SPLENDID PROGRAMME IS ARRANGED BY PRESBYTERIANS

Portland and Out-of-Town Church Folk to Gather for Annual Presbyterial Society Meeting—Central and Mizpah Women Hostesses.

THE annual meeting of the Portland Presbyterian Society in Central Presbyterian Church, East Fifteenth and East Pine streets, will be one of the most important events of the coming week. It will take place Wednesday and will be attended by all the prominent Presbyterian women of the Portland district, which includes this and several other towns. Central and Mizpah Presbyterian church women will be hostesses and the guests from out of town will be entertained at luncheon at a table specially arranged by the Westminster women.

Following is the complete programme:

Morning Session.

10—Devotions, Mrs. J. W. McMichael; Lord's Prayer in unison.
10:10—Appointment of committees.
10:15—Reports of work of the year: Recording secretary, Mrs. Fabian Byerley; Christian Endeavor, Mrs. Luther T. Nelson; Westminster Guild, Miss Julia L. Palmer; Mission Study, Mrs. T. J. Keenan; secretary of literature, Mrs. William Yeo; corresponding secretary, Mrs. H. R. Albee; band secretary, Mrs. Paul M. French; treasurer (foreign), Mrs. Harvey N. Smith; treasurer (home), Mrs. George M. Reed; greetings from Holt Chinese Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Jen Fey.
11:02—"Opportunities," Mrs. W. O. Ashby.
11:12—Message from the board, Mrs. F. I. Fuller.
11:22—Message from home field, Rev. A. J. Montgomery.
11:32—Solo, Mrs. Fletcher Linn.
11:42—Devotional, Rev. Robert H. Milligan.
Lunch.

Afternoon Session.

2—"The New America" (tune, Materna):

Oh! beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self, their country loved,
And merry, more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!

Prayer, Mrs. Edward H. Pence.
2:10—Roll call of churches.
2:20—Solo, Mrs. Lulu Dahl Miller; Miss Marjorie Hansen, Westminster Guild missionary to Corea.
2:30—Address, "The World's Challenge to American Christianity," Rev. John H. Boyd, D. D.; offering; reports of committees; installation prayer, Mrs. A. J. Montgomery; reading of minutes; president's message; adjournment.

"Worth of Prayer," Topic of Methodist Sermon.

Usual Congregational Sing Will Precede Evening Service.

"THE WORTH OF PRAYER" will be the subject of Dr. Joshua Stansfield's sermon at First Methodist Church, Sunday morning. The sermon will be a candid discussion of the philosophy and power of prayer in the actualities of human experience. There are more things wrought by prayer than our poor philosophy dreams of.

In the evening the sermon will be on the subject, "The Value of a High Purpose, for the Individual, the Family, the Nation." This will be preceded by the popular congregational sing beginning promptly at 7:30 and continuing for 20 minutes, featuring the quartet, vested chorus choir and congregation of patriotic and religious songs and hymns.

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Dr. Robert Milligan will preach on "The Use of Force" this morning at Rose City Park Presbyterian Church. The doctor hopes this discussion will be helpful to those who find it difficult to reconcile their instincts of patriotism and the reverences of their faith.

In the evening Dr. Milligan will preach on "The Joy of Jesus." This is second in a series of sermons on "The Manhood of the Master."

* * *

Rev. Clinton C. Bell, pastor of Alberta United Brethren Church, Twenty-seventh and Sumner streets, will conclude today at 11 A. M. his ten sermons on "Our Lord's Return."

These sermons have awakened a considerable interest and, at the request of the congregation, Mr. Bell is considering their publication.

* * *

Charles I. Spellman, Jewish evangelist, of Seattle, Wash., will speak at St. Johns Baptist Church today at 3 P. M. His subject will be "The Jewish Question in Relation to Messianic Prophecy." The Evangelical, Methodist and Christian churches are uniting.

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LAFAYETTE, Or., April 12—(Special.)—Professor Alpheus Gillette will have charge of the Sunday school at the Methodist Episcopal Church Sunday at 10 A. M. and Rev. Alfred Bates, the pastor, will preach at 11 A. M. and 8 P. M. The Epworth League will meet at 7 P. M.

Rev. Alfred Bates has received some interesting letters from his brother, Stanley, who is with the British forces fighting the Turks in the Judean hills of Palestine.

