

Columbia Union Visitor

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

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MISCELLANEOUS

IF I CAN LIVE

If I can live
To make some pale face brighter,
and to give
A second luster to some tear-
dimmed eye,
Or e'en impart
One throb of comfort to an aching heart,
Or cheer some way-worn soul in
passing by.

If I can lend
A strong hand to the fallen, or defend
The right against a single
envious strain,
My life, though bare
Perhaps of much that seemeth dear
and fair
To us on earth, will not have been
in vain.

The purest joy,
Most near to heaven, far from
earth's alloy,
Is bidding clouds give way to
sun and shine.
And 'twill be well
If on that day of days the angels tell
Of me, "She did her best for one
of Thine."

Helen Hunt Jackson.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

THERE are times when a distinct view is presented to me of the condition of the remnant church—a condition of appalling indifference to the needs of a world perishing for lack of a knowledge of the truth for this time. Then I have hours, and sometimes days, of intense anguish. Many to whom have been committed the saving truths of the Third Angel's Message fail of realizing that the salvation of souls is dependent upon the consecration and activity of God's church. Many are using their blessings in the service of self. O, how my heart aches because Christ is put to shame by their unchristlike behavior! But, after the agony is past, I feel like working harder than ever to arouse them to put forth unselfish effort for the saving of their fellowmen.

God has made his people stewards of his grace and truth, and how does he regard their neglect to impart these blessings to their fellow men? Let us suppose that a distant colony belonging to Great Britain is in great distress because of famine and threatened war. Multitudes are dying of starvation, and a powerful en-

emy is gathering on the frontier, threatening to hasten the work of death. The government at home opens its stores; public charity pours forth; relief flows through many channels. A fleet is freighted with the precious means of life, and is sent to the scene of suffering, accompanied by the prayers of those whose hearts are stirred to help. And for a time the fleet sails directly for its destination. But, having lost sight of land, the ardor of those entrusted with carrying food to the starving sufferers abates. Though engaged in a work that makes them co-laborers with angels, they lose the good impressions with which they started forth. Through evil counselors, temptations enter.

A group of islands lies in their course, and though far short of their destination, they decide to call. The temptation that has already entered grows stronger. The selfish spirit of gain takes possession of their minds. Merchantile advantages present themselves. Those in charge of the fleet are prevailed on to remain on the islands. Their original purpose of mercy fades from their sight. They forget the starving people to whom they were sent. The stores entrusted to them are used for their own benefit. The means of beneficence is diverted into channels of selfishness. They barter the means of life for selfish gain, and leave their fellow beings to die. The cries of the perishing ascend to heaven, and the Lord writes in his record the tale of robbery.

Think of the horror of human beings dying because those placed in charge of the means of relief proved unfaithful to their trust. It is difficult for us to realize that man could be guilty of so terrible a sin. Yet I am instructed to say to you, my brother, my sister, that Christians are daily repeating this sin.

In Eden, man fell from his high estate, and through transgression became subject to death. It was seen in heaven that human beings were perishing, and the compassion of God was stirred. At infinite cost he devised a means of relief. He "so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. There was no hope for the transgressor ex-

cept through Christ. God "saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him." Isa. 59:16.

The Lord chose a people, and made them the depositories of his truth. It was his purpose that by the revelation of his character through Israel men should be drawn to him. To all the world the gospel invitation was to be given. Through the teaching of the sacrificial service, Christ was to be uplifted before the nations, and all who would look unto him should live.

But Israel did not fulfil God's purpose. They forgot God, and lost sight of their high privilege as his representatives. The blessings they had received brought no blessing to the world. All their advantages were appropriated for their own glorification. They robbed God of the service he required of them, and they robbed their fellow men of religious guidance and a holy example.

God finally sent his Son to reveal to men the character of the Unseen. Christ came and lived on this earth a life of obedience to God's law. He gave his precious life to save the world, and made his servants his stewards. With the gift of Christ all the treasures of heaven were given to man. The church was freighted with the food of heaven for starving souls. This was the treasure that the people of God were commissioned to carry to the world. They were faithfully to perform their duty, continuing their work until the message of mercy had encircled the world.

Christ ascended to heaven, and sent his Holy Spirit to give power to the work of his disciples. Thousands were converted in a day. In a single generation the gospel was carried to every nation under heaven. But little by little a change came. The church lost her first love. She became selfish and ease-loving. The spirit of worldliness was cherished. The enemy cast his spell upon those to whom God had given light for a world of darkness—light which should have shone forth in good works. The world was robbed of the blessings that God desired men to receive.

Is not the same thing repeated in this generation? Many in our day are keeping back that which the Lord

has entrusted to them for the salvation of a world unwarned, unsaved. In the word of God an angel is represented as flying in the midst of heaven, "having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." Rev. 14:6,7.

The message of Revelation 14 is the message that we are to bear to the world. It is the bread of life for these last days. Millions of human beings are perishing in ignorance and iniquity. But many of those to whom God has committed the stores of life look upon these souls with indifference. Many forget that to them has been entrusted the bread of life for those starving for salvation.

O, for consecrated Christians, for Christ-like consistency, for the faith that works by love and purifies the soul! May God help us to repent, and change our sluggish movements into consecrated activity. May he help us to show in our words and works that we make the burden of perishing souls our own.

