

~~MS. 1309.~~

See Cover Pages : Worth Consideration.

Helps for Young Christians.

No. 32.

The Faithful
Six Hundred
OR
David's Mighty Men.

BY
S. H. PUGH.

ONE PENNY.

7/6 per 100 Carriage Paid.

G. F. Vallance,
Publisher Christian Literature,
Goodmayes, Essex.

"HELPS FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS"

1928.

We shall be greatly helped if friends and subscribers will kindly renew their subscriptions as early as possible. We have some good things in store for next year and have pleasure in announcing that we have arranged

FOUR SERIES OF EXPOSITORY ARTICLES.

These will be issued consecutively throughout the year. Each writer will write for three months, and each subject will be divided into three parts.

JANUARY to MARCH will be devoted to three studies on—

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH BY ERNEST BARKER.

Jan. Part I.—Hated and Harassed.
Feb. " II.—Exalted and Esteemed.
Mar. " III.—Revealed and Revered.

APRIL to JUNE an exposition of—

THE BOOK OF RUTH. BY G. F. VALLANCE.

April Part I.—Ruth Found.
May " II.—" Loved.
June " III.—" Redeemed.

JULY to SEPTEMBER will be devoted to three Studies entitled—

"TABERNACLE TREASURES." BY H. F. G. COLE.

July Part I.—In the Court.
Aug. " II.—In the Holy Place.
Sept. " III.—In the Holy of Holies.

OCTOBER to DECEMBER—

"STUDIES IN PHILLIPIANS." BY ERNEST FEASEY.

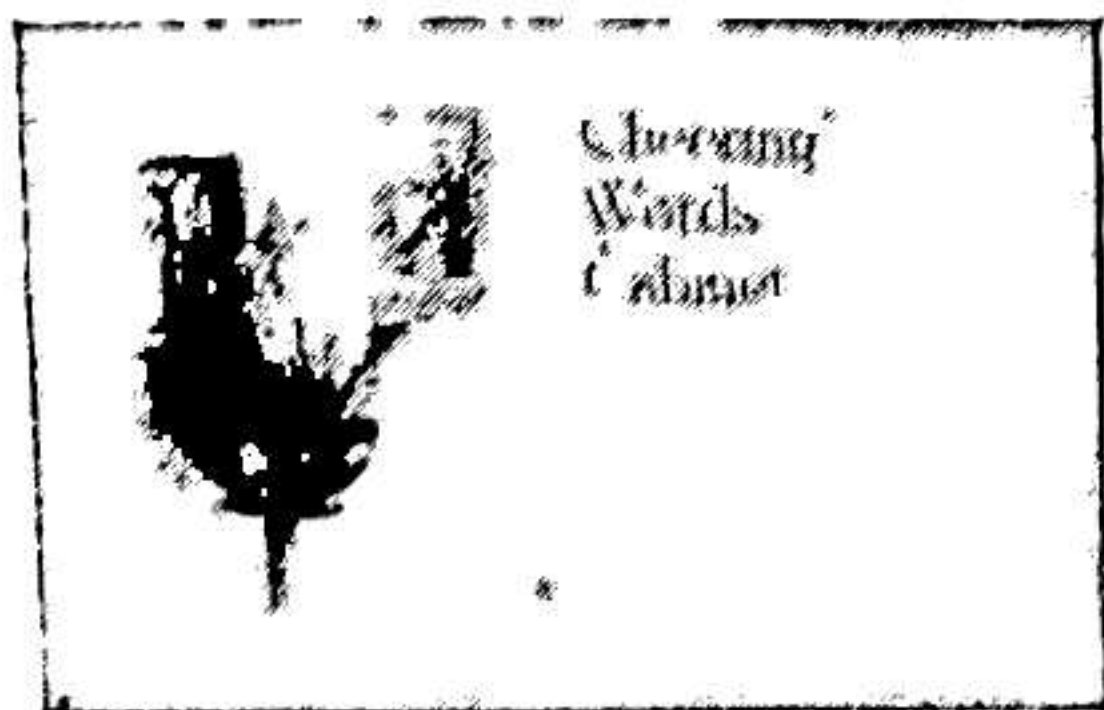
Oct. Part I.—The Believer's Position.
Nov. " II.—The Believer's Pattern.
Dec. " III.—The Believer's Privilege.

Please record your order for 1928 at once.

| | | | | | |
|----------------|-----|------------|------------------|------|------------|
| 1 Copy Monthly | 1/6 | Post Paid. | 6 Copies Monthly | 6/6 | Post Paid. |
| 2 Copies " | 2/6 | " | 12 " " | 12/- | " |
| 3 " " | 3/6 | " | 25 " " | 24/- | " |

GREETING CARDS.

