

Columbia Union Visitor

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

Vol. 23

Mount Vernon, Ohio, January 10, 1918

No. 2

UNION

411 Cedar St., Washington, D. C.
B. G. Wilkinson, Pres., R. T. Dowsett, Sec.

Our First Winter Institute

The West Virginia Colporteurs' Institute convened according to appointment December 19-29. This meeting had been looked forward to by the canvassers with much pleasure and a spirit of expectancy because it was apparent to all that the time had come for a great work to be done; a work which cannot be completed without a deeper consecration and more power. This spirit of expectancy was realized in a large measure. The Spirit of God came into our meetings in a marked manner and the workers testified to having gained victory over sin and to having reached a new goal in consecration and devotion to the work of evangelistic colportage.

A Shadow--Then Sunshine

At the beginning, however, a shadow hung over the institute because of the absence of our brother and fellow-laborer, W. E. Arnett, who had planned to attend. Brother Arnett had looked forward with happy anticipation to this meeting and was hurrying to complete his delivery in order to be present at the first meeting, when his life was without a moment's warning cut off. This was a hard blow to us, but as we studied the goodness of the Lord, counted over our many blessings and considered that the Lord's workers were "as the apple of His eye" it became clear to us, no murderer's bullet could touch one of His book evangelists unless it was in His providence. As the institute continued, the blessings of the Lord flooded in so that this shadow, that at first brooded over us, disappeared as the shadows of early morning vanish before the full blaze of the noon-day sun. The words of Martin Luther express the sentiments of West Virginia's colporteur band as they march forward into the New Year, 1918,—"It matters not what may happen to me. But for Christ's truth I will stand with cheerful heart and courage and without fear of any one in the world."

Colporteurs and Others in Attendance

J. S. Seal, W. A. McElphatrick, C. S.

Mays, Norman Haye, Louise Russell, John Fahrner, Thurman Metcalf, Ruth Fahrner, Samuel Bertolet, Brother and Sister G. Earl Snyder, Hazel Leach, Bertha Hoffman, Harold McHenry, D. Haddix, and B. P. Wright. We greatly missed the regular workers who were not able to attend and trust that they were abundantly blessed in their respective fields of labor during this time.

Instructors

Elder T. B. Westbrook conducted the evening services which were well attended by the church. His stirring sermons on the importance of cleaning up the life and the necessity of being filled with the fullness of the Jesus' life caused a deep heart searching on the part of all present. The writer not being able to be present regularly, Brother H. F. Kirk, Field Missionary Secretary of New Jersey, was asked to join Brother John McHenry in carrying the responsibility. These brethren were greatly blessed in their work. Brother Kirk gave most of the general instruction and this was much appreciated.

Big Thir teen h Sabbath

The Parkersburg Church together with the bookmen present determined to make the gift this last Sabbath of the year, as nearly as possible, one commensurate with the greatness of the opportunity offered in contributing to this fund which is to be used in establishing publishing houses that will ultimately place in the hands of half the human race literature, publishing the gospel of the kingdom. How our hearts rejoiced when we were told that the offering for this one day through the Sabbath School reached the magnificent sum of \$222.95. The greatest single enterprise to which we ever contributed receiving the largest Thirteenth Sabbath offering given by this church. May God bless this gift as it flows into the treasury along with the other gifts from throughout North America.

1917--Prosperous Year for West Virginia

The past year has been a great year in the book work in West Virginia. The sales for the eleven months is more than \$28,000 and the prospects are that the last month's work will bring the grand total up to \$30,000 which is a new record

for this department in this field. 1918 promises to be one better, however.

Our Day of Opportunity

Never was there such a time as this to put the truth as contained in our books into the hands of the people. The spirit of inquiry is abroad in the land and the question on every side is, "What do these things mean?" Many there are to whom the Spirit is saying, "Go work today in my vineyard." We earnestly invite you to give heed to this call of the Master for only "A little longer will the voice of mercy be heard; a little longer will be given the gracious invitation." Vol. 9, page 146.

C. V. LEACH.

An Extended Opportunity

So many requests have come to the Pacific Press Publishing Association to extend the *Signs* club prices to February 1, 1918, that they have decided to comply.

I trust that all will appreciate this liberal courtesy on the part of the *Signs* Publishers and make the very most of it. Renew your own subscription, or, better still, send in a large club and see how many souls will accept the truth through reading them during nineteen eighteen.

Remember that when February 1, 1918 is past, the time for you to get the *Signs* at such low prices will be forever in the past. During January only the *Signs* weekly can be secured at the following prices: 1 copy, 1 year, \$1.00; 5 copies, 1 year, to one address, 80 cents per copy, or 85 cents to separate addresses. 5 copies, 6 months at 45 cents and 50 cents per copy.

1918 Magazines

The Pacific Press and the Southern Publishing Association have also extended the 1917 yearly subscription prices of the *Signs* and *Watchman* magazines to February 1, 1918. 1 copy, 1 year, \$1.00; 5 copies, 1 year, 60 cents per copy. Subscribe and get your friends and neighbors to join you! You will be surprised to find how readily and gladly they will do so. They want them and they are waiting for just such truth-laden periodicals and magazines, which throw light on the world's perplexing problems. How long shall we keep on waiting?

May the Lord help us to be "obedient unto the heavenly vision," and as Abram, so may we be blessed of the Lord and go out, that through us "all nations of the earth (may) be blessed" with the truth as is in our lives, and in our publications.

