

A BOOK FOR THE NATION.

The WAR The Weather & GOD.

BY

G.F.V. AUTHOR
OF

"Because of the Weather" "Is Britain Israel?"
"That Restraining Hand" "Co-Incidence"
"Are we Near the End" "Eleven Thirty-Five"
"Proceeding according to Plan"

—o—
PUBLISHED AT COST.

Specially written for—

"The Man in the Street"



G. F. VALLANCE Ltd., Easton, Nr. Woodbridge, Suffolk

SIXPENCE

The WAR
The Weather
====& GOD.

BY
G. F. V.

CHAPTER 1.

The tide that had swept in like a flood, was strangely restrained at the eleventh hour and never permitted to succeed in its final object.

Do you remember also early in 1942 how that the Japanese swept forward in their rapid conquest of Malay, Singapore, the Dutch East Indies, etc., and ALMOST to the shores of Australia—BUT NOT QUITE?

It seemed as though some unseen Voice said, as at Stalingrad, "Thus far, but NO farther."

Then too, remember how Malta, under that courageous Christian gentleman, Governor and C. in C., of the Island, Gen. Sir Wm. Dobbie, endured 1000 air attacks, and more. BUT, LIKE STALINGRAD, MALTA STILL STANDS.

How near Malta was to defeat we have since learned; but "Something" or "Someone" just kept final defeat away.

"Italy made a colossal military blunder in failing to invade Malta," said Lieut. Gen. Sir William Dobbie, in 1943.

"The only explanation for it, which fitted the facts," he said, "was that God's **restraining Hand** was upon them, just as it was on the Germans when they failed to invade Britain after Dunkirk. That, too, was a colossal military blunder," said the General.

Of course the many campaigns in Libya and Egypt are fresh in all our minds. The Allied forces way sweep forward to Benghazi and beyond, but they reach a certain point then something seems to say again, "Thus far and no farther." The enemy smashes back, and with amazing speed drives our forces back past Tobruk, and even beyond Masa Matru, to within a few miles of Alexandria—their objective. But when almost there, again that mysterious "Something" bars the way.

So near—BUT YET, NOT QUITE: That "Restraining Hand" had again made itself felt.

Was it not Air-Chief Marshall Sir Hugh Dowding (in command of the R.A.F. at the Battle of Britain) who has since declared, speaking of that event:

"I say with absolute conviction that I can trace the intervention of God, not only in the battle itself, but in the events that led up to it.

If it HAD NOT BEEN FOR THIS INTERVENTION, the battle would have been joined in conditions which, humanly speaking, would have rendered victory impossible."

Whilst Lord Bennett said at Westminster recently:

"Some day you will learn the full details of the condition of our Air Force on the day after the Germans lost 185 machines. If they had followed up **the next day** we were through."

Almost you see, but not quite.

How many of our prominent Statesmen have commented, with amazement, upon the fact that, after the Collapse of France and the evacuation of Dunkirk, when our cupboard was bare (to use Lord Beaverbrook's own expression); the German Hordes, not thirty miles away, did not descend upon us an avalanche and overpower us, in our weakness.

More than one speaker has, as good as said, that some unknown mysterious, uncanny power seemed to be holding back the forces of evil, at that crucial moment, when Victory was practically their's for the taking. Mr. Churchill himself said, when speaking to the Miners of our Nation on 31st October, 1942:

"I have a feeling that some Guiding Hand has interfered. I have the feeling that we had a Guardian because we serve a great cause, and that we shall have that Guardian so long as we serve that cause faithfully."

"We had no weapons, tanks or munitions left, worth speaking of" said Lord Beaverbrook, "our Army was broken, and there were very few Aircraft in reserve."

But for that restraining Hand, certain disaster must have been our lot.

And who can say how near a like disaster we may have been upon many another occasion, unknown perhaps to ourselves even, but that "Restraining Hand" has intervened.

To what extent our shipping losses have restrained both us and our enemies, possibly only our Leaders will

ever know. But here again just when our Shipping losses were at their worst, and our Food situation looked, to say the least, difficult: hear the words of our Minister of Agriculture, the Rt. Hon. R. S. Hudson.

“ But this also I would say to you, in humility and seriousness: much hard work and technical skill have played their parts in these mighty yields, among the richest of all time, BUT I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE A HIGHER POWER TO THANK AS WELL, AND FROM THE DEPTHS OF OUR HEARTS. Some Power wrought a miracle in English harvest fields this summer, for this in our year of greatest need, **the land gave us bread in greater abundance than we had ever known before.**”

Yes, that Restraining Hand had again been in evidence even over climatic conditions, to give us “the best Harvest ever.”

I repeat, it all seems uncanny, even sinister, that when Might and Force have expended themselves to their utmost and done their worst, some mysterious over-ruling power unseen, and shall I say (for the moment) unknown, has usurped a mightier power than Sword, Tank, or Aircraft.

The most recent illustration, as these lines are penned (in May 1944), is the Italian Battlefront at Cassino, of which we shall have more to say later.

All classes and conditions of men have commented upon these things from leading Statesmen, as we have seen, to Dr. H. A. Wilson, the Bishop of Chelmsford, who wrote at the end of 1943:

“ As we look back on the dying year, we see that it has been crowded with the plainest token of God's favour towards us. The most amazing feature of this war, is the way in which God has intervened at the last moment again and again, when disaster faced our cause. The list of mercies is a long and varied one—Dunkirk, Battle of Britain, El Alamein, the U-boat War, Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad.

On each of these occasions the enemy's fingers were touching a great victory, and each time, at the eleventh hour, he failed to seize it.”

In General Marshall's report of the progress of the first two years of the war occurs an extremely interesting sentence. Describing the preparation for the African invasion, he says it was found that all the British and American air forces, except a few long-range bombers and the small number of carrier based planes, "had to be funneled through the single restricted field at Gibraltar which could have been put out of action in less than an hour." The New York "Times" says that this sentence adds one more to the famous "ifs" of history, for "if" the Nazis had known it, and had bombed the Gibraltar field, the Algerian and Tunisian campaigns would have been impossible. What effect would this have had on the course of the war? But there are no "IFS" with God. He knows the end from the beginning, and He is both God of history and Lord of circumstance and detail.

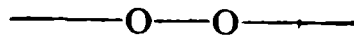
I will come back to this theme in a later chapter, but let me now draw your attention to the **second fact** referred to in my opening remarks, which the past five years have thrown into striking relief. It is this:—

Have you noticed how large a part "**The Weather**" has played in all the Major operations of this War, as well as its minor details, whether on Land, Sea, or in the Air? Of course you have! These I therefore purpose detailing in my next Chapter, in the form of a rough Diary of events, so that their striking significance may be the more impressive.

But before doing so let me draw your attention to the **third** of these three facts, which is equally impressive. It is, that after each Day, which has been set apart for National Prayer (with one exception), there has been a remarkable corresponding victory or series of Victory. Call it "Co-Incidence" if you will, but the fact remains, that they have **followed**, in each case, a Day of National Prayer. The one exception, will itself be dealt with in due course.

The purpose of this volume is therefore, to set forth, firstly some of the happenings of these past five years, in rough Diary form, and then to seek to draw some inferences from them, with the purpose of rightly judging their values and assessing their true import.

“THE WEATHER.”



We were up against it, of that there was no doubt. Everybody felt it in the air, and the Prime Minister confirmed it to us.

Yes! It was Dunkirk week-end.

But the Miracle of Dunkirk lay in the fact that the bulk of our Expeditionary Force, which even the Government feared would be lost, was gloriously retrieved by the wonderful and brave Armada of tiny vessels which plied the Channel constantly against colossal odds with remarkably few casualties.

The testimony of all alike who were in those crossings—those who knew it well and those to whom it was a new experience—was, that the waters were like a millpond the whole week through, and waters, remember, which **usually at that period of the year** were nearly always stormy.

Reference to illustrations No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Red Cross Booklet, “Home from Dunkirk” fully confirms this fact.

The Miracle of Dunkirk was “**BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER.**” Had those waters not been as “**STILL as a Millpond,**” it could never have happened.

But the remarkable **FACT** is, that the Nation had been to Prayer the **previous Sunday.**

We have learned much, since those critical days of May 1940, concerning their inner history.

On that very Sunday morning, whilst the Nation was at Prayer, Lord Gort, who was then in charge of the B.E.F. in France, sent the following message to the War Office in London:—

“ I must not conceal from you that a great part of the B.E.F. and its equipment will inevitably be lost even in the best circumstances No ship can be loaded at the docks at Dunkirk, and few wounded can be evacuated. There is no water in the town, and very little on the beaches.”

And the following Tuesday, the War Office replied saying:—

“ If you are cut off from us and all evacuation from Dunkirk, and the beaches has, in your judgment, been finally prevented after every attempt to open it has failed, you will become sole judge of when it is impossible to inflict further damage on the enemy.”

In other words, Lord Gort was given permission to capitulate if he thought fit to do so.

Within forty-eight hours, however, light began to pierce the dark clouds. When the dykes were opened, to flood the low ground to delay the German advance, **the wind blew in from the sea**, greatly facilitating this important operation, whilst during five out of the seven days and nights of the evacuation period, **the wind blew from the land**, without which embarkation in small boats from that dangerous coast would have proved impossible.

On June 4th, 1940, in the British House of Commons, the Prime Minister said: “ When a week ago I asked the House to fix this afternoon as the occasion for a statement, I feared it would be my hard lot to announce the greatest military disaster in our whole history. I had thought that twenty or thirty thousand men might be saved from Flanders, but certainly it seemed that the whole French First Army, and the whole British Expeditionary Force, north of Amiens and Abbeville, would be broken up in the open field, or else have to capitulate for lack of food and ammunition.” But actually 335,000 Allied troops were miraculously saved by way of Dunkirk. Ninety per cent. of the B.E.F. was rescued, after Hitler had announced that it was surrounded, trapped, and doomed to immediate annihilation! **A fog did its helpful work** in screening from the innumerable German aircraft the motley mass of vessels sent to rescue

the men; and the swift current of the English Channel gave way to calm waters, **a happening almost without precedent**, at this time of year.

Gen. Sir Beauvoir De Lisle, said at the Central Hall, Westminster, on 2nd Nov., 1943:

“I believe this war was won on May 26th, 1940, the Sunday the King appointed as a Day for National Prayer.”



But the weather had interposed on our behalf, prior to May 1940.

In October 1939, unprecedented heavy rains, lasting the whole month, had caused flooding along the Rhine and the Low Countries. This was after the conquest of Poland; and Gen. Ironside, broadcasting in the Spring of 1940, said that if the Germans had attacked at that time we were badly prepared to hold them. He was accused of indiscretion, but clearly he was right, though he gave no information why an attack had not developed.

Secondly, severe weather during the Winter of 1939-40 froze the Danube and canals in N. Europe for long periods, thus hampering German Transport of oil and coal, and throwing a heavy strain on the railways. Goering, in an outburst of truthfulness, referred to it, as a “**super-natural** cold.”

Four months **after** DUNKIRK, came other Divine interventions.

September 7th, 1940, saw the commencement of the first big London Blitz, when the London Docks were set ablaze; and that week witnessed the “Battle of Britain,” which was gloriously won for “The many, by the few.”