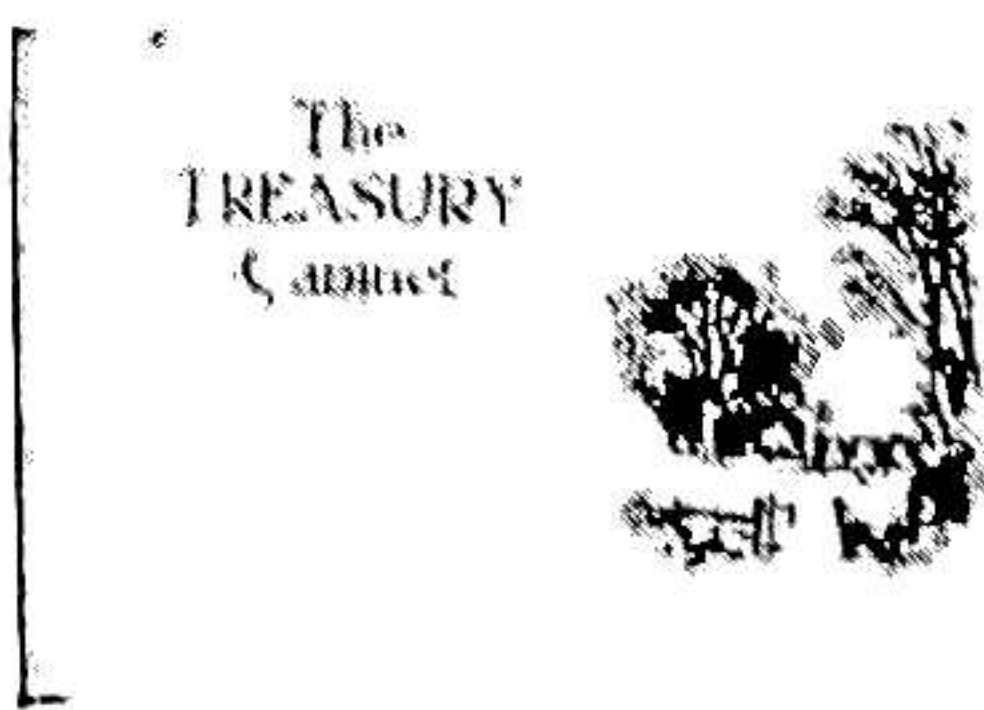
**FOR CHRISTMAS AND
NEW YEAR.**



CHEERING WORDS CABINET.

Twelve Choice Cards with Scriptural Greetings and Envelopes Complete, **2/6**

Post Free 2/9.



THE TREASURY CABINET.

Contains Nine Beautifully Coloured Cards with verses of the highest order. Cabinet Complete with Envelopes **2/-**

Post Free 2/3.

These Cabinets are well worth 5/- each.
One of each of the Two Boxes for 4/6 Post Paid.

The Faithful Six Hundred.

I SAMUEL XXX.

THE CAPTAIN AND HIS MEN.

Can you not hear it—the tramp of six hundred pairs of eager feet hastening along the wilderness track? Can you not see them—marching breast-forward, with keen eyes and faces grim and determined? Six hundred in number, but one in heart and purpose. What is the power that has bound these men, so diverse in natural disposition, into one united company? The explanation lies in their devotedness to their Leader. Each eye is fixed upon their gallant Captain, David. Each heart is attracted to him. His personal magnetism has secured their love and fidelity; being drawn to him, they are drawn to one another. Is not this a picture of

THE SECRET OF CHRISTIAN UNITY?

If we are devoted to our Leader — “great David’s greater Son”—the Lord Jesus Christ, if He has the supreme place in our hearts, we shall be drawn into hearty co-operation with those who are like-minded. Christians are like the spokes of a wheel, the nearer they approach the centre the nearer they get to one another. “How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” wrote the Psalmist (Psalm 133. 1), and this happy state can only be brought about by mutual devotedness and attachment to our blessed Master.

But who was David? And who were the six hundred followers?

WHO WAS DAVID?

A reference to the earlier pages of the history related by Samuel shows that a crisis had been reached in the life of the nation (see I Samuel xvi.). The

THE FAITHFUL SIX HUNDRED.

King whom they had chosen, magnificent though he was in outward appearance, had proved himself unworthy and had been rejected by God. In his place, by divine command, the shepherd lad, David, had been anointed King. But what a remarkable condition of things now appears. The King who is chosen of God and anointed by His command, is presented to our view as an exile, an outlaw, with a price upon his head. He is chased as a partridge upon the mountains by those who should acknowledge his authority. Can we fail to see in this a type of our Saviour:—

CHOSEN OF GOD; REJECTED BY MEN.

Christ is still the despised and rejected One. The mention of His Name in the presence of the man of the world is met with a cold stare and an awkward silence, or perhaps with scorn and contempt. A famous artist attended a service in one of the great Cathedrals. The sermon was based upon the Crucifixion, and the preacher dwelt very touchingly on the sufferings of Our Lord during those sad dark hours. The artist was greatly moved and felt that every one in the congregation must have been similarly impressed. But as he lingered in the precincts of the Cathedral he overheard the conversation of the people as they came out. They spoke of dances, whist drives and dinner parties; not a word about the suffering Saviour. The thought flashed into his soul: He is still "the despised and rejected of men." He painted a great picture with those words as its title:—

"HE WAS DESPISED AND REJECTED OF MEN."