* * *

By resolution the United Evangelical conference has indorsed the liberty loan and all patriotic movements.

They also resolved not to countenance the employment of any pulpit supply who accepts the doctrine of evolution or other doctrine that "masks any point of Bible interpretation."

"Are Sin, Disease and Death Real?" Sermon Topic.

Christian Science Reading-Room Gains in Popularity.

THE Christian Science churches and Society of Portland hold services at their respective places of worship at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning and all except Fifth Church and the society repeat the service Sunday evening at 8 o'clock. The same service is held in all the churches and the society, the subject for the lesson sermon this week being "Are Sin, Disease and Death Real?"

At the Wednesday evening meeting, to be held at 8 o'clock, testimonies of Christian Science healings are given.

The churches are located as follows: First Church, Everett and Nineteenth streets; Second Church, East Sixth street and Holladay avenue; Third Church, East Twelfth and Salmon streets; Fourth Church, Vancouver avenue and Emerson street; Fifth Church, Sixty-second street and Forty-second avenue; Sixth Church, Masonic Temple, 388 Yamhill street; Society, Holbrook block, St. Johns.

Two sessions of the Sunday school are held by First, Second, Fourth and Sixth churches and Society at 9:45 and 11 A. M., respectively. Third Church also conducts two sessions, the first at 11 A. M. and the second at 12:10 P. M., and Fifth Church at 9:30 and 11 A. M.

A reading-room, maintained by the churches, where all Christian Science literature may be found, is located on the 11th floor of the Northwestern Bank bldg.

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J. H. Coate was elected chairman of the board of deacons of Central Presbyterian Church at their meeting on Tuesday evening. Other officers selected were: M. M. Binford, vice-chairman; C. W. Whittlesey, secretary; J. G. Bennett, treasurer; M. L. Beach, financial secretary. Messrs. Whittlesey, Bennett and Beach were re-elected.

An enjoyable evening was spent by the congregation of Central Church last Thursday. Everybody furnished their own refreshments.

'What God Expects of Man,' Dr. Boyd's Subject.

First in Series of Sermons to Be Given This Morning.

AT THE First Presbyterian Church, Twelfth and Alder streets, the pastor, Rev. John H. Boyd, will preach both morning and evening. In the morning at 10:30 Dr. Boyd will give the first of a series of two sermons on the general subject of "Man's Search for God," and will deal with the condition of the minds of men in this crisis and their desire for God.

The first sermon will be on "What God Expects of Man." It will be a message for the hour. The second, on April 21, will be on "The Ethical Interpretation of Religion."

This evening at 7:30 Dr. Boyd will continue his sermons on war subjects, his topic being "The Egotism of Germany." The evening service will be a patriotic one, with National hymns and songs.

"Wishing for the Day" will be the theme of Dr. E. H. Pence's sermon at Westminster Church, East Seventeenth North and Schuyler streets, this morning at 10:30. He will give a great lesson for the hour, a lesson of courage and confidence for Americans. At night "The Night Cometh" will be the theme.

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Tonight at the Highland Baptist Church, Alberta and East Sixth streets North, Rev. Charles F. Mielr, pastor, there will be a patriotic service and unveiling of a service flag of 42 stars.

Ministers Of The Salem District, Methodist Episcopal Church And Dr. T. B. Ford Whom They Honored

Rev. T. B. Ford, D. D., Honored by Salem Ministers.

District Superintendent Is Leaving for Visit to Old Home in South.

THE ministers of the Salem district last week honored their district superintendent, Dr. T. B. Ford, who is leaving on a vacation to the Southland, his old home, in a few days, with a special reception, and presented him with a valuable golden fountain pen as a token of appreciation and respect. The presentation speech was made by the Rev. Mr. Joslyn in behalf of the district.

The Salem district conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held at Oregon City, Or., from April 3-7, inclusive, was in all respects very successful.

This district includes a territory as large as some of the European states, with 52 ministerial appointments, and has 60 ordained Methodist ministers inside its boundary.

The Rev. T. B. Ford, D. D., the district superintendent, is worthy of a great deal of credit for the success of the conference. The programme was one of the most elaborate presented at any district conference, and the papers read and speeches made were of high order.

This district conference has given a new impetus to Methodism in this part of the country, and all expect that this year will be one of the best for the Methodist Church in Oregon.

