

# COLUMBIA UNION VISITOR

"THEY REHEARSED ALL THINGS THAT GOD HAD DONE WITH THEM"

Vol. 15

Mount Vernon, Ohio, January 12, 1910

No. 2

## GENERAL MATTER

### Report of President of Columbia Union Conference.

THIS is a great occasion. We are here assembled in the second session of the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. During this biennial term, the forces of the enemy, represented in different societies and organizations, have gathered together many times at various places within the territory of this Union. The rapidly increasing tide of iniquity is to-day more bold and more aggressive than it was two years ago this time. How fitting then it is that those who love God and fear iniquity should promptly assemble in representative council to seek the Lord, to study his message for us at this hour, and to unite on new plans for a forward movement against the enemy.

Perhaps a brief review of the past biennial term may help us to see if we have any reason to be enthusiastic for the future. First of all, we may note that in whatever direction we turn our eyes, we see the gracious reminders that God has been with us. He that keepeth Israel has neither slumbered nor slept. No apostasy has invaded our churches. The brethren comprising the different conferences have gone forward in liberal, and many times sacrificing contributions to the work, in spite of the needy and almost discouraging condition of our main institutions. In these also we are glad to report the Lord has already begun to build up, and to advance. The Union is young; only two years old. If she stretches out for the future on as strong a pace as she has during these past two links of time, we may settle down to expect some interesting developments.

If we follow the reports of the efforts put forth, the number of those who listened the past two years to the truths of the message would reach up into the hundreds of thousands. Two years ago, November 1, 1907, the number of church members, according to facts sent in by the different confer-

ences, was 6,306. The same reckoning for November 1, 1909, places the church membership throughout the Union at 6,763, or a gain of 457. Of course the gain will be larger by December 31, 1909, when those who came into the truth through the summer's efforts are gathered into the churches. It shows a gain; and is an expression of what can be done. Yet it is safe to say that the gain is not one-tenth of what it should be. It must be remarked, however, that the Union Conference has had four different presidents since its organization, while a number of the local conferences have been afflicted by transitory presidents a little more than is usual.

#### TITHES AND OFFERINGS

When now we turn to the people to see how much their hearts are in the work, the outlook is most encouraging. The total amount of tithes paid into the Union during the 24 months of the biennial term preceding this one was \$164,051.28. Over against this, the tithe paid in during the 22 months just past amounted to \$157,575 11. Following the computation of the different conference presidents, we may safely reckon that the tithe for the whole biennial term, that is, for the 24 months, will be \$173,508.92. That is to say, the gain of the present biennial term will, in all probability, be \$9,457.64 over the previous period already expired, or a gain of over \$4,700 for each of the present years over against each year of the term preceding. The ministry may change, but the people change not. Unaccompanied by nun, monk, or priest, their loyalty and their devotion declare how firm is the hold of God's truth on them in these days of selfishness and unbelief. They are compact, united, determined upon their line of conduct. All they want is leaders.

Nor is their interest in foreign missions decreasing. When the resolution in favor of the \$300,000 Fund was read at the Virginia Conference, at the close of last October, it was enthusiastically voted. When brought before the Chesapeake Conference, at

the beginning of November, some were on their feet, ready and willing to pay their quota on the spot. The donations given to foreign missions the previous biennial term were \$30,755.13. Up to October 31, 1909, they were \$32,942.26, which promises on this basis of computation, to mean \$36,574.69, or a gain of \$5,819.56. Though the amounts raised by the Young People's Societies show a loss of \$387.36 in the comparison of the two periods, yet the Sabbath-school donations are three-fourths as much again. The amount contributed by the last named agency, for the biennial term ending December 31, 1907, was \$10,013.76; while for the 22 months ending October 31, 1909, they were \$15,107.48, which would make \$16,912.87 for the 24 months, or a gain of \$6,899.11.

#### LITERATURE

The arms of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God. The manner in which literature has been sold and scattered through the Columbia Union bids us believe that God is forging for himself an arm soon to be profitably used. From January 1, 1906 to December 31, 1907, \$59,336.63 worth of reading matter relative to present truth were sold in the conferences of the Union. By October 31, this had risen to \$118,445.15, representing the sales for 22 months, and representing a gain of \$59,108.52, practically the double of the first amount mentioned. At this rate, the sales for the 24 months will reach \$130,099.75, or a gain of \$70,763.12 for the last biennial term over the preceding biennial term. With devoted workers to follow up the seed sown, we may look forward to a rich harvest in the future.

#### WORKERS

First ought to come the Bible workers. Visits and readings from house to house ought to step in the foot-prints made by the canvassers. We regret, however, not to be able to report progress in this direction. Some of the conferences, knowing full well the value of Bible readers, are going forward in a commendable way to

develop a good class of these excellent workers. Other conferences report a decrease, and again the total absence of a Bible worker. By October 31, 1907, we had 25 of this class of laborers within the Union. By October 31, 1909, we had only three more, or a total of 28.

In a like manner the Union has been retrogressing in the matter of developing young men for the ministry, or else these licentiates are being called out to other fields faster than their successors can be developed. At the present time there are only 18 licentiates in the eight different conferences of the Union, over against 22 at the beginning of the biennial term. No earthly army could carry on warfare without a system of recruiting. The strength of the field must largely lie in the new, vigorous, young workers coming forward to carry on the work a little farther than their predecessors. Omit the recognition of this principle, and retrogression must inevitably be the result.

