

THE Welcome Visitor

"Surely I Come Quickly. Even So, Come, Lord Jesus."

VOL. VII

ACADEMIA, OHIO, JANUARY 28, 1903.

No. 2

"WHAT MUST IT BE?"

WE speak of the realms of the blest,
That country so bright and so fair;
And oft are its glories confessed,—

But what must it be to be there!
We speak of its pathway of gold,—
Its walls decked with jewels so rare,
Its wonders and pleasures untold,—
But what must it be to be there!

We speak of its freedom from sin,
From sorrow, temptation and care,
From trials without and within,—

But what must it be to be there!
We speak of its service of love,
Of the robes which the glorified wear,
Of the church of the first-born above,—
But what must it be to be there!

Do Thou, midst temptation and woe,
For heaven my spirit prepare:
And shortly I also shall know

And feel what it is to be there.
Then o'er the bright fields we shall
 roam,
In glory celestial and fair,
With saints and with angels at home,
And Jesus himself will be there.

—Elizabeth Mills.

THERE is joy in hopeful anticipation.

It does one good to tell others of his hope.

It does his friends good to hear him tell it.

His neighbors would be helped by the same story.

OUR sojourn here as pilgrims and strangers is almost at an end.

THE mileposts and signboards on every hand tell us we are already on the border land.

BE sure now that the children hear all about the goodly land—"That country so bright and so fair,"—that their interests may join yours in the thought, "But what must it be to be there?"

SOON the orders to break camp will be given for the last time. It

will then be too late to adjust business affairs, to interest the children in that better land, to become familiar with the language of Canaan, to break loose from worldly ways and entanglements.

Now is the day of preparation. As our own souls warm with the prospect, and we see the tokens of the coming king, let us remember the less fortunate, who as yet know nothing of the Christian's hope, or knowing the Saviour, have not heard the message of his second coming, and of the home of the saved.

OUR SABBATH MEETINGS.

THESE Sabbath meetings ought to be made helpful to the people. The burden of conducting them rests upon the local elders more than upon any one else. Not that the elder leads in every instance, but if he does not, some one appointed by him does lead. The elders and leaders in these meetings are not usually supposed to be pulpit speakers and orators, but instead, they should select a suitable topic, and direct in its elucidation.

It may be noticed by carefully reading our denominational papers, that there is usually a current subject receiving attention. The leader of the meeting may often very properly make this subject the theme for the Sabbath meeting. At times the Sabbath-school lesson opens into a boundless ocean of thought which can only be touched upon in the short time allotted for Sabbath-school recitation. If the leader of the meeting has skill and ability to take the school and the church out into the wider expanse of the subject, and cause

them to gather more of its rich treasures, he has done a very good work. But when this is undertaken, it should always be in harmony with the thought advanced in the lesson.

Of all the essentials for making a leader competent, prayerful Bible study is the best. The Bible should be studied until its living thoughts become verdant in the soul; yes, even till its branches yield rich clusters of gospel fruit. When a congregation can be so led as to spend the Sabbath meeting hour gathering this fruit and feasting upon it, such a congregation will grow strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. The people can help much. They, too, can study the Word, and they should do it. It is for them to co-operate with the thought of the meeting.

Let the spirit of praise and thanksgiving prevail in every meeting. Avoid all unpleasant reflections. Shun the very appearance of them, for they poison the air where they are spoken. The meeting should be full of life, and yet solid and serious. A constant study of the Bible and our good literature will be very helpful in providing a proper vocabulary. We are very much inclined in our conversation to use the style of language that prevails in the books and papers which we read. The Saviour says our words come from the heart, or the thoughts that we habitually think. The theme of the heart being good, the testimony will reveal it. Our study furnishes thought, and the social meeting gives expression to it. Good things read, and good deeds performed during the week, assure a profitable meeting on the Sabbath day.

If any one thinks the meetings are not what they should be, let that one by seeking the Lord do his part better. Almost any one can become the means in the hands of the Lord of improving a social meeting. An earnest, tender spirit is always helpful. Even a child may be the means through the Lord of bringing this into the meeting. All are to help. All should seek the Lord. All should study his word. All should do the things required. All should believe and praise the Lord. These things will bear the right kind of fruit, and make our meetings what the Lord designs them to be.

