AWAKE!

IN THE NAME OF TOLERANCE

Does tolerance mean to silently endure many evils
Must Christians shun all sarcastic speech?

Japan Today

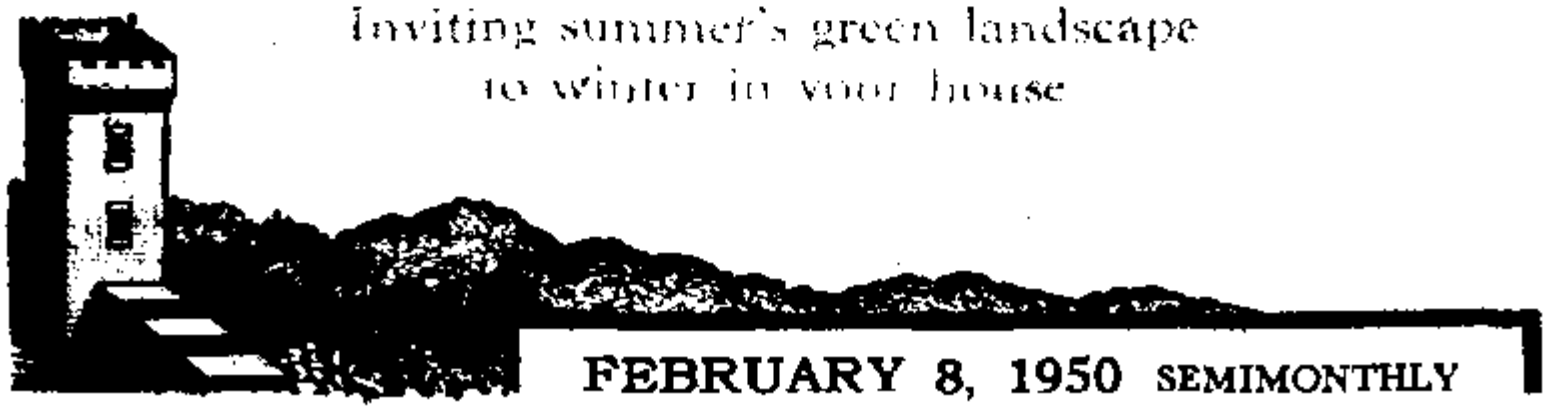
Facts with the Nipponese during occupation

"But Can It Be Found in the Bible?"

Snapping the subtle snares woven by the
deceptive ads of Knights of Columbus

Garden in Your Window

Inviting summer's green landscape
to winter in your house



FEBRUARY 8, 1950 SEMIMONTHLY

THE MISSION OF THIS JOURNAL

News sources that are able to keep you awake to the vital issues of our times must be unfettered by censorship and selfish interests. "Awake!" has no fetters. It recognizes facts, faces facts, is free to publish facts. It is not bound by political ambitions or obligations; it is unhampered by advertisers whose toes must not be trodden on; it is unprejudiced by traditional creeds. This journal keeps itself free that it may speak freely to you. But it does not abuse its freedom. It maintains integrity to truth.

"Awake!" uses the regular news channels, but is not dependent on them. Its own correspondents are on all continents, in scores of nations. From the four corners of the earth their uncensored, on-the-scenes reports come to you through these columns. This journal's viewpoint is not narrow, but is international. It is read in many nations, in many languages, by persons of all ages. Through its pages many fields of knowledge pass in review—government, commerce, religion, history, geography, science, social conditions, natural wonders—why, its coverage is as broad as the earth and as high as the heavens.

"Awake!" pledges itself to righteous principles, to exposing hidden foes and subtle dangers, to championing freedom for all, to comforting mourners and strengthening those disheartened by the failures of a delinquent world, reflecting sure hope for the establishment of a righteous New World.

Get acquainted with "Awake!" Keep awake by reading "Awake!"

PUBLISHED SEMIMONTHLY BY
WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY, INC.
117 Adams Street — Brooklyn 1, N. Y., U. S. A.
N. H. KNORR, *President* — GRANT SUITER, *Secretary*
Five cents a copy — One dollar a year

Remittances should be sent to office in your country in compliance with regulations to guarantee safe delivery of money. Remittances are accepted at Brooklyn from countries where no office is located, by international money order only. Subscription rates in different countries are here stated in local currency.

Notice of expiration (with renewal blank) is sent at least two issues before subscription expires.

Change of address when sent to our office may be expected effective within one month. Send your old as well as new address.

Offices	Yearly Subscription Rate
America, U.S., 117 Adams St., Brooklyn 1, N.Y.	$1
Australia, 11 Beresford Rd., Strathfield, N.S.W.	5s
Canada, 40 Irwin Ave., Toronto 5, Ontario	$1
England, 34 Craven Terrace, London, W. 2	5s
South Africa, 623 Boston House, Cape Town	5s

Entered as second-class matter at Brooklyn, N. Y., Act of March 3, 1879. Printed in U. S. A.

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AWAKE!

"Now it is high time to awake."—*Romans 13:11*

Volume XXXI | Brooklyn, N. Y., February 8, 1950 | Number 3

IN THE NAME OF TOLERANCE

Much is said today about tolerance. Not the tolerance that allows free expression of differing opinion, but a tolerance that silently endures contradictory opinion. But this silent tolerance is deemed essential only in religious matters. Much is said about brotherhood, but always relative to religions. There are no Brotherhood Weeks for politicians, or financiers, or militarists. Tolerance to them does not mean silent endurance of clashing opinion. They plunge into sarcastic word battles and fiery cold wars, loose their verbal broadsides in tempestuous rough-and-tumble that truth may triumph over error. But the modern view is that Bible matters must not be so threshed out in the open forum of public discussion. In the Bible realm free speech becomes intolerance; religious error becomes unassailable; blunt or sarcastic words horrify. But in the field of the Bible, what better authority than the Bible? This article looks into the Scriptures to see whether plain and even sarcastic speech stands or falls before the divine standard.

"BROTHERHOOD is not only a generous impulse but also a divine command. Others may be moved into brotherhood only by sentiment. We acknowledge brotherhood as a religious duty. All the faiths represented here claim as a common heritage the great thoughts of the Hebrew prophets. The prophets were among the first of men who saw that the concept of the fatherhood of God required men to do justice to one another."

So said President Truman to the National Conference of Christians and Jews when pledging support of their Brotherhood Week. His words raise questions. Is brotherhood among differing church groups a divine command and a religious duty? Was that outstanding Hebrew prophet Moses saying so when he warned concerning other religions: "Neither shalt thou serve their gods; for that will be a snare unto thee. But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods"? (Deuteronomy 7:16; Exodus 34:13, 15) And was Christ the Son of God admitting brotherhood with the Pharisees when He labeled them sons of Satan?—John 8:44.

Realize that the way of Christian integrity does not tread the path of compromise. Jesus advocated no interfaith movement to consolidate scribe, Pharisee, Sadducee and Christian. Rather than such a merger, Jesus told Christians: "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind; both shall fall into the ditch." (Matthew 15:14) When the mentally blind had their eyes opened they abandoned their former bedarkened sects. They tried no foolish uniting of Christianity with the doctrine of Pharisee and Sadducee, for that religious leaven would have contaminated pure Christianity. (Matthew 16:6, 12; Galatians 5:9) Neither Jesus nor His disciples tolerated unequal yoking of believer and infidel, righteousness and unrighteousness, light and darkness, Christ and Belial, God's temple and idols. Not interfaith but sep-

arateness, they demanded.—2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

Nor did faithful men before Christ champion interfaith. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3) When the Israelites entered Canaanland they were not instructed to launch Brotherhood Weeks to promote harmony between themselves and the false worshipers there. Such weak fraternizing was practiced later, but the price was prohibitive. On the subtle altar of religious peace they sacrificed integrity toward Jehovah. As the centuries rolled by their spineless backsliding gathered momentum, till finally it swept them to national disaster and Babylonian captivity. But faithful men sidestepped the sly interfaith snares and weak brotherhood compromises. They counted the cost of religious peace, and when it added up to their integrity toward God they balked at the price.

Tolerance for What?

Today most religionists readily pay over integrity to Scriptural principle *for outward harmony between sects and* cults. Popular belief once held that the many separate religions were merely different roads leading to heaven, but now modern religious engineers want to cement together into a many-laned highway these different religions roads. They yearn for one world church. Realizing that this means drawing together a conglomeration of ritual and doctrine that clashes and repels and pushes apart, they cry out for tolerance, hail tolerance as the glue needed to cement into one the diverse sects.

Tolerance for what? Why, tolerance for error. For a Christian to enter the interfaith fold would mean he must tolerate pagan teachings under a Christian label, *tolerate the tenet of a three-in-one* God, tolerate claims that God fiendishly tortures souls in fiery lakes, tolerate the blasphemy that for money God will release suffering souls from a flaming purgatory, tolerate bingo gambling, tolerate the view that Jesus was not Messiah but an impostor, tolerate clerical hypocrisy and political meddling, tolerate religious warmongering, and chaplain-blessing of Christian killing Christian, and on and on would flow the endless stream of blasphemies against God that the Christian would have to tolerate in silence. He would have to wink at sin, shut eyes to wrong, plug ears to blasphemy, make his tongue dumb to silently tolerate evil. Fearing to offend by word or deed, tolerating in the name of tolerance every satanic snare, he would convert to an unresisting worm squirming its way through a useless existence till eternally dead.

This sly, subtle, modern doctrine of tolerance that snakes its devious way through the land is not true tolerance, but is actually intolerance in devilish disguise. In the name of tolerance *men* have become intolerant of exposure of religious evildoers, intolerant of unadulterated Bible truth that makes men free, intolerant of gospel-preaching that *releases prisoners from false religions and* sets them moving on the road to life. The modern tolerance-cult gives new meaning to the word tolerance. To them it does not mean tolerating expression of opinion different from theirs; to them it means tolerating differences that must never be vigorously debated. To challenge is to stir up hate, they say. This *they cannot* tolerate.

Actually, the tolerance-howlers are not tolerant in matters on which they feel strongly. For example, do they tolerate in silence policies political, commercial, social and military that they oppose? Would there be such a hot cold war if they did? Silent toleration of error seems to apply only to the religious realm. Why? The reason so many can grandly say we should mumly tolerate religious differences is that they consider religion of little practical consequence. So they argue, Why highlight differences and

create frictions, why not live and let live? With their nearsighted and materialistic vision they see not God in the picture, fail to see the need of letting truth triumph over error through public discussion, of letting Bible truth be preached even though it divide father, mother, son, daughter. (Luke 12:51-53) They prefer blasphemy against God to error exposure that shocks vulnerable religious susceptibilities, because they appreciate not that "God must prove true, though every man be false". (Romans 3:4, *An Amer. Trans.*) Better that mankind be divided and some right than united and all wrong.

Proper to Use Sarcasm?

In the name of tolerance some legislators would become intolerant of freedom of speech and worship. They would frame mischief by law. (Psalm 94:20) Last year a bill was introduced in an Australian state assembly to prevent "blasphemous writings likely to incite abhorrence against any religion or any religious denomination or sect". One of the published purposes of the bill was to halt "the insulting and abusive slanders on all forms of organized religion in the journals of such bodies as the Communist party and the witnesses of Jehovah". Any prosecuted would have the burden of proving their literature not guilty; it would be considered guilty till proved innocent. Again, a bill introduced in the California state legislature sought to make it unlawful for anyone to distribute or prepare "any propaganda designed to belittle, ridicule, upbraid, condemn or hold up to scorn and contempt any religious system or denomination". More than ten years ago the United States Supreme Court declared such gag laws unconstitutional.—310 U. S. 296.

Occasionally a reader of *Awake!* will make a similar protest against the use of sarcasm. One recently objected: "Is the sarcasm necessary, that appears so consistently in the main articles of *Awake!*? Can't we have straight reporting for a change, and leave sarcasm to the world and its writers? Tact should be our Theocratic weapon. Why isn't tact being used in the *Awake!*?" Undoubtedly these questions are asked in sincerity, and deserve respectful answering.

Is Sarcasm Theocratic?

