

THE BOOK OF PSALMS.

Best Known Because It Appeals to Common Religious Feeling.

The Book of Psalms is perhaps the best-known book in the world. No other portion of the Bible speaks to us, as it were, with a more familiar voice, says the London Spectator. It has an intimate, and almost homely charm which commends it at once to the affection. Critics and theologians have discussed in endless volumes its origin, its interpretation, or its authority, but neither comment nor controversy much affects the countless multitudes who love the Psalter. Men do not come to it with curious intellects, but with yearning hearts. What they seek in it is not learning or instruction, but comfort, consolation, and some confidence of hope. It is to the sorrowful, the afflicted and the despairing that these sublime yet simple hymns make their constant and irresistible appeal. And they do so, they go home so to the heart, because they come so directly from the heart. They have that inspiration which is not less divine because it seems not so much a message communicated from without as an outflowing from the deepest springs of being, or a revelation of thoughts written on the heart itself by the very "finger of God."

Their words, in fact, touch us so nearly exactly because they are so natural. The writers are subject to human weaknesses; they often exhibit the fierce passions of their age, or form narrow conceptions of Jehovah, or seem to look only for temporal promises; and yet their very failings only bind them to us with a closer bond, and place in clearer relief the wonder of their strength, the perpetual marvel of their faith. For the steadfastness and sureness of their faith is, indeed, a true marvel. They walk in darkness, but have no doubt, and amid dangers, but are without fear. "They that put their trust in the Lord shall be even as the Mount Zion, which may not be removed, outstandeth fast forever"—such is the continual burden of the Psalmists. That Jehovah is merciful, loving, and righteous, and that, as "their fathers put their trust in Him and were not confounded," even so also it shall be with themselves, is the firm foundation of their simple creed, as it must everywhere and always be the foundation of all creeds, however complex; and it is just, we believe, because of this singleness, this simplicity of thought that the influence of the Psalms is so universal. They make their common appeal to all minds, because they dwell almost wholly on those basic ideas which underlie, not one particular belief only, but all religious beliefs that have risen above the stage of superstition.

Disease in Telephones. Consul Mahin of Nottingham, reports that the suggested transmission of disease by telephone mouthpieces has led the British General Electric Company to devise an instrument in which all danger is avoided by simply abolishing the mouthpiece. The receiving and transmitting apparatus is combined in a small metal case, shaped like a watch, which is held continuously to the ear both in speaking and listening, the transmitting microphone being made so sensitive that it becomes unnecessary to concentrate the sound waves on it by the aid of any mouthpiece, such as is ordinarily used. Mounted on a handle, with a speaking key, the new arrangement is exactly similar to the common combined receiver and transmitter, except that there is no mouthpiece, and the speaker, as it were, addresses himself to the world at large, instead of talking into a trumpet-shaped orifice.

Taking Oxygen From Air. Consul Brunot of St. Etienne writes that a group of savants of the Academie des Sciences, Paris, recently paid a visit to a factory at Boulogne-sur-Meuse to witness the manufacture for industrial purposes of enormous quantities of oxygen and nitrogen, extracted in a liquid state from the atmospheric air. The Consul says: "Georges Claude, the inventor of the interesting process, furnished the explanations. As the liquid oxygen flowed out from the generator it was of a bluish hue, while the nitrogen was colorless. Several experiments were made for the visitors to prove the importance of having an abundant supply of oxygen at one's disposal; a force set up in the grounds showed the wonderful effects of the gas. The air, which had almost died out, was immediately rendered incandescent by a current of hydroxide from the blowpipe. A bar of iron was brought to a red heat and then melted like lead. Two pieces of iron were welded in a few minutes by the aid of a powerful flame from the blowpipe. Much costly and tedious riveting will be no longer necessary; iron will be welded against iron, copper against copper, etc. The doctors already foresee the possible treatment with liquid air of certain affections of microbial origin, such as osteomyelitis, anthrax and the malignant disease of the skin termed lupus."

Boyce—"His name is John Johnson." Joyce—"What do they call him for short?" Boyce—"I don't know; Jack Jackson, I suppose."

