

For The Quiet Hour

THE WORLD OWES PRAYER TO OUR MISSIONARIES FOR themselves and for their work.

There is a place where thou canst touch the eyes
Of blinded men to instant perfect sight;
There is a place where thou canst say, "Arise,"
To dying captives bound in chains of might;
There is a place where thou canst reach the store
Of hoarded gold and free it for the Lord;
There is a place upon some distant shore
Where thou canst send the worker or the Word;
There is a place where God's resistless power
Responsive moves to thine insistent plea;
There is a place, a simple trysting place,
Where God himself descends and fights for thee.
Where is that blessed place? Dost thou ask where?
O soul, it is the secret place of prayer!

AND INDEED THERE IS NOTHING MORE FUTILE THAN the answering of questions which no one is raising. You cannot answer a question until you have been asked for an answer. For, to say no more, the question itself is part of the answer. It is the pressure of the answer that puts the question. For myself, as a minister, I should like to say this: there is no drier or more hopeless work than to declare some great thing about Christ to those who are not feeling any wish or need to hear it. And, on the other hand, there is no experience so wonderful, or such a happy task, as to help people towards the great faith who are themselves feeling their way.—Dr. John A. Hutton.

"PROFESSOR, WHAT DO YOU TRY TO DO FOR YOUR STUDENTS?" some one asked Prof. Robert Dick Wilson of Princeton Seminary.

Instantly he replied, with quiet earnestness: "I try to give them such an intelligent faith in the Old Testament Scriptures that they will never doubt them as long as they live. I try to give them evidence. I try to show them that here is a reasonable ground for belief in the history of the Old Testament. 'I've seen the day,' he went on, 'when I've just trembled at undertaking a new investigation, but I've gotten over that. I have come now to the conviction that no man knows enough to assail the truthfulness of the Old Testament. Whenever there is sufficient documentary evidence to make an investigation, the statements of the Bible, in the original texts, have stood the test.'

REV. W. Y. FULLERTON FINDS GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT in the fact that the rate of increase of Christians in the heathen world is rapidly enlarging. We are gaining speed as we advance. It has been computed that it took more than a hundred years of modern missions to gain the first million converts, twelve years to gain the second million, six years to gain the third million. If the same increasing rapidity in the rate of progression is continued, it can be but a little while until we shall rejoice in a million baptisms in a single year. Indeed, the mass movements in India may bring a hundred millions to the door of the church almost at any moment, while in Russia, amidst the terrors of the time, the evangelical movement is gaining an impetus which may outrun the result hitherto achieved by all the missionary effort in the rest of the world. In spite of the universal unrest of our era, Judson's phrase has a significance greater than he ever imagined, "The future is as bright as the promises of God."

IF ANYBODY WAS EVER JUSTIFIED IN SAYING, "I SHALL never have an opportunity to amount to anything," it was Sophie Wright of New Orleans. Cradled in poverty, crippled and strapped in her chair till nine years old, the rest of her life walking on crutches, never free from pain, her biographer writes:

"She entered school at nine. At fourteen she hung out a sign, 'Day School for Girls; 50 cents a month.' This school grew to need an assistant. At 18, while teaching in two schools, a poor acrobat asked her to prepare him for a civil service examination. She freely gave him her evenings. Others came with him, and she soon had the first free evening school in the city. Later in life she caught the vision of an institution for crippled children, and raised the money to house it."

Her epitaph might have been: "One who used her opportunities."

IT IS QUITE THE FASHION NOWADAYS TO DISPRAISE emotional preaching. In certain academic coteries to say of a man that he "appeals to the emotions" is only a little less damning than to say he beats his wife. If he is emotional he is theatrical and cheap. If his sermons are emotional he is not thoughtful; really, it isn't in good form! A preacher thus fervent might be suspected of being an evangelist, and that—never! And that—horror! One might even come to the expectancy of a conversion, and that, decidedly, would never do.

Bearers of a flaming torch, it is that or nothing! Oh for the eloquent tongues of flame! Oh for the fire of a consuming zeal!—Christian Evangelist.