First, there is a proper hatred. Jehovah hates liars and evildoers. (Psalm 5:5, 6; Proverbs 6:16-19) Christ shares that hatred. (Hebrews 1:8, 9) All Christians can say Amen to David's words: "Do I not hate them that hate thee, O LORD? And do I not loathe them who oppose thee? With the deadliest hatred, I hate them." (Psalm 139:21, 22, *An Amer. Trans.*) Nor is that hatred suppressed or concealed hypocritically, but finds frequent and blunt expression in God's Word. Yes, it even finds outlet in cutting sarcasm and mocking ridicule.

Job called his three "religious friends" "forgers of lies" and "physicians of no value". (Job 13:4) Isaiah pulled no punches when he exposed religious shepherds supposed to watch over God's flock: "His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping [dreaming, or talking in their sleep], lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough." (Isaiah 56:10, 11; *margin*) And what about Jeremiah's slashing verbal barrage that castigated Israel's spiritual adultery with demon gods by likening her to lust-maddened beasts?—"How dare you say, 'I am not stained, I have not sought the Baals'? Look at your life in the Valley, think how you have carried on: you are a swift young camel, that doubles on her tracks, a heifer running wild in the wold, heated with passion, snuffing the breeze, in the rutting season—who can control her? No male need trouble to search for her; all can find her at *mating-time*."—Jeremiah 2:23, 24, *Moffatt*.

Who will contend that Job and Isaiah

and Jeremiah spoke in unruffled tones void of oral emphasis or feeling! Can any conceive such devastating condemnations parroted out of mouths minus the vocal inflections of scorn and disgust the words cry out for? Who can argue that this was no more than "plain speech"? that this strong language was weakly uttered in placating or neutral voice? that the speakers' hearts were not in it? The heart represents the seat of motives and emotions, and we can be sure an abundance of righteous indignation welled up in those three hearts to make those three mouths pour out the words with all the feeling needed.

"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," said Jesus. (Matthew 12:34) Hence we can be positive that Jesus also allowed heartfelt feelings to merge with ideas from the mind so that both might find full expression in the words that came out of His mouth. He spoke with feeling when He referred to murderous, crafty Herod as "that fox", and when He spoke of some as brutish swine before whom the pearls of truth should not be cast. (Matthew 7:6; Luke 13:32) Was He not ridiculing the hypocrites that presume to remove specks from the eyes of others while they have beams in their own? (Matthew 7:3-5) And now ridiculous He painted clergy that fussed over minor matters but flouted major duties! If you saw a finicky fellow strain a gnat out of his drink but leave in and swallow a camel, would you not brand him a ridiculous fool? So Jesus called such clergymen fools and said: "Ye blind guides, that strain out the gnat, and swallow the camel!"—Matthew 23:17, 23, 24, *Am. Stan. Ver.*

And who is such a dullard that he cannot sense the deep concern in Jesus' voice when He cries out: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye cleanse the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full from extortion and excess. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which outwardly appear beautiful, but inwardly are full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Ye serpents, ye offspring of vipers, how shall ye escape the judgment of hell [Gehenna]?" (Matthew 23:25, 27, 33, *Am. Stan. Ver.*; margin) Later He told the same class, "Ye are of your father the devil." (John 8:44) Peter referred to backsliders as dogs returning to their vomit and as washed sows returning to their miry wallows.—2 Peter 2:22.

Unmistakable Mockery and Derision

If some still say the foregoing is not sarcasm but only blunt speech spiritlessly spoken, let them weigh the following. Again give ear to Job as he addresses his three "friends": "No doubt you are the men who know! Wisdom will die with you!" Did Job mean that? Hardly! Seconds later he told them: "Ask the very beasts, and they will teach you; ask the wild birds—they will tell you; crawling creatures will instruct you, fish in the sea will inform you." Not so wise, if needing to go to crawling creatures to get some sense. Those men thought they knew it all, thought all wisdom resided in their heads and would perish with them. That is what Job was telling them. Irony is used when a person says one thing and means just the opposite. Job's words dripped sarcastic irony!—Job 12:2, 7, 8, *Moffatt.*

For an example of mockery open your Bible to Isaiah chapters 13 and 14 and read there the taunting song aimed at Babylon and its king. Also, note the taunting ring in the following: "The mighty men of Babylon have forborn to fight, they have remained in their holds: their might hath failed; they became as women." (*Jeremiah 51:30*) On another occasion God's then-holy city tossed her head and laughed in scorn at Assyrian king Sennacherib because he stupidly blasphemed God: "She scorns you, she laughs at you, Sion the maiden, she tosses her head at you, Jerusalem the

maid. Whom have you insulted and blasphemed, at whom have you dared raise your voice, and lift your eyes on high? —the deity of Israel!"—2 Kings 19:21, 22, *Moffatt.*

Wishy-washy Israel at one time trickled aimlessly along its religious course, weaving unsteadily between Jehovah's worship and Baalism. Then, a showdown. "Elijah came near unto all the people, and said, How long go ye limping between the two sides? if Jehovah be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." Elijah proposed a test: put a bullock on Baal's altar and one on Jehovah's altar, let the Baal prophets call on their god to devour their sacrifice by fire, let Elijah ask Jehovah to consume his by fire, and the deity who answers is the true God. The 450 demon prophets "called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon". They shouted and leaped, and cut themselves with knives and lances after their manner till the blood gushed. But no answer. Then, "It came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud; for he is a god: either he is musing, or he is gone aside, or he is on a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth and must be awaked."—1 Kings 18:21-28, *A. S. V.*

Jehovah Mocks and Derides

Elijah mocked the false prophets, ridiculed them, taunted them, sarcastically suggested to them that their god was preoccupied, or astray, or asleep on the job and needed to be roused. Was Jehovah displeased, did He deem His sarcastic prophet intolerant? No, for despite the handicap that Elijah's sacrifice was repeatedly drenched with water "the fire of Jehovah fell, and consumed the burnt-offering, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench". (1 Kings 18:30-38, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) What God approves shall we disapprove?

If one disapproves of properly used sarcasm he will have to disapprove of not only *Awake!*, not only prophets, not only apostles, not only Christ, but also Jehovah Himself! When men and nations plot and rage after world domination they scheme against Jehovah, for He has given world rulership to Christ's kingdom. How does God react? "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision." Or, "The Lord mocks at them; the Lord makes sport of them." (Psalm 2:4; *Moffatt; An Amer. Trans.*) In other words, they are a joke, make themselves a laughingstock. Puny men warring against Almighty God? Too ridiculous to take seriously. Worthy only of mocking gibes and derisive laughter. Jehovah reserves for himself the last laugh: "I in my turn will laugh in the hour of your doom, I will mock when your terror comes."—Proverbs 1:26, *An Amer. Trans.*

As men sow they reap. If they persist in planting folly they must expect to harvest ridicule. Certainly Christendom's religions sow folly in the name of serving God. Their sermons range from silly twaddle to political meddling. They wheedle and beg, demand and gamble for money. Much of their public praying is nauseatingly selfish or maddeningly blasphemous. (Matthew 6:5; James 4:3) Jehovah evaluates such spiritual feasts and sacrifices as follows: "I will rebuke your seed, and will spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your feasts." (Malachi 2:3; Amos 5:21, *Am. Stan. Ver.*) In the name of tolerance Jehovah God does not silently tolerate impure sacrifices.

Why "Awake!" Uses Cutting Speech

False teaching in God's name must be attacked in a spirited way, with righteous indignation, appealing not only to the mind but also to the heart, not just to the intellect but to the emotions as well, to impress the hearer or reader with the seriousness of the error. The issue is bigger than avoiding wounded religious pride. It is a matter of eternal life

or eternal death, and better to wound now with corrective words that cut than to tolerate in silence the evil and allow the evildoer to land himself and others in the ditch of destruction. (Proverbs 28:23; Matthew 15:14) Furthermore, the issue is bigger than human salvation; God's name is involved. It must be cleared, vindicated. Hence it is necessary to roll up the sleeves of our vocabulary to grapple adequately with the many blasphemies against our Creator.

In their fight against satanic error Christians ask no quarter, want none, get none, and give none. They have courage to speak unpopular truth, and *Awake!* stands shoulder to shoulder with them, unwilling to disembowel itself of intestinal fortitude to please men or Devil. After strong speech from Jesus religionists complained, "Us also dost thou insult!" (Luke 11:45, *Rotherham*) But Jesus did not change His way of speaking. When Paul attacked idolatrous religion its devotees feared that "the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised" and especially that "this business of ours will be discredited". But even threat of mobbing did not alter Paul's message. (Acts 19:23-29; *An Amer. Trans.*) Neither will *Awake!* convert to the stylish doctrine of tolerance for religious error, which is no more than a subtle scheme of Satan to gag Christian mouths. *Awake!* will not "develop character" with the tolerationists and set itself up as "holier than Bible writers" and "holier than Jehovah", who were not averse to strong and sarcastic speech to slash and rip away the sheep's clothing behind which religious wolves masquerade.—Matthew 7:15; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, *An Amer. Trans.*

Because *Awake!* is written for persons of good-will and not for errant religious leaders, some may question the use of sarcasm aimed at clergymen. But what about the Bible sarcasm? Many times the barbed remarks were spoken directly to the offenders, but not always. Even when they were, usually the common people were standing by to see the outcome. Others were present when Elijah needled the Baal prophets. And Jesus' scathing denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees. Doesn't it open with these words: "Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples"! (Matthew 23:1) Moreover, hasn't God caused all this sarcasm to be recorded in the Bible, which is circulated to all classes of persons?

However, this point cannot be too forcefully made, namely, that sarcasm should be the exception rather than the rule, and then used only when facts have been presented that justify it. Remember how Elijah waited for a full morning of failure by the Baal prophets before he mocked them, at noontime?

In conclusion, *Awake!* cannot please all. It does not try to. The Jews wanted a sign, the Greeks wanted showy wisdom. Jehovah God gave them neither, so His message was a stumblingstone to the Jews and foolishness to the Greeks. (1 Corinthians 1:22, 23) Yet God did not allow them to dictate the message *to be preached*. Nor are the world's skeptics or its wise men of today allowed to dictate His message. The aim of *Awake!* is not circulation at any price, popularity at any price, or religious peace at any price. The magazine's purpose is to please God, to tell facts, to expose hypocrisy and blasphemy, to comfort mourners, to show the Kingdom hope to a world overflowing with misery and woe, to point to Jehovah's righteous new world. *Awake!* writes for those who sigh and cry for all the abominable conditions in the land, who are not satisfied with present conditions or imperfect human leaders but who look for something better. As it strives to meet this purpose it sticks to righteous principles, Bible principles, and among which is found full justification for sturdy speech.

And in those righteous Bible principles nothing is found to justify evil in the name of tolerance.

JAPAN TODAY

By "Awake!" correspondent in Japan

THE most noticeable thing about Japan is its people. Everywhere you look there are people both old and young. Plenty of people on the sidewalks; plenty more in the streets. People on bicycles and people on buses and streetcars. Everywhere masses of people—some riding, some walking, and some just standing around or squatting on their heels. In city or country there are people wherever one goes, and wherever there are people there are babies. Most of the women carry babies on their backs, and tied to the backs of many young girls and boys are more babies. The baby-raising business is indeed one of Japan's greatest industries, with production figures well over a million births a year.

Feeding the hungry mouths of this vast population is the most serious problem. There are approximately 80,000,000 people living in 147,690 square miles, yet only 15 percent of this area can be cultivated, because the greater part of the islands is mountainous. During the war most of the food went to the military forces, so much so that even workers in the war industries got only two light meals a day. Since the ending of hostilities conditions have gradually improved, and this last year, the first in many, the people seemed to have gotten enough to eat.

By stringent government control on both production and consumption, Japan is able to raise approximately 85 percent of her food. All basic items are rationed and prices are fixed by the government. A quota system is used for all farms, one in which the kinds of crops, the area planted for each crop, the quantity produced, as well as the price received for each foodstuff, is set by the Japanese authorities. If a farmer is unable to raise his quota, he goes to the blackmarket, buys the balance needed, and turns it over to the quota-collecting agency for about one-fifth of what it cost him.