How great these deliverances were, we do not as a Nation fully realise. Lord Beaverbrook said in New York on April 23rd, 1942 concerning Dunkirk:

“It was just two years ago that we lost everything we possessed save only our soldiers. We had to begin all over again. There was nothing left to us but a portion of our army. All our weapons had gone. The cupboard was bare. Not even a rifle.

Guns were lost by the thousands, vehicles by the fifty thousand. Almost all our tanks and many aeroplanes. And remember, too, that many valuable and essential raw materials were cut off when our sources of supply fell under the power of Germany. Three-quarters of our imports of iron and steel and all the raw materials of our aluminium output, most of our wood products, including newsprint raw materials.

But the biggest disaster was our naval losses. Forty-seven warships were sunk in operations off Norway and Dunkirk. And when evacuation was over, half our destroyer fleet lay awaiting repairs in our shipyards."

Yet the Nation survived. Who kept the German Hordes from our shores at that time?

Remember the Nation had been to Prayer!

Of the Battle of Britain, Lord Beaverbrook said:

"Hardly had we emerged from this peril (Dunkirk) when we were called upon to fight the Battle of Britain. And I must tell you that when that conquest began, we had in reserve only five fighter aircraft in the storage units."

Air Chief Marshall Sir Hugh Dowding who was in command of the R.A.F. at the time has said,

"I pay my homage to those very gallant boys who gave their all that our nation might live. I pay my tribute to their leaders."

and, as already quoted, he added,

"But I say with absolute conviction, that I can trace the intervention of God, not only in the battle itself, but in the events that led up to it.

If it had not been for this intervention, the battle would have been joined in conditions which, humanly speaking, would have rendered victory impossible."

Yes, GOD gave us the Victory.

The Nation had again been praying you see, for there had been another Day of National Prayer the previous Sunday.

Have we ever thanked Him for His Miraculous intervention I wonder?

But let us go on.

It is now generally admitted that the week-end September 16th, 1940, was intended to be an Invasion week-end, and the Battle of Britain, as we now call it, was to have been merely the preliminary round. How far that Invasion was attempted, and how true all the stories about the damaged Barges and dead Germans on the shores of France are, we must wait for history to record, but this fact cannot be overlooked, that September 16th week-end, was the week of the Full Moon, and also the Harvest Moon when, it is generally admitted, the waters of the English Channel are at their smoothest. But, **again for the first time in living memory** those waters in September 1940 were the **roughest** ever known, and a gale of sufficient force to upset any Barges blew during those days, whether the attempt at invasion was made or not.

IT WAS "**BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER**" that Hitler's well-laid plans were spoiled.

The God who could **calm** the waters at Dunkirk, for a Nation who had sought His face in Prayer, was well able to **stir them up**, at the time of the Harvest Moon.

In the second week of September, 1940, Mr. Churchill with full knowledge of the facts, said in the House of Commons, that the next ten days would be more critical than any the country had ever passed through. It is known that September 16th—20th is the period chosen for the yearly attempts to swim the Straits of Dover, and that the harvest moon then prolongs light to a late hour, and it is usually calm weather. Boats for invasion purposes were being collected at various points on the French Coast, and weather was calm up to the 16th, but on the 17th a gale blew up the Channel, the sea became rough, and this lasted until the 29th. The invasion boats had to be taken into harbours, and their destruction at Calais and Boulogne by the R.A.F. was clearly seen, and heard, on the English side of the Straits.

The Germans then announced that Providence had favoured the British twice (the first time at the Miracle of Dunkirk when the sea went calm, and the tide seemed to stand still for us) and that we were totally unworthy of the favours. But, said the enemy, we had only to wait for the November or December fogs (for which the Channel is well known) to get our deserts, but again for the first time in living memory, there were no fogs that winter in the Straits.

So much for 1940! But what of 1941?



CHAPTER 3.



February 15th, 1941 was another invasion date, for which we were shockingly ill-prepared. But on February 14th a submarine earthquake occurred in the Atlantic, recorded at Kew, with Hurricane damage in Spain.

● The effects on the tidal system round these islands was naturally censored, but it was immediate and prolonged.

Ships were taken as much as eighty miles off their course, and on the River Stour at Deal it was high water, overflowing the banks, at a time when the river **should have been** low.

This was the last invasion "scare" before the German armies marched east. Such deliberate acts of God, with their powerful and far-reaching effects, are not to be treated to the inane stupidity of the word "Co-Incidence."

Mr. Churchill knows the facts well, and with his forthright honesty gives the glory to God; others cannot, or will not.

Next we come to Saturday, December 29th, 1940, when the German Luftwaffe tried to set fire to the City of London.

The Guildhall and Paternoster Row were burnt out, and many an historic building was destroyed, but suddenly about 10 p.m. that night, the raid mysteriously ceased, and this is the report as given by the Daily Mail Air Correspondent, Noel Monks, on December 31st, 1940:

“Hitler meant to start the second Great Fire of London as the prelude to an invasion. This was the belief held in well informed quarters in London yesterday.

Here are the real facts of Sunday night's fire-raising raid, as told me yesterday:—

It was one of the biggest night attacks on Britain since September. No R.A.F. night fighters were operating over the London area, though some were doing so between London and the coast. Soon after 10 p.m. the German Air Command sent out instructions for all the bombers engaged to return to their bases, as **the weather** had taken a turn for the worse, and **fog** was blotting out their aerodromes.”

The Official account of this Raid, given in “Front Line” Page 20 says:—

“At the end of the month came the great fire raid on the City proper, when over 100 planes showered incendiary bombs on the Capital's least defensible area for just over three hours, and in that short time started fires which burnt out six great sections. The whole area between St. Paul's and Guildhall was impassable while the flames burned, and for hours afterwards. The conflagration around Fore Street was abandoned to burn itself out. Another great blaze covered an area of about half a square mile, from Moorgate to Aldersgate Street and Old Street to Cannon Street. The district remains today perhaps the largest area of continuous air raid desolation in all Britain.

The Guildhall was greatly damaged, eight Wren Churches suffered seriously, the Law Courts and the Tower of London were hit. St. Paul's stood up almost unscathed, surrounded though it was by fires.

The night's fuller story belongs to another chapter, but here we may record how at 10 o'clock the astonished firemen and civil defence workers found that the enemy had deserted his magnificent target. With the greatest fires of the war raging below him and the entire City of London with its neighbouring Boroughs at his mercy, **he called the attack off.**"

But like many another "Official" record, this fails entirely to give God the Glory. The German themselves admitted it was "due to the Weather"—**Heavy Fog.**

"It was Because of the Weather then," says this Press Correspondent, "and not our night fighters, that saved London from an even worse attack. The view is held that the assault was intended to be the fiercest of the War. Up to 1000 bombers were to have been used during the night."

YES—again, **"IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER."**

Then, do you remember that chain of victories in East Africa when, in one week, we had the biggest Sea Victory of the War to that date—(The Battle of Matapan)—when seven of the finest units of the Italian Navy were sunk "without our losing a flake of Paintwork" as the Official report said; and, in addition the strongholds of Keren and Harar in Eritrea, which had been such a thorn in our side, **both fell on the same day**, and the following week saw the fall of Marsawa and Asmara in Abyssinnia with our troops marching towards Addis Abbaba, soon to fall also.

At that time **everybody** was "commenting" upon the fact that the Nation **had been to Prayer the previous Sunday**, but at "COMMENT" it stayed. To think of Nationally returning thanks for Victory granted, seemed more than we could acknowledge. Can it be that all these happenings were MERE CO-INCIDENCES, or is it not rather that a HIGHER HAND than the HUMAN element was controlling? Can it not be that GOD WAS SPEAKING, and that we were slow to perceive?



Then in June, 1941, our Island was again protected from imminent peril, when the great German military machine turned East instead of West, and the valiant people of Russia took the blow that might well have descended on us at that time, when we were by no means ready to meet it.

When the history of this war is written it will be clearly shown that whenever the burden became too heavy for us to bear, "Destiny"—shall we call it—stepped in and turned the scales in our favour.

On November 18th, 1941, General Auchinleck began the second Libyan offensive and a happening on that first day, the true significance of which we, as a Nation have failed to notice and appreciate, was thus commented upon by Liddell Hart in the Daily Mail of November 24th.

"The sudden break in the weather which greeted the launching of the offensive seems to have proved a break in our favour. The rain was not heavy enough in the desert to upset the advance of our armoured forces which covered some fifty miles the first day—more than half the distance to Tobruk.

By contrast, the downpour was so heavy in the coastal strip that it turned the sand into a morass which clogged the counter-movements of the two German armoured divisions. The enemy's aerodromes were also waterlogged, thus hindering bombing interference with the deployment and advance of the British Forces. The effect was to **multiply our superiority in air strength.**"

IT WAS "BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER" that we were able to press so far forward in those opening days and,—note the comment,—"**IT MULTIPLIED OUR SUPERIORITY IN AIR STRENGTH,**" quicker even than planes could be flown there, to say nothing of their costly manufacture.

Time and time again God has sought to prove to us that Wind, Cloud, Fog, Rain and Snow are far mightier than any man-made weapon. Well may Job say:

“Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, which I have reserved against the time of trouble, **against the day of battle and War?**” (Job 38. 22, 23.)

The Russian campaign alone shows us this, surely.

Let me quote Hitler's own words in Berlin, concerning the Russian Conflict in that first Winter.

“Not only did we face apparently unlimited masses of the enemy,” he said, “but weeks earlier than science could foresee we had a winter, such as has been unknown for forty years.

This was the only hope of the masters of the Kremlin to inflict Napoleon's fate of 1812 on the German Army, with the help of this **unprecedented weather.**”

Surely our God taketh the weak things of the earth to confound the mighty indeed!

I am reminded of a newsboy's comment when he saw the havoc caused by the San Francisco Earthquake.. To a rich millionaire customer, the laddie remarked, “It took a long time to put all this stuff up, but God tumbled it down in a few seconds. Say, Mister, t'aint no use for a feller to think he can lick God.”

I rather think that Hitler must think something like this to-day.

So much for 1941!—but what of 1942?



CHAPTER 4.

—o—o—

Our heaviest loss in Night Bombers, in raids over Germany up to December, 1942 was thirty-four in one night; and they have been officially accredited as being lost mainly "BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER."

Then again, H.M.S. Prince of Wales, the pride of the Navy, together with H.M.S. Repulse, were sunk by Japanese bombers, as we know, and the official cause given was, that Admiral Phillips trusted to CLOUD cover, but that it broke, and his Vessels were seen.

YES—IT WAS "BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER" that our mightiest Battleship afloat was lost.

Think also of the remarkable escape of the Gneisenau and Scharnhorst, together with the Prinz Eugen, from Brest Harbour, and here again I cannot do better than quote from the Daily Press of February 14th, 1942.

The "Daily Express" says:

"Why were the ships able to steam so long up-Channel in daylight before they were observed? The answer may be that visibility was so bad that our reconnaissance missed this fleet escorted by aircraft, over the vast spaces which the landsman never quite visualises when he thinks about the sea.