Perhaps the decrease in the number of licentiates may be accounted for by the increase of ordained ministers. Whereas by October 31, 1907, the number of ordained ministers was 41, two years later they numbered 54, or an increase of 13. This is excellent, this is as it should be. But we hope and pray that this increase in the force of ordained ministers will mean an increase in the number of people brought into the truth. And one of the questions to be prayerfully and earnestly considered at this meeting should be, How can we make our ministry more successful? The grace of God has been shed upon us without money and without price, a distinct, visible blessing, separate and apart from any production of our own. How can we acquit ourselves as true stewards of this excellent treasure, bestowed upon earthen vessels?

First the canvasser, then the Bible worker, and finally, these two followed by the minister and public meetings. Successful campaigning along this line must surely bring results. And those who are brought into the truth will give us more canvassers, more Bible readers, and more ministers. At the present time there are 65 canvassers in the Union, which, compared with the 27 we had two years ago, gives us a gain of 38. But what are 65 canvassers among the 17,000,000 who dwell within the stewardship of the Columbia Union Conference? Like that Sister Perdue of Roanoke, Virginia, who told of a day when her soul was much troubled

over the expression, "Repairer of the breach," in Isaiah, chapter 58. She relates that, relying upon the instruction of God in the chapter, she has claimed the promise that health would "spring forth speedily." The Lord graciously healed her. In her joy and thanksgiving, she went back to read the chapter, and learned that God was going to call a certain class of people "The repairer of the breach." That night she sought God in prayer for an understanding of what this might mean; and, behold, the next day the canvasser stood at the door, holding in his hand the very literature which pointed out who today were to be the "repairers of the breach." God ordained this way of bringing to hungering souls the key to unlock the storehouse of his word. Sixty-five canvassers, 28 Bible workers, 18 licentiates, 54 ministers, and 24 other workers, make a total of 189 laborers to-day in the Union, a gain of 53 over the number reported for October 31, 1909. We are thankful for the help the Lord has given these workers in the past. But we earnestly pray that God will give them a new baptism from the time of this meeting on. May they receive such a new experience from the Omnipotent that they can point back with assurance to the divine origin of their work.

#### SABBATH-SCHOOL AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

And there is a sound of coming recruits. Our young people are stepping forward to fall into line. Not from the world alone are we to collect our forces. God calls upon us to look over those who are within the fold and to inquire, where are the Samuels, the Davids, and Timothy's who are to carry on his work. They are here. The number of our Sabbath schools register a good increase, with an enlarged attendance of 5,562, over 5,078 two years ago October 31. That is a gain of 484. These little ones early get conceptions of what God is seeking to bring about, and they place their little strength where it grows into giant might for the Lord. The Young People's Societies, which make the next step upward, also are gradually filling up. Seven hundred and twelve members of these societies can now be found throughout the Union, over against 679 two years ago at this time. Oh that there might be fathers and mothers in Israel who would know how to help these young people bring to King Jesus the service which they wish to give to him.

#### EDUCATIONAL

It is a good word which we are able to speak of the educational work within the Union. If we look upon what has been done, we would almost say that nothing has been done. Nevertheless, what has been accomplished has nothing in it but the ring of cheer. Two years ago, October 31, 1907, we had 18 church-schools, with 207 pupils. At this date, we have, as yet, only 26 church-schools and 384 pupils. But we do have something more than these figures show. We have through these conferences a loyal, expectant people just waiting to fall into line and to co-operate with any advance move in this direction. If the work has not taken on greater extension, it is not the fault of the people. The conferences need more educational secretaries, and we place down as one of the imperative needs of the moment an Educational Secretary for the Union who can devote all his time to the work.

Mount Vernon College reports an encouraging attendance. Already the enrollment for this year is larger than the total enrollment for last year. All visitors tell of a better and more advanced class of students this year, while from all parts of the different conferences we hear the sound which promises a still greater attendance of those who are planning to go there in 1910.

But the financial condition of the College demands attention and help. Born with a load of debt about her neck, the institution has since met with some adverse years, and has suffered in the frequent changes made in conference management. Last February the one-cent-a-day plan was inaugurated, but when I came into the Union in June, very little had been done to realize on that project. Since then some efforts have been put forth to bring it before the people, with the result that \$1,930 44 has been pledged for January 1, 1910. Up to this time over \$1,000 of this has been paid in. The Columbia Union has nothing to fear with respect to its educational prospects—except ignorance. The means and willingness are here. But none who fail to appreciate this great possibility can tap these resources. Look at Japan. She knows what has brought her as a nation to the front is the attention she has given to education. And ancient China is now rolling over in its couch, preparing to rub the sleep of centuries from its eyes by letting in the light of education. Without the blessing of God nothing can be

accomplished. And one of his greatest blessings is Christian education. A conference will rise or fall just in proportion to the attention she pays to Christian education. May the Lord greatly help the Columbia Union Conference and her constituent conferences to take wise and generous measures for the promotion of true education within our midst.