Rice is the chief item in the diet, with just enough pickled turnip or other vegetable and a small amount of dried fish added to make the dish tasty. White and sweet potatoes, wheat, barley and corn are raised in limited amounts. Seasonings, such as soy sauce, ginger, sesame, etc., are extensively used. Green tea, without sugar or milk, is the national drink, for coffee, though enjoyed, is priced out of the general public's reach. Steamed beans are a favorite breakfast food, and early in the day, from five to six o'clock, men and boys on bicycles or afoot go through the streets and lanes selling steamed beans, often slightly fermented. As they go they sing out *"Nato! Nato!"* You see, it is considered impolite to shout, and the Japanese are sticklers for politeness, so they sing their bean song ever so loudly.

Foreigners are required to purchase their food from Overseas Sales Stores, provided for that purpose. All the food in these stores is imported so as not to further burden the limited domestic supplies. The canned and packaged foods

are mostly from the United States, with butter coming from Denmark, cheese from Italy, oleo from the U.S.A. and meat from Canada and South America. Clothing, cars, gasoline and fuel for heating are also sold by this Overseas organization, but only to foreigners.

Housing, No. 2 Problem

The Tokyo-Yokohama area has the greatest population, with the second-densest section in Osaka-Kobe. In the Tokyo area it is estimated that out of every 100 homes, 65 were destroyed during the war by explosives and fire bombs. Rebuilding has progressed slowly, so today housing is still a major problem, second only to food. The people are crowded together in the smallest possible space, with many families living in a single tiny room. These houses, with their thin walls, multiple sliding windows and doors, and their flimsy paper-covered sliding partitions, are highly suitable for the warm summer weather. But how tragic for the cold winter season! Japanese homes have no central heating systems; only small charcoal stoves for cooking, big enough for a single pot. There are no warm overstuffed sofas in which to curl up. One sits on the cold floor, at best only thinly padded. At night there is no warm bed in which to sleep. A large stuffed *futon* about one-third as thick as a mattress spread on the floor serves as a bed—delightfully cool in the summer; miserably and painfully cold in the winter.

Coming to these islands in the winter, visitors might think the ruby-red cheeks of the children are the picture of health. On a second look, however, they would see that the cheeks and hands of the poor children are badly chapped from the cold. Their noses seem to be always running during the winter months. This sad condition is due to their cold houses and their lack of sufficient clothing. Clothing is another serious problem for the masses, for many of them lost their entire wardrobes in the wartime fires and have since been unable to replace them. Clothing is rationed and any made of cotton is quite expensive. While the older women still wear the Japanese kimono, the younger women and girls prefer Western styles. All men, with the exception of the beskirted priests, wear Western costumes in public, but at home, especially the older men, like to relax in robes centuries-old in design.

Sanitation conditions, while not as primitive as in some parts of the earth, are nonetheless much worse than they should be. With few exceptions there are no modern baths or toilet facilities in the homes of the people. Each neighborhood in the large towns has a public bath available for a small fee. The sewerage system, however, is most deplorable. Toilets equipped with wooden buckets must be emptied every ten days, the service charge being 10 yen the bucketful. The contents of these "honey buckets", as they are called, are carted off to the farms and used as fertilizer. In the summertime when the "honey carts" are passing they radiate such a terrible and indescribable stench it reaches to high heaven, forcing the whole neighborhood to close all doors and windows despite the excessive heat.

Other Difficulties and Problems

In the Tokyo area besides the streetcars and buses there are electric trains serving the principal sections, and most of the time these are all jammed to the limit with people. Gasoline is so highly restricted it is seldom used and most trucks and taxis operate on charcoal or wood-burning furnaces. A funny sight to see these stop to fire up. Such clouds of billowy smoke! From a short distance it appears the whole neighborhood is on fire. Most hauling, including loads the size of 5 or 6 telephone poles, is by means of bicycle trailers or pushcarts. As a visitor, ox- and horse-drawn carts would attract your attention because the "driver"

instead of riding, always walks ahead leading the plodding animal and its load.

Throughout this country human power is still the most common force used to turn the wheels of industry. Electrical, Diesel and steam power is still very limited. The farms average only 2½ acres in size and here handpower is used to sow, cultivate and harvest the crops, including grains. It is hardly correct to call it "manpower", since the women are the chief burden-bearers. After doing a man's share of work in the field the women take care of the cooking, homemaking and the raising of the children.

Whether due to a lag in education during the war, or an inadequate system of teaching, the average college graduate of Japan is hardly equal in general knowledge to the average American high-school graduate. On the whole the Japanese also seem handicapped with a lack of initiative, perhaps due to centuries of regimentation when they were told when to think, what to think, when to act and how to act. Receiving freedom now, they do not seem to know how to make full use of it to their best advantage.

Japan's "Big Brother"

The occupation of Japan by the Allied powers has been beneficial educationally, socially and in many other ways, for these people have received valuable training in conducting along democratic lines their own government, schools, hospitals and other institutions. Public health and sanitation engineers have come in to supervise the construction of modern underground sewerage systems.

Along industrial lines modern methods have been introduced, improvements in working hours and conditions have been made, and a long-overdue emancipation of Japan's women from their life of servitude has begun. These advancements, it is true, have manifested themselves only in the large populated areas, and it will require a long time for them to penetrate the rural communities.

"Benevolent and protective," that is the way the Japanese speak of the Occupation forces—Japan's "big brother". By "protective" they refer to the immediate threat of communism that has moved right up to Japan's back door in China. Within the country the communists are only a small minority, only about 5 percent, yet they are exceedingly vocal in their statements and plenty active in instigating acts of violence. Politically, the remainder of the population is, roughly speaking, about 65 percent in favor of the policies of the Occupation and about 30 percent either disinterested, uninformed or too old and set in their way of thinking to wish any change from the traditional feudal system of the past.

Religiously, Japan today is about the same as it has been for the past hundreds of years, and, no doubt, if the apostle Paul were to visit this country today he would exclaim, as he did in Athens 1900 years ago, "in all things you are extremely devoted to the worship of demons." (Acts 17:22, *Diaglott* translation) The so-called "Christian" missionaries that have flocked here in great numbers since the war have done little to change this condition. There are thousands upon thousands of shrines and temples, big ones and small ones, each and all dedicated to some demon god.

Everything the people do seems to have a religious significance. When frog legs are exported, one of the pagan priests is called to comfort the "spirits" of the frogs. When eels are eaten to give health during the coming winter, a religious ritual is observed to comfort the "spirits" of the eels before cooking. When a house is to be built, the priests of these pagan gods are called to erect an altar and to declare which way the house may face and where the windows and doors may be put. Almost every home has its own altar where the poor and ignorant householder offers food, flowers and prayers to his gods.

It is obvious that in spite of improve-

ments along some lines over the former state of affairs, still there remain many barriers and stumblingstones in the path of the good and honest peace-loving people of Japan. These must yet be removed in order that they may behold the great Signal, Christ Jesus, whom Jehovah God has set up as the Leader and Commander of the people, the King of the new world of righteousness, man's only hope.

Nazi Crimes Outdated

Motives behind the suppression by the army of its film, "Nuremberg—Its Lesson for Today," described as a powerful indictment against anti-Semitism, are being questioned here. Produced to tell the public the story of the Nazis' crimes, the film was documented by captured Nazi films of the organized mass murder of Jews. The official explanation offered by the army for suppression is that it is outdated, technically imperfect, and contains too much horror. However, some quarters in Washington are charging that the army fears criticism of the failure of its denazification program and is afraid of stirring up public opinion in view of new occupation policies, which provide for the return of Nazis to respectability. It has been indicated, also, from sources within the government, that renewed public resentment of Nazism might interfere with army and State Department plans for the new Western German republic and might complicate the creation of a solid anti-Communist Western Europe.—New York *Daily Compass*, September 29, 1949.

Folly of Persecution

The history of persecution is a history of endeavours to cheat nature, to make water run up hill, to twist a rope of sand. It makes no difference whether the actors be many or one, a tyrant or a mob. A mob is a society of bodies voluntarily bereaving themselves of reason and traversing its work. The mob is man voluntarily descending to the nature of the beast. Its fit hour of activity is night. Its actions are insane, like its whole constitution. It persecutes a principle; it would whip a right; it would tar and feather justice, by inflicting fire and outrage upon the houses and persons of those who have these. It resembles the prank of boys, who run with fire engines to put out the ruddy aurora streaming to the stars. The inviolate spirit turns their spite against the wrongdoers. The martyr can not be dishonoured. Every lash inflicted is a tongue of fame; every prison a more illustrious abode; every burned book or house enlightens the world; every suppressed or expunged word reverberates through the earth from side to side. The minds of men are at last aroused; reason looks out and justifies her own and malice finds all her work in vain. It is the whipper who is whipped and the tyrant who is undone. From Ralph Emerson's essay on "Compensation".

"Age of Triviality"

The president of West Virginia's Marshall College has gone on record as believing Americans are killing time in an "age of triviality". Dr. Stewart H. Smith declared: "Some people say that we are living in the atomic age. Others call it the age of science. It is really the age of triviality. Most of us are using all kinds of childish escape mechanisms to avoid being serious about the things that really matter." He continued to tell thousands of delegates attending the education association convention that Americans are "witnessing a progressive degeneration of our standards of taste, our sense of values and our judgment of what is sound and true and valid. Fifteen years ago the radio programs were well filled with really good programs—the *world's great music, great plays, good speakers,* talented comedians, serious and effective reporting of the events of the day. But today thousands of radio stations, potential instruments of cultural and spiritual growth, are filling the air waves with blood-curdling crime stories, anemic soap operas, time-killing breakfast club programs. From the lovely melodies of Stephen Foster and Victor Herbert, we went to ragtime, *then to jazz, to jive and finally to the dignified* title of 'be-bop'. I am told the current readers consume 20,000,000 comic books weekly. This is just another effortless way to kill time."

Mountains and Oceans of Oil

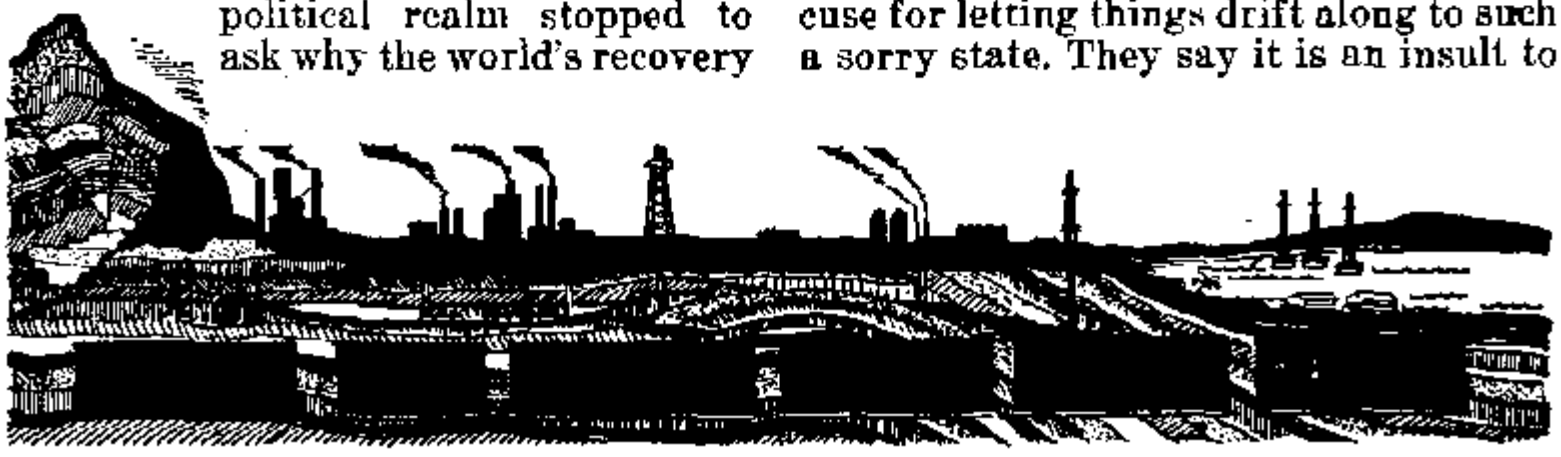
OF ALL the panicky signs of a disastrous oil shortage during 1948, the most alarming appeared in the form of a price upshot that catapulted crude oil from $1.25 to $3.00 a barrel delivered on the New York market.