We are invited to accept this rejected One as our Lord and Master, to crown Him King in our hearts, to enlist among His followers. He is the only One worthy of our faith and confidence. A life lived for Christ is the only life truly worth living.

A Christian man, who had preached the gospel faithfully and earnestly for many years in the towns

THE FAITHFUL SIX HUNDRED.

and villages of the North of England, lay dying. A visitor asked: "Have you any message to send to those who have so often listened to your voice?" "Tell them," was the reply, "that there is none like Christ to live for and labour for on earth, none like Christ for a dying bed, and He is all I want for eternity."

What a glorious testimony! May we follow his noble example and prove for ourselves the joy that is to be found in following Christ wholly.

WHO WERE THE SIX HUNDRED?

We might have thought that David would have searched the land of Israel for men of the finest physique and strongest muscle whom he might band together in his warrior troop. But thinking thus we should have been far from the truth. For the historian tells us that David made his camp at the Cave of Adullam, and all that were **distressed**, and all that were **in debt**, and all that were **discontented**, came to him and he became their leader (1 Samuel xxii. 2).

What an ill-assorted crowd! What unlikely material! Yet David received them, and out of such unpromising material he built up his brave warrior band. It does not need much discernment to see in this incident

A TYPE OF OUR GLORIOUS SAVIOUR.

HE welcomes all that are **DISTRESSED**. Listen to His gracious call: "Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew xi. 28). We heard that invitation and proved Him to be true to His Word. We can joyfully sing: —

"I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
And He has made me glad."

THE FAITHFUL SIX HUNDRED.

HE welcomes also all that are **IN DEBT**. We had run up that terrible toll of sin, and whether five hundred pence or fifty pence debtors, we had "nothing to pay" (Luke vii. 42). Then he frankly and fully forgave. But none can fathom the depths of woe He endured on Calvary when He paid our debt; when He "bare our sins in His own body on the tree" (1 Peter ii. 24).

"Nothing to pay; yes, nothing to pay!
Jesus has cleared all the debt away,
Blotted it out with His pierced hand!
Free and forgiven and loved we stand."

And **HE** welcomes also the **DISCONTENTED**, and changes their discontent into a glorious **SATISFACTION**. When we had learnt the folly of living merely for our own amusement; when our hearts craved for peace, joy, satisfaction, that nothing in this world could give, then He revealed Himself to us as the One that could "fill and satisfy the heart."

Having been so richly blessed, the call comes to us to take up the Cross and follow Him. Dare we turn a deaf ear? Can we refuse Him? Have we responded to His call? Have we realised that He is entitled to our whole-hearted allegiance and loyal service? May the prayer of each heart be

"Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord,
By the power of love divine."

A BREAK IN THE RANKS.

The gallant six hundred continue their forced march till they reach the banks of the brook Bezor, a rushing mountain torrent pursuing its wild course through deep and rugged defiles, and two hundred of the band are so exhausted that they are quite unable to cross this formidable barrier. Thus there is a break in the ranks, a division in this brave little army. But it is not a division in heart or devotedness. The division arises simply from a difference in ability. And though two hundred of the company cannot continue the arduous pursuit after the

THE FAITHFUL SIX HUNDRED.

enemy, the leader has work for them to do. In effect he says, "Make a camp on this side of the brook, and we will leave all our baggage, provisions, and implements of war under your care and travel as lightly as possible, so as to make the greatest possible speed in our pursuit of the enemy. When we have rescued our wives and children, you will have everything in readiness to tend and care for them. Guard the camp well, for there are marauding desert bands ready to swoop down upon you."

This story illustrates the grand truth that in Christ's great army there is **WORK FOR ALL**, not only for the highly-gifted but for those of little ability. The Divine Motto is:—

"TO EVERY MAN HIS WORK" (Mark xiii. 34).

There is a danger of making too much of the gifted evangelist and forgetting the importance of the labour of the rank and file. I recently visited a hosiery dyeing factory. First of all I was shown the place where the goods came in from the manufacturers, and were immediately passed on to a number of young girls, from fourteen to sixteen years of age, called **TACKERS**. Their work was to mark each manufacturer's goods with a thread of a particular colour, so that they might be identified when the dyeing process was completed. Then I was taken through the various dyeing shops, the trimming shop and the mending rooms, and finally to the power house, with its beautifully kept engines, the symbols of silent power. Surely this, I thought, is the most important spot of all. This is the hub of the whole concern. If the power house fails, the working of the whole factory is thrown out of gear. But as I walked away, my mind went back to those youthful Tackers. Supposing they were to say: "Our work is so trivial, we do nothing important like the Dyers, the Trimmers, or the Engineers, it will not matter if we let our little job remain undone." What would be the result? The

THE FAITHFUL SIX HUNDRED.

whole factory would be thrown into confusion because the Tackers had neglected their work.. True, the goods are dyed, but no one knows to whom they are to be sent. For the smooth and successful working of the factory the work of the Tackers is as important as that of the skilled workmen. And, let us emphasise the fact, the work of the Sunday School Teacher, the District Visitor, the Door-keeper of the Gospel Hall, etc., is as important as that of the Evangelist on the platform. Let us not forget that it was not the man with five talents, nor the man with two talents, but it was the man with **one talent only** who failed to use his gift and was so justly condemned (see Matthew xxv. 24).

