

60,000 MEN IN TEXAS CAMP

Harrisburg Lad Gives His Experiences in Aviation Corps

Paul J. Walmer, a Harrisburg lad now in training with the Aviation Corps in Texas, writes home of his experiences. His letter follows:

"Dear Friends: I'm in 'wild and woolly' Texas now, but it isn't very warm. They had a cold spell here and the atmosphere hasn't recovered yet. To-day it is real stormy and there is about three inches of sand all over the place, so you can imagine about what a dirty place it is.

"We were three days and four nights coming from Columbus, Ohio, to this place.

"None of us has done very much work since we came here on Monday.

"We live in tents, ten men to a tent. We sleep on one-man cots and the nights are cold, but we have cover enough and we have a stove in each tent.

"For mess we line up at a certain place and are given just a certain amount of stuff. We have our own dishes, and we wash our own clothes. Lots of times we don't get as much to eat as we would like to have. There is a store here in camp where we can buy those boxed cakes and crackers, but they want two prices for everything. Since we left St. Louis we pay ten cents for five cent Hershey bars and sixty cents for a pie.

"Everybody is well and happy. Aeroplanes are flying over all the time and are given nearly a hundred here. These camps hold about 60,000 men and it is nearly full now.

"This soldier life is an awful experience and a man has to be healthy to withstand lots of this

U. S. Army in France Plans Big Christmas For Refugee Children

With the American Army in France, Dec. 21.—The purchase of thousands of dollars' worth of Christmas toys and clothing for the children in this section of France was begun to-day by the Army. One purchase consisted of 300 overcoats for the children of refugees. Everything has been bought, from drums to top rifles and dolls, and all the gifts will be presented on Christmas day.

"One American squadron will set up a Christmas tree in a hangar for the children of a nearby town. It will be lighted with regulation candles, and there will be a present on it for every boy and girl. Each child will get the gift most desired, the officers having made a list of the names and written beside each what that particular child wanted.

All over the zone it will be a Christmas long remembered if the Americans can make it such. Some of the towns will have community trees set up in the public squares, while others will have theirs in the city halls.

The presents for the children are all being paid for out of the soldiers' own pockets, and one division has raised so far almost \$7,000 for the purpose.

For the Army itself there will be football games in the morning and a dinner at midday that will surpass even the one served on Thanksgiving day. Thousands of pounds of mince-meat, turkey and trimmings have already arrived, and are awaiting the cooks, and thousands more are expected.

The presents for the children are all being paid for out of the soldiers' own pockets, and one division has raised so far almost \$7,000 for the purpose.

"I hope you are well and that everything is in good shape. Kind regards to all.

"PAUL J. WALMER, "Line No. 87, Kelly's Field No. 1, So. San Antonio, Tex."

MALACHI'S MESSAGE TO MEN TODAY

The International Sunday School Lesson For December 23 Is "Preparation For the Messiah."—Malachi 3: 1-12.

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

"Preparedness" is the great word of modern times. In newspapers, magazines, books, on the hustings, in legislative halls, in the pulpit, that word is being megaphoned into men's ears. It is a proper word, too. But God was the first to speak it. Trace the word "prepare" through the Bible and an illuminating study will be the result.

God has prepared His kingdom ("Inherit the kingdom prepared for you," Matt. 25:34), and in that kingdom "a city whose Architect and Builder is God," and in that city a mansion. "In my Father's house are many mansions," and for that mansion a feast ("Behold, I have prepared my dinner," Matt. 22:4). "The salvation which thou hast prepared," Luke speaks of, and this salvation was brought out for the world through Messiah's divinely prepared human body ("a body has thou prepared me," Heb. 10:5) and in the lesson of to-day the word prepare occurs yet again in the message of the prophet Malachi: "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me."

An Authority on Messengers

Messengers have a vital mission in God's preparedness plans. The name of the writer of the book from which this lesson is taken, Malachi, means "My messenger." As the last of the Old Testament prophets he was in an especial sense God's messenger, leaving a word of hope from God that was to tide over heaven's silence to a formal covenant, God-forgetting Israel, a silence that was to be unbroken for 400 years and his name is suggestive of the mission of

the long line of the prophets that preceded him. Malachi, the messenger, seems to be the divine authority on messengers, for he foretells the coming of three other messengers: John the Baptist, Elijah and our Lord Himself.

