

BRITISH ADVENT MESSIENGER

Organ of the Seventh-Day
Adventist Church in
Britain.

Editorial Offices: The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts.

Vol. 46. No. 1

January 3, 1941

A Message to the Churches

FROM THE NORTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION WINTER COUNCIL

*To our Brethren in all the fields of
the Northern European Division
of the General Conference:*

Dear Brethren in Christ,

OUR Winter Council in its reduced representation again illustrates the perils and perplexities that have in these last days fallen upon the church. Since we last met in Winter Council further blows have been inflicted upon us as a Division. Could we have foreseen the present situation, as it affects ourselves, we might well have been afraid. Yet, like Paul, we can say: "Having obtained help of God, we continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come."

We need not spend words, brethren, in trying to prove to you that the end of all things is at hand. In the ruins of some of your churches, in the spreading horrors of modern war, in the distress that has come upon homeless multitudes, you can read the signs of the times. To us their welcome message is that the day of full redemption draws nigh.

You know also what God expects of His people in this very time. Every soul is to become a loyal witness to the present truth; all we possess is to be devoted to the finishing of the Gospel message; sin is to be put out of our churches, our homes, our individual lives.

And you know what we may confidently expect from God in this

closing hour. He will send the Holy Spirit in full measure to make our warfare against sin and our message to the world a complete and splendid triumph. Every angel is dedicated to the same great end that calls on us. Jesus, with all power in heaven and earth, leads His church into and through the final struggle. He has never suffered defeat. Linked with Him, we need not experience it. Following Him wherever He may lead we shall find the flintiest rock yielding rich supplies of oil, and the waste wilderness abounding in manna.

We have but one word for you, brethren. It is the call that comes from our great Leader, stirring our own hearts: "Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward." Forgetting the forgiven sins that have in past days devastated and weakened our churches and ourselves, let us now, unanimously, press on toward the goal. That goal is almost in sight. The harvest of the world is fully ripe. The Lord is at hand. Let us go forward.

Yours in the Blessed Hope,
NORTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION
WINTER COUNCIL.

Cheering On Our Missionary Force

*An inspiring message sent from the
Winter Council to missionaries
overseas.*

Dear Fellow-workers,

YOU are always to the front in the interest and plans of a Winter Council, and we write you once again with the assurance of our unwavering affection and purpose to support you in your service and self-sacrifice.

We are glad that, in spite of the adversities that have come to us in the past year, as a Division, we have been able to send the full appropriations voted to you a year ago, and even to supply you in advance of the usual periods. Whatever further ordeals the Division may be called upon to face, you may rest assured that you will receive first consideration

as we discharge our stewardship.

The home churches have seen afflictions. Their loyalty to the cause of truth is being demonstrated under fiery trials. Proclaiming the Advent message has become in some fields difficult and perilous. You have no desire to escape the common lot and will, we know, study to make the very most of the means we are still able to send you. We trust that by divine help you may succeed in raising the native believers to new levels of spiritual power, and discovering in them untapped supplies of possible co-operation.

We pray earnestly for your health that it may stand the extra strain now imposed upon you.

The home bases face fresh demands and the certainty of greater

burdens. It may be that the strain will continue and intensify; that destruction will grow fiercer and more relentless. God's resources will be available for His people and His cause. Jesus, fasting in the wilderness, yet made more than equal to the most subtle and dangerous assaults of the enemy, is proof that the throne of grace is adequate to our utmost need. We may expect that our faith in that throne will be tested, but the throne will justify the boldest faith.

We are together embarked upon a venture of faith. Up to now our assets have usually been visible. But both you and we may be called upon to do our work on the strength of invisible assets. Our earnest prayer is that in such a case our faith and yours may not fail. That experience, difficult as it may be to flesh and blood, will bring the church's victory to pass and set the Advent people among the apostles and prophets of a great history.

Yours in full dedication,
NORTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION
WINTER COUNCIL.

Sabbath Observance

This timely counsel from the Winter Council of the Northern European Division is strongly recommended to all our members.

