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NOTES and COMMENTS

Remain in Your Car

If you are driving along the highway when an electrical storm approaches and you seek a nice safe place to stay until the storm passes, just take the advice of experts and stick right to the driver's seat.

The bureau of standards tells us that automobiles are practically immune to lightning despite the fact that rubber tires and the car as a whole become very wet during the storm.

Persons driving within a conducting enclosure are fairly safe against lightning, and the auto body, although enclosed to a considerable extent by glass, approaches this condition.

The average motorist is probably safer in his car during an electric storm than in his home. Upon recollection, there are few cases on record of autos being struck by lightning. And this is rather remarkable when you stop to consider the hundreds of thousands of cars out in electric storms, particularly in our larger cities.

Vanished Town Mystery

Few mysteries touch the imagination more than the mystery of a vanished town. There are the ancient towns mentioned in the Scriptures, some of which were lost for ages until the spade of the archaeologist brought them to light, and others of which remain to this day undiscovered. There is the "Lost Atlantis"—the great city of the classical world which is said to have sunk below the surface of the sea and vanished from human sight. There are the ancient towns mentioned in the Doomsday Book of old England, some of which cannot now be identified, and some which stood on land that the sea has since eaten away.

But lost towns and cities seem to be things of the Old World, which, time in the slow work of centuries, has buried away. But the New World has its vanished town also. Its name is Anstruther and it was located somewhere in the Province of Ontario. Irish solicitors, wishing to settle an Irish estate, are now looking for the descendants of a certain Irish gentleman who died at Anstruther in Ontario in the 1860s.

No one, however, has been able to find out where Anstruther stood. Even the Canadian Geographical Society, with its stores and records of historical lore, has been appealed to for an answer. But no answer can be given.

The mystery is intriguing. Possibly an attempt was made to found a town of that name in some district in which a town could not be supported, and the settlement was abandoned, and its few wooden houses fell to ruin long ago.

Whatever the answer, Anstruther has dissolved and faded, leaving not a trace. Here in the New World, in the space of only some 80 years, time has been able to work one of its impenetrable mysteries.

—Montreal Gazette

This Little Pig Went to the Carnival

The spectacle of a greasy pig at a night carnival in Aurora, is received with mixed feelings by many people. It borders too much on cruelty to animals. Judging from a picture in the Era and Express it was evident that everybody was enjoying the fun seeing the pig run about in terror while a lad with a flying tackle landed on its back to down the animal.

Uncomfortable from grease, terrified with the crowd and chased by a number of lads in turn, utterly exhausted, the porker certainly suffered, and plenty of people will question the propriety of the amusement. Indeed, it is a case where the Humane Society might reasonable step in.

The Tribune does not suggest that the Aurora organization staging the carnival would injure any animal, and certainly handled porker in this case with consideration, yet the animal must have suffered great torment which could be as bad or worse than a stick beating. Surely there are other, and more appropriate ways for service clubs to "bring home the bacon" than by calling in the aid of our favorite breakfast dish.

The Oil Shortage

Fuels of the future may be made by synthetic production of petroleum products, but the processes are still in the experimental stage and too costly to compete with crude oil, according to the Imperial Oil Review published today.

"Every year some prophet of doom raises his voice in the land to declare that the world is running out of oil," the article says. "Recently, because demand for oil products has sky-rocketed beyond the capacity of the industry's transportation, refining and other facilities, these prophets have been making more noise than usual."

"This situation has aroused special interest in the work of scientists who are experimenting with substitutes for crude oil as a source of gasoline and other fuels. Their success has been publicized to the point where the public may make the mistake of thinking a kind of 'Philosopher's Stone' has been found by which men can turn practically any substance into oil with little effort."

"The truth is that synthetic production still is uneconomical and remains in the experimental stage. This is in spite of the fact that science can produce substitutes for crude oil and the processes are being improved step by step, so that if the world should ever run short of natural petroleum, synthesis will come to the rescue."

