many fires characterized as mysterious.'"

#### Skepticism.

"Most farmers do not believe spontaneous combustion possible," continued the Fire Marshal. "If you show them charred hay or straw they dismiss it with, 'Oh, that's fire-fanging,' and let it go at that. But fire-fanging is really only slow burning or combustion where there is not enough air to feed a flame. We are still working on the question of the relation of ventilation to spontaneous combustion. More and more are coming to believe in its possibility, however, as the evidence becomes more indisputable. And we have indisputable evidence. We classify as spontaneous combustion cases only those in which the probability is very strong. Last year out of 1,000 barn fires we classed 87 as spontaneous combustion cases and 311 as unknown. I am certain that many of that 311 should be in the other column, but the proof was not sufficiently definite. The 87 cases which were definite, however, accounted for a loss of over \$470,000."

#### A Clear Case.

"Here are the facts in a fire which occurred in Grey County. The farmer owned two farms. No one lived on farm No. 2, and there was no stock in the barn. Consequently the barn was very seldom visited and had not been entered for at least nine days before the fire. There were no tramps or suspicious characters in the neighborhood, and yet that barn burned. On investigation we found every other evidence pointing to spontaneous combustion as a cause. "There is nothing new about this cause of barn fires. Law cases in the English courts dating back to the reign of George III. refer to it, and an English insurance company as far back as 1835 would insure farm property only upon condition that it was not to be held responsible for losses arising from the natural heating of the crop. In fact, if we care to delve into ancient history, we find the Roman writer Pliny describing the cause and occurrence of such fires.

"There are two other pronounced causes," went on Mr. Heaton. "Gasoline and lantern explosions, etc., which we may classify as resulting from petroleum and its products; and threshing accidents. There has been a particularly large number of

fires this year from flames shooting from the separator blower during threshing. In one case the burst was so sudden that a man in the mow was burned to death. We are investigating this cause and expect soon to have a conclusion from which to make recommendations."

"Is there any connection between the hard times and the number of fires?" Mr. Heaton was asked. "Very little, if any," was the reply. "These fires are taking place when the barns are crammed with crop. If a man wished to raise money he could raise more of it by selling the crop than by burning it. The average insurance carried on barns covers only about 60 per cent. of the value."

#### Weather Has Influence.

"Has the weather any influence upon fires?" was the last question. "Considerable influence," replied the Fire Marshal. "There is a decided connection between the temperature of the day and spontaneous combustion fires on that day. This year with a fairly cool August we had less fires than are usual for August. With an unusually hot November we had an unusually large number of fires for that month. As time goes on we are securing convincing data, which shows a decided connection between weather and 'mysterious' fires."

#### LIFE TEN YEARS LONGER THAN INSURANCE ESTIMATES

The popular cry, and the oft made statement that the present generation is weaker than the preceding one receives quite a slap in the face from the statistical reports of the insurance companies. While it is true, possibly, that the present generation could not immediately undergo some of the hardships that our ancestors had to put up with, it is more a matter of not having to than for any other reason. It should be remembered that the pioneers did not undergo their hardships as a matter of choice. They had to; there was no possible way of doing otherwise. In the recent war, we believe we are safe in saying that the hardships experienced there were as great as in any other war; still the present generation of soldiers got fat on it and demonstrated that they had the stuff in them if it was needed. The following from London, England, will give weight to the above line of reasoning:

"People to-day are living so much longer than their forefathers that insurance companies and the editor of Whitaker's Almanac are facing the necessity of revising their life expectancy tables. This lengthened average span of life has resulted from the adaptation of the working to congestions and other conditions in the modern city, and from progress in the fields of sanitation and hygiene.

"Medical returns for England and Wales for the greater part of 1923 show that the year just closing was the most healthful in the country's history, the civilian death rate per thousand being 11.7, or 7 lower than the previous low record established in 1921. Lieut.-Col. Whitaker, editor of Whitaker's Almanac, says his experience of thirty years has convinced him that the expectation of life is now ten years higher than is commonly believed.

"The principal factor in our increased average longevity has been the reduction of mortality early in life," said the chief medical officer of the Ministry of Health."

We may believe it or not, as we wish, but it is a well established fact among those engaged in the business that it will not be long before the old span of three score and ten, will be superseded by the full four score years. And why not? People do not have to do the sluggish work-to-day they used to thirty years ago; there is machinery for most of it nowadays. Coupled with this is the notable advance in sanitation. People may smile at the man who tells them there are microbes in this, that or the other thing, but it is the knowledge of microbes and the increased sanitary regulations as much as anything that contributes to the longevity of the race. The only thing that will tend to keep the allotted span down to the three score and ten mark will be the increased worry necessary in business in the chase after the almighty dollar.

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#### OLD EGYPT ON SCENE IN NEW PARAMOUNT PICTURE

Beautiful Temple Shown in Pola Negri's "Bella Donna."

Travellers who have visited Cairo and the lower regions of the Nile will find in Pola Negri's first American picture, "Bella Donna," which comes to the Veterans' Star Theatre Friday and Saturday nights of this week, more of the real Egypt than they were ever privileged to see during their actual visits.

According to Dudley Stuart Corlett, special technical adviser and a noted Egyptologist, real Egypt can only be found far from the points of contact with European civilization. Inasmuch as "Bella Donna" calls for the Egypt of the Egyptians, Corlett has supplied the picture with genuine and little known scenic backgrounds.

Perhaps the most beautiful and slightly known is the temple of Abu Simbel in Upper Egypt, which was reconstructed for this picture by George Fitzmaurice, the producer. This structure, carved from the living

rock on the bank of the Nile, is so constructed that its interior is illuminated by the rising sun for only five minutes of the day just at dawn.

The temple serves as a background of a meeting between Pola Negri in the title role of this Paramount picture with Baroudi, played by Gouvan Tearle. Other members of the cast are Conrad Nagle, Lois Wilson, Claude King and Marcey Harlam.

The "red" shows very plainly in the soviet's check.—Washington Post.

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