Then it will be asked why Phillips lost the Prince of Wales and Repulse by air attack, while we failed to get the Scharnhorst, the Gneisenau or the Prinz Eugen.... The answer is that the German weather bureau did a good job for the German captains choosing a day for them when **heavy cloud** obscured the sea.

Phillips, too, relied on low cloud. But **the clouds** that dispersed in Malaya for the Japanese, stayed thick in the English Channel for the Germans."

While the "Daily Mail" says:

"How did the Germans manage to get out without being seen?

Because of the Weather. They could not have done it yesterday. But on Thursday visibility varied between three and five miles and there was a cloud ceiling of, at best, only 1500 feet in the Channel.

There was no moon on Wednesday night. These were perfect conditions for the German enterprise.

How did the German fleet manage to get so far? It was 11 a.m. of Thursday, when they had already steamed some 400 miles from Brest, that they were sighted.

The answer is again the weather."

On March 28th, 1942, the "Daily Express" said:

"The R.A.F. intends to step up the bombing offensive against Germany on the largest possible scale at the earliest possible moment. There has been some delay. It is due to the diversion of bombers elsewhere; concentration on Brest to stop the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau; disappointments in the deliveries of aircraft last autumn; **and above all the winter weather."**

On 10th April, 1942, our Prime Minister speaking in London, said, that "**only Weather** is holding up Britain from launching a great Blitz. The R.A.F. is **WAITING FOR GOOD WEATHER."**

And the "Daily Express" of April 21st, 1942 said:

"It is true that the Germans a year ago attempted to sustain their attacks on us in almost all weathers. But in doing so they shattered their long-distance bombing force. By May, 1941, the first great long-distance bomber force which the world has ever seen was exhausted, and the attack on Britain had been called off.

For however little people realise it, **the weather is still a more deadly enemy to the bomber pilot, than all the defences of the enemy.**

But our bomber force must not be smashed, as it could easily be, by attempting to use it in impossible weather conditions.

In such conditions it is no good for us to accuse Bomber Command of over-caution. For not only will **bad weather** inflict appalling losses, it will prevent the pilots doing really worthwhile damage."

And how often since then, has a heavy raid had to be "called off" after the planes have actually been briefed and bombed up, and even in April 1944, **"recalled from over enemy territory" IN DAYLIGHT, "Because of the Weather?"**

Even by taking the chances which the waging of war demands, bad weather presents an obstacle to the operation of big bomber forces, which none of the amazing technical developments of the war have yet solved.

But 1942 also saw the great German drive into Russia with its sweeping victories. What part did the Weather play in this great battle? Let us see.

We have only space enough to quote a few press extracts but they will sufficiently tell the story for us.

"Daily Express" 15th May, 1942:

"German radio commentators and front-line reporters were less boisterous last night about the progress of operation on the Kerch front.

We are being spared nothing in this battle" a reporter said.

"On the second day, a heavy cloudburst turned the whole battlefield into a quagmire.

Our heavy weapons could not be brought into action and our aircraft were pinned to the ground.

We could only advance step by step."

"Daily Mail" 20th July, 1942:

"The Germans last night **blamed the weather** for the slower pace of the advance on the Southern front.

German controlled Paris radio stated that the German advance in South Russia continued, but was being slowed down by the '**deplorable weather.**' Heavy rains had transformed the ground and roads into seas of deep mud.

The waters of the River Don were very high and the countryside was 'menaced' with floods."

But by August that year there were two crucial battlefronts. One around Rzhev where the Russians were driving the Germans **back** from Moscow; the other with the German hordes within sixty miles of Stalingrad, but **THE WEATHER** intervened in **BOTH**.

"Daily Express" 27th August, 1942, speaking of the advance on Stalingrad said:

"The Red Army is not only outnumbered in men, tanks, and planes, but **the elements have turned against them.**

The wind called 'The Suhayi,' which sweeps across the Volga Steppes during July and August is **driving a wall of flames and smoke** towards the Russian lines.

Behind this screen, forming a gigantic flame-thrower, the Germans advance without being detected by Russian planes."

Whilst the same paper reported **the following day:**

"This terrible battle for Rzhev has in it many characteristics of the battle of Passchendaele.

In the first few days, directly after the initial breakthrough of the German front line, **there came rain.**

The tanks stopped, the lorries bogged down and the Stormoviks grounded. The assault slowed up. There was at this stage little resistance from the Germans.

Then the rain blotted out air activity too, and at night the Red Army strove to bring up its supplies **through the mud,** and the Germans worked to re-organise their defences along the second and third lines after the Gzhatsk River line had gone."

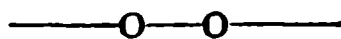
Yes,—the Weather intervened as it was to do many many times more during 1942, as well as during 1943 and 1944. Thus we are not surprised to read two months later that this same weather which brought the enemy to the very Gates of Stalingrad and beyond (for at one time only a few buildings separated the German Forces from their final goal on the banks of the Volga) was to bring relief to that hard hit noble Garrison.

That “Restraining Hand” was in evidence.

The “Daily Mail” of October 20th, 1942, had for its front page headline that day, “**WEATHER COMES TO AID OF STALINGRAD.**”

“Sudden deterioration in the weather has brought unexpected relief to the sorely pressed garrison of Stalingrad. Cold, clear skies have given place to scudding cloud and heavy rain, which has blinded and almost grounded the Luftwaffe, the Germans most dangerous weapon on this front.

Today it has been impossible for dive-bombers to blast a way for tanks and infantry.”



But to return nearer home; Mr. Churchill said, in the House of Commons, concerning our loss of two more Cruisers, H.M.S. Dorsetshire and H.M.S. Cornwall and the Aircraft Carrier Hermes that

“While the Japanese were attacking Colombo, our torpedo aircraft sallied out to attack the carriers from which the Japanese attack was being delivered. Owing to thunderstorms **and low cloud** they could not make contact on that day.

The weather in the other part of the Indian Ocean was not subject to those conditions of cloud and thunderstorm in which the Japanese carriers had shrouded themselves.”

Whilst on land, General Alexander's Army had to march up a temporary road 6000 feet over the hills of Burma into India.

If the rains came too soon, they would wash away the road ahead, if too late the Japanese could come upon them.... They had almost reached the top **when the rains began**, saving them and cutting off their pursuers.

Yes, all "BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER!"

The great outstanding event of 1942, however, in the west, was verily the African Campaign, and what have we to say of that?

The month of June, 1942 was a black one for the Allied cause. With superiority in Men, Munitions, Tanks and Aircraft, our hopes were high for early and complete Victory in the Middle East, but instead, came humiliation and defeat, with the loss of Tobruk in the matter of hours, and our Forces falling back many miles to El Alamein.

Mr. Churchill declared in the House of Commons on July 3rd, 1942, that "we were defeated under conditions which gave every reasonable expectancy of success.

We had in the desert, he said, 100,000 men; the Axis had 90,000 (including 50,000 Germans). Our superiority in numbers of tanks was 7—5; in guns nearly 8—5, including several regiments of the latest howitzers and certain secret weapons.

We had air superiority, and Rommel's dive-bombers were prominent at Bir Hacheim and Tobruk, but were neither a decisive nor a massive factor in the battle."

But it had so happened that some time previously, July 1st, 1942, had been officially appointed as the Day to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Dominion of Canada at Westminster Abbey, and on that day our King and Queen, the Archbishop of Canterbury, together with several members of the War Cabinet, Cabinet Ministers and Ambassadors were present in their official capacity.

The Daily Press of the following day reported that at that Service a "**SPECIAL PRAYER**" was offered for those fighting in Egypt and the Mediterranean.

If that prayer was just a cold formality, as so many of us are used to hearing Sunday by Sunday, then little could be expected of it, but if, as reported, it was really a "SPECIAL Prayer" from the hearts of such an Official and representative body of our War-time Leaders, are we right in thinking it merely a matter of co-incidence that **from that VERY DAY**—July 1st, 1942, Rommel's advance was first checked, and then repelled, and we never looked back, in N. Africa, from that day.

If special prayer was offered, why should it be thought incredible, or co-incidence, for God to answer that Prayer?

One thing must be stressed, however, and that is that we have certainly failed to recognise Divine intervention, and consequently failed to RETURN THANKS for it. God will not thus be trifled with! If we sincerely sought His aid, why not sincerely RETURN thanks and acknowledge that what superiority in Men, Munitions, Tanks and Planes COULD NOT DO, God did within a few hours, when our Leaders PUBLICLY ASKED His aid.

We can hardly expect continuance of Divine aid and blessing, if we thus fail to appreciate and acknowledge such help, and we must not, therefore, be surprised if God permits further reverses and retreats if we persist in our foolish way of trusting to the Arm of Power and Might, rather than the "God of our help in ages past."

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in Princes, wrote the psalmist long years ago. Do we believe it today?

I appeal to my fellow countrymen. Let's be honest and sincere in this matter. Do we wish God to help us?—Do we realise that alone we cannot do it!—Then let us heed this indication of the path to Victory. If we don't, then let us say so, and be prepared to take the consequences.

If God has shown us (and this is no isolated event) that He IS ready and willing to honour TRUST in Himself, by thus answering a "Special Prayer" of a portion of our Leaders; I ask, what may not be the possibilities of a truly NATIONAL recognition of God in this way, and a PUBLIC seeking of his help?

Alexander Clifford the well-known "Daily Mail" War Correspondents wrote on May 15th, 1943, of those eventful days of July, 1942:

"In the Summer of 1942 the Eighty Army was more of a traffic-jam than a fighting force. At last the danger which had so often menaced Egypt was becoming a fact.

And then, by the merest hair's breadth, we were saved.

Inperceptibly in the **first four days of July**, when the Africa Corps came butting with ever-increasing feebleness against the Alamein line, these forces were swinging in the balance back to level again.

And on the **fifth morning** in July there came no attack on the Alamein line. The balance had been tilted down on the side of the British. **Egypt was saved."**

Whilst a young Swedish Reporter who was in Berlin during those days writes in the "Daily Mail" of Sept. 27th, 1943:

"No light of hope pierced the gloom until the summer of 1942, when a miracle happened in the desert—Rommel began his forward sweep and the fall of Tobruk gave the Germans greater stimulus than any event since the fall of France.

In Berlin the people said to me 'Perhaps Rommel will win the War for us yet,' and absolute intoxication gripped official Berlin.

'We are going to strangle the Middle East with two great fists,' said a Wilhelmstrasse spokesman to me one day. 'Soon there will be a great drive against India to link up with Japan, and our parachutists will be in Afghanistan.'

Then came El Alamein **the miracle** of the Marne of this war."

Concerning which, another Correspondent with the 8th Army wrote, reported in the "Daily Express" of Nov. 10th, 1942:

“Rommel's fleeing columns are having to retreat in the most depressing conditions imaginable. **Autumn rainstorms** which scarcely touched Alamein before the Rommel line broke have been falling in Axis territory for several days past.

It has been a **miniature monsoon**. The road along which the enemy fled is almost washed away in places.

Torrents of water are running down wadis off the escarpments, boiling over the road, making watersplash after watersplash on their way to the sea.

The sand is sodden into brown mud for miles, in which vehicles stick and small lakes have been formed in low-lying areas.

