

BRIEF NEWS NOTES FOR THE BUSY MAN

MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS OF
THE PAST WEEK TOLD IN
CONDENSED FORM.

WORLD'S NEWS EPITOMIZED

Complete Review of Happenings of
Greatest Interest From All
Parts of World.

Southern.

Battling blindly against the fury of a northeast gale, in a blinding snowstorm, two steamers went ashore a few miles from the Virginia capes. One of them is the British steamer Katherine Park and the other is an unknown tramp. The Katherine Park stranded off Smith Island, a few miles from Cape Charles. The unknown vessel struck the beach near the Cape Henry Life Saving Station, almost in the same spot, where the naval collier Sterling went ashore several years ago.

One hundred and fifty feet of Suwannee river trestle was destroyed and thirteen freight cars plunged into the river near Waycross, Ga., when a northbound extra freight on the Atlantic Coast Line was wrecked at the river.

The Mexican federal gunboat Zaraposa crossed the bar at the mouth of the Mississippi river and proceeded up the river toward New Orleans. Although the destination of the vessel was announced from Vera Cruz when it left there several days ago, the purpose of the visit to New Orleans has not been definitely determined.

G. F. Armstrong, cashier of the Farmers' State Bank at Hazlehurst, Georgia, which closed its doors on January 31, shot himself through the head and died shortly afterward. Investigation of the bank's affairs disclosed a shortage of approximately \$12,000 and a warrant was issued, charging Armstrong with responsibility for the disappearance of this sum.

General.

Harry Weiss, internal revenue collector for northern Ohio, has mailed to John D. Rockefeller at Tarrytown, Ky., tax blanks for the listing of the oil king's income for federal taxation under the income tax law. Mr. Weiss said he would proceed to collect about \$2,250,000 income tax from Mr. Rockefeller unless he pays the money to the revenue collector. "It hasn't been decided whether Rockefeller's home is Ohio or New York, so I've sent him blanks to be on the safe side."

The first translation of the Bible from the original Hebrew, the completion of which was celebrated in New York City, marks the beginning of other translations into English, which speakers declare was the intention of the committee in charge of the work. The completion of the work marks an epoch in the history of the Jewish people.

At Zion City, Ill., an ordinance for the "promotion of public morals and the regulation of the conduct of citizens" was enacted by city council. The first section of the ordinance makes it unlawful to do any act, suggest any conduct or say any word that is profane, vulgar or immoral, or that has a tendency to offend public decency. The second section is directed chiefly at flirting and makes it unlawful for any person in a loud or boisterous tone to ask any other to accompany him or her in a buggy, carriage, automobile or other vehicle or for a walk.

New York's oldest pickpocket, 70 years old age, scarcely able to walk, but still active in petty crime, added another arrest to his long record. His name is John Hanley; the police call him "The Ghost of the Past." He was caught stealing a purse from a girl in a crowd boarding a trolley car. "I've been in the business for forty years and in jail most of the time. My father tried to make a stone cutter of me, but I was too delicate to work," he said.

The handiwork responsible for the Cumbre tunnel horror and the remainder of his hand have been captured. The capture was made at Gabalin ranch, a few miles east of Pearson. The reports state that the prisoner will be taken to Casas Grandes, Mexico, and executed.

Confined in a tower of a windmill while the whirling sails cut off his only means of egress, Edwin Pike, a farmer of Harmony, Maine, was deprived of food and water for three days and nights. Several types of wind mills having failed to give him satisfaction, he decided to make his own. He finished the mill and entered the crank chamber between two of the sails to oil the machinery, when the wind arose and set the mill in action, making it impossible for him to leave.

Hundreds of Chicago's unemployed were given temporary work in the ice fields of Wisconsin and Michigan. The zero weather has produced a big ice crop and harvesting was begun in earnest. Many of the workers were engaged at the municipal lodging houses and cheap hotels, where they had been driven by the first severe cold of the winter. Hundreds were turned away from the lodging houses and were given quarters in police stations. More than one thousand men were in a bread line maintained by a charity.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria is planning to visit the United States at an early date. He will be accompanied by the queen. King Ferdinand is convinced that Bulgaria could learn more from the United States than from any other country on the best methods to develop her industries, and hence the visit is planned.