WILLIAM COVERT.

THE CHRIST'S OBJECT LESSONS WORK.

AMONG other things that received attention by the Conference Committee at a recent meeting was the Christ's Object Lessons work. The following recommendation was passed:—

That the Ohio Conference employ three successful canvassers to engage solely in the sale of the book, "Christ's Object Lessons." The Committee desire also to express to all the brethren in Ohio their purpose to do all in their power to encourage and assist them in this important and necessary work, thus hastening the time when we may rejoice with them upon the occasion of the lifting of all debts from the good school at Mt. Vernon; and we earnestly entreat our dear brethren throughout the conference who have done so nobly in the past, not to let their interest lag or their efforts cease until they with us shall hear the Lord say, "Well done."

Brethren W. E. Bidwell and F. H. Henderson have favorably responded to the call to labor exclusively for the sale of "Christ's Object Lessons." Brother Bidwell is now in the work in the vicinity of Bowling Green, Wood Co., and writes that he enjoys the work and that the Lord is blessing his efforts.

H. H. B.

FROM THE WORKERS.

"THE watchmen join their voice,
And tuneful notes employ:
Jerusalem breaks forth in songs,
And deserts learn the joy."

WITH THE CHURCHES.

Cincinnati.

DEAR VISITOR: The week of prayer was a real feast to our souls. In our first reading the Spirit of the Lord came in, and many hearts were made tender. Many who thought they could not go out and scatter the pages of this precious truth during the week of prayer, finally did go, and I only wish all could have been here to hear them relate the blessed experiences they had in meeting the people.

Four of us decided to spend thirty minutes with the old Centennial Number of the *Signs*. The money was to be handed in in the evening, and applied on the long-standing Tract Society debt caused by this special Centennial Number. We asked the Lord to lead us in the matter and started out. In less than thirty minutes we had \$2.61. The number distributed during this time was twenty-two, and some of them sold for fifty cents each. One man said he purchased the same paper three years ago, and thought it a good investment, so purchased another copy. The church has been burdened with this debit for three years, but praise the Lord, we have the money to pay it off. The greatest blessing we had during the week of prayer was in raising the money to liquidate this debt. The church will now sell the remainder of these papers and turn this money over to the treasurer of the Christian Help Band to buy the new tracts. So the thorn that has been in the flesh so long is proving to be a great blessing to the church here.

We see that all things work together for good to those who love the Lord. Rom. 8:28. We were all made to realize by the pres-

ence of the Holy Spirit that there should be delay no longer in hastening the third angel's message. Pray for us that we may let our light so shine that others around us may see our good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven. F. H. HENDERSON.

Dec. 28, 1902.

Newark.

I WOULD like to say through the VISITOR that the Newark Church has just passed one of the most blessed seasons it has been privileged to experience for some time. As the weather was bad, not many of our members were able to be out. Some are aged and feeble, while others were on beds of affliction. So far as possible, these were visited, and encouraged by scripture readings and prayer. Good encouraging letters were written also to the isolated ones.

We felt especially blessed during the week of prayer. Brother J. O. Miller was with us the latter part of the week, conducting the readings in the afternoons which were followed by good social meetings. In the evening Elder Miller spoke to us from the Word of God in line with the readings. As our Elder, Brother Kenneth Haughey, is afflicted, we have not had quarterly meeting since last April. Feeling our need of a closer walk and consecration with God, we decided to close our week of prayer with quarterly meeting services. The Lord was with us on this occasion, and his Spirit was manifested in the personal testimonies.

SARAH GATTON.

Dec. 29, 1902.

Mount Vernon.

THE week of prayer is in the past, but the effects are present and visible. The Lord came very near to us during the week of prayer, and, as usual, he pointed out our faults and prescribed the remedy. We were made to feel that our faith in the soon coming of the Lord would be made manifest by works. All realized that

it depended upon themselves if they received a blessing from the meetings.