WHEREAS, the Sabbath has been given to man as the great sign of God's creatorship, in the keeping of which, by not doing his own work or finding his own pleasure on the holy day, maintaining its spirit and observing it as a day of spiritual rest and refreshing, is signified man's loyalty to God:

We therefore earnestly recommend, a renewed consecration on the part of our workers and people everywhere in the observance of God's holy day:

1. By sacredly guarding the edges of the Sabbath, making full preparation for its opening before the setting of the sun.

2. By welcoming the blessed day with worship around the family altar, and at the setting of the sun, rededicating ourselves and our children to the Lord.

3. By putting aside all secular papers, and refraining from the use of the radio.

4. By refraining from journeys not

in harmony with the proper observance of the Sabbath.

5. By jealously guarding the appointed hours of the Sabbath services, sacredly reserving them for divine worship.

6. By exercising great carefulness in the manner of raising money and dis-

posing of literature during the Sabbath services, by reducing announcements and campaign instructions to the minimum so that the spiritual character of the Sabbath is kept ever before our churches, and by making all specific campaigns contribute to the upbuilding of spiritual life.

Notes from the Union President

IMPORTUNATE PRAYER

UNQUESTIONABLY the greatest problem confronting us just now is that of soul-winning. Our membership is not growing encouragingly. New circumstances have pressed upon us to the extent that it is more difficult to gather crowds of people for our public evangelistic services, and that is naturally very discouraging to our preachers.

There are other methods of winning souls than those adopted by public evangelists, such as house-to-house literature work, Bible studies by lay members, as well as ministers, etc. None of these methods, however, seems to bring very satisfactory results at present. It is useless to argue about the merits of this or that method. The fact remains that no circumstances ever take the Lord unaware and He has a way through present difficulties. Laymen and preachers must seek God for the way through this darkness. We must not allow the reproach of stagnation to fall upon us because the wrath of man imposes difficulties upon God's work. Difficulties were made to be overcome by the grace of God. There is a way by which we may reach the people and win souls for the Lord and it is a case of more earnest, and more importunate prayer.

We should bear before the Lord unceasingly the needs of our laymen and women as they endeavour to give their witness, and also of our preachers as they move in and out among the homes of the people, and as they stand before such congregations as they can now gather to hear the message.

QUESTIONS OF INTEREST

It is evident from the tithe reports that more and more of our members are becoming concerned about the question of faithfulness in tithes and offerings. The seriousness of the times naturally makes us check up on

every detail of our lives and this phase of consecration is therefore much on the minds of many of our people. Some have sent in a number of interesting questions concerning tithe paying and its relation to the intricacies of modern civilized life. We propose taking certain of these questions and dealing with them in a small "Query Corner" in the MESSENGER during the new year. We shall, of course, reserve the right to deal only with questions likely to be of general interest, for we want to help our people in these matters that mean so much to the individual life and to the cause of God.

GENERAL CONFERENCE STATEMENT

IN this issue we present a statement which has been prepared by the General Conference Committee and we are sure it will meet with a ready response in the minds of our people. There is also a statement on the important question of Sabbath-keeping which we commend to the attention of our members everywhere.

H. W. LOWE.

"To show a liberal, self-denying spirit for the success of foreign missions is a sure way to advance home missionary work; for the prosperity of the home work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the evangelical work done in countries afar off. It is in working to supply the necessities of others that we bring our souls into touch with the Source of all power. The Lord has marked every phase of missionary zeal that has been shown by His people in behalf of foreign fields. He designs that in every home, in every church, and at all the centres of the work, a spirit of liberality shall be shown in sending help to foreign fields.—"Gospel Workers," pages 465-466.

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

President: Pastor G. D. King
Office Address: 780 St. Albans Road, Watford
Telephone: Garston (Watford) 2213-4

Joyous Meeting at Norwich

ANOTHER visit from the conference president! It certainly was something to look forward to and a full programme was arranged for him. Friday, December 6th, was the opening meeting of the Week of Prayer and Pastor King led us into a deeper realization of the wonderful prayer life of Jesus. Then after conducting meetings in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft he returned to a busy Sunday afternoon of ministry.

