

Heavenly Father for the restoration of my eyesight, after four operations in the years 1943 and 1944. I will never cease to praise Him. May we all be kept in the love of God.

Yours in Christian love,
HULDA MILLER DOW

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

R. B. Warren

It was an astounding miracle. With a lad's lunch of five barley loaves (about the size of our buns) and two small fishes, a multitude of five thousand men besides women and children were fed. Not only so, but twelve baskets full of fragments were gathered after the meal was over. Science has no explanation for such an event. It was a miracle.

The occasion was a real challenge to the disciples. "When the day began to wear away they said to Jesus, "Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place." But He said to them, "They need not depart; give ye them to eat." When the multitude had been orderly seated, Jesus took the loaves and fishes and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

We who are Christians are surrounded by people with hungry hearts. Our resources are very limited, but God still performs miracles. Our little, with His blessings, can feed a multitude. We dare not ignore the challenge of this hour. If we keep the good news to ourselves we will soon be impoverished. The twelve would not have had sufficient had they eaten the lunch. Let us stop bemoaning our weakness and let us rejoice in the power of God. Let us, everywhere we go, herald the good news that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. May God help us not to fail in this crucial hour of the world's need.

OBITUARY

William Henry Shean, of Belvedere, Maine, passed on January 10th, 1948. He is survived by one son, Richard, and four grandchildren. Service was conducted by the pastor, Rev. Ralph L. Sabine, at the Reformed Baptist Church.

Mrs. Alva Augusta Trask, one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of Yarmouth County, passed away Jan. 18th. Mrs. Trask died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Samuel Harris.

Mrs. Trask was 89 years of age, but kept young in spirit. She possessed a fine Christian character. She was a member of the Chegogin Baptist Church. She is survived by one sister, Mrs. Ida Wiggins, Danvers, Mass.; one brother, David Haskell, Port Maitland, N. S.; one daughter, Mrs. Samuel Harris, Sandford, N. S., and two sons, Arnold and Herbert, both of Sandford, N. S.

The funeral was held on Jan. 20th, from the home of her daughter, Mrs. Samuel Harris. Rev. G. A. Rogers officiated and spoke from Phil. 1:21-23. Rev. H. S. Mullen assisted. A choir of singers from the U. B. and R. B. Churches of Sandford rendered three beautiful selections.

Interment was made at Port Maitland, N. S. To the bereaved hearts we offer our sympathy.
G. A. ROGERS

TEMPERED TRUTHS

F. A. Dunlop

In Paul's defence before Agrippa he testifies of his call to the ministry. Having spoken first of his conversion, he then spoke of his call—a call quite as miraculous as was his conversion. An appearance, a voice, and a commission attended both. Read the account as given in Acts, chapter nine.

Great as was this incident in the life of Paul, his call has much in common with that of every one whom God elevates to the gospel ministry. I doubt not that the major points are identical.

A Divine Call

Telling of the fact Paul speaks of Christ coming to him and saying, "I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of these things in the which I shall appear unto thee." Paul was ever referring to the fact of his Divine call. "Called to be an apostle, separated unto the Gospel of God;" "For though I preach the Gospel I have nothing to glory of: For necessity is laid upon me, yea, Woe is unto me if I preach not the Gospel." "But when it pleased God who called me by His grace, to reveal His Son unto me, that I might preach Him among the heathen, immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood." "I was made a minister;" "Putting me into the ministry." These, and many other statements found in Paul's writings show how much he made of this fact—his call. In this assurance he found strength for dark days, a defence when under criticism. His call was his Credential.

We cannot stress too greatly the importance of this Divine appointment when the ministry is in question. Christ was, and I believe still is, most selective in this matter. He calls all men unto repentance, to Cross-bearing, and to a life of separation, but He makes definite choices where the sacred office of the ministry is concerned. To one, who would follow in the company of the disciples, He said, "Go home, and show how great things God hath done unto thee." But to another He said, "Go, sell what thou hast and give to the poor, and come, take up the cross and follow Me."

It is not always easy to explain this Call. A polling of experience here would reveal a variety of testimony. I believe, however, that the truly called minister will have this in common (even with the apostle): The conviction that a Divine necessity is laid upon him. A "woe is me, if I preach not the gospel." This is not a vocation to be accepted on the basis of mere personal desire. Here is a sacred calling which none but Christ-ordained men should adopt as a profession. Only those who have a vivid recollection of a time when Christ drew near saying, "I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness," should lay claims to this high calling.

A Divine Promise

When Christ ordains one to this Ministry He obligates Himself to provide **continued revelation**. He would make Paul not only a witness of "the things he had seen," but also of "those things in the which He would appear." Here is provision for a perennial ministry. Commentaries are informative, textbooks are aids, and should be studied, but the message is lacking in wholesome freshness which is not developed in the presence of the Master. Truth must be applicable, pointed and

purposeful. Christ alone has sufficient insight to give our ministry proper design, diction and direction. We have all discovered that the "hills of God" are difficult to ascend; that the mines where rich treasures are found yield but slowly to our unaided efforts. But when Christ comes along side, then "Earth's crammed with Heaven, and every common bush afire with God."

Temperance Column

13 FACTS ABOUT ALCOHOL

By Deets Pickett

1

Alcohol is not properly described as a food. In the body it does not contribute to growth, repair or storage.

2

Alcohol is a depressant to the central nervous system. It is a sedative, an anaesthetic. It should be used as a medicine only on prescription by a doctor. It is not a stimulant.

3

Habitual users of alcohol may become addicts, chronic alcoholics or "problem drinkers." The tendency is to increase the amount used or the frequency of use.

4

The principal effect of alcohol is upon the behaviour of the person—his emotions, self-control, judgment, discretion, memory and association of ideas.

5

The uniform effect upon bodily functioning is depression. After drinking, all functioning is on a lower level, no matter how the drinker feels.

6

Alcohol increases the risk of bodily infection; it is injurious to health and shortens life.

7

The use of alcohol is a direct cause of various acute and chronic diseases, it complicates many others, it is responsible for nearly ten per cent of new admissions to state hospitals for mental diseases.

8

Alcohol probably causes the death of ten out of 100 thousand of the population each year.

9

Alcohol dulls the higher faculties of the mind, intellect, will.

10

The bodily reflexes are delayed or retarded from five to ten per cent by the use of alcohol in small amounts. The moderate drinker is an unsafe driver.

11

A temperamental predisposition to alcohol may be inherited; alcoholism itself, is not.

12

The use of alcohol is responsible for much crime, particularly misdemeanors, many accidents, much absenteeism from work. The output of work is lowered, while the quality of work is reduced.

13

The direct liquor bill at the present time is a little less than nine billion dollars annually; the consequential cost is not known, but would be many billions more.