

# The Home Study Quarterly

Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, D.D., Editor  
Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D., Associate Editor

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## Testing the Tiles

A new house was being built, and some colored tiles were being put down in front of the door. A passer-by noticed a man taking up the tiles, one by one, and tapping them with his knuckles. Every now and then, he found one which, after tapping two or three times, he laid on one side. Asked why he was tapping the tiles, he replied, "I'm finding out the cracked ones."

That man was anxious to put only good tiles into his work. Far more important is it that we put no deeds into our lives but those that are noble and true. For God will test us as the tiles were tested, to find if there is the true ring about us. It is the highest ambition we can have, to be able to endure His testing.

## Book Talks

### III. "ESTHER"

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D.

Amongst the feasts of the Jewish year was that of Purim held in earliest spring time. It was the merriest of all the feasts, a time of good cheer and boisterous enjoyment. It celebrated a great deliverance of the Jews from their enemies, the story of which is told in the Book of Esther, so named from the heroine of its stirring and romantic tale.

A simple Jewish maiden, brought up in the home of her kinsman, Mordecai, in Susa, the capital of Persia, during the reign of Ahasuerus or Xerxes, the famous invader of Greece, Esther, though of a foreign and a subject race, is elevated to the position of queen.

But this proves to be a position of peril not less than of honor. For the wicked Haman, enraged because of Mordecai the

Jew's refusal to do him homage, plots a massacre of all the Jewish people living in Persia. Only Esther can foil this wicked scheme. But to do this she must risk her own life, by venturing unbidden into the king's presence.

Her courage does not fail her, and she obtains from the king a promise to grant her request, even to the half of his kingdom. Then she matches her woman's wit against the craft of Haman, and wins out in the contest. Haman is hanged on the very gallows, fifty cubits high, which he had erected for the execution of Mordecai. While the queen's kinsman, Mordecai, is raised to the position of highest honor in the kingdom, and her people are delivered from the doom that seemed so certain.

All Persia rang with the joyful shouts and songs of those rescued from a cruel death, because the girl queen had not flinched when the chance came to save her kindred. Our chances of doing good may seem very small compared with hers, but we can be as faithful as she. And it is faithfulness that counts in the sight of heaven.

## What the Bible Class Did for the New Church

By Rev. A. J. W. Myers, B.A.

The Adult or Organized Bible Class decided to put in the furnace. It cost about \$175. Some said it was too much to undertake, but long before the building was completed the furnace was paid for. Then the Class asked to be allowed to seat the church. One grade of seats cost \$200, another \$100. After full consideration, the more expensive ones were ordered. They were in place just in time for