#### THE UNION PAPER

We have one of the nicest little Union papers in the United States. It is not perfect yet. The other pressing demands of the Union, which have absolutely required all possible spare time for their attention, have not permitted us to do a larger work in favor of the VISITOR. Nevertheless, the columns of the paper have been kept open for using by those conferences who wished to advance their work. The plan of the paper is certainly excellent. At comparatively little expense to each conference, it offers them a circulating news sheet which will keep all the members of the conference in touch with the interior movement of events, plus the transmission of such other news as binds all constituent fields of the Union into a sisterhood of conferences, and tells each other of the latest plans adopted, of their success, and of the progress of the message. Surely all ought to rally round such a standard. And as to the expense. Let us take Virginia with her 519 members as an example. The printing of the paper each week costs \$25.00, which outlay is charged to each conference on a pro rata basis of membership. Counting the Union membership at 6,570, and Virginia 519, Virginia's cost each week is 519-6,570ths of \$25.00, or \$1.97. In return, that conference has the benefit of all the subscriptions taken, which at present are 64. At fifty cents a subscriber, Virginia gets \$34.00 per year, or sixty-five cents per week. She then loses \$1.28 each week. But suppose that Virginia becomes enthusiastic and secures 250 subscribers. Would that be too many in a conference of 519 members? The 250 subscribers means \$125.00 per year, or \$2.40 per week, over against a cost of \$1.97 per week,—a gain of forty-three cents per week. But it means vastly more than that. It means a live, active conference whose members are well informed on the march of events within their own borders and throughout the Union. It means a greater incentive for better reporting on the part of the conference laborers, and consequently a

keener interest in their work. It means freedom from the cares incident to running a state paper, from securing editors, from renting office room, from keeping subscription lists; yes, from annual deficits. Surely, this Union Conference ought to arise in determination and zeal to see that all our local conferences have the full benefit of the Union paper.

#### OUR MISSION CONFERENCES

At the present time the Columbia Union has four mission conferences, Virginia, West Virginia, Chesapeake, and New Jersey; that is, just one conference less than the number of conferences composing each one of the Southern, Southeastern, and Southwestern Unions. Nevertheless, the amount of appropriations for which they call upon the General Conference is comparatively small. The larger appropriations are given by the Union,—\$1,000 to West Virginia; \$800 to Virginia; \$600 to Chesapeake; and \$500 to New Jersey. We are glad to note, however, that it is the aim of these conferences, and an aim toward which they are struggling, to become independent as soon as possible. New Jersey sends in the word of cheer that her tithe will, in all probability, go well above \$10,000 this year; that is, she will be almost up with the tithe paid by the District of Columbia and West Pennsylvania Conferences.

In all these conferences there is a vast foreign population. About one-third of those who dwell in New Jersey are foreigners; almost one-third of the state of Pennsylvania, and more than one-third of Ohio's population are of alien descent. In fact, out of the population of 18,000,000 comprising the Columbia Union Conference, 4,812,000 are foreigners. We are doing comparatively little for these different nationalities. Yet here is a vast field twice larger than the Republic of Switzerland, wherein we could work for tongues and nationalities both at home and abroad. God has sent them to our shores, that they might not only hear and see the third angel's message, but also join the same. We trust that 'missions at home' may not be overlooked in the multiplicity of things, but may receive helpful consideration.

We are supporting a general missionary in the New York harbor who gives his whole time to distributing literature among the vessels of the varied nationalities.

#### OUR DEAD IN THE LORD

It is with uncovered heads that we

make this last mention of those who have gone to their rest since last we met together. As each member of a family loves to bring and to lay a wreath of flowers as the last token of love for the departed member, so the Union would also pay a tribute to her dead. Last April a member of the Union Committee and President of the West Virginia Conference, Elder J. M. Rees, was called from our midst. At the age of sixty-five he was struck down, still active in the ministry, the calling to which he gave his life. It is fitting here that as a Union Conference we express, though weak and ineffective it may be, our heart-felt sympathy for those who mourn; and that we place this expression on record.

Here also we must mention the names of Sister Fannie Fondersmith, a devoted worker of the West Pennsylvania Conference, who passed away last year; and Sister Sue M. Andrews of the East Pennsylvania Conference, of whose sad death this week, we have just heard the news.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

I have sought thus far in these remarks to stand upon the bridge and to tell from the post of outlook what the situation in the Union is, and how the vessel is progressing. Much of the journey now lies in the past. Perhaps it would now be in place to express some action which ought to be taken, that the ship might accelerate her course, and thus the sooner arrive at the much desired haven.

First of all, let us put our educational work upon its feet. Give the Union the educational secretary she needs, and give to Mount Vernon College the financial relief she must have. Other colleges and schools throughout our wide field of labor have received from time to time substantial donations; faculty expenses have been greatly reduced through the payment of the salary of two, and sometimes three or four members of the faculty by sympathizing conferences. Up till last July, nothing along this line was being done. It would be a grand, good thing if we could do something financially for Mount Vernon College, perhaps as a refund for back salary of the Bible teacher. Such elders as Miller and Cottrell in China; Votaw in Burmah; Benson in Japan; Thurber in Burmah; Elders House, Gibson, Ashton, and Redfield; Professor Hamer and Doctor Fisher within our Union Conference, and many others, testify to the excellent work in favor of our field done by Mount Vernon College.

