

## THE STORY OF A WRECK

Most of my readers have seen the sea; and many of them have spent pleasant summer holidays, sailing dainty little boats and building castles of sand, and perhaps finding in a few minutes their work all demolished by the rippling waves, and the sand becomes all smooth again. But the waves are not always gentle—sometimes nothing can withstand their power and it is of such waves I want to tell you.

Many years ago, I was at a watering place, and while there, a terrible gale occurred, and a large emigrant ship was wrecked in a bay not far off. The coast is most dangerous and if a vessel gets into the bay in a storm, its destruction is almost certain.

You will ask, Why did not the captain avoid such a place? O! that is the sad part of it. He mistook the light that warned of the danger, and the consequence was, the vessel and everything in it became a total wreck. I have never seen before nor since such a scene as that beach presented for about two miles, strewn with every imaginable article, as well as pieces of the ship.

Now, you will say, What became of the people? All were saved but two by the rocket apparatus, and it is of those two I want to speak to you. May you learn a lesson from their sad end.

The vessel was driven by the force of the waves close to that shelving beach, and an officer—I suppose, not understanding its dangerous nature—thought it would be easy, when the waves receded, to jump on shore. This he did, and immediately a huge wave washed him back underneath the vessel, and he was drowned.

The other was a poor woman. She had not courage to avail herself of the "basket" which was the means of saving the others, and utterly refused to trust it, though earnestly entreated to do so by the crew and her fellow-passengers. She remained in the wreck and perished.

I have never forgotten the impression made on my mind by it. I learn, first of all, and wish my young friends to learn the importance of not mistaking the light. These are days of darkness; and Satan has set up many false lights in the world to blind the eyes of those who believe not, "lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ should shine unto them." The Lord Jesus Christ says, "I am the Light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not only walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). Apart from Christ there is nothing in the world but darkness and death. We have the case of that poor officer who is a sample of many a one who feels he needs salvation, but seeks to be saved in his own way, by his own doing, and he does his best, but he will prove, as the officer did, that his efforts are of no avail, and his end will be utter destruction.

"Till to Jesus' work you cling,

By a simple faith,  
Doing is a deadly thing,  
Doing ends in death."

The poor woman's case was sad indeed. Salvation was brought so nigh—close to where she was, she had nothing to do but accept it. Others had proved it worthy to be trusted, and had been brought safe to land, but she was afraid to trust it. She had her opportunity and lost it.

Are there any like her today? Indeed I fear there are many. They know they are sinners,

and exposed to judgment. They know also that Christ is the only Saviour, but they are afraid to trust Him, to "venture on Him, venture wholly."

God's salvation is freely offered today. "Whosoever will" may come and be saved. Alas for those who despise His offered grace. God's Words speak solemnly to them: "Behold, ye despisers and wonder, and perish" (Acts 13:41).

God is long-suffering, "not willing that any should perish," and He "so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16).—The Life Line.

## A GOOD RESOLUTION

By Rev. R. R. Blews

As the year 1937 swings into its course, what more profitable task could you undertake than to read the Bible through during the year? What a blessing to the human race to have a book which knows the soul through and through, its moods, its hungers and its raptures! Like a lofty mountain-peak, the sacred Scriptures rise above the books of earth. Under the spell of divine inspiration words fuse into poetry, floods of sorrow are turned into rainbows of hope, and from the chastening providences of the Lord appear the purposes of God and the vision of another world.

Moody, the one hundredth anniversary of whose birth is being celebrated this year, stood at the funeral by his mother's casket and, holding up the old, worn Bible she had diligently searched through the years, said that the secret of her sterling character lay in her continuous reading of that old Book.

"Men's books with heaps of chaff are stored,  
God's Book doth golden grain afford;  
Then leave the chaff, and spend your pains  
In gathering up the golden grains.  
Were all the world one chrysolite,  
The sun a golden ball,  
And diamonds all the stars of night,  
This Book is worth them all."

A monthly chart is published on the missionary page of the Free Methodist (see issues of December 25 and January 29), giving an outline of the chapters needed to be read daily in order to complete the Bible during the year. Whether you follow these charts or not, start now to make the delightful journey through the Bible this year.—The Free Methodist.

## THAT FIREPLACE

What a dark, cold, unattractive thing is a fireplace! Just a hole in the wall. But here are great possibilities. A fire transforms it until, as some one has said, this place (with the fire in it) becomes the "eye of the room."

Man is like this. The fall has made a bad mess of us all. Our hearts are dark. The prospect is dark. But when the grace of God has come and light and a fire have been kindled by the Holy Ghost, the transformation is most satisfying. The man who owns the place may be warmed. And even his friends and neighbors may have benefit.

How wonderful if every one had the light and heat within!—Selected.

"The light that shines farthest shines brightest at home."

## GIN MARRIAGES

The "Chicago Tribune" objects to what that paper calls "gin mill weddings." It seems that in a certain town in Indiana young people have come together for the night of debauchery and that while drunk some of these have been married by officials authorized by the state to perform such ceremonies.

The "gin" element hardly requires comment. That such people are not competent to make a serious contract goes without saying. But the hasty marriage, whether in "gin" or out, is a menace to society and a feeder of the divorce courts.

Some states require persons applying for marriage licenses to file three days' notice of intention before the license will be granted. But three days are not enough. If all who plan marriage were required to sign the request for license thirty days before the document would be issued, then there would be wholesome changing of minds not only of the gin addicts but of other silly young people, some of whom are inclined to marry on a dare or as a joke, only to find that the thing agreed to is a tragic reality and perhaps the mate a devil's bargain. But, how slow are law-makers to make practical laws!—Free Methodist.

An International News dispatch from Paris under date of November 7th quotes a war correspondent from the Spanish front as saying that at least three hundred thousand people have lost their lives in the Civil War in Spain thus far. This is an estimate that is probably well within the realities of the bloody strife in Spain. A reliable correspondent writing in Liberty points out that the question of religion is the outstanding issue in this strife. Spain, called often the "most Catholic country" set up a government in 1931 that proposed among other things to grant freedom of worship, but without the special advantages long extended to Catholicism. The Catholic party we are informed is at the head of the present Rebellion, a fact that helps to account for the atrocities reported committed against churches, convents and other religious institutions in Spain. Such a situation, however, fits into the plans of Communism which is ever watchful to enter all occasions of national distress and to strike at the defense of constitutional government wherever found, that the ideal of universal revolt may be realized.—Wesleyan Methodist.

## A HIGHER DESTINY

We are born for a higher destiny than that of earth; there is a realm where the rainbow never fades, where the stars will be spread before us like islands that slumber on the ocean, and where the beings that pass before us like shadows will stay in our presence forever.

—Bulwer-Lytton.

## MISTAKES FROM PRIDE

I have been more and more convinced, the more I think of it, that, in general, pride is at the bottom of all great mistakes. All the other passions do occasional good; but whenever pride puts in its word, everything goes wrong; and what it might really be desirable to do, quietly and innocently, it is mortally dangerous to do proudly.—Ruskin.

Nobleness of character is nothing but steady love of good, and steady scorn of evil.—Froude.