Why does the sun burn? Why does a mosquito sting? Why do we feel unhappy in the Good Old Summer Time? Answer: We don't. We use DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve, and these little ills don't bother us. Learn to look for the name on the box to get the genuine. Sold by S. R. Biggs.

SEA COOKS OF OLDEN TIMES.

Some of the Perquisites and Honors That They Claimed.

Sea cooks were, and are, very necessary persons in the internal economy of the ship of war, but there were rogues among them as among all classes of men. There were sea cooks who rose by the aid of influence and knavery to very lucrative positions. Lord Nottingham, when Lord High Admiral, gave a patent to his own cook to appoint all the cooks in the navy.

Stewards, purveyors, cooks and bakers are classed together by one writer as the chief beneficiaries under the system of peculation and perquisites which at one time made the navy so happy a hunting ground for the rascals of the country. But they were not all permitted to ply their trade with impunity, says the London Globe, and one sea cook got seven years' hard labor from Sir John Fielding for a long series of frauds. And in sentencing the man the judge expressed his regret that he could not order him to be hanged at the hospital gates.

Pea soup was generally the best ration the men had and was certainly the most liked. Potatoes were always served in the skins, sometimes two to each man, and a good oatmeal coc was frequently prevailed upon to cook cakes and duffs that the men had made for themselves, demanding for his services either a pot of grog or a portion of the dish he cooked.

Sometimes, however, he could only be bribed by money, and in that way increased his pay of 35 shillings a month, in addition to which he was nearly always in receipt of a pension of 11s. 8d. per month. Besides these sources of revenue he also made a good deal of money from the sale of "slush," the fat scraped from the ship's coppers after each meal had been served, and half of which was his perquisite. The other half belonged to the ship for greasing the bottom and running tackle.

The ship's cook was, moreover, honored with a guard of two marines, who stood sentry over the door of the galley during the preparation of mess to prevent unwarranted raids upon the provisions by ship's thieves; he did not wear a uniform, nor was he expected to keep watch, being allowed to sleep in comfort and comparative privacy throughout the night on the lower gun deck. But on the other hand he had some duties not connected with food, among them the preparation, when the ship was in port, of a hot poker for firing salutes.

And it was an established custom of the navy that the ship was not properly paid off until the pennant was struck by the cook. This operation he was expected to perform as the last officer of the ship, and until he had done it no officer could consider himself discharged or at liberty to leave the port. This rule held good though every seaman had left the ship, and sometimes the cook himself, in a fit of absent-mindedness, went off without carrying out the task, and had to be routed out again before the incoming officers could leave for their homes. There will be seamen alive today who have heard the phrase: "Every man to his station, and the cook to the foremast," and the landsman who has read Marryat will always connect the man of the galley with the famous phrase: "Bon of a sea cook."

In addition to the ship's cook, of course, there were, as now, the mess cooks, men who were appointed by the seamen themselves to be presidents of the messes for the week, and who had to receive the provisions for the mess from the purser at the daily issuing of victuals, and who had to hand these on to the ship's cook in good time. As compensation for his trouble the mess cook drew the cook's, or double, portion of grog, and he deserved it, for his duties were arduous and his critics severe.

If he spoiled the duff he was tried by a jury of the mess, and this jury was gathered by hoisting a mess swab or beating a tin dish between decks forward. He was condemned to the most painful punishment if found guilty. He was also carver for the mess, and in order to prevent favoritism a blindfolded member of the mess was required to call out the name of the person who was to receive the portion as it was placed on the plate. Small or large, that portion was given to the man named, and probably no more satisfactory method of dealing with the question could have been found.

Ghost Story Made Good. Now that ghost stories are again to the fore, one from just a century ago may find a place. In this case the ghost was officially taken into account by a town meeting. Under the date of March 6, 1806, the Annual Register tells how a butcher of Stratford, in Lancashire, had disappeared during a recent flood, and how rumors spread that an apparition had been seen near a certain local pool of water. Some gave it the form of an uncanny dog, others that of an equally mysterious yag; and it was told that, even when drinking was seen, cattle refused to drink at the pool, and horses trembled as they passed it. At last a town meeting was decided to pump the pool dry. It was done, and there, sure enough, was the butcher.—London Chronicle.