And much more can be done. The Columbia Union is now tugging hard to do yeoman service for foreign missions. But she is crippled in her main institution. More ought to be expected of our educational institution than simply to stand still and mark time. It would now be sound wisdom to bind up her wounds and put her in condition to double her efficiency in serving foreign mission fields.

As a second measure, let us make serious efforts at this meeting to staunch all springs of discouragement. I refer in particular to the Philadelphia Sanitarium. The General Conference Council at College View showed itself sympathetic to us in our distress, and expressed a fraternal willingness to help. The committee of three appointed to visit the sanitarium and report to its Board, have done so. The Board has expressed its wish to act upon this report at the time of this meeting. Let us all, with earnest prayer and willing co-operation, show to the denomination our determination to assist in whatever plans may be deemed advisable, even as the denomination has done the same towards us.

How can we spread out in our unentered countries? How can we enter our large cities? In practically all the conferences of this Union can be found not only counties, but tiers of counties which have never yet heard the message. Great cities in such numbers as hardly can be found in another American union, lie right at our doors. Our people are compact, united, ready to be led. We must march forward like leaders, and take possession of these unentered fields. Now is the time for deliberation. May it lead us, when we separate, to break up for decisive action.

Finally, like a great nation preparing to subdue a foreign host, plans must be laid to push the conquests of the Gospel to those distant lands whereto the Lord has commanded us. After all, that is the reason for our existence. We are to strengthen the home posts, to be sure, but only that we may push our advance lines out to the ends of the earth. The brethren in the Union, I believe, are ready to take hold of the \$300,000 proposition, and of the campaign for selling "Ministry of Healing," and "Life and Health." We must so organize the work that none will be overlooked, but that all may speedily have their opportunity to contribute, and to raise our quota soon. Here in

rich, prosperous America, where it seems impossible that God could give us more material blessing than we now have, it looks as though each church member could give within a year \$3.65 to Mount Vernon College to put her in a good financial condition to educate missionaries, and \$5 within the next three years to raise the \$300,000 Fund designed for the purpose of supplying decent homes for the new missionaries going to China, Japan, India, and other needy fields."

B. G. WILKINSON, *President.*

## The Columbia Union Conference

(Continued from last week)

THE eighth meeting of the Second Biennial Session of the Columbia Union Conference was held at 9:15 A. M., Wednesday, December 8, 1909, with Elder B. G. Wilkinson in the chair. Prayer was offered by Elder W. G. Kneeland of the New Jersey Conference. The minutes of the seventh meeting were read and approved. It was voted to adjourn for a few minutes to give the Columbia Union Conference Association opportunity to hold a meeting to appoint its committees. At 9:35 A. M., the Conference session resumed business.

### PLANS AND FINANCES

The Committee on Plans and Finance submitted the following partial report:

12. "Whereas, Mount Vernon College is carrying financial burdens to at least the amount of \$23,000, with a present worth of only \$8,600; and,—

"Whereas, Many of its obligations are now due, and the credit and honor of the institution are in great danger, unless active efforts are made at once to raise funds for the payment of these debts; and,—

"Whereas, The one cent-a-day plan has met with general acceptance in the Columbia Union Conference, many of the brethren responding heartily where the plan has been properly laid before them; therefore,—

"Resolved, That we indorse the one-cent-a-day plan, and that we heartily support the plan until an amount has been secured equal to \$3.65 for each member of the Conference.

13. "Whereas, Greatly appreciating the assistance which has so generously been given the Virginia Conference by the General Conference; and,—

"Whereas, In view of the great and urgent needs in this neglected field; therefore,—

"We recommend, The continuance of the appropriation of one thousand four hundred dollars.

Resolution Number 2, concerning the Mount Vernon College Fund, which had been referred back to the Committee for revision, was again read, discussed, and adopted.

Resolution Number 13 was referred back to the Committee with the request that this recommendation be changed so that it will include other conferences who desire to make similar requests.

Voted to adopt the report as a whole.

(Continued next week)

## Why the Churches Are Weak

WITHIN recent years the churches have accepted the doctrine of Evolution, which denies *in toto* the Bible narrative of the origin of the human family and of the evils which afflict it. The bearing of this fact upon the spiritual prosperity of the churches is such as to remove all reason for wonder at the condition which the churches have reached to-day. That this is so is clear from the testimony of the Bible, and the evidence of it certainly merits the attention of every professor of Christianity.

It is claimed by those who deny that there is anything seriously wrong with the churches, that the antichristian doctrines now being taught in some of the leading American universities, as described by a writer in the *Cosmopolitan* magazine, do not represent the attitude of the churches in general. However that may be, there is no question but that the churches in general do hold that the Bible account of the creation and the fall of man in Eden is a fable or an allegory, entirely devoid of historical truth. "We doubt," says the *Independent* (New York) "if there is a scientific man living who believes all that to be literal fact." In many years of constant reading of the organs of the leading Protestant bodies in this country, we have never once noted an article asserting the historical truth of this portion of Genesis; while on the contrary, we have noted many which treated the subject of the origin of the world and of man from the Darwinian rather than from the Bible standpoint.