Do all you can to make January 1918, the banner *Review, Signs and Watchman* month. J. W. HIRLINGER.

NEW JERSEY

St. Francis & Columbus Aves., Trenton
W. H. Heckman, Pres. C. Lawry, Sec.

Franklin Church Organization

The work of God now established in Franklin, N. J., was begun by the canvasser. Brother Andrew Hansen spent some months canvassing for our literature in this place and vicinity, early in 1916, as a result of which a number of persons became interested in the truth. On Sunday, August 20, of the same year, Elder John M. Gaff, assisted by Brother Hansen, began a series of tent meetings in Munsonhurst, a suburb of Franklin, in which the interest already created was further developed, while yet others became interested in the truth for this time. During the last two weeks of this effort, which closed on Sunday, October 1, the writer was connected with it.

After the tent was taken down, meetings were held for a time in the homes of the friends of the cause. Meanwhile, Elder Gaff and the most interested ones laid plans for a church building in which to worship. This building was erected and enclosed during the fall of 1916 and the winter following; but just as the first public service was about to be held, Elder Gaff was stricken with pneumonia and died, and was buried in Paterson on Friday, February 9, 1917. The first meeting held in the church was conducted by Elder R. H. Martin, then in charge of the work in Paterson and vicinity, on Sunday, February 8. The writer was called to take charge of the work in Franklin at this time, and entered upon his duties there on Wednesday, February 21.

Notwithstanding the vicissitudes through which the work passed, the Lord added His blessing to the efforts put forth. At our last camp-meeting held in Trenton, on July 8, five precious souls from Franklin and vicinity were buried with Christ in baptism by Elder A. R. Sandborn. On September 16, nine more were baptized by the writer in the beautiful Franklin Lake, and there are yet others who contemplate uniting with the church by baptism.

On December 17, the Franklin Seventh-day Adventist Church, consisting of fifteen members, was organized by Brother H. J. Adams, assisted by the writer. The

president of our conference, Elder W. H. Heckman, not being able to be present with us, Brother Adams, who had been appointed chairman of our Conference Committee during the temporary absence of Elders Sandborn and Heckman, was invited to come and effect the organization.

A beautiful spirit of co-operation and Christian fellowship exists among the members of this infant organization. A club of fifty *Signs of the Times* and other literature have been ordered by them for missionary purposes; and nearly \$100 have been solicited by them for foreign missions during the Harvest Ingathering campaign. And last, but not least, those who have an income are endeavoring to be strictly honest with God in the payment of their tithes.

The church building is now practically completed, and is valued at about \$2,000. It carries an indebtedness of about \$200. The willing hands of the friends of the cause made light work of the enterprise, as practically all the labor on the building had been done free of charge. At our last public service, held on Sunday, December 23, the house was well filled with interested listeners, who gave us a very liberal contribution for the support of our cause. We hope that in the glad hereafter the pleasure of looking into the faces of these dear ones who have thus assisted in the extension of God's work, may be ours. GEORGE W. SPIES.

"Over the Top"

Last year's triumphs but remind us
We can make another climb,
And advancing leave behind us
Deeds to compensate our time.

—Adapted.

Psychologists say that each day's experience leaves us either better or worse than we were the day before. There is no standing still. Every victory that we win and every goal that we attain makes us strong and courageous to attempt something more difficult, and consequently more inviting.

Any enterprise that we may engage in from year to year ought not to allow any retrogression, but the achievements of one year should serve to give us a higher aim for the year following.

The Missionary Volunteer movement has now passed its tenth birthday, and, believe me, it surely is getting to be a lusty youngster. He is outgrowing his wardrobe faster than new clothes can be provided for him. And the matter of discipline and training is keeping his parents interested. They can't keep him at home much of the time either.

In New Jersey this young fellow lives in twenty-seven different places; and out

of nearly 600 young people, more than half are contributing to his support. We are not content with the results that were accomplished last year; so we are taking several steps in advance for the coming year. The New Jersey Missionary Volunteer goal for 1918 is as follows:

285 Reporting members
60 Young people converted
20 Standard of Attainment members
50 Taking Bible year
60 Reading Course certificates
355 Instructors taken
\$800 For South India

To stand on this growing foundation and to uphold the principles here enumerated, will require quite a little vim and push; but the young people of New Jersey have always accomplished heretofore whatever has been asked of them.

If you have not been connected before with this aggressive army of workers, now at the beginning of 1918 is the time to enlist. And enlist, not for six months or for two years, but for as long a time as there is a soul near you that you can help to save—or for life. Your weapons of attack, your ammunition, and all your other needed supplies are now in your possession. The buglers are calling for us to break camp and advance. And before the enemy has time to entrench himself the more, or to demoralize any part of our fighting force, let us rise up at once, put on our shield and buckler, and go "over the top."

L. D. WARREN,
M. V. Secretary.

VIRGINIA

Gordonsville, Va.

W. F. Moffett, Pres. W. H. Jones, Sec.

How Lynchburg Makes Her Quota

In order to increase the overflow of the Lynchburg Church on the missions goal the members there during the month of September sold 250 of the World's Crisis Series, putting the proceeds in the missions offering. This is in addition to the regular work with the "Ingathering Watchman." Instead of waiting until the end of the year to make up its quota, we would advise every church to endeavor to make its quota week by week. Those who cannot afford to put in the whole amount can easily make it up by the sale of our 15 cent magazines and our 25 cent books. Our white membership this year is setting their goal at 25 cents a week per member for missions and the goal for our colored members will be 10 cents a week.