King George V, with the customary state ceremonial, opened the historic session of parliament, which, according to all reasonable probability, will see the victorious conclusion of the thirty years' struggle of the Liberal party to give self-government to Ireland. The home rule bill, which will be presented in the house of commons for the third time, will, if carried, receive the royal assent, with or without the consent of the house of lords. Whether the bill will pass as it stands, or whether it will be amended to meet the wishes of the latter, will depend on the nature of concessions.

The Japanese house of parliament was attacked by a mob. It was driven back by the Tokyo police only after the entrance gates had been broken down and scores of people injured. The rioting followed a big mass meeting at which resolutions were passed to impeach the cabinet for its attitude in connection with the graft charges against naval officers, several of whom are accused of receiving commissions for influencing the allotment of admiralty contracts in favor of a German firm.

A ship load of negroes, mostly farmers and their wives from Oklahoma, waited in New York City for Alfred C. Sam to lead them to a negro Utopia on the gold coast of Africa. The negro farmers were induced to come to New York, they said, by Sam, who had been collecting colonizers from Oklahoma, Texas and Mississippi. More negroes were expected from Galveston and the west, and it was said that eighty-six were coming from Boston.

Washington.

Despite a general understanding that, in defense to the administration, Asiatic exclusion legislation would not be agitated in congress pending diplomatic negotiations with Japan, Commissioner General Caminetti of the immigration bureau addressed a house committee urging early action "to check the menace of Asiatic immigration." The Chinese have become so acclimated to the United States, the commissioner asserts, that Asiatic immigration is a serious menace to the entire country. The danger is greatest, in his opinion, on the Pacific coast, but it is general as well.

Six vice admirals for the American navy would be authorized under a bill passed by the senate, after an extended debate, in which senators told of how the commander of the battleship fleet in Mexican waters might have to take orders from a ranking foreigner. The navy has been appealing for years for a revival of a higher grade than rear admiral. Secretary Daniels was highly pleased by the senate's action and expressed confidence that the measure would certainly pass the house promptly and be signed by the present. Under the senate bill, four vice admirals would be promoted.

Secretary Redfield of the department of commerce has advised Representative Howard of Georgia that he has decided to establish one of four branches of the foreign and domestic commerce bureau at Atlanta. Other branches are to be established at Seattle, St. Louis and Detroit. The sundry civil service bill carries \$80,000 for the establishment and maintenance of this service, approximately \$20,000 to be devoted to each of the four bureaus.

Nearly five million dollars has been added to the total of the postoffice appropriation bill as it passed the house when the senate committee completed its work on the measure. It carries \$31,000,000, the largest amount ever appropriated for postal purposes. The maximum salaries for rural mail carriers under the bill will be increased to \$1,200, the total increase for this purpose amounting to \$4,350,000. An increase of \$1,000,000 was added to the house appropriation for railway mail service to meet the demands of the parcel post.

After weeks of study of the complexities of the income tax law, treasury officials issued a 90-page booklet, christened it "Regulations No. 33," and sent it forth to collectors of internal revenue in the expectation that it will clear up many of the misunderstandings concerning the law that have arisen throughout the country. It takes twenty-three pages of the book to set forth the law itself, but sixty pages are used in telling how the net income to be taxed is ascertained by the taxpayer, when and where tax must be paid, and penalties imposed for non-payment.

While senators of the interstate commerce committee were conferring with President Wilson on the anti-trust legislative program, Progressive party leaders in and out of congress were explaining their views on the handling of the trust problem to house committees.

An earthquake lasting from fifteen to thirty seconds and disturbing particularly what are geologically known as the Devonian and Silurian sections of the northeastern parts of the United States took place. It was especially severe in the central and northern parts of New York state. Virtually all of New York state, including New York City, felt the shock, and New England generally, lower eastern Canada and parts of New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania were shaken. Tremors were recorded as far west as Washington and as far south as St. Louis.

