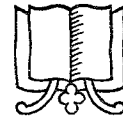


EXTRA

Columbia Union Visitor



"I WILL VISIT YOU, AND PERFORM MY GOOD WORD TOWARD YOU"

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Armageddon--When and Where Will It Be Fought? And Why?

Although St. John is the only Bible writer who uses the word Armageddon in fortelling the world-struggles, he is not the only prophet who foretold the great war of Armageddon. His prophecy agrees in every detail with the prophecies given by other inspired writers centuries before his time.

In St. John's prophecy of Armageddon, recorded in Revelation 16:12-16, there are given the following specifications:—

(1). The drying up of the waters of the Euphrates to prepare, or clear, the way for the gathering of the kings of the East. Verse 14.

(2). The deceptive working of demon spirits on the minds and hearts of all the kings and nations of the earth, inciting them to war and bloodshed.

(3). The gathering of the misled, war-maddened nations of the whole world to fight the "battle of that great day of God, the Almighty." Verse 14.

(4). The place of the battle of Armageddon in the great plain of Esdraelon, north of Jerusalem, in Palestine. Verse 16.

(5). The time when all this is to take place, namely when Christ, the Saviour and Deliverer, is about to come. Verse 15.

The scripture furnishes data for a clear, rational interpretation of each specification in this prophecy.

TURKEY SYMBOLIZED BY THE RIVER EUPHRATES

First, the drying up of the waters of the Euphrates. The river Euphrates is mentioned many times in the scriptures. It was one of the four rivers that flowed from the Garden of Eden. Starting in the mountains of Armenia it flows through the Mesopotamian valley to the Persian Gulf. On its banks once stood the city of Babylon the "beauty of the Chaldees ex-

cellency." Today the Euphrates is a Turkish river, the land through which it flows being Turkish territory.

The prophecy foretells the drying up of the water of the Euphrates. Does this mean the drying up of the literal water of the river? This is not the understanding of the students of prophecy. Water when used in prophecy stands for people. This is the interpretation given by the angel to St. John as follows: "The waters which thou sawest . . . are peoples, and multitudes and tongues." Rev. 17:15. The same interpretation is given by the prophet Isaiah. "Now therefore, behold, the Lord bringeth upon them the waters of the river, strong and many, even the king of Assyria, and all his glory; and he shall come up over all his channels, and go over all his banks." Isa. 8:7.

These scriptures establish the fact that water, whether rivers or seas, is used to represent people and nations. When so used, a river would naturally represent the people through whose land it flows. On this principle of interpretation it is claimed that the river Euphrates, being a Turkish river, would at the present time represent Turkey. The language used very appropriately describes the drying up, shrinking, disintegrating process which Turkey has been undergoing during the last half century. The prediction will be fully met when Turkey "comes to his end" as it is expressed by the prophet Daniel, chapter 11:45.

LED BY SATANIC AGENCIES

Second, the deceptive work of demons by which rulers and people are blinded, maddened and led into wanton devastating war. It is not claimed that the war now devastating Europe and staggering the whole world is the entire fulfillment of this prediction. But if ever warring nations seemed to be under the control of satanic powers it is at this time. This is the view of many who have had the best opportunities of observation. Dr.

Courtney, editor of the London Fortnightly Review, in his series of articles entitled, "Armageddon and After," says:—

"In the clash of the two great European organizations—the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente, we have all those wild features of universal chaos which the writer of the Apocalypse saw with prophetic eye as ushering in the great day of the Lord, and paving the way for a new heaven and a new earth. It is a universal upheaval."

Dr. Courtney's statement of the present situation is true to the facts and represents the opinions of many men of keen vision and great opportunities for observation.

Granting that the terrible war now going on is not Armageddon it certainly seems an alarming prelude to it.

THE WHOLE WORLD INVOLVED

Third, the "battle of that great day of God" in which the whole world will be represented and involved. In the study of this prophecy fifty years ago it was impossible to suggest the international complications that would drag the whole world into the vortex of war. But the nations have been making history during this last century, and today it is not difficult to outline a tangle that would involve every nation in the world. In fact, the tangle is well in sight. What is now going on appears to many onlookers who have a comprehensive grasp of affairs to be what the prophets foretold—a world war, Armageddon. Mr. H. G. Wells of England describes it in the following terse statement:—

"This is already the vastest war in history. It is a war not of nations but of mankind. It is a war to exorcise a world madness and end an age."

President Wilson says: "The world has never before in the history of mankind seen war on such a scale, seen war with so many terrible features, seen the

sweep of destruction, comparable to that which his now devastating the fields of Europe We are witnessing a cataclysm, and God only knows what the issue will be."

Instead of being unable to see and state conditions that could involve the world in the Armageddon war, it is not very difficult to see how it is going to be possible to prevent the causes of the war now going on from eventually plunging the whole world into the battle of Armageddon.

WHY THE NATIONS ARE AT WAR

At least four of the great powers now at war, Russia, Germany, Great Britain, and France, stoutly maintain that they are fighting for their existence. If the claim is true, and it certainly appears as though it were in each case, how is peace ever to be brought about? Surely there can be no peace among these nations as long as the conditions which imperil their existence continue.