"But at present there is still plenty of crude oil. Oil fields are diminishing assets—once the oil is taken from the earth new fields must be discovered and they are becoming more difficult to locate—but today's great exploration program is finding new deposits."

"The present tight situation is not due to any lack of oil in the earth. It developed as a result of an unprecedented demand for oil products."

Entitled "Fuels of the Future," the Review article states that erection of synthesis plants would not solve the present peacetime problems of supply. "Synthesis, however, will provide fuels in the future and is important on this continent because of considerations of national defense."

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Golden Text.—Be not forgetful to entertain strangers. —Heb. 13:2

The Lesson as a Whole

Approach to the Lesson

It is a delightful thing when husband and wife are both deeply interested in the truth of God and laboring together for its dissemination abroad. In Aquila and Priscilla, tent-makers and warm friends of the Apostle Paul, we have such a couple. Wherever we read of them, and wherever they made their abode, they seemed always to put the things of Christ first.

In other words, to paraphrase an expression of William Carey's, their business was serving the Lord and they made tents to pay expenses. Moreover, their home seems always to have been open to the Lord's servants, and particularly to Paul, for whom they had a very warm affection and on whose behalf they took what the world would think of as great risks in order that they might assist and protect him when persecution was rife.

When and where Aquila and his wife were led to a saving knowledge of Christ we are not told, but happily both of them knew the Lord, and therefore could enjoy holy fellowship together in a Christian home, in their employment, and in witnessing for the Lord. In a wise and gracious way they were enabled to lead Apollos into a fuller knowledge of the truth, and in their association with Paul they proved themselves invaluable helpers in the work of giving the Gospel to the nations. In Rome, we may be sure, they continued their faithful witness backed by godly lives, and Paul looked forward to meeting them there again and sent heartfelt greetings as he recalled how they had actually hazarded their own lives on his behalf, thus putting all the churches of the Gentiles into their debt—a debt of gratitude that could never be repaid in this life, but which the Lord will liquidate in full at His judgment seat in the day of manifestation.

The Historical Setting

Aquila and Priscilla (the diminutive of Prisca) were a Jewish couple who had been living in Rome, but were expelled from there in A.D. 52 by the decree of Claudius Caesar, who regarded the Jews as enemies of the empire. Aquila was a native of Pontus, where many of the scattered Jews lived. He and his wife were tent-makers and seem first to have met with Paul at Corinth. He became a member of their household and worked with them at their trade, which he himself had learned. Whether they were Christians already when Paul met them, or were led to Christ by him personally, we are not told. Later they were together in Ephesus. When permission was given for the Jews to return to Rome, Aquila and his wife went back to that city and were living there when Paul wrote the epistle to the church in that city.

Verse by Verse

Acts 18:1.—"Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth." This was on Paul's second missionary journey, and after his ministry in Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea. He left that region because of persecution, and went first to Athens, then to Corinth.

Verse 2.—"Found a certain Jew named Aquila, with his wife Priscilla." Having left Rome because of the edict of Claudius, this Jewish couple, with Greek names had settled for the time being in Corinth, where they pursued their trade of tentmaking. With them Paul found a lodging.

Verse 3.—"He was of the same craft, he abode with them, and

Wrought." Paul had learned this trade evidently before his conversion. He was ever ready to labor with his own hands if missionary funds were not forthcoming. He did not feel that he was "disgracing the cloth," as some might put it today, by manual labor (1 Cor. 4:12; 2 Cor. 11:9; 1 Thess. 2:9; Acts 20:34, 35). While he recognized and stressed the responsibility of the churches to support those who ministered in spiritual things (1 Cor. 9:14), he never insisted upon this for himself, though he appreciated it when the saints were considerate of his temporal needs (Phil. 4:14-17).

Verse 18.—"Paul... sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila." When the apostle started on his journey back to Antioch, his two friends accompanied him on the first lap of his journey.

Verse 19.—"He came to Ephesus, and left them there." Aquila and Priscilla remained at Ephesus when Paul continued his journey. He was to meet them again in Ephesus later on.