Let us be thankful every moment for God's forbearance with our tardy, unbelieving movements. Instead of flattering ourselves with the thought of what we have done, after doing so little, we are to labor still more earnestly. We are not to cease our efforts or relax our vigilance. Never is our zeal to grow less. Our spiritual life must be daily revived by the stream that makes glad the city of our God. We must be always on the watch for opportunities to use for God the talents he has given us.

ELLEN G. WHITE.

SEED-SOWING

"The work of grace in the heart is small in its beginning. A word is spoken, a ray of light is shed into the soul, an influence is exerted that is the beginning of the new life; and who can measure its results?"

It is impossible to measure the influence of a kind word, a loving smile, a warm hand shake—each one is a seed of truth.

As I have seen the mighty results of such seed-sowing, I have said, "Never again will I cast a cloud of gloom over a soul; never will I speak anything but kind words." But too often the old selfish nature asserts itself, and the same coldness, harshness, and unloveliness are again

seen. This is Satan's way of counter-working Christ's seed-sowing.

A kind act, if unselfishly performed, will have an influence that will never end throughout eternity.

Science tells us that a word spoken into the air sets in motion vibrations that never cease. A pebble thrown into the lake starts wavelets that enlarge until the lake is encircled.

Apparently, the vibrations caused by the word uttered are lost in space, commingling as they do with thousands of other sounds, but this is not so. Could we understand science in its fulness, we would be able to focus these air vibrations, and hear again the words spoken in the long ago.

Wireless telegraphy has already demonstrated a measure the truthfulness of this statement. Words are projected into space at the wireless station, and hundreds of miles away, perhaps on board a rapidly moving steamer, the ether waves are collected, and, by means of delicate instruments, are made to record their message.

In the eternal world, when we shall no longer "see through a glass darkly," we shall better understand the force of the first paragraph of this article. Then we shall more fully comprehend the saving power of a kind word, and the blighting influence of impure, unkind, and harsh words.

Many years ago, when a youth, I went to a distant city on business. On Sunday I attended service at a place called Wesley Chapel, on a prominent street. A young man, in a very kind and modest manner, placed a hymn-book, opened at the proper place, in my hands.

The act was so whole hearted and respectful that my heart was tendered at once. I did not learn the man's name, have never seen him since, and probably he never thought of his kind act afterward. But I never recall it without a tender sensation in my heart.

Years afterward, when I became a gospel worker, I went to that city to engage in work. The first thing I looked for was Wesley Chapel; but it had been torn down, and in its place was a large business house called Wesley Block. Though no trace of the old chapel remained, the same tender feeling came back as I looked at the business block. For some years I either lived in that city, or visited it in connection with my work; but never did I pass along that street without looking for Wesley Block.

Two years ago I again visited the same town, and again my interest was roused as I looked for Wesley Block, and remembered the kind act of the young man. I would like to meet him

again, and thank him for his kindness to that lonely youth so long ago. That act was good seed, which may bear fruit in eternity.—E. H. Gates, in the *Union Conference Record*.

WORK AS A MEDICINE

ONE of the most noticeable things among the unemployed is the rapidity with which they age. The more delicately adjusted a piece of machinery is, the quicker it rusts out and goes to ruin when not running.

When the mind is not healthfully employed and constantly exercised, it ruins itself very quickly. There are many instances in history where great men, when deprived of liberty, when their employment was taken away from them, very quickly went to pieces. They were unable to sustain the shock. Statistics show that great mental workers are, as a rule, long lived. Activity is conducive to longevity.

There is nothing like having plenty of work, something to look forward to constantly, something to plan for, think for, live for. There is nothing more fatal to growth and normal living than the monotony which comes from mental inaction; nothing more fatal to growth than stagnation.—*Success*.

LITTLE GIRLS IN CHINA

GIRLS are less desirable than boys for two reasons. After marriage, girls have no part with their own family, and no part in the worship of their ancestors. To have no son means no ancestral worship, and the girl is often sold as a daughter-in-law. Poor people buy their sons' wives when they are but babies, as they can be had then for two Mexican dollars, about one dollar seventy-five cents in our money. These little ones are usually drudges in the mother-in-law's household.

A missionary tells this story. She heard two women conversing in her house—one a mother of five sons and the wife of the leading scholar in Kuangwang. One said: "I am going to get my daughter-in-law into the house; you see a daughter-in-law is no more expense than a servant; if I curse or beat a servant she leaves, but you can beat a daughter-in-law and get obedience and your work will be done as you wish it." The other replied: "Just so, just so, I am thinking of getting a daughter-in-law, too. I can then live at ease." As a consequence of this custom, little girls look forward not to betrothal nor to marriage, but to becoming mothers-in-law, when they in turn can have authority.—*Good Housekeeping*.

OUR WORKERS

BALTIMORE AND OHIO

FOR euphony's sake we shall let the title remain as it reads, although we would happily give precedence to our beloved brethren of Ohio State. The Ohio Conference is now forty-five years old; possessing eighty well organized churches and a number of isolated companies, numbering a grand total of two thousand, five hundred and seventy-five members. After generously sharing some of her valued laborers with other needy conferences and the foreign field, Ohio still has thirty-six ministers and Bible workers.

Every square mile of "Buckeye State" has received some attention during the last half century. Ohio has been well able to hold its position in the front rank of conferences of Seventh-day Adventists. Because of faithful service, God has prospered our neighbor with men and means. Now that they are permitted to ride on the wave of prosperity, will they give the cry of their Baltimore brethren a deaf ear?