First of all, the large number of members in attendance were filled with joy as Brother H. C. Goldsmith went forward in baptism. It was splendid to think of his family all united in the Advent faith, for his wife and daughter had been baptized earlier in the year, and Barbara aged eleven and John aged eight take a very active part in the Sabbath-school and missionary volunteer meetings. Truly it has been a remarkable manifestation of the Holy Spirit's working to see Brother Goldsmith line up with Bible truths, and discard the errors in a system of belief that is leading many from the Word of God.

We all entered into Brother Humphries' words as he welcomed Brother Goldsmith into church fellowship, and we pray God's blessing on this family united in the belief of our Saviour's near return.

Following on the baptismal service, Pastor King ordained Brother A. Graham to church eldership and Brother H. Stearman to the diaconate. We appreciate the able service already rendered by these brethren and we are confident that the sacred duties to which they have been called will, with the help of God, be faithfully carried out.

The friends present were impressed with Pastor King's address as he spoke of the progress made by the Advent movement and of the courage and faith of our believers during these days of aerial bombardment.

We were pleased to hear that Brother Humphries was to stay another year with us, and pray that his

ministry of the Word will bear still more fruitage to the glory of God and the joy of the Norwich church.

G. ELLIS, *Church Clerk.*

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Swindon C.B.

C.B. is an evangelistic abbreviation for Church Building! We have just opened ours in Swindon.

When we first came to the town a compact little garage attracted our eye. Even then we thought it would make a fine place of worship. The idea was soon put aside when we noticed that a car was kept there and anyway we had a campaign to run. But the months have passed by and a fortnight ago the garage became vacant. It did not remain like that for many days. Not when there are Seventh-Day Adventists about!

While we were renovating, a man came to see us. He said, "This is what you might call a conversion." It was. A new front replaced swinging doors. Panels and paint made a dull interior bright. Heating and lighting added further efficiency. The garage had become a church.

It was appropriate for our first meeting to be a Week of Prayer service. We have been asking the Lord to help us persuade still others to serve Him. The next time you talk to God please pray a blessing for Swindon.

OSMOND ROSIER.

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"A Little Child Shall Lead Them"

AFTER many months we had the privilege of visiting the Great Yarmouth church to conduct the last Sabbath meeting of the Week of Prayer. The blessings of the season of prayer in which many members joined was one we would have journeyed many miles to experience.

I was much impressed by the story told me of one little girl, and pass it on to the MESSENGER readers as an example of the reward of faithfulness. Ruby, during my years as pas-

tor of the church, had been a bright member of the children's Sabbath-school. Evacuated a hundred miles away she took her Sabbath-school lesson book with her and just as religiously as she had previously studied her lesson daily, she did so in her new home. It was a good home for she was "the stranger in the gates" of the rector of a country parish church. As the child studied her lesson, the vicar's wife became interested in the lesson Quarterly, and said, "How lovely they are and what a good idea," and nightly studied with Ruby. The vicar himself was intrigued, and after perusal of the lessons said, "How good they are," and now all three study the lesson together.

What a lovely sight it must be. A little maid, in a strange habitation, and those two good souls (and good souls they are, for they always see that Ruby is taken to Sabbath-school some miles away) sitting together with the open Bible guided by that modest children's Quarterly.

The devil may seek by the terror of aerial warfare to break into fragments the church of God in many places, but no harm will come as boys and girls and older members witness to their faith in places that have not had the Advent message. Truly it will be an early-church experience, as the flock is scattered abroad, preaching the Word in life and word.

H. HUMPHRIES.

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MANY not of our faith are longing for the very help that Christians are in duty bound to give. If God's people would show a genuine interest in their neighbours, many would be reached by the special truths for this time. Nothing will or even can give character to the work like helping people just where they are.—*"Gospel Workers,"* page 436.

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THERE are many who are reading the Scriptures who cannot understand their true import. All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in.—*"Acts of the Apostles,"* page 109.

NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

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Manchester's Literature Witness Rally

It was with eager and joyful hearts that the members of the Manchester, Stretford, and Stockport churches met together in the Parkfield Street church on Sabbath morning, November 16th. A warm welcome was extended to our visitors, Brethren W. L. Emmerson and B. Belton.