NORTH CAROLINA CROP IN EPITOME

ESTIMATED AT \$241,533,670—20
BUSHEL TO ACRE—COTTON
SECOND, TOBACCO THIRD.

LATE STATE CAPITOL NEWS

Review of the Latest News Gathered
Around the State Capitol That
Will Be of Interest to Our Readers
Over North Carolina.

Raleigh.

The department of agriculture issued an epitome of the North Carolina crop for 1914 and places the products at \$241,533,670.

Corn leads all with the grand total of 55,282,000 bushels which bring up a total of \$65,000,000 with the forage thrown in. Cotton plays a good second with 800,000 bales valued at \$50,000,000. The yield of corn an acre is 20 bushels and cotton 315 pounds to the acre. Tobacco is third with \$31,000,000 with 670 pounds to the acre. The poundage is estimated at 167,000,000.

The value of pasturage is placed at \$30,000,000 and cotton seed comes fifth with \$10,000,000. Wheat stands sixth with 7,078,000 bushels, worth \$8,500,000. The average is 11.7 to the bushel. Hay ranks seventh with its 1.31 tons to the acre, 320,000 tons or \$6,914,000 and peanuts are placed eighth with \$6,000,000.

Rye yields 10.3 an acre, 474,000 bushels and \$474,000. Buckwheat with 10 bushels an acre, 174,000 bushels and \$474,000 duplicates rye. Irish potatoes are listed at 80 bushels an acre, 2,400,000 bushels and \$1,938,000; sweet potatoes 10 bushels to the acre, 8,000,000 bushels and \$4,800,000 for the crop. Rice was scant, 25 bushels to the acre, 7,000 bushels and \$9,000 in money.

Peas are estimated at \$1,500,000 for the crop of soy beans at \$100,000; grass and other seeds and green forage at \$2,000,000; garden vegetables at \$2,500,000; apples at \$2,044,670; peaches, pears and grapes at \$1,500,000; truck \$2,500,000; dairy \$2,000,000; poultry and eggs \$9,000,000 and wool \$100,000.

The poultry and eggs items are not divided and are therefore not listed in the order of single products. It is presumed that they are about evenly matched.

Invitations to Good Roads Meeting.

State Geologist Joseph Hyde Pratt is mailing a letter to the road engineers, road superintendents and chairman of the board of county commissioners in the various counties of the state asking their attendance upon a statewide meeting to be held in Chapel Hill on the dates of March 17, 18 and 19. The letter addressed to the good road promoters of the counties expresses as the purpose of the gathering that of thrashing out the road problems confronting the engineers and superintendents.

Anticipating the development of this meeting into one of the state-wide significance and of annual occurrence, the state geologist hopes that the institute may become a clearing house for solving the various road problems that arise in connection with county road work. Lectures and discussions on the sundry troubles of the road engineer as well as the road superintendent will be given during the three days' session of the institute. So enthusiastic is Doctor Pratt as to the value that will be derived from this institute that he suggests that the road commission of each county authorize its engineer and superintendent to attend.

Report on Silk Mills.

"The silk mills reporting show the employment of 26,500 spindles, 472 looms, 1,410 horsepower. The approximate amount of raw material used in 270,000 pounds; estimated value of the yearly output, \$375,000. The total number of employees reported is 445. Of these 165 are males and 280 females. The estimated number dependent on these mills and on the 445 employees for a livelihood is 500. The percent of employees who read and write is given as 95.5.

Craig Appoints New A. & M. Trustees

Effective April 1, Governor Craig issued commission recently to a number of new members of the board of trustees of the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. They follow: Fleetwood W. Dunlap, Wadesboro; Matt H. Allen, Goldsboro; J. E. Swain, Asheville; W. L. Vaughan, Washington; W. P. Stacy, Wilmington. These gentlemen take the place of the following, who retire from the board: W. J. Newberry, Magnolia; W. D. Siler, Siler City; C. M. Hughes, C. G. Ross, Fayetteville; C. C. Cranford.

Award Contract to Lorado Taft.