These conditions may be briefly stated as follows:

RUSSIA'S CLAIM FOR FIGHTING

While possessing one-eighth of the land area of the earth, one-ninth of the population of the human race, Russia is practically cut off from the high seas. Without a suitable outlet for a merchant fleet and a navy, she is at the mercy of the other great powers of the world. This is a real peril to her existence. She has realized this for centuries, and all the while has been working with tireless energy to secure a suitable and permanent outlet to the open sea and the world's commerce. While slowly yet surely cutting her way from the Black Sea through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles to the Mediterranean, Russia worked her way across Siberia and down through Manchuria to Port Arthur on the Korea Sea. But being beaten back by Japan she turned resolutely to the task of pushing through the Mediterranean.

WHY GERMANY IS AT WAR

Although Germany had an outlet to the world it was considered both insufficient and insecure for the growth and maintenance of the nation. To make her position invulnerable, Germany began a quarter of a century ago, to make secure a highway from the North Sea eastward to the Persian Gulf. After years of tireless effort, large expenditures of gold, and far-sighted diplomacy, she placed herself in a dominant position throughout the Turkish Empire. The concessions Germany secured from Turkey for the building of the railway to Bagdad and for mining, dredging, wharf-building, etc., not only gave her a highway from Constantinople to the Persian Gulf, but placed in her hands the resources for maintaining her paramountcy in Asiatic Turkey as far

east as the Persian Gulf and as far south as the borders of Egypt.

ENGLAND

Unlike either Russia or Germany, England had unlimited access to the seas. But she saw in the movements of both Russia and Germany in the Balkan Peninsula and Asia Minor what she considered dangers to her widely extended empire. For years she feared that if Russia secured the waterway from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean she might declare the latter a Russian sea, close the entrance at Gibraltar and take possession of the Suez Canal. This would cut off England's short route to her Indian and Australian possessions. It would break her hold on Egypt and seriously imperil her position as a world power.

She saw equal danger in Germany's paramountcy in the Balkan Peninsula. A naval base for either Germany or Austria in the vicinity of Salonika or the Aegean Sea would make it possible for these powers to control the Mediterranean. Germany's position in Turkey would enable her to get dangerously near to the Suez Canal in the south and her Indian possessions in the east. Thus in recent years Germany came to loom up as a greater danger than Russia to the interests of the British Empire.

FRANCE

The French have never forgotten the blow dealt them by Germany in 1870, and as they have watched the growth of militarism in Germany and the aggressive policies being carried out they have counted on having some day to fight for their existence.

Facing these and many other serious complications the powers have kept themselves busy plotting and intriguing and forming alliances to preserve what they have termed "the balance of power," while making every possible preparation for self-defense.

And now the long-looked for struggle is on. The effects are already terrible beyond expression, and still there is no abatement. In their most recent official statements each nation declares that its sword shall not be sheathed until it is completely victorious over its enemies.

In view of the complications, the dangers and the grim determination of each nation to triumph, how can peace be established? Will a present decisive victory of either side bring peace? Surely not with anything short of the extermination of the vanquished. It seems doubtful whether either side is prepared to so completely destroy the power of the other as to prevent a renewal of hostilities as soon as preparations can be made for a more deadly conflict and a more decisive victory.

The resolute, determination, the colos-

sal preparations and the final preparations and the final plunge into the struggle will be the "battle of the great day of God," the Armageddon of the Apocalypse.

A. G. DANIELLS.

(Concluded in the next issue.)

The Stone Kingdom

The text of the evening is found in Daniel 2, verse 44, "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Sometime before the creation of the world the God of heaven prepared for his people on this earth an eternal kingdom. Matt. 25:34 "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Sometime before the creation of this world satan fell from heaven. In Revelation 20, verse 2, he is called "the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and satan." There can be no other old serpent than the one which appeared in the third chapter of the book of Genesis and caused the fall of the human race. Inasmuch, however, as this old serpent is called the devil and satan, then the devil or satan must have received his separation from God because of enmity sometime before the foundation of the world. It is therefore clear that even as Christ planned for the race soon to be created upon this planet a kingdom, so the devil counterplanned to thwart said kingdom and to destroy its subjects yet unborn.

As my subject this evening is "The Stone Kingdom," in order to treat it briefly it will naturally divide itself into three parts: 1 The Prophetic Introduction; 2 What the Kingdom is not; 3 What the Kingdom Is.

THE PROPHETIC INTRODUCTION

The first chapter of the book of Daniel is a record of Daniel's private test; the second chapter is the record of his public test. God can honor no man in public who in private has not honored God. It was Daniel who told the mighty Nebuchadnezzar of the stone, which was to be cut out of the mountains without hands, was to crush in pieces all preceding earthly kingdoms, was to become a great mountain and fill the whole earth, it was to be a kingdom set up by God and stand forever. Notice then that Daniel marks a pivotal point, a great moment in time's stream, where Christ and Satan clash over the subject of the kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world.

We read in the twenty-fifth chapter of Jeremiah a warning message from God to the children of Israel, predicting the over-

throw of Judea and Jerusalem if they did not abandon their sins. If the overthrow of Jerusalem were to be complete it would shut out the coming of the promised seed, destroy the hope of man's Redeemer, and thwart the plan of God concerning the eternal kingdom. The Lord, however, made this prediction concerning the captivity of Israel: "And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years." Who heard this prediction? As Jeremiah was uttering it, already the tramp of the armies of Babylonia might have been heard in the land. Daniel heard it, and as he wended his way over the hills of Syria to the land of his captivity he fixed his life on that promise: "after seventy years." Someone else heard it. The devil heard it. But he proposed that there would be no return of the Jews from their land of captivity at the end of seventy years. So the first chapter of the book of Daniel opens up with the terrible conflict between Babylon and Jerusalem. Babylon seemed to have the upper hand. Would it prevail? It might have prevailed publicly had it been able to prevail privately. But in proclaiming a loss contrary to God's law it made a youth of eighteen determine in his heart he would be faithful to the teachings which he learned at his mother's knee.