Greater Baltimore, the metropolis of the South, has a population nearing 700,000, and a desire to reach the million mark in six years; three congregations without a church building; combined membership of 150; almost half of the entire Chesapeake Conference constituency. Hundreds of thousands in this great city never heard of our people. Not one laborer for the large foreign population within our limits, and the balance of Chesapeake territory virgin soil.

The "Testimonies" ring out with no uncertain sound, "Our large cities must be worked." Why nurse a goodly three thousand Sabbath keepers in one State in the Columbia Union and neglect the millions in Delaware, Maryland and the three counties of West Virginia which constitute the "Chesapeake"? O that we could arouse the Ohio Conference to consider our great need; to plan to help us in warning the multitude just beyond her State line; to cause her to spare several laborers for one year, and foot the bill! A German worker is greatly needed in Baltimore. Isn't there one volunteer in Cincinnati's German America.

An Easy Field.—With a short experience in New England, New York City and Washington, D. C., the writer can truly say that Greater Baltimore is an easy field. Many experiences can be related that would make interesting reading. The writer's brief stay in

the Chesapeake has been a golden chain of good circumstances. Big victories every morning through the power of God: A Bible reading five afternoons in the week and one every night save Saturday, and in not one instance without fruit. One, two and three of a company have rallied to the standard, "The commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." One preacher keeping the Sabbath and studying further, and another awaiting developments with the hope of following his colleague as he blazes the way. Two of the company attending the Bible reading in German have taken hold. Many touches of human nature, and live incidents might be mentioned. To God be all the praise.

The Immediate Future.—Considering the encouraging features that this city possesses, isn't it pathetic to think that during this winter we have had only one conference Bible worker for the 700,000? and for the immediate future the committee has planned, to date, to withdraw the laborers from Baltimore because of the pitiful cries from the many corners of two States. O horror! shall we go on our way rejoicing and a metropolis unwarned? Shall we lean cosily in our easy arm-chair religion and profess to believe that the Third Angel's Message closes with the most terrible threatening in the Bible, and witness the loss of men and women, not distant heathen, not an altogether unappreciated folk, but like unto Ohioans, reader, a cityful unconsciously going the way of the world because of neglect of duty somewhere.

The neglected city in the neglected conference cries aloud, "Come over . . . and help us"; "Komm hernieder . . . und hilf uns." We earnestly trust that our slighted city will receive the attention honestly due it. Ohio! You will, I am sure, pray for us and do for us for Jesus' sake.

H. S. PRENER.

St. John, N. B.

DEAR VISITOR: As a matter of economy both in time and money, we will avail ourselves of the privilege of informing our friends in Ohio, through the columns of the VISITOR, that we are well and enjoying our work in this field. We noticed some time ago in the VISITOR that the people had learned that I was sick. I am glad to say that we were not responsible for the report, as our general health never was better. It is true that the severe cold weather is not the most pleasant, but God has protected us, and kept us all in good health. Now as spring and summer

will soon be here we are happy in expectation.

We meet with the usual arguments of opposition from the enemy to the truths for this time, but on many occasions have seen them vanquished when subjected to the brilliancy of the Third Angel's Message. Pastor C. T. Russell spoke in the Opera House in this city, to an audience of 1000 people. The adroit way in which he presented his doctrine of a second probation was both catchy and delusive. On the following Sunday evening I advertised in the city papers that I would review his lecture, and the hall would not hold the people; some were turned away for lack of room. Victory crowned the effort, and God was glorified in having his truth, which had been crushed to the ground, raised up. We believe debate does not savor of the right spirit and should never be sought, as it is classified with bad company. Rom. 1:29-31. But we also know that when a bear or a lion came among David's flock he rose up and slew them.

Our labors here so far have not been without fruit. This gives us courage, knowing that God is working to lead sinners to repentance. So far nine adults, who were before strangers to the truths presented by us, are observing the Sabbath, and ten others are in the valley of decision. We hold public preaching services every Sunday evening, and have a large attendance from the outside. My wife and I hold class meeting each evening during the week except Friday, when we conduct a prayer meeting at our home. During the day, while making family visits, we scatter tracts. I have sold forty dollars' worth of "Christ's Object Lessons," and twenty-five dollars' worth of "Daniel and the Revelation," and "Coming King."

We never worked more perseveringly. The enemy is putting forth all his power, and so it will be necessary for us to meet him with the power that comes from above if we accomplish anything.

When we consider the wide separation (in distance) from our children, our hearts yearn for the glad day when Jesus will come and fulfil Luke 13:29.

With a longing desire to see the work speedily finished, and that all who have once started aright may again fall into line, we remain, yours in the hope of immortality.

MR. AND MRS. J. O. MILLER.

IT is better to say, "This thing I do," than to say, "These forty things I dabble in."—*Washington Gladden.*

Springfield, Ohio.

WITH a good representation and favorable weather, we enjoyed at the hands of the Lord a most interesting and instructive church officers' meeting at this time.

The Lord certainly drew near to his people, and in the answering of questions helped us to know more fully what is our duty as church officers. Elder Burkholder presided, and in his opening remarks cited the apostle Paul's admonition to Timothy (and to us as well) in regard to the qualifications of the officers. We believe this standard is a high one, but, as we were shown, it must not be lowered to meet the condition of men, but men must come up to it. Indeed we feel, who is able to do this? but God has never asked of us anything but what his infinite mind knew was possible, and that he could rightly expect of us.