THE QUESTION IS RAISED ANEW IN THE "CHRISTIAN Register" by a letter from Montreal if the Unitarian Church might not wisely drop the name Unitarian, with its old implications and memories, and call itself the Liberal Christian Church. This, it is thought, would not only sidestep the prejudices that many have against Unitarianism, but would attract many from Romanist and Protestant ranks. "Liberal" would apply freedom from dogma, and "Christian," loyalty to Christ. Also the new name would forestall the question, Are Unitarians Christians? It all depends upon what's in a name.

THE STORY OF THE STORM-DRIVEN SHIP WHOSE CREW were frantic for water suggests where opportunities are to be found by most of us. Their signals of distress drew another ship near them, and the captain called out:

"Water! Water! We are perishing for want of water!"
"Dip down in the ocean!" was the answer, for just where they were the mighty Amazon was pouring its fresh water far out into the briny Atlantic.

Ye who are looking for luck, sighing for chances, longing for opportunities, take the lesson of this ship to heart, and dip down into the ocean of life whose ebb and flow bear you along!

TO BELIEVE THAT ALL IS LOST BY NEGLECTING OPPORTUNITY is a hopeless creed, for this is what opportunity herself says:

They do me wrong who say I come no more
When once I call and fail to find you in,
For every day I stand outside your door,
And bid you wake, and rise to fight and win.

Wait not for precious chances passed away;
Weep not for golden ages on the wane!
Each night I burn the records of the day;
At sunrise every soul is born again.

Laugh like a boy at splendors that have sped;
To vanished joys be blind, and deaf, and dumb!
My judgments seal the dead past with its dead,
But never bind a moment yet to come.

WHEN THE GREAT BELL IN THE PARLIAMENT CLOCK tower in London strikes the hours on ordinary still nights, it can be heard all over London,—it has been heard for twenty miles on very still nights.

Since the ultimate object of all our reading should be to get the mind of God into the mind of man, the best of books should be read when the heart of man is still, for then the voice of God penetrates furthest.

THROUGH THIRTY-THREE YEARS MORE THAN A MILLION men, women and children have gone through Dr. Wanless' hospital at Miraj. All over India are the young men whom he has trained as physicians. There are about forty-five young men there now, all but two or three of them Christians. There they are receiving the best medical education to be obtained in India. One of them said:

"Perhaps you wonder why we, who can speak nine languages, have gathered here from all the provinces of India. Two things have brought us here,—Jesus Christ and Dr. Wanless."

NO MAN SHOULD GO TO THE HOUSE OF GOD EXCEPT with one purpose, namely, to hear what God will speak to his heart. And if he goes in that condition, his heart will hear something. No man was ever disappointed in the house of God who went with his heart in the right condition; who said, "Lord, I am ignorant: teach me! I am wrong: show me what is right!"—Joseph Parker.

FACT AND COMMENT

With the German miners of the Ruhr district more or less on continual strike, with several of the leading German industrial millionaires under sentence of court-martial for refusing to carry out the orders of the French general in command, with banking, transportation and every other business activity in the occupied region disorganized, the immediate prospect of large payments on the reparation account does not seem bright. The French, however, continue to hope for good results from their policy. They think that Germany will find it too costly to itself to keep the mines idle; and they think that they can get what coal they need even if German industry has to go without. It is whispered that the French are really looking forward to a course of events that will split off the Rhineland and the Ruhr from the rest of Germany and set them up as an independent state, and that it is rather the dismemberment of the old empire than the collection of reparation at which M. Poincare aims. That is probably not wholly true; yet no one can doubt that the division of Germany would greatly relieve the minds of French statesmen. Meanwhile the Germans and others who criticize the French policy declare that the only result of the occupation will be to consolidate German sentiment and strengthen the national consciousness.

Sun Yat Sen is back in Canton; General Chen is in his turn an exile. Chen still has an army in being, but apparently it is not equal to the task of maintaining him in authority. It remains to be seen what Sun's next move will be. It is reported that an old alliance between him and Chang, the "tuchun" of Manchuria, has been renewed. There is little for China to hope from that combination or from any other combination in which Chang has a share.

In view of the proposal that has been made for the grouping of the United States railways into a score of regional combinations it is interesting to learn that Great Britain has carried such a scheme into effect. One hundred and twenty independent companies have been combined into four groups, the Southern, the Great Western, the London, Midland and Scottish and the Northeastern. It is expected that the step will make possible great economies, the beginning of which appears in a reduction of passenger fares. A rates tribunal composed of representatives of the railways and of the public has been established to keep rates of transportation fairly adjusted at all times.