The State Historical Society has awarded to Lorado Taft, the distinguished artist of Chicago, the contract for the O. Henry memorial that is to be presented to the state by the society at its next annual meeting in the fall. It is to be a tablet with bas relief of Sidney Porter and will be set up in the new state building.

Mr. Taft has also been selected as the artist for the marble bust of the following, who retire from the board: W. J. Newberry, Magnolia; W. D. Siler, Siler City; C. M. Hughes, C. G. Ross, Fayetteville; C. C. Cranford.

Education Board Apportions Fund.

Apportionment was made by the state board of education recently of the fund provided by her last regular session of the general assembly, for the equalizing of the terms of the public schools of North Carolina. The total fund amounted to \$401,015.72, and was distributed among ninety counties of the state which needed assistance in extending their school terms to six months. The counties named above already had school terms of a longer period of time than six months, and consequently needed no money from the state treasury, these being Buncombe, Durham, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Halifax, Haywood, Mecklenburg, Nash, New Hanover and Wilson.

State officials declare that this is one of the most progressive steps that has been taken by North Carolina in her history, as it puts in reach of every child in the state the opportunity of attending school at least six months during each year. The law making possible the six months school term was passed by the general assembly of 1913, and was enacted in the face of a deficit which grew larger when the fund was set aside, but was enacted by men who knew all the while they were legislating in favor of the children of the commonwealth and for those who would soon be the future generation.

The action of the state board of education was taken under the provision of Chapter 33, Public Laws of 1913. The apportionment was the first to be made under the new law creating the equalizing school fund, and will provide this year from the state and county funds, exclusive of all funds raised by local district taxation, a minimum school term in every school district in the state of one hundred and three and three-tenths days, or five months and nearly one week. This is twenty-three and three-tenths days, or one month and three and one-third days more than the minimum school term ever heretofore provided in this state.

The law provides that it shall be a misdemeanor, imposing a fine and imprisonment, for any school official to use or to permit to be used, any part of the equalizing fund apportioned to any district, for any other purpose than the payment of the teachers' salaries for the designated period.

All of the counties of the state which have heretofore had only a four months, or an eighty-day school term, the number of which last year amounted to 615, will not have a three-school term of twenty-three and three-tenths days longer in every district this year. All the other counties, except the ten which did not need it, will have their school terms lengthened to a minimum of one hundred and three and three-tenths. This will give every county of the state a considerably longer term in every district of the county than it has ever had before.

Tobacco Marketing Falling Off.

While the earlier months of the present tobacco season showed record-breaking marketing of leaf tobacco, there was a marked falling off in sales on all the markets of the state during January compared with January last year and with the earlier months of the present season. The sales of January amounted to only 9,833,476 pounds, compared with 12,438,857 pounds for January of last year. Prices are still high and it is estimated that the bulk of the present crop is already marketed.

Winston-Salem led with 1,080,184 pounds and Oxford has second place with 895,925 pounds. Other markets were: Henderson, 558,571; Wilson, 781,271; Roxboro, 642,289; Rocky Mount, 617,284; Reidsville, 342,522; Greensboro, 33,877; Greenville, 310,168; Burlington, 363,741; Mount Airy, 301,626; Durham, 300,478; Lenoir, 264,261; Warrenton, 321,433; Apex, 176,033; Walnut Cove, 126,536; Stoneville, 148,923; Creedmoor, 136,877; Pilot Mountain, 85,076; Statesville, 78,459; Wendell, 67,804; Smithfield, 62,325; Fuquay Springs, 45,445; Madison, 42,646; Youngsville, 42,646; Kinston, 30,510.

New North Carolina Enterprises.

The following charters for new corporations were issued by the Secretary of State:

The Rowan Baptist Association, Winston-Salem, chartered without capital stock.

Uncle Sam Asks For Special Rate.

The corporation commission heard recently a petition from the United States government for a special rate to be put in force for the freight delivery of crushed rock at Elizabethtown, on the upper Cape Fear River to be used in the installation of locks and dams with which to improve the navigability of the Cape Fear from Wilmington to Fayetteville. The petition came through Major Stickle, United States engineer at Wilmington. S. G. Ridley was here to present the case.

