



IS DEATH THE GATEWAY TO HEAVEN?

[Written for the "Reporter" by Mrs. Stella Campbell, of San Francisco, Cal., who at present is in the east among friends and relatives in Centre county.]

What is the nature of man? Is he mortal or immortal? We see him die. Is he really dead? Does he have a never-dying soul, or is unending life a gift alone through Jesus Christ? Does man possess inherent immortality, or has God alone that attribute? Solgim questions, these; for death is every-where. We meet it on every hand. By millions are its victims tolled. Each city has its burying place; each hamlet has its graves. Scarcely can a home be found where death has never come. We all have felt its sting. Where are the dead? We speak of them, but they make no reply. We can touch them with a fond caress, but there is no response. We leave the grave, and turn to ask the living, but they do not agree. Not all their conflicting claims can be right. Whom shall we believe? What is the nature of man? Unanswered still, we turn away from man-made creeds, to search the Word of God. Surely here we must find an answer to our questions, or they must forever remain unsolved. God must tell us, or we can never know. Without this Word we are adrift. With eagerness we turn to read—not to "prove our point"; not to support some doctrine we may hold. No, we want to know the truth; we want to find the source of life, the life beyond the tomb. Gladly we will lay aside all preconceived ideas. God's word must be our guide. To its decision we will bow. What is the nature of man? Is he mortal or immortal? What answer does the Bible give? That Word makes this reply: "Shall mortal man be more just than God?" (Job 4:17.) Nowhere within the sacred Book is he said to be immortal. The word "immortal" is used but once in the Scriptures, and then it is applied to God. (See I Tim. 1:17.) God is immortal, but man is not. The word "immortality" is used but five times, and will be found in the following texts: Romans 2:7; I Cor. 15:53-54; I Tim. 6:16; II Tim. 1:10. Not once, however, is man said to possess immortality, but on the contrary the Bible declares that God "only hath immortality." (I Tim. 6:16.) Hence man does not possess it. We are encouraged to "seek for glory and honor and immortality." (Rom. 2:7.) We do not need to seek for that which we already have. Our Saviour has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Tim. 1:10) Yes, only through the gospel, which reveals the blessed Christ, can immortality be found. We do not have it now, but "this mortal must put on immortality" at the resurrection of the just. (I Cor. 15:53.)

What is the nature of man? Does he have an immortal soul, or is eternal life the gift of God? The expression "immortal soul" or "never dying soul" is found nowhere in all the Bible. Instead, we read, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4.) (Returns to dust.) What is the nature of man? Was he created immortal, or can he return to dust? Let the Word itself reply: "The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Gen. 2:7.) This text does not say that God gave man an immortal soul. No, but the breath of life imparted to him made him a living being. When this breath of life is taken from him, he returns to dust. Listen to God's arraignment: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." (Gen. 3:19.) Here God is speaking to man. He says, "Unto dust shalt thou return." Again, "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." (Ecc. 12:7.) The spirit is the life principle, which God takes to himself again, and man returns to dust.

(Unconscious After Death.) What is the nature of man? What is his state in death? We read: "There is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave, whither thou goest." (Ecc. 9:10.) Such language is easily understood. We go to the grave. It is neither to reward nor to punishment, but to the grave that we go at death. And there is no knowledge in the grave. The dead are asleep. They dwell in dust. They are silent. "The dead praise not the Lord, neither any that go down into silence." (Psalm 115:17.) Do they know more than they did before they passed away? This may be claimed by some, but let us turn to the living Word for an answer to the question:

(Continued on next column)

THE DEATH RECORD.

CONDO.—Just as the Reporter went off the press, Wednesday of last week, telegraphic news of the death of M. M. Condo was received in Centre Hall. Mr. Condo was formerly of Centre Hall, and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. A. F. Moyer, at Darragh, Tuesday night, February 20th, at 11:50 o'clock, from a stroke. Funeral services were conducted at the home of his son, George W. Condo, of 705 Foster street, Greensburg, at 2:30 P. M. Friday; burial at the Union cemetery. He is survived by his widow, who before marriage was Miss Jane Sweeney, and the following children: George W. Condo, of Greensburg; Clyde F. of Vandergrift; Mrs. A. F. Moyer, of Darragh; Mrs. Thomas Curry, of New Stanton; Mrs. Charles E. Price, of Johnstown. He is also survived by the following brothers and sisters: John H. Condo, of Reedsville; A. C. Condo, of Condit, Ohio; Mrs. Frank Sankey, of Centerville, Ohio; Mrs. Anna Montgomery, of Johnstown, Ohio; Mrs. Thomas Piper, of Johnstown, Ohio; Mrs. Samuel Musser, of Spring Mills.