Oil tycoons, economic prophets and political soothsayers painted the signs of the times in such lugubrious colors that U. S. foreign-policy makers worked overtime to involve America in an all-out defense program covering Greece, Turkey, Iran, Arabia and the general Middle East area. A cordon of treaties, pipelines and guns was thrown up around the fabulously rich Middle East oil reserves being exploited by British and American oil monopolies. A cold war of hot words and bristling threats reverberated back and forth across the border between Iran and Soviet Russia, and still rumbles on.

Keynote of the warning cries that oil, "the lifeblood of economy," was apt to be *cut off by the Russian bear* was struck by the chief of the State Department's office of Near Eastern Affairs, Loy W. Henderson. He shuddered out loud through the American *press and radio to think* that if Anglo-American domination of oil production in the Middle East were interfered with by the Russians, the Communists would be "in a position to hamper, if not pervert the rehabilitation of western Europe and to retard the economic development of Africa and southern Asia". No one in the political realm stopped to ask why the world's recovery program had been made dependent upon oil siphoned from the world's most defenseless and prostrate countries lying just up against the borders of Soviet Russia. Rather, on July 25, 1949, President Truman called for a stepped-up arms program that would pour $300,000,000 more into the defenses of the Middle East and its gateway.

And the general public, frightened by the specter of gasoline rationing and heatless homes, has swallowed the hysteria. They scarcely hear the dissenting voice of the few who ask if things can really be as bad off as they sound. Has it *come to* be a matter of *life or death* to world economy that the United States and Great Britain continue to tap Arabian oil? Or the fact that Middle East *labor and production* costs are so cheap that oil monopolies find more billions of profits from the Middle East oil fields than from anywhere else—would that have anything to do with it?

If Soviet Russia interferes with Middle East oil supplies, will the rest of the world's economy, which depends upon oil, collapse? Will European recovery fall apart? Will the American domestic oil supply dry up? Some men with both hands weighted with irrefutable facts wave the evidence in the face of the scaremongers and call the whole thing hugaboo. While Russian interference would work a hardship under present conditions, they say there is no valid excuse for letting things drift along to such a sorry state. They say it is an insult to



American ingenuity to make the country dependent for oil upon any foreign sources.

True, at present rate of consumption the 22 billion barrels of proved oil resources remaining in the ground of continental United States would be exhausted in another 11 years. Prospectors who really feel an oil scare, however, seem always to find more new oil-producing areas. (In 1925 the nation had known reserves big enough to last only 10 years.) And of the two thousand million barrels of oil consumed each year a prodigious amount of it is wasted.

Proponents of self-sufficiency point to improved cracking processes that can now double the yield of gasoline from petroleum. New techniques of drilling can sink an old-fashioned 3,000-foot well down to 18,000 feet and the well oftentimes comes to life again to produce from 30 percent to 50 percent of its original yield. Thus countless fields of America's 425,000 oil wells (95 percent of the world's total) may prove to be found hoarding new frontiers right under their own derricks. And what can be said for the still available natural reserves at the tip of America's drill bits can be said for Canada, Mexico, Brazil, or just about any other area in the Western Hemisphere or in Africa or in Europe, or even to some extent in the island country of Great Britain.

Then, besides the still unproved areas in the United States, there is a land area of one-half million square miles in the Alaskan, Canadian and Arctic regions where oil seepages reveal unknown reserves of oil that can be drawn off at less expense than fighting a third world war.

It is likely that the investigators who argue for the development of a self-sufficient oil industry go to extremes in their predictions. They estimate that there are at hand sufficient reserves within the U. S. national boundaries to supply American economy with gasoline and other petroleum products at present rates of consumption for a thousand years. Even though some of their estimates must be taken with a grain of salt, it is refreshing to turn for a moment from the oil-scare hysteria to hear what these investigators have to say.

Tidelands

Over and above the practice of oil conservation, new cracking processes and drilling techniques, and the tapping of uncharted areas, the optimists point to an entirely new frontier of oil-producing ground. It is an area one-twelfth the size of the nation's land area. Proved rich in petroleum and other natural resources, the new frontier extends seaward and under water. It consists of the continental shelf or land masses less than 600 feet below the surface of the seas. The land masses or "tidelands" extend under the shallow waters of the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico as far as thirty miles and more, narrowing under the Pacific waters in places to as little as five miles, but yielding to ingenious methods of underwater well-drilling to disclose at least 10 billion barrels of oil, or almost half the known remaining land reserves.

Although dangerous, underwater oil prospecting is admittedly less hazardous than fighting an atomic war over oil. It is expensive, or cheap, depending on the way one looks at it. One underwater well 14,000 feet deep costs half a million dollars; but one B-36 superfighter costs as much as fifteen of these oil wells. A floating platform big enough to house work crews ten miles off shore and strong enough to withstand ocean hurricanes costs anywhere from $200,000 (the price of an obsolete bomber) to $2,000,000 (the price of two atom bombs). Not long ago Congress voted $24,000,000 for scientific research on oil developments, and $189,000,000 for the construction of one super aircraft carrier. This latter project was scuttled in favor of 39 B-36 bombers costing $300,000,000. That is ten times

all the lease money so far spent on tideland oil grounds.

And what if all the continental shelves bordering all the countries in the world were tapped? It is said that they would yield thirty million cubic miles of oil-bearing sediments to produce 500 billion barrels of oil.

Oil from Shale and Coal

Another immeasurable reservoir of oil lies compressed and untapped in common shale rock. Containing from 5 to 80 gallons of liquid fuel to the ton, shale can be found in many states in the United States. The richest area yet discovered is the gigantic Green River formation, stretching through 2,600 square miles of western Colorado, 4,700 square miles of Utah and 9,200 square miles of Wyoming. One lone mountain in Colorado is assayed to hold 300 billion barrels of oil, waiting to be roasted out of the rock. That is six times as much oil as the world has consumed since the first oil well was sunk in the United States, in 1859. It is enough, this 1,000-square-mile mountain of oil, to keep America's autos, planes, Diesel locomotives, oil-consuming industries and two million home furnaces going at current rates for generations. To get an impression of its richness, just consider: a single 70-foot seam in the Colorado shale mountain treasures twenty times as much oil as was found in the fabulous east Texas oil strike.

Experimentation proves that oil can be extracted from shale rock for about $2.60 a barrel and piped to California and New York at no greater cost than natural crudes cost at present.

The remaining proved natural oil deposits, currently estimated at 22 billion barrels, constitute only 0.4 percent of the oil that could be produced in the United States. Seven times as much oil can be extracted from shale; and yet shale oil constitutes only 3.6 percent of the known potential. By far the most prodigious storehouse of synthetic liquid fuels is to be found in coal. Coal constitutes more than 95 percent of America's mineral fuel-energy reserves. At present consumption rates, that is enough fuel energy to last the country for 3,000 years.

There are two basic methods in use for converting coal into oil—direct hydrogenation and gas synthesis. The less expensive conversion, by hydrogenation, produces gasoline at a cost of 12c to 15c a gallon. An experiment, now under way in Alabama, may by-pass both methods by an inexpensive short cut. The new method is to ignite an underground coal mine and catch the escaping gas and convert it into liquid fuels.

Cost of a Synthetic Oil Industry

While these mountains, mines and oceans of oil have been lying around them all the time, the big oil prospectors have shunned the initial costs of exploiting them. More immediate profits lay in tapping oil fields of natural crudes wherever they could find them, even though it be thousands of miles from home within the boundaries of precarious nations where the greedy struggle for oil endangers world stability and threatens to touch off a third world war.

Servile government officials, toadying to the demands of the prospectors, have paid scant attention to the black-gold mines in their own back yards. Not until the Nazi menace to world domination threatened American fuel supplies were the oil tycoons and political lackeys forced to acknowledge the oil substitutes on the home front. It was as late as 1948 that Congress voted the first noteworthy search for petroleum reserves. It allotted the Bureau of Mines $24,000,000 to explore the synthetic field. That amount is hardly two-thirds of the $38,000,000 which the Arabian oil monopoly, Aramco, filched from the U. S. Navy in overcharges for Middle East oil during the heat of World War II. It is just one-fourth the $99,000,000 which

the United States poured into Saudi Arabia up to 1947 in behalf of Aramco's oil concessions.

On its modest budget, the Bureau of Mines has already produced evidence sufficient to prove that the United States (or almost any similar area on earth) could develop a synthetic oil industry that would make the country self-sufficient under almost any conceivable conditions. The Bureau has proposed the construction of a gigantic fuels industry. If built, it would become the biggest single American industry, employing millions of people, and producing the minimum requirement of 2,000,000 barrels a day.

If the bureau's program were adopted, natural gas would be converted into motor gasoline at the rate of 150,000 barrels a day. Shales would supply 850,000 barrels a day of heating oils. Coal would contribute one million barrels of various type fuels to round out the program. Big oil companies, fighting the program, say the cost of the industry would be closer to 18 billion dollars instead of 12 billion dollars. But seeing that modern Americans have "billions for extravagant waste, nothing for social welfare", why haggle over a paltry six billion?

Twelve billion dollars is slightly more than is spent in one year on the navy, air force and army combined. It is four-fifths the 15-billion-dollar annual cost of nonmilitary defenses. It might not be venturing too far to say this: If Aramco and similar economic monopolies were left to shift for themselves on Russia's doorstep, enough could be shaved off the 42-billion-dollar defense program to build the synthetic fuels industry proposed by the bureau. Such candid opinions must be simmering near the surface of the minds of men like Dr. Wilbur C. Schroeder, head of the Office of Synthetic Liquid Fuels. In speaking out for the synthetic fuels program, Dr. Schroeder said:

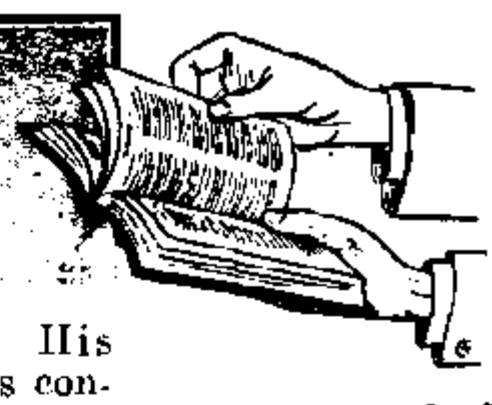
At the start, costs may be higher than for oil from foreign sources. But security can be worth this added cost. If a synthetics industry should prevent a war, or make it possible to win a war, the added cost would be a small one to pay. Repeatedly in the past the cost of synthetic products has been high in the beginning, but in the end they have been as cheap as or cheaper than natural products.

Situation Certain of Adjustment

It is not the purpose of this article to advocate a political or economic program for a nation to follow. It is the purpose here to draw attention to the bountiful provision made by earth's Creator for its inhabitants. By so doing the Creator himself can be seen to stand absolved and guiltless of promoting any greedy squabble over the wealth of the planet. The wealth is here in superabundance and in such variety of form as to challenge and absorb the marvelous brainpower of humanity in exploiting it fairly, with no time or reason to waste in deceiving, cheating, fighting and destroying each other—as well as earth's resources—over a selfish love of gain and power.

It is the purpose here to answer those who ask why, if the Creator has done all this, He has not exercised a righteous dispensation of earth's affairs. The answer is that in His patience the Creator has placed the written testimony containing His purposes for creation before men's eyes for thousands of years for them to learn, and they have not learned. The time is at hand for Him to make the proper and permanent adjustment of all affairs of human society and "destroy them which destroy the earth", if it must come to that. (Revelation 11:18) Those who scoff and ask "Where is the sign of all this?" have only to look abroad at earth's present-day affairs which so manifoldly fulfill the prophetic Bible blueprint, and then acknowledge that it is so.—Contributed.

