

COLUMBIA UNION VISITOR

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

Vol. 17

Mount Vernon, Ohio, April 24, 1912

No. 17

UNION

SPRING

Lord of the spring and flowers,
I see thy hand and hear thy voice
In every bursting bud.
I see the beauty creeping forth
With its adorning touch,
To wrap its drapery of bloom,
And life, and beauty, everywhere.

Oh life how wonderful!
The breath of God to sweetly steal
O'er all the world in silent love.

The great command to live again
Is spoken to old earth—
Though winter's frosts have seared it
brown with death.

And lo the carpet at my feet
Is gorgeous with green, a living green—
All painted by the sunlight.
The willow tassels, and the maple buds,
Hepaticas in bloom,
Tell me that spring has come,
And tell me God is here.

MRS. PAULINE ALDERMAN.

The Third Biennial Session

The first meeting of the third session of the Columbia Union Conference was opened at 9:45 A. M., April 11, 1912, in the Carnegie Library Auditorium, Lang and Hamilton Aves., Pittsburgh, Pa. Elder B. G. Wilkinson occupied the chair. The session was opened by prayer, Elders J. L. McElhaney and A. R. Sanborn invoking God's blessing upon the meeting.

DELEGATES

Ohio: E. K. Slade (delegate at large), R. G. Patterson, W. E. Bidwell, W. W. Miller, H. F. Kirk, G. C. Quillin, H. M. Jump, M. Andre, J. J. Marietta, W. C. Moffett, J. F. Olmsted, Raleigh French, W. J. Venen, H. F. Graf, J. H. Smith, C. T. Redfield.

West Virginia: F. H. Robbins (delegate at large), C. V. Hamer.

Chesapeake: R. T. Baer (delegate at large), R. H. Martin, H. S. Prener, G. R. Apsley, Miss Emma S. Newcomer.

West Pennsylvania: B. F. Kneeland (delegate at large), J. W. West,

J. P. Gaede, J. E. Veach, J. M. Williams, W. F. Schwartz.

New Jersey: A. R. Sandborn (delegate at large), W. H. Smith, J. G. Hanhardt, W. G. Kneeland, W. B. Walters.

Virginia: W. J. Stone (delegate at large), R. D. Hottel, Stewart Kime.

District of Columbia: J. L. McElhaney (delegate at large), A. J. Bristol, G. A. Stevens, A. J. S. Bordeau, W. H. Green, M. D. Wood.

East Pennsylvania: W. H. Heckman (delegate at large), R. E. Harter, S. D. Hartwell, C. S. Wiest, A. R. Bell, O. F. Schwedrat, J. H. McEachern, T. H. Branch, H. Baumgartner.

Union delegates at large: B. G. Wilkinson, D. W. Reavis, H. N. Sisco, I. G. Bigelow, N. S. Ashton, E. R. Brown.

Mount Vernon College: S. M. Butler, J. E. Shultz.

Of the above list thirty delegates responded to the roll call.

The chairman, by common consent, appointed the following committee on seating of delegates: B. F. Kneeland, Chairman, J. J. Marietta, C. S. Wiest.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer rendered his financial report, which was unanimously approved. (Upon application to the Columbia Union office a copy of this report will be mailed.)

COMMITTEES

Voted that the chair, in counsel with the presidents of the conferences, appoint the working committees.

At the third meeting of the session, held Friday morning, April 12, forty-seven delegates responded to the roll call.

Voted that the visiting brethren be invited to participate in the deliberations of the meeting.

Voted that the Committee on Seating of Delegates be invited to act as the Committee on Delegation.

Elder B. G. Wilkinson, president of the Columbia Union Conference, rendered his biennial report, which follows. E. R. BROWN, *Secretary*.

The President's Address

Once more we come together in Union session, greatly interested to know how that group of conferences in which we are so much interested has fared, and what has been the progress of the individual conferences. Our meeting at this time constitutes the third biennial session of the Columbia Union Conference. This is a meeting of great importance; and we all should feel a solemn duty to make it a meeting of still greater importance. Like the Philadelphia Institute, this Union session should go down in our denominational history as standing for something distinctive. From Union officers and from conference officers will be presented reports showing what the Lord has done for us, and what we have failed to do for him. The facts and figures will recite what successes have been gained, and what defects remain to be remedied. It will be our solemn duty to study these reports prayerfully and carefully, that we may contribute such help to this meeting that the next biennial session will be the greatest in the history of the Union.

The Columbia Union Conference was formed, and entered upon its work, January 1, 1908. In the four and a half years which have elapsed since, the wisdom of this step has been amply demonstrated. During the first one and a half years of its existence, three brethren, Elders Fitzgerald, Andross, and Thompson, filled the position of president. The following three years the office has been filled by the one at present occupying it. A comparison of the first two years of the Union's life with that of the last two years will reveal that God has greatly blessed. Though the Union sprang into existence accompanied by many difficult problems, yet under the favor of God we may say that the work of this organization has just begun. Clouds have been dispelled, and hope and confidence are springing up.

