

THE BOOK

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

by BRUCE BARTON

THE FIRST CHURCH TRIAL

A STRANGE thing had happened at Jerusalem. The brothers of Jesus had not believed in Him during His ministry, and at one time thought Him insane, but after His death they became loyal converts. Two of them, Jude and James, wrote short books, which are in the New Testament, and James went to Jerusalem and became very active in the church there. He was a "just man," a phrase that had been used of his father Joseph. It is said that his knees became calloused like those of a camel through his long periods of prayer. He was the head of the conservative faction, and Peter was at first of the same persuasion. James, by reason of his brotherhood to Jesus, had risen above Peter in Jerusalem, and he it was who presided over the first heresy trial in church history—the trial of Paul and Barnabas for baptizing Gentiles without insisting that they conform to the whole Jewish ritual.



Bruce Barton

It was a decidedly surprising experience for Paul. He had sat in Jerusalem as one of the seventy members of the Sanhedrin, the supreme court of the nation. Now he found himself back in the same city before Peter and James and John in positions not unlike that which he had occupied. He saw "those that were reputed to be somebody," as he rather loftily described them, and said, "whatsoever they were it maketh no matter to me." All the same, he cared greatly for their good-will and the effect of their endorsement.

The story is told in the fifteenth chapter of Acts, one of the great documents in the history of the liberation of the human spirit. Paul's accusers presented their case, and Paul and Barnabas replied, and after a long debate a compromise was arrived at. The church in Jerusalem, consisting entirely of Jews, would stand firm for the old fundamentals, but the churches abroad, being Gentile, might follow a more liberal faith. At the suggestion of James a letter was sent out to the Gentile brethren in the churches which Paul had organized:

Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment: ... For it seemed good to the

Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;

That ye abstain from meat offered to idols, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

Thus there were to be two kinds of Christianity, the fundamentalist and the liberal, and they were not to quarrel. Christians who had been reared as Jews were to be required to keep the whole Mosaic law, and those who were not so reared were to be accepted on their love of Jesus and a very simple code of morality.

(Next Week: Paul visits Athens)
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TODAY and TOMORROW

by FRANK PARKER STOCKBRIDGE

BOOTH . . . a great woman
I was glad to read the dispatches announcing that my old friend, Commander Evangeline Booth, had been elected General of the Salvation Army of the world, the post which her famous father, General William Booth, created and held until his death.

If I were called upon to name the one American woman—for Miss Booth has spent most of her life in America—who has accomplished the most for the relief of misery and distress among the poor and helpless, I would unhesitatingly give the award to her.

I do not know how the Salvation Army stands in the estimation of people of other lands, but I feel confident that here in the United States it commands respect and support such as no other instrumentality for the common good has ever achieved. Critical theologians may not approve its doctrines—I don't even know what they are—and formal ritualists may frown upon its methods; but I think there is pretty nearly unanimous agreement that the Army reaches down and lifts up more of the submerged and hopeless than all the churches.

BARGAINS . . . in property
People with ready cash—and there are still a lot of them—are hunting bargains these days. And a good many of them, to my knowl-

edge, are putting their money into land and buildings, confident that the rise from the present low prices will not be long delayed.

One 300-acre dairy farm, well stocked with ample buildings in good repair, which its owner held at \$25,000 only five years ago, was sold the other day in my neighborhood for \$7,500. The buyer laid down ready cash. I know of five other farm properties that have changed hands for cash near my home in the past month, at figures from half to a third what they were held at lately; and one great estate a few miles from me, in which more than a quarter of a million had been invested, went for \$25,000 because the owners had to have cash.

Money will buy better bargains today than at any time in the past twenty years.

PRICES . . . today
There is a good deal of nonsense being talked about commodity prices. Foodstuffs are going up rapidly; no question about that. But that is not true in the case of manufactured goods.

The automobile code fixes a definite "trade-in" price on every used car. I thought of trading in a 1929 Ford against credit for a new car next Spring, and approached the local dealer. "I can only allow you \$90 in trade," he said, "but I have cash buyers looking for used cars like yours, and if you tell me to sell it for your account I can get you \$150 or more."

I had a furnace concern go over my old farmhouse, which has relied on stoves and fireplaces for 150 years. They estimated \$950 for a heating plant. I told them to go farther. Next week they were back with an offer to install the plant for \$450. I dickered with them a while and the price came down to \$375, with \$25 off that for cash!

INVESTMENTS . . . a search
One of my neighbors recently came into a good many thousands in cash, the proceeds of his father's life insurance. He asked several business friends, including two bankers, to suggest sound, safe investments.

