

sionary journeys, and his voyage to Rome, a person can see how the apostle was treated, know with what success he preached the Gospel, and, above all, receive information that is able to make him wise unto salvation; but, unless a map be consulted, he may be totally ignorant of the distance Paul travelled, and consequently fail to see the activity displayed by that illustrious ambassador of Christ. This is not unimportant.

How many know where the island of Patmos is, to which John was banished by Domitian, and where he received the revelation of the things that must shortly come to pass? Are there any who think it is near Jerusalem? If there are, they would see their mistake by referring to a map; for it is almost as near Rome as to Jerusalem, and much nearer Athens than to either.

Inquisitiveness would lead many to look for Ararat, Eden, Babylon, Nineveh, Jericho and many others mentioned in the Old Testament.

Some people are under the impression that all the miraculous acts of Jesus were performed, all His discourses and parables spoken, at, or in the immediate vicinity of Jerusalem. By consulting a map of Palestine, and finding the places visited, the mistake would be seen.

That a person cannot successfully study the Scriptures without a geographical knowledge is not stated, neither is it believed. Many who never saw a map have found the way of life, gone on their way rejoicing, and at last entered the rest that remaineth for the people of God. But, though this is true, can we not read more intelligibly many parts of the Bible, and understand them better, when we know the positions of the places mentioned?

Reader, if you approve of these remarks, and do not possess a map of the Holy Lands, get one; then study it. The time spent in so doing will not be wasted, *provided* you neither read the Bible less, nor study it less closely. If those who have maps, but do not use them, concur with me in my views, let the maps be no longer unused; for by a little study of them information will be obtained that will be valuable through life. Let all make it their practice to study the word of God daily. To study it and and its geography together is best; to study the former without the latter is good; but to study the latter and neglect the former is positively wicked.

P. E. Island.

K. C. T.

MY REASONS FOR ATTENDING CHURCH ON RAINY LORD'S DAYS.

1. I expect my minister to be there. I should be surprised if he were to stay at home on account of bad weather.
2. If his hands fall through weakness I shall have great reason to blame myself, unless I sustain him by my prayers and presence.
3. By staying away I may lose the prayers that bring God's blessing and the sermon that would have done me good.
4. My presence is more needful when there are few than on those days when the church is crowded.
5. Whatever station I hold in the church my example must influence others—if I stay away, why may not others?
6. On any important business, rainy weather does not keep me at home, and church attendance is in God's sight very important.
7. Among the crowds of pleasure seekers I see that no weather keeps the delicate female from the ball, the party or the concert.
8. My attention to duty during such weather will show on what foundation my faith is built. It will prove how much I love Christ; true love rarely fails to meet an appointment.
9. Those who stay from church because it is too warm or too cold or too rainy, frequently absent themselves on fine days.
10. Though excuses satisfy myself they still must

undergo God's scrutiny and they must be well grounded to bear that.—Luke xiv. 18.

11. There is a special promise that where two or three meet together in God's name He will be in the midst of them.

12. An avoidable absence from the church is an infallible evidence of spiritual decay. Some disciples first follow Christ at a distance and then, like Peter, do not know Him.

13. My faith is to be shown by my self-denying Christian life and not by the rise and fall of the thermometer.

14. Such yielding to surmountable difficulties prepares for yielding to those merely imaginary until thousands never enter a church and yet think they have good reason for such neglect.

15. I know not how many more Lord's days God may give me and it would be a poor preparation for my first in heaven to have slighted my last one on earth.

By a suitable arrangement on Saturday I shall be able to attend church without exhaustion; otherwise my late work on Saturday night must tend to unfit me for the Lord's day's enjoyment of Christian privileges.

G. A. WELCH.

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WHAT HAS BEEN AND WHAT SHALL BE.