But before we investigate what has been done, let us note for a moment how vast is the population and

how unusually small the proportion of workers. With a population slightly over twenty millions, and rapidly increasing each month, the inhabitants of this Union number nearly one-half the population of Great Britain. Taking only the usual class of licensed workers,—ministers, licentiates, and missionary licensed—the Columbia Union has of these 141, or, in round numbers, one worker to every 140,000 inhabitants—over against the West Canadian Union, the North Pacific, the Pacific, the Northern, the Central, and the Southwestern Unions, which have a population of from one third to one eighth of ours, with one worker to from 90,000 to 20,000 people, or from three to six times as many workers proportionately as the Columbia Union.

If, in proportioning the number of Adventists to the size of the population, we had in this Union the average population which prevails throughout the United States, there would be in these conferences more than twice as many Adventists as there are now.

Yet in the face of that, we have not felt unwilling to spare of our laborers for other fields when they were called for. We esteem it a privilege to do this, and only hope that in the coming months we shall be able to do more of it. Among these who were once seen among us we may mention: Elder D. A. Strickland, of the District of Columbia, who was called to work in New Brunswick; Elder B. L. House, to the Central Union; Elder O. O. Burnstein, to the Atlantic Union; Elder F. I. Richardson, to the Pacific Union; Brother A. J. Painter, to become union missionary agent of the Northern Union; Elder W. A. Hennig, to become Bible teacher in the Pacific Union College; Elder C. B. Haynes to Atlanta, Georgia; Elder H. H. Burkholder, to the East Michigan Conference; Elder R. E. Broderick, to Chicago, Ill.; and Sister Borchevick, now connected with the Scandinavian work in Chicago.

We feel deeply grateful to God that we are not called upon to recite a long list of workers who have been called by death from our number.

Turning now to the work which has been done in the Union these past two years, we may say that there has been an increase in all lines, but oh how far short of what it ought to have been! We look around the Union and inquire how many souls have been saved. If Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners, then we also are in this world as his ministers, with no other mission than to save

sinners. In response to my written requests, information was sent in respecting what had been accomplished during 1911 by means of tent and hall efforts. I do not need to report these different efforts in the individual places, but leave that to the conference presidents to do. Totaling up the figures furnished in the different replies, there were reported 536 persons accepting the truth last year. Of these, 250 were given as the result of the efforts of the summer's work. Ohio reports 100 for the year and 24 for the summer; West Pennsylvania gives 70 for the year and 25 for the summer; Eastern Pennsylvania has 71 for the year and 53 for the summer; New Jersey reports 90 for the year and 45 for the summer; the District of Columbia gives 62 for the year and 6 for the summer; Virginia has 68 for the year and 23 for the summer; Chesapeake sends in 116 for the year and 48 for the summer; West Virginia reports 30 for the year and 16 for the summer.

Returning now to the biennial comparison, we are confronted at once with some startling figures which should demand from this conference serious consideration, either by our instructors, or through the question box, or in the resolutions; and above all, in our personal prayers. Summing up the membership of the eight conferences in this Union, as furnished just recently by the presidents, we find a gain of 205 members for this biennial period against the biennial period ending December 31, 1909. We are glad indeed, to note this increase. The same reports, however, show that the most of this increase was made among the churches already established; for the same reports accuse the different conferences of a decrease of ten churches and companies, which leaves 221 churches and companies for the biennial period ending December 31, 1911, against 231 churches and companies for the previous biennial period; while only one half of the eight conferences in the Union report new churches for the last biennial period, as follows: Eastern Pennsylvania 4, New Jersey 1, Chesapeake 4, District of Columbia 2. Nevertheless we thank God that in the past biennial period, so full of changes and heavy financial burdens, taking the ministers part of the time from the field, there has been a substantial increase of 205 in the membership. And we believe that the most of this gain was made in the year 1911, thus indicating that the Union has strengthened and is getting ready to take up the great

tasks which lie before it.

When we turn now to the question of the tithes, an examination of the same reveals a growing faithfulness, and hence a greater faith in God upon the part of our brethren throughout the Union. If we turn to the books of the Union Conference treasurer, we see there was paid in tithe in 1908, \$70,585; in 1909, \$85,461; in 1910, \$99,136.90; in 1911, \$103,343.60, or an increase of \$45,435 in the biennial period ending December 31, 1911, over the previous biennial period. Or, in other words, the tithe in the Union rose from \$70,000 in 1908 to \$103,000 in 1911. If, on the other hand, we take the figures furnished by the conference presidents, the increase in tithes has been \$36,084.49. The reason for this difference lies first in the fact that the District of Columbia Conference entered the Union in the middle of 1909; secondly, that about the close of 1909 the Union Conference laborers ceased to pay their tithe directly to the Union; and, thirdly, in some exchange of funds. If these facts are taken into consideration, the real increase of tithe for the biennial period is about \$40,000. Let us be conservative, however, and say \$36,000. Even this is an increase full of encouragement when we consider that this Union is an eastern, not a western one, and a Union also which contains such Southern territory as Virginia, West Virginia, and the Chesapeake Conferences. But this is not all. There is another thing about the increase of the tithe worthy of notice, and that is the increase per capita. The per-member tithe has been steadily rising each year, so that the per capita tithe at the close of the last biennial period was \$2.30 more than at the close of 1909. Of this the increase last year alone was \$1.26 per capita.

