

THE Welcome Visitor

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

VOL. 11

MOUNT VERNON, OHIO, P. O., (ACADEMIA, OHIO), AUGUST 21, 1907.

No. 32

THE OHIO CONFERENCE

THE CAMP-MEETING

THE first meeting of the forty-sixth camp-meeting of the Ohio Conference was held at Marion as previously announced, Friday evening, August 9.

The grounds are beautiful, and the 105 tents pitched give the appearance of quite a village. Everything that could be done for the comfort and convenience of those in attendance has been done. It is indeed gratifying to those who have worked so faithfully to accomplish all this to realize that it is appreciated, and few complaints have been made.

The weather has been all that we could desire; and while we have had a few very hot days, the nights have been cool, so all have been refreshed for the following day. The attendance numbers about six hundred. Of these five hundred are located in tents and apartments fitted up in the buildings on the ground, and the others have found accommodations in nearby homes.

There has been a good attendance of the citizens, and their interest was shown by the good attention given the different speakers.

The youths' meetings, in charge of Elder James E. Shultz, are well attended, and we believe that God will call more of our noble young men and women to help gather the harvest of souls in the fields abroad that are already white to harvest.

The Marion daily papers have been very kind, and have given from two to four columns to the extracts from the sermons furnished them daily.

Opening Address

Elder Burkholder gave the opening address on Friday evening, from which we take the following:—

"I wish to most heartily welcome the brethren and sisters of the faith who have been spared through another year and are privileged to meet at this time in our annual encampment, and to tender my sincere thanks to those who have so nobly assisted in the work of preparation necessary for our enjoyment upon these grounds. I

wish also to extend a cordial invitation to the people of Marion to attend these services as they are held from day to day.

"God has been indeed gracious to us, and I feel safe in saying, as I look into the faces of this people, that we have not come to Marion out of curiosity; we have not come here simply for a summer's outing nor to take a vacation from labor; but we are here for a purpose, and I feel very certain that if we Seventh-day Adventists who are here upon these grounds have come in the right frame of mind and in the right spirit and will continue to do so, that this meeting will prove to be the best of any we have ever yet attended. I am sure that you will agree with me in saying that the times in which we are living demand this very thing of us; and we are here desiring and expecting the presence of God and his blessing, because we have been earnestly praying and seeking to receive it. And if our hearts are right with God there is nothing that can prevent his rich blessing coming to us individually and collectively at this time.

"My mind has been directed to the latter portion of the twelfth verse of the fourth chapter of the book of Amos, 'Prepare to meet thy God, Israel.' These words are not addressed to the unbelieving, to the unconverted, nor to the worldly; they are addressed to God's favored people, to Israel, that people who have been favored of God with great light, and I feel to-night that I am talking to God's Israel, to a people who have been favored with great light. And I am aware, too, of the fact that the people of this city and this community, as they come to meet with us, from the very nature of affairs and circumstances as they see them, will expect more of us than of others who do not lay claim to all that we lay claim to. The citizens of this place have a right to expect more of us as Christian people than of others who do not have the light that we profess to have.

"There is no question about the fact that we have a message for the world. But my text suggests that God's people, Israel, need to prepare to meet him. Now we who are here to-night

expect soon to meet him. That is the desire of our hearts, that is the one thing that has inspired us to hold this camp-meeting. We have come together to open our hearts to the God of heaven for a better preparation for that awful day when he shall appear in his majesty to gather the saints of earth. It is indeed a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God; and beloved, we can not afford to be satisfied with a simple form and profession and we cannot afford to be satisfied with anything short of positive evidence that we are right with God."

The speaker then divided his subject into three parts, and commented at length upon each.

"First, the need of a preparation on our part to meet our God in the Sabbath. God has said, 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' He knows of our cares and anxieties, and of the conditions around us in this world that press upon us and sometimes make us forget the duties we owe to him on the Sabbath. We do not want to do that which the commandment forbids nor forget the duties which should be performed upon this holy day, and thus deprive ourselves of the blessing that is designed for us in the Sabbath and separate ourselves from the gracious presence of him who made it and gave it to us.