In view of the rapidity with which the message is sweeping in the foreign fields and many unanswered calls for workers, where companies have already begun to

observe the Sabbath without ever hearing a living preacher, it does seem as a people, we should do more in 1918 than ever before. We confidently expect that our people will rally to the slogan of a million dollars for missions in 1918.

If this war continues there is no doubt that incomes will be heavily taxed to bear the burden of the war. It does seem that those who look to the coming of Christ to put an end to the trouble that is in the world, should be placing all upon the altar for the hastening of that day.

W. C. MOFFETT.

News Notes

Elder I. D. Richardson has closed his theatre meetings in Newport News, having a full house each Sunday night, and is now planning on a series of Sunday night meetings to be held in a theatre in Norfolk.

On Sunday night, January 6, Elder W. C. Moffett assisted by Elder L. O. Gordon will open a series of meetings in the John Marshall High School Auditorium at Richmond, Va. These meetings will be conducted each Sunday night. Let us remember these meetings at the Throne of Grace.

A club of thirty-three weekly "Signs" was received last week from the Lynchburg Church. We also received from one of our sisters, whose home duties demand much of her time, a club of forty "Signs." She is desirous of doing her "bit" and finds this an excellent way. Will not others follow her example?

Elder W. C. Moffett spent the Thirteenth Sabbath with the brethren at Yale, while Brother F. E. Hankins visited the Guinea Mills brethren.

WEST VIRGINIA

Third & Juliana Sts., Parkersburg
T. B. Westbrook, Pres.

Jennie Burdick, Sec.

Parkersburg Effort

We held our second meeting in the Hipp Garden Theater Sunday evening, December 30, and although the thermometer had been registering about ten below zero all day, nearly every seat in the house was taken and a splendid interest was manifested in the subject presented. Scores of names were received again from parties who were desirous of receiving literature on the subject presented. We now have about 500 names from these two meetings and are putting on a strong force of Bible workers to visit these people in their homes. It is impossible to

secure a good hall for mid-week services, so we are providing a place of our own which will accommodate about 1,000 people. We are planning to carry on several lines of work which will be somewhat different than anything we have done in connection with a city effort before and shall be glad to tell the readers of the VISITOR more about this as the meeting proceeds. We shall have to keep you on the anxious seat for another week or so until we get our work on a good running basis. Be watching, however, for our next report, as we will have something of interest to tell. Earnestly soliciting the prayers of the VISITOR family for a good harvest of souls in Parkersburg at this time, we are

Yours in the Master's service,
T. B. Westbrook and party.

The Sabbath School at Parkersburg, West Virginia

The Parkersburg Sabbath School had a very interesting session December 29. This school has been very much interested in the Ten Commandment Cards and has used them in connection with the lessons for this quarter. It was intended that the children should use these cards, but every one became interested and 56 of the members learned the commandments. This includes one brother 77 years old. The commandment cards were given to every one who could repeat the commandments regardless of their age. The idea of banners was suggested and at the close of the quarter 35 pretty Ten Commandment Banners were brought to Sabbath School. These were all put on the wall of the little church and was indeed a pretty sight. All were made out of nice ribbon, different colors, some in heart shapes and some in cross designs, etc. As all repeated the Ten Commandments in concert, we felt that we wanted the law written within our hearts, and that by the study of this law which points out sin, we may turn our weary hearts to the cross of Christ where His blood was shed to cleanse us from all guilt.

The thirteenth Sabbath program was nicely rendered by the members of the school. Brother Leach was with us and made a few fitting remarks. Our thirteenth Sabbath goal was \$30.00 but this sank so far out of sight one could scarcely see it, for when the offering was counted it was \$213.89. When we realize that \$202.80 is the largest thirteenth Sabbath offering in the history of the West Virginia Conference, including all the churches, and that Parkersburg, one church gave \$213.89 December 29, we can see that Parkersburg is doing her bit. This school has been doing good work under the efficient leadership of Sister

Hattie Robinson who has been the superintendent.

We praise God for the blessings He is bestowing upon us at this time and give Him all the glory.

LIDA MAE WESTBROOK,
S. S. SECRETARY.

News Notes

There will be a young people's convention in Huntington, January 11 to 13 inclusive. There will also be one held in Parkersburg beginning Friday night January 18 to 20. Professor Stone is to be with us at this time and a good attendance is earnestly requested.

Miss Mable Gage, a Bible worker of Reading, Pa., has accepted a call to make West Virginia her field of labor and arrived in Parkersburg Tuesday night, January 1, to begin her work.

A. H. Rulkoetter and wife from Huntington, West Virginia, are now in Parkersburg assisting Elder Westbrook in his evangelistic effort.

Miss Hazel Leach, the church school teacher at Parkersburg, is spending a few days with her people in Mount Vernon.

Have you ordered your books for the Sabbath School Teachers' Training Course? They are "Thoroughly Furnished," part 1 by H. T. J. Coleman, "Talks with the Training Class," by Margaret Slattery; both of these books may be obtained for fifty cents through the tract society. The course begins February 1, only 50 cents for 12 months' help in Sabbath School work. Surely you cannot afford to miss it. "The Sabbath School Worker will continue a department for this training course. Surely you are taking the "Worker."

Watchman in Demand

A business man in Baltimore, Md., writes: "Please advise me if there is any news dealer in Baltimore, Md., from whom I may procure *The Watchman* for the months of October, November and December 1917 and thereafter. I received from a friend a copy of your September issue and as it in a great part agrees with my recent religious instructions, I would gladly hear more of the same." Let our people everywhere become responsible for a few magazines each week.