There are three classes of workers who specially need a word of encouragement, and this little paper will not have been written in vain if it prove to be a message of good cheer to some discouraged child of God.

First, there is the young Christian

WHO HAS NOT FOUND HIS JOB.

He has heard the call, he realises the claims of his Lord and Master, and longs to answer to those claims and prove his fidelity, but he does not know what his life work is to be. It is interesting to call to mind that one of England's greatest sons—**JOHN MILTON**—was once in just that position. At the age of twenty-three, he had passed through the University with great distinction, and his friends reproached him for not getting to work. He wrote a beautiful sonnet describing his feelings at this critical moment in which the following lines occur:

**“My hasting days fly on with full career,
But my late spring no bud or blossom show’th.”**

Yet he became a valiant champion of liberty against tyranny and oppression.

Go to your Lord and Master, dear reader, with that earnest petition of the great Apostle: **“LORD,**

THE FAITHFUL SIX HUNDRED.

WHAT WILT THOU HAVE ME TO DO?" (Acts ix 6). While waiting for the answer, give yourself to the prayerful study of the Word of God, and of other useful and instructive books. Remember that all true knowledge can be turned to account by a zealous and original Christian worker. At the same time "lend a hand" to any of your fellow-workers whenever the opportunity occurs, however insignificant the work may appear to be. It may be that some simple, unimportant act of service may prove to be the avenue to your life-work. Sometimes a large field is entered through a small gateway.

Secondly, there is the preacher

WHO HAS LOST HIS POWER.

It is impossible even to enumerate the many causes of this, so may we simply quote the following incident. A young preacher went to a godly man, who was Principal of a College in a Midland city, complaining that he had lost his power. The Principal made answer: "When you stand up to preach, remember **THAT THE PEOPLE IN FRONT OF YOU WANT CHRIST, AND THAT CHRIST BEHIND YOU WANTS THE PEOPLE**, then you will preach with power." Grand and noble words! One would gladly see them inscribed in letters of gold in every place where the gospel is proclaimed. If our hearts are possessed by the great need of the people and the passionate longing of the heart of Christ, surely there will be a great revival in our gospel services.

Thirdly, there is the faithful servant who has served his Master well, but, while still in his prime, he has been

SIDE-TRACKED, THROWN OUT OF WORK.

This may be caused by adversity in family or business life, by breakdown in health, or by disorder in the House of God. But, whatever the cause, the

position is unutterably painful. This experience also is to be found in the life of that great Englishman we have already quoted. At the age of forty-four, in the midst of his vigorous career, he was smitten with total blindness. It seemed to him that no more work was possible, and he wrote this sorrowful complaint: **“That one talent which is death to hide, lodged with me useless.”** Yet during that deep exercise of heart, he learnt wonderful lessons:—

“God doth not need
Either man’s work or his own gifts. Who best
Bear His mild yoke, they serve Him best. His state
Is kingly; thousands at His bidding speed,
And post o’er land and ocean without rest;
**THEY ALSO SERVE WHO ONLY STAND AND
WAIT.”**

The man who learnt that God could carry on His work without him, the man who learnt that he was doing God’s will by simply standing still, afterwards achieved a work (“Paradise Lost”) which will make his name famous as long as the English language continues.

O! Brother, true-hearted though discouraged, **“Be of good cheer.”** The stone that blocks the outflow of those messages of life and love which it was once your joy to proclaim, will be rolled away, and this period of enforced inaction will pave the way for far more fruitful and effective service in the future. **“HOPE THOU IN GOD”** (Psalm xlii. 11).

A PICTURE OF PERSONAL EVANGELISM.

During the halt made at the brook Bezor some of David’s followers have been scouring the country, probably with the view of finding traces of the enemy whom they were pursuing, and they discover a poor fellow at the point of death. Were they to act in accordance with the barbarous age in which they lived they would leave him to languish out his miserable existence, or hasten his death with a

THE FAITHFUL SIX HUNDRED.

thrust of a spear; but they have learned their leader's heart, and therefore pick up the exhausted man and bring him to David, who displays the utmost kindness towards him, and when the youth regains consciousness and strength he tells his story. Strange to say, he belonged to that very band which had burned David's city and carried off all the women and children. On the return journey he fell ill, and his master (for he was but a slave) left him in the wilderness to die. Forsaken by his old master, he gladly enlists under the banner of his new master, who has lavished such goodness and consideration upon him. What a fine picture of the grace of God. It is related that on one occasion, that prince of preachers, George Whitefield, filled with the enthusiasm of his evangelistic fervour, shouted,

"GOD WILL RECEIVE EVEN THE DEVIL'S CASTAWAYS!"