Sabbath-school started promptly at 10 a.m. The superintendents of our three Sabbath-schools co-operated with the assistant minister in conducting a model school. Each item was well prepared and well given. The children had their part, too, in their own gathering.

Pastor Emmerson was the speaker in the service which followed. But before he commenced his sermon, the children were again remembered. This time Pastor W. R. A. Madgwick gave a strikingly successful object talk on a simple Gospel theme.

"Watchman, what of the night," was the text that Pastor Emmerson chose for our consideration. He made quite clear the great responsibility which rests upon each one of us as God's heralds of the "New Day." And those who distribute our Gospel literature, he emphasized, are just as surely "watchmen on the walls of Zion" as the ministers who stand in the pulpit.

In the afternoon service Brother Belton addressed us. It was his joyful task to show us that the beliefs of the early pioneers of the Advent movement instead of being out-of-date are now more timely than ever. This news came as a cheerful incentive to circulate these timely truths in the form of the printed page.

Sunday came and with it rain. But that did not deter twelve enthusiastic members from attending the Gospel Sales Class conducted by Brother Belton. The basic principles of Gospel salesmanship were taught and demonstrated, after which in spite of heavy rain, some went out to put into practice what they had learnt. The success they achieved

has encouraged them to continue the work each Sunday.

The three churches united again in the afternoon for the closing service of this enjoyable Literature Witness Rally. For his final address Pastor Emmerson spoke on "Planning Europe's New Order," showing us what divine prophecy has to say concerning the political, economic, and religious aspects of the last earthly "order" of things. Pastor Emmerson presented facts and quotations which proved how thrillingly God's Word is being fulfilled.

How solemn were our hearts when we thought of the nearness of the end and of the need for us to herald the "new order" soon to be established by Jesus Christ at His second coming. By voice, pen, and printed page a great warning work is to be done. We went away feeling con-

vinced that the last method is by no means the slowest nor the least efficient.
S. H. PARKIN.

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Week of Prayer in Hull

For so the whole round earth in every way,
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God,
—Tennyson.

PERHAPS never before has prayer bound the church more securely to the throne of God than it did in this annual intercessory week. Like a vast chain, praying bands encircled the globe and flooded the temple above with the fragrant incense of their supplication. Forgotten were the angry clamours of war, the clang of steel on steel, the drone of death-laden bombers, and the sullen rumbling of the guns.

"The voice of Jesus whispers peace within," and day by day almost thirty Advent believers here in Hull found that voice of Jesus with its inward peace. In all, the week's services claimed an attendance of over 500. What mighty power has been called down! May it work Pentecostal wonders in these last days.

L. MURDOCH.

At Rest

CHAPMAN.—The Cambridge church has to mourn the loss of another member, Sister Chapman, who passed away on December 6, 1940, at the Old Chesterton Infirmary, where she had been for three weeks. The funeral service was conducted by Brother E. Cox on December 11th at the Mill Road Cemetery. A goodly number of church-members and other friends attending. Sister Chapman had been a member of the Cambridge church about seventeen years. She accepted the message through attending meetings held by Pastor Prescott and studies given by Mrs. Casey, his Bible-worker. She was a willing worker in Harvest Ingathering and any extra work such as billing, etc., sometimes working beyond her strength. We shall miss her cheery smile, but we rejoice to know she is free from all pain, awaiting the call of the Life-giver. A. M. REDHOUSE, Church Clerk.

TURNBULL.—Sister A. Turnbull, of the Aberdeen church, passed away after a brief illness, and was laid to rest in Springbank Cemetery, Aberdeen, on Wednesday, November 27, 1940. She accepted the truth last year under the labours of the writer, and although she was somewhat afflicted was faithful in attending the services. Sister Turnbull was of a quiet, meek disposition, and is greatly missed, but we "sorrow not as others which have no hope." We look forward in glad anticipation to the day of reunion when the Life-giver will come to claim His own. D. MORRISON.