Do your work cheerfully, heartily, and effectually, and be ever prepared for the place higher up.—E. H. Naylor.

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

4738 York Road, Philadelphia, Pa.
D. A. Parsons, Pres. W. B. Mohr, Sec.

Stroudsburg

The Stroudsburg Church had a missionary tree this year. Some time ago it was decided to have a missionary tree at the holiday season. The children were at once interested; bags were given them in the shape of a stocking in which to collect the offering; they were so active some wore out their bags and had to have new ones. When the day came to count the offering a tree was placed in the church and decorated with these bags after which a good and interesting program was given by the children. The last thing was to count the gifts to missionaries that were placed on the tree, which amounted to over \$130. Everyone was happy. We believe God will bless this offering and be the means of saving souls in His kingdom.

In an article written by Sister White and published in the "Review" years ago, we quote the following: "On Christmas so soon to come, let not the parents take the position that an evergreen placed in the church for the amusement of the Sabbath School scholars is a sin; for it may be a great blessing. May you all have wisdom to make it a precious season. Let the older church members unite, heart and soul, with their children in this innocent amusement and recreation, in devising ways and means to show true respect to Jesus by bringing to Him gifts and offerings. Let every one remember the claims of God. His cause cannot go forward without your aid. Let the gifts you have usually bestowed upon one another be placed in the Lord's treasury. . . . In every church let your smaller offerings be placed upon your Christmas tree. Let the precious emblem 'evergreen,' suggest the holy work of God and His beneficence to us; and the loving heart-work will be to save other souls who are in darkness. Let your works be in accordance with your faith."

May we all remember God's suffering cause every time this season of the year comes to us. C. S. BAUM.

The Slacker

He said he was thirty-one. A raid was made upon his home, the family Bible was consulted and it was found that one figure in the date, 1887 had been changed. The 7 was changed to 6 of course. Did it make any actual difference in his age? Likewise the writer of "The Slacker" article, which appears in the February *Signs Magazine*, reasons that the true seventh-day Sabbath, which was established for all time, is none the less the Sabbath, even if a man or a group of men at a later time substitute another day. The message in a pleasing form in the February *Signs Magazine*.

OHIO

Box 8, Mount Vernon, Ohio
E. K. Slade, Pres. H. D. Holtom, Sec.

A Telegram From Toledo

The following message was received at the conference office Thursday morning, January 3.

Elder E. K. Slade, Mount Vernon, Ohio. "The Toledo Church has raised her thousand dollars, going four hundred over the goal set by the conference. Rejoice with us. To the Lord be all the praise." (Signed) A. R. Bell.

This is a most encouraging report from Toledo. The thousand dollars referred to in this message is the Harvest Ingathering goal set by the Toledo Church. We naturally feared that they had set the mark too high, for it is by far the highest goal adopted by any church in the conference considering the membership. We rejoice with the Toledo brethren in their noble accomplishment, and appreciate the successful leadership and earnest efforts that have made such a report possible. E. K. SLADE.

The Responsibility of Church Members in Finishing the Work in Ohio

A careful study of the situation that the church of God is facing in these days of peril, when God has a controversy with the nations of earth, and is preparing the way for the overthrow of earthly kingdoms, forces us to the conclusion that "the work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers.

"The Saviour's commission to His disciples included all the believers. It included all the believers in Christ to the end of time. It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of saving souls depends alone on the ordained minister. All to whom the heavenly inspiration has come are put in trust with the gospel. All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellowmen. FOR THIS WORK THE CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED, and all who take upon themselves its sacred vows are thereby pledged to be co-workers with Christ." Desire of Ages p. 822.

"The very life of the church depends upon her faithfulness in fulfilling the Lord's commission. To neglect this work is surely to invite spiritual feebleness and decay. Where there is no active labor for others, love wanes and faith grows dim." Id. p. 825. In the light of this comprehensive statement can we not grasp the

significance of the Saviour's question, "When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:8. May God's people awaken to a sense of their responsibility, and in obedience to the Master's call develop a faith that will enable them to stand upon the promises of God in the troublous times just ahead, and bring sheaves to lay at His feet when the work is done.

The Condition of Society and the Need of the Hour

Truly the condition of society today is alarming. Conditions in the social, industrial, political and religious world viewed in the light of the message which we profess, causes us to believe that the real crisis is right upon us. The great danger today to the people of God is that of self-deception. There is danger that we settle down upon our lease in carnal security.

Writing concerning the appalling condition in our own country from an industrial viewpoint alone, Frederick Townsend Martin, addressing the "idle rich" said, "The Romans were over-confident, and they were swept from the earth. The French overdid the thing, and rivers of blood flowed. The English again and again have forced the workers into open rebellion. All countries, including ours, seem ripe for revolution." These sentiments, coupled with others from the minds of great industrial leaders, will enable us to understand clearly the intensity of the issues which are confronting society today. And this is speaking from the standpoint of Capital and Labor alone, to say nothing about this terrible war and its bearing upon the future of the nations. We are gradually awakening to a realization of the fact that everything that is progressive in the development of civilization is crumbling, and in a little while this old world will reap its terrible harvest.

We need only to look into conditions in our own state to feel convinced of the truthfulness of these sentiments. Terrible strikes in Youngstown, Lima, Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and other populous centers in the Buckeye state give us a little insight into the undercurrent of society right at our very doors.