Verse 24.—"A certain Jew named Apollos... came to Ephesus." In the providence of God this earnest preacher, who had received the message from John the Baptist but was ignorant of what had transpired afterward, came to the place where he could be further instructed in the truth of the Gospel.

Verse 25.—"This man was instructed in the way of the Lord... knowing only the baptism of John." Apollos had accepted John's message and had evidently gone out to proclaim it to the Jews of the dispersion, calling them to repentance, and baptizing those who received the Word in token of their recognition of their need of the remission of sins.

Verse 26.—"Whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they... expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly." In the Revised Version the name of Priscilla here precedes that of Aquila. This is in accordance with the best manuscript authority. Priscilla was apparently the one who took the initiative. Apollos was invited to their home, and there they opened up to him the truth that they had learned concerning the death, resurrection, and present ministry of Christ. Apollos accepted the teaching and went on to Corinth to become identified with the church there.

Rom. 16:3.—"Great Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus." Note Paul's grateful acknowledgment of the assistance this couple had been to him in his work of making known the Gospel. Here, too, Priscilla's name comes first. While this may indicate a fine courtesy on Paul's part in thus mentioning the wife before the husband, it also seems to suggest what we have mentioned above, that Priscilla was the more active of the two in connection with the testimony of the Lord.

Verse 4.—"Who have for my life laid down their own necks." They had risked their very lives in caring for and protecting Paul, and so had put all the churches as well as the apostle himself, in their debt. He thankfully acknowledges this.

Verse 5.—"Greet the church that is in their house." As yet there were no special buildings, in all probability, set apart and occupied exclusively for Christian worship. In Rome, some, if not all, of the believers met in assembly in the home of Priscilla and Aquila. See also Pilemon 2.

1 Cor. 16:19.—"Aquila and Priscilla salute you... with the church that is in their house." In the city from which 1 Corinthians was written, most likely Ephesus (though some say Philippi), they were hosts of the church, as later on in Rome.

2 Tim. 4:19.—"Salute Urisca and

Aquila." If, as generally supposed, Timothy was in Ephesus at this time (or, as some others think, in Laodicea), it is evident that this godly couple had again left Rome and gone over to Asia Minor. Here Paul used the more formal name, Prisca, rather than the diminutive Priscilla, probably as more suitable to one who by this time must have become a somewhat elderly woman, and one to whom he was sending his last message. Again we note her name comes before that of her husband, as giving honor to the wife for her faithful witness to Christ and her care of the saints, as the one who directed the home. Aquila, doubtless, was in full accord with his gifted consort.

The Heart of the Lesson

Again we are reminded that God has use for those who serve in quiet ways and hidden places as truly as for those who occupy the public platform. To maintain a true Christian home, where hospitality is shown to God's servants and where His people are ever welcome, is in itself a great and precious privilege; and to seek to help by personal

contact those who are in need of further instruction is as real a ministry as to preach from the pulpit. No child of God is without some gift to be used for Christ's glory and to all He opens some door of service. However humble it may seem, it is always worth while if accepted as His will. Milton well wrote, "They also serve who only stand and wait."

WHY? OH WHY

Forty-five subscribers to this newspaper had to be notified last week that their subscriptions would be discontinued unless immediate renewals were made. Hunting out the delinquents on the mailing list, sending out notices all takes time and money, when these readers could readily learn the expiry date of their paper by referring to this yellow label on the address.

The Tribune has tried to maintain the \$2 per year rate which has prevailed here for over 20 years, and has appealed for the cooperation of subscribers to renew their subscriptions before they expire so as to avoid being notified, and thereby adding to the cost of the newspaper.

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BLAME OTTAWA FOR SUGAR BEET SHORTAGE

Canadian sugar beet growers are blaming federal controls for the steady decline in production, according to Canadian Grocer. They contend the restrictions favor

importation of raw cane sugar.

At the rate sugar has been consumed in Canada during the first part of 1948, it is calculated that about 1,300,000 lbs. of the refined product will be required to satisfy the nation's sweet tooth.