Lowering skies have been drenching Rommel's retreating army. Hailstorms have beaten down, soaking them to the skin in their thin shoddy cotton uniforms.

German and Italian stragglers trudging along towards imprisonment resemble mud-caked trench rats of the last war more than bronzed desert rats of this one.

They must feel that **even the weather** has turned against them.”

Whilst on our side, Lt. Gen. Lumsden said, “that it was a bitter disappointment to him that **sudden bad weather** made it impossible for us to finish up Rommel's army completely right on the spot.”

Following the break through at El Alemein came the landings in North Africa, the full story of which we have not yet heard, but let me quote the words of one who had inside information at the time, for they very forcefully bring home my point.

G. Ward Price of the “Daily Mail” wrote in that paper on the 14th Nov., 1942

“Only the thoughtless can **fail to realise how great a part** Providence has played in the swift and successful transformation of the war situation upon which our hopes are henceforth founded. **Those who**

have heard something of the inside story of the dramatic events of this historic week are reminded of that dispensation that smoothed the waters at Dunkirk.

The Allied General Staff had been warned by weather experts that after October 1st the Atlantic swell off the coast of Morocco would probably be too high for landing operations. **So it was**—with the exception of last Sunday, the date for which the landing had been planned.

In this, sceptics may see no more than a fortunate 'co-incidence,' but it is not the only feature of a great undertaking that will suggest to others the need for expressing their gratitude to God, when the victory bells begin their cheering chimes."

Speaking of a later stage in the N. African Campaign, Mr. Elmar Davis, Director of the American Office of War Information said:

"General Montgomery has clearly outsmarted the out-generalled Rommel, but Rommel withdrew **under cover of a sandstorm**, so his losses have not been so heavy as we hoped.

That **sandstorm** saved Rommel from the air pounding. Once more he got out with most of his stuff intact and he will be in a position to fight a good delaying action."

"The Times" of Oct. 27th, 1942, said further, concerning the Madagascar Campaign:

"**The weather played a leading part.** The country was hidden in a vast **blanket of cloud** and the valley below was invisible. The mist was **one of our best allies.** It gave perfect cover for infantry movements and attack, and together with the fact that we had had two days to prepare our plan and register artillery targets, **it best explains our success.**

Without losing a man here, the British took 800 prisoners."

So much then for 1942. But what of 1943?



CHAPTER 5.

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First came the very mild Winter of 1942-43; but for which, our Coal situation would have been critical in the extreme.

A leading article in the "Daily Press" at the time speaking of this period said:

"Moreover Major Lloyd George (Minister of Fuel and Power), had the good fortune to strike an exceptionally **mild winter** for his first appeal to the public. **Without the weather, we doubt whether even now the gap would have been closed.**"

Thus the weather had its part, even on the Domestic and Home Front.

And the North Africa Campaign was not yet through. Alan Moorehead of the "Daily Express" wrote on March 20th, 1943:

"Everyone here is fed up with the weather. You could not have got at the Germans today however hard you tried.

Just when things were going well, with Gafsa securely in our hands and the enemy clearing out of El Guettar, 15 miles further on, down came another drenching rainstorm in the night, and it has gone on intermittently ever since.

By 8 a.m. we were all soaked. By 10 o'clock the country from one end of Tunisia to the other was under heavy mud that sent vehicles skidding off the roads, bogged down tanks and chilled infantry to the bone.

I am sorry to keep harping on the weather, but just for the moment it has taken charge of the war."

But 1943 had more in store.

In a Nation wide Broadcast after the 9 p.m. News on Thursday, July 15th, 1943, Commander Anthony Kimmins, R.N., said concerning the invasion of Sicily in which he took part:

“By all the rules, one expects fine weather and a calm sea in the Mediterranean at this time of the year. But now it suddenly started to blow—a real blow, half a gale—from the north-west.

This meant that many of the beaches would have little lee, the surf would be terrific, it would be almost impossible for our landing craft to force through.

We prayed that with sunset the wind would drop, but as the sun dipped the wind seemed to grow stronger. **In spite of all the elaborate preparations, here we were, at the mercy of the elements.**

Our Admiral had made a special point of warning the captains of the landing craft that their job was not only to land the soldiers safely, but to land them fit and well. Now, as we watched them rolling, our hearts went out to those ‘pongoes’ and the agony of sea-sickness many of them must be going through.

As the darkness closed down and the ships ploughed on, I couldn’t help thinking of some of **the miracles of weather** which had already favoured us in this war: **Dunkirk, North Africa.** Perhaps three times was too much to expect.

Then it happened. With barely an hour and a half to go before zero hour, the wind suddenly dropped, the white horses disappeared, and the swell went down. It was almost unbelievable. As people stared into the darkness **it seemed miraculous.”**

Yes, it was all ‘**BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER!**’

Following Sicily, came the Invasion of Italy and Italy’s Capitulation in September 1943, but the story of the Weather remained the same. It can best be summarised to date, by bringing our record up to the time of writing (May, 1944) when the Allied Armies seem once again to be held by “That Restraining Hand” at Cassino, as well as on the Anzio Beachhead.

In spite of one of the very heaviest Air Bombardments ever, linked with a terrific Artillery barrage, the shelling of the Monastery of Cassino, and all that human effort could do, Cassino was not taken, and we had to fall

back. What were the reports that came through concerning that part of the Campaign. Well, first we quote the "Daily Mail," of Feb. 12th, 1944, before the attack opened.

"The new flare-up in the beachhead coincided with a warning from President Roosevelt, who yesterday held his first military conference for some weeks, that a 'very tense situation' existed there.

The Allies control the sea and the air, he said, adding: **We are praying for good weather**, which would be quite a factor in **deciding** the issue, because it would facilitate aerial and naval operations in support of the beachhead."

Mr. Roosevelt's warning was reinforced by Mr. Mackenzie King, the Canadian Prime Minister, who said in Ottawa:

"We are witnessing the possibility of terrible reverses in Italy that may prolong the war not for days or months but for years."

Paul Bewsher, "Daily Mail" Special Correspondent at N. Africa H.Q., cabled last night (11th February, 1944) that **"good weather would enable the Allies to throw every available light and heavy bomber into the attack and that such an onslaught might prove the decisive factor in breaking the German assault.**

The **present bad weather**, by hindering the full use of air power, enables the Germans to use their tanks more freely than would otherwise be possible."

Six weeks later, the same paper reported on March 28th:

"With ground fighting in Cassino at a standstill ten days after the Allies opened their assault, it was disclosed for the first time that Indian Gurkha troops were the heroes of Hangman's Hill.

The Gurkhas scrambled two-thirds of the way up the craggy heights of Monte Cassino on the opening night of the big attack, **when sudden torrential rains hampered their footing and disrupted** the crispness and cohesion of their attack."

Whilst two months before this, a well known M.P. had asked the Prime Minister in Parliament if he were aware

“Of the false optimism in a recent speech by General Montgomery, in which he indicated the probability of the early capture of Rome.”

To which Mr. Churchill replied:

“I don't know about false optimism. **There has been a lot of bad weather.**”

So January, February and March 1944 still told the same story, as had been told since those days of Dunkirk 1940, and before; yet when the Home Secretary was asked, by Mr. R. Duckworth, M.P., in the House of Commons in March 1944 for another “Day of Prayer” before the opening of the Second Front he replied that “the Government did not see their way to adopt the suggestion of another day of National Prayer before the opening of the Second Front.”

As this booklet goes to Press (May 24th, 1944), that “Great Event” still remains an unrevealed secret, but the increasing realisation that its success will largely **depend upon “The Weather,”** can well be judged by the following extracts from the Daily Press of the past few days:

The “**Daily Express**” of the **1st May** said:

“The Generals and Statesmen won't decide it. Some unhonoured, unsung men, sitting in a chart covered room, will nominate the actual day—without knowing it. They are the Met. Men. Officially, they are the Central Forecast Branch of the Meteorological Office. Upon their skill and judgment may depend the fate of our landings in Europe.

General Eisenhower has asked for their prophecies for weeks ahead. They will be given to him in general pictures to cover whole periods, and also for each succeeding day.

When **the winds and tides are just right**, Invasion Day may be at hand.

Point to remember is that the ‘Met. Men’ deal not with exactitudes but **probabilities.**

That is the **human** element in the meteorological science. It isn't that they go wrong very often. But **sudden changes in weather conditions** do sometimes upset the forecasts.

Landings begun might be suddenly interrupted **by the weather**. The steady flow of reinforcements and equipment might suddenly be drastically curtailed.

The weather is master of the strategy."

Whilst the same paper reported on May 9th:

"Western Europe has been dried and hardened for the Allied Invasion armies by the **finest spring** for fifty years. This is the big **weather** news, as the Second Front approaches.

Together they form a picture of a Continent parched by unseasonal months of sunshine even more than it was when Hitler struck four years ago tomorrow. And they offer a pattern of '**invasion weather**' which is essential to the timing and progress of Allied strategy.

Already, thanks in great part to the **record spring**, the Allied Air Forces have been able in the last two months to destroy more than 2,000 German planes in the air, and to drop nearly 150,000 tons of bombs on West Wall targets.

That is a softening up process which **could never have been achieved without dry air bases and outstanding visibility** over the Channel.

This is the sort of **weather** for which Allied Air-marshals were **praying** in mid-March, when a spokesman said, 'If only we can have sixty fine days.' Since then, fifty fine days have passed."

Yet, fully realising all this, **official recognition of the NEED** of another day of National Prayer is not deemed necessary or advisable.

Is it, that we trust alone to our own strength to overwhelm the enemy and to gain the Victory? One can only wonder, and regret that such a decision has been made.

Thank God, others set apart April 23rd, 1944 as a Day of National Prayer, and most of our Chapels and Churches as well as those in U.S.A. are to be opened for Prayer and Intercession as soon as the Invasion commences for which we truly thank God, but it would have been better and much more effective if it could have been done at the Government's behest. Perhaps then, NO Second Front would have been necessary at all!

We can only leave the matter in God's all wise hands, and pray individually that He will deal mercifully with us and according to His gracious purposes.

How true are the words of Gen. Anderson:

" Sometimes we are apt to take credit to ourselves for our accomplishments and not to thank the Almighty enough for His part. There is a great spiritual force, as well as physical forces, at work in our army in this war."

CHAPTER 6.

What shall be our summing up of all these truly remarkable historical facts, for **FACTS** they all are?

What shall we say of " That Restraining Hand " which manifested itself time and time again as we have seen? What shall we say of all these interventions of the " Weather " and the elements?

What shall we say of those Victories that followed " National Days of Prayer?"

Can we dismiss them all as " CO-INCIDENCES " and happenings of Fate, or may it not be that the same Hand which Restrained at Stalingrad, at Moscow, in the Pacific Seas and at Cassino, is the very same Hand which controls the Elements, and decrees the Weather. That same Hand, which since Creation has ordered that " Seedtime and Harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and Day and night shall not cease?"

As it has not failed in the latter, so we have seen it has not failed in the former, and **NEVER WILL**.