* * *

"Meeting the World's Supreme Need" will be the subject of a patriotic sermon by Rev. J. F. Ghormley, D. D., at Rodney-avenue Church this morning at 11 o'clock. At 8 P. M. Dr. George N. Taylor will speak on "The Outlook of National Prohibition."

* * *

A war-time challenge to the Sunday schools of Oregon will be the leading theme at the twin conventions of the Oregon Sunday School Association to be held in La Grande April 22 to 24 and in Salem April 25 to 27. "What Can You Do to Help?" will be put up to every Sunday school.

* * *

The second sermon in a series, "New Kings for Old," will be preached this morning at the Church of Our Father by the pastor, W. G. Eliot, Jr. The special theme for the day will be "Socialism Is Dead, Long Live Socialism."

Dr. Harold C. Bean, recently returned from France, will speak on "Experiences at the Front" at the open forum at 7:45 P. M., meeting in the Unitarian chapel, Broadway, between Yamhill and Taylor streets.

* * *

An interesting series of meetings is being held at the First United Brethren Church by Rev. J. H. Patterson, of Ohio. His themes for today will be: At 11 o'clock, "The Militant Church," and in the evening "Soul Values." All are welcome to come and hear him.

* * *

Miss Miriam Woodberry, of New York, will speak this morning at the Highland Congregational Church, corner of Prescott and Sixth streets, taking for her theme, "Christian Opportunity in America."

The evening service at 8 o'clock will be patriotic and will be of the nature of a neighborhood rally. The pastor, Rev. Edward Constant, will conduct the meeting and three short addresses will be given by interesting speakers, one of them being Captain Jacob Kanzler, from Camp Lewis. There will be special patriotic music and all the exercises of the evening will be arranged to center about the idea of "The Nation's Call."

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On Tuesday at 7:45 P. M., Rev. Floyd E. Dorris will be installed at Hope Presbyterian Church. Rev. Ward W. MacHenry will have charge of the service. Assisting will be Dr. E. H. Pence, Dr. A. J. Montgomery and Rev. Barclay Acheson. A reception will be given Dr. and Mrs. Dorris and family.

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Trinity Lutheran Church will worship at 10:15 A. M. in German, and at 7:30 P. M. in English. Subject of the English sermon will be "The Lord Our Righteousness." Everybody welcome. The church is located at Williams and Graham avenues.

Baptists to Hold Annual Sessions at Astoria.

Speakers of Statewide Prominence Included in Programme.

AT THE First Baptist Church (White Temple) today the pastor, Rev. William A. Waldo, will speak in the morning on "Christian Sympathy—Portland's Greatest Need." In the evening his topic will be "Christ at the Door."

This week will be a busy one at White Temple. On Monday evening a reception will be tendered by the church to Dr. Waldo and his family, the latter having just arrived in Portland. On Tuesday and Wednesday the Columbia River district of the Women's Baptist Foreign Mission Society will convene, with all day and evening sessions. On Thursday will be held the regular praise and prayer service of the church, and on Friday evening Dr. J. Whitcomb Brougher will give his lecture, "Simon Says Wigwag." Full announcement of these meetings will be made.

* * *

This morning in the East Side Baptist Church, Dr. W. B. Hinson's subject will be "The Ideal Church of a Fool." The pastor will have something to say about the vagary of the president of the Northern Baptist convention, and it will be shown that his statement regarding the present drive of the Huns and the ideal church are alike to be discredited.

At night Dr. Hinson will discuss "The Four Judgments." The varied phases of the fact of judgment will be emphasized and according to Scripture placed in their rightful relation to each other.

The Sunday school commences at 9:50, with classes for all, and to which all will be made welcome.

The young people hold their meeting at 6:30 and invite all young people to attend.

"Christian Sympathy, Portland's Greatest Need."

Dr. Waldo's Sermon Topics at White Temple Today Announced.

THE seventeenth annual session of the Willamette Baptist Association, which embraces the Portland Baptist churches and the upper and lower Columbia districts, will be held in the Astoria Baptist Church, Rev. R. F. Jameson, pastor, April 22-24.

Delegates may go to Astoria either by North Bank Railroad, leaving at 8:10 A. M. or 6:15 P. M., or by boat from the Alder-street wharf at 7 A. M. Fare by boat, one way, $1.25.

In order to secure entertainment from the church, delegates should at once write Pastor Jameson of their intention to attend the meetings.