A right and proper message, in the divine economy, is evidently an important thing. May we not be reminded that we have an unusual opportunity to-day to send messages of cheer to the soldiers and sailors who are offering their lives to-day in defense of their country? In the terrible environment of the world war, a letter from the homeland, from parents, sweetheart, and friends, means more than words can express. A worker among the soldiers in Europe said that a French mail-carrier was so touched with pity over the never-satisfied desire of a soldier to get a letter from somebody somewhere, that he, the mail-carrier, forged a letter once a fortnight and delivered it to the desperately expecting soldier. And he said: "I tell you friends at the front, and are you remembering what an unusual opportunity this offers, to include in your letters a message of hope by pointing the soldier to Christ?"

A Messenger For Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson

God did raise up a wonderful messenger to "prepare the way" for His Son. Jesus said to John the Baptist: "Among them that are born of woman there hath not arisen a greater." This messenger is a treasure, Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson realized this when at the beginning of the Civil War he chose for his chief of staff a preacher of the Gospel, the Rev. R. L. Dabney. This seemingly eccentric choice fully justified itself. Mr. Dabney's alertness as a messenger probably won one of the great battles of the war for Jackson. For Dabney told the story for the first time in his last public lecture at Davidson College, North Carolina, years ago.

The battle had been raging for some time, and was coming to a crisis. Jackson, determined to throw in his reserves, turned to his chief of staff and said: "I wish you would go and order every reserve brigade to charge immediately." Noticing, however, that his aid was pale and ill, he said: "I wish you would go and deliver this message. I will send someone else." And so he did. But Dabney followed the messenger and found in his mind the plan that he had just received. Soick as he was, he rode down the five-mile line and told each brigadier that Jackson had ordered an immediate charge. One general was inclined to protest to tell him the story, "I would charge as soon as I could give the order," was the reply. "I will do so, then."

Soon afterward the long line of reserves was flung into the fighting, and the wavering battle became a Confederate victory. "I rode along to Jackson immediately after the battle to tell him the story," said Dr. Dabney, "but his first comment to me was, 'Major Dabney, I am worn out. Find me a place to sleep. I did not get a chance to tell him until months afterwards.'"

Are we equally as zealous as ambassadors for God in passing on the message to a lost world that God is reconciled to sinful man through Christ? The Christian world is celebrating now the four hundredth anniversary of a faithful messenger of God—the leader of the Reformation, Martin Luther.

"Wherein," Seven Times

Malachi was a contemporary of Nehemiah, and the prophet gave God's moral judgment on the Jews returned to Jerusalem from the Babylonian captivity under Ezra and Nehemiah and who, in spite of the restored temple were offering a formal and insincere worship. Malachi was so modest, and so utterly submerged himself in his message, that we know scarcely anything about him.

Both the first and second advent of Christ were in the vision of the prophet as he wrote, but he does not see the long period in between. As usual the prophet's message was not popular in the age in which he lived.

The Rev. Dr. G. Campbell Morgan has written probably the best modern interpretation of the prophecy, and he finds the keynote to be the word "Wherein," which is the title of Dr. Morgan's book, "Wherein," and occurs seven times in the prophecy. Each time it is a skeptical denial by Israel of God's accusations against Israel.

"I have loved ye," saith the Lord. Yet ye say, Wherein hast Thou loved us? Chapter 1, verse 2.

A son honoreth his father and a servant his master; if then I be a Father, where is mine honor? and if I be a master, where is my fear, and ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? Chapter 1, verse 6.

Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar. And ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? Chapter 1, verse 7.

Ye have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? Chapter 2, verse 17.

Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of Hosts. But ye say, Where shall we return? Chapter 3, verse 7.

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? Chapter 3, verse 8.

Your words have been stout against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, Wherein have we spoken so much against you? Chapter 3, verse 13.

There is a message in Malachi to the men of to-day. Israel was not then in open rebellion against God, but in the midst of restoration and prosperity, was in heart rebellion. In asking God to bring peace to this warring world should we not confess to the very sins of Malachi's age?