Recently a representative Protestant journal, *The Independent* (New York), took occasion to make a pro-

nouncement on this subject in reply to a decision of a papal Biblical commission which, strangely enough, now finds occasion to defend the Bible against those whose ancestors renounced the papal religion as being unscriptural. This papal Biblical Commission was appointed to define the attitude of the Catholic Church on the question of the legendary character of this portion of Holy Writ, and reported adversely to the position taken by the higher critics. The commission declared that "the literal, historical truth" cannot be called in question, "when one is treating of the events narrated in these chapters, which have to do with the foundations of the Christian religion; such as, among others, the creation by God of all things in the beginning of time, the special creation of man, the formation of the first woman from the first man, the unity of the human race, the original bliss of our first parents in a state of righteousness, . . . the command given by God to man to test his obedience, their disobedience of the divine command, persuaded by the devil under the form of a serpent, the fall of our first parents from their state of primeval innocence, and also the promise of a future Redeemer."

"Think," comments *The Independent*, "what this means. The only liberty given to teachers is to teach that the six days are six periods, geologic ages. That is all. The rest is literal. The physical body of Adam was made of dust, and the animals were brought before him and named, and when he found no suitable companion he was put into a deep sleep and a rib was taken out and Eve made therefrom. There were two trees in the garden, one the tree of life, eating which would confer immortality, and the other the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; and the devil, in the form of a serpent, persuaded Eve to eat the forbidden fruit, and they were thereupon cast out of the garden, with a curse and a promise. All this Catholics are told they must believe as literal, historical truth, not myth, not parable, not poetry, not fable or tradition expurgated and purified for religious instruction, but literal, naked fact."

"The chief vice of it all," the *Independent* continues, "is in the presumption to tell scholars and people what they may and must not believe in these things."

. . . Science can contradict the church, and when science and sense

contradict the church it is the latter that must always fall. It is a sad sight to see the church thus put itself wrong and drive away its children. Our youth learn, and must learn, in the schools they go to, that this teaching of the church is not true."

Think what it means, says this Protestant journal, to believe what is told us in the first three chapters of Genesis. But we say, Think what it means not to believe it. Think what it means to a Christian church not to believe the Bible; for the first three chapters of Genesis are as much a part of the inspired volume as are any other three chapters. And there are no three chapters of the Bible more important than these opening chapters of Genesis. Indeed, the whole Bible stands or falls with these three chapters. To perceive the truth of this we have but to consider:—

1. That the exercise of creative power by the Almighty is of vital importance in the plan of salvation. Without it there would be no salvation for any of us, and the whole Bible would only mock us with its pictures of heaven and of perdition. We could not attain the one nor avoid the other. For redemption is creation. "Create in me a clean heart, O God" Ps. 51:10. "We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works." Eph. 2:10. "If any man be in Christ, there is a new creation" (margin). 2 Cor. 5:17. Salvation is only by a new birth. John 3:3.

2. That the creative power of God must work instantaneously, and not by a slow process of evolution operating through an eon of time. Of what use would it be to the sinner to know that God could create a new heart within him and cleanse him of his unrighteousness, sometime in the course of a million or more years? He wants the work done now; he has no assurance of life for even an hour of time.

3. That without the creation of the heavens and the earth in six days there could have been no Sabbath, and without the Sabbath Christianity would degenerate into heathenism. When we lose sight of creation we lose sight of the Creator and become worshipers of that which is no God.

4. The narrative of Genesis 1-3 is endorsed by the New Testament writers, and if the latter do not tell the truth on this point they are unworthy of belief on any other point. Luke 3:24-38; Rom. 5:12; 1 Tim. 2:13, 14.

5. That if there was no fall of the human family in Eden there was no need of a deliverer from sin; and if man has risen from a lower plane of

life to his present condition by a process of evolution, he needs no other saviour than this evolutionary process.

Setting aside these chapters of Genesis, therefore, as mere myth, legend, or allegory, with no basis in historical truth, we deny the whole gospel, and invalidate the remainder of the Bible as well. We sweep away the whole foundation of the Christian religion. This is what it means not to believe the alleged fable and legend constituting the Bible account of the creation and the fall of man. Is it any wonder that a church which rejects this portion of the Scriptures as untrue, does not prosper in the work of saving people from their sins? Is it any wonder that people in such a church should, some of them, realize that something is wrong?

We are happy to state that this lapse from faith is not universal in the camp of Protestantism, and that it is not yet left to the church of Rome to defend the truthfulness of Bible history. There is one Protestant body left—not a dwindling one either, but a growing one—which stands by this as by every other part of the inspired volume, not even accepting the papal admission that the six days of creation were six geologic periods, but holding that they were six literal days, as asserted in the record and in the decalogue. Seventh-day Adventists are proud to be known as the defenders of the truthfulness of the Bible.