The question-box was a great success, and helped to settle many of the difficult problems which have confronted the elders and church workers for some time. It also dealt with the various phases of the work and of the duties of the officers and the attitude they should maintain in regard to health reform, etc., etc. I am quite sure we shall be better able to decide intelligently upon these points of faith, and know what God would have us do that we might be able to present unto him "an holy church without spot or wrinkle or any such thing."

Elder Fredrick, of Dayton, spoke to us the evening after the Sabbath, admonishing us to seek God earnestly that we might be imbued with his Holy Spirit, and go forth in the might of Jehovah and proclaim the gospel and hasten the glad day of deliverance.

Elder Burkholder was quite ill the evening after the Sabbath, and was not able to be with us, but the Lord blessed and the following day he was present to proceed with the meeting.

We are desirous of "all speaking the same thing," and these meetings will without a doubt bring about the desired result. We are glad for them.

HOMER O. LEFEVRE.

Richmond, Va.

OUR hearts were made glad Sabbath, March 7, by a special meeting conducted by Elder H. W. Herrell, our Conference president, assisted by Elder G. B. Thompson, of Takoma Park, D. C., who had been visiting the white church of Richmond. Brother Thompson spoke from the eighth chapter and ninth verse of Second Corinthians, and the discourse was replete with helpful suggestions.

After remarks by Brother Herrell, a social meeting was enjoyed by all present.

It gives new courage and strength to listen to these dear brethren occasionally, since the conditions are very different here than in the North; we learn from "Southern Work" p. 135. "the time has not yet come for us to work as though there were no prejudice." Then again in Isa. 60:5 that the people shall see and flow together before the end comes. Hence we rejoice to form a part of the great chain of Eze. 7:23.

In this State we have about 800,000 colored people—many of whom are pious, intelligent, refined and wealthy, with hundreds of comfortable places of worship. Among this mass of precious souls, we have seven organized churches, two ordained ministers, one Bible worker, and three missionary licentiates who are doing self-sustaining work. Four of the churches—Spencer, Danville, News Ferry and Alexandria—own their places of worship. The Conference has been liberal, kind and faithful in its efforts to help this branch of the work, but the principal part of the means and labor in securing places of worship have come through the colored people.

We earnestly hope to see a building erected ere long in this city as a testimony for the truth. Our church is already laying aside from their slender means donations toward this object, and we are confident that the Spirit of the Lord will move other hearts to keep us. This being a railroad center, the Message can reach hundreds of people traveling to all parts of the South. What a privilege to bestow means where it will bear eternal interest in the kingdom of God! Matt. 6:19. What an everlasting calamity to reserve the dollars for the moles and bats! Isa. 2:20.

Further, if a training-school were located in this State it would furnish opportunity for worthy young colored people to prepare for the work. Rich farm lands at reasonable figures await such an enterprise, and such an institution is an urgent necessity.

The following lines from the Spirit of prophecy offer the most urgent appeal that can be made for this work:—

"The South is calling for temporal and spiritual food, but it has been so long neglected that hearts have become hard as stone. God's people need now to arouse and redeem their sinful neglect and indifference of the past. These obligations now rest heavily upon the churches, and God will graciously pour out his Spirit upon those who will take up their

God-given work." "Southern Work," p. 115.

We are grateful that the denomination has already begun to live out the above instruction, and we are confident that every dollar entrusted to the Virginia Conference toward the colored work will be wisely expended. Yours in the work,

FRANKLIN G. WARNICK.

WORK TO BE DONE. If families would locate in the dark places of the earth,—places where the people are enshrouded in spiritual gloom,—and let the light of Christ's life shine out through them, a great work might be accomplished. Let them begin work in a quiet, unobtrusive way, not drawing on the funds of the conference until the interest becomes so extensive that they cannot manage it without ministerial help. "Testimonies," vol. 6, p. 442.

IN humble dependence upon God, families are to settle in the waste places of his vineyard. Consecrated men and women are needed to stand as fruit-bearing trees of righteousness in the desert places of the earth. As the reward of their self-sacrificing efforts to sow the seeds of truth, they will reap a rich harvest. Vol. 7, p. 22.

LET Sabbath-keeping families move to the South, and live out the truth before those who know it not. These families can be a help to one another, but let them be careful to do nothing that will hedge up their way. Let them do Christian help work, feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. This will have a far stronger influence for good than the preaching of sermons. *Id.*, 227.

Trenton, N. J.

I AM very glad to be able to report that the Lord is coming very near to our churches during the special campaign which is now in progress. Splendid reports are coming in from the churches which are being visited by our workers. The elder of one of our churches writes as follows:—

"I for one feel that the New Jersey Conference has taken steps in the right direction and is entering a new era in our Christian experience. This church was organized in 1896, and I feel the Conference has done more for us in the week just passed than it has done since the church was organized. So far as I can see this is the voice of the church."

A letter from another church speaks very enthusiastically of the meetings that have been held there, saying that

they have been a source of great spiritual blessing, and the members of the church who have not been in the habit of attending week night services have come every night in spite of storms. The Lord has come very near to us in our meetings with the Trenton church and the brethren and sisters have been much encouraged; heartfelt confessions have been made; and some have been led to take a new stand for the Lord.