The deceased was a son of John Condo, and was born and reared in Gregg township. When a young man he lived at Centre Hall, where he lived the greater part of his life, and for a number of years was engaged as a butcher. His age was a few months more than seventy-three years.

BROWN.—Mrs. Frank Brown died at her home near Tusseyville on Wednesday morning of last week, after a lingering illness. She was about 70 years old and had resided in that section of the county practically all her life. Her maiden name was Agnes Young. Her husband has been dead for a number of years. Surviving are two sons, Bobo, who resided with his mother; Fred, on the homestead farm near Colyer; one daughter, Mrs. E. T. Jordan, of Tusseyville. She is also survived by two brothers and two sisters: David, of Colyer; Miss Maggie, now at Reading; John and Mrs. Kate Rough, in the west. Funeral services were held on Saturday morning and burial made in the Evangelical cemetery.

DERNAR.—Mathias Dernar, one of the oldest and best known residents of Harris township, passed away at the home of his son, John, at Boalsburg as the result of a stroke of paralysis sustained ten days previous. Mr. Dernar was of German parentage and was born on the Rhine eighty-four years ago. In 1871 he came to America and for fifteen years lived in Philadelphia where he followed his vocation as a baker. In 1886 he came to Centre county and purchased a small farm near Oak Hill on which he lived until a few years ago. He was a member of the Reformed church from boyhood and a good citizen in every way.

His wife died eighteen months ago but surviving him are two sons, John, of Boalsburg, and George, of Zion. Funeral services were held at the Dernar home in Boalsburg on Wednesday of last week, by Rev. S. C. Stover, after which burial was made in the Boalsburg cemetery.

CRAMER.—Mrs. Gertrude Cramer died at her home at Pleasant Gap of diabetes. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer E. Swartz and was born near Pleasant Gap, December 20, 1857. She was married to William Cramer who survives with these children: Roy, Pauline, Harold and Marfan, all at home; and these brothers and sisters: Harry, of Altoona; Roy, Elaine and Mrs. Harry Breen, all of Pleasant Gap; Mrs. Boyd Sampsel, of Bellefonte; Mrs. Paul Ross, of near Tusseyville; and Margaret, at home. Funeral services were held from the Lutheran church at Pleasant Gap on Friday, the Rev. Wilson P. Ard, officiating. Interment at Pleasant Gap.

DALE.—Mrs. M. A. Dale, widow of the late Dr. J. Y. Dale, who was a practicing physician residing at Leont for many years, died on Friday morning at the home of her son, Dr. David Dale, in Bellefonte. She was well advanced in age and had been ill for some time. She was the mother of five children and is survived by four—Dr. David Dale, of Bellefonte; Col. Frederick Dale, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Kate Wentmore, South Carolina; and Mrs. Edith Corssman, Norristown. Funeral services were held at the home of Dr. Dale and the body sent to Pittsburgh to be cremated. Interment in the Branch cemetery, near Leont, by the side of the ashes of her husband.

(Other deaths on inside page)

ROY M. GABRICK offers at private sale several head of pure-bred stock. See his ad. elsewhere.

LETTERS FROM SUBSCRIBERS.

Letter From Rev. T. J. Frederick, Editor Reporter:  
Your correspondent wishes to call attention to a new book which was issued from the press of E. P. Dutton & Co., a few months ago. It has been very enjoyable privilege to read this book. It is another striking proof of the fact that truth is stranger than fiction. I could hardly do the readers of our home town paper a greater favor than call their attention to the astounding revelation which this book portrays. It is entitled "Moonlight Schools." It is the history of a notable movement begun in Cowan county, Kentucky, in 1910, by a lady teacher, Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart. She was at this time filling the responsible position of County Superintendent of Common Schools. Under her heroic leadership and united effort of every teacher in Cowan county, there was developed a novel but eminently successful movement to banish the shameful amount of adult illiteracy which prevailed in her native county and which like an insidious disease quietly but effectually cripples our whole national life. Governors, statesmen and the press have vied with each other in boasting upon this movement expressions of amazement at what has been already accomplished. For example,—Dr. A. E. Winship, of Boston, referring to the remarkable work of Mrs. Stewart and her self-sacrificing corps of teachers, said in a public address, "The South has led the North in these latter years by directly attacking the appalling problem of adult illiteracy, and under the unprecedented, noble and brilliant leadership of Cora Wilson Stewart the South has taught more native American illiterates in five years than the North has done in three centuries."