Following are some of the speakers: Rev. R. F. Jameson, Rev. A. B. Waltz, Rev. A. L. Black, Mrs. Jameson, Dr. H. P. Bloxham, Professor C. P. Coe, Rev. T. Stephenson, Rev. J. E. Thomas, Rev. A. J. Ware, Mrs. O. C. Wright, Miss E. M. McDowell, Rev. C. F. Mielr, Rev. W. T. Milliken, Rev. E. A. Smith, Mrs. George Campbell, Rev. W. B. Hinson, Rev. J. B. Murphy, Rev. W. A. Waldo, Ph. D., Miss Nina Burch, Dr. C. A. Woody and others.

The 25th anniversary of Grace Baptist Church will be observed with special services, April 18 to 21. Dr. W. B. Hinson will preach Thursday night, April 18. On Friday night, April 19, a war dinner and fellowship meeting will be held, with an address by Harry Stone, general secretary of the Y. M. C. A., on "The Church and the Future." Services all day Sunday, April 21.

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Rev. H. T. Cash, pastor of Grace Montavilla, will preach at today's 11 A. M. service on "God's Use of Broken Things." In the evening at 8 o'clock, Rev. D. C. Graham, returned missionary from Siufu, China, will preach. Sunday school at 9:45, and Baptist Young People's Union at 7 o'clock.

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The Women's Home Auxiliary will meet at the Deaconess Home, 815 East Flanders street, Friday, the 19th. Sewing for Red Cross and charity in the morning. Lunch at 12:15, served by the wives of the board of trustees. Address by Chief of Police Johnson at 2:30.

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Rev. N. Shupp, of the Evangelical Church of Lents, will give his second patriotic sermon today, in the series he is preaching.

Dr. Carradine will preach at 11 A. M. today at Central Free Methodist Church.

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Rev. E. D. Hornschuch, of the First Evangelical Church, East Sixth and Market streets, is preaching an excellent series of sermons. Tonight a missionary programme will be presented by Winifred Peterson, Florence Druschtel, Luella Harris, Vera Tuffor, Edna Koecher, Sylvia De Temple, Alice Saunders, Mrs. O. Yates and others.

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The Realization League, of which Rev. H. Edward Mills is founder and leader, will meet today at 186 Front street, at 11 A. M. and 8 P. M. Mr. Mills will address both meetings. Morning subject, "The Master's Call"; evening subject, "How the Call Is Answered." Classes in applied truth are conducted by Mr. Mills at the same place on Wednesday at 2:15 and on Friday at 8 P. M.

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Mrs. Florence Crawford will speak both morning and evening today in the assembly room of the Portland Hotel. The topic at 11 A. M. will be "The Gate That Opened Itself," and at 8 P. M. Mrs. Crawford will speak on "Meeting the World's Demand." Mrs. Pearce will sing at the morning service, and a piano number by Miss Selma Calder and piano duet by Miss Fowler and Miss Hardiston have been arranged. The lectures are open to all.

Knights of Columbus Plan for Busy Sunday.

Annual Communion and Breakfast Will Feature Occasion.

TODAY will be a day of events for the Knights of Columbus. The annual communion of the members in a body will take place at the 8:30 o'clock mass at the cathedral, Fifteenth and Davis streets. A large delegation of soldiers from Vancouver Barracks are expected to be present for the services.

At 10 o'clock a breakfast "banquet" will be served at the Cathedral Hall, complimentary to the soldiers. The tables will be in charge of Mrs. J. P. O'Brien and prominent matrons of the cathedral parish. A unique programme has been arranged. Beginning at 1 o'clock the first degree of the order will be exemplified to a class of 50 candidates, many of whom are soldiers at the Barracks. Work in the second and third sections will follow.

Frank J. Lonergan will have charge of the major degree, assisted by an out-of-town team. Owing to the limited space and the demand for seats at the breakfast, members are requested to make reservations through the secretary, Frank J. Whalen, at the clubrooms, 364 Taylor street, before Saturday night.

Methodists Seek Return of Rev. Alexander Beers.

Popular Preacher Completes Second Year's Pastorate Here.

REV. ALEXANDER BEERS, pastor of the First Free Methodist Church, East Ninth and Mill streets, will tomorrow complete his second year as pastor of this church.