Radio messages can pass through the earth as well as through the air. The other day a private car equipped with a radio instrument and running on the tracks of the New York subway fifty feet underground, picked up messages broadcasted from as far away as Kansas. Of course another explanation is that some air must have got into the subway.

The French, who like to confer awards and decorations on any excuse whatever have been giving special rewards of merit to farmers who can prove that their families have cultivated the same soil for more than a hundred years. In the course of the necessary investigations one family was found that could trace its undisturbed occupation of the same farm back to 1023, forty years and more before William of Normandy crossed the channel to conquer England! Is there another family anywhere in the world that can equal that? Probably not, unless it is in China.

The "City of David," which contained the ancient citadel of Jebus, the palace of King David and the tombs of the kings of Judah, lay outside the walls of the present city of Jerusalem between the pool of Siloam and the southern wall. It is now announced that the Palestine administration has invited archaeologists of England, France and the United States to undertake excavations on that interesting site and has

promised to give them every opportunity to carry out the work effectively. The ground has been turned over heretofore, notably by the Bliss expedition of 1896 and also by other expeditions up to 1913, but the most interesting and important buildings of the old city have not been uncovered.

From the report made by Dr. Syssin of the public health commissariat at Moscow we learn that the estimated population of the present Russia is 132,000,000. In Russia proper, including Caucasia and Eastern Siberia, but excluding the Polish provinces and part of the Ukraine, the population is actually nine million less than it was in 1914 and twenty million less than it would have been had its former normal rate of growth been continued through those years. Almost everywhere in Russia—and especially in the cities—the death rate is now higher than the birth rate, so that the population is diminishing. In Orel, for example there were in 1921 1,044 births and 3,559 deaths. In Petrograd, where conditions are probably the worst in Russia, the death rate is as high as 89.5 in the thousand, and the birth rate is not much more than a quarter as large. By way of comparison it may be said that the death rate of London is about 12.5; of New York about 11.2, of Paris about 14.4 and of Amsterdam about 10.3. More than half of the deaths reported are caused by typhus fever or infectious diseases. Many are the result of starvation or of inadequate nourishment.

A new French process for making imitation wool from cotton effects such a change in the fibre that the cotton burns with the characteristic odor of wool, which is owing to protein with which it is impregnated. Some other vegetable fibres besides cotton, when treated with the protein solution, take on so many of the characteristics of wool that the truth can be detected only under the microscope.

Beds of fresh-water pearl-bearing mussels are becoming depleted in the United States. The price of \$8 a ton for shells, which was current some years ago, has advanced to \$115 a ton. The United States government has planned to propagate the pearl mussels, but, since it takes from ten to twelve years for them to grow, there is little prospect of immediately increasing the production. Young mussels, of which there are plenty, produce a pearl button that is too brittle to be of use. The strongest buttons come from the oldest mussels that live in the deeper water.

HORSE IN DRIFT ALL NIGHT;

EAST WAWANOSH MAN FINED
A dispatch from Blyth says that a brutal crime was committed on a poor, blind horse by a resident of East Wawanosh a few days ago. He was driving this horse home when it got down in the snow, so rather than waste the time in helping it, he left it in the deep snow, where it stayed all night. Not being able to see, the horse could not find shelter, so, after tramping around for some considerable time, the poor brute lay down, where it was found next morning by some of the neighbors. The authorities at Goderich received word and sent out Constable Postlewait, who arrested the owner and took him to Goderich, where he appeared before Police Magistrate Charles Reid, who imposed a fine of \$10 and costs.

INDEPENDENCE

(Al Nizam, Egypt.)
If we admit for the sake of argument that Egypt is now as independent in its Foreign Affairs as Japan or France and can appoint its own Ministers and Consuls, we do not see the good of doing so, so long as we have no constitution and no Parliament. Those who claim the appointment of Ministers and Consuls seem to fancy that the country is independent in every respect and that all that is needed is Ministers in London, Paris, Rome, Washington and Tokio to prove to the world that we are independent in our internal and foreign affairs. We must first have all the requirements of independence before thinking of its outward signs.

