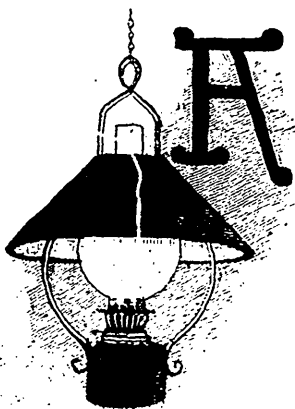


And so it is with ourselves shut away from light and sun. We, too, droop and become sickly, fit prey for disease, ever lurking in darksome corners, to pounce upon the weakly subject. Keep all drains and sinks thoroughly rinsed and clean. Where does all the typhoid come from but from bad smells? And these have their origin in dirt. Do you know that thousands die annually from this one disease—typhoid—all clearly traceable to neglected dirt and unflushed drains? Yet if each person would do his utmost to keep his own surroundings clean and sweet, how much might be done to rout the enemy! Nothing but care and cleanliness will ever drive away this scourge from our midst; and yet by neglect of the common laws of cleanliness and decency we do all we can to encourage it. We not only endanger our own lives, but those of our neighbours; for fever and cholera rarely stop at one victim, but sweep a whole neighbourhood, leaving woe and desolation behind them.

A MILLION.

BY THE REV. F. BOURDILLON, M.A., *Author of "Bedside Readings," etc.*



MILLION is a thousand thousands. Even a thousand is a large number. Go and look for a friend among a thousand people, and you will find it so. But a thousand thousands! You could hardly hope to find your friend in such a crowd as that.

There are in London more than five millions of people, and in all England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, about forty-six millions; and the present population of the world is reckoned at considerably over a thousand millions, a number much greater than we can conceive. If a million were taken away, it would make hardly any difference, for there would still be nine hundred and ninety-nine millions left; a thousand taken away would not be missed at all; a hundred would be a mere nothing; but *one* person, one single person, removed—why, surely that is not worth mentioning or thinking of; you might as well think of one seed taken out of a bushel of corn, or a single grain of sand from a mile of sea-shore.

Yet there is an Eye that sees every person among those thousand millions, and sees them all at a glance. There is no limit to an All-seeing Eye, and such is the Eye of God. Numbers make no difficulty whatever to Him, and to Him there is no confusion in a countless multitude. At this moment, His eye is upon each person in the five millions of London, and on the six-and-forty millions in this country; but, further, His Eye is on the whole world, and on each separate person among its thousand millions. One's mind is lost in the thought; but it is perfectly true.

If He sees all, then He sees *you*. You may live in a small place, and be hardly known beyond it; or you may live in a large town, and be lost among its thousands; or you may be travelling abroad, and people may not know in what country of the world to look for you; and yet, wherever you live and wherever you are, the Eye of God is upon you. He knows just where you are, picks you out from all around you, and follows you wherever you go. You are not lost in a crowd, you are not overlooked because you live in a retired place, you are not gone out of sight because you are wandering about the world. Among all the millions God sees you and distinguishes you, and observes and knows you as well as if you were the only one He saw.

If God thus looks at you, singling you out from all others, do you look to *Him*, and think of Him? You are not meant to think chiefly of your fellow-creatures, those few whom you can know among the thousand millions; you are to think *first* of Him who made you and them, your Creator, your Lord and God.

Yet you *are* to think of your fellow-creatures. Whomsoever of those millions you can reach in any way, you are to try to do them good. You are not to live for yourself only; you are to live to God, and to live to do good. For God has not put you alone on the earth; He has made you one among millions, and He has made all of one blood, and all are fellow-men.

God, who made all the millions of mankind, did not forget or forsake them in their need. When they were fallen and ruined by sin, He gave His Son to redeem them; and now He calls each person to believe and be saved. Do you believe? Is the Lord Jesus your Saviour? Have you sought and received the Holy Spirit? Are you at peace with God? And are you doing anything to bring to God the millions who do not know Him? Are you trying to bring those of them who are *nearest* to you?