At a meeting of the society held Wednesday night, many expressions of appreciation were shown, and there is an urgent demand that Rev. Mr. Beers be returned. The appointments for the Oregon Conference will be made by Bishop Walter A. Sellew, who presides at the Oregon Conference, to be held in Portland this coming week.

The church has had a substantial gain in membership, and the financial reports show a gain of more than 32 per cent in the various departments of the church's work. Rev. Mr. Beers will preach tomorrow morning, taking for his subject, "Speed Up Protestantism." This subject will deal with the responsibilities the church must meet in these trying times.

A special rally will be held at the church Sunday night, when the pastor will preach the final sermon for the year.

Missionary-Author to Be Speaker Tonight.

Atkinson Church Congregation to Hear Author of "Lure of Africa."

DR. CORNELIUS H. PATTON, of Boston, will speak at the Atkinson Church at the 7:45 P. M. service today. Dr. Patton recently made extensive travels in Africa and on the request of the missionary education movement has written a book, "The Lure of Africa," to cover the entire continent as touched by missionary enterprise. This book has been studied by hundreds of classes in many denominations the country over during the present season.

This mighty continent of about the size of North America and Europe combined with its vast resources, and its limitless possibilities has been the cynosure of the European nations and the challenge for numberless dauntless missionaries who are making Africa the laboratory of Christianity.

At the morning service Rev. Warren Morse will speak on "The Menace to the World's Freedom."

"Lincoln and Lloyd George" Is Dr. Pedley's Topic.

First Congregational Church to Observe Anniversary of Martyrdom.

"LINCOLN and Lloyd George" will be the subject of Dr. Hugh Pedley's sermon tonight in the First Congregational Church. As this is the anniversary of the martyrdom of Lincoln, a large attendance is expected.

The subject at the Sunnyside Congregational Church this evening, Dr. J. J. Staub, pastor, will be "The Church's Share in the Great World Struggle."

The evening service will put special emphasis on this phase of the work; patriotic music will warm the heart to new devotion, while the best motion pictures available will portray in vivid manner the progress of the work done by our Nation in the enormous conflict.

Episcopal Sunday Schools Arrange Big Rally.

Rev. Barr G. Lee Leaves Oregon For Sacramento Charge.

A UNION service of the Episcopal Sunday schools of the city is planned for the afternoon of Sunday, April 21. The children, with their teachers and the clergy, will meet at the Portland Academy at 3 P. M. and march to St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Thirteenth and Clay streets, where the service will be held at 4 o'clock.

The procession will include vested choirs of children from the various schools, and processional crosses, flags and banners will be carried. At the service the Easter offerings will be presented. The child making the largest offering in each school will make the presentation for his school. This Easter's united offering includes the money raised by the children during Lent, which involved much self-denial. It will be devoted to general missionary work at home and abroad.

Bishop Sumner is urging organizations for the sale of thrift stamps in every parish in the diocese.

The Rev. Barr Lee, after years of work in Oregon, in which he held many important positions, is leaving Roseburg for the diocese of Sacramento.

With the general canvass of the parish still to be made, $3650 has been raised for the new St. Michael and All Angels' Church, in Rose City Park.

The dates for the annual diocesan convention have been changed to Tuesday and Wednesday, May 28 and 29. The annual meeting of the diocesan branch of the Woman's Auxiliary will be held at St. David's Church, Monday, May 27. Bishops Nichols, of California, will address a missionary mass meeting the evening of the first day of the convention.

The Portland Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew has perfected a plan for keeping boys in the camps in touch with their home churches through the good offices of laymen. In each parish a committee will be organized, each member of which will take an equal share of the names represented on the service flag and write a letter to each of these once a month. The president of the brotherhood, A. E. Newill, is promoting the plan, and it is meeing with cordial approval.

Bishop Sumner will confirm a class of candidates at Grace Church, Astoria, Sunday morning, and at Calvary, Seaside, in the evening.

Services at Trinity will begin this morning with the celebration of the holy communion in the chapel, Nineteenth and Everett streets, at 8 o'clock. Morning prayer and sermon by the rector, Dr. A. A. Morrison, at 11 o'clock. Subject of the sermon is, "Who Are God's Chosen People?"

The text is from the words of St. Peter, Acts x:34: "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." The subject is particularly significant at this time, as our enemies have announced through their representatives that they have been chosen of God to

(Concluded on Page 11.)