We had Elder Spicer with us part of the time who gave us some valuable instruction. He also told us of the many openings for the truth in different parts of the world, and urged upon us our duty in immediately filling these openings, which have been made by the Lord's providence in order that the message may go to the world in this generation.

The meetings were well attended by both the members of the church and the students.

M. C. KIRKENDALL.

Wengerlawn.

DEAR VISITOR: December 17 I went to Excella, and stayed over one day and two nights with brother and sister Reed. I found them of good courage, and asking for a minister to hold meetings in their locality.

December 19 toward night found me in a strange land among strangers; but on asking for a Seventh-day Adventist church was quickly directed to brother Williams, who furnished me a horse with which to drive out four miles to brother Trissell's. We soon had everything arranged for the week of prayer, holding our readings and preaching service each day while there. I found a few good, faithful souls holding up the light in this community.

December 24, I drove from brother Trissell's to Laura where I found them holding their reading regularly. I continued with them until Sunday evening, holding the readings, and preaching each evening at Wengerlawn. I found the brethren firm in God's truth, and although few in number, keeping up their weekly meetings. God always has a blessing for those who are faithful in all their duties.

December 29, I returned to Wengerlawn to hold a few meetings before returning home.

W. E. BIDWELL.

ACADEMY.

PRAY for the reapers.

A PLAN to reach public-school teachers with our educational literature is presented in another column under the heading, "The March Advocate." Be sure to read it, and then see what can be done in your neighborhood.

THE report of the Students' Sabbath-school secretary at the end of the past term showed an average attendance of 65; per cent. of attendance, 86; the amount of donations for missions, \$10.07; total amount of donations, \$18.52.

ON THE FRONTIER.

(Concluded.)

I GOT my first experience with real native country life in the vicinity of Thebes where with the men of the family I sat at the dinner table and dipped my piece of bread into one central dish filled with a vegetable stew seasoned with olive oil, and plenty of black pepper, and ate with more or less relish. I was hungry, for I had been jolted on the back of a native donkey for four hours, over sandy wastes and rocky steps.

Our host is a man of means, owns thousands of dollars' worth of property, and is one of the chief supporters of the American Mission (Presbyterian) at Luxor. He lives in a house made of sun-dried brick and stone, a part of which has no roof,—they don't need any, for it seldom rains,—and within the same enclosure live his chickens, turkeys, camels, donkeys, etc. This is true Oriental style. This man has a number of grown up sons; two of whom have said that they would keep the Sabbath. We spent Sunday and a part of Monday with them, and they seemed to enjoy having us with them. They listened with profound reverence to our presentation of the Scriptures, and asked a number of questions. They urged us to

remain longer with them, and to return at a later date.

I have just returned from Alexandria where I held Sabbath meetings and celebrated the ordinances with the little company in that city. This is where our brother, Dr. Ribton, was killed by a mob of natives who were bent on driving all foreigners out of Egypt in 1882. The third angle's message is here represented by five Sabbath-keepers, who seem very earnest and devoted. They are all Armenians from Turkey. Only one speaks a little English.

We are now planning to get out literature in the Arabic language, which is the language of nine-tenths of the people in Egypt. We hope to have a printing press after a time, but for the present we must hire our printing done here. Our greatest immediate need is a tent in which to hold our meetings in the native towns and villages. This is a much better country for tent work than any place I have seen in America or Europe, and we hope that in some way this need will be speedily supplied.

A more pressing need, however, and one much more difficult to meet, is consecrated young women of experience in real Christian endeavor, who will devote their lives to the "shut-in" women of the Mohammedans and Copts. No man can reach these women, many of whom are starving for the Bread of life. Every day I see their sad, mournful eyes looking out over veils that must always cover their faces, emblems of the veils of spiritual darkness that shut out the blessed Light of life. There are millions of them. Who will go behind the curtains and carry to them the message of peace and comfort? May God inspire the hearts of young women in America to consecrate themselves to this blessed work.

Yours in the Master's service,

W. H. WAKEHAM.

Nov. 23, 1902.

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SUNSET CALENDAR.