Turning now to the other funds, we note that whereas during the first biennial period the total amount of money sent to the General Conference for their work was \$41,262.37, this amount was more than doubled in the next biennial period, when \$89,627.93 was sent. The operating funds of the Union, or the tithe received by it to carry on Union work for the biennial period represented by the year 1908-9, was \$16,846.12; for the biennial period 1910-11, it was \$20,248.05. The amount of the volume of business done by the Union the first biennial period was \$62,129.34; while that done during the second biennial period was \$141,388.25, a gain of \$79,258.91. The amount raised through the "Ministry of Healing" campaigns during the years 1908-9,

was \$670.65; during the years 1910-11, the amount was \$4,160.49.

Take the four leading funds which go to make up the ten-cent-a-week fund, and the same marked and distinctive increase is seen. Setting one biennial period over the other, the funds run as follows:—

Sabbath-school donations, \$13,928 increased to \$22,190; Annual offerings, \$4,161 increased to \$8,307; Mid-summer offering, \$3,257 increased to \$3,327; Harvest Ingathering, \$5,912 increased to \$11,058.

We deeply regret, however, that this Union has not yet had the joy of fully raising any year her full quota on the ten-cent-a-week fund. We sincerely hope that this Union session will devise some plans of bringing in some new inspiration whereby all our conferences will march forward not only in the raising of ten cents a week per member, but to the successful accomplishment of what is now the fifteen-cent-a-week plan.

CITY WORK

In the question of city work no Union has greater claim to attention than the Columbia. With over one-third of all the cities having over 35,000 inhabitants within its borders, we have many to whom to give the warning. And this, generously assisted by the General Conference, we are endeavoring to do. The last two years special city efforts have been held in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, Pittsburgh, Wheeling, Newark, Jersey City, and Charleston. Besides these, pastors have been given to other great centers, such as Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Toledo. These carry on their work the whole year round. Our city work is constantly receiving more and more attention from the different conferences, and there is growing up among us a class of workers who are carefully studying this problem. As the result of these labors in the different cities, new church buildings of a substantial character have sprung up. Charleston, West Virginia, secured for herself a property valued at about \$12,000. Newark, New Jersey, has put itself up a good church building; Parkersburg has done the same. Richmond, Virginia, has remodeled her structure so that it is of creditable size and useable form. Nor should I fail to mention here the many church buildings which have been erected in other local places over the Union. The District of Columbia Conference has taken steps to erect a creditable structure at Takoma Park, a good part of the

funds for the same being already on hand.

IMPROVING THE MINISTRY

To carry on our city work more powerfully in the future, more attention must be given to the development of the ministry and to increasing our force of Bible workers. We must seek to increase in our conferences a ministry having great credentials from God. They must have with them the witnesses of the Spirit; they must have reviving power; they must know how to be influential with the youth in binding them to the truth and inspiring them towards education for service; they must know how to raise means for carrying forward the truth.

THE MEDICAL WORK

Since the closure of the Pennsylvania Sanitarium, the medical work of the Union has lain largely with the Washington Sanitarium. With them we are endeavoring to co-operate in doing something for this important branch of the message. Doctor Sisco, medical head of that institution, and also medical secretary of the Union, has endeavored to do what his time permitted in carrying along that work within our conference. Most of our camp-meetings the past two years—and especially New Jersey, Chesapeake, Virginia, and West Virginia—have been planned for and have received help. Some of our city efforts have made it a special point in the program to set aside one night each week in which to present the health side of the message. The doctors from the Washington Sanitarium came down once each week last summer to Baltimore, and their programs were a marked feature in securing a large attendance and interest in the tent effort there. In Richmond special attention has been given to taking up the problem of combining the health work with the evangelistic, and later, instruction and proceedings along this line have been taken up throughout the Virginia Conference. More attention should be given this subject at this Union Conference, and we pray that practical and efficient methods may be brought to light.

As to the Philadelphia Sanitarium, we believe that God has given special help in handling that difficult and complicated problem. When the Philadelphia Sanitarium was passed over to the Union the indebtedness was \$81,000, with about \$50,000 insolvency. Those were days of trial and clouds. But since then help has come in, and the Lord has lent willing

hearts all along the line. The building was sold for about \$35,000; the General Conference kindly assumed \$21,000; "Ministry of Healing" brought in about \$5,000; and the Columbia Union Conference Association, through solicitations and through loans, which gave her money in hand so as to give good promise on solicitations, secured voluntary reductions upon obligations, which totaled about \$12,000. These amounts went to reduce the indebtedness and insolvency upon the building is a little over \$10,000.

EDUCATIONAL

While speaking of institutions, I might here bring in our Union educational institution, Mount Vernon College. Here is an institution which ought to be recommended at once to our fostering care for more decided help and support than she has heretofore received. During the year previous to my connection with the Board, the College had run behind some \$5,000. During the year previous to that, when the College was under the management of the Ohio Conference, she had again run behind about \$5,000. But we have been obliged to effect some changes in this record, and the status at present is as follows: The present worth of the College, June 30, 1909, or about three years ago, was \$8,690.33. The last annual statement of the institution for the year ending June 30, 1911, accuses it of a present worth of \$17,273.53, or a gain of \$8,583.25. These are financial facts. But, encouraging as they are, it is more encouraging to consider that the last two years have seen the largest annual attendance in the history of the school; and to know that at the present moment there are more than twenty-eight young people in active preparation, training to go to foreign mission fields, and that there are five or six who are preparing to graduate next year from the College course. When the news came from China that Brother Esta Miller had fallen in death at his post, and when a memorial service was held for him in the College chapel at Mount Vernon, and a call was made asking how many students would be willing, if they are so permitted by God, to go to China to fill the place made vacant by the death of Brother Miller, fifty young people immediately stood upon their feet in response to this request.