After the sermon, some Christian ladies remonstrated with him on the extravagance of such language, but the argument was interrupted by a servant who announced that a person, who would take no denial, wished to speak to Mr. Whitefield. On descending to the hall he found a poor woman, evidently one of the lowest, awaiting him, and before he had time to speak, she exclaimed, "Oh, sir, is it true, what you have said to-night, that God will receive the Devil's Castaways? **I AM ONE OF THEM!"**

There was joy in that house that night, in which the good ladies heartily shared; but better still there was joy in the presence of the angels of God over one more lost wanderer gathered into God's House of joy and blessing (Luke xv. 10).

All around us there are needy, weary, despairing hearts, lost ones for whom Christ died. Do not let us slavishly follow the line of service laid down by others, but let us exercise a holy originality in this service of love. As we pray that prayer which

THE FAITHFUL SIX HUNDRED.

forms the starting point of every true life of service: **"LORD** what wilt **THOU** have me to do" (Acts ix. '6); let us be on the alert for the slightest indication of His will, and be prompt to obey. There are the sick folk of our hospitals and asylums, there are the slums and lodging houses, there are the scattered villages and hamlets, there are the little children; a big field indeed awaits the faithful sower of the Gospel Seed!

A DECISIVE VICTORY.

David and his four hundred men, guided by the new recruit, press on their way and before long overtake the enemy, on whom they inflict signal defeat, and recover their wives and children who had been carried away captive, together with all their goods as well as great plunder. One would not press the illustration too far, yet it is impossible to read of this great host, absolutely free from care, "spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking and dancing," without being reminded of the solemn words of the Apostle, writing of the last days, "When they shall say, Peace and safety: then sudden destruction cometh upon them, . . . and they shall not escape" (1 Thessalonians v. 3).

But we are more concerned with what follows. There was a reward for everyone who had faithfully served King David, and in accordance with his decree, those who had served him in a quiet inconspicuous way, "by guarding the stuff" at the brook Bezor, shared equally with those who went forward to the battle.

There is a Prize Day coming for the servants of the Heavenly King, but before the Prize Day there is to be a very searching experience, to which we shall do well to take heed. There is to be

A GREAT EXAMINATION DAY.

"We shall all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ." "Everyone of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans xiv. 10. 12).

THE FAITHFUL SIX HUNDRED.

(1). All the secret motives of our hearts will be laid bare before Him at that day. Actions 'mis-judged to-day, will be rightly appreciated by Him then.

A young Christian was preparing to go to her weekly "Christian Endeavour" class. She was very keen about this class, especially as she had been unable to attend the previous week; but just as she was about to set out she noticed that her mother, who was doing some ironing, looked very tired. A conflict took place in the daughter's mind: Which had the prior claim—her loved class or her dear mother's need? She gave up her class and stayed at home to finish the work for her mother. At the class they said: "Mary is absent again, it seems that she is losing interest." Yes, that was what they said at the class; but what did **HE** say up yonder? At the great Examination Day, Mary will hear what her Lord thought about that act of self-denial.

"Deeds of merit, as we thought them,
He will show us were but sin;
Little acts we had forgotten,
He will tell us were **FOR HIM.**"

(2). The character and quality of our work will be revealed. If we build "wood, hay, stubble," it may appear very beautiful and magnificent in the eyes of men, but it will not stand the test of that Day. But if we build "gold, silver, precious stones," our work shall abide and we shall receive a reward (1 Corinthians iii, 12).

How important it is then that the **LOVE OF CHRIST** should be the supreme motive of our service, and the pure, unadulterated **WORD OF GOD** the substance of all our ministry.

(3). All the perplexing and mysterious disappointments and trials of life will then be made plain, and we shall understand how God has acted in perfect love in allowing those things to happen which

THE FAITHFUL SIX HUNDRED.

seemed to us to be so unnecessary and to be such hindrances to our life and service.

(4). Most wonderful of all, we shall know what it has cost our blessed Saviour not only to redeem our souls from the penalty of sin, but to keep and guard and bring us safely Home.

Following the Examination Day comes

THE GLORIOUS PRIZE DAY.

Who can conceive the joy that will fill the heart of the Christian when he kneels in the presence of the Radiant Glory that shines from the Face of Him who is Lord of Lords, and hears from His lips those gracious words: **"WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,** thou hast been faithful over a few things. . . enter thou into the JOY OF THY LORD" (Matthew xxv. 21)?

"THEN SHALL EVERY MAN HAVE PRAISE OF GOD" (1 Corinthians iv. 5). This suggests that there will be something in the life of every Christian that will receive His approval. Those who have served in secret, unknown of men, and those who have laboured fervently in prayer will receive public recognition from their Lord and Master.

