

IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD

BY WILLIAM T. ELLIS

Dust-covered cactus bushes all around. No station and no houses except British military tents. Uniformed men everywhere. Soldiers running the locomotives and manning the trains. A few civilian passengers, mostly members of a Zionist commission. Limestone roads ground to powder by heavy army trucks. Bright-faced Syrian children selling "mish-mish," or the native apricots.

That is the Ludd of today, the Lydda of Peter's time. Now it is the railway junction where the new line up through the desert from Egypt meets the old line from Jaffa to Jerusalem (only the rails have been torn up between Jaffa and Lydda); and where the other war-made line from Haifa, at the foot of Mt. Carmel, meets there.

From Lydda one may go by rail direct to Memphis, Egypt, where Moses lived, or to Jerusalem, where David ruled, or to Damascus, where Paul was converted; or to Constantinople, where Christianity first took imperial form, and thence to all the capitals of Europe. Were it not for one break in the road, down in Mesopotamia, one could also go direct to Bagdad and Babylon.

The present importance of Lydda is military and railway. It does not seem strange to hear common travel talk, "chance cars at Lydda," or "you will have to wait at Lydda for the Jerusalem train," or "Lydda is a dead and dreary place, but you will have a stop-over there until the Egyptian train gets in." Most travellers, bent on present affairs, give never a thought to the Lydda of old, with its piled-up history and memories.

British officers may mention that it was near here that the story of St. George and the Dragon had its rise. Over toward Ramleh may be seen the ruins of the Church of St. George, one of the successive edifices that mark this historic spot. They may muse upon the significance of the present return of British troops to the very place whence came the legend of England's patron saint. Now these British forces are slaying the dragons of the untoward social, economic and political conditions under which the land has long groined. America does not know the full story of the beneficence of the British occupation of Syria.

Here at Lydda, or Lydda, Peter, too, slew a dragon, and the story is today's lesson. He met the old monster of disease and routed him; Aeneas the pained man, was liberated by Christ's champion. His word "Jesus Christ maketh thee whole," is a slogan for our time. Wholeness, which is real holiness, is what this sick and smitten world needs, and it will never get it except in the name of Jesus. All sorts of lopsided and half-developed and distorted theories are being propounded today; but the distinction of Christ, who is the world's Healer, is that he makes whole—whole in body as well as in spirit; whole in estate as well as in destiny. Sarah N. Cleg-horn wrote in "The Congregationalist" some lines which recall the symmetry of life:

"Body and soul are married lovers;
God was their witness when they wed
Beside the tree of life in Eden;
'These twain shall be one flesh,' he said.

"Yet man hath put them oft asunder,
And not alone by fire and sword,
But duped by lying metaphysics,
He oft denies, in deed and word,

"This marriage between earth and heaven;
While ever, to the steadfast skies,
The prayers of these old constant lovers
In patient iteration rise:

"O, Priest, my little love remember—
My love and bride, the Body see;
What thou canst do to ease her burdens
Shall greatly lift and comfort me!"

"O wise Physician, now no longer
Neglect my Lord and Love, the Soul!
While he lies sick in pain and fever
No drugs can make the body whole!"

As it Seemed on the Stage.
Recently there was shown by the Interchurch world movement in New York, as earlier it had been presented by the Methodist Episcopal church at

Columbus, the great pageant-play, "The Wayfarer." One incident, set forth with consummate stagecraft, portrayed the healing of a blind man. The dramatic quality of the miracle is forgotten because we associated them with Sunday preaching. They were sensational and effective. Well does the record say of this cure of Aeneas by Peter at Lydda, "All that dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him (the healed man) and turned to the Lord." Transformed lives are the real Christian evidence. The then bustling city of Lydda was deeply stirred by the wonder.

On the surface lies the lesson, now learned anew in the war and since the war, that only a religion of positive power can hold or move men. What a slump the church has undergone since the days of Peter! Perfunctoriness, programmed conventionalism and petty proscriptions so easily take the place of present reality. It was a shock to learn that most soldiers thought that being a Christian meant abstinence from cards, dancing and the theatre.

As if to repudiate this narrow conception of Christianity, the allied churches themselves stage a tremendous theatrical performance in Madison Square Garden, thus abdicating formally the position held by many denominations. It was a bold thing to do. But every Christian leader today knows that the church cannot be true to her mission or her Gospel on a basis of prohibitions. She must display the present power of her Lord in hope and help and healing.

The Harbor of Seasickness.
Twelve miles from Lydda is the city of Jaffa, the ancient Joppa where Peter raised Dorcas from the dead. Most modern visitors to Jerusalem entered the Holy Land by the port of Jaffa, where the tumultuous sea and difficult landing made it one of the centers of seasickness if such a phrase may be permitted. Those old days have passed. Jaffa has been abandoned as a principal port of entry, and great harbor improvements have been planned for Haifa. The railway between Jaffa and Lydda is not likely soon to be restored; although the normal business of the thriving Jewish colonies around Jaffa insures the eventual resumption of the line.

