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generally acknowledged. What we need to remember is that the United States could never fulfill this prophecy unless there were to occur an important change in the balance of its religious life. Obviously an overwhelmingly Protestant America would never require anyone to pay special respect to the papal power. Only an America which had come in large measure under the control of the Catholic section of its population could act in this fashion.

Fifty years ago anyone suggesting that such an eventuality might occur would have been deemed mentally unsound or seriously disloyal. But what shall be said today, with more than one fifth of the population Catholic, and the hierarchy in virtual control of the press, the movies, the radio, and reaching for a strangle hold even on American education itself?

If anyone doubts the present power of Catholicism in America, let him read Paul Blanshard's *American Freedom and Catholic Power*.

"There is no doubt," says this author, "that the American Catholic hierarchy has entered the political arena, and that it is becoming more and more aggressive in extending the frontiers of Catholic authority into the fields of medicine, education and foreign policy. It tells Catholic doctors, nurses, judges, teachers and legislators what they can and cannot do in many of the controversial phases of their professional conduct. It uses the political power of some twenty-six million official American Catholics to bring American foreign policy into line with Vatican temporal interests." [35]

We are all acquainted with the efforts of the hierarchy to persuade the President of the United States to appoint an official ambassador to the Vatican. If this should ever happen, and if such an appointment should ever be approved by the Senate, it would be one of the most disastrous events in American history. It would mean that this country, for the first time, would have a preferred church in its midst, with access to the President, the State Department, and Government secrets denied to all other religious bodies. It would mean that a papal nuncio would be the dean of all ambassadors in Washington, working incessantly to bring United States politics, education, finance, and religion into line with the policies of the Vatican. The very possibility that such a thing might happen presents the greatest threat to religious liberty ever to appear on the horizon of this freedom-loving land, and affords clear proof that the final events that shall fulfill this dramatic prophecy cannot be far distant.

3. Reunion of Protestantism

Says prophecy, "And deceives them that dwell on the earth saying to them that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live." Revelation 13:14.

It was the opinion of our pioneers that this passage had reference to a federation of the leading Protestant churches, which, when clothed with power by the state, would behave in a manner similar to that of the Papacy, and thus form an "image" to the "beast." They saw some slight indications that a reunion of the long-separated Protestant denominations might take place, but at most it was a highly problematical development when Uriah Smith wrote his *Daniel and the Revelation*. But what would these pioneers say today if they could see what we see? A National Council of Churches and a World Council of Churches. True, these bodies wield no special authority as yet. They would, at the moment, vehemently deny any aspirations to power, or any desire to persecute. Their leaders are for the most part men of vision and high principle, who seek only the good of Christendom. But these men will not always be in the positions of leadership. The organizations which they have so diligently formed could easily fall into less honorable hands. Someday, according to the prophecy, these organizations will link up with the "beast" in the final persecution of the true children of God.

Thus the reunion of the churches has become another of the great signs of our times, affording still further evidence that the long-predicted events of the last days are right upon us.

4. The Rise of Spiritualism

Says prophecy, "Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." 1 Timothy 4: 1.

We are all aware of the enormous growth of spiritualism since the Rochester rapping of 1848, when the strange experiences of the Fox sisters set off the modern revival of this very ancient cult. Fostered by the terrible toll of death in two world wars and the understandable yearning of the bereaved to communicate with their departed loved ones, it has spread with incredible rapidity throughout the world. It boasts many "churches" as well as a "church" literature, and the number of its mediums purporting to link the living with the dead is legion.

What is new in this case is the fact that so many influential people have accepted the basic

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teachings of spiritualism as true. Early this year the long-kept secret of Mackenzie King's advocacy of spiritualism found its way into the press, together with the report that this famous prime minister of Canada actually consulted the spirits on matters of state. As the story unfolded it was revealed that many of his friends, holding responsible positions in England and the United States, were also practicing spiritualists. Startling as this information is, it is only what we might have expected in fulfillment of the words of this prophecy concerning the activities of "seducing spirits" in the "latter times."

In this connection mention should be made of the wide publicity now being given to supposedly supernatural occurrences. With increasing frequency we are told of the appearance of "balls of fire" in the heavens, of the sun turning blue or "dancing in the sky," and of mysterious appearances of the Virgin. It could well be that the mind of man is being conditioned for some great deception. Multitudes of unthinking people, ever ready to believe the miraculous, would be easy prey for some startling, spectacular hoax such as, for instance, the appearance of Satan himself as an angel of light, perhaps even impersonating Christ in one last bold and reckless attempt to lead the human race into rebellion against its Maker.

So late is the hour, and so great the danger from seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils,- we would all do well to make sure our faith is founded, not upon miracles, but solidly and foursquare upon the word of the living God.

5. The Proclamation of the Gospel

Said Jesus: "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Matthew 24:14.

Although it is true that the gospel was given to the Roman world in Paul's day, and to most of Europe in Luther's day, it is only in comparatively recent times that there has been a large-scale, concerted effort to bring about the fulfillment of this prophecy on a global scale.

With the expiration of the time prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, and the beginning of "the time of the end," there came upon history's stage the modern missionary movement Christians of all denominations suddenly became imbued with unexampled zeal to carry the gospel to earth's remotest bounds. Unnumbered heroes of the cross left their homelands to tell the heathen about Jesus. In process of time the Advent people joined in the great crusade, stirred with the conviction that they must carry to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people the tidings of His soon return.

Never in all history has the name of Christ and the message of Christ been made so widely known throughout the world. And never were so many facilities available for God to make a short work upon the earth.

The printing press has made it possible for the Bible to be produced in vast quantities in more than eleven hundred languages. It has multiplied the Word through tracts, periodicals, and books beyond all reckoning. Much of the world has been covered with Christian literature as by the leaves of autumn.

Radio has made it possible for men of God to speak the message of salvation to vast audiences of millions upon millions of people. As the power of broadcasting stations increases, the message is carried ever farther and farther afield, even into the last dark hinterlands of humanity.

Television has made it possible for the living preacher to step, as it were, right into the homes of the people with God's final call of mercy; and as this amazing new channel of communication becomes more and more popular, in more and more countries-as is bound to happen in the immediate future-it will present the church with perhaps the most potent means of finishing its task.

From time to time the question is raised as to whether the work of giving the gospel to the world can ever be finished. Some point to the not entered, or partially entered, fields; others, to the large birth rate in certain non-Christian lands, and the unceasing onward march of new generations. But are not these facts known to God? Was not Jesus aware that these conditions would prevail in the latter days when He tittered His great prophecy? And have we not been told that God has a thousand ways of making known His truth of which we have no knowledge?

We are not among those who believe that the world must be converted before Jesus can return. Nor do we consider it necessary to the fulfillment of His prediction of the universal promulgation of the gospel that churches must be established in every city and village around the globe. All that is called for is the preaching of the gospel "for a witness unto all nations." The name of Jesus must be made known to all people. His offer of salvation must be proclaimed everywhere. And then shall the end come.

With all the marvelous means of communication now available-placed by God in the hands of His church with such wonderful timing-this seemingly insuperable task may well be accomplished sooner than we think.