The greatest need of the world today is a hope that grasps by faith the glories of the future world. Brother, sister, the thousands and tens of thousands surrounding your home, your church, need this hope that comes with the reception of this message which binds our hearts together in a common cause. Are not these thousands of souls without hope, without Christ, a challenge to us? How can we remain in idleness and neglect to discharge our responsibility at this hour when trouble reigns on every hand.

Plans for Work

Time and space will not permit an extended discussion of plans and methods which we can put into operation whereby the members in our churches can enter a greater field of activity in soul-winning effort. Just a few suggestions will open to our vision some of the resources, both spiritual and material, which will contribute to the successful completion of our work.

Without a doubt the most vital essential is PRAYER. This is the vitalizing agency which will bring God's people into harmony with Him, equip them for service in His great moral vineyard, and roll upon their hearts a passion for souls. "The greatest victories gained for the cause of God are not the result of labored argument, ample facilities, wide influence, or abundance of means; they are gained in the audience chamber with God, when with earnest, agonizing faith men lay hold upon the mighty arm of power." Gospel Workers, p. 259.

The organization of our churches constitutes an important factor in enlisting the services of our church members in the work to be done. We have been told by the servant of God that "time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work." The formation of Prayer and Missionary bands in the churches has assisted greatly in reviving the missionary spirit in the hearts of our people. Now that this phase of the work has been developed in the churches in Ohio we feel that a good foundation has been laid for our future work.

Our LITERATURE in its many and varied forms opens to us an unlimited field of activity. In passing we can only mention our tracts and periodicals, including the "Present Truth," all of which should be "scattered like the leaves of autumn." These are furnished to us at nominal rates, and can be used in interesting those for whom we are working in our larger publications, such as the "Signs Weekly," magazines, and smaller books. "Let literature be distributed judiciously, on the trains, in the street, on the great ships that ply the sea, and through the mails." Vol. 9, p. 123. We are living today in the sowing time. The extent of the harvest which will be reaped at the close of human probation will depend largely upon the faithfulness of God's people in sowing the seed.

The most potent factor in the finishing of the work of God in the earth will not be the efforts of the ordained ministry. It will be the PERSONAL efforts of the masses of the laity who have consecrated themselves to the work of God. Men of wide experience in personal soul-winning have spoken of it as the hardest work in the world. Henry Clay Trumble, after fifty years experience said that he found

it no easier to speak to an individual about his soul than at the beginning of his work. This is God's plan, however, and His people should study how they may act their part in developing into successful soul-winners. "Visit your neighbors, and show an interest in the salvation of their souls. Arouse every spiritual energy to action. Tell those whom you visit that the end of all things is at hand. The Lord Jesus Christ will open the door of their hearts, and will make upon their minds lasting impressions." Vol. 9, p. 38.

It will be inspiring to entertain a little vision of the results, both in the present and in the hereafter, that will develop as our people put their hands to the plow. Experience has proven that as we labor for souls we get a clearer vision of the possibilities in God's providences, and the need of a closer walk with God. One of the vital secrets in personal victory over sin is in working for others. "If set to work, the despondent will soon forget their despondency; the weak will become strong; the ignorant intelligent, and all will be prepared to present the truth as it is in Jesus." Vol. 6, p. 50.

It will brighten all eternity to know that, when the harvest of the earth is reaped, and we have entered the gates into the city of God, some souls will be there because we sacrificed, labored and toiled. Just a few words in closing from the servant of God will inspire us to a greater effort for souls while probation's hours still linger. "Others will express their gratitude to those who fed the hungry and clothed the naked. 'When despair bound my soul in unbelief, the Lord sent you to me,' they say, 'to speak words of hope and comfort. You brought me food for my physical necessities, and you opened to me the Word of God, awakening me to my spiritual needs. You treated me as a brother. You sympathized with me in my sorrows, and restored my bruised and wounded soul, so that I could grasp the hand of Christ that was reached out to save me. In my ignorance you taught me patiently that I had a Father in heaven who cared for me. You read to me the precious promises of God's Word. You inspired in me faith that He would save me. My heart was softened, subdued, broken, as I contemplated the sacrifice which Christ had made for me. I became hungry for the bread of life, and the truth was precious to my soul. I am here, saved, eternally saved, ever to live in His presence, and to praise Him who gave His life for me." Gospel Workers, pp. 518, 519.

When you enter that beautiful city,
Far removed from earth's sorrow and fear;

Will you hear somebody saying,
"It was you who invited me here?"

H. K. CHRISTMAN.

Shenandoah Valley Academy

Academy's Loss

While one of the boys of the Shenandoah Valley Academy went to start the gasoline engine to pump water into the building, the gasoline tank exploded, setting the pump house on fire. The pump house was a small building joining the laundry and store house. Every effort possible to prevent the fire from spreading to the laundry was put forth by the teachers and students; but when all hopes of saving the buildings were gone, everyone turned his attention and efforts to the saving of the contents. The fire spread so rapidly that little could be saved.

The building was insured, but the loss will no where be covered, because there is no barn of any account, and the baled hay and corn had been stored in one part of the store room. Faithful work was done getting these things out, but about three tons of hay and one hundred bushels of corn could not be removed. It is estimated the total loss will be \$700 of which only \$200 was covered by insurance. While this seems like a heavy loss, still we rejoice to think no one was injured and we know the academy building could not have been saved had the wind been in the opposite direction. As it was, the paint was blistered and many window panes were broken.