In spite, however, of these encouraging facts, the school greatly needs attention. The Board has struggled earnestly with this problem for the

last three years, and we believe it should receive serious consideration at the hands of this Union Conference.

The Union Committee has had also the same fostering care over the educational work throughout the conference as over the College. To this end Elder James Shultz was called to take the educational secretaryship of the Union. He followed this up with faithful work until called to go on the faculty of Mount Vernon College. Since then Elder Ashton has been asked to take up the work, and will render a report at this meeting.

LITERATURE

A glance at the literature work done within the past two years shows that the Union in this respect also has made heavy strides forward. In the last biennial period the Union sold as much literature as was sold by the entire denomination in 1885, and \$17,000 more. The total literature sales for the biennial period represented in the years 1908-9 were \$128,630.92; while in the last biennial period the sales rose to \$158,589.11, a gain of \$29,958.19. Every conference within the Union but one shows a marked increase in this respect. The average number of canvassers in the field has been higher throughout the last two years than the two years previous. We have been pleased to note the substantial gain which has come to some of our tract societies; and to note that some are digging their way out of past obligations. We feel that still greater efforts ought to be made, first to raise the standard of the canvassing work among all our brethren, both those who are and those who are not in the literature work as canvassers; and, secondly, to enlarge our canvassing force. Brethren, in the literature work there is yet much to be done in increasing both the quantity and the quality.

FOREIGN WORK

There is one class of the population which our literature can be more effective in reaching, and to whom there should be a larger distribution, than in the past. I refer to our foreign population. One fourth of the entire population of this Union is foreign. This number is comprised of some twenty-six nationalities. To meet this demand we have as yet only about fourteen foreign workers. These are laboring in the conferences of New Jersey, East Pennsylvania, Chesapeake, Ohio, and West Pennsylvania. They represent the German, Scandinavian, Bohe-

mian, and Slavonic languages. The different conferences are deeply interested in this branch of the work, and with the growth of the Union, our foreign work will receive greater attention.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The work of the Religious Liberty Department has not been so great because our most important storm center, the city of Washington, D. C., has been under the constant watch-care of the Religious Liberty Bureau of the General Conference. Nevertheless, the different conferences have kept close watch of affairs within their borders, and, like as in the present important case in connection with the Constitutional Convention of Ohio, the Union has co-operated in serving whenever and wherever need has arisen.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

For the past two years special attention has been given to the young people's work. It has been the constant care of the Union secretary, with whom has rested the leadership of this line, to encourage the growth and organization of the societies, to lead these organizations forward in harmony with all the lines of work carried on by the General Department, and especially to develop the young people in the literature work. There has been an enlargement all along these lines during the past biennial session. Growth may be noted in the number of societies, in the membership, and in the amount of funds contributed to home and foreign missionary work. There was a thirty-three and one half per cent gain in societies and a twenty per cent gain in number of members.

AUDITING

A word should be said about our auditing work. The Union auditor has carried forward a steady effort to give to all the books of the different conferences a uniform system. This has been accomplished. There is a clear and uniform method of accounting for and of transmitting the Union funds. Special forms have been gotten out, facilitating the handling of accounts and the carrying on of general business, especially in the tract society work.

INSTITUTIONS AT WASHINGTON

Though not under the jurisdiction of the Union Conference, yet located within its territory and in close co-operation with it, are the institutions at Washington. These will each give their annual reports and conduct

the business connected with their annual meeting at this session. We are glad to welcome them with us, and we are glad to state the courage, earnest work, and progress displayed by each of these institutions. They are and have been a help to the Union. They have been ready to spare some of their working force to help our conferences, and have ever been willing to assist in finding help. There should be in the future a still greater co-operation between these institutions and the Union.

THE PHILADELPHIA INSTITUTE

In closing, we cannot fail to express our gratefulness to God for the blessings which came to this Union through the Philadelphia Institute. While the figures of the Union show growth along all lines for the biennial period, yet we believe that this last year has been the best, and we feel that much of this progress can be credited to the Philadelphia Institute. Why may not this present session of the Union bring us again as great blessings? Why may we not all lift our hearts to God that this meeting may MEAN SOMETHING DISTINCTIVE?

B. G. WILKINSON.

CHESAPEAKE

The President's Report to the Columbia Union Conference

To the delegates and friends of the Columbian Union Conference, Greeting:—

The Chesapeake Conference was organized April 28, 1899, and at that time included the District of Columbia, Delaware, and Maryland (except the three western counties). Since then changes have been made by the organization of the District of Columbia Conference, so that the territory of this conference to-day embraces the states of Delaware and Maryland, (except the counties of Montgomery, Prince George, Charles, and St. Mary's).