PASTOR POINTS TO BIBLICAL PORTRAYAL OF WORLD WAR

Dr. Hugh Pedley Sees in St. John's Revelation the Unfolding of Human History.

And I saw, and behold a white horse; and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him; and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.—Rev. vi:2.

GEORGE FREDERICK WATTS was one of the greatest of modern painters. He strikes the same note in art that Tennyson and Lowell do in poetry. Every picture is a lifting of the ideal, a thrust at the ignoble or a message of sympathy to the sorrowing. Such canvases as "Love Triumphant," "Eve Repentant," "The Court of Death" and "Hope" have won a secure place in the galleries of the world. The picture I have before me this evening is entitled "The Rider on the White Horse" and is really a visible sermon on the text just read. Tonight we shall look at the text itself and its setting and then at the picture.

The setting of the text deserves our notice. The position of the writer of this book of Revelation is that of one who has seen a door open in heaven and beholds the heavenward side of things. Within that celestial entrance he sees a throne, a sea of glass, 24 elders, the symbol of the perfected church, and the four living creatures, the emblem of flawless service. In the hand of him who sits upon the throne is a book or roll fastened with seven seals. The seer is troubled even to tears by the fact that no man is found that can open the book; but is comforted when told that the lion of the tribe of Judah had power to open the book. But when the time for the unsealing of the book has come the lion appears in the guise of a lamb and of a lamb that bears upon him the marks of devotion to death.

Victory Is Symbolized.

There are various opinions as to what the mysterious closed book stands for. The most reasonable perhaps is that which looks upon it as representing the unfolding of human history and the laws under which that unfolding takes place. That it is the lamb that has power to break the seal indicates that it is in Christ and Christ crucified that we have the key that unlocks the mystery of human life.

Each of the seven seals as it is broken by the Christ is the announcing of some great event. The first seal is broken and a white horse with a martial rider, bow in hand, rushes forth, "conquering and to conquer." This is the symbol of victory.

The second seal is broken and a red horse appears. The rider bears a great sword and power is given to him to kill. This is the symbol of battle. We have had it with us these nigh four years.

The third seal is broken and a black horse gallops into view. The rider carries neither bow nor sword, but a pair of scales, and with these he measures out food to the people. This is the symbol of famine, scarcity of food. This rider has not come to us as yet, but in Belgium, in Poland, and, if reports be true, in great Germany itself these balances have been called into use.

Pale Horse Represents Death.

The fourth seal is broken and a pale or livid horse appears. The rider is called Death and he has a following satellite whose name is Hell or the grave. He is a symbol of death in all its forms. The word translated pale really means green. The Greek word is chloros, the word which gives us our chlorine, the basic element in the asphyxiating gas which the Germans let loose upon their foes. The pale horse stands for sword and fire and wild beast and pestilence, death in every hideous and terrible shape.

The fifth seal is broken and now we have a vision of souls under the altar, the souls of martyrs, those who have been slain for the word of God and for the testimony they held. From these goes up a great cry for judgment upon the wrongdoers, such a cry as might go up now from the souls of the dead Belgians, the victims of the Lusitania and the slaughtered Armenians.

"How long, O Lord holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?"

And this is the answer:

"And white robes were given unto eveery one of them; and it was said unto them that they should rest yet for a little season until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

Altar's Victims Many.

This truly is a bold picture. Those who have suffered wrong and have entered the unseen world are not unconscious of the iniquity of those who are still upon the earth and of the sorrows they are inflicting upon their fellow believers. Coleridge in his "Religious Musings" has embodied the idea:

Rest awhile
Children of wretchedness; more groans must rise,
More blood must stream or ere your wrongs be full.
Yet is the day of retribution nigh.
The Lamb of God hath opened the fifth seal;
And upward rush on wings of swiftest fire
The innumerable multitude of wrongs
By man on man inflicted.

There is a vast altar in the world today. Its sacrificial fires burn under many skies. The victims are countless in their numbers. The souls under this altar are in themselves an army of many regiments. Surely from them must go up the cry, "How long, O Lord, how long?" Surely some whisper of that must come in the night watches to the Kaiser and his myrmidons.

The sixth seal is broken and the earth is shaken by an earthquake. This signifies the disturbing of the whole fabric of society. All kings and rulers, all institutions and customs are thrown into convulsion.

