

THE BOOK

the first line of which reads, "The Holy Bible," and which contains Four Great Treasures

by BRUCE BARTON

THE GREAT LIFE

One spring evening some nineteen hundred years ago a band of hard-faced men stole out of Jerusalem, crossed a little valley and made their way into the Garden of Gethsemane. Armed with clubs and spears, they carried torches which cast weird shadows through the trees, and, though they doubtless tried to move quietly, the noise of their progress must have jangled cruelly in the peace of that lovely night. At the gate that opened into a garden on the slope of the hill stood Jesus of Nazareth awaiting them. A pathetic little company of disciples trembled about Him, but as the heavy steps drew closer and the spear points gleamed in the flickering light, the disciples melted away until He was left alone.

Not quite alone. And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body, and the young men (soldiers or members of the mob) laid hold on him; And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.

These words are our introduction to an important historical character. The young man who left his linen cloth and fled naked was Mark, author of the so-called "second Gospel", which in point of composition, is actually the first. Before any other kind had thought of it, he conceived the grand idea of making a written record of the works and words of Jesus.

He was not one of the original twelve disciples; indeed, he may never have seen Jesus except on that fateful night. His mother was a believer. The Last Supper was at her house.

You can picture the active-minded boy, lying curious in his bed in the family room downstairs, overhearing the wonderful farewells words of Jesus, the final hymn, and the rustle of preparation for departure. On the impulse of the moment he jumped out of bed and followed to the Garden. Whether he was a witness to any of the events of the next few days we have no means of knowing. We do know, however, that he was associated for a time with Paul and later with Peter. Hearing them talk about Jesus, he began gradually to compose his book. It is a brief straightforward story.

For a time his book was the only life of Jesus. Then a Jew named Matthew, apparently the same man who had been a tax collector and was called to discipleship, looked it over and said to himself: "This book would be much more useful if it had

a lot of Old Testament references." So he made additions, sprinkling his narrative with the phrase, "that it might be fulfilled as was written by the prophets." It is obvious that he was bent on giving the life of Jesus all the Old Testament authority possible.

LUKE USHERS IN WOMEN

Paul, the most adventurous of the early Christian missionaries, was often sick, and had as a physician a Greek gentleman named Luke. Luke had a friend named Theophilus who, as he thought, would be interested in the story of Jesus, but not in the form set forth by Mark or Matthew. Accordingly, Luke wrote:

Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus.

You will note that he does not criticize the accounts already written but observes merely that he does not find them adapted to Theophilus. He did not claim to have been, and in fact was not, an original disciple, but he said that he had enjoyed exceptional opportunities for hearing the story from reliable men who had first-hand knowledge. These are perfectly straightforward reasons for writing a book and they furnish a pleasing introduction both to the Good News as Luke wrote it and to that later book, partly compiled from his own experiences as a companion of Paul, the Acts.

Luke did not care a fig about quotations from the Old Testament which might be very convincing to a Jew, for Theophilus was not a Jew. But he did tell of the Good Samaritan, and of the Prodigal Son, and some other exalted stories of the appreciation of Jesus for folks beyond the narrow walls of Judaism. Matthew never could have written this book any more than Luke could have written Matthew's.

One other fact is significant about the third Gospel. In some way the writer got hold of a fresh source of information about the women of that early Jerusalem community. Who told him and what was told we can only guess, but the fact is clear that Luke knew more and tells more about the women who were friends of Jesus than any of the other writers. That element gives an added quality of fineness to his book, which is probably the most beautiful book in the world.

Years later, in Ephesus, where Greek philosophy had tinged the thought and vocabulary of all educated people, a man named John wrote another story of Jesus. It is hardly the life-story; rather it is an interpretation, and a very fine one. We should have lost some of the most beautiful sayings of Jesus if it were not for this fourth Gospel, and one has only to read it through to understand why in every age it has been so greatly loved.

The average well-educated American has a vocabulary of 60,000 to 70,000 words. The unabridged dictionary contains approximately 425,000 words.