It is a great pity that Mrs. Thaw did not treat her son Harry as insane long ago.

JOHN CHINAMAN'S HOUSE.

Must be Built at a Special Time and in a Special Way.

When a Chinaman has decided to build himself a house the first person he consults is not an architect, but a sort of wizard.

This individual examines the site and marks the exact spot for the front door. In China front doors must never face due south, though a partly southern aspect is highly desirable. Only homes of the Emperor and of high governing officials may front due south.

The wizard, or Geomancer, next prescribes the exact size of the front door. An inch too much or too little might have disastrous consequences. A screen of wood or of bricks must be erected about three yards in front of the door. This is to keep out any evil breath. Not human breath, nor malaria, nor bad odors, but some mysterious and fatal something which is only to be kept out by that screen.

The wizard next locates the spot for the kitchen fireplace. This also must not face south, because the south represents fire; and the kitchen fire and the south are, working together, would be so powerful that the house would just naturally burn up.

Having settled the question of place, the wizard figures out the time when work may be begun with some degree of safety. For instance, if the earth god should be at home when the workmen began digging they might stir a spirit into his angry cranium and then there would be the devil to pay. The family living in that house would die out.

The would-be builder must also find out whether it is a year when he may with safety begin anything. A man must not be married, for instance, when his age is 24 or 26, or any even number.

Having picked out a favorable year, John must next consider his two lucky months, for there are only two out of the twelve which are favorable to his undertaking new things. Then his yellow road days or good ones must be determined. There are more black road days than yellow ones, so the auspicious moments for starting his house are finally reduced to a pretty limited number.

But that isn't all. The lucky days of the whole family must next be figured out, compared with John's own yellow road days and the result boiled down. The proper moment for putting the front door in place, for building the kitchen fireplace and so on are then decided on, and, after waiting perhaps several months for the auspicious day to arrive, John can at last begin work.

Seagulls as Pirates. There may be an advantage in birds living in colonies, but I cannot see how any other birds would want to live near a colony of gulls. A gull in his own country will steal like a politician and murder like a pirate. They swarm about us like vultures after a battle. The minute our approach drove a murre or cormorant from its nest, the saintly-looking scavenger swooped down to eat the eggs and young. While the gulls are freebooters and robbers on the island, it is only when other birds are frightened from their nests that they have a chance to carry on their nefarious trade. Eternal vigilance is the price of the latter pay for their eggs and young. Except when they are frightened by the approach of some person, their possessions are never left for an instant without a guard. But the most cunning to survive on the rocks, and these gulls are the most useful birds in the bays and rivers about the water fronts of our cities. They are valuable as scavengers and should be protected in every way. Three of them are equal to a buzzard. Ten of those gulls are equal to a pig.—The World Today.

Borrow Locc \$10,000. The American owners of the Guantepo de los Reyes mines, situated in the State of Sinaloa, are mourning the loss of \$100,000 in gold and silver bullion, which was lost in a remarkable manner. The train of donkeys, loaded with bullion, were on their way to Mazatlan, at which point the precious cargoes were to be shipped to San Francisco by water.

The animals were going along a narrow trail bordering high above the Pacific River when the roadway, softened by the rains, suddenly caved into the river, the animals and bullion and a number of Mexican drivers disappearing in the current. As soon as the news of the heavy loss reached the owners of the mines a large force of men was sent out to search for the treasure, a search that continued for several months, but not a single bar of the bullion has been discovered. It is supposed that the animals, with their freight, were swept down the river in the Pacific Ocean. The hunt for the bullion is still on, and a group of employes of the mines is patrolling the river day and night for a distance of more than one hundred miles to keep outsiders from searching and getting away with the treasure.—Mexican Herald.