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of eunuchs that he might not defile himself." The captive youth would not defile his garments as he wanted to walk with God in white. The king granted his request and at the end of the three years when Daniel came up with the rest of the youth, gathered from all nations into the University of Nebuchadnezzar, far above his fellow-students, the Hebrew youth passed his examinations. It is recorded of him that "in all matters of wisdom and understanding that the king enquired of them (the Hebrew captives) he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm."

Then came the public test of Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. He lost a night's sleep. His previous anxiety, the terribleness of the dream and the loss of a night's sleep found him in the morning irritable, despondent and beside himself. So he called for the magicians and astrologers; they neither knew the dream nor could they interpret it. Nebuchadnezzar then demanded that they should be destroyed. As Daniel was numbered amongst them, the executor sought him out to destroy him. But he went in before the king and demanded time, one night more. Would he get it? The ma-

gicians before him had asked for time and their request had maddened the king. Not so with Daniel. He is granted another night. Why so? Because he had stood his private test, God was making him successful in his public one.

So Daniel retired that night and sought God in prayer. While the king was tossing on his bed in another sleepless night, Daniel and his three companions were praising God for the revelations of the night's vision. So early in the morning they hurried him in before the king. As the king sat on his throne in the imperial room while the grey streaks of dawn were trickling through the windows, the Hebrew captives stood before him and outlined the universal history of the world. He told the king that what he had seen in his dream was a great image with human form. The king leaped from his throne and said, "That is it." Daniel declared that the head of the image was of gold, its breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, feet part of iron and part of clay. Then suddenly a great stone cut out without hands smote the image upon his feet, and the stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. As with bowed head the king heard what had been given to him in the night seasons, Daniel made known the interpretation. He declared Babylon to be this head of gold. That mighty kingdom was not to endure forever. It was to be succeeded by a kingdom of silver. Then a third kingdom of brass was to hold in its grasp the civilized world, and finally a mighty empire of iron through the long stretch of years would come and finally end in ten little kingdoms, and they were to be in existence when the Lord Jesus Christ would set up his everlasting kingdom.

We all know how truly this came to pass. Where is Babylon today? It is no more. In 538 a mighty conqueror took one stone after another and pulled it from its moorings, until today, after many vicissitudes of fortune, the proud Babylon which humbled Jerusalem lies in the dust. The next empire, Medo-Persia, swung over the field of domain with iron grip until in 331 B. C. the agile Alexander, riding at the head of ten thousand Greeks, drove a massive army of over one million and a half Persians into a disorganized and routed mass. Then Greece sat for a while on the imperial throne. The kingdom, however, was not to be hers. Though she had a civilization of her own and had given much in the way of intellectual benefits to mankind, nevertheless her ability lacked stability. Off on the west banks of the Tiber was arising a proud city with a genius and talent for world domain. Step after step it dismembered the Grecian Empire and by 140 B. C., at the fall of Corinth, Rome

was the proud mistress of all lands and seas. But Rome herself could not keep that which only the Son of God can forever handle. In the fifth century after Christ this empire crumbled before the onslaughts of Barbarian tribes, and the fragments of her domains today went to make up the kingdoms of Great Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Austria, Italy, etc.

Of these kings in whose days the everlasting kingdom was to be set up, the prophet said, "Whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom." There has been considerable shifting backwards and forwards of these ten kingdoms, sometimes more and sometimes less than ten. They have sought by marriages, by commercial alliances, by political unions, by mighty conquerors to weld these kingdoms back again into one. Impossible! For over 1500 years this impossible task has eluded the pursuit of the mightiest intellects. There they stand, and they will stand until the mighty stone kingdom shall smash them all into fragments. They shall be carried away and the stone will become great mountain and fill the whole earth. Here we are today.

WHAT IT IS NOT

There have been many speculations as to what will be this future stone kingdom. Just a word as to its characteristics. In the first place it was a stone, visible, material and tangible as was the head of gold. In the second place it suddenly broke in pieces. In the third place it was cut out of the mountains without hands. In the fourth place it became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. And in the fifth place it stood forever.

Therefore it cannot be Christianity, because Christianity is not visible, tangible, material. But this stone represents a real kingdom with a real king as did the head of gold. Neither does Christianity break in pieces and fill the whole earth as does this stone. Therefore it cannot be Christianity.

Again it cannot be the United States. Many fond lovers of the "Star Spangled Banner" have been prone to believe that this stone represented the American people, to whom eventually would come worldwide dominion. This conclusion is false because the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and we know very well that it was not by invisible hands, but by visible men with intellects and human form that the United States was founded, just as all previous kingdoms, empires or republics have been established. And, furthermore, it is said of the stone kingdom that it should never

be destroyed. If we do not draw these conclusions we think that the United States will have all she can do to keep herself intact for any great length of future time. Already there are elements of disintegration so prominent that great statesmen, educators and thinkers tremble for her future. Her subjects certainly will not endure forever, for day by day they pass into the grave. So therefore it is useless to consider the United States as this stone kingdom.

