



Organ of the Seventh-Day
Adventist Church in
Britain.

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A Wonderful Year

Good News from the Union Treasurer

By A. CAREY

I HAVE before me the full reports from the whole British Union of membership, tithes, and offerings for the year 1940. The Lord has blessed the efforts put forth by our loyal membership in a special way during the past year.

The tithe income for the whole field for the year 1940 amounted to £34,212 as compared with £31,740 in 1939, a net increase of £2,472 or 7.79 per cent over the previous year. This really is marvellous! It is the highest amount of tithe that the British Union has ever had in any one year.

Now what about the individual fields? I notice that South England Conference has had a tithe income of £18,605 during 1940, as compared with £18,193 in 1939, an increase of £412 or 2.26 per cent over the previous year.

The tithe income from the North England Conference for 1940 amounted to £10,465 as compared with £9,142 in 1939, an increase of £1,323 or 14.47 per cent over the previous year.

Now let us turn our attention to our smaller fields, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, where the percentage increases are also remarkable. Let us study these figures carefully.

The tithe income for Wales in 1940 amounted to £2,202 as compared with £1,868 for 1939, an increase of £334, or 17.88 per cent more than the previous year.

The tithe income for Scotland in 1940 amounted to £1,634, as com-

pared with £1,405 for 1939, an increase of £229, or 16.3 per cent over the previous year.

The tithe for Ireland, with the smallest membership in the Union, amounted to £1,010 during 1940 as compared with £908 during 1939, an increase of £102, or 11.23 per cent over the previous year.

We would have been satisfied for the tithe not to have fallen lower than the previous year considering the perplexing situation of war, the evacuation of many of the members from their home towns, and in some cases from one conference to another. I am sure, therefore, that you will consider increases from 11 to 17 per cent in most of the Union fields most encouraging. Surely God has been blessing His people in a very special way, and through them, His work in this field.

Some ask, what work does the tithe do for the Lord? I would answer by saying that the tithe is for the support of the ministry and its work in the home field, *but not that only*. A percentage is sent to the General Conference every month to help in the support of the mission fields. So do not let us think for one moment that the whole of our tithe remains within this field, but remember that a portion of it is going to help the regions beyond.

OUR MISSION OFFERINGS

The total mission offerings for the year 1940 amounted to £19,903, as compared with £18,314 for 1939, a net increase of £1,589. Isn't this splendid!

The mission funds in which there are increases are as follow: The Harvest Ingathering figure reached the sum of £11,505, an increase of £802 over the previous year. Sabbath-school offerings, £5,822, an increase of £217 over 1939. Then the Annual Offering requires special mention, inasmuch as it reached the figure of £868, an increase of £339. We are glad to report an increase in the Week of Sacrifice offering, which amounts to £188 more than the previous year, a total of £920 being reached during 1940.

From the financial angle almost everything in the Union for the year 1940 has been successful, and we are truly grateful to the Lord for His blessing.

There is one matter, however, which I should not omit to mention. It would seem, so far as we have information, that about 80 per cent of our membership during the past year enjoyed the blessings that come from rendering to the Lord that which is His by right. Now my dear friends and fellow-members, what about the 20 per cent of our membership who are not faithful in this respect? If every member were to pay a faithful tithe, it would mean that our income in this field would be nearly £6,000

or £7,000 more per year. Will you ponder over this? Will you meditate thereon? Just think what could be done in this field in evangelistic work if this statement be true.

I read in *Testimonies*, Vol. 3, page 404: "The special system of tithing was founded upon a principle which is as enduring as the law of God. This system of tithing was a blessing to the Jews else God would not have given it to them. So also will it be a blessing to those who carry it out to the end of time. Our heavenly Father did not originate the plan of

systematic benevolence to enrich Himself, but to be a great blessing to men. He saw that this system of beneficence was just what man needed."

May this new year, 1941, upon which we have now entered, be one of great spiritual advance in all parts of this Union. We pray for an unparalleled growth in membership, one hundred per cent of our members faithful tithepayers, and above all, may we each one grow in grace and a knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Notes from the Union President

CATHOLIC EFFICIENCY

As indicating how thoroughly the Catholic church keeps in touch with Protestant affairs the *Catholic Herald*, London, on January 3rd, this year carried some notes written by the famous Father Martindale, when he was on a pre-war visit to Rome. He indicated that in the establishment in which he stayed, "There is a Protestant library, divided into various sections, thus I observed books about at least seven different sorts of Presbyterians; or dealing fuller with even the quaint sects—Mennoites, Irvingites; and of course the Buchmanites and the Salvation Army."