We have been inconvenienced as the fire partially ruined our pump and gasoline engine, and while we are waiting for repairs and some other place to do our washing and other work, we have moved what little we have left into the dining room and kitchen, and work on trying to think "The best is yet to come."

Teachers and students are selling "The World War," crocheting, sewing and doing anything to make a few cents to help the school along. We are wondering if there will not be some of the readers of the "Visitor" who would like to help us in some way. No matter how small a gift, it will be appreciated and used to the very best advantage in the school work. If there are any who would like to do this, please address the Shenandoah Valley Academy, New Market, Virginia.

Correction

In the December 13 issue of the VISITOR we stated that the subscription price of the "Review and Herald" would increase January 1, 1918. The time has been extended until January 31, 1918, and we would advise you to take advantage of this special concession.

Mount Vernon Academy

More students went home during the holidays this school year than any previous year. Those who remained had an enjoyable vacation, having been invited to the homes of some of the neighbors.

Mr. J. George Wolf of Pittsburg, Pa., and Mr. Joseph Craig who is working in Battle Creek, Mich., former students of M. V. A., visited here during the holidays.

We are glad to report the successful operation and a speedy recovery of Brother H. S. Weaver. We hope he will be with us soon again.

Mr. W. A. Scharffenberg of Washington Missionary College occupied the chapel hour last Wednesday in the interest of the "Sligonian," the college paper.

Miss Marie Smith, church school teacher at Wellington, Ohio, visited the academy last Thursday.

We are glad to welcome in our midst as a new student Miss Ida Reed of Galipolis, Ohio.

Miss Mary Davis of Columbus, Ohio spent a week with friends here.

In keeping with other schools, M. V. A. now has her song, composed by Professor H. A. Miller, entitled "Alma Mater." If you desire to obtain a copy, write to Mount Vernon Academy and send 15 cents.

Although the holidays saw most of the members of the Ministerial Band on vacation trips, the various places of meeting were occupied with the interest more than usual. Mr. J. E. Lippart spoke to the patients of the Ohio State Sanatorium on Sunday evening, December 30. The subject, "The Millennium, or Will Man Have a Second Chance?" brought forth some interested inquiries. We request a part in your prayers.

Miss Hazel Leach, a former student, now teaching church school at Parkersburg, W. Va., visited here last week.

A new home missionary secretary arrived in Academia on Friday morning, January 4. Raymond Morris weighs six and one-half pounds, and is making his home with Elder and Mrs. H. K. Christman.

Name	Place	Book	Days	Hrs	Orders	Value	Helps	Total	Del
East Pennsylvania, Week Ending December, 28, 1917									
Geo. Caine, Shuylkill Co.		BR	7	58	12	45 00	11 50	56 50	209 25
M. M. Sterner, Schuylkill Co.		BR	7	17		8 25	13 25	21 50	165 00
H. G. Lewis, Luzerne		WC	9	63	105	52 50		52 50	46 90
W. Garrett, Peckville		GC	6	42	14	61 00	1 50	62 50	171 75
Sherman Booth, York		BR	8	27	2	7 00		7 00	136 50
S. J. Mack, Northumberland Co.		BR	8	62	17	66 50		66 50	80 80
C. F. Booth, York Co.		BR	7	45	14	51 00		51 00	310 00
J. L. Gearhart, Lebanon Co.		BR	6	42	9	34 50	4 75	39 25	91 50
W. P. Hess, Berks Co.		BR	8	51	5	14 50	9 75	24 25	50 50
G. R. Hawthorne, West Chester		WW	3	8	18	6 75		6 75	6 75
C. F. Durr, Phila.		WW	4	16		11 60		11 60	11 60
Totals	11 Agents		73	431	196	358 60	40 75	399 35	1280 55

Ohio, Two Weeks Ending December 28, 1917									
E. C. Alexander, Brown Co.		BR	6	54	1	5 50	3 75	9 25	316 25
O. E. Taylor, Franklin Co.		PPF	5	37	17	55 70	1 00	56 70	
Clara Weber, Montgomery Co.		BR	4	34					168 75
Mrs. E. Y. Smith, Montgomery Co.		BR	4	24			50	50	194 50
G. W. Yingling, E. Palestine		BR	5	24	6	27 00	11 00	38 00	119 25
Robert Kline, Morrow Co.		BR	3	21					205 75
Chas. Carter, Wood Co.		BR	2	20					97 00
M. B. Ingersoll, Vinton Co.		BR	2	11	1	3 50		3 50	41 00
J. W. Bowling, Hamilton Co.		BR	4	15		2 50	75	3 25	33 65
Mrs. C. Kelly, Montgomery Co.		BR	1	5					18 75
Mrs. G. W. Yingling, E. Palestine		BR	1	4	1	4 00	4 50	8 50	6 50
J. D. Fellabaum, Hancock Co.		BR	2	22					117 75
Totals	14 Agents		40	271	26	\$98 20	\$21 55	119 70	1219 15

Virginia, Week Ending December 21, 1917									
E. H. Dye, Pulaski Co.		BR	4		26	32 25		33 25	122 75
Harry Wright, Henry Co.		BR	7	65					367 00
David Orr, Mecklenburg						1 50	3 25	4 75	4 75
Totals	3 Agents		11	65	26	33 75	3 25	36 90	494 50
Grand Totals: 28		Agents Value of Orders		\$490 55		Deliveries, \$2994 20			

There arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Tebbe in Toledo, Ohio, January 1, a nine pound son, named Charles Herman.