HILLIER.—We regret to announce that Sister J. A. Hillier passed away on November 4, 1940. She was interred at Redlynch, Pastor G. R. Bell conducting the service. Our late sister gave her heart to the Lord at an early age and connected with the Primitive Methodist Church. In her old age she received Bible studies from her niece, Miss Sawyer, and finally accepted the message under Pastor O. M. Dor-

land and Brother and Sister L. A. Watson, joining the Salisbury company in September, 1933. On December 12th in that year her companion fell asleep in Jesus. She now leaves to mourn her passing her three daughters—Sister Dyer and two others—and her niece, Miss Sawyer. But they mourn not as those who have no hope. H. G. BUCKLE.

MORRIS.—Sister Edith Mary Morris, aged seventy-four, fell asleep in Jesus on December 6, 1940. It was a sad loss to the Gillingham church because Granny, as she was known to all, had such a cheerful countenance that won the hearts of all, both young and old. Our dear sister accepted the light of the Advent message seven years ago through the faithful distribution of *Present Truth* by our Sister M. Bolton. We know she has fought a good fight and finished her course, and there is laid up for her a crown of life. Our sister was laid to rest in Gillingham Cemetery and now awaits the call of the Life-giver. Our sympathy and prayers go out to her sons and daughters who know we sorrow not as those that have no hope. P. MCGOLDRICK, Church Clerk.

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ASLEEP in Jesus! Blessed sleep,
From which none ever wake to weep;
A calm and undisturbed repose,
Unbroken by the last of foes.

Asleep in Jesus! Peaceful rest,
Whose waking is supremely blest;
No fear, no woe, shall dim that hour
That manifests the Saviour's power.

Asleep in Jesus! Soon to rise
When the last trump shall rend the skies;
When burst the fetters of the tomb,
And wake in full, immortal bloom.
—Margaret Mackay.

JUST WHAT YOU HAVE
BEEN ASKING
FOR!

Can we Know what is Coming?

THE VOICE OF PROPHECY IN THE PRESENT CRISIS

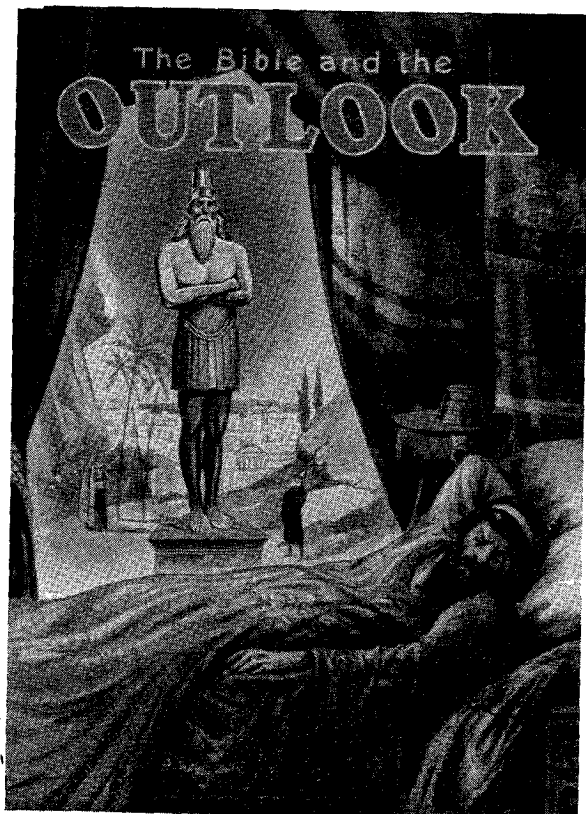
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THE STANBOROUGH PRESS LTD., WATFORD, HERTS.

Arise, O Church, and Finish Thy Task!

GOD has committed to the heralds of the third angel's message the stupendous task of giving heaven's final message to man—a message presenting His last overtures of mercy to a world in revolt, a message that will decide the eternal destiny of each individual on earth. The climax of human history to which the church has long looked is manifestly here, when amid scenes of earthly turmoil and trouble, blended with celestial power and glory, such as the world has never before seen, the message is to close triumphantly.