In the same article is a reference to Seventh-Day Adventists.

All this shows how careful we need to be in committing to print statements on our beliefs, about our propaganda, and about other religious bodies. It all illustrates the words of the servant of the Lord to the effect that our words which may have been used inadvisedly will one day come back upon us.

Some of our members are very careless in the way they use statements about the Catholics. All such statements should be carefully checked before they are used in public services.

WORLD CONDITIONS

DR. J. H. RUSHBROOKE, M.A., writing in the January issue of the *Layman*, as president of the Baptist World Alliance, has some gloomy things to say about the present world situation. He writes,

"To me the situation that has developed during the past year is

unspeakably sad. Over twenty years of my life have been devoted to service on behalf of our people on the Continent—the relief of physical distress after the war of 1914-18, the support of their church work, and especially of their ministerial colleges, the defence of their religious freedom, the effort to extend it in such lands as Rumania, and the promotion of the more intimate intercourse which has deepened and strengthened the fraternal unity of Baptists throughout the world."

The author then goes on to indicate the conditions of his own people in Rumania, which brings to mind the splendid work which our own Dr. Nussbaum did two years ago in Rumania in the cause of religious freedom when our people, like the Baptists, were in sore distress. We should perhaps remember that our own people are now in great difficulties in that land, as in other countries, which should call us to prayer. Dr. Rushbrooke continues:

"Readers will understand my deep sorrow that the activity of the Alliance should be restricted, and my special and bitter disappointment that the effort of so many years on behalf of Rumanian Baptists should, when apparently at last successful, have been brought to naught. The pro-Nazi Government of Rumania has annulled the decree of freedom, declared the Baptists an illegal body, and confiscated all their church property. Reaction, with anti-Semitism and religious repression as its characteristic marks, is in the saddle; and there is little prospect that the principle of religious liberty will triumph in our time. The whole weight of the

Rumanian Orthodox Church [which enjoys special relations with the Anglican Church!] is cast on the side of repression."

The article in question closes with reference to the plight of Protestant people in Czechoslovakia, Finland, and of mission work in China, etc:

"The deathless unity which the living God has created and preserves will yet again find full expression."

We could, undoubtedly, join in Sir Henry Newbolt's prayer, which Dr. Rushbrooke commends to the notice of his readers:

"O Lord, turn not Thy face away
From those who work Thy will,
But send Thy grace on hearts that
pray
For strength to serve Thee still."

ADVENTISTS AND RAID DIFFICULTIES

PASTOR J. E. BELL of Liverpool, who is one of our most senior workers, has suffered to the extent of having part of his house destroyed. The church meeting-place in Sheffield has been destroyed and the members are meeting in private homes. These are the sad things which call for a good deal of faith and tenacity of purpose on the part of the Advent people.

In talking to the elder of one of our churches which has been bombed, and whose services have been somewhat disturbed, it was encouraging to hear him remark that the bombing had seemed to do them a lot of good! He felt that there was much more fervour and practical godliness among the people, and that the experience had bound their hearts together as nothing else could have done. In some of these cases the tithes and offerings have been higher than ever before. Evidently these troubles are teaching us a good many lessons about faithfulness.

MORE CONGRATULATIONS!

WE have just heard that Pastor E. G. Essery has obtained his medical qualifications. He came home from the Arabic Union some years back, and has since taken the medical course in preparation for foreign mission service. We are glad that success has attended his efforts and wish him God's blessing.

NEWBOLD CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

OUR members will be glad to know that more than thirty young people are taking studies from the Corres-

pondence School, presided over by Brother Baird. Each week about forty lessons are sent out from the school and this department of our work is beginning to justify itself. Any young people not yet able to attend the college in person can obtain credits for work done through the Correspondence Department, but, of course, graduation from our college involves personal attendance at

the school in addition to correspondence work.

There must be many young people at present unable to go to school who could employ these blackout evenings very profitably in study in preparation for enrolment later in the regular college course.

We are glad for the success attending this new departure in our educational work. H. W. LOWE.