In the very beginning of this movement the governor of Kentucky was moved to appoint a commission of able men who should act in harmony with this new educational enterprise and stamp it with state authority. This was the first illiteracy Commission in the world. Wm. Jennings Bryan in an address at Raleigh, N. C., "crowned" the teachers whom he was speaking to, and who had done much to establish this noble work in their native state, by declaring, "If there are any who have ever realized these words of the Master 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' it must be the teachers of the Moonlight Schools." The term Moonlight Schools originated in the fact that for the purpose of teaching adults, many of which were quite old, and because these were evening schools, moonlight nights were chosen as the time for these schools. Of course, old people could better attend by moonlight than during the dark of the moon, hence one reason for this name.

Time was of course required for this movement to develop and prove its worth. Now perhaps all the states in the Union have adopted the same or a similar movement. The state of Pennsylvania through its Department of Education in 1919 reported 29,375 illiterates taught that year. The name of every illiterate in Pennsylvania, taken by the enumerators of the census in 1920 is now on record. Our State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Thomas E. Finegan, is a champion of this movement. Under his leadership much has already been done. The Americanization of foreigners as well as the instruction of illiterates is made a part of Pennsylvania's program. Our State authorities give themselves ten years to finish the task of teaching her illiterates to read and write. Can it be done?

\*T. J. FREDERICK, Springchurch, Pa.  
Letter from Chicago, Chicago, Ill., February 19, 1923. Dear Editor:  
Herewith enclosed find \$1.50 for another year's subscription to the Reporter. It is very satisfactory to the editor when he prints a paper for one of his subscribers to know that he is paid in advance for his work of mailing out the home news. I realize having had the Reporter for only one year that I have missed a great deal of important news in by gone years, and have gained a great deal of information in my home district during the year that I received the paper. The women folks delight in reading of the cooking department.  
Yours for another prosperous year.  
A. W. SHADOW, 3926 Wentworth Ave.

The fire insurance companies carrying insurance on the I. O. O. F. orphanage, near Sunbury, paid the claim recently. The sum received was \$1,098.24. It was at first thought the loss would be only \$600, but closer investigation revealed it to be more. The adjustment was made without difficulty.

A Slight Fire.  
The home of D. W. Bradford was discovered on fire by Mr. Bradford, on Thursday evening about seven o'clock. On going to his barn he saw the flames breaking through the outer walls of the house, just above the main wall. He quickly entered the house and told Mrs. Hemphill to give a fire alarm over the telephone, and then dashed a bucket of water into the opening where the fire was. The flames had just gotten air, and in a very short time, had they not been checked, would have enveloped the frame structure, which is one of a number of fine homes in town. The fire was caused by a defective flue.

Michael Gave Bond.  
Last week mention was made of the fact that F. P. Michaels was under bond for his appearance before Justice Brungart, in Centre Hall, on Friday, on the charge of embezzlement and misappropriation of funds. The defendant failed to appear, but gave bond in the sum of \$2500 for his appearance at the May term of court. This covers the case of David Stoner. No bond was entered for the Campbell case, and at last reports Justice Brungart intended suing out the bond given for his appearance on Friday of last week.

The claim of Mr. Stoner is for \$1,500 and of Mr. Campbell, \$300.

Fox Tales.  
The Shreckengast, east of Centre Hall, added three more foxes to their string last week, bringing the total killed to fourteen, since December. A number were red foxes, for which as much as \$12.00 was realized on the sale of a pair. The greys are less valuable.

During the recent past, Garman Matter was successful in killing three foxes without the aid of dogs. The foxes were all killed in the fields or little wood lots in the vicinity of the J. H. Detweiler home. Charles S. Smith, of near Centre Hill, was one of three hunters who made a long chase, Wednesday of last week, and killed a fine fox on the Seven Mountains. A fox hound brought the animal within gun range when it was making one of its circles, the dog being in the lead.