Every one he asked threw up his hands. My friend had no use for another home or any more land, and he did not want to take a speculative chance with the money. Finally he decided to buy a joint annuity for himself and wife—they are both close to sixty—payable as long as either of them lives. He found he could get \$3,500 and more a year for his fifty thousand dollars, or better than 7 per cent on the capital.

That, he decided and his banker agreed, was about as close to security as anyone can get these days.

From the Editor of The American Boy

During the coming year, the boys of America will get a half-fare rate to adventure and fun! THE AMERICAN BOY — YOUTH'S COMPANION, the nation's leading magazine for boys, formerly \$2.00 a year, now costs \$1.00. A three-year subscription, previously \$3.50, costs only \$2.00.

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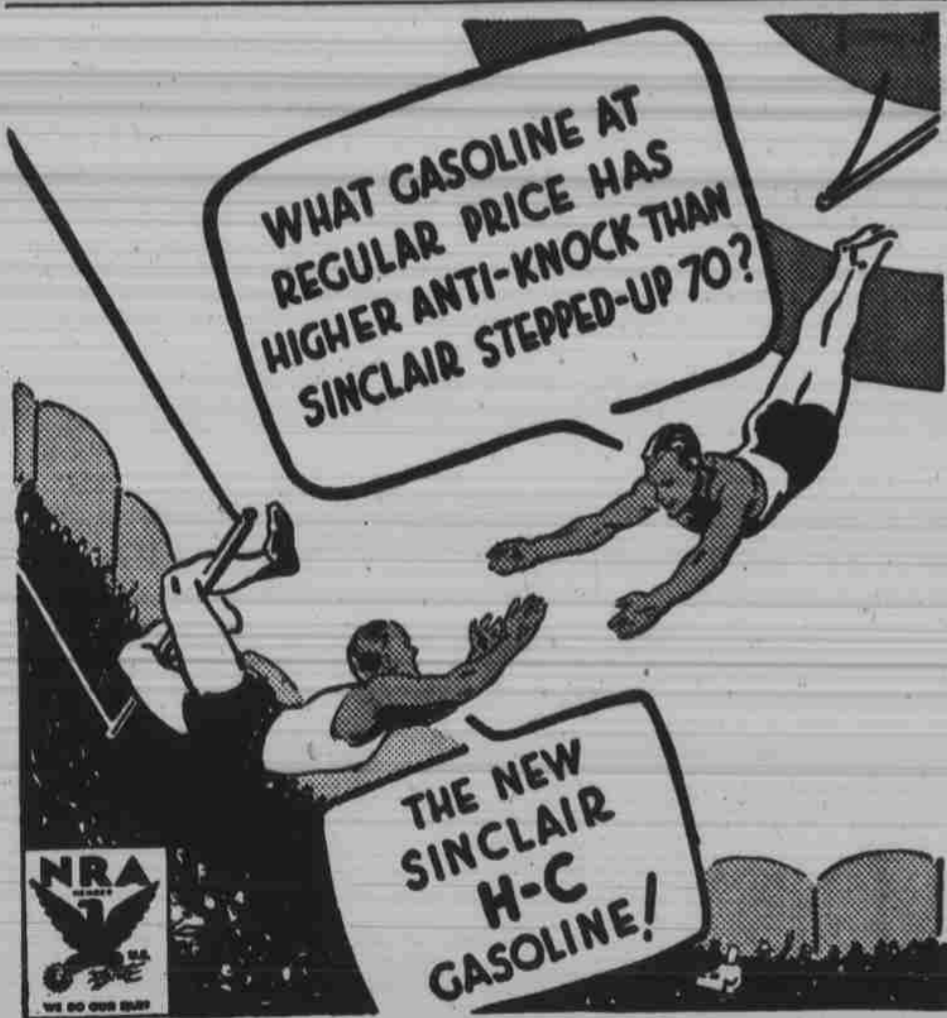
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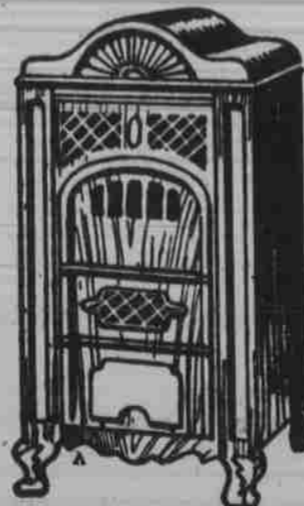
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