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Weapons Once Method to

Scare Away Hailstorms

Arrows, spears and javelins were the weapons by which primitive humanity sought to scare away hailstorms. In the Middle Ages various noise-making processes were employed for the same purpose. The modern expedient, which has cost European vine growers and farmers tens of millions of dollars, is to fire cannon or rockets at the clouds. Thousands of mortars of a special pattern were in use for this purpose in the early years of the present century, but an explosive rocket is now the favorite European device for fighting the hailstorm. The rocket bursts high in the air, but far below the level where hail is formed. Its alleged effects are perfectly illusory. The process seems to succeed often enough to perpetuate popular faith in it because a fall of hail is normally of brief duration.

So it is with the old custom of firing at waterspouts; it is fairly certain that the broadside of a battleship at close range would not dispel one of these violent vortices. Their natural term of existence, however, is limited to about fifteen minutes, on an average, and is often much briefer; so it is not strange that the mariner should attribute the disappearance of one to a cannon shot.

Years ago the hail rod vied in popularity with the hail cannon as a means of safeguarding European vineyards from hailstorms. It was merely an overgrown lightning rod, set up on steeples, tall steel towers and the like. Many of them were erected in France under government auspices. They probably afforded some protection from lightning. Popular faith in them was shaken by several cases in which vineyards close to these rods were ravaged by hail and the rods themselves were violently pelted. They are now completely discredited. — St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Wooden Indian Now Rare; Few Left Are in Museums

The wooden Indian for years has been a sentinel in front of cigar stores. The reason is the redskin was the first grower of tobacco in this country, in fact, the wooden Indian became a symbol for tobacco just about the time the white men of Europe learned the art of smoking from the Indians and took it to Europe.

The old wooden Indians have become rare, one selling here recently for \$350, says a writer in the Kansas City Star. This one had stood in front of a tobacco shop 44 years. It is one of two left in Kansas City. He is known as Chief Big Smoke.

Wooden Indians are not indigenous to American soil as is tobacco. As early as the reign of James I the wooden Indian was a familiar sight in Merrie England. There is evidence the old wooden chiefs were no novelty in 1617, the year Pocahontas died. Undoubtedly the sculptors of the "tobacco warriors" probably never saw an Indian, because records reveal that the poor old chiefs sometimes weren't very noble in appearance.

Europe apparently believed an Indian was a creature who wore nothing except steps made of tobacco leaves. That's the way some of the early members of the "wooden tribe" appeared. The race is now vanishing. There are collectors of wooden Indians who have established museums as happy hunting grounds for many kinds of the noble "warriors." For many years a bronze cigar store Indian stood in Boston and the story goes that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow used to stop to admire it.

Jailing for Debt

Missouri and Oklahoma forbid jail for debt for fines or penalties. Jailing except where there is presumption of fraud is forbidden in Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio and Wyoming. Jailing for debt in civil action is frowned upon by the statutes of Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, New Mexico, Tennessee and Texas. There is no constitutional provision for debt imprisonment made in Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Virginia and West Virginia. Arrest in cases where the debtor has made an assignment of his assets in benefit of his creditors except in fraud or tort cases is forbidden in Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Montana, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. The Constitutions of Oregon, Utah and Washington limit arrest to absconding debtors.

The Angry Tree

A tree that grows in the Far East is known as the angry tree. It is said to be one of the wonders of plant life. When fully grown it is about eight feet in height, and every day at sunset, it closes its leaves together in coils, and curls its twigs to the semblance of pigtails. When thus settled for the night if touched it will evince agitation and flutter as if impatient at being disturbed. If roughly shaken, it will emit a sickening odor which, if inhaled, causes a violent headache.

Prehistoric Tooth Found

The tooth of a marsupial lion, a beast which carried its young in its pouch as do kangaroos, has been found at Molong, Australia. The tooth with fossilized bones was discovered by miners in a limestone cave 20 feet underground. The marsupial lion is believed to have lived in Australia from about 20,000,000 years ago until it became extinct 20,000 years ago.

Salt Once Used by Many as Medium of Exchange

Salt as a standard in the history of commerce antedates the gold standard. As a medium of exchange salt was widely used in many ancient countries. The Mogul conquerors of India made decrees thousands of years ago regulating the standard of salt that was used for money. Up until comparatively recent times salt was used as a medium of exchange in the Shan markets in Indo-China.

Besides being used as money, salt in days gone by was a powerful developer of commerce. Being essential to life and unavailable to tribes remote from the sea from which the substance was obtained by evaporation, trade routes were early developed to provide the transportation of salt.