The seventh and last seal is broken and its breaking is the introduction of a new series of events set forth in seven angels with seven trumpets.

It is with the breaking of the first seal that we are concerned this evening, or rather with that which it introduces—the rider on the white horse. This has been used by Watts as a subject for his painting. As we look at the picture the chief objects are of course the horse and the rider.

Horse Nobly Portrayed.

When we look at the first we are at once impressed. Never perhaps has this noble animal been more nobly portrayed. Job's description has its counterpart in Watts' painting. There are certain points that at once arrest your attention. The milky whiteness, the arched and powerful neck, the vast muscular chest, the delicate quivering nostril, the forelock and mane flung like banners to the wind, and, most beautiful of all, the eye so bright, so intelligent, so fearless, so kindly. The horse has had his place in history from the Bucephalus of Alexander the Great to the Marcugo of Napoleon and the Copenhagen of Wellington. He has had his place, too, in art. The chisel and the brush have both done their part. Watts was able to use both and he did use both to set forth the highest equine glories. In his statue, "Energy," he has made the horse the symbol of natural power carried to its highest point. Here he has made it the emblem of spiritual force.

But of course it is the rider that has the chief place. The figure is that of a young man. It is one of Watts' finest delineations of a splendid young manhood. There are others, of course, "The Standard-Bearer," "Aspiration," "The Happy Warrior," "Sir Galahad," "Hyperion"; but there is none more excellent than this one. The attitude is one of supreme vigor. This rider sits on his horse as a king on his throne. The chest is well rounded; the shoulders are squared; the muscular arm and gripping hand control the bow; the head bears a crown; the face is gentle yet strong; the eyes have in them a great reverence and a far-seeing vision.

Teaching Is Explained.

These are the main elements in the picture. There are subordinate figures and suggestive touches. There are attendants thronging about the rider, there is a vulture, telling of the foes that this conqueror will vanquish, and there is a radiant light in the sky; but it is the rider on the white horse that fills the eye as you look upon the painting.

Now what is the teaching? It seems to me that it is twofold. The main lesson is that given by the symbol in Revelation; the subordinate lesson is that contained in the picture of young manhood that Watts has given us.

First of all we have here a symbol of the victory of righteousness. In the series of seven it is first. The idea is that when we are called upon to look on the succeeding pictures of war, famine, pestilence, supplicating souls, earthquake and trumpeting angels we shall have that first picture dominating our thought, the rider on the white horse going forth conquering and to conquer.

Now it seems to me that here you have history in a nutshell. If you look down the centuries—I say look down because I believe that we are ascending from age to age—you will see wars, sufferings, disasters, but also discern a forward movement of the cause of truth and righteousness. That which took place in the first three centuries of our Christian era has taken place over and over again. For just what was it that took place then?

Church Weak at First.

The Church of Christ came into being. It was not perfect, but it represented a conception of life and character that shone like a star above the sins and injustices and cruelties of that pagan time. But how weak it seemed. It was poverty arrayed against wealth, weakness against power, obscurity against military pomp and political splendor. Everything seemed to be against it. And not only was there in its path the dead weight of ancient custom and tradition, but also the active hatred and opposition of the world. The forces of persecution were let loose. The names of the Roman emperors, Nero, Caligula, Diocletian are all synonymous with the fiercest cruelties practiced upon Christian believers. But the Christian heart never lost its vision of the white horse of victory.

It is marvelous when you think of it how persistent was the faith of Christian believers that their cause was essentially a victorious cause. And then faith was justified. That cause survived. It saw victories, if not absolute and final victory. It saw its ideals spreading over the Roman Empire and even into great dark lands which the Roman civilization had barely touched. Thus was it in those first centuries, and thus has it been from age to age.

This is a time when there is great need of the vision of the rider on the white horse.

Right's Triumph Desired.

We have need of it in the days of peace. There are times when the heart grows heavy at the sordidness, the falsehood, the selfishness we see in the world about us. We take up our newspaper and we read there stories of the greed of men, the corruption of political life, the follies and extravagances of our social life. We meet with these things in our own experience. They come directly under our eyes. We are tempted to follow the example of the Psalmist and say in our haste, "All men are liars." But something happens to change our point of view. We get a glimpse of a good man's face, we hear of some brave, unselfish deed; we are made to feel the touch of some high soul upon our own; and in this way we get sight of the rider on the white horse.

