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Good News

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(FORMERLY THE FOOL-KILLER)

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"WAR IN HEAVEN."

Before the invention and development of the flying-machine, people who read in the Bible about "war in heaven" thought it meant away up millions of miles high at a place where they imagine God stays. Nobody ever dreamed about it being the atmospheric heaven that surrounds the earth. We had no reason for believing that men would ever fight in the air.

But within the past three years a new meaning has been given to that expression about "war in heaven." We see now that it could easily mean the fighting with airplanes that is now going on in Europe. And in fact, that is about the only thing it could mean. Because God's own private Heaven, if there is such a place, must evidently be a place of absolute peace and harmony. We are told that nothing evil is ever allowed to enter there. And if we have to believe that war could get into God's Heaven and cause trouble there, we will no longer be able to see how it differs very much from other places where war is, and Heaven will have lost its greatest charm—the very thing that makes it Heaven.

We all know that the atmosphere surrounding the earth is called "heaven," and we see that the first thing men did after learning how to fly was to begin fighting in the air. In a recent magazine article Theodore Roosevelt tells how the first air battles were fought very low, but as the air-fighting developed it got higher and higher, until now battles fought six miles high are very common.

You see the combatants soon discovered that there was an advantage in being ABOVE the enemy in order to fight DOWN at it, just as the man who wishes to whip another in a fist-fight begins by knocking him down and getting on top of him.

"Stay on top" is the big idea in air-fighting. But it is a game all sides can play at; and while one is mounting the clouds to get above the other, the other is doing a little mounting on his own hook for the purpose of getting on top himself.

So the natural tendency of air-fighting is upward—higher and higher. If possible they would carry it right on into God's own Heaven, but He will not allow that. He will send on them another confusion like Babel and put a stop to it all.

Yes, sir, the 12th chapter of Revelation and all the other places that talk about war in heaven,

must be talking about the very same air-battle that you read about in your newspaper this morning.

ETERNAL TORMENT.

I was brought up in the Baptist faith and became a member of the Baptist church at an early age. I was probably "scared" into the church by the boogie-boo of Eternal Torment before I was old enough to reason things out for myself.

Having been raised on such doctrine as that, and knowing that lots of good, honest, well-meaning people believed it, it was several years before I could muster up courage enough to doubt it. So the years passed, and I continued to believe in Eternal Torment for the wicked, but I was not satisfied with the belief. The more I thought about it the more unreasonable it seemed. Finally the day came when I said in my soul: If God is good, then Eternal Torment is a lie; and if Eternal Torment is true, then God is a cruel monster.

Having once begun to doubt, it was then easier to go on doubting. And I soon found that I didn't believe anything. I was an Agnostic, and expected soon to be an Infidel.

All this time I was trying to be unmercifully honest with myself. I wanted to be absolutely sure that the Bible was a big pack of lies before I finally threw it overboard. All my denominational prejudice was gone. There I stood, empty-handed and open-minded, bravely facing the problem and honestly seeking for the truth.

And then—just in the nick of time—this thought came to me: Maybe the Bible IS true, and they have merely taught me a wrong interpretation of it. Maybe, after all, it does NOT teach Eternal Torment.

And that thought saved me. I went back to the old Book and began to study it in a new light. And, behold, it was an entirely new Book. I found that it did NOT teach Eternal Torment, and then my respect for God came back in a hurry, and with it a good deal of humble reverence.

The true interpretation of what God proposes to do with the wicked is a very beautiful blending of Justice and Mercy. It is the least that a just God COULD do, and the most that a merciful God WOULD do. It is just plain DEATH.

The penalty of Death has been pronounced against the utterly wicked ever since Adam's transgression, and that is the only

penalty ever mentioned. It is spoken of under various figures of speech, but it always means the same, and it is a slander against God to try to make it mean anything else.

The doctrine of Eternal Torment for the wicked, as taught in the man-made creeds, is a brutal, blasphemous and God-dishonoring doctrine, and I verily believe it is the cause of more infidelity than all other causes combined. Men and women with common sense are not going to love a cruel and heartless monster such as God would have to be if Eternal Torment were true. They might FEAR such a God, but they would never LOVE him. That is the kind of a being we understand the devil to be, and if God is just like the devil, why not just as well love the devil and be done with it? I believe the devil is every bit mean enough to torment people eternally and laugh at their misery if he was permitted to do it. But our merciful and All-Powerful God will not allow any such business. He is going to destroy the devil at the same time he destroys the rest of the wicked. And thus every vestige of evil will be utterly blotted out, and only goodness, peace, joy and happiness will remain.

THE TERRIBLE ATOM.

Here is something else for you to think about, and I don't want you to go off and say it's just one of my big lies, either.

The men of science are working on a strange new theory of matter. You know what "matter" is, don't you? Matter is just anything—any object that you can see or feel, and even after it gets so little that you can't see it with your natural eye, it is still matter. These very small invisible particles of matter are called "atoms."

It was thought for a long time that the atom was the ultimate unit of matter and that it could not be divided any more. But now the wise men come along and tell us that the atom is made up of a great number of still smaller things called "electrons." And the strangest thing about it is that these electrons are not lying close together in the atom, making a solid mass, but they stand wide apart and revolve around a central point at a most terrific rate of speed. It is just a microscopic copy of the solar system.

Just how the men of science find out such things is more than I can tell you. But they all affirm that these things are proven facts, and I am not in a position to dispute their word. Men have done so

many wonderful things lately that I don't dare to say what CAN'T be done.

Well, as I started to tell you these little "electrons" which are revolving in the atom at such an awful speed are bound to generate a great deal of force. And now science is working to discover a way to break up the atom and liberate the power that is imprisoned in it. One high authority says that a common copper penny has in it an amount of energy equal to 8,600,000 horsepower! Just imagine! Eight million and six hundred thousand horsepower in one copper penny! And the same writer goes on to say that whenever the secret of using this power is discovered it will be possible to transform the whole earth into a Garden of Eden.

But wait a minute! Judging by the way man uses the forces that he does possess, would he make the earth a Paradise or a Hell? Bless your soul, man already has in his possession forces that would soon make the earth a great deal better place to live in if he would use it right. But look! Instead of any progress toward a paradise condition, the earth is right this minute the next thing to hell! And man has to admit that this is what all his smartness comes to.

And so if the scientists should discover a way to use this terrible hidden power that they say is in every atom of matter—why, sakes alive!—everything would be blown into oblivion and the whole creation wrecked before you could say "scat." It never would do for man in his present sinful and depraved condition to come into possession of that terrible secret. In about five minutes there wouldn't be enough of anything left on earth to hold an inquest over.

This is no joke. The men of science claim to have proof that such a power exists. They are digging after it in all seriousness, and they are mighty apt to get hold of it some of these days.

But don't get excited. This great discovery will not be made until after the New Age sets in and the devil is chained. Then, and only then, will it be possible for men to handle such a power without wrecking the world with it.

You Dollar Folks.

To all those who responded to my first proposition and sent a dollar for the weekly one ear, I want to say that I will now put you on for TWO years, because I have reduced the price of all ADVANCE subs to 50 cents.