WHAT IT IS

We have every reason to believe that in this great stone we are dealing with the stone "which the builders rejected, the same has become the head of the corner." All down through the ages God has been offering to nations and empires in succession the precious stone of Jesus Christ on which to build, "for other foundations can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." But the things which are seen have appeared of more value to earthly empires than things which are not seen. Successively they have succumbed to the works of the flesh, being unable to appreciate the priceless value of the works of the spirit. So the children of men in their empire building have successively rejected this great and glorious stone. However, when God comes to set up his everlasting kingdom he will find that no other stone will make a proper foundation on which to build than that which the human builders have rejected.

Moreover, the scriptures are very clear in pointing out the Lord Jesus Christ as the stone. So now I read in Ephesians 2:19-21, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the buildings fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord." There are many promises in the Divine Word which speak of him and his work as connected with the stone. So we read in Revelation, "To him that overcometh will I give a white stone and in the stone a new name written which no man knoweth, saving he that receiveth it." What does the new name mean? It means a new reputation, an earning of a new standing. So we, out of our shameful sorrow and loss, have lost our reputation or our name. Through Jesus Christ we shall overcome and get a new name, but that new name shall be written inside of a stone. I don't see how it could be written there except the stone grew up about it. So our new career, our new future, is imbedded, inwrought in a stone which will be as enduring as will be our new creation. This betokens conversion. To get a

new name, a new reputation and a new experience means a new heart. And all those who have obtained this new heart, this priceless treasure, will be subjects of the kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world.

The devil has tempted us and seeks to wed us to affections whose strength is destruction. The devil would have us self-destroying. He wishes to ruin the kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world. But after the Lord Jesus Christ has made up his efficient number all the kingdoms of the past will have crumpled to dust and alone will remain standing the glorious kingdom everlasting, eternal, Christian.

Is it still far distant? We believe not. For in Revelation eleven, the divine forecast announces, "The seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. . . . And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth."

We know very well that now the nations are angry. As President Wilson said, in one of his public addresses, "The world has never before; in the history of mankind, seen war upon such a scale, seen war with so many terrible features, seen the sweep of destructions, comparable to that which is now devastating the field of Europe." (Kansas City Speech.) Already, as one great statesman said, "It is really as if in the atmosphere of the world there were some mischievous influence at work which troubles and excites every part of it."

Truly the nations are angry and the time has come when the great stone kingdom will strike the mighty image on its feet, become a great nation and fill the whole earth. When that occurs, dear reader, where will you be?

B. G. WILKINSON.

Report of Mount Vernon Academy

Given at Pittsburgh, March 13-20, 1916

To the brethren of the Columbia Union in conference assembled, greeting. It is with gratitude to the Lord that we make a report to you of the progress of the work of Mount Vernon Academy.

This institution was opened as an academy in the year 1894 and operated as such from that time until 1905 when it was chartered as a college. In 1913, the North American Division Conference recommended that the Washington Sem-

inary prepare to give regular college work and that Mount Vernon College resume the status of an academy and that we cheerfully turn over the college department with our good will to the school at Washington. This was cheerfully done and accordingly in 1914, Mount Vernon began its work once more as an academy.

Just what effect the change would have upon the school time only could reveal. It is only just to say that there were counter prophecies as to the outcome, but the last two years have brought results far exceeding our most sanguine hopes.

I feel that it would be interesting to you to give you some idea of the work that Mount Vernon Academy has accomplished in the past. Mount Vernon has sent out:

HOME

- 17 Ordained ministers
- 22 Licensed ministers
- 52 Missionary licentiates
- 14 Medical doctors
- 35 Teachers in higher schools
- 1 Dentist
- 1 Union Conference president
- 3 Conference presidents
- 1 Union Conference educational secretary
- 1 Union Conference Sabbath school secretary
- 1 Union field missionary agent
- 6 Principals of academies
- 3 Preceptors of colleges
- 5 Preceptors of academies
- 3 Preceptresses of colleges
- 4 Preceptresses of academies
- 2 Matrons of colleges
- 2 Matrons of academies
- 4 Matrons of sanitariums
- 4 Conference educational secretaries
- 4 Conference treasurers
- 1 Medical secretary of conference
- 6 Field missionary agents
- 1 Tract society secretary
- 1 State Y. P. M. V. secretary
- 1 State Sabbath school secretary
- 4 Business managers
- 3 Editors of conference papers
- 64 Church-school teachers
- 33 Missionary nurses
- 5 Denominational stenographers
- 7 Denominational printers
- 1 Sanitarium physical director

FOREIGN

- 48 Foreign missionaries
 - 1 President of a union conference
 - 2 Presidents of local conferences
 - 2 Treasurers of union mission fields
 - 3 Principals of training schools
 - 4 Superintendents of mission fields
 - 1 Field agent of union mission field
 - 2 Managers of printing houses
 - 1 Sabbath school secretary of union conference
 - 1 Matron of college
- May the work already accomplished be

only a prophecy of what will be accomplished.

The institution in the last five years has given financial help in the way of employment, to the amount of a little over \$30,000 and this present year, we are furnishing work to the amount of about \$1,000 per month.

It was with feelings of mingled hope and fear that we approached the opening of the present school year; personally, I felt we were approaching the most critical year in the history of the institution. I feared that because the debt had been lifted, there would be a sort of relaxation which would result unfavorably to the school, but our fears were vanished for our enrollment, while perhaps not as large as last year, yet is near to it. We have, however more dormitory students than last year. Our enrollment up to the present is 155, by conferences: Ohio 96; West Pennsylvania 30; East Pennsylvania 5; West Virginia 2; New Jersey 1; Indiana 1; Michigan 4; Illinois 1; Wisconsin 1; New York 1; Oklahoma 1; District of Columbia 1; Kentucky 2; Wyoming 1; Nicaragua 1. I believe that by thorough persevering work, the enrollment can be made much larger.