Report on Knitting Mills.

The data given out by Commissioner Shipman is as follows: "Sixty-one knitting mills are reported for 1913, and fifty-one of these show a capital stock of \$3,944,235. The approximate amount of raw material used by forty-one mills is 14,731,119 pounds. The estimated value of yearly output by forty-three mills is \$6,811,690. The number of spindles in use in these mills is given as 60,861; knitting machines, 3,287; sewing machines, 753; cards, 248; making use of 5.145 1-2 horsepower.

SENATOR BACON OF GEORGIA DEAD

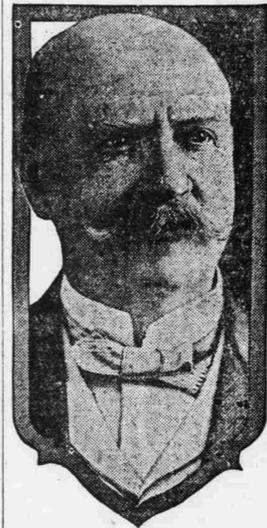
ILL BUT TEN DAYS, DIES IN
WASHINGTON HOSPITAL OF
KIDNEY TROUBLE.

19 YEARS IN THE SENATE

Gallant Soldier, Brilliant Lawyer,
Had Attained Nation-Wide Prominence.—Mark of Respect Paid Dead Statesman by the Senate.

Washington. — Augustus Octavius Bacon, United States Senator from Georgia for nearly 19 years and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee since the ascendancy of the Democratic party March 4, 1913, died in a hospital here after an illness of ten days. He was the first United States Senator elected by direct vote of the people under the seventeenth constitutional amendment.

Though Senator Bacon had been seriously ill with kidney trouble and complications developing from a broken rib, his death was unexpected. It came suddenly at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and news of the end fell upon the Senate as a shock while it was in executive session.



SENATOR AUGUSTUS O. BACON.

The immediate cause of the Senator's death was diagnosed as a blood clot in the heart. Throughout the morning he had been in good spirits and it was announced to his colleagues that he was feeling better than for several days. Physicians had determined that an operation which had been contemplated, was unnecessary. Despite his 75 years it appeared that the affliction which he suffered was of recent origin, and specialists believed it would yield to treatment. This conclusion relieved considerably the anxiety of the friends and associates in Congress.

Half an hour before his death the Senator talked with his daughter, Mrs. W. B. Sparks of Georgia. She had just left the room when he raised himself in bed. As Mrs. Sparks entered the room her father fell back in collapse and never regained consciousness.

In the absence of Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia, Senator Overman was notified and proceedings in the Senate were abruptly halted when the North Carolina Senator announced the death. A brief resolution of respect was adopted and the Senate adjourned.

The scene on the floor of the Senate was an unusual one. Not only had the death of their colleague shocked the Senators, but the effect of his loss at a time when important foreign relations measures were pending at once impressed itself upon the minds of Democratic and Republican leaders.

Informing the Senate of Senator Bacon's death, Senator Overman said: "In absence of the Senator from Georgia, Mr. Smith, it becomes my painful duty to announce to the Senate the death of Senator Bacon. The sudden passing away of this great Senator, who came to this chamber with all the honors which his native state could confer upon him and who repaid that trust by his long, honorable and industrious career in this body, is an irreparable loss not only to the Senate, but to the people of his state, and also to the country at large."

President Wilson Improved.

Washington. — President Wilson's cold was much improved. The president lunched and dined with his family. It was the first time in three days that he had descended from the upper apartments of the White House. White House officials said they did not know whether or not the president would be at his desk in the executive offices next day. So far as known no engagements have been made for him and it is likely he will be given an additional day of rest before resuming work.

STATE ITEMS

OF INTEREST TO ALL NORTH
CAROLINA PEOPLE.

To Uplift Rural Life.