A crown of laurel leaves was the most coveted prize of the Greek athlete. Having no intrinsic value, yet it represented the national reward for the highest achievement. This is taken up as an illustration by the inspired writers, and three crowns are promised by our Lord and Master at that great day.

A CROWN OF LIFE for those that **LOVE HIM.** (James i. 12).

A CROWN OF GLORY for those that **LOVE HIS SHEEP.** (1 Peter v. 2-4).

A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS for those that **LOVE HIS APPEARING.** (2 Timothy iv. 8).

But when we behold Him we shall cast our crowns at His Feet and acclaim that He alone is worthy.

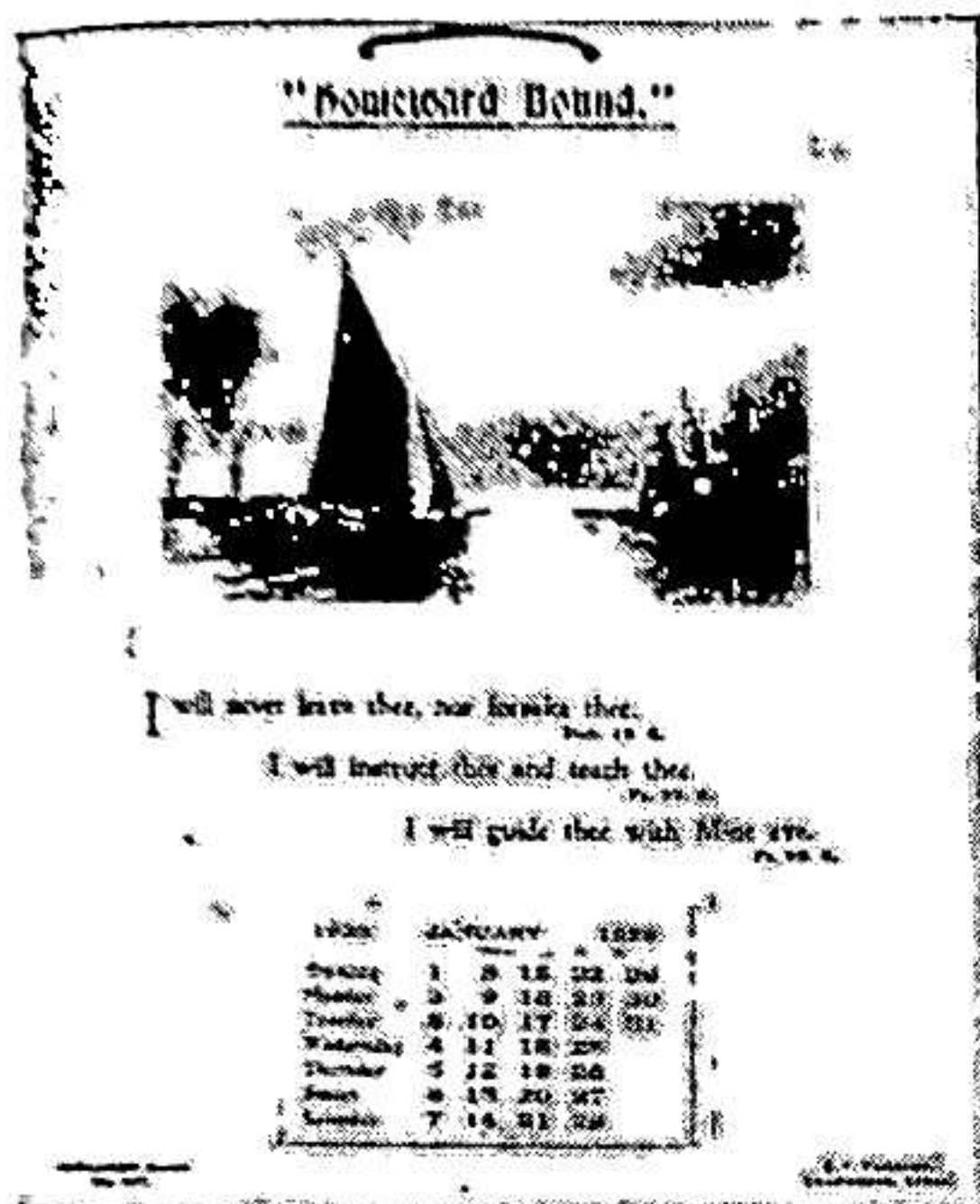
SIDNEY H. PUGH.

MONTHLY PAD CALENDARS.