The hour has come for the sounding forth of the loud cry of the third angel, when divine power is to be united with consecrated human effort. As opposition to the claims of the message reaches its climax, the truth is to become the centre of world attention and decision, and will be heralded to all men everywhere.

Time's hour is late. The days of trouble, long foretold, are upon us. Probation soon will close. The world is in a state of unprecedented upheaval. The conflict of the nations spreads throughout the earth. The old order is passing. What we have failed to do in times of comparative peace and prosperity, must now be done under the most forbidding conditions.

We have been ninety-six years in the time of the third angel's message. Truly the hour has come to arise and finish the work. We must read aright the lesson of those lands where to-day public evangelism is seriously hindered. We must press into those doors of opportunity that are still open, ere they close and the opportunity be for ever past.

The sands of time are sinking. Probation's hour is fast closing. What we do must be done quickly. We must therefore catch a new vision of God's expectation of us, and of our duty to Him. We must understand His divine provision for this momentous hour. We must pray for the latter rain in this time of the latter rain. We must enlarge our plans, and proceed with our God-given task with increased rapidity.

The time has come to put away all

lethargy and self-complacency. We must address ourselves to the supreme goal of finishing our task. We must pray for a revival of true godliness in our own hearts.

Public evangelism must now be pressed to the fullest degree possible. Men of God's appointment, with special evangelistic endowments, must enter the great cities, sounding forth the last message of mercy. We must capitalize present public interest and concern in current and impending events to proclaim the coming of Jesus.

We must enter the unentered areas—the cities, towns, and country places—where as yet there are no representatives of the church. We must assign more workers for continuous public evangelism in our conferences and missions. We must train more young men for evangelistic ministry, holding them unswervingly to evangelistic endeavour.

Every available resource should be drafted and employed to accomplish this great objective. Every worker should make soul-winning the supreme purpose of all his efforts. National and indigenous workers should be developed speedily and given increased responsibility. The world should be sown with the literature of the message. The consecrated efforts of our laity and church officers should be added with increasing effectiveness to those of our ministers in one vast, unceasing endeavour quickly to finish our task. The latent talents of our great army of youth should be enlisted, trained, and led into this greater evangelism movement. The spirit of sacrifice and service in soul-winning must become our supreme passion. Emergency times demand emergency plans and action.

We, assembled in our 1940 Winter Council earnestly appeal to our entire church and ministry in the Division to join in prayer and devoted consecration to God that the divine energy of the Holy Spirit may characterize our lives and service. We earnestly summon the remnant church to evangelistic action in harmony with the clear mandate of God

for the times. Arise, O church, and finish thy commissioned task!

NORTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION,
WINTER COUNCIL.

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UNMISTAKABLE evidences point to the nearness of the end. The way must be prepared for the coming of the Prince of peace. Let not our churchmembers complain because they are so often called upon to give. What is it that makes the frequent calls a necessity? Is it not the rapid increase of missionary enterprises? Shall we, by refusing to give, retard the growth of these enterprises? Shall we forget that we are labourers together with God? From every church, *prayers should ascend to God for an increase of devotion and liberality*. My brethren and sisters, do not plead for retrenchment in evangelical work. So long as there are souls to save, our interest in the work of soul-saving is to know no abating. The church cannot abridge her task without denying her Master. Not all can go as missionaries to foreign lands, but all can give of their means for the carrying forward of foreign missions. —“*Testimonies*,” Vol. 9, pages 55, 56.

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TEACH your children that God has a claim upon all they possess, a claim that nothing can ever cancel; whatever they have is theirs only in trust, as a test of their obedience. Inspire them with ambition to gain stars for their crown by winning many souls from sin to righteousness. —“*Testimonies*,” Vol. 6, page 451.

PRINTING.—C. Russell, Newton Street, Macclesfield.

SUNSET CALENDAR

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	Lon'n	Not'm	Car'ff	Edin	Bel't
Jan. 10th	5.12	5.09	5.25	5.02	5.20
Jan. 17th	5.23	5.20	5.36	5.14	5.32

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

Published fortnightly on Friday for the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists by The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts.

Copy for next issue.—Jan. 9th.

EDITOR: W. L. EMMERSON