Give God the Chance

The lesson speaks of the Christ whose coming Malachi foretold as "a refiner and purifier." Let us submit as a nation and as individuals to His refining processes, which are among us to-day, as our soldier boys are about to die on battlefields or in hospital. It is a terrible crucible, this world war, but God must know the world needed it. I as God began in purifying "the sons of Levi," so ought our self-judgment begin to-day, in the house of God. Are we faithful in our church work? "Is it right and reverent to keep tab on God?" asked an earnest young Christian girl. "Should we go so much into minute detail as to keep a prayer list, and check off the answers when they come?" An answer to that question is found in the concluding verses of this lesson. God says to His people, "Prove me now herewith." Our God, who gives us in His Word so many precious promises, loves to be put to the test. James H. McConkey says: In a great city telegraph office scores of

instruments were busily clicking away. Presently, in the midst of the din and clatter the door opened, and in walked a young man—a stranger. He waited a while and then, with a linen duster reaching nearly to his heels. In response to his request for employment the chief operator motioned him to a chair. By and by another instrument began to click. The most important work of the day was on hand. The press dispatches were ready, at a distant city. And by his table in that city sat one of the swiftest writers and most skillful operators in the service, waiting to begin his rapid sending. The chief motioned to the tall young man to take his seat at the table at which the press news was to be received.

And there he sat hour after hour. Without a break, without a halt; writing a hand like a copper-plate in his clearness and beauty, he tossed off sheet after sheet of copy to the waiting messenger boy, while all the office stared in astonished admiration. When the work was finished, the position was taken by another messenger. When asked his name he replied—Edison. It was the beginning of his world-wide fame. All he wanted was a chance. And when he got it he did marvels.

And is not this the homely expression of the real thought in the verse from Malachi cited above? "Bring ye all the tithes. Prove me now. . . . If I will not open the windows of heaven." What is God saying here but this? My child, I still have windows in heaven. They are yet in service. The bolts slide as easily as of old. The hinges have not grown rusty. I would rather fling them open, and pour forth, than keep them shut and hold back.

I opened them to Moses, and the sea parted. I opened them to Joshua when Jordan rolled back. I opened them for Gideon, and the hosts fled. I will open them for you—if you will open them to me. On this side of the windows heaven is the same rich storehouse as of old. The fountains and streams will overflow. The treasure rooms still are bursting with gifts. The lack is not on My side. It is on

your. I am waiting. Prove me now. Fulfill the conditions on your part. Bring in the tithes. Give Me a chance."

How can we give God the chance He wishes for us? By trusting, for it is faith that opens the soul to God; by praying, for Christ said: "If ye

ask . . . I will do"; by yielding, for otherwise we keep the sluiceway shut against God's outpouring floods of blessing.

CLOSING OUT ALL TOYS. Come prepared for low prices—genuine before the war bargains—You will not be disappointed. Real Coaster Sleds, formerly from \$1.50 to \$6.00—Now 89c, \$1.19, \$1.39, \$1.59 to \$4.00. Dolls—25c to 98c. Velocipedes—Reduced to \$2.49—\$3.49. Real Tool Chests at prices that enable every man and boy to own one—Come in early and make your selections. Open Evenings Until Christmas. Imperial Hardware Co. 1202 N. Third St. Harrisburg, Pa.

The Red Cross Needs You Join Now. Open Evenings Until Christmas. Christmas Gifts Worth While.

A Continuation of Our Great Sale of Lamps and Shades. Floor Lamps, Boudoir Lamps, Reading Lamps. \$9.95. For This Floor Lamp. Altogether the largest and most complete showing of Lamps in the city and at the lowest prices. Floor Lamps, \$9.95 to \$50. Table Lamps, \$5.95 to \$37.50. Boudoir Lamps, \$3.95 to \$10.00. Reading Lamps, \$3.95 to \$15.00.

Auto Van For the Children. The kind of toy every youngster wants—of sheet metal—strongly built—friction drive motor—sold only as an advertising feature at the extremely low price of 59c. NO PHONE ORDERS—ONLY ONE TO A CUSTOMER.