I wish to especially ask that all the officers of our church will earnestly plan to attend the general meetings to be held at Bridgton and at Newark. We expect to have special instruction for church officers given at these meetings. Those who expect to attend the Bridgton meeting should write to Mrs. A. E. Rambo, Fairton, N. J., and those who expect to attend the Newark meeting who will need lodging provided for them should write to Brother J. H. Carroll, 18 West St., Bloomfield, N. J.

Let us all earnestly pray that a special blessing of God may rest upon our churches as we meet together to plan for further carrying on our work.

B. F. KNEELAND.

ELDERS' MEETINGS

Bowling Green, O.

DEAR WELCOME VISITOR: The first church elders' meeting held at Bowling Green, March 5-8, was enjoyed by all present. From the beginning a spirit of seeking after light was manifested. The straight testimonies that came to us on organization and other points of faith was indeed timely, and I believe will be heeded.

The questions asked by the church officers proved that they desire to render better service to God in their various offices. I believe the instruction given at these meetings is just what every local officer ought to have.

Here at Bowling Green we can already see some of the benefits from these meetings. Steps have been taken toward establishing a church school. May God bless these meetings to the good of all in the Conference.

D. E. SWEET.

Richmond, Va.

THE meetings held at Stanley, Lynchburg, and Richmond, are meetings that we trust will be long remembered by those who attended. Elder W. J. Fitzgerald, president of our Union Conference, attended the meetings at Stanley and Lynchburg, and gave very interesting instruction along the lines of church officers' duties. All seemed to enjoy the same very much.

Elder G. B. Thompson and B. L. House attended the meeting in Richmond. Elder Thompson gave valuable instruction along the line of duties for church officers.

The meeting at Stanley, in the evenings, took on the form of a revival, and so far we understand that ten have united with the church there as the result of the meetings. Elder Fitzgerald and the writer were there for nearly a week, and then the meetings were left in the charge of Elder R. D. Hottel, who carried on the services at night, and also gave valuable assistance in the Canvassers' Institute, which was being held at the same time by our State agent, W. H. Zeidler, and I. D. Richardson, the Union Conference agent.

May the Lord's richest blessings continue with all the members throughout the State, and especially with those who have just made the start for the kingdom.

H. W. HERRELL.

Richmond, Va., R. F. D. 3.

SABBATH-SCHOOL DONATIONS

It is indeed gratifying to see so many of our Sabbath-schools giving all their donations to missions. When this recommendation was first introduced by the General Conference several of our schools were already in harmony with it, as all their donations had been sent to missions for some time. But little objection was made to the recommendation, and one by one the different schools have fallen into line until we now have twenty-three. Several schools are debarred from the list by a very trifling expense, which it seems might have been raised with but little extra effort. We believe, however, that they will soon reach the standard. It is only as we keep lifting a little harder each time that we become able to carry the proverbial ox.

We are not criticising these schools for not having reached the standard, for we are sure that they are in harmony with the spirit of the recommendation, and will ultimately reach the goal. "Not failure, but low aim, is crime," and it is better to aim high and not hit the mark than to have no standard.

It does seem like a big proposition for the Sabbath-schools to raise one thousand dollars a week for missions. But when we consider that it is to assist in the greatest enterprise the world has ever known, and remember that we are individually responsible for its success, it seems as if we could do even more if we would carefully study the *how*.

We submit the following report, and hope that every Sabbath-school scholar will give it careful study, and if possible find the solution of the problem, how can the Sabbath-schools give one thousand dollars a week to missions?

Report of Sabbath-schools giving all donations to missions, with membership and per capita donation:—

SCHOOL	MEMB.	DON.
Akron	44	.26
Alliance	10	.32
Bellefontaine	10	.27
Botzum	14	.19
Bowling Green	62	.31
Camden	24	.18
Chagrin Falls	24	.44
Cincinnati	48	.58
Hicksville	11	.23
Jackson	12	.27
Lagrange	50	.18
Mansfield	21	.32
Marion	25	.18
Mount Vernon (church)	112	.31
Nashville	4	.25
Orrville	4	.25
Ravenna	18	.58
Sherwood	17	.38
Spencer	10	.13
Tiffin	5	.72
Toledo	77	.27
Wheelersburg	21	.23
Youngstown	15	.32

This report is compiled from the reports of the quarter ending December, 1907.

We earnestly pray that our Sabbath-school officers, teachers, and scholars may be fully alive to their opportunities and privileges during the present year.

BESSIE E. RUSSELL.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

WE wish to call the attention of all our people in West Virginia to the article in the VISITOR of March 11, written by Elder K. C. Russell, chairman of the Religious Liberty Bureau of the General Conference. We sincerely trust that all our brethren who may read these lines have fully complied with the said request, and ever this notice reaches the readers' letters of protest have been sent forth to the chairman of the Senate Committee, Jacob Gallinger, and also to the chairman of the House Committee, Samuel W. Smith. It would be well to address similar communications to the members of the respective committees.