Surely, in all honesty and sincerity (if we really wish to be honest), we **must** admit that it **is** so; and further, that it is nothing short of the **VERY SAME HAND** (which holds the reins of the Universe and Governs Supreme in the affairs of men today) which, in answer to man's sincere Prayer on those Days of National recognition, granted Divine and Miraculous deliverances.

Only those who **wish** to think otherwise can dismiss such overwhelming evidence, which upon any other theme would be brought forward with abounding confidence.

We make bold to say with the Psalmist, that these are God's DOINGS, and are truly marvellous in our eyes. Do you not agree?

This Volume has been specially written and prepared to this end, and dedicated to the Service of God for distribution at cost, in order to broadcast this important message to those who have "ears to hear."

We are persuaded that this favoured Nation of ours **has** left God too much out of account. Although, as we have seen, He has endeavoured to prove to us that the final issue rests with Him, for He controls the weather; and although our Leaders fully acknowledge that these successes and disasters ARE due to events beyond human control, YET we DO NOT publicly acknowledge God's sovereignty and supreme power, and until we do, Victory can never be ours in the fullest sense of the word. To win the War even, will not be the end, or even Victory, as our Leaders are now telling us. To win the Peace will be equally difficult, but herein lies the KEY to **ALL TRUE VICTORY**.

EVERYTHING of earth is liable to **FAIL**, and crumble beneath our feet, as we have surely seen in this War time and time again; but there is **ONE** who never fails, and His Might and resources are **ALMIGHTY** and **LIMITLESS**. When all other Allies **FAIL**, here is an unfailing source of strength and power. One who has **NEVER** failed those who **REALLY**—(and I emphasise that word—**REALLY**)—**TRUST HIM**.

The way out of the darkness for this Nation, and in fact the Nations of the World, and all free men, is to get BACK TO GOD. If men and women today only realised the Almighty Power of God they would be flocking to the House of Prayer daily.

General Sir Wm. Dobbie, late Governor and G.O.C. of Malta, said when addressing a large London meeting recently:

“Don't you think that wars, like other judgments of God, are sent, or allowed, in order to teach us something which we cannot, or will not, learn in any other way; I personally, am convinced that

GOD IS SPEAKING TO US

through this war in order to bring us to a proper attitude of mind towards Himself.

But we are ignoring Him; we are indifferent to Him; we think that we can, by our own efforts win the Victory. But we cannot do so.

VICTORY IS THE GIFT OF ALMIGHTY GOD, who alone is the Arbiter in human affairs. We have got to learn that lesson as a nation; and I believe God is trying to get us to learn it, in His great mercy.

He has delivered us from disaster, and yet He has, so far, withheld success from us.

Even if we did win the war, we would make an awful mess of the peace if our attitude towards Him was not right.”

How true his words are!

But let me continue, for Gen. Dobbie is not the only leader who has spoken thus. It is another of the remarkable facts of this war that so many of those in the forefront of the fray have publicly expressed themselves thus, and may it not be another of God's over-ruling Providences in permitting such men to be in such positions at just such a time as this?

Surely one of the most striking instances of this over-ruling Hand in an Hour of need is to be seen in the coming into power, just at the critical moment, of our own Prime Minister—the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill.

Writing in the "Sunday Pictorial"—as long ago as November 27th, 1932 (seven years before this War), G. Ward Price (who is today one of our leading and most far-seeing Journalists), wrote under the heading "The Right man in the wrong place" as follows:

"When the history of this long post-war crisis through which we are living, comes to be read by Britons yet unborn, one question they will ask and wonder is: '**Why did England make so little use of Winston Churchill?**'"

And then Ward Price added this significant and almost prophetic utterance:

"God's greatest gift to the British Nation throughout its history has been the right men at the right time."

But seven years ago, was NOT God's right time for Winston Churchill to come to power, therefore that unseen Restraining Hand was exercising its power, mysterious as it seemed to such as G. Ward Price. BUT in the hour of need, the Right Man comes forward to the right place which none can deny.

Think too, of General Chiang Kai-Shek, the Christian General of China and his Christian wife, of whom a certain Canadian Official said recently that during a Japanese Air Raid when he himself was trembling from head to foot she went on writing as quietly and as calmly as if nothing was happening. Later, being invited by the General to stay to evening devotions he did so, and for thirty minutes God and His Word held the attention of this Man of God.

Says the Canadian: "A Bible was produced, and the General began by reading some Scripture. Then the three joined in Prayer, the General leading. I never expect to hear such a prayer again in all my life. He began with a simple expression of thanks for their personal safety. Then he added thanks for the courage of the Nation under fire. Then he prayed for strength for the men in the field, and along the firing lines; he prayed for strength for himself, and added a most earnest plea for guidance and wisdom, that would not fail the people.

In the simplest and humblest terms, he laid himself at the service of Almighty God, and begged that he might know the Divine Will, and do it on the morrow."

And is it not impressive to read Madame Chiang Kai-Shek's own comment upon her childhood days and to learn some lesson from it in the light of OUR children's spiritual education in these modern days:

"One of my strongest childhood impressions" she says, "is of my mother going to a room, she kept for the purpose on the third floor, to pray. She spent hours in prayer, often beginning before dawn. When we asked her advice about anything she would say, 'I must ask God first.' Asking God was not a matter of spending five minutes to ask Him to bless her child and grant the request. It meant waiting upon God until she felt His leading."

Such Mothers give the world such Great Leaders.

We have surely to thank God, that such as these, are Leaders among us today.

But let us go on: Think of Admiral Sir John Tovey, C. in C. the Nore, who told his officers and men that the complete lack of casualties, to men and ships, when the Bismark was sunk was, in his opinion, an answer to prayer.

Then there was the Staff Officer who helped plan the Madagascar Campaign, who said: "Every detail was prayed over."

And Admiral of the Fleet Sir Andrew Cunningham, before the anxious operations of Crete, asked a Chaplain's Conference to pray for God's help.

And Admiral Nimitz, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, wrote to a Sunday School Class thus:

"The prayers of these boys are appreciated by the officers and men of the Pacific Fleet. It is an assuring encouragement to them. I know that the prayers of these boys for ultimate victory will be answered."

And General MacArthur who before he graduated, had read the Bible through six times, asked divine guidance for his leadership in the South-west Pacific. He said:

“At the altar where I first joined the sanctuary of God, I ask that you seek divine guidance for me in the great struggle that looms ahead.”

And in recognition of National Bible Week, General MacArthur said that because of “the spiritual significance” of the world conflict, we can “declare our faith and confidence with God’s help in our final victory.”

“I read my Bible every day, gentlemen, and I would advise you to do the same.”

Such is the reported advice given by General Montgomery to a gathering of his officers. But again reference must be made to this great General’s early training, and the influence of a godly mother.

“Picture Post” of October 16th, 1943, says of Lady Montgomery—the General’s mother:

“Permeating her life, her home, her character, is her strong sense of religion.

Lady Montgomery is an ardent Protestant in an ardent Catholic country. She holds prayers at 8.30 every morning in the private chapel, says Grace before every meal. She knows the Bible as so many Victorians knew it—almost by heart.

She takes a great interest in the teaching of Christianity to children. She has written many religious books, including a Life of Christ for children. She believes that children should be taught the Gospels and a belief in prayer at an early age.”

I repeat, such mothers and such parentage give the world its true leaders. May we heed such lessons as these today.

In the first World War, it will be recalled, there was an issue of Khaki-covered New Testaments, with a commendatory message inside the cover from Lord Roberts. In the present war the United States War Department ordered New Testaments for distribution to such troops as apply for copies. Stamped on the cover, in gold lettering, is a message from President Roosevelt, in these terms:

“Throughout the centuries men of many faiths and of diverse origins have found in the Sacred Book words of wisdom, counsel and inspiration. It is a foundation of strength, and now, as always, an aid in attaining the highest aspirations of the human soul.”

Recall also Viscount Gort, whom some jeeringly call the Praying General; Generals Wavell, Alexander, Anderson and Maitland Wilson not forgetting Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, who recently said in reply to one who commented that “It must be a great thing to be First Lord of the Admiralty.” “Yes” he replied, “But there is a greater thing, I am a Baptist local preacher.” And no doubt you could readily add many more.

These are MEN in the true sense of the word—leaders of men—who know and believe sincerely that God Himself—ALONE—is the NATION’S GREATEST NEED: the WORLD’S greatest need today.

I repeat, thank God that there **are** such men in such places of power and authority, and I am persuaded that these are the men that God IS using, and WILL use, to honour with Victory, when we are ready to receive it from His Hand.



CHAPTER 7.



What the world needs is Jesus Christ. IT IS, whether we are all prepared to accept the FACT or not. Without God; Men, Munitions, Ships, Navies, Tanks, Allies, Money, and all the rest are futile helps and useless.

DO WE as a Nation realise; yea rather, do I individually realise, that if only we would COUNT more on God, quicker and greater Victories would be ours? I personally believe that WITH GOD ALONE we could achieve Victory, without any other resources at all, for God is all powerful.

In days of old, He has destroyed whole armies by a mere sound in the dead of night, thereby causing a foe to destroy themselves. In Joshua's day, you will remember, God actually caused His SUN to stand still, so that Joshua might win the battle, and in Isaiah's day, He gave the promise "I will defend this city," and in one night sent an angel who destroyed 185,000 men, so that when Hezekiah's men rose early in the morning, they found only dead corpses. (Isa. 37, 35-36.)

History you say—Yes, History indeed, but the God of History is the God of Prophecy, and the God of Prophecy is the

GOD OF TODAY.

All this and much more God has done in the past for those who trusted Him, and He can, and will do, the same again TODAY, if we, as a NATION—if we individually—are prepared to give Him our TRUST, our Faith, OUR CONFIDENCE. For this God is our God.

One morning during the last war, Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener (both men of prayer) were together at the War Office when news came through of a Victory in Flanders. One turned to the other and said "Someone must have been Praying," and together they knelt and thanked God. Those military Generals knew that PRAYER was mightier than the Sword, and were willing to acknowledge it. May we likewise be as wise today.

Our late Monarch, King George V., was a great man of prayer and a diligent reader of the Scriptures and he knew what it was to thus TRUST HIS GOD.

In one of the darkest hours of that war, it is reported that someone said to him, "How will it ever end?" King George prayerfully replied, "God will have to work a miracle." And He did.

Thank God, that we also have a King and Queen today, who know their God, and for their lead in calling the Nation to Prayer, but we need more Prayer and with it true repentance of heart.

Thank God for a gracious Queen who could say when Broadcasting on the 11th April, 1943, "The King and I are grateful to think that we and our family are remembered in your prayers. We need them, and try to live up to them. And we also pray that God will bless and guide our people in this country and in our great family throughout the Empire and will lead us forward, united and strong, into the paths of victory and peace."

But Nationally we seem to have forgotten God altogether of late, and as it were to aggravate matters, we have permitted His direct command that we shall not take His Name in vain, to be flagrantly broken, by permitting the B.B.C. play, of the Life of Christ, with the Saviour Himself impersonated. We must therefore be prepared for the consequences, for "The Lord will NOT hold him guiltless who taketh His Name in vain."

May His disapproval not be plainly seen in the subsequent events, in Malaya, Singapore, Burma, India, Libya, and even in happenings around our own shores?