"But Can It Be Found in the Bible?"



AWAKE! readers have sent in many copies of a Knights of Columbus advertisement headed, "But Can It Be Found in the Bible?" The definite purpose of the ad is to show that finding it in the Bible is not an essential requirement, and that the Bible is not an adequate "rule of faith", but requires the addition of tradition. The reason for this effort is that the Roman Catholic Church holds numerous teachings and observances that not only are omitted in the Bible but are not even hinted at in what the Bible teaches. The general idea is, however, that the Catholic Church has merely added certain things that are nonessential, and that other religious denominations reject. There is more to it than that. But, to examine the ad a little further.

We read, "Christianity did not begin with the Bible. It began with the coming of Christ." While this expresses a fact, it does not tell the whole story; and, since the purpose is to discredit the Bible as a sufficient guide for Christians, it merits further examination. It is remarkable how closely Christianity from its very beginnings is linked with Scripture (which admittedly preceded Christianity). Christ demonstrated His own Messiahship from the Word of God, and at His baptism said, "Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God."—Psalm 40:7, 8; Hebrews 10:7.

Even before He began His ministry He used the things written to repulse the tempter, referring faithfully to the Word of God. (Luke 4:4, 8, 12) Then, announcing His ministry at Nazareth, He again appealed to the Bible, quoting the prophet Esaias (Isaiah). (61:1, 2) Throughout His ministry Jesus constantly appealed to the written Word of God, saying repeatedly "It is *written*". He did not quote tradition except to condemn it. (Matthew 15:3-9) Even after His resurrection He instructed His disciples from the Bible, saying, not that they were slow to believe *Him*, but that they were "slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken". (Luke 24:25) Surely Christianity did not begin *without* the Bible.

The ad mentions that the church is "the pillar and mainstay" of the truth. (1 Timothy 3:15) But how was the early church the pillar (supporter) of the truth? Evidently by holding fast the Word of life, not by pushing it into the background. (Philippians 2:16, *Moffatt*) The apostles, like the Master, continually quoted the Word of God as support for their preaching.

An attempt is next made to insinuate doubt by saying, "The last part of the Bible, written by St. John . . . was not completed until 60 years after the crucifixion of Christ." The part that John wrote, while of great value, particularly today, was, for the most part, symbolic and prophetic, and evidently the Lord saw no need of hastening it. But this fact does not mean that the church then did not have the Bible. They had the apostles while these carried on their ministry, and after the death of the apostles, including John, they had their writings, and these in the providence of God completed the Sacred Record, making it a harmonious whole.

It is a remarkable fact that the early Christians had the all-but-completed Word, *in writing* within the generation

that witnessed the death of Christ Jesus. They had three records of the life of Christ, one of them by A.D. 41, only eight years after Jesus' death. Also they had the richly full writings of the apostle Paul, and the epistles of Peter, Jude and James. This left only the three brief epistles of John to be added, together with his gospel, which was meanwhile unquestionably circulated orally, and finally the Revelation (Apocalypse), to complete the canon. And these were all supplied before the last of that generation passed away.

In view of these facts the statement of the ad is seen to be a dodge, when it says, "There was no Bible in anything resembling its present form until nearly 400 years after Jesus had died on the cross." As though the *form* made a particle of difference. That they *did* have the Bible is evident from the words of Polycarp, disciple of the apostle John, who wrote (A.D. 107) to the Philippians: "I trust that you are well read in Holy Scripture and that nought is hid from you." He would surely not write this had these Philippians had no access to the Bible.

Then, "the widespread distribution of the Bible as we know it today was impossible until the invention of printing, some 1400 years after the Savior's death. By what 'rule of faith' did the millions of Christians live during those 1500 years?" This does not make a point, for if the early Christians in the days of Polycarp could be expected to be well read in Scripture, those of later and more advanced times also might have been expected to have ready access to the Bible. As a matter of fact, the Roman Catholic Church, arguing from another angle, will insist that many Bibles in the language of the people *were* circulated even before Luther (hence before the invention of printing). They also contend that monks often spent all their time copying the Bible in Latin, so that it *could* have been provided in larger numbers for the benefit of the people had not the Catholic Church itself hindered such distribution, as it did all too often. Still it *was* circulated.

Tradition Contradicts Scriptures

Then the advertisement makes much of the fact that there are so many Protestant denominations, though it ignores for the occasion the divisions within the Roman Catholic Church itself, whose "unity" is more apparent than real. But what is more important is that the chief fault of the denominations is not their difference one from another, but their similarity to Catholicism in the most important doctrines. It is here that the effect of tradition shows itself most plainly. It is not that the Catholic Church has made some additions to the Bible that are of secondary importance. It is that things are taught and believed that are entirely at variance with the Bible. Tradition, in other words, *fundamentally contradicts* the Bible. It is in the chief doctrines that are taught that this contradiction is evident:

1. The doctrine of consciousness of the soul between death and resurrection, which the Scriptures deny.—Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10.

2. The doctrine of "eternal torment" of the unsaved, also unscriptural.—Psalm 37:20; Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:23, and dozens of other equally clear statements.

3. The doctrine of *equality* of the Father, Son and holy spirit, nowhere taught in Scripture.—1 Corinthians 8:6; John 14:28.

4. The doctrine of literal burning up of the earth at "the end of time".—Ecclesiastes 1:4; Isaiah 45:18, etc.

5. The doctrine of "divine right" of the clergy and of kings and other rulers of nations.—John 18:36; 1 John 5:19, *Am. Stan. Ver.*

Not one of these teachings will stand the test of Bible investigation. This is something that can be proved from the

Scriptures by any reasonable person. The addition of unscriptural tradition, on the other hand, has fostered these errors.

In addition to the foregoing errors shared by Protestants and Roman Catholics, there are others which the Protestants have rejected, such as the following:

1. The doctrine of Purgatory.
2. The doctrine of prayer *for* the dead and *to* the dead.
3. The doctrine of extreme veneration for the mother of Jesus.

None of these things are so much as hinted at in the Scriptures' record of the life of the early church. As this record covers the time of the apostles, is it not strange that these intimate records should so entirely omit the most outstanding current observances and doctrines? Would the tone of the writings be so completely different from the actual state of things, as would be the case if the church had been anything like the Roman Catholic Church of today? The answer is obvious. They are not mentioned because they did not exist and they are not even in harmony with what *is* mentioned. Again tradition is shown to be unsafe, untrue.

Bible, Not Tradition, the Guide

The ad concludes with an invitation to the reader to "examine the rule of faith of the first Christians" by writing for the booklet. The booklet enlarges upon the ad, but fails to demonstrate that the first Christians did other than what the book of Acts and the writings of the apostles show they did. Those truthful writings emphasize the pre-eminent place of the Bible (not tradition) in the early church.

Timothy knew the Scriptures from childhood, and Paul said these same Scriptures were able 'to make wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus', knowledge of whom was conveyed by the preaching of the apostles and subsequently by their writings. Again he urged Timothy to set an example by his use of the Word of truth, saying that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works".—2 Timothy 3:15-17.

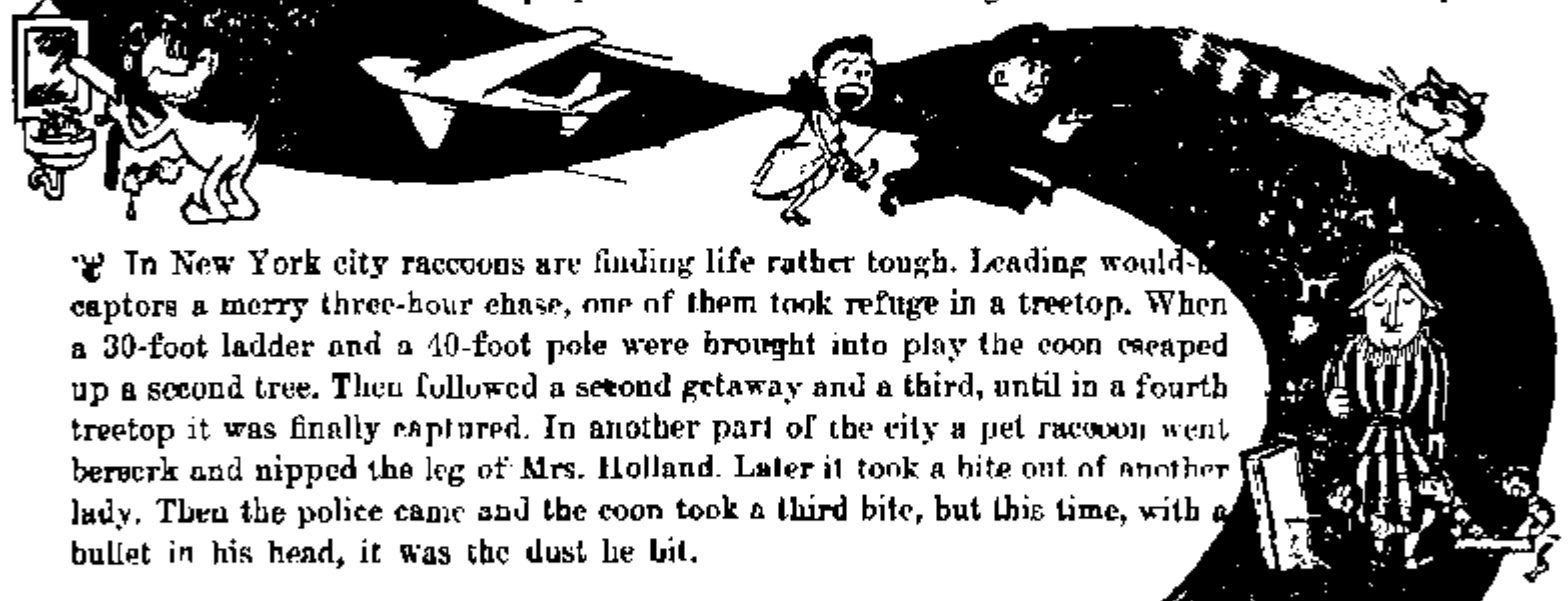
Paul thus showed that Scripture was an adequate and complete rule of faith, able to completely equip the man of God. He did not mention tradition as being of equal value, or even helpful. He ignores it. In view of this fact his statement at 2 Thessalonians 2:15, quoted in the ad to "prove" the Catholic position, is shown to do nothing of the kind. Paul there merely refers to certain particular *instructions* (*An American Translation*). He was not commending tradition as understood by the Catholic Church today.

On another occasion, when Paul was taking leave of the Ephesians, he commended them to God and the Word of His grace (not tradition). That Word, he said, was able to build them up and give them an inheritance among all the sanctified. (Acts 20:32) Yes, the book that really shows the rule of faith followed by the early Christians is the book of Acts. And it shows that they adhered closely to the Bible, the Word of God, which was completed in their day. The early Christians even did what the ad suggests should not be done, for they searched the Scriptures to see whether what the apostles taught them could be found in the Bible. For this they were commended, not condemned.—Acts 17:11.

Report on Wild Life

Every year man learns more and more about the wonders of creation. For instance, wagging-tongued man has discovered that the tongueless bees use a sign language all their own to tell one another where the nectar is to be found. Scouts are sent out early in the day to survey the countryside, and upon returning they pass the word around by means of a pantomime dance. In this "honey dance" the position taken by the dancer's body relative to the position of the sun indicates which direction should be taken. Like dancing South Sea Islanders, every little wiggle has a meaning, the interpretation of which tells the sister workers not only which direction to take but also how far to fly to reach the find. How many honey pickers should go depends upon the extensiveness and richness of the field, hence the dancers indicate this by their enthusiastic wiggle indicates poor pickings. Scientists have also been able to [illegible] insemination of queen bees a super race of busy bees, that excel the pro- busyness of beeing.