P. P. Claxton, United States commissioner of education and Bradford Knapp of the United States department of agriculture were speakers in a conference held at Raleigh recently under the auspices of the state department of agriculture for the purpose of agreeing on a program for united effort in further uplift for the rural life in the state through the work of the department and through the rural schools.

Mr. Claxton presented the general plan he has worked out for advancement of rural life through the increased efficiency of the public schools. He advocated consolidation of schools so far as is possible without undertaking the public transportation of the pupils, which he believes to be too expensive for school districts to undertake. He wants school farms provided in connection with each of the schools and the principal of each school to be a capable farmer as well as school teacher.

Against Low Freight Rates.

That there is another side to the railroad freight agitation as viewed by many citizens throughout the state is shown by the fact that the Interstate Freight Rate Commission is being petitioned to leave the rates alone. Several hundred petitions which in due time will be presented to the commission, are now being freely signed in various parts of North Carolina.

Offers Corn Club Prizes.

Mr. L. B. Sasser, of Wilmington, last year gave \$100 toward prizes for boys' corn clubs in this section, making possible the big corn show held here last fall, has this year shouldered the entire prize list himself, giving the full \$200 in prizes which will be distributed as follows: First, \$50; second, 40; third, 35; fourth, 30; fifth, 25; sixth, 20.

Suicides in Charlotte.

The body of S. M. Mackendree, a business man of Spartanburg, S. C., was found recently in a room in a Charlotte hotel. A pistol shot wound in the temple and a revolver lying on the floor disclosed the manner of his death. Many letters found in the dead man's room have been taken in charge by the coroner.

NORTH CAROLINA NEWS NOTES.

Mr. E. L. Duke has made the tuberculosis sanitarium at Durham an assured fact by offering the civic association a tract of land on which to locate this hospital.

The report of Chief Charles Schnibben of the fire department for the year 1913 shows that Wilmington suffered a fire loss of only \$90,021.06 for the entire twelve months, and this is considered high for Wilmington.

The Methodists of Mount Holly are to build a new house of worship right away. The edifice as planned will cost about \$5,000 to \$6,000, and it is hoped that no time will be lost in its erection.

A large timber deal was closed at Cooleemee recently, when the Fred Brenner Lumber Company, with offices in Salisbury, bought lumber privileges from the Cooleemee Mills Company on a vast area of original forest lands in both Davie and Rowan counties.

B. H. Bridges, Rutherford county superintendent of schools, has announced that a commencement will be held in Rutherfordton Saturday, March 20.

At a meeting of the directors of the First National Bank of Forest City recently J. F. Alexander was elected to the presidency of that institution to succeed the late Dr. G. J. Young. This is the first time in the history of the bank that the directors have had to choose a new president. Dr. Young having served in this capacity since the organization.

The Brooks-Parker Contracting Company, which has the contract to construct the Southern Power Company's railroad from Steele's siding on the Catawba river, ten miles west of Statesville to the site of the big power plant to be erected at Lookout Shoals, five miles further up the river, began the work of grading the roadbed recently.

The continued work in surveying the swamps of Grant's creek, preparatory to draining the lands has brought the surveying corps to a point near the Salisbury fair grounds, some three miles from the mouth of the stream at the river.

In concluding its work, the grand jury in Rowan county superior court recently inspected the newly-erected court house and complimented its general appearance as being a building of which the county should be proud. The building is nearing completion and will be occupied at the next regular term of court. It cost \$111,000.

A few days ago the citizens of Vanceboro in Craven county held a mass meeting and decided to erect two large tobacco warehouses in order to take care of the larger quantity of tobacco which is to be grown in that section during the coming season. What is said to be the largest dam ever built in Rowan county has been instituted on behalf of Mrs. Jessie Eagle of Spencer against the Southern Railway Company. She demands damage in the amount of \$76,000 on account of the killing of her husband, Engineer W. M. Eagle in a wreck near Hickory.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Director of Evening Department, The Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)

LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 22.

FAITH DESTROYING FEAR.

LESSON TEXT.—Luke 12:1-12.
GOLDEN TEXT.—"Every one who shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of Man also confess before the angels of God."—Luke 12:8.