And is it not equally impressive to note the turn of the tide in our favour when the first of this series of Broadcasts ceased, which was on the 18th October, 1942.

The British offensive began on October 23rd, 1942, the result of which was that Rommel was thrown right out of Africa. Could there be any plainer fact than this? God is NOT mocked. Unless we heed these warnings in time, greater tragedies must, and will come, for God will have His proper dues and recognition, and of that we must make no mistake.

That Hitler, and all he stands for, will be entirely crushed, and defeated, there is not the shadow of a doubt, for God's laws demand, and ensure, that it shall be so, but this Nation will not be the chosen vessel to bring it about if it so flouts and challenges Divine Sovereignty.

Let us take heed.

Remember also that God has another very heavy charge against this Country. None can deny that we have desecrated His Sabbath Day of rest, not only with pleasure before the War, but by toil and study since, and while these things may appear expedient to us, from a human standpoint, Divine Principles stand supreme, and we cannot change or alter them without loss and suffering to ourselves.

God said long years ago:

“Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy. Six days' shalt thou labour and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor the stranger that is within thy gates.”

And He has proved to us by centuries of experience, that those people who obeyed, He blessed, and those who disobeyed, suffered His righteous indignation. Who are we, in our day, to assume that it should be otherwise now?

Whether the Sabbath day be Sunday or Saturday, as some will argue, is beside the point, the important thing is that one **day** in seven belongs to God, and don't let such minor cavillings as to **which** day is intended, spoil the major issue, that **ONE** day in every seven belongs to our Creator.

Viscount Bennett, former Prime Minister of Canada, said in London on March 16th, 1942: "There is something wrong with this country. I cannot say what it is, but I have seen the change come over it." He said he had been told that the British were essentially a religious people, but had forgotten it.

How true these words were was illustrated a few days later when our esteemed Monarch King George VI. appointed another Day of National Prayer—Sunday, March 29th.

G. Ward Price, writing in the "Daily Mail" on the 24th of that month, wrote:

"Is it nobody's business to make this solemn Day of Supplication a memorable and heartstirring occasion? Let us stimulate the Nation's Prayers as well as its subscriptions. Will the War Cabinet attend any service next Sunday in a body? If the occasion were one of thanksgiving for Victory they would certainly do so. It may be uncharitable to conclude that they prefer to show themselves in public only when things are going well."

Mr. Churchill, in his book "London to Ladysmith" records that, while he was escaping from a Pretoria prison camp, in the South African War, he "prayed long and earnestly." "He—and we—have great need to pray earnestly now." So said G. Ward Price.

But DID the Nation go to Prayer? Was it a Day of NATIONAL Prayer? Was it a 100 per cent Prayer effort, or was it a Day of Farce?

The day previous, our Workers in Factory and on land were officially urged to work harder than ever, the following day (National Day of Prayer), and the Press of Monday, March 30th reported:

“ In towns, many families went from morning service to work on their allotments. It was Sunday-on-the-land for many thousands.

Owing to the harsh winter, seasonable work is behind the calendar. So yesterday many of our 100,000 tractors were throbbing across the fields in the great plough-up and corn drive. Every group of allotments saw men and women preparing seed beds and sowing.”

This on God's Day of Rest, of which He says, “Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy,” and this on a Day appointed for National INTERCESSION. Is THIS turning to God as HE desires? Can you wonder if our Prayers go unanswered? Let's be honest about the matter.

This is God's command:

“Six days thou shalt work, but on the seventh day thou shalt rest: **in earing time and in harvest thou shalt rest.**” (Ex. 34, 21.)

Is it any wonder that THIS was the ONE DAY of National Prayer which was **NOT** followed by some outstanding Victory.

Is there any wonder there was no manifest answer that day?

The fact that we are at war does not permit us to break God's Commandments, and violate the laws of God; neither does it give us license to desecrate His Day of Rest.

WE may consider it expedient in time of War perhaps, but I ask: If I have a very intricate and delicate piece of machinery, or some valuable instrument; whom should I consider the best person to advise on its use and maintenance but its designer and maker? Who then should know better the possibilities of the human frame on the one hand, and the many intricate workings of the Elements, and the Soil on the other hand, than the Maker of both Man and Nature? Surely it is only

common logic, that to disobey His ruling on such matters **MUST** eventually end in disaster even though, for the time being, it seems better and wiser otherwise, to human calculation?

He who controls Day and Night, and Cold and Heat—which we have to acknowledge are beyond our powers—must surely have good reason for commanding that six days only shall be used for toil, and one for rest and worship of the Creator?

In 1941, we had claimed the biggest harvest ever, due to the Farmers' efforts on the Land. But did we reap the biggest harvest ever? **NO**—we did not. We could have done, had we acknowledged God properly in the matter and God's goodness in giving it to us, for it was all there ready to **REAP—BUT WE DID NOT REAP IT—WHY?**

We praised the Creature rather than the Creator and the result—well, as you may know, 1941 saw the **WETTEST** August for many a long day. What could have been a tremendous **HARVEST** was spoiled. A Day of National Thanksgiving to God, and prayer for a fine August **COULD** and **WOULD** have given us the biggest Harvest ever, and since then the corn has been sown and the Harvests reaped on Sundays as well, by official authority. I ask, can we **EXPECT** God's blessing if we thus defy His Laws and commands?

Again, one cannot but recall God's action in the past. Listen to these words:

“But if ye will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandments of the Lord, then shall the hand of the Lord be against you, as it was against your fathers.”

And a careful reading of the 12th Chapter of the first book of Samuel will fully bear this out.

Nor are these comments limited only to the workers on the Land. Our Factory workers too have been urged, time and time again, to a full seven day week, with the thought that it was expedient, and therefore God's direct Command in this matter could be ignored and disobeyed with impunity. But what do we now find?

Are not even our own Government Officials, beginning to realise that, after all, God's method was better than theirs, and that Sunday labour does not increase efficiency to anything like the extent we thought it would? And may not the failure of many of our Training Schemes be largely due to the prominence that we have given to Sunday instruction?

The Chief Inspector of Factories described in his report what happened in a factory which changed from $5\frac{1}{2}$ day to a 7 day week.

After four weeks, production flagged until the output fell to that obtained when $5\frac{1}{2}$ days were worked. The management went back to $5\frac{1}{2}$ days. There was no loss in output.

Let one quotation from the Daily Press suffice.

"Industrial fatigue, due to excessive working hours, is filling the consulting rooms of Britain's doctors with thousands of war workers suffering from minor ailments.

So serious, it was said, was the position that the British Medical Association Annual Conference of representatives of local medical and panel committees unanimously passed a resolution urging the Minister of Health to investigate the matter. Dr. H. G. Dain, of Birmingham, declared that some hours of work have had disastrous effects.

'People are suffering from exhaustion, physical and mental,' he said, 'The Government **has failed to recognise the correct number of hours which should be worked.** The result, is lowered production.'

How much wiser and better it would have been to have obeyed the command of God from the beginning, and earned His blessing; rather than disobey and face His judgment.

In 1855, during the Crimean War, our gracious Queen Victoria appointed a Day of humiliation and Prayer ON A WEEKDAY, when all business was suspended, every shop and place of amusement closed, and no work permitted except the tending of cattle. (How different to

the National Day of Prayer of March, 1942). The Fall of Sebastopol and the end of the Crimean War followed in the same year.

This was repeated in the Indian Mutiny of 1857, with the same result. If then, why not now?

When this country realises NOW, what Queen Victoria realised THEN, we may expect to see VICTORY. But whilst our Farmers are asked to sow their seed and reap their Harvests on the Lord's Day, and workers generally are urged to break the Commandments of God, how can we expect blessing? God WILL be recognised, let us make no mistake about that, and His Day must be restored.

God is waiting to bless this Nation, but He cannot do so fully, until we are ready and prepared to give Him the Praise and the Glory for Victory granted, for that honour God will share with none. He is a jealous God and jealous of His Divine prerogatives.

When the U.S.A. was brought into the present conflict by Japan's treacherous attack on Pearl Harbour in December 1941, one of the first things that her noble President commanded was that the First Day of January, 1942, should be observed as a National Day of Prayer. Why? Because that great man of God knew, that without God's help, all would be in vain. He also knew that one with God is a Majority, and that he who stands with God is always on the winning side. Yes, this is true, even if, at times, it does not appear so. Such a public act of Faith and Confidence in God CANNOT, and will not, go unrewarded. He repeated that command for the 1st January, 1943 and 1944.

A recent Broadcaster, decorated for gallant action in a Dock Area Blitz, told of the extreme danger he and his fellow Firemen were in, and added that he was not ashamed to say, that when none of them knew which moment would be their last, HE PRAYED; and said that if God permitted them to see morning light He would indeed have been good to them. They did see morning light, and thanked God. If men PRAY at such times—and **THEY DO**,—why not then **TODAY**?

When the Disciples were in that Storm on the Lake (Matt. 8, 23) and Jesus was asleep on a pillow in the hinder part of the Ship, they awoke the Master saying "Carest Thou not that we perish." He arose, calmed the troubled Sea and then rebuked them saying, "How is it that ye have NO faith?" WE may be inclined to think the Saviour a little harsh on that occasion, but you see they, like us, had failed to grip the wonderful Truth that where Christ is, disaster can never come.

"No waters can swallow the ship where lies,
The Master of Ocean, and Earth, and Skies."

The crux of the matter is this—IS CHRIST in the BOAT? Are we weathering the storm WITH HIM—or alone? If the Boat has Christ aboard it will reach Harbour. IT MUST! So shall we—BUT there were also other little ships that day riding the storm in Galilee, we are told; but we know not the destiny of any of them for the Master was NOT ON BOARD. Let us take heed. WITH GOD all will be well.

It was in August, 1918, that a Day of **Repentance** and Prayer was appointed, and the Armistice followed in November of that year.

We saw earlier on, the Hand of God "Writing on the Wall" in the Diary of Events recorded, showing us first, that no matter what our human effort may be, it can all be destroyed by God in a moment of time by the breath of His mouth. It only needs some unexpected element in the weather to upset all man's calculations, as Commander Anthony Kimmins said in his Broadcast, and as Hitler discovered at the time of his intended Invasion of this Country in September, 1940.

One other record of history must suffice.

The destruction of the Spanish Armada in 1588 was not due to the forces of England. It was obvious to Queen Elizabeth that when the Spanish fleet lay wrecked along the coasts of England and Scotland, it was mainly due to the unprecedented gales that scattered the enemy. Sixty-three ships were lost and history records that the Spanish fleet "suffered more from the elements than the

English." In acknowledgment of Divine intervention, the Queen caused a medal to be struck with the inscription "HE BLEW HIS WINDS and they were scattered." This medal, previous to the outbreak of War, could be seen in the Plaquette room of the British Museum.

History you say—yes, History indeed, but the God of History is the **God of Prophecy**, and the God of Prophecy is the **GOD OF TODAY**.

All this and much more God has done in the past for those who trusted Him, and He can, and will do, the same again TODAY if we, as a nation—if we individually—are prepared to give GOD our TRUST, our Faith, OUR CONFIDENCE. For this God is **our** God.

If we really and truly believe that there is a God that ruleth in the Heavens, then why are we so foolish as to think that we may continually ignore His Will, disobey His commands, dely His laws, and yet not reap the subsequent harvest?