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

President: Pastor G. D. King
Office Address: 780 St. Albans Road, Watford
Telephone: Garston (Watford) 2213-4

Notes from the President

THE new year is still young enough for us to look back upon the lingering presence of 1940. This backward look should be of such a nature as to fill us with gratitude and praise, remembering as we are enjoined to do, "All the way the Lord has led us." Indeed only rarely is the Christian pilgrim allowed to indulge the mood of reflection and on these rare occasions it is to look back and take courage as he presses forward into fresh fields of service and greater conquests for the Master. The following report is at least part of the ministry of memory 1940 holds for us as we march on into the open year of 1941.

FRUITFULNESS IN EVANGELISM

LET US rejoice that in spite of the emergency conditions we were able to add by baptism and vote 164 new believers throughout the conference. When we remember that several evangelistic workers completely lost their congregations by reason of evacuation, we have reason to thank God for these new believers, born into the message in a time of tribulation. The net gain in membership will be somewhat disappointing by reason of the fact that deaths, transfers, and apostasy have accounted for severe reductions. There seems to have been a tendency to give close attention to the church membership records in December, and in consequence some cleaning has been done. Let us hope that this need not be repeated in 1941.

Strong plans for public campaigns and a more intensive personal evan-

gelism during this present year are being made, and already we have reason to believe that the Lord is showing us the way through some of our perplexities in war-time evangelism. You are especially urged to remember this in your prayers, that we may see larger and better results from our soul-winning endeavours. As you pray, also co-operate with the plans that are made for progressive work in your own locality.

FAITHFULNESS IN FINANCES

It can definitely be stated that 1940 has been the best year, financially, the conference has ever experienced. Truly the Lord has blessed His people and has led them into increased faithfulness during these trying times. The real strength of this Advent movement is to be found in the spirit and faith of its believers. The year 1940 has revealed that spirit and faith at its strongest. A mighty stream of financial support has gone out from the conference for the grand cause of missions overseas. The contribution from our conference territory to mission offerings was over £10,000, being an increase on the previous year of £961.

All the regular mission offerings, except the young people's offerings reveal an increase, and in the case of the young people's offerings the goal set was surpassed by over £30. Possibly others will be writing giving more detail concerning this most heartening feature of the year's work.

The tithe income for the conference amounted to £18,605, being an increase of £412. This surely indicates that more of our people are re-

sponding to the challenge of these times for increased faithfulness and loyalty to God and His cause. Let us remember that a faithful tithe is the hall-mark of true stewardship, and such stewardship God has promised to bless abundantly.

The increase in tithe, along with careful operating during the year, has enabled the conference to close the year with an operating gain of just over £800, a figure which means much to us as we attack the working problems of 1941. Before leaving this question of faithfulness in finance it should be mentioned that our Evangelistic Box Fund (our "Cinderella" fund) reached £205. We are glad the meagre budgeted figure of £200 was more than reached, but it seems a trifling contribution for work in our own needy field. Please remember this fund during 1941. It is one of the rivulets which should grow more and more into the proportion of a steady, widening stream. In addition to this Penny-a-Week Fund we have opened again a conference evangelistic reserve and hope to receive substantial gifts during the year so that our evangelistic programme can be vigorously maintained. You are asked to think of this as you make special gifts to the cause of God.

FELLOWSHIP IN SERVICE

A PLEASING feature of the work during the past year has been the spirit of united co-operation on the part of our conference working force. True team-work is always the secret of co-operative effort and the response received from the field has been such as to hold our workers in high esteem. During very difficult situations there has been no complaining, but a steady holding on to appointed tasks—neither bombs nor bombardment have caused any worker to leave his location or to request a move.

We have been pleased to welcome additions to the force of workers during the past year: Miss V. M. Warren to Bournemouth from Scotland; J. D. Maffey, a graduate, to Exeter and Taunton; and A. J. Woodfield, from North England, for ministerial work in London and teaching work at "the secondary school. As we think of our workers in the conference we remember also the splendid self-supporting colporteurs who this year have increased

their sales over 1939 by £1,400. This, in a year of emergency, is certainly an inspiring achievement.