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ARTEMESIA COUNCIL

Council met on Saturday the 3rd day of February, 1923, the members all present, the Reeve in the chair; minutes read and adopted.

Correspondence read from A. E. Ames, re municipal bonds; C. P. R., assessment of 1923; R. C. McKnight, C. E., asking appointment as Township Engineer; Good Roads Association, program for meeting March 1.

The following accounts were passed and ordered to be paid: F. Stuart, refund of dog tax, \$2; Provincial Treasurer, for gravel, \$22.90; Joseph Watson, refund, \$3.09; Municipal World, dog tags, \$13.53, subscriptions \$6; Wright, Teitford & Birnie, legal services, \$2.

Hydro Engineer waited upon the Council in reference to Eugenia lighting system; a large representation from S. S. No. 2 waited on the Council in regard to opening deviation of 130 sideroad, concessions 1 and 2, N.E.

Mercer—Williamson—That Treasurer receive from the H. E. P. Commission \$200, amount agreed upon and expended to repair road between Concessions 10 and 11, west of Lot 36.—Carried.

Mercer—Carruthers—That an Engineer be requested to go over the proposed deviation of 130 Sideroad, 1 and 2 N. E., and make estimates of the costs and plan of the proposed deviation, when conditions are favorable.—Carried.

Hogarth—Carruthers—That Clerk prepare a by-law to appoint R. C. McKnight Township Engineer, in accordance with his application.—Carried.

Mercer—Williamson—That Clerk is hereby authorized to execute the contracts presented to supply electric current to the following residents of the village of Eugenia: F. C. Graham, G. W. Graham, P. Munshaw, H. Cairns, Mrs. A. Smith, Presbyterian Church, J. K. Jamieson, Mrs. J. E. Large, H. Foester, W. E. Morgan.—Carried.
Council adjourned.

MAKE RETURN RAIL TICKETS GOOD ON ALL CANADIAN ROADS

An amendment to the Railway Act which provides that return tickets issued by one railway shall be good on any other line running to the same destination, was introduced in the Commons Monday afternoon by S. W. Jacobs (Liberal, George Etienne Cartier). Mr. Jacobs also introduced a bill amending the Criminal Code so as to make it compulsory for owners of newspapers to file a declaration of ownership with the secretary of state.

J. S. Woodsworth (Labor, Winnipeg) introduced a bill to amend the Criminal Code. His proposal, he said, was to change the code on certain points in regard to treason and also to put in the safeguards to individuals which were there prior to 1919.

All three bills were given first reading.

HOW TO CONSTRUCT A HOTBED

(Dept. of Agriculture Bulletin.)

Garden crops such as tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce and celery, can be greatly advanced in the spring by the use of hotbeds. On the farm the making of such a bed is a simple matter because of the presence of manure of a suitable kind. Whereas the greenhouse has to depend on steam heating for the necessary warmth, the heat for a hotbed is secured from that arising from fresh manure. The hotbed may be placed on top of the ground or in an excavation. Whichever plan decided upon the site chosen should drain so as not to permit water to stand. If the below-ground plan is adopted, the soil should be taken out to a depth of 18 inches and for about three feet wider than the frame so that there may be room for banking up outside the frame. The banking is very important as it conserves the heat. Horse manure is the best. It should be turned once or twice and should be quite hot and ready for use in five or six days.

To support the glass sash, a simple frame should be made of two-inch planks. It should be so constructed that it may be raised if the plants get too close to the glass. To provide for the shedding of rain, the back of the frame should be six inches higher than the front.

When building the bed, the manure should be shaken so that the long and short particles are well mixed. Tramp well as each layer is added, until a depth of two to two and a half feet is secured. The frame is then put in position and five or six inches more manure is shaken in. Good garden soil to the depth of six inches should now be placed over the manure, and the sash put on. In five or six days the hotbed will be ready for the seeds. A thermometer should be used and the temperature of the soil should not exceed 80 degrees. The seeding should be done in rows about four inches apart as it would in the open ground later in the season.

More complete instructions for handling the cold frame and the plants themselves are contained in Exhibition Circular No. 16, obtainable from the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

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