## THE UPWARD LOOK

### One of God's Angels

THE Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord.—Job 1:21.

Have you had one of God's own angels in your home for two and a half happy years? Those that have never had one could have no conception of the joy over such a one. Then God took her.

At first, in the bitter grief and terrible missing, the heart refuses to be comforted. One cannot put away the thought of the planned for and the anticipated years, of what that little one was to do and be. But one must know, that in some way, in God's plan and time, all these dear and glad anticipations will be realized.

Then, too, there are the glad and precious memories, that will last one's life-time, of the glad and precious days she was with us. Can you imagine what life would be now without these memories?

With deep gratitude we can thank Him for the joy and the gladness she brought us. If we had not had her, we could have had no conception of the joy and happiness that life holds in the possession of little children.

We can thank Him for the wonderful influence on our own lives, of that little life so far. She has guided us and led us, and given us such a knowledge of higher and deeper and nobler longings and hopes and desires, to develop the best that is within us. Though life will have many desolate moments without her, yet how much more grandly full it is, and will always be, on account of her brief stay with us. "Blessed be the name of the Lord."—I. H. N.

### What the Year Has Taught Us

**With the Household Editor.**

HOW quickly time speeds by. It seems but a few short weeks since we were greeting the year 7, and now it has sped from us. In the morning of life we are apt to look ahead, and think our time on earth is apt to be very long. As we grow older, however, the wheels of time seem to speed faster and faster, so that one Christmas scarcely passes before we realize that another one is upon us. A year of unknown possibilities lies before us. We cannot lift the veil from one of the 365 mysterious days of the year which come to meet us in single file procession. But when the right moment comes, God Himself will lift the veil. True, a new year begins every day, but we are only in the habit of counting them as calendar years. At the beginning of the calendar year many engaged in business pursuits aim to balance their accounts. Some of us also try to balance our life accounts, and all the world takes a fresh hold and begins to count the days over again.

In looking over the past year, we are naturally led to wonder what we have learned. It is a good thing to take a yearly inventory of one's assets, liabilities and future possibilities, cataloguing the mistakes as well as the successes for future reference. What has 1917 taught us about conserving time values, mind values, strength values and soul values—the things that make up real life values?

Time is the one thing of which we all have an equal amount—"all the time there is." But everything depends on what use we make of that time. The war has caused us to set new standards of valuation on time as well as on many other things. While many of us did considerable "war work" during the first years of the war, 1917 has taught us to a still greater degree that we have time to do work which will help to sustain life and bring comfort to many who suffer. We have been able to do these things by making use of time which before the outbreak of hostilities was oftentimes squandered. There is still much for us to learn, however, regarding time values.

Then comes mind values. The year 1917 has taught us to think more seriously—to think less of frivolity and more of the worth-while things. When we commence to think seriously we are also improving our minds. A great philosopher once said: "My mind to me a kingdom is," and the person who pays some attention to storing the mind, keeping it active and outreaching, unconsciously fulfills this idea more and more as time passes, and mental pleasures take the place of the more active ones of youth, thus proving a wonderful asset in mature life.

Probably, too, the majority of us have learned something during 1917 about strength values. There have been so many calls for help of various kinds and so many ways in which we have been anxious to "do our bit," that we have perhaps had a tendency to forget our physical limitations. We should not measure our tasks and duties by what others can do or what they think we ought to do, but by what we know we can do without overtaxing the body. Health is one of our most valuable resources, yet too often it is not valued until it is lost through ignorance or overtaxing of our bodies.

And what about soul values? Times like the present bring out the best and the worst there is in mankind. Selfish greed and lust, on the one side, debase man into the class of the lower animals; while chivalry, nobility and unselfishness, on the other, crown him with that true nobility which makes it possible for the sorely-bereaved ones to proudly lift their heads, realizing in a new and personal manner that living truth which He of Galilee spake when He said: "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend." Has 1917 not been teaching us that gold is purified by fire, that apparent calamities frequently prove blessings, and to lift our eyes with hope in an earnest gaze for the first glimmer of a brighter day?

Some of the events of 1917 have taught us to think more seriously and to study more about Scripture prophesies and the relation of the events of to-day with Christ's second coming. This is particularly true in connection with Jerusalem falling into the hands of the British. It was prophesied that Jerusalem would be down trodden by the Gentiles until the "times of the Gentiles were fulfilled," and that Jerusalem would then be given back to the Jews. Indications would lead us to believe that prophesy is being fulfilled at the present time.

Has 1917 not taught us also to appreciate to a greater extent the true spirit of Christmas—the spirit of love, devotion and true unselfishness? If we could all catch and reflect the glory and joy of God throughout 1918, the year would stand out like a star in history. Harmoness is a very important part of Christianity. As someone has said: "In Christianity the first thing necessary is cheerfulness, the second is cheerfulness, and the third is cheerfulness." None of us are so insignificant that our example has no force or our acts no power for good or evil.

There is an old saying, and a true one, that "The room for improvement is the largest room in the world." No matter what we may have accomplished during 1917, we can do still better this year. And shall we not expect greater things of ourselves? Who dares claim that he is all he might be? Life is full of fresh opportunities and hidden forces and glad surprises. It is the unexpected that is always coming to pass. No one knows what a day may bring forth, and therefore the way is always open

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