SPIRITUAL CONDITION

The spiritual condition of the school is very good. The students, with but few exceptions, are earnest Christians and here for a definite purpose. One young lady, not an Adventist, came at the opening of school, her father, brother and two sisters driving through from Pennsylvania with her in an auto; this young lady has accepted the truth and on returning home for vacation, told her people of the truth and now one sister is studying the message with much interest. Two other young ladies from Ohio whose father is a saloon-keeper, came at the opening of school, neither had any inclination toward the truth, but before the week of prayer, they were both baptized. They had been writing to their father concerning the truth and in one of his letters he said, "My dear daughter; if you have found this Saviour of whom we read, tell me about him, I think I knew him once, long ago, but unfaithfulness and hypocrisy have led me far away." Four other students who never before made a profession, have been baptized. From the very opening of school, it was manifest that the Lord's presence was with us in a special way. At the week of prayer, I think every student made a consecration of himself to God. We are jealous of the spiritual welfare of our students and shall sacredly guard the avenues by which the tempter would seek to gain access to the citadels of the soul.

REGULAR DEPARTMENTS

The school is carrying on the regular academic work following the course of

study outlined by the recent council in California.

The Biblical Academic course which varies but little from the regular academic course, having as a prerequisite the regular ten grades, and in the eleventh and twelfth, more Bible and history in place of mathematics.

The Commercial Department which offers three courses: A business course of two years and a stenographic course of two years and a combined commercial course of two years, each of these courses having a prerequisite of ten grades. The students, however, entering this department after this year, will be required to have a prerequisite of twelve grades in accordance with the action at the recent council. The commercial department is in a healthy and growing condition, the students all seem to be enthusiastic. The equipment in this department is second to none among those of our schools which carry the commercial department.

The Bible classes are all well filled, almost every student of the school is taking some Bible study. There is a class in Ministerial Training of about twelve, most of whom we believe, will make efficient workers in their chosen line of work.

Beside the regular literary work of the school, we have the printing and the sewing departments. The printing department furnishes employment to more students this year, than any in the past and bids fair to grow still larger. The sewing department, conducted for the young women, is under the competent management of Sister Morris and seems to be progressing nicely.

Bands: The following bands have been organized from the beginning of school. First I mention the Bible Worker's Band with a membership of about fifty earnest young women. Not all who belong to this band, however, expect to make the Bible work their work, as many are in the band for the practical training which will be a benefit to them in their various lines of labor, yet, quite a number are preparing to be Bible workers. Second, the Young Men's Ministerial Band with a membership of about twenty. The number was much larger last year, but this year the young men felt that they should be more careful as to whom they received into this band, it has therefore been somewhat exclusive. The members of these two bands receive practical training in giving Bible readings and conducting public services in the city. Third, the Mission Band under the direction of Professor Swartout with a membership of about fifty, but having a much larger regular attendance. In this band a careful study is made of all our mission fields. All the members of these bands meet regularly once a week. In addition to these, we organized a Students Missionary Vol-

unteer Society carrying out the regular program prepared by the general department, which in the past has been somewhat of a difficult thing to get our schools to do. We also have canvasser's band of forty.

FINANCIAL

While our enrollment is not as large as last year, yet as stated before, there are more students in the school-home this year which means more to the school financially. I am sure that what has been done to clear this institution from its debt, is appreciated by all, and we know full well how our people generally feel in regard to our institution running free from debt and we have determined that the white stone in the corner of the building, shall never be dug out. We are glad therefore to report that the school thus far, is doing considerable more than meeting its running expenses.

FACULTY

The school is employing a faculty of thirteen members, eight of whom, including the principal, are devoting their entire time to teaching the literary branches.

Besides these, are the business manager, preceptor and preceptress and the heads of the printing and sewing departments. A general good spirit throughout the school makes it a pleasure to be connected with the institution.

FUTURE OF THE SCHOOL

We believe that there lies a bright future before the school if time continues. We believe that we should be strengthening its departments from year to year and that our motto should be, "Quality First." There are some things, however, which I desire to mention at this time as being real needs of the institution in order to properly carry on its work. Among these I would mention first, the need of industries. I have been impressed as I have gone from place to place in these three conferences, with the number of young people who have expressed a great desire to be in this school and doubtless would be here today if some means could be provided whereby they could work for the greater part of their expenses. I believe that an educational institution today is sadly incomplete without the facilities for rendering such assistance, and at the same time, giving a training to the hand as well as to the head. I would say furthermore, that I have a firm conviction that the thing that is needed most of all to tie many young men over a dangerous period in their lives, is useful employment where the physical powers are brought into vigorous exercise. I believe too, that this will reduce the disciplinary matters in our schools 50 per cent and besides all this, it is developing a part of the young man's nature that may otherwise forever lie dormant and write failure across all his future efforts. There are

few young men but what take great pride in having the ability to produce something, he takes great courage and confidence as he sees his skill grow in his own hands. At our board meeting in January it was voted to erect and equip a carpenter shop and offer a course in carpentry next year; this work will be placed upon the same basis as any of the literary branches and equal credit given for same according to the recommendation of the recent convention.