The days prior to the hearing, should be days of activity and prayer in all our churches and companies. We wish to ask that all our people throughout the Conference carefully read and study the tenth chapter of Daniel. Note carefully that the inspired book is written for the enlightenment of God's people in the "latter days." Dan. 2:28; 12:4. Daniel, the

man of prophecy, stands as a type of God's people in the "latter days," the "time of the end." He lived, in spirit, in the last days, and transpiring events cast a spirit of great earnestness, of consecration and marked devotion to the interests of the Lord, his work, and his people, upon him. Carefully note verses 2 and 3. While it was given Daniel to know that a crisis had been reached, the fulness of the vision was as yet a mystery. Fasting, he sought God most earnestly for understanding, for wisdom, and, while thus engaged, an angel touched him. The angel had been working with and for the prince of the kingdom of Persia. The tenth verse affirms that the angel had been working with this ruler twenty-one days, and then Michael came and together they labored for the prince. Now they leave the royal court of Persia to minister unto Daniel, and again quickly return. Just how long they continued their work, we are not told. We dare say that after this, it was but a short time, and then the angel left the court weeping, and of Persia it was said, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."

I quote from "Testimonies for the Church," No. 32, p. 207, "By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. . . . As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, so may this apostasy be a sign to us that the limit of God's forbearance is reached, that the measure of our nation's iniquity is full, and that the angel of mercy is about to take her flight, never to return. The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress which prophets have described as the time of Jacob's trouble."

Let us arise at the call of duty this day. Let our voices arise heavenward at this time, "Spare thy people, O God." "Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, let them say, 'Spare thy people, O God.' . . ." Let us all pray, that the angel of his presence may tarry yet a little longer in our legislative hall, that the Message may go quickly to all lands.

L. E. SUFFICOL.

"EVERY impulse of the Holy Spirit leading men to goodness and to God is noted in the books of heaven, and in the day of God the workers through whom he has wrought will be commended."

REMEMBER THE POOR

THE blight of sin brought on the human family a condition that touched the heart of infinite love. Lost and helpless, God did not leave man without visible evidence of his sympathy; for it is written, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

When here in this world a man among men, Jesus also gave unmistakable evidence that he was actuated by the same spirit. In Paul's letter to Titus, chapter 2:14, it is stated this way, "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works." Here we are told that the Son of God gave himself for us, his purpose being to redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works. Such people as are here described become pre-eminently God's people and constitute his church. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Gal. 6:10.

When we unite with the church of Christ, we become members of the household of faith and our obligations to such become doubly sacred in the eyes of the Lord. "The poor," says the Saviour, "Ye have always with you." They are not to be regarded as a hinderance but a blessing. They are objects designed of God for the development of true Christian love and sympathy. Many calls are coming to Conference officials for help along this line of Christian duty, and means are needed with which to answer these calls. But one offering a year is asked for to support this worthy cause which falls this year on *Sabbath, April 4*. Trusting that this appeal may meet with a hearty response from all God's people, and as an incentive to a faithful performance of our duty in this respect, let us read again Prov. 19:17, "He lendeth unto the Lord that is liberal to the poor, and his good deed will he repay unto him." (Jewish translation.)

H. H. BURKHOLDER.

THE APRIL FOURTH OFFERING

FOR many years all our churches have united on the first Sabbath in April in making an offering for the benefit of the aged poor and orphans among us. Until recently these annual offerings have been used for

the support of the homes for the aged and orphans located in Battle Creek, Mich. But a new plan has been adopted in behalf of these needy classes. It has been recommended that each Union Conference make suitable provision for the aged and orphan children among our people within their several territories.

Surely the Columbia Union Conference will desire to approve this plan in a practical fashion. The way to do this is by contributing sufficient offerings, and also making other provision for the proper care of all persons who, in the providence of the all kind and wise God, are dependent upon us for the common comforts of this life.

There are a considerable number of cases already demanding our attention. New cases are presenting themselves for our consideration from time to time. We must soon open a home somewhere within the territory of our Union Conference. But before this can be done, we will have to raise a considerable fund. Shall we not make a large beginning on Sabbath, April 4?

The churches in the Columbia Union should contribute not less than one thousand dollars at this time. An average of only twenty cents a member will raise that amount. Doubtless many persons who are prosperous and in the enjoyment of health and vigor will be glad to contribute many dollars for the care of those less fortunate. Will not all the children who are blessed with parents who love and care for them give something to bless the little orphan children?

Let all contributions be sent by the churches to the conference treasurers, and by the conference treasurers to the Union treasurer, E. R. Brown, 63 Goethe St., Cumberland, Md.

W. J. FITZGERALD.

OFFERING FOR THE AGED AND ORPHANS

Sabbath, April 4

LET all of us rally to this worthy call. The money raised in our local conferences will be retained by our Union Conference, to be expended within its own borders. "It was not the purpose of God that poverty should ever leave the world. The ranks of society were never to be equalized; for the diversity of condition which characterizes our race is one of the means by which God has designed to prove and develop character. Many have urged with great enthusiasm that all men should have

(Continued on page 8.)

NEW JERSEY CANVASSERS' INSTITUTE

ALREADY some are corresponding with us regarding the Canvassers' Institute to be held in Trenton, April 12 to 26. We are hoping that a number of others will feel the burden of this work resting upon them, and make an earnest effort to fit themselves for a part of this branch of the Lord's work. The following words from the Spirit of prophecy are very timely:—

"Just now when people are thinking seriously, literature on the meaning of the signs of the times, wisely circulated, will have a telling effect in behalf of the truth. At this time, when awful calamities are sweeping away the most costly structures, as if by a breath of fire from heaven, many sinners are afraid and stand trembling before God. Now is our opportunity to make known the truth to them."