Atmospheric Effects on Lungs. A physician writes of the effect of London's smoky atmosphere upon the human lungs: "The coal miner's lung is black, the lung of the Eskimo is a pearly white, the lung of the Londoner a rich gray. Natural selection evolves beings adapted to meet all sorts of natural circumstances—among which a carbon-laden atmosphere is not included. Such an atmosphere is a product of man's own stupidity and nature has had no chance of protecting him against its consequences."

Czar Nicholas says he wants the soldiers. That's about all he has left.

A world of truth in a few words: "Nearly all other cough cures are constipating, especially those containing opiate. Kennedy's Laxative Honey and Tar moves the bowels. Contains no opiates." You can get it at S. R. Biggs.



CURES AFTER THE DOCTORS HAVE FAILED.

RHEUMACIDE has cured thousands of cases of Rheumatism after all the doctors and all other means had failed. Rheumacide cured John F. Eline and others, of Baltimore, after the famous specialists of Johns Hopkins Hospital, the greatest hospital in the world, had failed. Rheumacide cured Austin Percelle, of Salem, Va., and D. H. Olmstead, the Norfolk, Va., contractor, after they had spent large sums on other remedies and the doctors had given up hope. Rheumacide cured Mrs. Mary Welborn, of High Point, N. C., of rheumatism she had endured for 20 years. Rheumacide cured W. R. Hughes, of Atkins, Va., after the most famous New York specialists failed. There is a reason why it cures: Rheumacide is the latest discovery of medical science, and while powerful enough to sweep all germs and poisons out of the blood, it operates by purely natural methods, does not injure the most delicate stomach, and builds up the entire system.

Almost a Miracle in This Case. Dutton, S. C., Aug. 18. Rheumatism in a very bad form (osteoarthritis) for months after the disease started, I had to give up my work and stay in bed. It continued to grow worse until my arms and hands were badly drawn so much so that I could not use them. My legs were drawn back till my feet touched my hips. I was as helpless as a baby for nearly 12 months. The muscles of my arms and legs were hard and thickened up. I suffered death many times over. I was treated by six different physicians in Dutton, Dillon and Marion, but none of them could do me any good, until Dr. J. F. Ewing of Dillon, came to see me. He told me to try your RHEUMACIDE. He got me one bottle of the medicine and I began to take it, and before the first bottle was used up I began to get better. I added 5th bottle and was completely cured. That was years ago and my health has been excellent ever since. Have had no symptoms of rheumatism. Will say further that I began to walk in about six days after I began to take RHEUMACIDE with the aid of crutches. I can now walk as good as anybody and never feel a pain again. Yours truly, JAMES WILKES.

Richmond, Va., Sept. 10, 1906. I have used Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption the past five years and it keeps me well and safe. Before that time I had a cough which for years had been growing worse. Now it's gone. Cures chronic Coughs, La Grippe, Croup, Whooping Cough, and prevents Pneumonia, Pleasaut to take. Every bottle guaranteed at S. R. Biggs' drug store. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

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Good News for Williamston. Science at Last Discovers a Real Cure For Rheumatism. After years of experiment a new scientific remedy has been found that not only relieves but absolutely cures Rheumatism, and kindred diseases, to stay cured. Rheumatism is caused by an excess of poisonous acids in the blood. The new discovery, RHEUMACIDE, though purely vegetable, and acting through nature's channels neutralizes these acids, and sweeps all poisonous and harmful germs out of the blood. At the same time it tones up the stomach, and regulates the liver and kidneys.

RHEUMACIDE therefore, cures the disease permanently, because it removes the cause. It has cured hundreds of cases after the most noted doctors and hospitals have failed. Rheumacide cured James Wilkes, of Dutton, S. C., after he had been held in bed by rheumatism for three years and his feet were drawn up almost to his back. This is only one of the many marvelous cures RHEUMACIDE has already performed. RHEUMACIDE is curing many cases of Rheumatism, Sciatica, lumbago, gout, kidney trouble, indigestion and constipation, right in this community today. Because it has cured so many others we believe it will cure you. All the leading druggists in this place sell and recommend RHEUMACIDE.

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