The Lord has blessed the work from the first, but we believe more especially during the last biennial period. Harmony and confidence prevail, which with a faithful and loyal people such as we have, and with a God who hears and answers prayer, should surely be accompanied by evidences of progress along all lines. While God has blessed the work from the beginning, Satan has also been on the ground to contest every step taken in the progress of our work. We can truly say, "The

early history of this cause was a day of small things, and the means employed seemed insufficient for the work. But the men and women of faith have known from the beginning that the strong arm of the Lord was enlisted in this work. They have known that the time set to favor Zion had come, and the Lord had set his hand to gather his people. They saw that the Lord was at the helm, and that the Gospel Ship, freighted with the remnant church, and her cargo of restored truth, tried faith, and perfect love, would come safely into the harbor."

AREA AND POPULATION

With an area of 11,720 square miles, and a population of one and one half millions, we find within our borders a large portion of unworked territory upon which to bestow our earnest endeavor. Baltimore, the largest city, has a population of 558,485, and ranks seventh in size in North America. Wilmington, the second city in importance, has a population of 87,411. There are three towns with a population of ten thousand or over, and fourteen towns with a population of five thousand or over. Realizing the dearth of laborers in other fields, we have felt it our duty to share our resources with the world-wide work.

MEMBERSHIP

Since the last conference session, a careful revision of our church records was made, and the membership was cut down quite materially. As a result we report a slight loss, but there is a small gain in the number of isolated Sabbath-keepers during the last year. We have eighteen organized churches, with a membership of 562, one company of unorganized believers, and isolated Sabbath-keepers, making a total of 582.

CONFERENCE LABORERS

Our force of laborers is not as large as the demands of the field call for. At the last session of the conference, ministerial credentials were voted to five persons, ministerial license to one, and missionary licenses to five, and two are laboring without license. Since this action was taken, Elder Haynes has been released and has connected with the Southeastern Union Conference. Elder H. S. Prener, who recently returned from South America, has taken up the German work in the conference. Our total list of laborers to date is twelve.

EVANGELISTIC WORK

It has been our constant desire to

see more effective evangelistic work accomplished. Believing that no more favorable time will come to reach the great masses in our large cities and rural districts, we have endeavored to give special attention to this important feature of our work during the last biennial period, locating pastors in most of our city churches, and stationing laborers in the fertile agricultural sections. Hall and tent efforts have been conducted with a fair measure of success. Hundreds have had the message brought to their attention by these means and the wide newspaper publicity. Two camp-meetings have been held, resulting in spiritual uplift to our brethren and sisters throughout the entire conference. During the last year several general and district meetings were held, which resulted in strengthening the people and increasing the tithes and offerings. Many discouraged ones were encouraged, backsliders were reclaimed, and some conversions were made. The Ministerial Institute held at Philadelphia a year ago, has helped very materially to bring new life and power into our churches through the efforts of the ministry. Thus we are led to believe that as servants of God relate themselves more closely to the throne of grace, the source of divine power, we shall see the churches with whom we labor rise to a higher plane of spiritual development. We have two growing churches among the colored people, with a pastor for each. Elder Seeney has charge of this work in Delaware, and Brother Rogers in Maryland. For the entire organized work, one hundred and sixty-one baptisms have been reported, and a few more than that number have been added to the church. One reorganized church and four new churches have been added to the conference, and one company will be organized in the near future.

THE MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT

The missionary department we consider one of the most important branches of our organized work. The value of our literature as a factor in molding public opinion in favor of the truth impressed the leaders of this cause in its primitive stage to undertake the publication of the truth for this time. This is the only department of our work in which there appears a decline, and therefore it has called for an earnest endeavor on our part to improve the conditions surrounding it. In 1910 the book and periodical sales amounted

to \$20,699.71; in 1911 to \$11,258.53. We therefore show a loss in the sale of literature. This we are sure was due to the fact that this department was deficient in proper organization. This has now been remedied and the work placed on a good foundation. Our canvassing work is prospering. There are now twelve good, substantial men in the field who are devoting all their time to the work, besides some who are giving only a part of their time. We are handling quite a supply of ten-cent magazines, and when the conference was asked to report the sale of magazines, we were among the first in this Union to respond. This field is quite fortunate in having within its borders two state legislatures. These have been supplied with the magazine *Liberty* more regularly during the last year than heretofore. The Religious Liberty Department has this work in hand, and some very effective efforts have been put forth to enlighten men in public life upon the principles of liberty. Memorials have been sent to the General Assembly and to the governor of Maryland. A few copies of "American State Papers" have been placed in the hands of the leading state officials. The Maryland legislature just closed failed to repeal or to re-enact any Sunday legislation. Elder S. B. Horton from the General Department has rendered valuable assistance in this line of work, for which we desire to express our grateful thanks.

THE EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

We find much to encourage us as we review the work of the educational department for the past two years. Our Sabbath-schools have manifested a growing interest in the study of the lessons and also in raising means for the needy mission fields. There are twenty-one schools with a membership of six hundred and eighty-six. As the call comes to give all to missions, our schools have all lined up in favor of the plan. This united action placed us with the conferences enlisted in the Honor Roll. Several conventions and gatherings have been held, which have done much to encourage the real missionary spirit among teachers and scholars. Responding to the definite calls which have come to us through the spirit of prophecy relative to the importance of Christian education, we have endeavored to step out into the light given us. Three churchschools have been in operation the past two years, with an enrolment of one hundred and twenty-one pupils.