"Now we have come to the people of Marion with a name that is very suggestive, Seventh-day Adventists. The very name would lead one who is not acquainted with our faith to inquire as to its significance and to desire to know the reason for our observance of the Bible Sabbath, the seventh day of the week. But we know that Sabbath-keeping means a great deal more than to rest one day in seven, that it has to do with every act of life. Men will estimate our Sabbath keeping, and they have a right to do so, by our daily conversation and deportment.

"Second, the need of a preparation to meet God in this annual camp-meeting.

"Third, the need of a preparation to meet him when he comes in his glory in the clouds of heaven." The speaker read two texts of scripture

describing the character of the people who are prepared to meet the Lord at his coming, "In their mouth was found no guile for they are without fault before the throne of God." Said he, "Here we have a negative view of his people. But there is a positive view as well, 'Here is the patience of the saints, here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.' To be commandment keepers means nothing less than to be right with God all the time in everything. To have the faith of Jesus will be necessary before we can finish the work committed to our hands. I believe that God, by his Holy Spirit, will impress us with these thoughts and with our responsibilities and the duties that we owe to this blessed cause we represent. I believe that we will open our hearts to him in earnest prayer and that we will pray as never before that we may receive what is in store for us, and give this Message to those with whom we come in contact. Now may the Lord bless you all and keep you in the love of the truth and use you to his glory."

Sabbath, August 10

The sermon of the forenoon, preached by Elder G. A. Irwin, vice-president of the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference, was based upon Matt. 24: 14, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come."

The speaker showed from the same chapter that this text had reference to the closing work of the Lord in the earth, and had special reference to the second coming of Christ in this generation and the setting up of his eternal kingdom. This important lesson was enforced by reference to a large map of the world, showing that this gospel of the kingdom is being preached in all the principle nations of the world as well as in many of the islands of the sea, and that it is being published in fifty-two of the leading languages of the world. The sun does not set upon a nation that has not heard something of this last Message that is to prepare a people for the coming of the Lord. It only remains to push out from these principal stations until the whole world will have heard the joyful message of Christ's return, and then the end will come.

Sunday, August 11

Sunday forenoon Elder Allen Moon preached a sermon on "Christ, the Head of the Church." We give the following abstract of it:—

In the beginning God created man to have dominion over the earth. But

man having lost the dominion, Christ entered into a plan for his restoration and redemption. The church is composed of the persons who accept Christ as their Redeemer. God has put all things under the Son, and has made him head over all. He has delivered the church from darkness and translated it into the kingdom of his dear Son. The church is not dependent on human organization for support. It does not require that government enact laws for the support of its institutions, or for the enforcement of any of its teachings upon the unwilling. The church renders obedience to every just human law.

It is said that Christ is the head of the church as the husband is of the wife. As the husband devotes all his powers in behalf of his wife, so Christ devotes all the fullness of power which the Father has given him to the sustenance of his church on earth. When the church turns from her legal husband to seek power from civil organization, she is said in the word of God to be guilty of spiritual adultery.

Christ has gone to heaven and is on the right hand of God. Through the blood of his cross, beings in heaven were reconciled to him, if there remained any dissatisfaction sown by the adversary. And you hath he reconciled that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works. Col. 1:20, 21.

Being reconciled to Christ the church has a great future before it. Of the head it is written, "And thou, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come even the first dominion, the kingdom shall come to the daughter Jerusalem." And in coming ages he will show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Monday, August 12

A large congregation was present when at 9:30 o'clock J. B. Blosser, field secretary of the Lake Union Conference, spoke showing the place that the publishing work has occupied in the promulgation of the gospel, taking for his text Ps. 68:11, "The Lord gave the word; great was the company of those that published it." He showed that it was the work not only of the gospel minister out of the whole church to present faithfully the word that God has given to us to be a light to our feet and to fully reveal the gospel.

