

## The Home-Call of the Editor.

**T**HE passing away of our beloved brother, Mr. Francis George Burkitt, on May 23rd last, after a brief illness came as a shock to many readers of *Words of Help*, and those who knew him best will miss him most. Born in Tallaght, Co. Dublin, on the 25th July, 1854, the son of the late Dr. R. J. Burkitt, he spent most of his days in and around Dublin till he and his only sister moved, for reasons of health, to St. Leonards-on-Sea in 1923.

The greatest influence on his life was that of his godly mother. In everything he took up, thoroughness marked him from early days. It was not surprising, therefore, to find him in 1894 (at the time the writer first knew him) the head of the counting house of one of the largest businesses in Ireland, and in charge of a very large staff of clerks. Had he not taken up this work as a career he would undoubtedly have gained distinction as a mechanical engineer, as his interesting book, printed many years ago, on engineering and mathematics abundantly testifies.

Few would have judged that behind his reserved and retiring disposition was spiritual energy and strength of character much beyond the average. He was brought to the knowledge of Christ as his Saviour while quite young; and from the beginning showed deep interest in the things of God. His keen mind found delight in the study of the Scriptures. It was this, coupled with a workable knowledge of Greek and Hebrew, that accounted very largely for the power, authoritativeness, even-balance, and simplicity of his ministry, both oral and written. But what marked him most of all was devotedness to the Lord, love for His people, loyalty to the word of God, with a clarity of mind and warmth of heart which lifted him out of the ruts and influences of mere tradition which have ruined

so many. He laboured to be simple and free from affectation in both life and speech. Modernism and especially speculations as to the Holy Person of Christ, he held in utter contempt, as might be expected from one who could write *Hymns of Grace and Glory*\* which he issued just before he was called home. This made him take pleasure in the company of all those who made much of Christ, and those who gathered simply to His name, however few or feeble they might be. It also led him to work for the Lord while yet a young man, a work he kept up to the end. He was never happier than when visiting believers or distributing gospel tracts to unbelievers. He would think nothing of journeys of forty or even eighty miles a day, which he constantly took on his bicycle, all over Ireland, to visit isolated ones. He was the most indefatigable labourer in this obscure service I ever knew. It made those of us who at times shared it with him ashamed of our service. Open-air preaching he entered into with zest. Often he might be seen standing alone among a hostile crowd of farmers and others, on some market place, sounding out the gospel in clear ringing notes, the result of which "the day" alone will reveal.

He had a ready pen and not a few of his tracts and booklets have had a wide circulation, especially his *Notes on the Epistle to the Hebrews*. His papers on *Eternal Life*, on *New Birth* (both written to meet current heresies), and *The Day of Atonement*, to mention only a few, are specially helpful. Yet the work by which he will be best remembered will be as editor of *Words of Help* which he started, after much prayer and exercise, in 1911, the title of which was suggested by his devoted sister who encouraged him in every way, and who went to be with the Lord in

\* *Hymns of Grace and Glory*, by F. G. Burkitt, price 9d. from our publisher.

1927. *Words of Help* may be said to be the reflex of his mind and heart, an effort at giving tangible effect to the *only* things he thought worth living for, and in which he was ever grateful for the help and fellowship of others. It seeks to present the whole truth of God, free from any party bias or sectarianism, yet in a way calculated to help the simplest souls everywhere. Large numbers have found peace and joy through its pages, especially at the time of the war, and these will be his joy and crown of rejoicing at the coming of the Lord.

The funeral took place at Hastings Cemetery on May 28th, attended by a goodly number of brethren and sisters who had come from a distance to commit his body to the Lord's keeping until He returns.

O Lord, be pleased to raise up many others amongst us likeminded to fill his place! In conclusion, we bespeak earnest prayer for the future of the magazine.

W. M. R.

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## Who is This?

(Luke ix. 9.)

**I**T is a joy to every true believer to know that every word of the sacred Scriptures is from God (1 Cor. ii. 13); and is designed to set forth His mind concerning the One whom He "delighteth to honour" (Esther vi. 6).

The manner of the Spirit of God, in the gospel by Luke, is to bring together various incidents regardless of their chronological order, for the purpose of emphasizing some particular truth or truths; and it is thus He appears to be engaged throughout the ninth chapter of this gospel, in answering the significant question uttered by a guilty king, the murderer of John the Baptist, God's great witness in the world at the time (v. 9)—

"Who is this?"