FORWARD IN EDUCATION

RECENT issues of the MESSENGER contained good reports of the secondary school. This is a feature of the year's adventures which marks a real forward move in our local conference administration. The school has made an excellent beginning, quite beyond our fondest expectations. Already we are faced with the problems which rapid growth in any baby always brings, but we are endeavouring to cope with these as progress is made.

FERVENT IN PRAYER

WE can take courage from the fact that the Lord has heard the prayers and blessed the labours of faithful servants and as we press on with the work during this present year, let us be fervent in prayer and energetic in our service, knowing that He who has led us in the past will give us victories and blessings in the future in proportion to our own faith and labour.

G. D. KING.



We Believe in Missions

SOUTH ENGLAND has sent a really heartening message to our self-sacrificing missionaries throughout the world. It said, "We believe in missions. May the work be established and new places entered with the Gospel light."

No, it wasn't sent by radio!—nor by the conference office! You, churchmember, sent it in a very practical and much appreciated way—by your liberality and faithful labour of love throughout the year. Every one helped, the children in the Sabbath-school, and the isolated in the villages, no less than the regular Sabbath-school member and the home missionary officers who organized the mission campaigns.

In 1939 the total sum raised for missions in this conference was £9,041. We set our goal for 1940 at £9,220, for more than half of which we were depending upon the Ingathering campaign. No wonder we prayed for fine weather and many loyal collectors! We were not disappointed. In fact, though the period of collecting was shorter than for many years, our total was the highest

on record, £5,320, or £517 more than the previous year!

Like the Nile, fed by many never failing streams so far away, the Sabbath-school offerings cause the desert of heathenism to be fruitful for the Lord. In spite of evacuation and war conditions we rejoice to report that though we failed fully to reach our objective of £3,200, the total of £3,136 was the highest on record for this conference. We know the missionaries greatly appreciate this regular support and trust that this present year we may pass beyond our goal.

The other mission offerings, though not so large in the aggregate, are no less important, and, except for the missionary volunteer offering, show remarkable improvement. The Annual Offering rose from £330 to £555 and the Week of Sacrifice from £449 to £600. How encouraging! Perhaps no department of the church

has been more directly affected by the war than our missionary volunteers. So we are not altogether surprised that their offerings, while still £30 over the goal the Union set us, are £10 behind our usual total for the year. We hope to see our former figures reached during 1941.

For years we have looked at the goal of £250 from our Big Week or Missions Extension effort, and wondered when we should reach it. Time and again we have just missed by a few pounds! Happily this year we have passed it well, the total of £282 being £51 more than last year.

For a gain of nearly £1,000 in mission offerings and collections we thank the Lord, and look with confidence to the future. Missions—are you listening in? By the grace of God, South England will not fail to give you loyal support during the present year. E. R. WARLAND.

NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

President: Pastor R. S. Joyce

Office Address: 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham

Telephone: Nottingham 66312

Baptism in Bombed Birmingham

"BUT I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the Gospel." Phil. 1:12.

Despite the gruelling this city has received in recent months, there is, at the present time, a greater interest in the Advent message than has been seen for many years.

Some of this interest has been brought to fruition, and, as a result, a baptism was held in the Handsworth church on Sunday, December 15th. At this time, four souls were immersed, and, later, two others were received by the right hand of fellowship, making a total of six new members: three sisters and three brethren.

These were added to the churches of the district as follows: One to the church at Stoke-on-Trent. This candidate was brought by Brother K. Elias, and results from his labours. One to South Birmingham church. This candidate was first introduced to the message by a lay member. Two

members to Handsworth church, and the remaining two commencing a new group at Selly Oak, West Birmingham.

A score of others are keeping the Sabbath, and ten of these are already preparing for baptism. The able assistance of our Bible-worker, Miss H. M. Ford, is much appreciated in this good work.

Pray brethren and sisters, for the onward march of the Lord's work here, that we may win many souls for the kingdom of heaven.

HAROLD W. McCROW.