A Fawn's Menu.  
When the mountains are covered with from two to three feet of snow, as the Seven Mountains, one of the best deer fields in Central Pennsylvania, are now, one wonders what deer subsist on that they keep in reasonably good flesh and health until spring-time. A fawn, presumably chased to death by dogs, found at the edge of the mountains by Forester and game warden William F. McKinney, who resides in the Seven Mountains State house, was opened and its well-filled stomach closely examined. The contents that could be identified consisted of rhododendron, moss found on tree trunks, ground pine, hemlock tips and various unidentified buds of trees. The little animal was fairly well nourished.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Sale of Iowa horses at Centre Hall on Saturday afternoon, March 3rd, at one o'clock.

Just received a supply of Tankage—the very best—for poultry and hogs. William McClellan, Centre Hall.

Lawrence Runkle completed his dwelling house by building a large front porch, which greatly adds to the appearance of his home.

Extensive alterations to the interior of the Nieman Department store are being made in order that new lines of merchandise may be added.

Frank Fisher, of Altoona, a wholesale flour salesman, was in town last Thursday night. From here he went to his old home in Boalsburg.

Mrs. Charles Stover, of Millheim, came to Centre Hall on Saturday and for a few days was the guest of her sister, Mrs. William H. Homan.

Mrs. Fred Harvey, formerly Miss Helen Luse, of State College, was at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Luse, in Centre Hall, one day last week.

Edward M. Brown, the Bell telephone man, formerly a resident of Centre Hall, moved from Bellefonte to Galeton, Potter county, where he continues in the Bell service.

The shipments of hay, corn and wheat from the Centre Hall station during the past month were unusually large. Hay passed at \$15.00; corn, 70 cents; wheat, \$1.30.

Miss Ida Long, of Spring Mills, who has been taking care of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Slack, in Centre Hall, went to her home the latter part of last week to remain for a few days.

Thursday morning of last week, Mrs. William F. Colyer went to Lewisburg to attend the funeral of an aunt, Mrs. John Heim, who lived at Brook Park and was a native of Snyder county.

Owing to the very bad condition of the roads, the Millheim High school failed to send its representatives to meet the Centre Hall High school in debate and spelling contest, Friday evening of last week.

Travel over the Seven Mountains last week was exceedingly difficult and was attempted by very few motorists. Those who crossed the mountain in trucks also experienced much difficulty in getting through. Much snow shoveling was required before the gas wagons could get over some of the stretches.

"John D." the registered Percheron stallion owned by the Penna Valley Stock Company, died Tuesday morning of last week at the stable of J. Gross Shook, near Penn Hall. The horse was a very fine animal. Acute indigestion was the cause of death. Some insurance was carried, but not nearly enough to reimburse the stockholders for the money which had been invested.

Boyd Vonada went to Philadelphia last week to consult Dr. Fox, an eye specialist. His eye, injured recently when a piece of steel went entirely through it and lodged back of it in a very difficult place to get at, has caused him untold pain and misery. Mrs. Vonada and two children, Harry and Mona, are at Aronsburg and will remain with Mrs. Vonada's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Crouse.

Last Friday a partial successful attempt was made to open the road between Centre Hill and Centre Hall, which road was badly drifted. A team of horses were hitched to an A-shaped snow plow and back of this was trailed a wood rack to keep the plow from switching. With this contrivance the road was made passable for auto travel. Lloyd Smith, of Centre Hill, had the team in charge.

The following is reprinted from the Bellefonte Times: Dr. and Mrs. H. S. Alexander, of Bellefonte, entertained at a reception, at their home on Friday evening in honor of their son, Hugh, and his bride. The evening was pleasantly spent in different amusements. At a late hour delicious refreshments were served after which the guests departed vowing the spendid evening a complete success.

Rev. J. F. Bingman, pastor of the Evangelical church, on Thursday of last week, made a trip to Beaver Springs, Snyder county. This week he is attending the conference of the Evangelical church being held in York. The charge Rev. Bingman is serving has affiliated itself with the Evangelical church, which means that it is going with the major portion of the church. The delegate elected to accompany Rev. Bingman to the conference is George W. Ralston.