

List of Agents.

Some of our subscribers send us their subscriptions by registered letter (which means an expense of ten cents), when there is a person in their church to whom they could pay, and who could tell them when their subscription expires. For their benefit we publish the following list of agents:

Who Was Melchizedek?

Professor Sayce has much to say about the 14th chapter of Genesis. He shows in this Palestine and Babylonia are brought into direct relation with one another at a period when the geographical knowledge of the Babylonians has been supposed to have been confined within their own borders. He shows, however, that this view is erroneous. He declares that the clay records make it evident that "as far back as 3800 B. C., centuries before the age of Abraham, the Babylonian kings were making expeditions to the distant west. Four times did Sargon carry his arms to the shores of the Mediterranean, and on the fourth occasion he erected an image of himself by the side of the sea." Professor Sayce's remarks concerning Melchizedek are very interesting, and throw considerable light upon a question which has long puzzled even the ablest critics. He says: "The second half of the 14th chapter of Genesis, that which recounts the meeting between Abram and Melchizedek, has also received a remarkable confirmation from the clay records of the past. It is from the tablets of Tel-el-Amarna that the light in this instance has been derived. Ebed-Tob, the priest-king of Jerusalem, whose letters I have already referred to, represents himself as appointed to his office by the oracle of a god. He did not inherit his royal dignity from his father or his mother, or even from his lord and master, the King of Egypt, whose 'friend' and ally he was. The name of the god is given as Salim or Salem, the god of 'Peace,' and is identified with one of the forms of the Sun-god worshipped in Babylonia. Like Melchizedek, therefore, Ebed-Tob was king in virtue of his priesthood, and might consequently be described as priest-king of Salem, rather than as king of Urn-Salim, 'the city of Salem.' Moreover, the god whose temple stood on Mount Moriah was the god of 'Peace,' to whom accordingly it was fitting that those who had restored peace to Canaan by driving the enemy from its soil should pay their offerings. It is needless to point what a commentary this is on the narrative which tells us how Abram, after the defeat of the Babylonian invader, paid tithes to Melchizedek, 'the priest of the Most High God.' Professor Sayce's very able and interesting article makes it abundantly evident that facts are still stubborn things, and that the destructive critics will find the facts of the monuments too much for their subjective theories. — Commonwealth.

Ram's Horn Wrinkles.

The bigger the pocket-book, the smaller the Bible. Money that has no religion in it is apt to burn the fingers. There is no real joy in giving to the man who does not give half-enough. Did you ever know a mean man who wasn't proud of his wife's religion? It is hard to understand, how some men can profess so much and do so little. No man ever finds out how hard his wife is to please till he begins to build a house. The man who worries about things he can't help saves the devil a great deal of hard work. Prove that a Christian life may be lived one day and you prove that it may be lived forever. The devil loves to get his hands on good-hearted people. The fact that men have a devilish nature is all the proof needed to show that there is a devil. The surest way to become good-looking is to behave that way. If the tomb stones were reliable, the devil would soon be wearing mourning. When you find a man who has the courage to live within his income, you find a hero. One way to shorten the arm of God is to see how much you can do to discourage your preacher. The devil generally goes to prayers with the man who goes into his closet and leaves the door open. There are people who love God with all their heart who are afraid to trust him with a dollar of their money. Any work is hard work to a lazy man. There are people that claim that they are willing to do anything for the Lord, who never think of going to church on a rainy Sunday. Going into eternity without knowing Jesus Christ is to leave this world with your back towards heaven.

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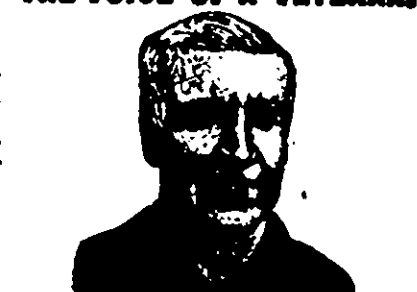
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