"Wake up, wake up, my brethren and sisters, and enter the fields in America that have never been worked. After you have given something for foreign fields do not think your duty done. There is a work to be done in foreign fields, but there is a work to be done in America that is just as important. In the cities of America there are people of almost every language. These need the light that God has given to his church."

I trust that our brethren and sisters will consider this matter prayerfully, and as the Lord may direct, will enter this work. Those who expect to attend the Institute should send their names to me at once. Do not put this matter off, but begin at once to plan definitely in regard to attending the Institute.

B. F. KNEELAND.

621 William St., Trenton, N. J.

THE CANVASSING WORK

THERE is nothing in this world that appeals more forcibly to my mind than the canvassing work. I have been selling the literature containing the Message for over eight years, and I love the work now more than ever. More so because God has repeatedly told us that this work is second to none.

Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to put in full time and report regularly; but I am keeping house, and am sometimes detained at home with household duties. I have also the work of clerk and librarian of the church, and that is work which requires time to be properly done. But God being my helper I mean to put in as much time at canvassing as

possible. I know God has called me to the work, and I am anxious to remain in it until Jesus comes and the work is finished. I am so glad we have no cause for discouragement.

God has told us to be strong and of good courage. The words in the first chapter of Joshua are for us, to-day. Isa. 44:8, "Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time and have declared it? Ye are even my witnesses." Isa. 52:12, last clause, "For the Lord will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your reward."

I find it a splendid plan to go out with the idea that I am a messenger of the great King, and if I canvass faithfully every family, offering them the truth, to the best of my ability, then they will not be able to face me in the judgment and say I skipped their door. I want to feel God is able to crown my efforts with success independent of circumstances. God is the best and surest pay-master in the world and any one who goes out depending upon the Lord, and work-

ing as faithfully as people who work in other employments, need have no worry about wages because they will be alright.

I take pleasure in canvassing during the holiday weeks, if I can possibly find time, because I love to prove to my own satisfaction that God is not dependent on times and seasons. The last day of 1907 I was very much pressed with home work, but I had to go to one of my customers to collect some money. I took with me a Dutch "Bible Readings" and called on two families where I had recently delivered books, "Desire of Ages" to one, and Dutch "Coming King" to the other, they each gave me an order for "Bible Readings" and I delivered them in February, and received the money promptly, though their husbands are outside workers. Dozens of times the Lord has pleasantly surprised me with orders in the most unlikely places imaginable. I could write much more but space forbids it.

JULIA W. JENSSEN.

Paterson, N. J.

CANVASSERS' REPORTS

Ohio, Week Ending March 13, 1908

Name	Place	Book	Days	Hrs	Ords	Value	Helps	Total	Del
R. Lindsey, Licking Co.,	D A	4	26	8	\$28.00	\$5.50	\$33.50	\$1.00	
E. M. Horst, Wayne Co.,	G C	5	44	4	10.00	7.00	17.00	4.65	
L. Gallion, Holmes Co.,	D R	4	25	5	9.50	13.50	23.00		
R. French, Wood Co.,	BR CK	4	31	13	14.75	.50	15.25	15.50	
E. J. Sharp, Pike Co.,	B F	4	27½	41	41.00	1.00	42.00		
C. J. Fritz, Highland Co.,	C K	5	40		25.00	5.00	30.00		
L. Waters, Mahoning Co.,	C K	5	39	30	37.00	1.05	38.05	32.55	
Totals			31	232½	101	\$165.25	\$33.55	\$198.80	\$53.70

Chesapeake, Week Ending March 6, 1908

H. Scott, Baltimore, Md.,	C K	5	34	50	\$54.00		\$54.00		
D. Johns, Baltimore Md.,	C K	5	35	54	56.00		56.00		
Lillie Warnick, B'ltm're,	D R	5	30	19	51.50	\$8.10	59.60		
C. B. Engram, Barclay,	C K	1	8	2	2.00	1.25	3.25	11.55	
Totals			16	107	125	\$163.50	\$9.35	\$172.85	\$11.55

New Jersey, for Week Ending March 13, 1908

D. Boersma, Camden Co.,	D R			8	\$18.75	\$.25	\$19.00		
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Virginia, Week Ending March 13, 1908

J. A. Hayes, Norfolk,	D R		33			\$14.75		\$12.00	
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West Virginia, for Week Ending March 14, 1908

A. Moyer, Braxton Co.,	C K	5	48	5	\$5.00	\$ 1.50	\$6.50	\$1.75	
W. L. Logan, Braxton Co.,	D R	4	35	8	14.00	13.00	27.00		
J. Marlatt, Marsh'l Co.,	D R	4	29	1	1.50	.50	2.00	3.00	
J. H. Jennings, Berkeley,	D R	5	36	12	23.25	19.00	42.25		
H. Waggoner, Berkeley,	C K	5	36	23	25.50	1.00	26.50	1.50	
A. Halstead*, Boone Co.,	B R	2	10	5	13.50	8.45	21.95		
Totals			25	194	54	\$82.75	\$43.45	\$126.20	\$6.25

West Pennsylvania, Week Ending March 13, 1908

W. C. Fleisher,	Misc.				\$22.50		\$22.50		
David S. Plank,	B R				12.50		12.50		
C. Dunham, Pittsburg,	Misc.	3	22	11	30.50		30.50		
Totals			3	22	11	\$65.50		\$65.50	

*One week.