These schools are quite well equipped with text books at present, so that they may reach the standard suggested in the Church School Manual. The secretary of this department is working very diligently for an increase of schools next year, and more especially that schools may be established in the cities, where the evils and attractions peculiar to city life tend to draw our children and youth away from the Lord and his truth. In the work among our youth, there has been evidence of growth and blessing, as plans for aggressive work are carried out. There are five societies of Missionary Volunteers, whereas in 1909 there were only two. Hundreds of papers, including the temperance number of the *Instructor*, besides many tracts, have been circulated. Meetings have been conducted by our young people in state prisons, reform schools, hospitals, and other institutions. Special programs have been rendered under the auspices of the young people's Missionary Volunteer Society, and the proceeds have been given to such fields as India and China.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT

The Lord has wonderfully blessed us in providing means with which to carry on our work. We have seen the promised blessing, as given in Malachi 3, come to those who have been faithful in tithes and offerings. We are very grateful to our Father in heaven for the progress we see thus far. Though the work has moved slowly, yet we feel thankful to say that, with a comparatively new force of workers and strengthening of all our departments, we soon expect to see Chesapeake pressing to the front in all branches of the work. At the last conference session the treasurer's report showed the conference to be free from debt, with a gain in tithes for 1911 of \$1089. The gain in tithes for the biennial period is \$3252. The per capita tithe for the same period is \$29.43. We would express our heartfelt gratitude to our Union Conference, and also to the General Conference, for the assistance they have rendered. We believe their assistance has greatly aided in attaining the degree of prosperity that now exists in the field. We feel more than ever before like pressing forward and covering every part of the field with the great truths for to-day, thus hastening the time when our map will be dotted with many more stars which indicate the organized churches in the Chesapeake Conference.

ROSCOE T. BAER, *President*.

WEST PENNSYLVANIA

The President's Address

(Concluded)

THE CITY WORK

The great city of Pittsburgh is a large problem in itself. If we take the figures of the United States census for the "metropolitan districts," which include the suburbs within ten miles of the cities of over 200,000 inhabitants, we have here in one community 1,042,855 people, a city ranking fifth in size on the North American continent. The United States has twenty-five conferences with a smaller population than is found in this one city. We have in this conference twenty-seven cities each containing more than 10,000 persons. With the repeated instruction which the Lord has given regarding the necessity of doing the work quickly in the cities, we see that there is a great task before us. This conference should most earnestly seek God that workers may be found to enter at once upon this work.

EDUCATIONAL AND SABBATH-SCHOOL WORK

There is no department of our work that is capable of doing more for the real progress of the message than the one under consideration. We must have workers, and these must be trained to be efficient. Our Sabbath-schools should be powerful factors for bringing new members into the church, and giving to all that knowledge of the Word, and the grasp of the great systems of truth that are the basis of this Advent movement, which will furnish a constant stream of new workers to supply the increasing demands of the work. More attention should be given to this line of operation. Our churches dwindle in numbers because old members die or move away, and young, fresh blood is not brought in to take the place made vacant. May the Lord help us to realize the great responsibility that rests upon us as parents and church workers to gather in and train for God our children and youth.

MEDICAL MISSIONARY WORK

The medical missionary department is one that has been long neglected, and we have lost much because of this. The opening providences of God seem to point the way for an advance move along this line. Careful consideration should be given to this great problem so that no mis-

takes be made; nor should this work, which has been called the right arm of the message, and the entering wedge for the truth, be neglected.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

Something should be done to strengthen the interest of our people in the great fields beyond. Church officers and ministers should make this a special object of prayer and effort. The gospel must go to all the world before the end comes. A lack of means is crippling our work abroad. Our foreign mission offerings for 1911, according to the report of the treasurer, were \$2,438.71, which is an average of only six and one half cents per week a member. We are asked by the Foreign Mission Board of the General Conference to make the amount for 1912 fifteen cents per week. The receipts at the office for the first quarter of 1912 on this fund is a little over eight cents for each member per week. This is a little better, but it is evident that there is room for improvement. Other conferences, no more favorably situated, are coming well up to the mark. God will bless us both spiritually and financially as we make sacrifices for this cause.

We also must not forget the vast numbers of foreign-born people who have come to us, and who can be reached without going to the foreign field. A large portion of the millions of immigrants pouring into this country settle among the mines and mills of West Pennsylvania. A small beginning has been made among the Germans and the Swedes, but much more should be done for these strangers within our gates.

FINANCES

We are glad to be able to report a substantial increase in tithe during 1911. In order to carry on the work for which there is imperative demand, we must have a large increase in tithe and offering during 1912. Withholding from God that which he claims as his own brings a curse on the individual, and blasts the spiritual life. Let us resolve to practice and teach faithfulness to God in financial matters.