It was also voted to start a henery to furnish fresh eggs for the institution and to give some practical instruction in this industry, and a cannery to put up all our canned goods and some to market. But none of these will furnish very much labor for students.

We are planning to enlarge our printing department which is the best industry we have for furnishing remunerative employment to our students. We are now installing a new job press at a cost of \$400 which will greatly add to our working capacity in this department.

We greatly need a suitable place for our library so that we could have a reading room connected with it.

Above all we need the hearty support and co-operation of our people throughout the three conferences from which we draw our students. We are endeavoring to so hold up the spiritual and literary standard of the school so as to at all times merit this confidence and support.

Our students are loyal to the school and also to our college at Washington as has been demonstrated by their efforts on the \$27,000 fund, having undertaken to raise about seven hundred dollars more than Mount Vernon is to receive for its own work. All things considered the future looks bright to us, and with our hearts fully surrendered to this great work we feel to say to you today "we are of good courage" and profoundly thankful to the Lord for a part in his service and for the success he has given in the past and, with you, pledge ourselves anew to the great task before us.

N. S. ASHTON, *Principal.*

Educational Work in The Columbia Union Conference

"And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward.'" How similar is the situation of modern Israel today. The enemy presses hard from behind; there are no by-roads by which escape may be made; and the Red Sea is ever to be crossed before the way opens to the promised land.

Modern Israel has moved slowly in obeying the command to go forward in the education of the children and youth among us, but as individuals and as a de-

nomination we have moved. Today there is more definite co-operation between the division and union conference, and between the union conference and the departments in our local conferences. This has come about by slow growth, but has been materially advanced through councils, conventions, and through summer schools.

One could easily become a pessimist if he were to spend any considerable portion of his time in thinking over the apparently immovable obstacles. In the primary school we are at once confronted with a lack of financial support and an equal lack of trained teachers. This would not be so serious a problem if in getting it settled for one year it would remain settled. History repeats itself, and modern church school history repeats itself annually. A company of believers decide to have a school if—if they can get sufficient money pledged and can get a satisfactory teacher. Some times this decision is made about September 1, and at that date all the college-trained, and the normal school-trained and the semi-trained teachers are taken, and some one is pressed into service with a large interrogation point after the word success. Evidently it becomes more and more difficult to supply competent teachers for all our primary schools, for even at the rate of the present, the number of schools increases more rapidly than teachers are prepared. Especially is this true when one reckons with the number that drop out from ill health, accepting more lucrative positions, and matrimony. Teaching a primary Christian school is hard work, and only the strongest constitutions and most consecrated workers remain with the profession a period of years.

The primary teacher in one of our churches is a real missionary and is in demand almost every minute of the time. His days of teaching are filled with problems of vital character pertaining to the good of his pupils. He must make good in his work intellectually, spiritually, and socially. In other words, he must see to it that the average boy and girl pass their grades, he must carry a burden for the souls of his students, and must discipline his school in such a manner as to beget the co-operation of his patrons. On Sabbath he is expected to be a leader in all efforts in behalf of the youth, and be ready to render assistance to any and all who may come to him outside of school hours during the week. When school closes in the spring, he is allowed a week's rest before hurrying off to summer school where he may be brought in touch with the latest methods and perhaps take one or more studies.

In compensation for the duties devolving upon him, and with which he must meet all bills for clothes (and a teacher

must be decently clad for the influence), for incidentals, for text books, for reading course books, for magazines, for extras incident to attending summer school, for any educational excursions, etc., etc., he is given the magnificent salary of \$135 annually. With all this before us, do we wonder that the present year—a leap year—has been characterized already by a serious epidemic of sentimentality especially among our young lady teachers.

A glance at the chart will show that there has been some forward movement.

Last summer there was conducted a summer school of six weeks, which had in attendance teachers from all parts of the union as well as a number from the Atlantic Union. The results of the summer school were very gratifying, but to all who have given the matter careful thought it is evident that an eight-week summer school will meet the needs far better. Since the school work throughout the denomination has been based upon the semester and the six weeks period, summer school credit can not be given for less than eight weeks of solid school work.

It seems a compelling necessity to have a strong summer school the coming summer for the reason that not more than two students are taking full normal work in our college. It is well understood that in making the change of the normal department from Mt. Vernon to Washington, the latter school was at a disadvantage for the reason that it made no plans to conduct such a department till the fall of 1916. Work has been carried on as best it could with the training school and the college proper a distance of one mile apart. No student could carry full work with that arrangement and we are led to believe that in the near future this difficulty will be removed.

Aside from the primary work there is, one college, one academy, one intermediate school, and the Fireside Correspondence school in the Columbia Union. No doubt these will be reported by the respective heads. Let it be said that a noble army of bright, enthusiastic and earnestly religious young men and women are in these schools.

The Columbia Union Conference is a productive field, and holds rich promises for the future. The time has come to get down to thorough and systematic work for our children. These children belong to every member of every church, and every member should be given the opportunity to assist financially in securing for every boy and girl a Christian Education. This can be done if the pledge cards are used as they are intended. The union department has these in stock and can supply every church.

Noble efforts have been made in

many places to bring the children in out of the influences of the world. God has looked down and blessed the sacrifices of those who have tried to follow his command to go forward. If time would permit, a history of some of these achievements would be interesting.