We were favored last Saturday night with a stereopticon lecture given by Elder A. G. Daniells. The chapel was crowded and the lecture was appreciated by all.

Mrs. Archibald of Columbus, Ohio, visited the school and is planning to send her son Ernest.

Are You Reading the Testimonies?

Years ago, when a young girl in one of our schools, I talked with one of the teachers about reading the Testimonies. To me they seemed dry and uninteresting, and I could see why they were necessary.

"Suppose we do not argue about it," the older woman said; "but I would like to have you notice one thing, and think about it. Those who read the testimonies most and try most faithfully to carry out their instruction, are those who enjoy the happiest and brightest Christian ex-

perience. While those who talk against them, and neglect them, soon lose their hold on this truth, and fully drift away into the world."

Many times since then I have thought of that conversation, and have had occasion to verify its truth. The desirability of reading the Testimonies is not a question that can be decided by argument; it is shown by the fruit that it bears in the life. Do you desire to enjoy a deeper Christian experience during the year to come? One of the helps provided for you is very likely in your home library—perhaps unused and unprized. Take down the Testimonies, read them carefully, and mark the sentences and paragraphs that are especially helpful; you will be surprised, as you read, to see how much there is that seems especially fitted to your special need.

A. B. E.

"Forget self in the service for others; and you will soon see that your love, your helpfulness, your kindness to others, comes back in heaping measures by a great immutable law."

To Help Our Boys and Girls

There is now a Junior Standard of Attainment Manual. This is just what you need for studying to become Junior members of Attainment. This little manual contains two lists of study questions with references—one list on Bible doctrines and one on denominational history. On these questions the Junior Standard of Attainment examinations will be based.

This manual makes it possible for every ambitious boy or girl of junior age to become a Junior member of attainment. Surely many will get this leaflet at once, and try to be ready to take the test in either Bible doctrines or denominational history, and possibly in both subjects, next May. Who will be first? Order from your tract society. Price 6 cents. Leaflet No. 58.

"Our garden had never before looked so lovely to me as upon the day of our return. I recognized an expression of the love of Jesus in every shrub, bud, and flower . . . There was a beautiful pink flower in the garden called the rose of Sharon. I remember approaching it and touching the delicate petals reverently; they seemed sacred in my eyes." Do you know the source of this little quotation, which tells of the wonderful joy that filled a young girl's soul when she gave her heart to the Saviour? It is selected from Volume 1, page 19 of the "Testimonies for the Church." How many of our Missionary Volunteers have begun the special Testimony Reading Course? Have you? You will find it interesting as well as very helpful.

E. A. I.

A Request

A request has come to the Pacific Press Publishing Association from the Missionary Department of the North American Division Conference to extend the time of putting into effect the new prices on the weekly "Signs" one month, or until February 1, 1918. The reason assigned is that the entire field is now tied up in the Harvest Ingathering campaign and two campaigns cannot be carried on very successfully at the same time.

The request has been duly considered by the Pacific Press Board and granted. This concession means considerable to the publishers. It also means much in a financial way to the churches and our people generally. We are glad to accommodate the field in extending the time, and confidently believe the biggest campaign ever waged in behalf of a single periodical will be carried on during the month of January. It ought to mean a list for the weekly of at least 100,000 copies.

JAMES COCHRAN,
Circulation Manager.

OBITUARIES

ZIMMERMAN.—Annie Peden, wife of John L. Zimmerman, who had been ill of a complication of diseases for a long time, died Dec. 7, at her home in Southmont, Upper Yoder Township, aged 45 years. She was a daughter of Abel and Sarah Collier Peden and was born on September 10, 1872, in Kernville. She was married to John L. Zimmerman about 19 years ago and is survived by her husband and six children—Melvin, Earl, Charles, Olive, Lillian, and Sarah Ellen Zimmerman, all at home, together with her parents, who reside in Southmont; a sister, Mrs. Lottie Wangler, of Akron, Ohio, and five brothers—George and Albert Peden, of Upper Yoder Township; Charles Peden, of Salix; William Peden, formerly of New Florence, now located in the West, and Joseph Peden, of Southmont. The funeral services were held in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Hickory Street, with burial in Grandview Cemetery. Mrs. Zimmerman was one of the organizers of the Hickory Street congregation.

R. M. SPENCER.

A very touching scene was witnessed by a large company of people when the writer was called upon to preach a double funeral sermon at a home in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. The one was a father of four small children, while the other was a mother of one child. Being brother and sister-in-law, and dying only a day apart it was thought best to have only one service.

CROSSMAN.—William H., son of William and Elizabeth Crossman, was born September 9, 1879. Early in life Mr. Crossman accepted Jesus as his Saviour and associated himself with the Salvation Army, being an active member in that noble work for a long time. During the last years of his life he believed in the Seventh-day Adventist faith, and expressed his desire of uniting himself with this body of believers. Brother Crossman felt confident on his death-bed that God had fully accepted him, and fell asleep with the hope of hearing the Life Giver's voice when He comes to call forth His sleeping saints. On December 10, 1906, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Burns, who is a member of the Phoenixville Seventh-day Adventist Church, being blessed with four children. Brother Crossman was sick but a few weeks. Prior to his illness he faithfully ministered to three of his children who were stricken with typhoid fever, when the fever seized him from which he died December 9, 1917. The deceased leaves a sorrowing widow, three daughters, one son, a mother and father, two sisters and two brothers, also many friends to mourn their loss. Age 38 years and 3 months.