The Bible does indeed tell all classes of men, the ignorant as well as the learned, "what they must and must not believe in these things." The word of God contains no glorification of human wisdom; it gives no hint that the "science" of this world is any stepping-stone to an understanding of the manner in which divine power and wisdom were exercised in the creation of the world. It does say, on the contrary, that God hath made foolish the wisdom of this world. 1 Cor. 1:20. Through all human history the messages of God to mankind have been constantly disputed by the wise men of the world, and invariably the wise men have been found in error. The wise men of Noah's day perished in the flood; and the Scribes and Pharisees of Christ's day rejected him. The learned men of Luther's day were in the papal church, and had it depended on them there would never have been a Reformation. The learned men of this day know nothing of the three messages of Rev. 14:6-12, yet those

messages are going with great power to every nation under heaven. Faith is the only avenue to a knowledge of the things of God.

Thank the Lord for an avenue of truth that is open to all men alike—the word of God, understood through faith and the teaching of the Holy Spirit. And thank him for schools in which our youth are *not* taught that Bible history rests upon a foundation of untruth.—*The Watchman*

## OHIO

### Ohio Conference, Notice

THE forty-eighth annual session of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in the Seventh-day Adventist church, corner of Ohio and Fair Streets, Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 24-28, 1910. The opening meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 24, 1910, at 7:30 P.M. The meeting is called for the election of conference officers and the transaction of any other business that may be necessary to consider at that time.

Let all the local churches plan to be represented at this conference; and if possible, by a full delegation. The basis of representation is one delegate for the organization, and one additional delegate for every twenty-five members.

H. H. BURKHOLDER, *Pres.*

### Ohio Conference Association Meeting

THE annual meeting of the Ohio Conference Association of the Seventh-day Adventist church will be held in the Seventh-day Adventist church, corner Ohio and Fair Streets, Columbus, Ohio, in connection with the annual conference, Jan. 24-28, 1910. The purpose of this meeting is to elect a board of trustees, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the Association. The first meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 25, 1910, at 3 P. M.

H. H. BURKHOLDER, *Pres.*

R. G. PATTERSON, *Sec.*

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

### District of Columbia Conference

NOTICE is hereby given that the second annual meeting of the District of Columbia Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in the Memorial church in Washington, D. C., the 6th and 7th of Feb-

ruary next. The first meeting will be held at 9:30 the morning of the 6th, and it is hoped that there will be a full representation from all the churches present at that hour. Such important business as the election of officers for the coming year, planning for aggressive missionary work, considering the financial situation, and the best way to do conference and church work will be considered.

W. A. HENNIG.

## NEW JERSEY

### Important Notice

THE third annual session of the New Jersey Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in connection with the meeting of the New Jersey Conference at Camden, N. J., Jan. 18 to 23, 1910. The first meeting of the Association will be called at the Goff building, Broadway, near Federal street, Camden, N. J., Thursday, January 20, 1910, at 9:15 A. M., for the purpose of electing officers, and transacting any other business properly belonging to the work of the Association. All delegates to the conference are members of the Association.

B. F. KNEELAND, *President.*

### New Jersey Conference Notice.

WE wish again to call attention to the annual session of the New Jersey Conference which will be held in the Goff Building, Broadway, near Federal St., Camden, N. J., Jan. 18 to 23, 1910. The hall is easily reached by all street car and trolley lines, and is only ten minutes walk from the Pennsylvania R. R. ferry. All those coming into Camden on the Pennsylvania steam or electric lines should get off at the Broadway station and walk one half block north to the hall. The first conference meeting will be called at 3 P. M., Jan. 18. All delegates should be present at that time. Excellent help has been promised to make the Bible studies and the hours devoted to church and conference work very practical and helpful. There will be preaching each evening and Sabbath. Arrangements for rooms should be made with Mrs. G. R. Fortiner, 517 Cooper St., Camden, N. J. Meals will be served in the building for all who desire them. Let us make a good beginning of the work of 1910 at this meeting.

B. F. KNEELAND, *President.*

DURING a large part of this year the company at Plainfield has not been holding regular Sabbath meetings, as so many of the members have moved away. Recently a Sabbath-school has been organized there which meets at 10 A. M. in the W. C. T. U. hall, in the Post Office building, corner Madison and Front Streets, Plainfield. We trust that this will be the beginning of a strong revival of the work of the third angel in the vicinity of Plainfield.

About \$1,100.00 has been already received at our office on the Harvest Ingathering, and every mail brings more. Many have expressed themselves as believing that this great campaign did a vast amount of good both to themselves and to others. While it did not accomplish what it might have done had all taken hold of the work with the zeal and courage that some manifested, still it has enabled more than one hungry Seventh-day Adventist soul to enjoy the blessedness of partaking of that spiritual nourishment which sustained the Saviour when he exclaimed, "I have meat to eat which ye know not of." We do not think a single one would wish to miss the blessing which was received while seeking for those who are willing to listen to the message for this time.

Do not allow the work started by the Harvest Ingathering to stop, and thus fail to reap the grand results which naturally grow out of such an effort. Continue to visit your neighbors, and with wisdom water the seed sown, but above all you should avoid controversy or harsh criticism of other churches. Let the truth shine out clearly in contrast to the darkness which floods the world to-day.

These long winter evenings should not be allowed to pass unimproved. If you feel the need of an education, and can not get away to attend one of our schools, why not take a course in the Correspondence School, at Takoma Park, Washington, D. C. Many a successful man has educated himself in this way. Perhaps you can get some other person in the family to join you and study the lessons together, thus reducing the expense.