It is, as we all know, an unalterable law of life, Nature, and of God's kingdom that whatsoever a man (or nation for that matter) soweth, that shall he (or they) also reap.

YOU have tried it **in life** my friend—and in your innermost self you **KNOW that it's true**.

Then why not let us together **SEEK GOD'S FACE** in true repentance and humiliation, and He will prove to us that His promise is true that—

"If My people....shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My Face, and turn from their wicked ways: then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land." (2 Chron. 7, 14.)

God tells us, that:

"**THEY SHALL KNOW WHOSE WORD SHALL STAND—MINE OR THEIRS.**" And surely He has been trying to speak to us as a Nation by what we may have hitherto regarded are "**MERE CO-INCIDENCES**," but which I trust, as level headed men and women, we may rather see to be something far greater and more significant. Hitherto we have undoubtedly been deaf to the voice of God, defiant of His Commands, and ungrateful for His many interventions.

There is yet time. Can we not as a Nation acknowledge our shortcomings and seek to give God His due recognition, and give His Day of Rest its proper place in our lives.

If not—then time alone will show to what extent God will permit us to be further humbled, and brought to acknowledge His Hand, before final victory becomes our portion.

WHEN SHALL WE SEE IT?

I trust before it is too late.

Let us not boast in our own strength, our own forces, whether they be Armies, Navies, Air Forces, Allies or ought else of earth. Thank God for them all, and give them their due praise and merit, but remember that God ALONE has been our help in ages past, and desires to be our hope for years to come. But if we continue to turn a deaf ear to all God's pleadings let us beware lest He saith in His wrath

“LET HIM ALONE.” (Hosea. 4, 17.)

“Because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before Mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not.”
(Isa. 65, 12.)

“Only FEAR THE LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things He hath done for you. BUT if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed.” (1 Sam. 12, 24.)

“When our Faiths are attacked and derided
And some have forgotten to pray—
Remember that Hope is eternal—
THAT GOD HAS THE LAST WORD TO SAY.”

TO SUM UP:—

IT WAS PRAYER that stopped Rommel on July 1st,
1942.

IT WAS PRAYER that gave us the Miracle of
Dunkirk.

IT WAS PRAYER that gave us the Battle of Britain.

IT WAS PRAYER that gave us the East and North
Africa victories.

IT WAS PRAYER that gave us Victory, 1914-18.

IT WAS PRAYER that gave us Victory in the Crimea.

IT WAS PRAYER that gave us Victory in the Indian
Mutiny.

IT WAS PRAYER that gave us Victory over the
Spanish Armada.

OR WAS IT—CO-INCIDENCE?

More is done by prayer than this world dreams of, for
Prayer is the power that moves the arm that moves the
world and brings deliverance down.



CHAPTER 8.



In my final Chapter I wish to come back to my opening theme of "That Restraining Hand," for I am sure that my reader will agree with me, that this overruling Divine Hand cannot be treated as of little count, but rather must we pay heed to these Divine interventions.

Perhaps one aspect of the subject has not been sufficiently stressed thus far.

That is, that there is nothing **NATIONAL** about this "Restraining Hand."

It has been in evidence on **our** behalf, as we have noted; but it has **also** been in evidence on the other side of the Globe for other nations. For Russia, for Australia, yes, and even for our enemies at times, as the instances quoted serve to show. Sometimes it has been the Allied forces thus restrained, sometimes the enemies might, but without fear or favour this "Restraining Hand" has shown itself and its power.

That it seems to be a Moral or Spiritual power rather than Material is evident and acknowledged, and we have also to remember that it has not been confined to the present conflict. Throughout centuries past, something akin to this has often happened. When Victory seemed almost within the grasp of some power, suddenly and unexpectedly the issue swung the other way and the seeming Victor became the vanquished. Was this not practically so in 1918?

And in striking contrast to modern times, let me mention one incident of long ago, when Pharaoh's host had their enemy absolutely in their grip. On either side rose the steep rocky face; in front, the Red Sea barred the way; and then behind them came the Egyptian hordes in all their power. It was then that that "Restraining Hand" made itself felt! The waters of the Red Sea divided asunder and the Children of Israel marched forward on dry ground, the Sea standing as a protecting wall on either flank. Angered by their loss of immediate Victory, Pharaoh's host pursued, only to be swamped by those receding tidal walls of the Sea and all were drowned: The vanquished, not of the Israelites, but of that "Restraining Hand."

Did I hear a remark that surely it was none other than God Himself who thus delivered the Children of Israel? Indeed it was. That "Hand" which delivered them, was none other than His Almighty Arm, and who shall say that it is not that same Almighty Power—God Himself—that is restraining the Nations today?

What, to us, may have seemed uncanny, sinister, mysterious, moral or Spiritual rather than material, or whatever other expression we care to use, is nothing more or less than the Hand of God manifesting itself and fulfilling Divine prophecies of 1900 years standing.

The fact that it favours none, but controls and restrains each, and all, confirms this fact, for God's ways are by no means National, rather are they international. God is not so much concerned with any particular Nation today, as He is with individuals out of all Nations, and it is on their behalf that He restrains and controls the Nations of the World. These individuals to whom we refer, are those known as "Christians," REAL Christians, of course, in contrast to a mere profession of Christianity.

If there is a "Nation" at all, that God IS concerned with, and there is—that Nation is the **JEW**, of whom, concerning the flesh Christ came. (See Jeremiah 31, 35-37.)

One principle, and one only, governs God's dealings with the rest of the Nations, and that is their treatment of the Jew.

Those oft-quoted words of the Saviour.

"INASMUCH as ye have done it unto one of these the least my Brethren ye have done it unto Me," have their **primary** interpretation in this connection.

Those Nations which treat the Jew kindly are as the Sheep and will eventually have a place on the Right Hand, in Christ's Kingdom soon to be established.

Those who, adversely, ill-treat that strange but wonderful People go to the Left, for Judgment, and are described as "Goats" in contrast.

"Then," I hear you say "There can be no doubt of the ultimate issue of the present conflict, for surely it is abundantly clear today on which side the conflicting forces stand, in this connection?" Thank God, that **is** true. As to the **ULTIMATE** issue there **is** no doubt, and if that were the only point at issue not only would it be true **ULTIMATELY**, but it would be true **NOW**, and Victory would now be the portion of the Allied Cause, God would intervene now in **DECISIVE VICTORY**, instead of **RESTRAINT**, upon our efforts.

Sad to say, however, other issues are involved. God is a God of inflexible justice, and whereas it is true the Axis powers have during the past five years or so been heaping up for themselves terrible retribution at the Hands of Almighty God for their treatment of the Jews, quite apart from anything else they may have done or are doing, yet none can deny that the reckoning in the present conflict has to go back further than the immediate present, and even the Allied Nations are not without fault. The past generation or two of all Nations have evidenced rapid decline both morally and spiritually from even the Victorian God-fearing age, and for such things God will bring any Nation into Judgment.

We must remember too that the persecution of the Jews has, in the past, not been confined to the Axis Powers alone, although, thank God, it seems to be so today. In addition, Sinful Pleasure, as well as the desecration of God's Day, and God's Laws, have been largely to the fore even in this Country and America, to say nothing of the Continent.

France's own leaders confess that her present humiliation is the result of her sins. And can we fail to reflect that both Russia and Germany have blasphemed God and Christ above all Nations in Europe? God is not mocked. So just when we were expecting the armed might of Hitler to fall upon these shores, that "Restraining Hand" intervened, and the enemy turned the other way. Used of God, Germany and Russia have punished one another, for their sins of the past.

How many have asked what would have happened if Germany had struck here first?—**BUT Germany didn't**, and even our Rulers cannot understand **WHY NOT!** The hand of God gives the answer.

Well, has our noble Prime Minister said: "There are times when all pray."

Methinks that many a Cabinet Minister must have prayed at that time, as well as the masses of the people, but many are too proud to admit it sad to say, like the young sergeant, who speaking recently in the mess room of a Glasgow barracks, was proclaiming loudly his scorn for what he called religion, and affirming that he did not believe in God at all, when a lad at the back stood up and said, "Would you mind telling me, Sergeant, who it was I saw you praying to, on the shore off Narvik?"

Atheism, Modernism, New Theology and the like have swept the Theological Colleges and Pulpits, Clergy and Laity alike, not only of the Continent but of these favoured Isles and these things are grievous in the eyes of our God, and for such He is now calling us all to Book, and righteous retribution is being allocated according to Divine reckoning.

When the Emperor of Ethiopia pleaded for his country personally before the League of Nations at Geneva, amid Italian insult, and was shamefully turned down, he said:

“ I could not believe that fifty-two nations—among them the most powerful in the world—could be defeated by a single aggressor.”

And then there fell from his lips these solemn words: “ God and history will remember your judgment.”

YES, GOD REMEMBERS.

Today, Italy is reaping an abundant harvest of that awful sowing, as all nations as well as individuals **MUST** reap, in accordance with Divine Law.

We are today, **all** suffering for our shortcomings and failures of the past, nationally and individually; and it behoves us each and all to **HEED** the Voice that is speaking, by a “ **RESTRAINING HAND.**”

Whilst the forces of Evil are being **restrained** under God's almighty Control, among all the Nations, the immediate issue of Victory for the allied cause is, alas, also being withheld, pending our recognition of God in this matter and our **REPENTANCE** for the sins of the past. Forgiveness, in any realm, follows repentance. That is a righteous Axiom.

But, thank God, the same Hand that restrains evil, also holds the balance of Divine Justice, and whilst judgment is His strange work, He delights in mercy. Those who seek His face in repentance, He is swift to forgive and bless. A humble and a contrite heart He never despises and the moment we, as an Allied Cause, as a Nation, or as individuals get **THERE**, the **ULTIMATE VICTORY** will become an **IMMEDIATE ONE.**

There was once an evil mob, bent on destroying the Saviour Himself, when He was here upon earth. On one occasion they led Him to the brow of the Hill intending to throw Him over, but He just disappeared out of their

midst. That "Restraining Hand" was in evidence in those days long years ago. Often were their evil purposes frustrated simply because "HIS hour was not yet come."

And yet, the wonder of it all is, that when HIS hour **was** come, that very same mob, doubtless energised by the same Satanic Power as the forces of evil today, took and crucified the Christ of God and fulfilled, in the minutest detail and to the very letter, all the prophetic utterances of the Old Testament concerning Him. That "Restraining Hand" which kept them **back** from their evil intentions time and time again until HIS time was reached; then, so controlled their every action, even in the carrying out of their own evil deeds, that they actually accomplished God's Will and purpose, and did not do one whit more or less than **He had foretold** that they would do. **This was no mere co-incidence, my reader.**

Let the Word of the Holy Spirit through Peter confirm these remarks:

Acts 2, 22-23. "Jesus of Nazareth, **BEING DELIVERED BY THE DETERMINATE COUNSEL AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD**, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.

Acts 3, 17-18. "Through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. But those things which God before had showed by the mouth of His prophets, that Christ should suffer, **HE HATH SO FULFILLED.**

Acts 4, 26-28. "The Kings of the Earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against His Christ For to do whatsoever **Thy hand, and Thy Counsel, determined BEFORE** to be done."