Experiments on the effect of noise from jet aircraft engines has disclosed that high-frequency sound waves can kill rats and guinea pigs. The vibrating sound energy on their fur is converted into heat, which in turn coagulates the proteins of the body. When the fur is shaved off animals are able to resist sound waves about as well as man. Consequently, the next time you envy the fur-bearing animals that are able to grow a new wardrobe, remember that these [illegible] not only days of material shortages and economic hardships, but also [illegible] jet propulsion. Better to be a living furless creature than a dead pelt.



In New York city raccoons are finding life rather tough. Leading would-b[illegible] captors a merry three-hour chase, one of them took refuge in a treetop. When a 30-foot ladder and a 40-foot pole were brought into play the coon escaped up a second tree. Then followed a second getaway and a third, until in a fourth treetop it was finally captured. In another part of the city a pet racoon went berserk and nipped the leg of Mrs. Holland. Later it took a bite out of another lady. Then the police came and the coon took a third bite, but this time, with a bullet in his head, it was the dust he bit.

While the pope has been busy fighting the "Red" vermin of Com[illegible]te termites have invaded the most secret parts of the Vatican. Sneaking [illegible] the insects launched a pincer attack and ate their way through walls and ceilings to [illegible] center of papal archives before being discovered. When one column was found inside the six-foot-thick wall of the Cortile del Pallagallo, headed for the private chambers of the secretariat of state, just imagine the chagrin and humiliation on the faces of the much vaunted Swiss Guard who are charged with keeping out all undesirable intruders! The other column of ants had spearheaded its invasion into the apartment of Cardinal Angelo Mercati, papal librarian and archivist. Says the dispatch of Reuter News Service: "By the time the invasion was discovered, the termites had eaten their way through several books and documents, reduced the cardinal's ceremonial cape to a fragment of gray powder and eaten away one oak beam to the point where it was about to collapse on the cardinal's bed." Ants in the bed are as bad as ants in the pants.

TAKING example set by nature, home builders today landscape their dwelling grounds with appropriate shrubs, flowers and trees. They seek to get back to the natural ways of living by building large picture windows in an attempt to bring some of this green landscape into the home. From these, the seasons are viewed in comfortable fashion. As the fall foliage withers and finally drops its last flashes of brilliant color, the scene looks cold, bleak.

But now, instead of letting winter blast the green foliage entirely from your view, why not provide yourself with some house plants? Literally bring in some of that summer outdoors to pass the winter indoors. Your plants will be your pleasure when the snow and ice and howling wind drive you inside. You will get satisfaction in seeing your plants grow into pleasing form, produce gorgeous flowers, entirely unaware of the wintry winds blowing but a few feet away.

Other reasons for this interesting hobby of growing house plants are, they are decorative and healthful. The interior furnishings may look hard and barren unless some living, gracefully-formed plant checks the sharp features of the plain style and steel curves of modern-design furniture. They are healthful because they demand a certain amount of fresh air and sunshine and humidity.

In order to be successful you must, as in anything else, be very much interested in them. You must understand how they live. Everyone knows that plants of every kind, except mushrooms and other chlorophyl-less plants, need light to make them grow. That is the first requirement. Light means life to them, for without it they grow spindly and die. Some plants, like the geraniums, demand sunlight, and long hours of it, to produce blooms. A wide variety of others, however, grow and flourish successfully with just a few hours of sun each day, as can be provided in an east or west window. Many others flourish well in a northern exposure and will wax glossy and sleek, and some, like the African violet, will even bloom in that location.

A large window with wide sills is the best place to arrange a window garden. Sometimes sills can be widened by the addition of a board or tray that is properly braced for the weight of the flower pots. You will be pleased to see a harmonious bank of greenery—ferns for leafy tropical effect and background, begonias for flowers and broad leaf variation, feathery-leaved plants and evergreen miniature pine for exotic specimen planting. African violets and gloxinias liven the scene with the exquisite loveliness of their velvety blooms. Hang-

ing and climbing vines will add to the floral and lush display of summer in your winter window.

The temperature for most house plants should be cool, except for cacti and some tropical types. Temperatures under seventy degrees Fahrenheit, and preferably between 55 and 70, are the best. Most homes, despite high humidity outdoors, have very dry air, caused by their heating systems. Unless humidifiers are used or pans of water are set on radiators this dry air is not at all suitable for plants. Notice how well plants grow in greenhouses. Smell the air as you enter one next time and notice how moisture-laden it is. They grow well there because of the comparatively cool temperature and high humidity. Try to maintain similar conditions locally around the garden in your window.

How to Make a Window Garden

Obtain a waterproof tray or metal window box. This provides a good place to set the clay pots and protects the windowsills from any water that might splash out while watering them. Cover the bottom with several inches of coarse gravel or pebbles. You may use even a thick coating of moss. Make sure the pots are not touching or sitting in the water. If there is a radiator or other heat coming up under or very close so as to pass through the foliage or heat the pots, be sure some protective board is placed to prevent direct contact with the pots or foliage.

For containers there is a wide variety to be obtained at florists or other garden supply houses. Window boxes to fit the length of your window can be obtained reasonably. There are many different glazed pots and those of plastic that can be used to set clay-potted specimens in for better display purposes. There are some in the form of animals and other odd designs. These can be very ornamental if used for single plants and not grouped tightly in a collection. As for new clay pots, soak them in water until they absorb all they can before use, otherwise they will rob the soil of its water.

If you use pots that do not have drainage holes in the bottom, such as the glazed ornamental pots in the form of animals, you must make sure there is sufficient gravel, pebbles, or broken bits of pots placed in the bottom to allow for a certain amount of drainage. The amount of water poured in must be a limited measure to avoid a stagnant supply collecting on the bottom or souring the soil. In these kinds of pots, add a little charcoal to keep the soil sweet.

Now that the place and location and equipment are ready, what are the rules and regulations for the care of house plants? What kind of soil, and when and how often do I water my plants? Remember, plants are living things and will respond to proper treatment. Their requirements differ; each is an individual. No rigid rules will bring success but you will find that you as the caretaker can *learn their requirements*. After a little experimenting, providing the fundamental necessities dictated by the natural environment from which the plant came, you will soon learn how to grow house plants.

Soil and Water Needs

The requirements for healthful growth are the same as those for humans. Good food, which is proper soil, plenty of fresh air, water both for baths and to drink through soil, and sunshine and fresh air with proper temperatures, will bring success. Light furnishes the power to grow; air they breathe through their leaves and give off moisture by evaporation; for better health, supply moist air. The soil furnishes the raw food material which passes through the roots to the stems and leaves. There the action of light on the chlorophyl causes the food and water to be changed into a form usable by the

plants to feed the growing cells that make up their structure.

As you may know, different plants require different types of soil mixtures. Some flourish on slim diet with rocky, sandy, dry soil; such as the cacti. Others, such as ferns, begonias and African violets, require a rich mixture of leafmold and fibrous soil with much organic matter and little sand. A good mixture for general use, considering that a great percentage of house plants are grown on much poorer soil, is composed of two parts good garden soil; one part sharp clean sand (for porous aeration and drainage); one part compost, leafmold or humus. The humus or leafmold makes the soil mellow and friable with water-holding power. For plants needing further enrichment and sweetening, add a teaspoonful of bone meal for each five-inch pot.

Each plant differs in its water requirements. This also depends on the condition of the weather or the room. If the location is hot and dry, plants dry out sooner, requiring water oftener. Certain plants, like the succulents and cacti, require water infrequently, but thoroughly to simulate desert conditions. Ferns and African violets and begonias require water more frequently and abundantly. A good rule is to let the surface of the soil get fairly dry before adding more water. Overwatering does more harm than dryness. Some types prefer water supplied from the bottom, and plants going dormant should have their water supply gradually decreased.

Foliage Plants

Foliage plants are the easiest plants to grow because they require the least light and attention. Many will grow in water alone with no direct sunlight. Their handsome foliage, often mottled in variegated forms, provides natural decoration in otherwise drab locations. Those that grow easily in water are philodendron, Chinese evergreen and Nephthytis.

Tropical splendor is added to your green view by ferns. The arching fronds unfurl slowly from curls nestled close to the warm furlike hair at the base of the plant. The soil they grow in must be rich in humus or leafmold and watered more frequently during their period of growth. Care must be exercised that the frond tips or ends are not bruised or touching anything or they will spoil the growth of the leaf and the final shape of the plant. They demand enough space to spread their plumes. The sizes of ferns vary from the sword ferns to the small spider ferns. The asparagus fern, which is not a true fern, sends up a feathery spray as delicate and fine as any of your house collection. Your window garden will not be complete without ferns.

Dracaenas, sometimes called corn plant because the leaves hang from the center stem like a corn plant, have bright green leaves with white or yellowish markings running parallel with the edge of the leaves. Some extremely beautiful varieties have rose-colored markings crowned by new leaves showing clear pink, giving the effect of blossoms. The common coleus will always please you with a gorgeous array of leaves, bringing to you all the brilliance of autumn. Crotons are from the tropics, providing long, narrow, thickish leaves in bright colors. You can always have color without actual flowers. Add another to your collection, the caladium, grown for its gorgeously colored leaves and grace of outline. To make your caladiums or coleuses look classy, choose a well-balanced plant with rose-colored center and focus the light of a lamp on it for evening display. It will practically glow with color.

A concentrically branched little pine for variation in foliage is the araucaria or Norfolk Island pine. It makes a perfect miniature tree. The branches grow in a whorl around the main stem. To maintain perfect form, this plant must be turned regularly. In a window garden

its form contrasts strongly with other plants.

Hanging baskets gracefully suspended on three chains or cords make fine aerial perches for drooping or hanging flowering or foliage plants.

Flowering Plants

The gloxinias and African violets are quite similar in appearance and are of the same family. The hairy leaves of both are velvetlike. The gloxinia, which some consider the lovelier of the two, is a native of tropical America, while the violet is from Africa, as its name informs.

Gloxinias have velvetlike bell-shaped upturned flowers, hybrids of which produce blooms four or five inches across. They range in color from lavender and purple to pink and the deepest of reds. White-throated with pink or with lavender edges, or, conversely, dark throats and lighter edges, make wide selection possible. Ruffled and speckled variations are unbeatable in loveliness.

The flowers of the African violet are less spectacular than the gloxinias. The violetlike flowers range from pink, white, red and several shadings of blue or lavender. They will grow in no direct sunlight but do enjoy the morning sun of an east window in the winter and full light of northern window in the summer.

Christmas cactus should be on your list, for the lovely cerise pink blossoms prefer the time of the year when other plants may be holding back. This plant is not difficult to grow. For other flowering indoor plants try geraniums in sunny window; lantana, impatients, flowering maple, and many others. The amaryllis, a spectacular contribution from the land of Brazil, is grown from a large bulb. A large hollow stem is thrust up and five or six trumpetlike flowers blow forth. Some blossoms measure 7 inches across. Colors to be chosen from are white, pink, red and orange, with variations. A rare blue one was shown at the International Flower Show in New York last spring. Other bulbs that will give a spring flower display and are also worth growing for their fragrance are the narcissus and the hyacinth.

Begonias

Begonias are on the list of common house plants. Most of them are quite easily grown. The small-leaved variety often used as border plants in the outdoor garden are called *semperflorens* because they bloom continuously. Their profuse flowers come in single and double varieties and they grow bushy in form. Then the large-leafed varieties, grown for their ornamental foliage, are fibrous-rooted. Of these interesting types with thick leaves and hairy stems, the Rex begonia is one of the most outstanding. Some types have large spectacular silvery leaves with inconspicuous flowers. Other varieties are silver- or purple-veined. The leaves are striking in contrast with other foliage.

For their outstanding flowers try the large-flowering tuberous-rooted begonias, hybrids of which produce flowers that are roselike, or camellialike. Other blossoms are single or frilled; while still others are shaped like daffodils, besides coming in many different colors.

By meeting the few simple requirements, your house plants will reward you with luxuriant growth, gay-colored blooms, and give you the pleasure and satisfaction of successfully accomplishing a seemingly difficult project. Treat them well, and they will be your prize decorating pieces to bring the outdoors indoors.