The late storm blocked the roads, and greatly interfered with traffic in the business world. But persevering energy cleared the tracks. Why not go to work just as intelligently and

Canvassers' Reports

West Pennsylvania, One Week Ending December 31, 1909

Name	Place	Book	Days	Hrs	Ords	Value	Helps	Total	Del
C. Zimmerman, Bedford Co.		SP	3	19	15	28 50	3 50	32 00	
J. Heaton, " Co.		GC	5	33	3	8 25	3 25	11 50	39 50
A. McIntyre, Armstrong Co.		SP	4	27	5	2 50	2 25	4 75	3 75
T. Saxton, " "		GC	4	30	9	24 75	2 70	27 45	4 10
Miss Zoerb, Lock Haven		CK	1				60	60	1 60
J. Glunt, Mufflin Co.		GC	3	18	1	2 75	4 25	7 00	5 50
T. M. Butler, Erie Co.		CK	5	40	16	22 25	1 15	28 40	1 00
C. Dunham, Indiana Co.		GC	4	21	11	41 00		41 00	43 40
<b>Totals</b>			<b>29</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>\$130 00</b>	<b>\$17 70</b>	<b>\$147 70</b>	<b>\$98 90</b>

Ohio, Week Ending December 31, 1909

Enos M. Horst, Ross Co.	GC	3	21	5	15 00	3 45	18 45	95
J. Reichenbeck, Stark Co.	CK	5	38	1	3 00	18 00	21 00	
E. E. Shaw, Ottawa Co.	GC	4	24					112 50
H. F. Kirk, Carroll Co.	DR	3	13	2	5 50	2 60	8 10	3 50
*F. E. Hankins, Harrison Co.	DR	7	53		4 75		4 75	236 42
L. H. Waters, Allen Co.	CK	4	23	10	11 50		11 50	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>\$39 75</b>	<b>\$24 05</b>	<b>\$63 80</b>	<b>\$353 37</b>

Virginia, Week Ending December 13, 1909

†K. Oertley, Wytheville	SP		46	23	27 00	2 10	29 10	11 50
†G. Schwab, Roanoak Co.	CK		55	10	29 50	1 70	31 20	
K. Oertley, Wythe Co.	CK		13	4	4 25	4 70	8 95	1 60
<b>Totals</b>			<b>114</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>\$60 75</b>	<b>\$8 50</b>	<b>\$69 25</b>	<b>\$13 10</b>

West Virginia, Week Ending December 31, 1909

J. H. Jennings, Monroe Co.	DR	5	30	1	1 50	13 50	15 10	8 50
J. Merideth, Ritchie Co.	PH						25 20	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$1 50</b>	<b>\$13 00</b>	<b>\$40 50</b>	<b>\$8 50</b>

New Jersey, Week Ending December 24, 1909

J. Rambo, Commercial	DR	3	28					95 50
D. W. Percy, Preston Co.	GC	1	8	12	37 00		37 00	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>\$37 00</b>		<b>\$37 00</b>	<b>\$95 50</b>

New Jersey, One Week Ending December 17, 1909

G. Blinn, Hunterton	GC	4	40					210 00
Wm. Plant, Jamesburg	CK	1	7					22 70
A. Wright, Ocean Grove	CK	1	7					18 00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>54</b>					<b>250 70</b>

Grand Totals: Value of Orders, \$349.30. Deliveries, \$820.07

\*Two weeks †Two weeks ending December 24  
 ‡Three weeks ending December 24

earnestly to clear away the opposition and prejudice which blocks the way to the heart of that neighbor of yours? With all the tools which we have in the shape of tracts, magazines, books, etc., backed up by a consistent life, we surely can accomplish something.

The Jersey City First church took advantage of the fact the Christmas

came on the Sabbath to invite outside friends to meet with them. A special exercise had been prepared for the occasion, and gifts were offered, not to themselves, but to the Lord. A goodly number of friends were present, and seemed greatly impressed with the spirit of our work. Several new members have been added to this church recently, and our people here are of good courage.

Again we call attention to the conference session to be held in the Goff Building, Broadway, near Federal Street, Camden, N. J., Jan. 18 to 23. If you have not yet made arrangements for room, please write at once to Mrs. G. R. Fortiner, 517 Cooper St., Camden, N. J., so that there may be no lack of accommodations. As this is the first general state meeting in this conference for a year, we hope for a good attendance at this very important meeting.