Sabbath begins 5:16 P. M. Jan. 30.
Sabbath begins 2:24 P. M. Feb. 6.

THE meeting of Dist. No. 2, held in the Academy chapel at this place, is just closing as we go to press. The Lord has blessed in the consideration of the various subjects. Yes, the pillar of cloud is rising. Speak unto Israel that they go forward, for God himself leads the way.

BROTHER R. W. Van Nest, 1821 Adams St., Toledo, Ohio, desires to correspond with some young man who is a Sabbath-keeper, and unmarried. He needs a driver for one of his bakery wagons, and will give employment to one who loves the truth and will take an interest in supporting it, and giving it to others in connection with his daily work.

OUR faithful *Sentinel of Christian Liberty* now comes to us in the form of a weekly, instead of a monthly, magazine. To those who have been accustomed to read its pages it will need no introduction. To others, we are glad to recommend its stirring articles and notes of timely import. It is a very important journal in its field, and should be included in the regular lists of periodicals for missionary use. As far as possible, let every church member read it and then pass it on to others. The publishers, The Pacific Press Publishing Co., 11 W. 20th St., New York City, will be glad to send sample copies free for examination.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

District Number One.

THE meetings for District No. 1, will be held at Springfield,

Ohio, February 6-9. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend, and help to make this important meeting a success and a blessing to the cause in southern Ohio. Very cordially yours,

R. R. KENNEDY.

District Number Four.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made to hold a district meeting at LaGrange, Ohio, Feb. 13-16, beginning Friday evening, Feb. 13.

District No. 4, comprises Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Medina, Sandusky, Wayne, Seneca, Wyandotte, and Richland Counties.

Instruction will be given on the different branches of the message; preaching services will be held each evening; Dr. Ruth Merritt will give instruction on Health and Temperance; and the duties of church clerks, librarians, and treasurers will be made plain. We also expect to have a meeting pertaining to church school and Sabbath-school work.

The brethren of the LaGrange church have kindly consented to entertain those who attend. Now brethren, let all who possibly can, come to this meeting and enjoy a feast of good things from the Lord's treasure house of knowledge; and come prepared to take a sample to your brethren who may not be able to attend.

M. C. KIRKENDALL, *Supt.*

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE DAILY BULLETIN.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made to issue a *Daily Bulletin* during the thirty-fifth session of the General Conference, to be held in Oakland, Cal., March 27 to April 13, 1903. A large staff of editors and assistants will be engaged in the preparation of the paper, by which we hope to make it even better than it has ever been in the past. It will contain complete statistical and general reports from our various Conferences and mission fields, information regarding our organizations and institutions, as well as

full stenographic reports of all Conference proceedings, and of the Bible studies. The *Bulletin* should be carefully studied by all our people who desire full information with reference to our work in all parts of the world, as brought out in the Conference. The subscription price is fifty cents for the session. All orders should be sent to the Pacific Press Publishing Co., Oakland, Cal., and at an early date, to insure the receipt of every number from the first. Orders may also be sent through any State Tract Society. A. G. DANIELS.

THE MARCH "ADVOCATE."

OUR Sabbath-schools and our churchschools represent the educational feature of the denomination. By them the scattering of educational literature may be done easily and advantageously. Every Sabbath-school worker in the land may have a part in this work. There are two ways in which we can reach the secular teachers. Each Sabbath-school may take a club of *Advocates* sufficiently large to supply the teachers in its neighborhood, or the Sabbath-schools may raise a fund and the papers will be mailed to the teachers from the *Advocate* office. Let every individual take a part in this. Let the children do what they can, for every penny will help. Bring the matter to the attention of your Sabbath-school.

The March *Advocate* will be prepared for the public-school teachers. It will deal with subjects in which educators of the land are interested. Every teacher in the country should receive a copy. Will you see that each one of them becomes a reader of the March *Advocate*?

Orders for the March issue should reach this office by February 10. Price 4 cents apiece in small clubs, or at the rate of \$3 per 100 in clubs of 50 or more. Address, *The Advocate*, Berrien Springs, Mich.