Said the speaker, "The worker with Christ will faithfully present his word, depending upon it to accomplish the thing whereunto the Lord has sent it. All the powers of speech and oratory are not to be compared to the living

word of God. During the long centuries when the world was enveloped in darkness and superstition, there were a faithful few who studied their Bibles and disseminated the light of truth from its pages. When the time came that God would have light shine upon men and break the spell of darkness that enveloped the earth, he raised up such men as Wycliff, Luther, the Wesleys, and others to call the attention of the people to God's holy word. These men not only presented the word in the pulpit, but in books, tracts and papers. The attention of the people was called to this word, and hundreds of others co-operated with these faithful servants in placing this literature in the homes of the people. It was only in this way that it was possible for these men to accomplish the great work committed to their hands.

The work to be accomplished is given under the symbol of an angel coming down from heaven and lighting the earth with his glory. To give this Message has been committed to the hands of the Seventh-day Adventists, who are looking for the coming of the Saviour and are calling the attention of the people to God's Sabbath, that has been lost sight of for centuries. We should expect that this people would employ as a very efficient agency printed pages of truth. Those that are acquainted with this people know that from the beginning the publishing of its literature formed a large part of their work. This department of our work has been constantly increasing until during last year there were placed in the homes of the people \$824,000 worth of this literature. And during the present year thus far the increase has been more remarkable than at any other period in the history of our work. In some parts of the field it has increased fifty per cent. over the same time in the previous year. These pages of truth scattered throughout the land are being read with interest by the people, and as the minds of the people are being awakened in regard to these truths contained in this literature they are led to study the Bible as never before, with the result that hundreds of people are walking in the light, thus increasing the numbers of Seventh-day Adventists, and thus we see fulfilled the words of Scripture, "The entrance of thy word giveth light."

Elder Blosser was followed by E. R. Numbers, Ohio's Field Secretary, and a score of workers who have been engaged in this State during the past year in placing literature in the homes of the people. They related

many experiences that showed God's prospering hand with them in their work.

Monday Afternoon

Dr. H. W. Miller, formerly of Ohio, left his native State in the fall of 1903 to engage in medical missionary work in China. He was accompanied by his wife, who was also a competent physician, but whose early grave in that far-off land marks her faithfulness to the call of China's needy millions. The following is an abstract of Dr. Miller's address Monday afternoon:—

"At the present time no one of the oriental countries is more strikingly surprising the civilized world than the ancient kingdom of China, which, although remaining known only to its own inhabitants for centuries, is now changing to the modern with such rapidity that it is almost impossible to keep abreast with the movements toward Western civilization. Having only last year approved a constitutional form of government, it is rapidly setting in motion those branches of its government most essential to the accomplishing of this object, such as approving of a universally spoken language for all the eighteen provinces, the inauguration of a postal system by which mail can be carried to every part of the empire, the building up of a strong army, the re-organizing of its present form of government, the establishment of modern schools in all the large cities providing instructors that have received an education in Western countries, and the establishment of railways shortening distances and facilitating commerce.

"We believe that God in his appointed time has opened up the different nations to the reception of the gospel which we as a people have been giving to the world for the past seventy years. In the year 1900 there was the most fearful outbreak in China against foreigners ever known. All the missionary societies suffered a heavy loss in the lives of their missionaries and of their property; after which the Chinese government was so disorganized and such confusion existed in the different parts of the empire that it was the universal comment that this empire would not be able to stand but would be divided among the different nations of the world. However, by being liberal in their treaties with the different powers, they were able to avoid this calamity and were again reinstated in the control of their empire.

