

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

We may even see the end of Christianity and the Church as it exists today in Europe in the face of these new forces.—Dr. Adolf Keller, an authority on Christianity in Europe.

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I never lay my head upon the pillow without thinking that maybe before the morning breaks the final morning may have dawned. I never begin my work in the morning without thinking that perhaps He may interrupt my work and begin His own.—G. Campbell Morgan.

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Our civilization glories in its technical achievement, which expresses itself chiefly today in keeping 20,000,000 people alive by employing them in the manufacture of arms and armament by which they will later kill themselves and the rest of the community.—Reinhold Niebuhr.

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Christianity grows quickly in India. This is because the gospel is first preached to the poor. When Christianity is given first to the poor, it rises and permeates the rich. When Christianity is preached first to the rich and powerful, the reverse is true.—Bishop of Dornakal.

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Dr. Bauman in King's Business says: "Napoleon Bonaparte once pointed his finger toward China on the map and said to a group of military leaders: 'Gentlemen, there lies a lion asleep! Let him sleep!' The bayonets of Japan are arousing that lion to fury. China can throw into battle five times as many men as Japan has, and see them die, and have plenty left for battle."

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The first quarter of this century was the bloodiest period in all history," according to a study made of the last 2,500 years by Harvard University. The study included 902 wars, and 1,615 international disturbances. The war index for the twentieth century reached a total eight times greater than all preceding centuries. According to this study the average man of the thirteenth century had 6,500 more chances to die in his bed than had his descendants of the twentieth century. Harvard was aided by many American and European scholars in this research.—Selected.

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Few will dispute the competency of Dr. Karl Barth to speak of religious conditions in Germany, and especially of the attitude of the Hitler government toward the Church. Addressing a group of Church leaders in London, he said:

"It is Hitler's intention to cut German youth off from all Church connection, so that the Church, becoming a society of old people, will die within two or three decades." When reminded that thousands of gatherings of Christians were being held throughout Germany, with no interference from authorities, Dr. Barth explained that at such meetings the only message allowed was one which Hitler considered "harmless." There is no toleration at all for the teachings of real Christian ethics, which mean something in the present situation in Germany, for example, race worship, anti-Semitism, the cult of hatred.—The Presbyterian.

"MILLIONS AND MILLIONS"

The very little girl climbed into her father's lap, threw her arms around his neck and said, "Father, I love five hundred or else a million. Which is more, five hundred or a million?"

The trouble is that we find some grown-ups still confused on numbers. They use "millions" for thousands or hundreds. They lose the

fish that they are sure is two feet long, even though there are none of that length in that pond. And the vocabulary is full of superlatives—biggest, best, longest, coldest, hottest, deepest, widest—perfectly good words, to be sure, but not for all occasions. We have all heard of the preacher who had wept his "barrels of tears" over his exaggerations.

Comparatives are good words, too. They should not be neglected. If superlatives are always used, then they are soon worn out. People learn to discount our stories if they are habitually too big.

But if we put inches for inches, feet for feet, yards for yards, all else with like accuracy, we improve our English, really beautify our language—for language is made beautiful and forceful when it is exact and simple. And people will then learn to receive our words and stories without discount. This is the better way.—Selected.

THE SECOND BLESSING

By Rev. M. W. Knapp

The birth of the Spirit brings pardon; the baptism with the Spirit, purity.

The birth of the Spirit justifies freely; the baptism with the Spirit sanctifies wholly.

The first removes the guilt of sin; the second, the pollution of sin.

The first represses inbred sin; the second removes it.

The first sows the heart with the Christian graces; the second roots up the weeds that would choke them.

The first keeps the "old man" under; the second "casts him out."

The first gives spiritual life; the second spiritual purity and power.

The birth of the Spirit gives peace with God; the baptism, the peace of God.

The first gives joy; the second "fulness of joy."

The first takes us out of the world; the second cleanses the world all out of us.

The first introduces us into the kingdom of heaven; the second establishes the kingdom of heaven in us, and eliminates all there that opposes it.

The birth of the Spirit brings submission to Christ; the baptism crowns Him in our hearts without a rival.

The first begins the work of cleansing; the second "sanctifies wholly."

The first delivers from the Egypt of sin; the second puts us in possession of the Canaan of perfect love.

The first cures the outward eruption of actual sin; the second effects the double cure of its inward leprosy.—Wesleyan Methodist.

DIVINE GOODNESS

"My people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the Lord" (Jer. 31:14)—not greatness, not glory, not grandeur, but goodness. This goodness of God is seen in Nature. "The goodness of God endureth not daily," says the Psalmist. "The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord." "Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness." But still more the goodness of God is seen in revelation. "I will make all My goodness pass before thee." "The Lord God . . . abundant in goodness." "They shall be satisfied with the goodness of Thy house." "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance."—H. Griffith Thomas.

Nature is but a name for an effect whose cause is God.—Cowper.

SOCIAL REFORM

As we consider this subject we fear there is little evidence of progress or hope of attaining any improvement of existing conditions, apart from a "Revival of Religion" that will transform hearts and lives, and so bring about in God's own way that which is pleasing to Him and best for society.

We are glad to note, however, that a bill has been passed by our Federal Government prohibiting the sale of certain obscene literature in our Dominion, also in the United States a number of towns have taken a stand against these publications.

Another encouraging feature is that a number of the popular summer resorts have placed certain restrictions upon bathers and are compelling them to appear decently clad in comparison with the fashions of recent years. These rules are being rigidly enforced.

For these improvements we are grateful, yet we realize we are facing an appalling situation in our land today in regard to the moving picture industry. From this source we believe we can trace the increase of crime and degenerate morals that are claiming the youth of today. Statistics reveal to us that most of the crimes are not being committed by the hardened criminals but by the youth of our countries.

Another glaring evil in our midst is the cigarette habit, which is being carried on intolerably by both men and women, old and young. Someone has said, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world," and we wonder when so many of the mothers of today have formed this injurious habit, what the coming generations will be, morally as well as physically. The popular way of advertising cigarettes these days is by showing pictures of beautiful girls smoking. If the true reproduction of a cigarette smoking girl were presented, the sale would decline rather than increase. It is no uncommon thing to see a father and daughter smoking cigarettes from the same package. Public restaurants can be looked upon now as little more than smoking rooms and beer parlors, for men and women.

The predominating evil of indecent apparel among women is on the increase. We say with Solomon, "Who can find a virtuous woman, for her price is far above rubies." We are led to believe much of the immorality in our midst today is due to the indecent dress among young women. Sad to say the majority of our people grow up to brazenly expose their person because of the way their mothers dressed them as little children. This deplorable condition is threatening our Holiness young people. Our only hope is that our mothers will catch the vision of the importance of early training in this respect as well as the other evils already mentioned. In conclusion we would urge those in authority to prohibit people from appearing on our camp grounds indecently clad.

May we as Christians unite our forces and seek to stem the ever-increasing tide of evil in this day.

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OUR THOUGHTS

The happiness of our life depends upon the quality of our thoughts; therefore guard accordingly.—Marcus Aurelius.