NEW JERSEY TITHE RECEIPTS THREE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1909

Atlantic City	\$ 71 35
Bridgeton	141 10
Burlington	115 63
Camden	206 87
Cape May Court House	20 30
Elizabeth	121 20
Hackensack	52 22
Jersey City First	92 26
Jersey City Second	148 23
Jersey City German	252 87
Morristown	
Newark	646 59
Newark Bohemian-Slavish	60 36
Paterson	99 11
Little Falls Company	34 83
Paulsboro	23 15
Perth Amboy	68 99
Salem	90 23
Trenton	428 34
Vineland	117 10
West Hoboken	
Woodbury	33 48
Individuals	66 86
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,891 07</b>

TOTAL RECEIPTS, ALL SOURCES

Tithe	\$2,891 07
Tract Society	1301 76
Weekly Offerings	66 27
Foreign Missions	25 74
Annual Offering	375 85
Sabbath School Offerings	448 62
Harvest Ingathering	1206 93
Religious Liberty	
Southern Missionary Society	3 78
Colorod Work	83 57
Huntsville Scholarships	18 17
Jewish Work	1 30
Christian Record	4 22
Orphanages	20
Penn. Sanitarium	
Mount. Vernon College Fund	172 54
China	
Turkey	
Tent and Camp-meeting	39 32
Benevolent Fund	9 35

Total, \$6,648 79

D. K. ROYER, Treas.

## COLUMBIA UNION VISITOR

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

## COLUMBIA UNION CONFERENCE

of the Seventh-day Adventists

ISSUED FIFTY TIMES A YEAR

BY THE

Mount Vernon College Press

Mount Vernon, Ohio

Price, 50 Cents a Year in Advance

D. D. REES - - - EDITOR

Address all Subscriptions and make all Money Orders payable to your Tract Society.

[Entered as Second-Class Matter March 25, 1908, at the Post-office at Mt. Vernon, O., under the Act of Congress of March 3 1879.]

Columbia Union Conference  
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Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia.

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MISS PEARL L. REES, who for the past two years has been secretary of the West Virginia Tract Society, has gone to South Lancaster, Mass. She has been elected secretary of the Atlantic Union Conference and editor of *The Atlantic Union Gleaner*. She has been spending the past month in Mount Vernon, visiting her brother, Prof. D. D. Rees, and family.

## Mount Vernon College Meeting

THERE will be a meeting of the patrons of Mount Vernon College in the Seventh-day Adventist church, Ohio and Fair Streets, Columbus, Ohio, in connection with the annual meeting

of the Ohio State Conference, January 24-28, 1910. The purpose of this meeting is to elect trustees, and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting. The first meeting will be held Tuesday, January 25, at 3 P. M.

S. M. BUTLER, Sec.

## "Knocking Infidelity Out"

It is related that once, after concluding a lecture, Mr. Bradlaugh, the notorious English atheist, called upon any one present to reply to his arguments. A collier rose, and spoke somewhat as follows:

"Maister Bradlaugh, me and my mate Jim were both Methodist till one of these infidel chaps came this way. Jim turned infidel, and used to badger me about attending prayer meetings; but one day in the pit a large cob of coal came down upon Jim's 'yead.' Jim thought he was killed, and, ah! mon, but he did holler and cry to God." Then turning to Mr. Bradlaugh with a knowing look, he said, "Young man, there's now't like cobs of coal for knocking infidelity out of a man." It need scarcely be said that the collier carried the audience with him. Hard facts always go a great way toward dissipating mere theories.—*Selected*

## A Few Thoughts on Organization

AMONG Seventh-day Adventists, organization came into existence because of necessity. At first, because we had come out of other churches, we feared organization, and thought it was formality. But as difficulties arose, it became necessary that order should be established.

At first each minister went where he pleased, and oftentimes appointments conflicted, and there would be two or three ministers in one place at the same time. This necessitated a committee being appointed to advise and counsel with the laborers, that there be no confliction in this respect.

Then we came to ministerial support. Some were excellent beggars for themselves and families, and could obtain sufficient for them; while others begged for the cause, forgetting their own interests. This necessitated a system by which the ministers could be supported. Before we learned the truths regarding the tithing system, there was a plan inaugurated called "systematic benevolence," which was used a few years.

As our companies increased in

numbers, it became necessary that we have local elders, so these were appointed. As the local elders frequently changed, and were simply individuals who supported themselves and attended to their own individual employment, the question arose respecting the privileges and duties of those holding this office. It was decided, therefore, that no local ordained elder was empowered to perform marriage ceremonies. This became necessary to save us from having trouble with the state. Then the question of baptism arose; and it was decided by the General Conference, and we thought we were sustained by the Scriptures, that ordained local elders could baptize in their own churches, but not elsewhere, unless by permission or recommendation of the conference committee.

Originally, giving a man a license was simply to show that he had the privilege of exercising his gift, so that the people, as well as he, might know whether or not he was called of God to preach. Such individuals, by virtue of their license, were not authorized to baptize outside of their own churches, any more than local elders. These regulations were made on account of confusion being brought in by many feeling that they were called to preach and baptize, whom the brethren did not think God had called to that work. So step by step it was seen that our present system of church and conference organization was necessary, and it was adopted as necessity required. It is in harmony with the Bible and the spirit of prophecy.

The independency of our churches was also a question, and it was clearly seen from the Bible that the churches were amenable to some organization that was above the churches (Acts 15:1-41), and that the ordaining of ministers was by the presbytery (Acts 13:1-3), recognizing a higher authority than one single church or one single minister in ordaining ministers.

After church organization, conference organization became a necessity, and so on to the General Conference organization. The General Conference, when assembled, is the highest human authority among Seventh-day Adventists. The spirit of prophecy comes to us as a people, sustaining the same position to God's people as it ever has in the past. Thus the third angel's message is simply a re-setting of the truths of the gospel in a framework of truth.—S. N. Haskell.