North England Colporteurs During 1940

It is with much gratitude to God that we report encouragingly on the literature work in this conference during the year just closed. As we faced the tasks of 1940, everything looked dark and uncertain, but He who neither slumbers nor sleeps has gently cleared our way and has prospered His servants. Look at these sales comparisons:

	1939	1940	Gain
Books	£5137	£5895	£758
All classes literature	9353	10801	1448

Increases have been effected in the distribution of *Present Truth*, *Good Health*, and the sixpenny magazine, *Good News*, as follow:

	1939	1940	Gain
<i>Present Truth</i>	£2001	£2298	£297
<i>Good Health</i>	1295	1362	67
<i>Good News</i>	264	478	214

Notice, too, the gains made by three leading colporteurs:

	1939	1940	Gain
Colporteur A	£744	£1117	£373
Colporteur B	436	564	128
Colporteur C	426	476	50

A recruit who commenced regular canvassing in the summer has in twenty-seven weeks delivered books to the value of £296, chiefly *Bible Certainties*. One order was secured

in a shelter by candle-light during a raid, and paid for on the spot!

Two persons, whose first contact with the truth was the purchasing of *Bible Certainties* from colporteurs, are now members of the church. One of these sisters is at present training for the regular colporteur ministry.

Other souls were added to the church during the past year largely through the colporteur work.

We shall appreciate your prayerful interest in the literature ministry as our door-to-door evangelists continue courageously in these war-time conditions. B. BELTON.

At Rest

McMILLAN.—It is with deep sorrow we announce the death of Sister J. McMillan. After a short illness our sister passed away on December 17, 1940, at the age of seventy-two years in her home at Glasgow. She was laid to rest amid peaceful surroundings on the quiet, distant Isle of Islay where she spent a considerable portion of her life and where, under the labours of Pastor Tonks, she, with her sister, embraced the Advent message. For nearly twenty years Sister McMillan was a member of the Glasgow church and in her quiet, unassuming way she endeared herself to the hearts of all. We shall miss her very much, but with hope we look forward to the future when earth's shadows

will have passed away and we shall sing together the great victory song:

"O death, where is thy sting?
"O grave, where is thy victory?"
E. HART, Church Clerk.

MERCER.—It is with sadness that we record the death of Sister E. Mercer, a faithful member of the Wakefield church, who fell asleep in Jesus on Friday morning, November 8, 1940. She was ever ready to help not only the members of the faith she loved but any who were in need. Now she awaits the call of the great Life-giver in sure hope of taking part in the first resurrection. J. FRENCH.

SHAW.—Sister Alice Helen Shaw died, after a brief illness, on December 1, 1940, at the advanced age of eighty-one, and was buried in the Warstone Lane Cemetery on December 6th. For many years a Congregationalist, attending the celebrated Carrs Lane church, Birmingham, Sister Shaw accepted the Advent message under the labours of Pastor G. D. King eleven years ago, and, at the age of seventy, with her younger sister, went through the waters of baptism. She was a quiet, consistent Christian, and loved the truth, though precluded from attending the services of the church for some years because of infirmity. It can truly be said of her that she rests in the "blessed hope." She leaves a sister and brother to mourn their loss. We laid her to rest with full assurance of her resurrection to eternal life at the return of our Lord. HAROLD W. McCROW.

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WANTED.—Second-hand copies of *Christ in Song*. Write, stating price, to: Mrs. Wallace, 76 Carnarvon Avenue, Enfield, Middlesex.

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SUNSET CALENDAR

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	Lon'n	Not'm	Car'ff	Edin	Bel't
Feb. 7th	6.00	5.59	6.12	5.58	6.14
Feb. 14th	6.12	6.12	6.25	6.13	6.28

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

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EDITOR: W. L. EMMERSON

"BRING YE ALL THE TITHE —"

Questions on Christian Benevolence Answered

Question: "Would tithe-paying by an Adventist employer excuse his sons from the payment of tithe if they were employed in his business? And what about tithing by the wife of an unbelieving husband?"

Assuming the sons were adult Adventists they would surely be accountable to God for their own actions, and the same obligation would rest upon them in this respect as upon their parents.

Suppose an Adventist employer has a gross turnover of £50 weekly. His weekly accounting might be as follows:

Gross Income	£50	0	0
Insurance, equipment, renewals, etc.	£5	0	0
Wages, 5 men at	£5,	25	0
Net profit	20	0	0
	£50	0	0
	£50	0	0

He would presumably tithe £20 (£2). If two sons earn £5 each per week, out of the £25 wages, their £10 has *not* been tithed by the father, and it seems clear that if they believe the tithe principle, they should honour the Lord. The Bible says, "Honour the Lord with *thy* substance, and with the first-fruits of

all thine increase" (Prov. 3:9, 10), so the father should obviously pay tithe on that which is his personal increase, and the sons on that which is their personal increase. It would be unwise for a father to attempt to perform this duty for his children who were of years of discretion, for it would deprive them of initiative and of that moral strength and blessing which comes to those who deliberately follow this practice.