We have need of it in the time of war. What the true Christian man desires is the triumph of the right. He prays for the victory for his own side only so far as he believes that side to be the champion of a just cause. That, I feel sure, is our mood just now.

Never have Britain and America been in a war with a clearer vision of the moral issues at stake. There are thousands of men who wear the uniform and take their places in the trenches solely because they believe that they are on God's side in this matter. It is for their consolation and for ours that we should get a glimpse of the white horse and its royal rider. Well for us if above the smoke from the giant cannon, above the poisonous fumes let loose by a diabolical ingenuity, above the tubes that fling forth their streams of liquid fire, above the clash of close and deadly combat in the trenches and the shell crater, we should have sight of that snow-white steed and his invincible rider.

Painter's Ideal Shown.

In the second place you have the painter's ideal of young manhood. What impresses you is the symmetry, the full-orbedness of the conception. Let us take another glance at the painting and what do we see?

First of all there is the acme of physical vigor. I know that it is not within the reach of every man. We cannot all be a combination of the strength of a Hercules and the beauty of an Adonis. But most young men can be stronger and more beautiful in body than they are. If they would exercise self-control, if they would rise above the soft seduction of a self-indulgent life, if they would let no unclean thing, whether narcotic or stimulant into the temple of the body, if they would give their body due and wholesome exercise, what a cleanness of flesh, what a straightening and strengthening of muscles, what suppleness and age-defying vigor there would be found. They say that General Petain, the hero of the French army at Verdun, is 60 years by the clock and 40 by every other measurement. We are certain that he has known how to conserve and discipline the powers of his body.

In the second place as you look at this rider on the white horse you cannot but mark the intelligence that shines in his countenance. The light of thought beams clear. The face is that of a young man whose mind dwells upon great themes. It is a face that preaches obedience to the text, "Whatsoever things are pure." It is a living record of noble thoughts. Is not some approach to that possible to every young man? We cannot all bear the mark of genius. It does not lie within the reach of us all to spend much of our time with great books. We cannot all be scholars, or poets, or orators. But we can all be hospitable to lofty ideas, we can all have some contact with the greatest souls.

Eternal Is Manifest.

In the third place we see in this face the touch of the eternal. The body is most stalwart, the marks of intelligence are indefeasible, but there is something beyond these. There is a glow of moral grandeur. There is a light that seems to be heaven-kindled. You feel that this is the kind of man, who, when alone, would think of God. As you look into those eyes of his there comes to you a feeling not unlike that you have when you gaze upon a mountain summit or a lovely star. Now it seems to me that we are in danger of lacking this. We find men who make their bodies beautiful and strong, who attain to no small degree of knowledge and intellectual power, but there seems to be no window open to the eastern sky. There are no suggestions in their nature of the infinite, the eternal. Time is set in their heart and not eternity. How much power is lost! How the glory of the life is diminished! There are many of this kind that we are raising in our own land, men with vigorous bodies, alert minds, but without lofty ideals, without any sense of eternal values. And it is just this side that we need to cultivate, if, as a Nation, we are going to be stable, strong and great.

I am sorry that I cannot place before you the picture itself or even an adequate copy, but let me recall it in swift outline—a background of dawn, the sun struggling up into a cloud-invaded sky, a vulture with the rim of its wing just indenting the edge of the sunrise, the forward part of the white horse with its massive chest, its proud neck, its tossing mane, its lambent eye, the attendants eager and devoted, and the rider himself so erect, so strong, so luminous with the light of courage, intelligence and piety.

If the young manhood of America were prevailingly of that type they would be the winners of victory on every field. As soldiers under their flag they would endure with serenity the terrors of the battlefield. As citizens of their country they would create a force of national aspiration and moral indignation that would drive our ax-grinders, our grafters, our lucre-loving traitors into contempt and oblivion as the evil things of the night are banished by the rising of the sun. We have men of an elect company to whom might well be addressed the words of Matthew Arnold:

Languor is not in your heart!
Weakness is not in your word!
Ye move through the ranks, recall
The stragglers, refresh the outworn
Praise, inspire the brave,
Strengthen the wavering line,
'Stablish, continue our march
On to the bound of the waste,
On to the City of God.

But we would that their number were increased until there was of them a great and noble company, fair as the moon, clear as the sun and terrible as an army with banners.