'Marry in the Lord'

JEHOVAH'S consecrated people are in this world but are no part of it. (John 17:14-16; 15:19) They are in a position similar to that of Abraham sojourning in the land of Canaan. Just as Christians are admonished to keep separate from this contaminating old world, so Abraham kept himself separate from the inhabitants in Canaanland. He did not sin by falling in with their religious worship, and he even avoided close association with them for fear of acquiring some of their demon forms of worship. He safeguarded his family circle from being broken up by heathen idolaters, or being invaded by them through marriage ties. To his trusted servant Abraham said: "Swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: but thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac."—Genesis 24:3, 4.

Not only was Abraham's son Isaac protected from demon-worship through entangling intermarriage with the Canaanites, but also Isaac's son Jacob obtained a wife from the distant land of his own people and not from the Canaanite neighbors. "And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. Arise, go to Padan-aram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother."—Genesis 28:1, 2.

Centuries later, after the Israelites had gone into Egypt, after they had been delivered from Egyptian bondage, and while they were in the wilderness en route to the promised land of Canaan, Jehovah God gave them guiding laws, one of which was: "When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you are invading for conquest, and clears out of your way great nations like the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivvites, and Jebusites, seven nations greater and stronger than yourselves; when the LORD your God puts them at your mercy, and you defeat them, you must be sure to exterminate them, without making a covenant with them, or giving them any quarter; you must not intermarry with them, neither giving your daughters in marriage to their sons, nor receiving their daughters for your sons; for they would turn your sons from following me to serving alien gods."—Deuteronomy 7:1-4, *An Amer. Trans.*

So important was this safeguarding of the consecrated people of God from contamination by close relationships with demon-worshipers that Jehovah again incorporates in His divine Law this instruction forbidding intermarriage, saying, "Lest you make a compact with the nations, deserting to their gods, sacrificing to their gods, agreeing to partake of their sacrificial meals, marrying your sons to their daughters, who will desert to their gods and make your sons desert also."—Exodus 34:15, 16, *Moffatt.*

After Israel had entered Canaan and gained many victories over the enemies, it was still essential to warn the Israel-

ites away from entangling relations with the heathen, including the matrimonial relationship. "Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left; that ye come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them: but cleave unto the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day. Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you: know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you."—Joshua 23:6-8, 12, 13.

But there were always Israelites who thought they were strong enough spiritually to wed heathen women, enjoy the marriage ties, and at the same time resist the ensnaring effects of their wives' demon religions. Yet God's good counsel and command could not be ignored with impunity, not even by the wisest man in those olden times. That man was wise King Solomon. Of him it is written that he loved many foreign women, and took wives from among the heathen nations round about, and "his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not perfect with Jehovah his God". This deliberate disobedience came after God had warned Solomon, after He had "commanded him concerning this thing, that he *should* not go after other gods: but he kept not that which Jehovah commanded".—1 Kings 11:1-11, *Am. Stan. Ver.*; see also Ezra 9:1, 2.

Do any Christians today feel wiser than Solomon, strong enough to resist in their own strength the inroads of subtle demon snares through marriage with non-believers? Do they feel that Jehovah God was exaggerating and greatly magnifying the dangers of marriage with those outside his consecrated people? Or do they think such restraints no longer hold, since we are no longer under the law covenant? Then let them remember that similar warnings of separateness from this old world are to be found in the Christian Greek Scriptures. For example, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: . . . what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord." —2 Corinthians 6:14, 15, 17.

Marriage of a consecrated Christian to an unbeliever results in an unequal yoke and cannot help but produce unequal pulling and stress and friction. All should remember that marriage ties are liable to prove long-term bonds, because in God's judicial court they cannot be lightly snapped as a triviality for some minor cause or for any cause less than *fornication* by *the unfaithful* partner. These bonds may add responsibility and restrictions to one's liberty that will last a lifetime. For this reason not only a first marriage but also a remarriage after death of one partner should be carefully weighed. The apostle Paul counsels: "A wife is bound for as long a time as her husband is living; but if the husband have fallen asleep [in death], she is free to be married unto whom she pleaseth, —only in the Lord."—1 Corinthians 7:39, *Rotherham*.

The restriction here given concerning Christian widows desiring to remarry applies with equal force to any consecrated servant of God seeking a husband or wife, namely, to marry "in the Lord". That means to marry a consecrated person like oneself. For a Christian to unequally yoke himself up with an unbeliever is not conducive to Christian welfare and is controlled more by passion. Such endangerment of the Christian's spiritual interests could hardly be pleasing to God or Christ.

Conscription and Freedom of Conscience

By "Awake!" correspondent in Sweden

DURING the war the newspapers wrote freely about Jehovah's witnesses, who refused to take part in national defense measures because as servants of the Most High they are duty-bound to absolute neutrality toward affairs between earthly nations. Nowadays one seldom reads about the young men among Jehovah's witnesses who, when called up for training as recruits, take their stand of unswerving neutrality, which stand often sends them to prison. Sometimes, however, notice and comment on these cases do appear in the press. An editorial, for example, in the *Nybro Tidning* of June 3, 1949, told how one Erik Andersson of Ludvika was sentenced to one month's imprisonment in 1944; two months' imprisonment in 1948; and three months' imprisonment in 1949. Commenting on this "shocking human tragedy" the editorial, in part, said:

The reason is that for conscience' sake he has refused to do conscripted service of any kind. He is daily busy as a preacher and it is his conviction that he must not leave this vocation on any terms. Seeing that he has already been in prison twice for this cause and now has been sentenced the third time one has no reason to doubt his honest conviction. A man does not go to prison of his free volition the third time—considering all that this means in serious mental suffering—if he is not moved by a strong faith.

This is a shocking human tragedy. It is almost inconceivable that such a thing could happen in enlightened Sweden in A.D. 1949. . . . We do not stop at all to consider the creed of this man. From the standpoint of meting out justice it is immaterial. If he had been a Catholic, an atheist, a Mohammedan, a dissenter, or a "high church man", it would have been equally absurd to punish his conviction in this manner. The law of Sweden states that no man's conscience shall be coerced. . . .

We have never heard him preach and cannot issue any statement vouching for him or his opinions. But it appears that the man is ready to suffer about everything for his convictions. To then punish, punish, punish and punish again in an endless row is something frightening—something one almost refuses to believe is possible in an enlightened, democratic, cultured government.

You ask, on what grounds do these young men refuse military conscription? In answer, we print the following from the defense speech given by one of these men last spring:

It is not a crime either before God or before men for one to be faithful to the Lord to whom one has pledged himself to serve. If I had sworn fidelity to the king of Sweden it would be right to consider it a deceitful action if I swerved from the service of this king and entered the service of another king in another country. I have sworn fidelity to Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords, and I have consecrated my life to serve and obey him. For this reason I feel myself bound by the Word of God . . . to "obey God rather than men". [Acts 5:29]

The measure to punish a person because he refuses to shrink from his duty to obey God is tantamount to pronouncing Almighty God destitute of the right to have His servants on earth, wholly isolated for His purposes. Such a proceeding ought to be unworthy of a country that claims to be Christian.

The paragraph which the prosecutor appealed to in his charge against me provides punishment for a warrior who has made himself guilty of insubordination to a superior. I do not question the right of the power of the state to demand obedience of its warriors. But I am no warrior in the Swedish army. I am a "soldier of Jesus Christ", as Paul calls himself and his Christian brethren. [2 Tim. 2:3, 4] And it is because I will not make myself guilty of insubordination to *my King*

Christ that my conscience prevents me from performing military duty. . . .

Mr. Judge, I am here as a poor follower of Jesus Christ, charged with a crime similar to that on which He was indicted, for having spoken against Caesar, against the power of the state, and he was sentenced to death by a heathen judge, who tried to release him when he saw that the accused was innocent. I am here before a court of justice where the law of God rests on the court's table, and where the human lawbook, to which the prosecutor has appealed, says: "The judge shall judge in accordance with God's law and the law of the kingdom of Sweden." . . .

Many sentences have been passed on Jehovah's witnesses in this country, sentences which have not been in accordance with the wise judicial rule: "More attention should be paid to the intention and the meaning than to the act." "The LORD looketh on the heart," as it is stated in the Bible, at the motive of the actions of men, and I beg that the court may do so in my case as well. [1 Sam. 16:7]

The law of God and the law of Sweden do not always agree, and the courts generally prefer in such cases to judge according to the latter. But for those individuals who have placed their lives at the disposal of the Lord to be used in His service, and who see the seriousness of their position, there is no alternative. And happy the young men who, like the ones above mentioned, are 'remembering their Creator in the days of their youth' (Eccl. 12:1), and are 'obeying God rather than men'. In due time they will have their reward from the One Lawgiver and Judge, from Jehovah God "who is able to save and to destroy" (James 4:12), from Him who can grant eternal life free of all military conscription in a righteous new world of everlasting peace!

Chap. 7:11.] ACTS. [*Chap.* 7:10.

τὸν ἡγούμενον ἐπ' Αἰγύπτου καὶ ὅλον τὸν
ruling over Egypt and whole the
οἶκον αὐτοῦ.
house of himself.

11 Ἦλθε δὲ λιμὸς ἐφ' ὅλην τὴν γῆν Αἰ-
Came and a famine on whole the land of
γύπτου καὶ Χανάαν, καὶ θλῖψις μεγάλη· καὶ
Egypt and Canaan, and affliction great; and
οὐχ εὕρισκον χορτάσματα οἱ πατέρες ἡμῶν.
not found provisions the fathers of us.
12 Ἀκούσας δὲ Ἰακὼβ ὄντα σῖτα ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ,
Having heard and Jacob being grain in Egypt,
ἐξαπέστειλε τοὺς πατέρας ἡμῶν πρῶτον. 13 Καὶ
he sent the fathers of us first. And

over Egypt, and All his HOUSE.

11 ‡And a Famine came upon All the LAND of Egypt and Canaan, and great Distress: and our FATHERS found no Provisions.

12 ‡But Jacob, having heard that there was Grain *in Egypt, sent our FATHERS the first time;

13 ‡and at the SECOND

Examine the above sample from a page of the *Emphatic Diaglott* translation of the Greek Scriptures. Note the word-for-word translation of the original Greek text and the new translation in the column to the right. Many other valuable features combine to make the *Diaglott* outstanding. Send for a copy today and see for yourself.

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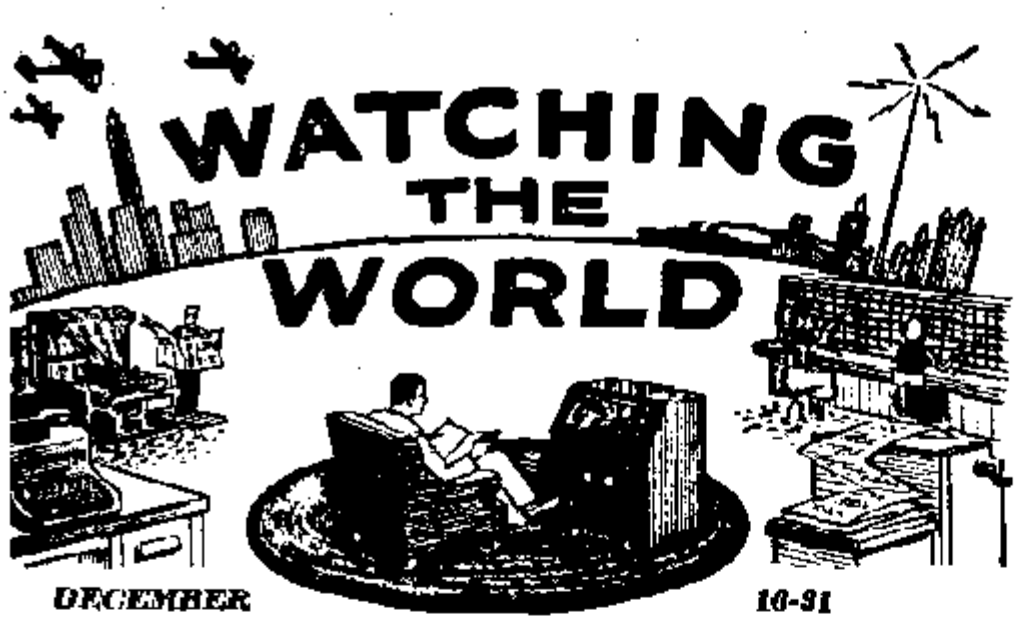

DECEMBER 16-31

U. S. of Indonesia

Dr. Sukarno was elected president of the United States of Indonesia December 16. He was unanimously chosen by the electors from the sixteen states represented. He was sworn into office under a Moslem oath the next day. Sukarno declared himself "a servant of the people, not their master". Postage stamps issued compared Sukarno to George Washington of the United States of America, their pictures appearing together. The remainder of the issue carried pictures of other prominent Indonesians, compared with Lincoln, Hamilton and Franklin.