The future is bright with prospects and overflowing with possibilities. With a well established summer school, with a good permanent normal department at our college, with a new interest springing up in the hearts of all believers as a result of more careful leadership among our church elders and pastors, with experienced teachers at the head of the educational departments of all our local conferences, and with actual time given them to foster the interest of primary Christian schools, with a systematic effort to get in touch with the conditions and needs of every boy and girl in the union and with the smile and blessing of God who has said that no work is more important than the education of our children and youth; what can not be accomplished in the near future?

There is a great work for our children to do. May we be faithful stewards with God's heritage.

C. L. STONE, *Educational Secretary.*

Missionary Volunteer Work in the Columbia Union Conference

Through the blessing of God, good advancement has been made in the Missionary Volunteer department through the past biennial period. The wonderful possibilities in this work, have kept all the leaders on the stretch and continually abandoning old plans for larger ones. A new vision has been needed often to meet the demands of the work.

Not in every local conference yet, has the secretary of this department been giving sufficient time to keep up with the demands of the work. Not because the need was not felt, but because too many duties and responsibilities were carried. The Missionary Volunteer work is not a perpetual motion machine, but demands constant care and skilled supervision.

The youth who have grown up in Adventist homes, but today are out in the world are sad comments on the lack of systematic effort for the boys and girls of the past generation. Now that the real worth of the souls of our youth and of their services in the cause seem to have fully dawned upon us, it is plain that a new era of progress will mark the future.

What does the conference secretary need time to do? He must train the boys and girls and the young men and women of this people to work: how to raise money for missions, how to teach the truth to those around them, and how to do per-

sonal work for each other. They must be thoroughly organized for study and self improvement. Their reading, their social activities and in fact all their activities must be carefully directed. Organization must be perfected and leaders must be instructed and trained. At home, at school, at the church service, at the camp-meeting or wherever the youth are found, some one of wider experience must be ready to take an interest, must be within reach to give the safety first caution.

The souls of our own dear youth are of such value and their services in this cause should be so prized, that not one will pass beyond our reach who has not had a proper effort put forth in his behalf.

Our young people's workers must keep in close touch with the condition of each society, and by personal effort and by the co-operation of other laborers be informed concerning each young person in the field. This personal interest and personal knowledge has saved many a young man and young woman, and a more systematic effort will hold with a strong hand those who are not properly cared for at the present. It is the hope of the workers in this department that every minister and every Bible worker in the union will become a complementary force in obtaining and retaining a strong grasp on the hearts and energies of all our youth.

By personal visits to societies and by conventions held by conference secretaries and the union secretary, the usual correspondence is supplemented and a wider extension of the benefits of the Missionary Volunteer organization is obtained. God's blessing added to these efforts have brought rich results to the youth who have been touched. Now the aim is to reach every young person within the union. This is not too much to expect, for truly the time has passed when a single laborer in the field will refuse to inform himself regarding the plans for this department, and once informed respecting them he will be glad to co-operate in this soul winning effort for our own dear youth.

Through the efforts of the Missionary Volunteer workers a great campaign of reading the Bible has been launched. This has been spreading from one society to another and from one young person to another, and from the younger ones to the older ones until at present, hundreds are reading their Bibles through.

A book mark containing a crown and the goals for the Missionary Volunteers has been prepared. This meets a double purpose in that it is kept in the Bible where the individual is reading, reminding continually of the fact that he has pledged himself to read the Bible through, and then too, the goals are ever before him reminding him of the souls that are

to be won to Christ, of the reading course he will take, of the study for becoming a more intelligent Seventh-day Adventist and of the offerings he should make to missions. The crown at the top has points for the location of stars as rapidly as the owner contributes twenty-five cent pieces to foreign missions.

We have only to see what the response has been to the effort put forth for our youth to be convinced that it is effort with great returns. From any angle it may be viewed, from that of effort, or of money or of recruits for the work, the energy expended for our young people has brought the best returns. It seems incredible that Adventists should work and sacrifice, pray and preach for weeks to bring a few into the fold from the world, and fail to put forth the same earnest effort to save the boys and girls in our own families. These boys and girls who have been at the family altars, at the Sabbath school, and probably at the church school, have the head training, yea they are in many cases prepared for efficient service as many of the older ones embracing the message can never be prepared, and when God touches the heart, and transforms the life another worker is added to the list at once. C. L. STONE, *Y. P. M. V. Secretary.*

NOTE

Sabbath, March 18, was a full day and a good day at the Union Conference in Pittsburgh. Beginning with a minister's meeting at 9 o'clock led by Elder I. H. Evans the blessing of God came in, and the whole day was fragrant with the very atmosphere of heaven.

Elder Evans read extracts from the writings of Sister White, a few gems of which are herewith given:—

"When churches are revived it is because some individual seeks earnestly for the blessing of God."

"Christ makes us patient that he may forgive us."

"Repentance is as much the gift of Christ as is forgiveness, and it can not be found in the heart where Jesus has not been at work."

"When it becomes the habit of the soul to converse with God the power of the evil one is broken, for Satan can not abide near the soul that draws nigh to God."

"Build a wall of Scripture around you, and you will see that the world can not break it down. Commit the Scriptures to memory, and then throw right back upon Satan, when he comes with his temptations, 'It is written.'"

"When the churches become living working churches, the Holy Spirit will be given in answer to their sincere request."

"Never venture to enter the desk until you have wrestled with God in prayer, and

come forth as seeing him who is invisible, with your faces lighted up with the beams from the Sun of Righteousness. You will then have no tame words to offer. The divine truths which glow in your own breast will kindle in the hearts of others.