A wife whose husband is an unbeliever is in a difficult position, and much depends on her circumstances. No fixed rule can be laid down. It seems fair that if marriage is an equality, everything, including income, should be considered as evenly divided between husband and wife. Many wives tithe on this basis, which appears the ideal plan. Others are unable to handle half the income and are therefore able to tithe only the portion they do handle. But a believing wife who seeks God for guidance will find a way of honouring God and of receiving the divine blessing as a result of her faithfulness.

H.W.L.

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BEEN ASKING
FOR!

Can we Know what is Coming?

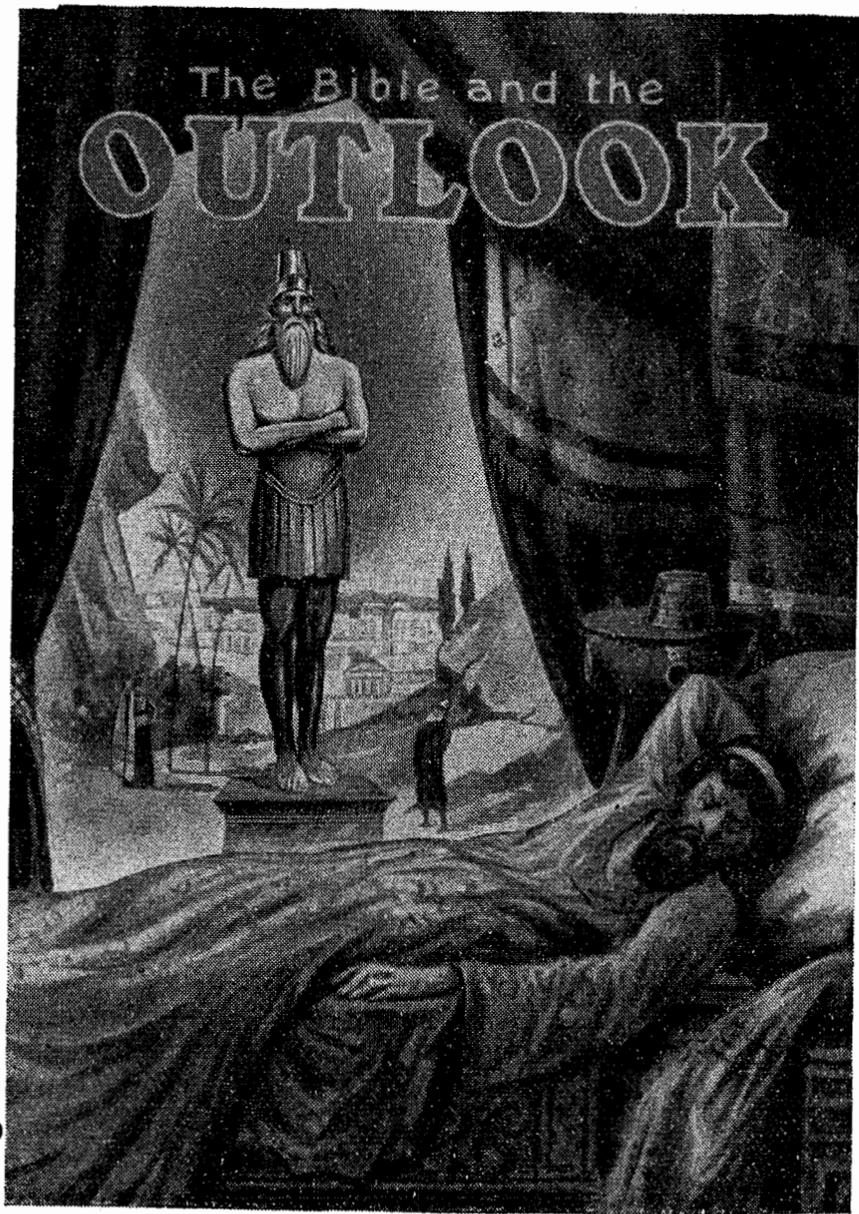
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