At The Hague (12/21) the bill transferring sovereignty over the Netherlands East Indies to the Indonesians became law by a single vote over the required two-thirds. The sovereignty transfer was formally made (12/27) as Queen Juliana of the Netherlands signed the act of transfer, ending three and a half centuries of Dutch rule in the East Indies and inaugurating the union of the islands and the Netherlands as equal partners under the Dutch crown. The arrangement is similar to that of the British commonwealth. The equal-partners status, however, is considerably weakened in actuality by the fact that there is a two-billion-dollar foreign investment in the islands, three-fourths Dutch, which the Indonesians must recognize.

Marshall Plan Change Sought

Negotiations going on in Paris in mid-December had under consideration the alteration of the Marshall plan. It was to be made a clearing union rather than a means of subsidizing the restoration of European production. By providing a central dollar fund freer trade among the participating nations would be promoted.

Arms Standardization

Simultaneously at London, Ottawa and Washington it was announced in mid-December that the U. S., Britain and Canada would standardize their arms and their military methods. The unity of purpose was, however, more apparent than real. Transferring it from paper to practice is still to be accomplished.

Setting Spain Right

Mid-December saw the report that three U. S. congressmen visiting Spain tried to set that country right about the importance they should attach to such visits, of which there have been quite a few. They explained that no individual member of Congress could speak for the whole body, nor does such congressman traveling on his own represent the government. One of the group, moreover, reminded Spain that the problem as far as that country was concerned was not what the U. S. did about Spain, but what Spain would do about the U. S., and that Spain's position in the democratic world depends on what happens in Spain. Incidentally, the religion of congressmen who give Spain unauthorized hope of financial and moral support should be noted. It has a bearing on the subject.

Franco and the Farmers

Spain's Third National Assembly of Farmers and Stock Raisers meeting on 12/27 called on Franco for much-needed reforms to make their difficulties more endurable. The Spanish Cortes (12/21) approved the 1950 budget, which adds up to about 18,000,000 pesetas. Over 30 percent of the expenditures listed are for the armed forces, exclusive of the police. Seven percent is allotted to education, less than one percent to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Bidault Wins Confidence Vote

Uneasy lies the head of any premier of France. Georges Bidault, still occupying that office in late December, after a "long reign" of some eight weeks, received a confidence vote of the Assembly, 303 297. At the year's end he won a further victory by getting a majority of 18 in favor of his measures to increase taxes, to balance the budget, to continue getting Marshall-plan aid. So his government wobbled on.

Steel Not Produced

According to figures issued by the U. N. Economic Commission for Europe (12/22) about 6,000,000 tons of steel is not being produced in Europe. Idle steel capacity appeared mainly in Europe's most effective steel-producing countries, and is hindering recovery.

Dutch Baby Problem

In the Netherlands the traveler is aware of large numbers of rosy-cheeked children playing in the streets or, a little older, traveling along the highways in groups on bicycles. The Netherlands is having a current baby boom, and the population is now

over 10,000,000 persons, so that the country has become the most densely populated in Europe. Emigration to Australia, Brazil and Canada is being encouraged, and an increase of the quota admitted to the United States is being sought.

Book-Burning by Communists

◆ According to a dispatch (12/18) the Communist-dominated lands are now going in for book-burning. Every book that does not advance the cause of communism in some definite way is out. Said Pavel Reiman in an article in *Tvorba:* "The book that does not help us re-educate the people in the spirit of socialism and Marxist-Leninist theory is a harmful book. The Communist party has effective means to compel the purchase of political literature." But it is probable that in communist countries the old proverb still holds water, the one that says, "You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink." The aim seems to be to make the people drink the muddy waters of communist ideology or else.

Hungarian Exchanges

◆ *Hungary in mid-December* arrested two Americans as spies. It also arrested a Britisher. Confessions were said to have been made. American and British consuls were denied access to the prisoners. The U. S., in consequence, banned travel by Americans to Hungary. Britain ended talks on trade agreements with the Hungarian government. Later in the month Hungary announced a sweeping nationalization decree, affecting all trade and industry still in private hands and including that financed by foreign capital. Involved were American, *British, French, Swiss* and Dutch industrial holdings in Hungary.

Bulgaria Executes Kostov

◆ Traicho Kostov, former deputy premier of Bulgaria, was executed by hanging, December 16. He had stoutly denied guilt of the major charges brought against him and contained in the written *confession which he repudiated* in open court. For good measure Kostov was also stripped of his civil rights, fined $3,500, and deprived of all his goods.

Polish Court Sentences Six

◆ A military court at Breslau found four French nationals, a German and a Pole guilty of spying for the French intelligence service and imposed long prison sentences. Confiscation of property accompanied some of the sentences.

Free Weddings

◆ *Czech civil weddings were* made free as of December 27. The prospective pair do not have to pay a penny. The marriages are also compulsory; that is, to be really married, they must be married by civil magistrates. The free provision was made because rumors had been circulated that the new civil weddings would cost "ten times more than the church ceremonies". Wonder who started the rumors?

Yugoslavia Out of the Red

◆ Tito in late December announced two economic triumphs: a new five-year trade-treaty with Great Britain and a surplus in Yugoslavia's treasury, bringing that country out of the red in more ways than one. Further, a civil air pact was signed between Yugoslavia and the United States which will allow American civil *air transport planes to use Yugo*slav civilian airfields and to pass over Yugoslav territory to other points. The United States in return will allow Yugoslav civil aircraft similar privileges in the U. S. zones of Austria and Germany. Moreover, a loan from the Bank for Reconstruction was in view for Tito.

Greece Mourns Children

◆ The Greek government estimates that since 1946 the Communist-led guerrillas have sent 28,000 Greek children out of the country. These are now in communist lands and no arrangements for their repatriation are *in view, in spite of Greek pleas* for their return. December 28 Greece observed a day of mourning for these deported children. Newspapers were published with black borders, flags were flown at half-mast and amusement places were closed. Foreign Minister Constantin warned that communism intended to use these children in further attacks on Greece.

Syria's Coup No. 3

◆ Syria experienced another coup December 19, the third of the year. Troops surrounded the residence of Gen. Hinnawi and *arrested him and his aides. They in*stalled as the new premier Khaled el-Azem, who lost out in coup No. 1. Now he's back in the saddle again.

Viet Nam

◆ The state of Viet Nam, which is composed of Tongking, Annam and Cochin-China, forty percent of the territory of Indo-China, took a step toward dominion status in the French Union on December 30. Foreign affairs and defense remain in French hands. Former Emperor Bao Dai is the chief of state.

The Chinese Situation

◆ At the year's end President Truman and the National Security Council were reported as having agreed that U. S. occupation of Formosa, still under control of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, was out. Further aid to the Nationalists was under consideration, and recognition of Communist China was deferred. Generalissimo Chiang accused the Soviet of having helped the Chinese Communists to perpetrate the "greatest crime in human history". He said the Nationalists would fight on to the end. What that end would be did not seem much in doubt.

MacArthur Conundrum

◆ In spite of the fact that the new Japanese Constitution bars Japan for all time from maintaining *armed forces, General* MacArthur in his New Year's

message assured the Japanese they had not renounced the inalienable right of self-defense against unprovoked attack. He did not explain how they would manage this without arms.

Anti-Perón Paper Stopped

◈ The Argentine government handed the anti-Perón paper *El Intransigente* a nice Christmas present in the shape of a virtual ban on the paper. It is the first time a paper has been shut down for its opposition to the Perón semidictatorship. With the *Nación* and *Prensa*, two of the world's greatest papers, the government is using tactics of harassment, such as shutting down the elevators in the building occupied by the *Nación*, suing both the *Nación* and the *Prensa* for libel, and stationing policemen all over their premises.

The Green Light for Trujillo

◈ The Congress of the Dominican Republic on December 26 gave President Rafael Trujillo the right to attack neighboring lands if such "knowingly harbored plotters of revolution aimed against the Dominican Republic". The president assured the congress that the power thus conferred on him never would be used in acts of aggression.

Canada's Supreme Court

◈ Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent of Canada issued a proclamation (12/22) making Canada's Supreme Court the final appeal tribunal of the land. Previously Canada's final court of appeal in civil matters had been the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, supreme court of the British Empire. Two judges were added to Canada's Supreme Court to raise its membership to nine.

Anti-UAW Violence

◈ The United Automobile Workers is a strong union and has enemies. Attempts on the lives of its leaders have twice been made during the past year. Again (12/20) an attempt was made. Dynamite was found on a UAW headquarters stairway shortly before a scheduled meeting was due to begin. It was suspected that the dynamite had been placed there in the hope of getting President Walter Reuther.

Rice, Corn, Eggs

◈ The U. S. government (12/30) ordered deep cuts in the new year's corn and rice plantings in order to prevent new surpluses. It also announced a stop-gap egg-buying program to bolster sagging producer prices. The hens should be encouraged to lay fewer eggs, no doubt.

Gay Season

◈ Although the 1949 holiday season was called the gayest since 1938, cold war areas cast a chill over the celebrations. In the U. S., holiday accidents took a toll of hundreds of lives. A fire starting in a Christmas tree destroyed the major part of the town of Hyndman, Pa.

Truman Love Dedication

◈ President Truman in a Christmas eve greeting called upon the American people to dedicate themselves anew to the love of their fellow men. He ignored a petition asking him to pardon conscientious objectors to war. The petition was signed by leading educators, ministers, authors and scientists.

Come Back to Rome!

◈ The pope's invitation (12/23) for Protestants and Orthodox to again join the Roman Catholic church did not cause much commotion. Protestants remembered the Inquisition and the millions slain by the pope's orders in centuries past. They had no desire to return to anything of the kind. Also, with "holy year" emphasis on buildings and paintings and art treasures and robes and processions and ceremonies, the Vatican's conception of "materialism" was much in doubt. The New York *Times* headlined an article showing that the "holy year" has a political aim.

Simple Ceremony

◈ The "holy year" inaugurated by Pope Pius XII in late December is to be one of ornate and elaborate ceremonies. But the newspapers gave space to a "simple ceremony" on December 26 in which the pope went to an altar in the Vatican and repeated simple prayers prescribed by himself by which he simply forgave himself all sins up to then. The simple people joined in the act.

Deification of Stalin

◈ Stalin's 70th birthday brought great celebrations in Russia, together with immense likenesses of the premier displayed everywhere, and his fulsome praise proclaimed in many speeches and articles. Wanting a deity, why would not the top man of communism be given immoderate praise? In the estimation of communist propagandists there is none higher than Stalin, in heaven or earth. Stalin is virtually god to them, and he seems to receive their patently exaggerated praise with a smug countenance.

New Einstein Theory

◈ *Professor Albert Einstein*, whose nimble brain evolved the theory of relativity, leading to the discovery of the atom bomb, has come forward with a new theory. This, he claims, explains "the universe" from the standpoint of gravitation. The new theory must still be tested, however, and there is much work involved in applying the tests. Comparatively few scientists will fully grasp the theory, it seems.

"Rain on the Sun"

◈ Scientists attending the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in late December saw spots. The spots were on the sun, had been there for a long time, but the scientists had a new theory about them. They said these spots indicate solar rainstorms, not of water but of fiery gases, so hot that even iron is vaporized. The rainstorms covered a modest billion square miles.

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