In closing let me again appeal to you, my brethren and sisters, to pray most earnestly for the work in this conference. The officers whom you will elect are human and need the help of God and the co-operation of the church. Our churches must feel the reviving power of the Holy Spirit. Our young people must be trained for God. Pittsburgh and other great

Canvassers' Reports

Virginia, Week Ending April 5, 1912

Name	Place	Book	Days	Hrs	Ords	Value	Helps	Total	Del
S. N. Brown, Norton		BR	26	24	77	00	15 00	92 00	
Mrs. S. N. Brown, Norton		BR	26	21	66	00	6 75	72 75	
F. W. Hall, Pennington Gap		BR	13	7	21	00	1 75	22 75	25
Mrs. F. W. Hall, "		CK	17	15	22	50	4 50	27 00	1 75
W. Eekhout, Portsmouth		GC	25	4	7	50		7 50	18 25
U. Pickard, Charlottesville		PPF	25						78 00
C. Overstreet, Bay View		BR	23	15	58	00	6 20	64 20	2 70
L. Overstreet, Bay View		PPF	24	26	55	00	5 20	60 20	
P. Hottel, "		PPF	22	32	55	00	9 25	64 25	2 50
B. Hamm, Fredericksburg		GC	17	2	5	00	4 40	9 40	1 95
Totals			213	146	\$367	00	\$53 05	\$420 05	\$104 40

West Virginia, Week Ending April 12, 1912

J. Marshall, Morgan Co.	GC	5	42	17	44	00	6 50	50 50	75
W. McElphatrk, Nicholas Co.	DR	5	38	15	40	00	17 95	57 95	6 50
Totals		10	80	32	\$84	00	\$24 45	\$108 45	\$7 25

West Pennsylvania, Week Ending April 12, 1912

A. Brownlee, Ohio Co.	CK	5	39		30	55		30 55	29 95
Ivor Lawrence, Bedford Co.	PPF	4	30	12	19	50	3 00	22 50	2 00
*Wm. Seigle, Blair Co.	CK	10	60	24	37	50	27 50	65 00	33 80
G. House, Potter Co.	PPF	2	10						26 25
C. Dunham, Allegheny	PG	5	25	6	18	00		18 00	
W. Burtnett, Beaver	GC	5	34		18	00		18 00	
Totals		31	198	42	\$123	55	\$30 50	\$154 05	91 00

East Pennsylvania, Week Ending April 12, 1912

W. Hess, Perry Co.	GC	5	45	6	20	00	6 25	26 25	
F. Willruth, Lackawanna	CK	5	19	11	21	50	3 60	25 10	12 60
G. Folger, Yaidley	CK	5	36	18	28	75	1 25	30 00	
W. Lindsay, Montgomery Co.	DR	5	37	6	21	00	3 40	24 40	1 40
Lucy Dicks, Luspine	GC	5	31	3	9	00	10 85	19 85	1 40
Jesse Smith, Waverly	HM	5	35	14	28	50	7 70	37 20	2 75
Lillian Elliott, Del.	CK	2	15	5	7	50	1 80	9 30	
Totals		32	218	63	\$136	25	\$34 85	\$172 10	18 15

New Jersey, Week Ending April 12, 1912

G. Blinn, Warren	BR	2	20						115 00
G. Blinn, Warren	BR	5	40	29	94	25	1 00	95 25	
W. Fink, Blairstown	BR	5	51	11	29	00	2 00	31 00	2 00
R. D. Stagg, Vernon	PPF	5	36	34	57	00	3 50	60 50	2 50
J. Rambo, Millville	CK	3	23						55 71
F. Williams, Park Villa	HM	5	31	10	20	00		20 00	
B. Hartman, Jersey City	GA	5	28	21	6	75		6 75	6 00
A. S. Samuels, Newark	GA	5	29	109	39	75	25	40 00	32 50
Totals		35	258	214	\$246	75	\$6 75	\$253 50	\$213 71

Ohio, Week Ending April 12, 1912

J. Reichenb'h, Montgomery Co.	BR	5	46	16	54	00	1 00	55 00	
Rudolph Gross, Holmes Co.	DR	5	40	12	33	00	10 05	43 05	3 50
Marie Flenner, Butler Co.	BF	5	14	20	22	00	10 75	32 75	
I. Tait, Wayne Co.	BF	5	31	10	10	00		10 00	
Totals		20	131	58	119	00	21 80	140 80	3 50

*Two weeks

†Four weeks

Grand Totals: Value of Orders, \$1248.90

Deliveries, \$438.01.

cities in our borders must hear the message of the third angel. God's providence has opened the doors of opportunity before us. The Advent message, which was preached here with power in the early days of its history, must now, in harmony with the assurances of the Spirit of God, again stir the hearts of this people with its mighty influence. Has not the time fully come when the message, which must return to the East with great effectiveness and powerful demonstration, will take its proper place in the great commonwealth? And shall we not spring into the very forefront of the great advance moment which will culminate in the second coming of our blessed Master?

B. F. KNEELAND.

NEW JERSEY

The brethren and sisters of New Jersey will be interested in a recent decision of the conference committee. After looking over the field, and giving the matter careful consideration, it has been decided to hold the next camp-meeting at Plainfield, the date to be June 27 to July 7. Plainfield is a convenient point to be reached; excellent grounds have been secured, and there is every reason why we should have an excellent meeting. The Lord has blessed on similar occasions in the past. Let us pray that he may be with us in the coming camp-meeting. Begin to plan at once to attend.