For hundreds of years a caravan route was maintained between Palmyra and Syrian ports. Even today much of the caravan traffic in Sahara is largely in this precious commodity. The oldest road in Italy is not the Appian way, but the "Via Salaria," the Salt road along which salt was anciently carried from the evaporating pits at Ostia to the Sabine territory.

Indeed, according to historians, the world's second largest city, London, was first founded because of the salt trade. During the earliest days of European history salt was sent from England to the continent. Cheshire and Worcestershire provided salt for Britain and Gaul, and the route for its transportation crossed the country in a southeasterly direction, crossing the Thames, then very shallow, at a ford where Westminster now stands. An inn was built to accommodate salt haulers when the river was too swollen to ford. From this humble beginning as a resting place for salt traders the great city of London resulted.

Queen Bee Loses Husband Very Soon After Wedding

A queen bee, according to an authority in the Philadelphia Public Ledger, sometimes lays as many as 3,000 eggs a day and in her lifetime, becomes mother of 1,000,000 bees. A single mating suffices for the queen bee's lifetime, and she can go on laying fertile eggs for as long as four years—though beekeepers change queen bees at least biennially. A queen bee returns from her wedding journey a widow, and her final fate is to be slain by one of her own queen-bee daughters.

Only one in 5,000 drones ever becomes a husband—but he pays with his life for that privilege. A drone cannot feed himself, and it requires the labor of five or six honey-gathering bees to provide him with food.

The worker bee does not venture out from the hive until about seven-teen days old. Meanwhile it aids 40,000 of its sisters in housekeeping tasks within the hive. It takes 80,000 trips to bring in one pound of honey—the work of the whole honey-collecting lives of 600 bees. At times when nectar is most abundant 30 days will exhaust the life-energy of a worker bee. It is the bees which have done little or no honey-collecting which carry the labors of wintertime care of the hive—including providing it with adequate heat by exercising within the hive.

Leeks for Asthma

Herbalists use the leek in compounding their remedies, for this vegetable is credited with healing powers and is valuable as a tonic. It contains an oil which, mixed with vinegar, has been successfully used as a remedy for asthma. Three centuries ago there was a cure for consumption in which leeks figured prominently, and leek soup was in the diet of any patient recovering from a wasting disease. The Welsh took the leek as their national emblem in 544 when, under King Cadwallader, they fought a great battle against the Saxons. Their patron saint, St. David, persuaded them to wear leeks in their caps that each man might quickly see in the fray if the next man to him were friend or foe. The Welsh won their battle, and since then the leek has been their national emblem, and they always wear it on St. David's day.

House Built With Wine

A Hungarian trade paper has published a remarkable story of a new use for wine. In a provincial town of northern Hungary houses were being built in a vineyard on rocky soil. Water is scarce and precious in that district and is carted in barrels to the hills. There was not enough water for mixing the mortar, so the vine grower, for whom the house was built, and whose cellars were full of unsold and unsaleable wines mastered the situation by putting a few casks of wine at the mason's disposal in substitution for water. Thus for the first time a Hungarian house was built with wine.

Octopus Is Fiéree

The octopus, or "devil fish" is quite a fierce fellow, with enormous power in his arms, which are equipped with two rows of suckers. The largest specimen ever taken, however, measured only 23 feet from stem to stem, including the tentacles. There are over 150 species of octopi, most of which are quite small. The majority of them spend their lives at the bottom of shallow water, although a few swim freely and some have been netted as deep as 18,000 feet. In many parts of the world the small octopus is used for human food.

SOMETHING LIKE IT

Young Woman: "I would like to open an account at this bank, please."

Teller: "We shall be very glad to accommodate you. What amount do you wish to deposit?"

Young Woman (smiling): "Oh, I mean a regular charge account such as I have at the department stores."

Denmark some months ago ordered all foreign jazz bands to leave the country.

SCANDALOUS

Doctor: "What you need, my dear young lady, is a little sun and air." Sweet Young Thing: "Why, Doctor, how dare you! Why, I'm not even married."

The teacher was testing the knowledge of the kindergarten class. Slapping a half dollar on the desk, she said sharply, "What is that?" Instantly a voice from the back row, "Tails!"

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