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BESSIE E. RUSSELL - Editor

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Sabbath begins Mar. 27 at 5:53 P. M.

"HE is a wise man who wastes no energy on pursuits for which he is not fitted."

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

"SOME people say they love the Lord, and still do not pay their tithe. Do you believe they love him?"

ELDER C. C. WEBSTER and family, who have been visiting friends at their old home, spent several days in Academia on their way back to their field of labor in Birmingham, Ala.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Ohio

ON account of the General Conference Council, which convenes April 18-25, it will be necessary for Ohio to postpone the Canvassers' Institute about one week in order to have the help that has been arranged for. We have therefore decided to hold it from April 27 to May 6, the Lord willing. We hope for a good attendance of the old canvassers as well as those just entering the work.

We are instructed to "forsake not the assembling of ourselves together," and the old canvassers who have been battling alone with the wiles of Satan often need the help and inspiration of a meeting of this kind as well as the beginner.

Let us pray for a refreshing from the presence of the Lord at this time.
E. R. NUMBERS.

NOTICE

Districts 3 and 8

THOSE coming to the church officers' institute to be held in Akron, March 27-29, who arrive at union depot, will take car going west and ride to South Street, getting off there, go west on South Street one square to church. Those coming on interurban lines

will ask for transfers to South Main Street line, and get off at South Street, and go one block west to church.

The Akron church will entertain all visitors free, and are preparing to give a hearty welcome to all.

J. J. MARIETTA.

CHURCH OFFICERS' CONVENTION

Newark, O.

IT has been decided to hold a church officers' convention at Newark, April 10-13. Church government and order will be the theme of discussion from first to last. We hope to see a good attendance from all the churches within reasonable distance. The Newark church extends a cordial invitation to all who desire the information this convention is designed to impart. Let us all pray and plan to be present and have a profitable season on this occasion.

H. H. BURKHOLDER.

WEST PENNSYLVANIA ITEMS

W. J. FITZGERALD gave a very interesting discourse on the investigative judgment in the Methodist Episcopal church at Corydon, Sunday afternoon, March 15.

I. N. WILLIAMS is at present attending the church officers' meeting at Altoona; from there he will go to Johnstown to be with the canvassers at the Institute. We hope that the attendance at both of these meetings will be large and that much good may result.

LET us individually commence to plan to attend our camp-meeting to be held in Oil City in June. We are looking forward to the largest attendance we have ever had at a camp-meeting in our Conference. May we all reconsecrate our lives right now to this Third Angel's Message and come up to this annual meeting to enjoy the instruction and blessings that God has for us.

THE church elders' meeting held at Corydon, March 12-15, proved to be very profitable and interesting to all that attended. Elder W. J. Fitzgerald was present through the entire meeting and gave much valuable and timely instruction. On account of stormy weather and considerable sickness, the attendance was small. We are glad to see the interest manifested in the work of our local elders, and we trust that this may be only a beginning of efforts to be put forth in behalf of local church work.

A. V. WILLIAMS, Sec.

Continued from Page 6

an equal share in the temporal blessings of God; but this was not the purpose of the Creator. Christ has said that we shall have the poor always with us. The poor, as well as the rich, are the purchase of his blood; and among his professed followers, in most cases, the former serve him with singleness of purpose, while the latter are constantly fastening their affections on their earthly treasures, and Christ is forgotten. The cares of this life and the greed for riches eclipse the glory of the eternal world. It would be the greatest misfortune that has ever befallen mankind if all were to be placed upon an equality in worldly possessions." "Testimonies," vol. 4, p. 552. "Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? May we all seek the Lord, to know his will just what we should give.

H. W. HERRELL, Pres.

Richmond, Va.

NEW JERSEY, NOTICE

IT is earnestly desired that a large number will attend the general meeting to be held at Bridgeton, March 26-28. Let all who expect to attend notify Brother J. W. Rambo, Fairton, N. J., at once. Elders Fitzgerald and Kneeland will be present, and possibly others from abroad. Come praying for the presence of the Spirit of God.

GEORGE W. SPIES.

OBITUARY

MESSICK.—Died at Cambridge, Md., Sister Helen Tyler Messick, aged 61 years. About seven years ago, she accepted present truth under the labors of Elder V. H. Lucas. The funeral service was conducted by the writer in the Cambridge, Md., Seventh-day Adventist church. She was laid to rest in the blessed hope of a glorious resurrection.

CARLYLE B. HAYNES.

KLOPFENSTEIN.—Died at the home of her nephew, Charles Hurst, Six Points, O., March 2, 1908, Anna Hurst Klopfenstein, aged 91 years, 8 months, and 3 days. The funeral services were held at the old homestead, one mile southeast of Bowling Green. Sister Klopfenstein has lived a consistent, devoted life as a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Burdened with the infirmities of her advanced age, unable to eat or drink, save when the food or drink was placed to her lips by others, she was patient and kind, thankful for the crosses she bore, believing that all things work together for good to them that love God. Among those who mourn her loss are her nephew, Brother Charles Hurst, with whom she has lived for several years, and her stepson, Brother George Klopfenstein, of the Mount Vernon College Board. We laid her away with sorrowing hearts, yet cheered with the blessed hope that we shall soon meet again.

H. M. JUMP.