"We have altogether too much familiar intercourse with Satan. We argue with him. We enter right into conversation with him, and treat him as a guest coming into agreement with him. It is in this way that he presents the faults of our brethren to us, and magnifies them until we can see nothing good in their characters. Some imagine that they have a wonderful zeal for God, that they are inspired to set things in order, that they have a spirit of discernment, when it is really an inspiration that Satan has imparted to them."

A solemn spirit of consecration seemed to take possession of every one present, and many expressions of determination by the grace of God to know his overcoming grace were heard.

The meeting was opened by a service of prayer and closed in a new consecration to God and to his service on the part of all present.

Resolutions Adopted at the Fifth Biennial Session of the Columbia Union Conference

The Committee on Plans submitted a number of resolutions and as passed they appear as follows:

GRATITUDE

Whereas, The Lord has greatly prospered the Columbia Union Conference, her laborers, and constituency during the past biennial period; has granted to us outward peace while many of our brethren and sisters in other lands are suffering the ravages of war; and has given encouraging increase in all departments of our work:—

Resolved, That we do hereby express sincere gratitude to Him who has blessed us so bountifully and that this expression of gratefulness be not alone by vote, but by a renewal of all vows and a rededication of ourselves individually to the speedy finishing of the work.

SYMPATHY

Resolved, That since death has removed from our midst and councils our dear Elder W. J. Tanner, we express to Sister Tanner and her three fatherless boys and to the other relatives our sincere sympathy in their sad bereavement, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to Sister Tanner as well as spread upon our minutes.

Resolved, That since Elder Kirkendall, on account of sickness, is unable to be with us to enjoy the blessings and participate in the deliberations of this splendid session; and, in recognition of the

faithfulness of those formerly associated with us in active labor, we express to Elder Kirkendall, Brother E. R. Brown and Brother George Sandborn the deep sympathy we feel for them in their affliction, and earnestly pray that if it be God's will they be speedily restored to health.

QUADRENNIAL SESSION

In harmony with the recommendation of the North American Division Conference to the union and local conferences,

We recommend, (a.) That the regular sessions of the Columbia Union Conference be held quadrennially and that the Constitution be so amended as to harmonize with this action.

(b.) That the local conferences comprising the union be recommended to henceforth hold their sessions biennially.

LITERATURE AND COLPORTEUR WORK

We recommend, That the campaign for placing our church paper, the *Review and Herald*, in every Sabbath-keeping family be carried forward energetically until the goal be reached.

That we commend the Present Truth Series in our church missionary campaign work, it being cheap in price and effective in its results.

Whereas, There has been no uniform system of paying the railroad fare of student colporteurs to and from their fields; therefore,

We recommend, That the maximum inducement offered to accepted student colporteurs who return to their home conferences be,

(a) Their fare to the field on condition of agreement to put in eleven weeks of faithful work during the season, including delivery, the fare not to be allowed in case the colporteur fails to carry out the agreement.

(b) That where paragraph "a" is complied with and a scholarship is earned during this time, and settlement made for all books received, his return fare to the school be paid.

(c) That where conditions are such that it seems advisable for a student to work in a field other than his home conference, arrangements be made for such transfer with a committee consisting of the principal of the school, the union president, the union field and home missionary secretaries of the fields concerned and the presidents of the conferences concerned; in which case the courtesies mentioned in above paragraphs "a" and "b" shall apply.

Whereas, The Review and Herald publishing Association has offered to give a premium of \$50 to each colporteur who will put in 1,800 hours in field work during any consecutive twelve months, in selling and delivering the publications issued by that house, therefore,—

Resolved, That we express our appre-

ciation of this liberal offer, and urge our colporteurs to adopt this amount of time as their yearly goal, thus availing themselves of this opportunity.

\$27,000 FUND

Whereas, Both at home and abroad the Providence of God is opening doors demanding the entrance of the living preacher, many of which remain unentered through lack of suitable workers,—

We recommend, (a) That the Washington Missionary College and the Mt. Vernon Academy be provided with the equipment to enable them to better perform their allotted task in training laborers to fill these openings.

(b) That we hereby endorse the action of the Union Conference Committee that an educational fund of \$27,000 be raised in 540 shares of \$50 each, \$2,000 of which will provide industries for Mount Vernon Academy and \$25,000 to erect the new Assembly Hall and College building for Washington Missionary College.

(c) That the conferences place before each church and as many isolated believers as possible the call for the shares to make up this fund within the next few months.

(d) That the progress of the campaign be published from week to week in the visitor, and that the conferences use every endeavor to realize the amount of the pledges in the shortest possible time.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK

Whereas, God has greatly blessed the efforts put forth for our young people, in their salvation and training in service; and,

Whereas, There is imperative need of a great soul-winning campaign for and by the youth; therefore,—

Resolved, That all our workers make a special effort to inform themselves on Missionary Volunteer plans and methods, and to co-operate in every way possible with those who are appointed to lead out in this work.

Whereas, Spiritual life is dependent upon a personal acquaintance with God, and the observance of the Morning Watch is very effective in bringing spiritual life,—

We recommend, (a) That all our workers observe the Morning Watch and plan to distribute the Morning Watch Calendar among new converts and others.

(b) That the local conference provide the Missionary Volunteer societies with the individual report blanks, and furnish the conference Missionary Volunteer secretaries with such literature as will assist them in placing before the young people the necessary information pertaining to plans and methods of work, and to the various items of the goal.

B. G. WILKINSON, *Chairman*.

R. T. DOWSETT, *Secretary*.

(to be continued)