"In the fall of 1903, there were six of us who sailed from Vancouver to

enter the inland of China. We went to the oldest and most conservative province in the empire, that of Honan. At that time there was but one hundred miles of railway in China. We left Hankow, which is called the Chicago of China, and traveled north to the terminus of this short line, after which we had three days' travel by sedan chairs, wheelbarrows, and donkey carts, reaching our station the first week in November. After spending a few months in studying the language, we opened three other mission stations; so at the present time we have four mission centers in that province. Associated with each of these stations are a number of native Christians, some of whom have developed into evangelists, others as colporteurs, while still others are teachers. Through the efforts of a young Chinese evangelist who went from Singapore to Amoy, in the province of Fukien, a native of remarkable ability accepted this Message and at once left his position to begin teaching this gospel of the kingdom. As a result of his efforts, over eighty have begun the observance of the Sabbath, and we have three organized companies of laborers located at that point. Four of our missionaries have joined the work here at Amoy. Last year we established another mission at the capital of the province of Hunan. Here we have a small work already under operation, with nearly one hundred students in our school. These four provinces have been entered during the last four years, and now the entire country lies open for the reception of this gospel.

"Considering the rapidity with which our work has gone forward in this country, we may expect to see stations rapidly planted in other parts of the empire, and the work cut short in righteousness there.

"The three provinces of Manchuria are most fertile soil to enter at this time. Such political changes have taken place in this part of the Chinese possessions that there are no obstructions to the freedom with which missionaries may desire to work. Certainly this opening offered to us at this time is a responsibility that rests upon every one that believes in the near coming of Christ and that this gospel should go to all the world in this last generation. It is the dire need of these millions that should call as no other plea could possibly do."

Monday Night

Elder F. M. Fairchild, pastor of the Springfield church, addressed a large gathering at 7:30 o'clock. In part he spoke as follows:—

"I am thankful for this privilege of standing before you to-night. Before reading my text I wish to say that Seventh-day Adventists do not, and never have, set the time for the coming of Christ.

"You will find my text in the twenty-fourth chapter of the gospel by St. Matthew, the fourteenth verse: 'And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness, and then shall the end come.' Thank God, the end will come. In the first fourteen verses of the chapter our Saviour answers the disciples' question, 'Tell us when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?'

"He says, 'Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places.' Then in the fourteenth verse the first sign is given, 'This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come.' To-day the gospel of the kingdom has reached every nation of men. The Macedonian cry, 'Come over and help us,' is being answered in every land of this dark world of sin.

"In the twenty-ninth verse of the same chapter, Jesus says, 'Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened and the moon shall not give her light.' The days referred to are the twelve hundred and sixty years of papal supremacy, beginning in 538 and ending in 1798. During this dark and dreadful period from fifty to one hundred and fifty millions of the people of God sealed their faith with their blood. In Mark's narrative of the same event he says, 'But in those days after that tribulation shall the sun be darkened.' Papal persecution ended about the year 1776, so between that year and the year 1798 we are to look for the fulfilment of this prophecy.

"What happened in those days?—Every schoolboy knows that on the nineteenth day of May, 1780, the sun was darkened and the following night the moon did not give her light. This was in those days, after the tribulation. Eight hundred years before Christ the prophet Joel, looking down through the ages, records

the following prophecy, 'I will show signs and wonders, blood and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come.'

"Isaiah in his prophetic word declares that many people shall go and say that they shall not learn war any more. Isa. 2:3, 4. But at the same time we see that every effort is being made by all the nations to outdo each other in inventing instruments of death. This condition is in harmony with the true condition as referred to by Joel in the third chapter of his prophecy, verses 9 and 10, 'Proclaim ye this among the gentiles. Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up; beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears, let the weak say, I am strong.'

"Another sign of the second coming of Christ is given by the apostle Peter in the third chapter of his second letter, 'Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.' In verse five, God declares through this prophet that they are willingly ignorant of all these things.

"In 2 Tim. 3 we read, 'This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come; for men shall be lovers of their own selves covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents.' Who cannot see that we have reached the time referred to?