What happened at the greatest Crisis in this World's history **CAN**, and **WILL**, happen again. That same God still lives, and He is still on the Throne of the Universe, destined to be its final Ruler, in Righteousness and Equity.

We may not perhaps like to think this is so; we may not even be prepared to admit it, much less believe it, in all its many implications; but in the light of current events, and in the light of recent happenings, some of which we have tried to detail, who CAN DENY that God's Hand is strangely in evidence in this present conflict? Sooner or later the Allied Nations have got to acknowledge this greatest of all facts, this mightiest of all powers, and acknowledge in a public manner that ALL nations are subject to Divine Control, with all that this means.

Thus I come to the crux of the problem. All the events and happenings that we have been speaking of were divinely foretold 1900 years ago. Not, of course, in their meticulous detail but in their general implication. Who, I ask, but God Himself could have known THEN, what was to happen NOW? Surely such a word as this, DEMANDS the serious attention and consideration of us all! Your attention and Mine! Dare we lightly dismiss the matter as of only casual consequence?

Nineteen hundred years ago the inspired writer wrote:

“The mystery of iniquity doth already work. Only **He who now RESTRAINETH**, will restrain until He be taken out of the way” (2 Thess. 2, 7.)

A truly prophetic utterance indeed. Never more truly fulfilled than before our own eyes in 1939-44, and the very fact of the **evidence** of His Restraining power as we have shown, is sufficient confirmation to us all, that “HE” has not yet been “Taken away,” but is TODAY still “restraining” and controlling the affairs of Nations and of men, and over-ruling in all things, that the purposes of God, concerning the close of this Age, might yet be as completely fulfilled as those were at Calvary, 1900 years ago. BUT, when “HE” **IS** “Taken away,” then the Inspired writer goes on to say:

“Then shall that ‘WICKED’ be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming.” (2 Thess. 2, 8.)

Just as at Calvary the Evil forces fulfilled, in ignorance, all God's purposes and prophecies, so when "HE" (that Restraining Hand) shall be taken away, then that "Wicked One" (Wickedness personified with all under his unified command), will likewise fulfil all the purposes of God as prophetically foretold of him.

Even though that "Restraining Hand" will then be lifted, and wickedness will abound until it covers the entire earth, in such a way that the present evils seem insignificant in comparison—even then these evil forces will fulfil the revealed will and purposes of God. For He maketh the wrath of Man to praise Him.

But **UNTIL** "HE" BE taken out of the way, we may continue to look for evidences of His Restraining influence and power.*

I have little doubt, but that the uppermost question in my reader's mind at this juncture is, "**When** will God's Holy Spirit—that Third Person of the Holy Trinity—the 'HE' of our text and the 'Restraining Hand' of our subject) be taken out of the way?"

That is an unknown quantity. That is the one UNREVEALED secret of God.

All that we have been told concerning **THAT** moment of time is, that the One who **CAME** down to dwell upon Earth when Christ ascended, will remain here, **UNTIL** Christ descends to **TAKE HIS PEOPLE OUT** of this scene of Sin, Suffering and Sorrow to dwell in Heaven above, as told in John 14.

When Christ returns **FOR HIS OWN**, **THEN** "HE" the Restraining Power, who today works **THROUGH CHRIST'S OWN (CHRISTIANS)** will be taken away.

* For a further explanation of this particular point we refer to the Author's earlier pamphlet, "Are we near the End?" 3d. Nett (4d. post free), obtainable at this Office.

We have no reason for saying it will be this year or next, this month or next, this week or next, TODAY or tomorrow; but we equally have no reason for saying it MAY NOT be this year, this month, this week—EVEN TODAY.

One thing is certain. IT has GOT to BE someday. Of that there is no doubt. The forces of evil are going to be let loose and they cannot be, whilst God's Holy Spirit remains here restraining them. Surely we are sensible enough to see that the time for it to happen is fast running out. Things are going downhill so fast that there is every reasonable, and feasible cause for thinking that the time for the removal of "That Restraining Hand" MUST BE very very near. How will it affect you my reader? I do not know, but I will tell you frankly how it will affect me and millions more.

When "HE" is taken away, every TRUE Christian man and woman world-wide, irrespective of Nationality, Sect or Creed will be taken away TOO. Note the careful expression—"TRUE Christian." All Hypocrisy, Sham, and false profession will then be clearly revealed, for it will be left as Chaff. All "True" Christians will be taken to HEAVEN.

On earth, the "Restraining Hand" gone, the flood gates of evil will be open wide and iniquity will abound, but STILL even then, wicked men will continue to fulfil God's will and purpose in the final heading up of this World's Crisis at

ARMEGEDDON

which is very fully and clearly described in your Bible, (Rev. 16, 16 and 19, 16-21.)

In view of the closing words of this Manuscript I feel a FINAL WORD is necessary.

You may be asking:

What is a "TRUE CHRISTIAN"?

The answer is "A CHILD OF GOD."

"But are we not all the Children of God" you ask?
Indeed no! Let me explain.

The Saviour Himself said to Nicodemus, "Except a man be BORN AGAIN he cannot enter the Kingdom of God" (John 3, 3) and later emphasized it by adding

"Marvel not that I said unto THEE, **YE MUST be born again.**" (John 3, 7.)

A careful reading of the third chapter of John's Gospel is most helpful upon this theme, for it is there we read:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM** should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3, 16.)

I would also like to draw your attention to Paul's words, inspired of God, when the Philippian Jailor asked:

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

His reply was:

"**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,** and thou shalt be saved."

And in Gal. 3, 26, he says very clearly:

"Ye are all the Children of God, **BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS.**"

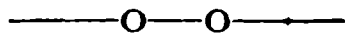
And finally, I quote the words of John in his Gospel, chapter 1, verses 11-12:

"He came unto His own, and His own received him not. But to as many as 'Received Him,' to **them** gave He power **to become the sons of God**, even to them that **believe on His name.**"

Thus, it is **very** clear from God's word, that only those who receive Christ, by believing on Him, are the "Children of God," **and only such** (but ALL such) are "**TRUE**" CHRISTIANS.

May reader and writer alike rejoice in the knowledge that this is true of them, for to all such comes the added joy of sins forgiven, and of peace with God.

APPENDIX.



Lest any should think that the Author is in anyway biased in his judgment regarding the matters dealt with in this volume it might be helpful to include two quite independant testimonies, both written by Journalists unknown to the Author.

George Murray of the "Daily Mail" reviewing the happenings of 1942 on **December 23rd, 1942** wrote:

"The exceptional mildness of the first ten days of December has given the country a big lead in the fuel-saving campaign.

This is one of the few big slices of weather-luck we have enjoyed in this war.

In the early campaigns the Germans picked all the fine days for their outings. Do you remember how in the Polish campaign of 1939 the world waited for the rains which never came?

Again, the invasion of France was helped by an exceptionally fine summer, bringing hard roads and clear horizons. For the Battle of Britain the Germans had long, sunny days and clear nights—perfect conditions for an air offensive.

Then came the prolonged night blitzes on our cities—and for the first time for years our autumn fogs, which might have hampered the raiders, deserted us.

But in the midst of this run of misfortune came the "miracle of Dunkirk"—that flat calm almost unknown in those waters, which lasted for three days during the most critical period of the evacuation. It followed the day of National Prayer the previous Sunday.

The year 1941 began with no better luck than we had received in 1940. The spring was late and the summer cold and dismal. At a time when we relied as never before upon British-grown food, the crops were a month behind. Hundreds of lambs died on the uplands owing to the severe cold and the lack of spring herbage.

Our bombers hoped to begin a much stronger offensive over Germany, but they were grounded for days at a time by mists and rain which were prolonged in May and June.

Almost to the end of that year the weather was against us. Zero hour for our Libyan offensive of November 1941 brought a great storm which bogged our mechanical transport. 'The weather could not well have been worse,' said one official eye-witness.

At home the harvest was prematurely hailed as the biggest in our history. But day after day and week after week of rain in the late summer delayed and reduced it.

The weather established its neutrality by a last grand gesture in our favour at the very end. December 1941 brought the most terrible Russian winter for many years—and we have learned since that the German Army was brought by it to the brink of disaster.

By January 1942 Auchinleck's drive against Rommel had brought him to Agedabia and El Agheila. We were trying to bring him to action, but the weather was foul.

Our communiqué of January 21st recorded: 'Yesterday a blinding sandstorm which raged throughout the frontier districts of Western Cyrenaica restricted our activities both on the ground and in the air. These weather conditions, **the worst for ten years**, alternate between severe sandstorms and heavy rain. Due to the latter, many areas on the enemy's front have been turned into impassable marshes. This has enabled him to mine the restricted intervening areas, thus hampering the movement of troops.'

Only a few weeks ago, when Rommel was smashed at El Alamein, he was saved from complete annihilation by two days of torrential rain which seriously hampered our pursuing columns."

Whilst **David Farrer of the "Daily Express"** wrote on the **7th April, 1943** concerning the weather:

"To read the newspapers and to listen to conversation in this year 1943 is in fact to reach the conclusion that the decisive factor in World War II. is proving to be not planes, not tanks, not guns, not even men, but just the wind and the rain."

The historical student of future days may well be reluctant to admit that even in the 20th century weather still conquered all things.

He will certainly at first reject the conclusion that, in an age which prided itself on its immense scientific and technological advances, an era when it was being claimed that man had finally subdued nature to his desires, **the victory was as much due to the elements as it was in olden times.**

But what will he read if he studies the newspapers of the time? First of **the hot summer days**—the 'Hitler weather'—of **September 1939**, which destroyed all chance of **Polish resistance**; next of similar **weather conditions in May 1940**, the hot, dry days which delivered **the French Army into the hands** of the panzers; **the Channel calm** that saved the British at **Dunkirk.**

Turning the pages to 1941 he will find that the sun shone again on Hitler's invasion of Russia, but that an early winter saved Moscow. He will learn, too, that in that year intense cold and electric storms sabotaged the British air offensive against Germany, while Atlantic storms destroyed the efficacy of the U-boats.

Read on, and in 1942 find that desert sandstorms enabled Rommel to ambush and destroy 200 British tanks and thereafter advance 500 miles; that five months later a desert cloudburst enabled the same general to escape the annihilation which Montgomery had prepared for him; and that, even as this was happening, the waters were stilled **for a single day off Casablanca** to enable the Allied landings to take place in safety.

And 1943 will confirm the student's now fast-growing belief in the weather's omnipotence.

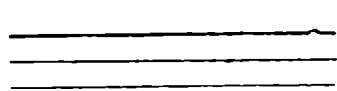
The early thaw in the Ukraine, he will read, saved the Dnieper for the Germans and lost the Russians Kharkov; the mud in Tunisia gave the Axis precious time in which to prepare the defences of Southern Europe; and when the Eighth Army attacked at Mareth Rommel's retreat was covered and his losses minimised—so America's Director of War Information tells us—by yet another sandstorm.

The influence of the weather on the course of this war has been considerable, and on some occasions decisive.

Yes—we cannot overlook such FACTS as

THE WAR

THE WEATHER



& GOD

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