

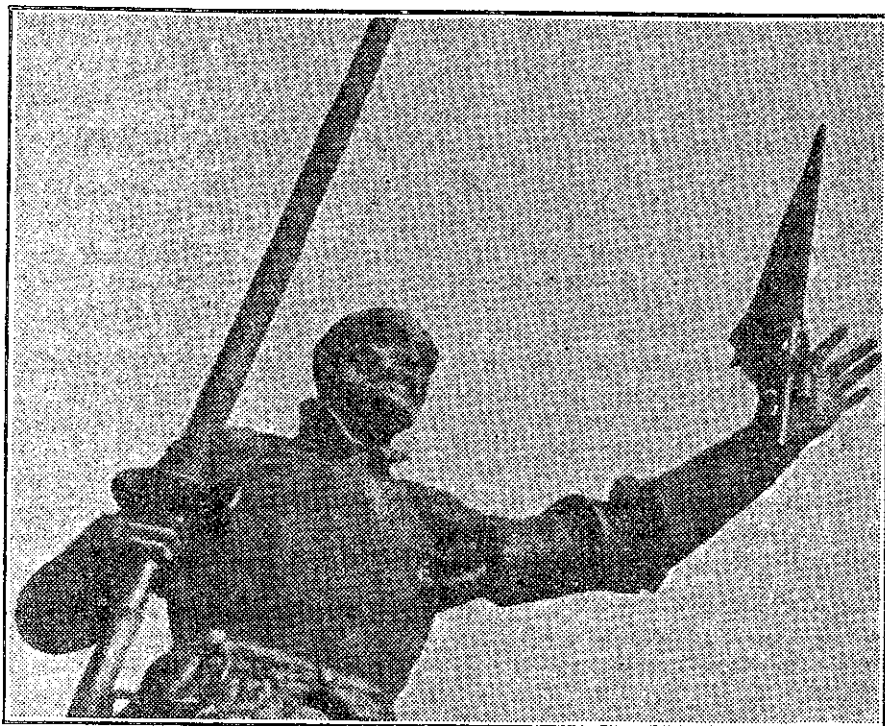
CRUSADE WITHOUT ARMOUR

Radio's Tale of How Men Brought The Bible to The English People

Written For The "Record"

by

"EMILE"



Once Englishmen fought for the Church like this, but William Tyndale had no armour other than his Faith.

A MAN weighing 140 pounds contains enough fat for seven cakes of soap, carbon for 9000 pencils, phosphorus to make 2200 match-heads, magnesium for one dose of salts, iron to make one medium-sized nail, sufficient lime to whitewash a chicken coop, enough sulphur to rid one dog of fleas, and water to fill a 10-gallon barrel.

Thus the scientists.

But, curious creature that he is, man has another quality that even the scientists are unable to measure up in test-tubes or translate into terms of soap and match-heads. It has never yet been weighed, and never yet been put under the microscope.

It goes by the name of the spirit.

LAST week I had a radio preview of a play, "Thy Light Is Come," acted, produced and recorded by the NBS, which tells a true story of spiritual achievement as vividly as any drama and as excitingly as any thriller.

Religion, unhappily, has suffered from its namby-pambies. It has so often been the refuge of the faint-hearted who find themselves too timid to face the unpleasantness and cruelties of an existence which is little removed from the tooth-and-claw laws of the jungle, that the great fighters it has produced—its Paul's, Savonarola's, Luther's, Wesley's and General Booth's—have too often been forgotten.

And it would be a poor man who, believer or unbeliever, could not pay homage in his heart to these fighters who fought, not for themselves, but for the common people.

"THY Light Is Come" is radio's tale of the life of William Tyndale, the English scholar who defied the might of Henry the Eighth and the English Bishops, to give the common people the Bible in their Mother English instead of the Latin that was known only to priests and scholars. He was burned at the stake in the end—but he won. To-day the

English Bible is the world's best seller.

The play will be released from 2YA at 9.30 p.m. on Good Friday, April 15. Later, it will be given at the other national stations.

AS I heard it, the play is all good bone and gristle, a model of construction. No words are wasted and no character is brought into the play unless he has a definite task in helping to work out the quick-moving plot. It is spare, trim and economical.

For a good radio play these days is like an athlete. It must be trained down as fine as it will go, and be able to sprint like a hare.

WHEN the play opens, Tyndale, aged 28 in the year 1512, is a student at Magdalen Hall, Oxford. He is the finest Latinist and Greek man in the schools. Into his room comes hearty Barnaby,

who came to Oxford because the wenches were prettier and the ale was stronger. They talk for a moment, Barnaby frank and hearty, Tyndale with the scholar's shrinking and withdrawal from this loud man who seems to want his friendship.

When Barnaby goes out, Tyndale is left wondering which of them is the more foolish: Barnaby, the dullard who lives only for the moment, or himself, the dullard who lives always in the chronicles of the past. What is the use to him of his Latin and Greek?

THE entrance of the next character, an English mason, gives Tyndale the answer. The mason, come to do repairs to the hall, has lost his way and wandered into Tyndale's room. They talk for a moment, the mason with awe of the scholar's learning of Latin and Greek. The dialogue leads on with artful simplicity (Continued on page 38.)

TO-DAY the English Bible is the world's best seller, but four hundred years ago men gave their lives so that their fellow-Englishmen might read it. "Thy Light Is Come," the Easter radio play of the N.B.S., is the thrilling story of this crusade without armour.