"HOMEWARD BOUND "

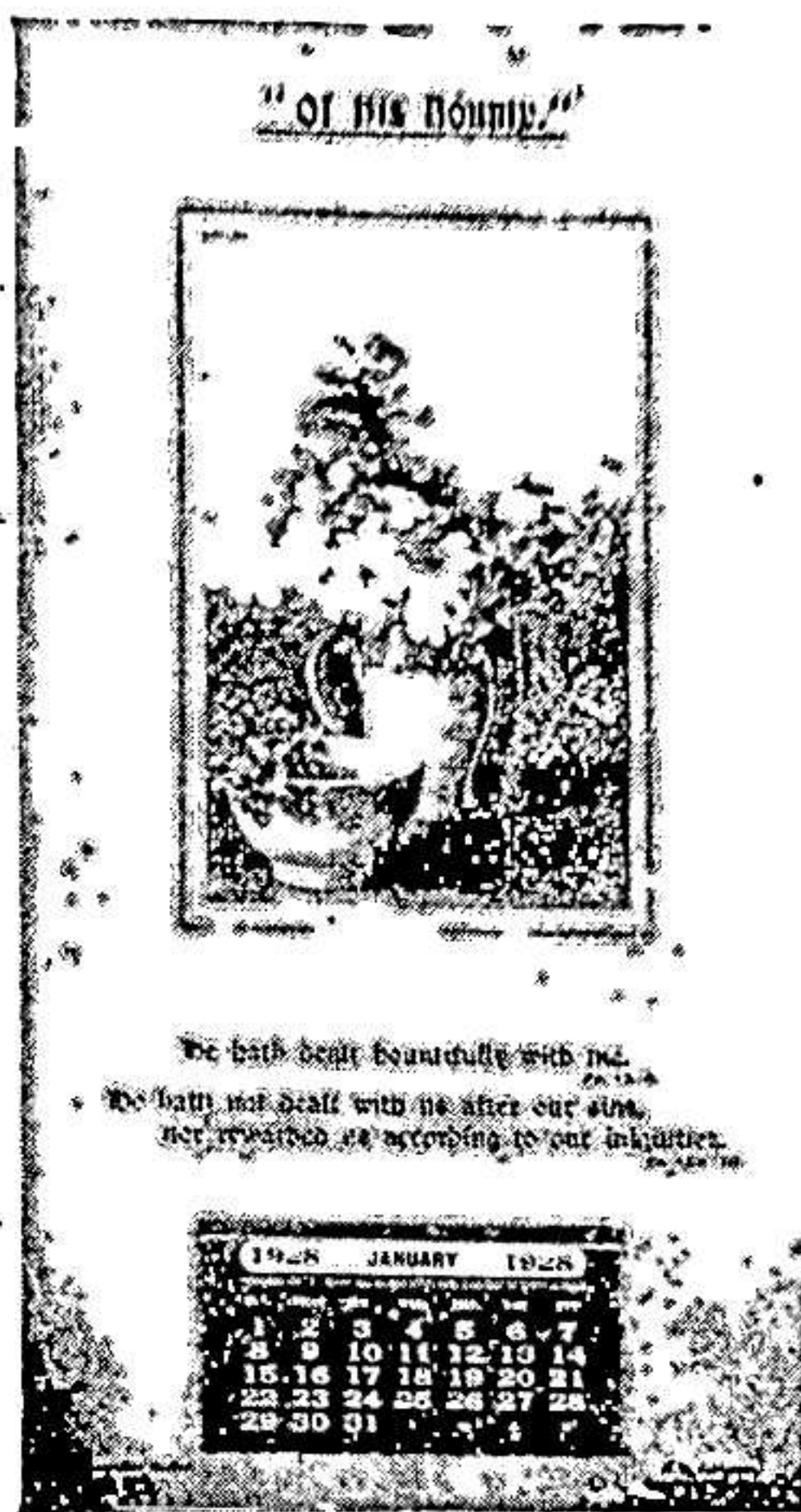
(Ship Picture).

"OF HIS BOUNTY "



No. 901.

Size 10" x 8".



No. 902.

Size 13½" x 7"

Two Stiff Board Monthly Pad Calendars with suitable Christian Verses.

Each in Separate Envelope.

NINEPENCE EACH.

Post Paid Prices—1 Copy 11d. 3 Copies 2/6. 6 Copies 4/9. 12 Copies 9/-

"UNTIL

THE DAYBREAK "

No. 241M. One Shilling.

Monthly Pad Calendar on Stiff Board back with beautifully Coloured Bowl of Flowers.

Text as Illustrated.