The first verse of this lesson indicates the character of this period in the life of our Lord which we are now studying. It was a time of thrilling interest and of intense excitement. A time when the crowds were so great that they "trode one upon another." This may have resulted from the preaching of the seventy; but we of this day can see what Jesus then saw, that this interest was only superficial and transitory. "So it was that the Master turned first of all to his disciples lest they be deceived by this seeming popularity.

Hiding the Truth.

1. The fear of losing a reputation, vv. 2, 3. The Pharisees made great pompous claims at their being religious. A hypocrite is one who hides behind a mask, one who is a play actor. It is pretence instead of reality. Therefore, if one is not real his fear of losing his reputation is increased in direct ratio to the extent of his deceit. The principal error of these Pharisees was that they hid the truth and at the same time refused to be ruled by it themselves. Jesus demands a new publicity (v. 2) of service and in the presence of this vast crowd denounces this hypocrisy as being sin. He also says plainly that what they had been saying in darkness will be proclaimed from the housetops.

Our Lord compares hypocrisy with leaven in that it is the product of corruption, it works secretly, it infects the whole mass. (So hypocrisy will effect our whole life and conduct.) This leaven is a sour spreading corruption that changes the whole character of a man. It cannot be hid. No amount of care can effectually cover our deceit. We may, for a time, hide our sin from men, but God knows and in due time will publish it abroad (v. 3); 1. Tim. 5:24.

Warned by Jesus.

II. The fear of death, vv. 4, 7. Such publicity will and always has led to persecution, and so Jesus calls his disciples to courage, charging them that they fear not those who have power over the body, but rather to fear him whose power is over the soul. Notice the manner of address "my friends, fear not." Intimacy and courage are suggested. Look up the many times the Scriptures admonish us not to fear, 1. John 4:18. Satan and man (v. 5) have power over the body, but they cannot touch the soul. The Christian, however, needs not to fear man or Satan, Isa. 51:12, Rom. 8:31, for the angel of Jehovah (the Lord Jesus) encamps about them that fear Jehovah (Ps. 34:7). Paul tells us that to depart from this life is again, Phil. 1:24; 1. Cor. 5:8. We have, therefore, cause to fear the death of the body. One only, God, has the power after death, to cast the soul into hell (v. 5). He it is who gives us a suggestion of awful consciousness of the soul, and of the body as well, when they are in hell, Matt. 10:28. Jesus has warned us and we are to warn others that they avoid that which was prepared, not for man, but for the devil and his angels, Matt. 25:41. Is there a hell? Yes! Else Jesus was deceived or has deliberately deceived us.

However, that as a man is of more value than a sparrow, so God has prepared better things for those who place their faith in his son.

III. The fear of making an open confession, vv. 8-12. With such a tender, beautiful assurance of God's care over us it would seem unnecessary for Jesus to admonish his followers about confessing him before the world. Yet such is the persistent hardness and the natural timidity of the human heart that the Master, in warning his followers, Rom. 10:9, 10. Our Lord looks beyond his disciples to the dispensation of the Spirit and declared that men, speaking against him would be forgiven, but that those who slander, detract and heap vituperation upon the Spirit would commit a sin, a blasphemy, which could not be forgiven. Moreover, in that dispensation of the Spirit, no matter how much men might suffer, or be in danger, they would be taught by that Spirit what they ought to say, vv. 11, 12.

The one who commits this sin, deliberately attributes to the Devil what he knows to be the work of the Spirit, Matt. 12:22-32. It is a deliberate choice of darkness and the heart is so hardened as to preclude repentance. There is no desire for repentance. Those whom Jesus calls to proclaim the truth concerning the Kingdom of God may depend upon a co-operation of the Holy Spirit which will make them fearless of all opposition. The death of the body is but an incident, and we receive the Comforter and come to know the God of all comfort; we begin to sense our value to him in carrying out his enterprises and the mystery of his condescending grace. There is no warrant for undertaking work for Christ without adequate preparation, but there is sufficient warrant for fully trusting him in every emergency.