This city was the scene of a miracle that awakened the people to potency of the new Christian faith. Here was situated the beautiful story of the raising of Dorcas from the dead by the hand of Peter. Dorcas—the name meaning "Gazelle," in the flowery oriental fashion—"was full of good works and alms-deeds which she did."

What a monument that one woman erected for herself! Nobody can use the name Dorcas without thinking of her. Countless thousands of "Dorcas Societies" have ministered after her fashion; and in her name. The very marvel of her restoration to life is obscured by the memory of her humble ministries of love. "Cleopatra's needle," an obelisk of stone, has been transported from Egypt to London, but it is no such monument as Dorcas' needle. After all, there is no "career" possible to a woman or to a man equal to sincere goodness and consistent helpfulness.

MATTERS OF RECORD.

Yesterday the following realty transfers were filed for registration:
E. F. Wilson et al. to James Howell, lot on Rector street, \$10 and other considerations.
Pine Burr Park company to Mary J. Sevier, lot in Pine Burr park, \$600.

Haw Creek Realty company to Rachel Howland, property on East street, \$10 and other considerations.
E. J. Stroup to W. B. Baker, property in lower Hominy township, \$10 and other considerations.
J. E. Ray et al. to J. V. Sevier Jr. and C. C. Sevier, property in French Broad township, \$10 and other considerations.

L. B. Kennedy to F. H. Revis, property in Reems creek township, \$10 and other considerations.
I. P. Black to Charley Ledbetter, property in Sandy Mush township, \$40.
Mrs. Caroline C. Logan to J. D. Earle, lot on Haywood street, \$4,300.

N. L. Crisp to W. S. Edwards, lot on Haywood road, \$10 and other considerations.
B. H. Fakes to Donald Gillis, lot on Livingston street, \$150.
W. M. Jarvis to Wirt-Greenwood company, inc., property in lower Hominy township, \$10 and other considerations.

Martin W. Noblitt to S. L. Ray, lot on Murdoch avenue, \$10 and other considerations.
Dulcy C. Wright to S. M. Stevens, lot on Coxie street, \$2,756.75.
Addie B. Hughes to L. L. Hudson, lot on Montford avenue, \$10 and other considerations.
B. Frank Gudgeon to S. M. Stevens, lot on Coxie street, \$393.75.
Mrs. A. Frazier Britt to J. W.

Bryan, lot on Blake street, \$10 and other considerations.
Marriage Licenses.
License for the marriage of the following were issued:
S. L. Everard to Ira McNelly, both of Knoxville.

WILSON HAD NARROW ESCAPE FROM "FLU"

Grayson Says President is Slowly Making Progress.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—President Wilson contracted a cold several days ago and had a narrow escape from influenza, his physician, Rear Admiral Grayson, said today. Every precaution is now being taken to protect the President, Dr. Grayson said, and no person with even the suspicion of a cold is permitted to enter his room.

Dr. Grayson said the President is steadily, although slowly, improving, and is now permitted to walk about the second floor of the white house unassisted.

M'CORMICK SPEAKS BEFORE G. O. P. CLUB

NEW YORK, Feb. 3.—England, France and Italy were advised to lay heavier burdens upon their taxpayers or drastically curtail their expenditures by Senator Modell McCormick of Illinois in discussing the abnormal exchange situation in an address before the Young Men's Republican club here tonight. Until the relation between imports and exports is restored to normal, he explained, there can be no resumption of the normal rate of exchange. The value of foreign currencies will continue to fall in New York markets, he said, until the foreign countries can present a balanced budget of revenue and expenditure.



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Aspirin is trade mark of Bayer Manufacture Monocrocinolide of Salicylic acid

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"Calomel is dangerous and people know it, while Dodson's Liver Tone is perfectly safe and gives better results," said a prominent local druggist.

Take "Dodson's Liver Tone" Instead!

Dodson's Liver Tone is personally guaranteed by every druggist who sells it. A large bottle costs but a few cents, and if it fails to give easy relief in every case of liver sluggishness and constipation, you have only to ask for your money back.

Dodson's Liver Tone is a pleasant-tasting, purely vegetable remedy, harmless to both children and adults.

Take a spoonful at night and wake up feeling fine; no biliousness, sick headache, acid stomach or constipated bowels. It doesn't gripe or cause inconvenience all the next day like violent calomel. Take a dose of calomel today and tomorrow you will feel weak, sick and nauseated. Don't lose a day's work! Take Dodson's Liver Tone instead and feel fine, full of vigor and ambition.

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Tax Listing Personal Property NOTICE

All persons in Buncombe County are notified that they must list all personal property at once under the new revaluation act. Our offices are now open in the County Court House and at other points throughout the county. Come at once, as the time is limited.

Under the new law it is a misdemeanor if you fail to list.

E. B. ATKINSON,
County Tax Supervisor.

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