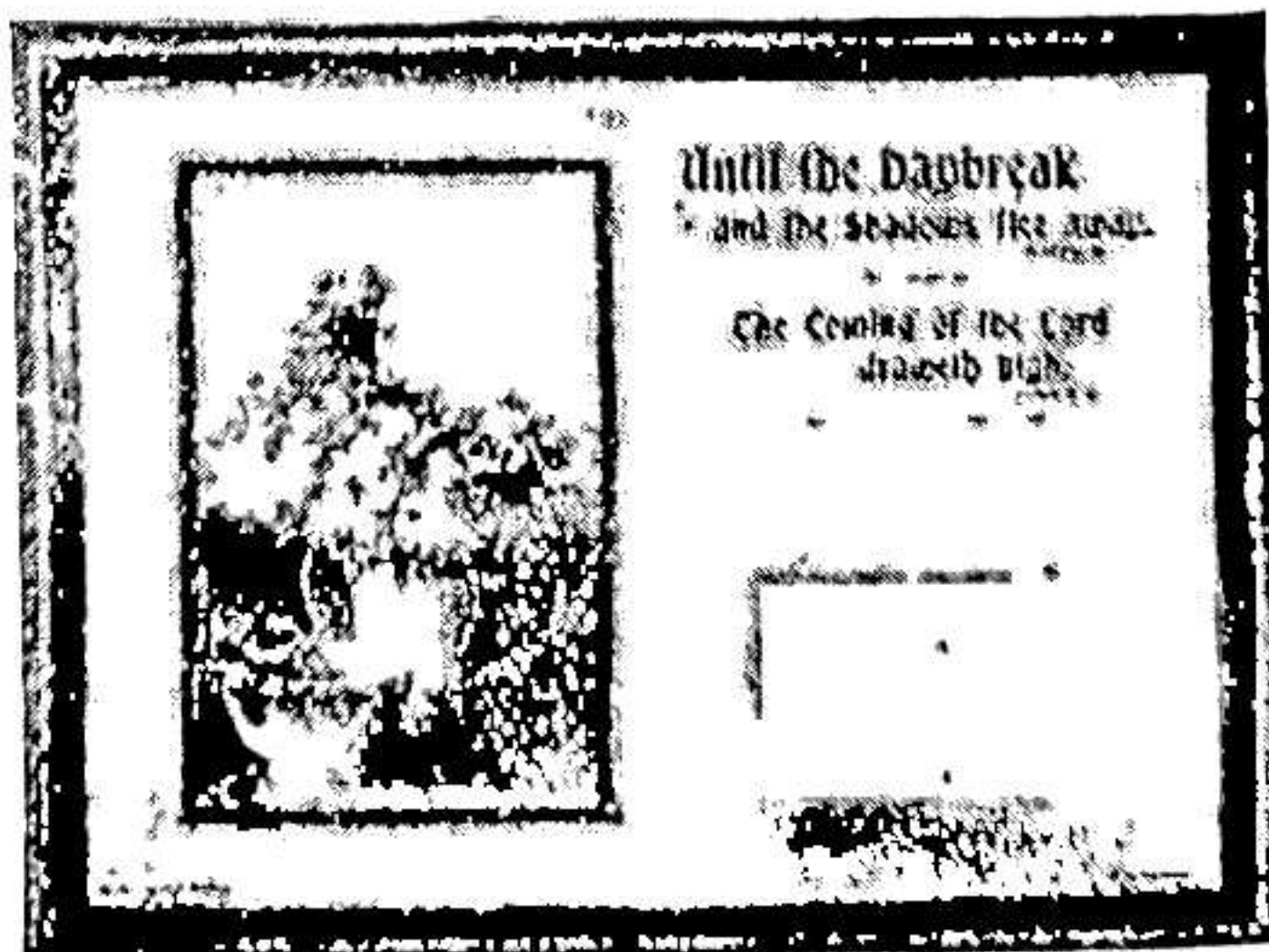
Complete with Envelope

ONE SHILLING.

Size 12" x 9".

Post Paid Prices—6 copies

6/-. 12 copies 11/6.



WRITE FOR LIST OF SUNDAY SCHOOL PRIZES.

G. F. VALLANCE, Publisher of Christian Literature, GOODMAYES, Essex.

GOSPEL VOLUMES for BOYS and GIRLS.

EIGHT TITLES.

9d. SERIES.

For Elder Scholars. Nett.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Richard Cameron | 7d. |
| Saved | 7d. |
| A. Disappointed Woman | 9d. |
| Nothing like the Old Gos- pel | 9d. |

Postage 1d. Per Copy.
12 Volumes Post Free.

For Younger Scholars. Nett

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| A Wise Donkey | 7d. |
| The Life Line | 7d. |
| Off to the Seaside | 9d. |
| The King's Highway ... | 9d. |

Postage 1d. Per Copy.
12 Volumes Post Free.



72 Pages. 27 Illustrations

Both of these series contain excellent Gospel Stories for the young. The 7d. Series have 48 pages and the 9d. have 72 pages. Each book is bound in Stiff Board Cover and attractively produced in Imitation Leather covering. Thousands have been sold.

AMBASSADOR SERIES.

9d. Nett. 72 Pages.

NINEPENNY REWARDS. Size 7" x 5".

An entirely new Series of Rewards, 72 pages
big bulk Books. Stiff Bound Covers. Every
volume contains Scriptural Teaching.

Four Titles.

GOD CARES, or the Children's Faith.

DADDY'S LEGACY.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

GIFT OF A CARPET, and what came of it.

Ninepence Each.

Tenpence—Post Paid.

One each of the Four Titles—3/6 post paid.

12 Copies Assorted 9/-. 50 Copies Assorted 35/-.
Special prices for quantities.



G. F. VALLANCE, Publisher of Christian Literature, GOODMAYES, Essex.