Smoker Stands For Men. Select it here from our large assortment, 15 styles, in oak, brass and mahogany. \$1.98 to \$15. ALL CHILDREN'S FURNITURE and Christmas Novelties at GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

Why Not Give a Piano Bench? Replace that old stool and please everybody in the family. Mahogany—Many styles to select from. \$8 to \$15.

A Last Minute Sale of Tea Wagons. Just in time for Christmas. These high-grade Tea Wagons were delayed in transit—should have been here at least three weeks ago. So with the Christmas shopping season about to close, we offer you these exceptional bargains. \$15.00 Oak Tea Wagons are \$11.95. \$17.50 Wicker Tea Wagons are \$13.50. \$17.50 Mahogany Tea Wagons are \$14.95.

TEA WAGON, as illustrated, solid mahogany, removable glass tray—large size—Special at \$17.50 only.

We Guarantee Delivery in Time For Christmas. GOLDSMITH'S North Market Square.

OPEN SATURDAY & MONDAY EVENINGS. BOOK'S REAL SHOE MAKERS. 217 Market St. 217. Opposite Court House, Harrisburg, Pa. Give the Boy HIGH TOPS. Please the boy with a pair of these sturdy tan and black storm calf high tops. Double soles (vulcanized) and 2 buckles, like picture. Sizes to 13½. \$5 values at \$1.95.

Sale of Christmas Footwear. VERY CAREFUL BUYING AND PLANNING MONTHS AGO ENABLES US TO OFFER SPECIAL BIG VALUES STILL AT VERY LOW PRICES. A COMPLETE ASSORTMENT OF Holiday Slippers For Men, Women and Children.

Women's Fur and Ribbon Trimmed Slippers, \$1.25. Men's Remos of soft tan and black kid, elastic gored sides and flexible soles. All sizes. An ideal gift for father or brother. \$2.00 values at \$1.50. Men's Everett Slippers of black and tan velv; flexible soles. Plain or patent leather trimmed. All sizes. Regular \$2.00 values at \$1.50. Women's Slippers—A large assortment of fur and ribbon trimmed felt Juliettes, boudoir slippers and house slippers. Pink, blue, green, lavender, gray, etc. All sizes. \$1.50. Women's Comfort Slippers—Fancy colored felt tops, ribbon trimmed, soft cushion soles. All sizes. \$2 values at \$1.50. Children's Fancy Slippers—Colored felt tops with beaded designs on instep. Felt soles. All sizes to misses' 2. 75c values at 59c.

WOMEN'S SMART NEW BOOTS \$5.00. Decidedly new high top models in Havana brown, dull and gray with white tops; gray, patent and dull. In the new military boot, in tan and black. All sizes. Women's \$5 Shoes—Clever new styles worth \$3.95. Bright, lace or patent, one- and two-tone effects. All sizes. \$3.95. HOLIDAY SALE OF MEN'S DRESS SHOES \$3.95. All the popular new styles, including the narrow toe English models. Dull and patent and the several shades of tan. Welt soles. All sizes. Actual \$5 values. LOOK, MEN! Special offer of men's patent and dull dress shoes; lace or button. \$3.95 values, \$3.95 at \$5.00.

GIRLS' DRESS SHOES \$1.95. Here is an exceptional big holiday bargain for girls; regular \$2.50 shoes at \$1.95. Strong dull and patent tops; solid soles. All sizes to 2. BARGAIN DEPT. SPECIALS. Ladies' and Men's Felt Slippers, with felt soles. Special, at 69c. Men's Buckle Arctics, with good, strong soles. Special, at \$1.25. Children's Arctics, with one-buckle. Sizes to 10½. Special, at 69c. Boys' Dull Button and Lace Shoes. Sizes to 13½. Special, at \$1.25. Girls' Patent and Dull Leather Shoes, with cloth tops. \$1.50 Sizes to 2. Ladies' and Men's Spats, in all the new colors. Special, at \$1.50.

BOYS' DRESS SHOES \$1.95. Here is a combination of style, comfort and wear, all at a very low price. Made in dull and patent. Button, lace. Sizes to 5½. Real \$2.50 values.