"Go again with me to Matthew 24 and read the twenty-ninth verse, 'The sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light and the stars shall fall from heaven.' On Nov. 13, 1833, the stars did fall, and men thought that the judgment day had come. In Rev. 6:13 we are told how these stars should fall, 'even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs when she is shaken of a mighty wind.' History records the fulfilment of this prophecy.

"We are admonished to learn a parable of the fig tree, 'Now learn a parable of the fig tree; when his branch is yet tender and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh. So likewise ye, when ye see all these things, know that he (margin) is near, even at the door.' May God help us to study his word, believe it, and prepare to meet him in peace when he shall come."

(To be continued.)

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Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Sabbath begins Aug. 23 at 6:45 P. M.

THE blue pencil mark here means that your subscription has expired. Renew at once.

ELDER JAMES E. SHULTZ and family leave Mount Vernon Friday afternoon for their journey to Korea, accompanied by the good wishes of many friends whose prayers will follow them to their new home in that distant land. Brother Oscar Spohn will also accompany them.

CAMP NOTES

THE last Sabbath-school donation at the camp-meeting amounted to \$103.26. The total attendance was 660.

THE attendance at the Sabbath-school held on the camp ground August 10 was 425. The donation was \$38.63.

THE Clyde church had a good representation at the camp-meeting, some thirty or forty of its members being present.

DR. H. W. MILLER, in Chinese costume, gave a very interesting talk on his experiences in, and the needs of the field in which he has labored so faithfully for several years.

THE Children's Meetings, in charge of Miss Bessie E. Acton, were well attended; and the little people very much appreciated the kindergarten with Miss Deborah Secor as leader.

OUR annual camp-meeting is now in the past. At the good testimony meeting which was held Monday morning at 5:30 it was the earnest desire of all to return thanks to our heavenly Father for the spirit of quietness and restfulness that pervaded the camp at all times. This is generally conceded to be the best camp-meeting held in the State for years. The spirit of complaining and fault finding was scarcely visible during the entire meeting.

WEDNESDAY morning Elder Thompson gave a stirring address on missions, at the close of which an appeal was made to cancel the balance of Ohio's quota to the \$150,000 Fund. Almost \$2,700 was quickly subscribed, \$650 more than was necessary to fill our quota, and this surplus will go to foreign missions.

ELDER G. A. IRWIN, one of Ohio's former presidents, was in attendance at the camp-meeting, and gave several excellent sermons. His studies on the Spirit of prophecy conducted at the 5:30 morning meetings were much appreciated. His tract, "The Spirit of Prophecy, Its Relation and Place in the Third Angel's Message," should be in every Seventh-day Adventist home.

THE CAMP

THE following extract taken from the Marion daily *Mirror* will show how far the Message can and will be proclaimed by the condition of our camps, farms, homes, and schools:—

No military camp was ever more strictly and more admirably regulated than is the forty-sixth annual camp-meeting of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, now being held at the fairgrounds. From five o'clock in the morning, when everyone in the camp must be out of bed and preparing for the day's work, until 9:30 o'clock in the evening, when all must be in bed, the camp has a regular schedule of events which must be adhered to in detail.

Neatness as well as regularity is one of the prime necessities required of the campers. The interior of every dwelling tent is as cozy and comfortable as a room in a home.

In nearly every instance the campers have brought furniture and decorations from their homes and have arranged the interior of their tents in the most tasteful manner possible. The large tent, in which the services are to be held, stands at the extreme south end of the fairgrounds. It is equipped to comfortably seat about 1,000 people.

There are fully 500 people from all over the State in camp. The camp itself is a typical city, with a restaurant, grocery, bookstore, telephone booth, news stand, and other places of like nature to supply the needs of the visitors.

This is the second time that the State Adventists' meeting has been held in Marion, the first having taken place sixteen years ago. Since then the following of the belief has increased to a great extent.