What various and important results are intimated in the word *change*. The history of the creation began by it, darkness was divided by light; Moses tells us, *God spake* "Let there be light" and the power that developed the atoms of light and darkness still keeps them separate. Who can scan that change? He again speaks, and animated nature appears and yet remains—who can search out the results of this change? Yet another and *man* is the result combining nature and its author. This appears to have relative part to an important change, which the inspired pen of the apostle Paul terms the second man, the Lord from heaven; and at the termination of time only will this change be demonstrated. *Paul*, amidst many changes happens to meet with pseudo-wise men at Corinth, who questioned the change as related to second man and a change yet to come, also he is at Athens in the midst of men of astute minds yet ignorantly worshipping many gods of imagination, an one *unknown*; well, exclaims the apostle, whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him I do declare unto you, and refers to the changes that had reference to the only wise God whose creative power was to be seen in the several events of the only truthful history of the past. The eventful present period proves to us that the "second man" "the Lord from heaven" who constituted a most momentous change, is now, though absent personally, guiding matters so that the future will make manifest a change that will eclipse past changes and answer the sceptical inquirer and disputer, not by an interrogation, "why should it be an incredible matter that God should raise the dead?" Has not the living fact of the absent "Lord from Heaven" sufficient evidence to change the power of unbelief into a firm confidence of His return in His own time and not only to change the earthly body, but also the living body, by His mighty power whereby He is able to subdue all things unto *Himself*. The affirmative is the true answer. As said the poet, "Blind unbelief is sure to err, and scan God's work in vain, He is His own interpreter and He will make it plain." Yes! the preparatory work is going on now, and well it will be with those whose eye of faith is inducing a co-operation in the work that will eventually effect the coming change so soon as the "fulness of time is come." It is said by some of these co-workers, "we look for a new heaven and a new earth, wherein *dwelleth* righteousness." One of these faithful workers, and also a

witness, testifies of this coming change, "The Lord from heaven" behold he cometh and every eye shall see Him, and they which pierced Him, and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Dear reader, take time and peruse the last chapter of 2nd Epistle of Peter which with words glowing with fervent truth points with plainness as respects this future and wonderful coming change, which with suddenness, yea! "the twinkling of an eye," and possibly find the money changers counting their coins and exclaiming in a few years we will double this sum, not a thought about the "fervent heat" that will dissolve their corrupting coins; also it will probably find some unreflecting minds amidst that festive throng who are worshipping the heroes of human corruption, or as testifies the word of truth, "deceiving and being deceived." How few are watching for that momentous movement when the earth and heavens shall be removed to be reconstructed for a residence for the "Lord from heaven" who is to dwell among all worthy ones, "that shall be like Him." How important is his admonition, what I say unto you, I say unto all "watch" and wait for the glorious appearing of the Son of God who will change our earthly bodies to heavenly ones suitable to enjoy that inheritance of the future "which shall not *fade away*," being undefiled and eternal; reserved for all who have washed their robes to whiteness by faith and obedience to Him who has become the author of eternal salvation. How important the admonition of the divine council, be patient for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh; again, by patience and continuance in well doing seeking that immortality which through a glorious resurrection all the faithful in Christ will put on at His appearing and kingdom, for this mortal must *put on* immortality.

I. J. UHLMAN.

AMONG THE BRETHREN IN NOVA SCOTIA.

My former letter closed with a reference to a meeting at Tiverton on Friday evening.

On the following morning, in company with Bro. Ford, having made several visits to brethren not previously seen, and it being decided that I should preach at Westport the coming Lord's day, we waited for the stage coach which soon came dashing along. After hesitating a moment to consider which foot to place first, followed by a little maneuvering I mounted successfully the coach and seating myself alongside of the driver we both commenced tucking the "wraps" around us that we might be as warm as possible while facing the cold drifting rain that was beating upon us. We were soon on our way driving leisurely through Long Island, a distance of about ten miles. But in a short time we were at the terminus of the road, and driving under a shed, kept for the protection of the team, we alighted. The baggage, mails and passengers were soon transferred to the little boat used in crossing the passage that separates Long Island from Brier Island. The trusty ferryman soon made his appearance, and, hoisting the sail, we went skipping over the somewhat stormy waters. On nearing the Westport side I recognized in the distance Bro. Geo. Bowers, who was kindly waiting to welcome me to his home, the comforts of which I enjoyed during the annual at Westport, and the kindness shown me then and since, by brother and sister Bowers has emboldened me to call their home, "My home at Westport." Lord's day was just a beautiful day—the sun was shining brightly—the sparkling waters were playing in the channel—and the waves, as though racing each other up the shore to reach the highest point, kept sliding back as though dissatisfied, but gathering their wasted forces came rushing up time and again, enlisting the sympathy and interest of the bystander to watch and to mark the progress made.