The Columbia Union Conference at Pittsburgh is being held in the auditorium of the Carnegie Library in a very pretty suburb known as Homewood. The seats of the auditorium are of the opera type, arranged in a semicircle; and the arrangements throughout are ideal for the occasion. The New Jersey delegation have been assigned the second row of seats immediately in front of the rostrum, where we can receive direct benefit from the messages of exhortation or reproof.

Meetings begin early and continue late; in fact it is one round of continual meetings. Elder Daniells has been giving some excellent talks along the line of advancing the message, particularly with reference to the ministry; but that which applies to the ministry applies to the lay members as well. Everything shall be secondary to giving the message to the people. Contrary to some methods of the past, conference presidents and ministers shall not be tied up with ad-

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ministrative work, business concerns of the conference, etc.; nothing shall come in to hinder his legitimate work—that of giving the message.

And the same injunction applies equally well to the lay members. If all our time is spent looking after the cares of life, even though they may seem necessary, when and by whom will the work of the Lord be done? We may even attend and plan for our church meetings, and yet if we do not work for souls, we miss the purpose for which we are in this work. That is the work. Think about it. What are you actually doing that brings souls to Christ? Do something!

Will all church missionary secretaries who have not sent in their quarterly reports for last quarter please do so at once?

W. B. WALTERS.

WEST VIRGINIA

While in Parkersburg a few days ago Elder Robbins held a short series of meetings with the Parkersburg church. He reports good meetings, with a deep interest to hear the truth. Every service was well attended. The Parkersburg church would be glad to have Elder Robbins come back and hold a longer series of meetings as soon as it is convenient for him to do so.

Brother J. S. Barrows, the present secretary and treasurer of the West Pennsylvania Conference, who has been elected secretary and treasurer of the West Virginia Conference and S. D. A. Book Society, will as-

sume his office duties in this conference the 22nd instant. We all extend a hand of welcome to Brother Barrows, and wish success and many of the blessings of the Lord while in our conference.

Brother T. M. Butler of Fairmont, one of our canvassers, has moved to a more desirable residence nearer town.

Brother J. W. Brando and family of Morgantown, have removed to Fairmont. Thus the little church at Fairmont is growing.

Sister S. N. Brown of Norton, Va., has just ordered 500 copies of the *Watchman* and expects to sell them in West Virginia. We hope for Sister Brown much success while within the borders of this state.

We hope our brethren attending the Union meeting at Pittsburgh will receive a rich reward for the sacrifices they made in order to attend. May they bring back many blessings to us who were not so fortunate as to attend the meetings.

BURGESS ROSS.

AT THE COLLEGE

Burton N. Brown of the Nashville Publishing Association visited the College last Thursday in the interests of the periodical work. His stirring talk on the publishing work, given at the chapel session, was appreciated by all.

The latest development in the missionary interest of the school is the China Mission Band, which has just organized with a membership of twenty. Elder James Shultz is leader of the band, and Miss Dollie Parker secretary. Meetings are held on Saturday evening.

Elder Joel Rogers, superintendent of the Malamulo Mission in Central Africa, has just paid the College a four days' visit. During his stay he gave two stereopticon lectures, and several talks to the students. At the Friday morning chapel session, after describing the mission school and farm, Elder Rogers opened a question box, which proved very interesting. Although our school has been especially favored this year with missionary visits and lectures, Africa

had not been heard from until the coming of Elder Rogers, whose visit was of great educational and missionary value to the students.

Last Sabbath our school and church had the pleasure of a visit from Elder Daniells, who accompanied Elder Butler on his return from the Union Conference at Pittsburgh. During his short stay Elder Daniells delivered four discourses, the chapel being filled on each occasion. On Friday evening his subject was Turkey; and his recital of the progress of the work there was intensely interesting. In the student's Sabbath-school Elder Daniells gave a short talk on the field of China, where our student missionary is making his imaginary journey, supported by our Sabbath-school offerings. At the regular Sabbath morning service Elder Daniells called our attention to the fulfillment of prophecy as the surest evidence of the genuineness of the Advent movement. After speaking to the young people in the afternoon Elder Daniells called a meeting of the China Mission Band. In the evening he delivered a lecture on Russia, one of the regular number of the year's lecture course, and one of the most instructive and enjoyable. Elder Daniells' visit was indeed appreciated by the students; and all look forward to meeting him again.

Mr. Glenn Draper spent a recent Sabbath and Sunday at his brother's home near Fredericktown, O.

Miss Leola B. Neptune, who was a student here last year, is visiting friends at the College.

A German allegory tells of two little girls. They had been playing together in a strange garden, and soon one ran to her mother full of disappointment. "The garden's a sad place, mother," she said.

"Why, my child?" asked the mother.

"I've been all around, and every rose tree has cruel, long thorns on it!"

Then the second child came in breathless. "O mother, the garden's a beautiful place!" she said.

"How so, my child?" asked the mother.

"Why, I've been all around, and every thorn bush has roses growing on it!"

And the mother wondered at the difference in the two children. Which one are you like?—*Selected.*