BURNS.—Leola May, daughter of

Thomas J. and Rudella Wilson, was born May 3, 1894. Leola was always a kind and obedient child, from her youth being religiously inclined. She was baptized a few years ago in the Seventh-day Adventist faith, in which faith she fell asleep. On July 27, 1914, Sister Burns was united in marriage to Mr. John Burns, and to them was born one daughter. Sister Burns was only bedfast five days with typhoid fever, when she passed into a peaceful rest.

She was a faithful member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Phoenixville, where her absence is keenly felt. Sister Burns fell asleep December 9, 1917, with the hope of having a part in the first resurrection, at the soon coming of Jesus Christ. There remains to mourn their loss a sorrowing husband, one daughter, a mother and father, two sisters and three brothers, also many friends. Age 23 years, 7 months, and 6 days. Words of comfort were spoken by the writer of the experiences of Job.

H. G. GAUKER.

ROSSIN.—Edwin Lee, died of pneumonia on the morning of December 28, 1917. Little Edwin was born December 29, 1913, at Coshocton, Ohio, and had he lived another day would have been four years of age. Father, mother and two brothers are left to mourn and are anxiously awaiting the return of our Lord when all expect to have their loved one restored to them.

J. H. BEHRENS.

YOUNG.—Nancy E. Smith was born July 14, 1841, died December 13, 1917, aged 76 years, and 5 months. She was married to John Young in May 1862. She has one brother and sister and many relatives and friends to mourn their loss. She united with the Seventh-day Adventist Church over fifty years ago, and remained a faithful member until taken by death. She died in Chicago and was brought to Xenia, Ohio, for burial. She left all her property to the Ohio Conference, trusting that her means would have a part in the closing work of the Third Angel's Message. The citizens of Bowensville, where she lived so long, bear witness to the fact that she rests from her labors and her works do follow her.

W. W. MILLER.

Succeed?—Of Course!

"I've tried twice, and failed both times!" lamented a Missionary Volunteer with a look of discouragement upon his face.

"Failed? In what?" inquired his friend sympathetically.

"Why, in the Denominational History test for the Standard of Attainment. I feel like giving up; for though I've made an earnest effort to master the subject, I

COLUMBIA UNION VISITOR

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EMMA SILBER - - - EDITOR

Entered as second-class matter March 25, 1908, at the post-office at Mount Vernon, O., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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The check mark here indicates that your subscription has expired. Kindly renew at once.

don't seem to succeed."

Listen, friend! Don't give up the ship just as help is arriving. Here is some good news for you. We have just what you need to guide you in your study and to help you to succeed. It is a new leaflet containing 185 questions on Denominational History, and giving the pages in "The Great Second Advent Movement" where these are answered.

On this list of questions future examinations will be based. Doesn't this encourage you? When you have mastered the information called for in this leaflet you will be well informed on the history of our denomination.

Order from your tract society. Leaflet No. 57, price 1½ cents.

Let us make this the banner year for Standard of Attainment. Resolve to be a member of Attainment by the close of 1918, without fail. Succeed? Of course you can! M. V. D.

"The sweet persuasion of His voice
Respects thy sanctity of will.
He giveth the day: thou hast thy choice
To walk in darkness still.
A tenderer light than moon or sun,
Than song of earth a sweeter hymn,
May shine and sound forever on,
And thou be deaf and dim.

"Forever round the mercy seat
The guiding lights of love shall burn;
But what if, habit-bound, thy feet
Shall lack the will to turn?
What if thine eyes refuse to see,
Thine ear of heaven's free welcome fail,
And thou a willing captive be,
Thyself thine own dark jail?"

The Signs Magazine

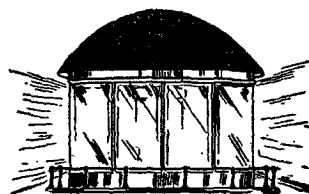
How is the magazine going with the increased price? A letter from a tract society secretary yesterday makes this encouraging reply:

"Our agents do not seem to be experiencing any difficulty in selling the new "Signs Magazine" at 15 cents. About 600 of our 1000 copies you sent have been sold already."

"No person can hope to reap the harvest of success who has not first sown success seeds."

Pray, though the gift you ask for
May never comfort your fears,
May never repay your pleading
Yet pray with hopeful tears.
An answer—not that you long for
But diviner—will come one day,
Your eyes are too dim to see it,
Yet strive and wait and pray.
—Adelaide Proctor.

"In the furnace God will prove thee,
Thence to bring thee forth more bright,
But can ever cease to love thee,
Thou art precious in His sight."



"For a light of the
Nations and for sal-
vation to the ends of
the earth."

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M. V. A. EDUCA-
TIONAL FUND

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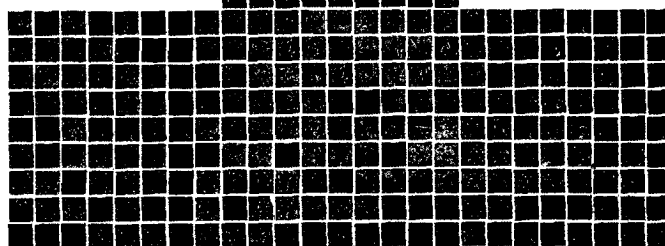
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"The God of heaven, He will prosper us; therefore, we His servants
will arise and build." Neh. 2:20.

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