

SPECIAL

READINGS FOR SABBATH SERVICES MAY 3

Columbia Union Visitor

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

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No. 17

Reading No. 1

The Spirit of Sacrifice

The spirit of sacrifice is the spirit of true Christianity. When Christ dwells in our hearts, He leads us to give ourselves for the lost. One way of giving ourselves is to give of our means,—the fruit of our labor. A conference Missionary Volunteer Secretary writes:

"I was very much impressed with a letter which I received from one young man. He comes from a large family, and helps to support his father and mother. They are poor people, yet in the face of all that, he is willing to do something to help. Not only is he willing to help, but he is doing something. When I sent out a special request for him to come to camp-meeting, he wrote me that he did not have clothes sufficient to come, but in the same letter he inclosed two dollars for the Missionary Volunteer work."

WHAT CAN I GIVE?

The question which confronts each of us is: "What can I give?" Let us consider some of the things that others have given in the past. From all quarters of the broad land might arise fathers and mothers, saying, "I gave my child, forfeiting his care and the joy of his companionship in my old age; yet it only binds my heart the closer to this great work, that I have laid on the altar so precious a gift." Far out on the frontier blazing the trails of missionary effort, stand the lonely monuments that bear witness to those who have given their lives for the spreading of the gospel of the kingdom; while many increasing lights in the dark places of the earth mark the spots where men and women are daily giving their lives as living sacrifices that the work of the Lord may go forward in the earth.

Others may say, "We ourselves cannot go to distant fields, there to uphold the light of truth, but by our means we can sustain those who are already there;" and from their hand we may see a steadily increasing stream of silver and gold flowing into the treasury. Yet there is vast-

ly more than this that may be given to missions - that must be given, if our gift is complete. We must give thought and study to the mission fields, that we may intelligently and sympathetically realize the conditions with which our workers there must struggle. We must give of our prayers for the success of God's work and the preservation of the health of the workers, knowing that "effectual fervent prayer," here as elsewhere, "availeth much." Have any of us ever bankrupted ourselves in prayer for missions? I fear sometimes that prayer, the one thing that all, rich and poor alike, can offer at all times, is the one thing we are too prone to forget.

In one or more of these ways it is the blessed privilege of each to aid; and surely there is no heart but deeply desires a part. May the time soon come when we all make this matter less of an incident in our lives and more its regular business. It is possible for us to give thoughtlessly, carelessly, because it is customary, and we think others may expect it of us; but God forbid that this should be true of us. Rather may it be that we are making it an individual thing, giving for the love of the Lord and the advancement of His work in the earth - giving with a ready hand and a willing mind, and a loving heart, ourselves and all that we have and are.

GIVING BECAUSE SHE WAS BLIND

At a missionary meeting in Paris a poor blind woman put twenty-seven francs into the plate.

"You cannot afford so much," said the man who was holding the plate.

"Yes, I can," she answered. And on being pressed to tell how she could give so much, she said:

"I am blind; and I said to my fellow straw-workers, 'How much money do you spend in the year for oil for your lamps, when it is so dark too work nights?' They added it up in their minds, and found that it was twenty-seven francs. So, said the poor woman, I found that I save twenty-seven francs in the year because I am blind, and do not need a lamp, and I give it to send light to the heathen lands."

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

"Three years ago," says Brother J. L. Burkhardt, of Wyoming, "my wife, my three children, and I decided to set aside one acre of potatoes for missions. So I selected an acre of what I thought to be an average of the soil of the field, and asked God's blessing on it. On harvesting the crop in the fall, I found this particular piece more fruitful than the rest of the field, although no extra cultivation had been given it. The proceeds of this acre were \$225.

"Last year the boys and girls of Wyoming were given an opportunity to compete in raising potatoes, a silver cup to be given to the one having the largest yield. I asked my daughter if she wanted to enter, giving the proceeds of the crop to the Lord. She made the entry, and when the men employed by the State dug the potatoes in the fall, it was found that she had won the cup, the acre yielding six hundred and forty-eight bushels. This was found to be next to the largest yield of potatoes in the United States.

This year my wife, my daughter, and I are giving the net proceeds of one-half acre to the same cause. We have dug only one-eighth of an acre, but have a good yield. One-eighth of an acre was entered in the contest again by my daughter, and the State authorities informed her that she is winner again in Sheridan County, the yield being at the rate of five hundred and ten bushels an acre.

"The Lord likes a part of our time. Will it pay? Dear brother, dear sister, give it a trial and in this way let the Lord help raise the funds for missions."

'TIS BLESSED TO GIVE

A missionary in a strange land called upon a family whom he found to be in dire circumstances. The father had recently died, and the mother had fallen seriously ill in her effort to provide for her hungry children. After silently talking with God, the missionary took the only coin which he had and purchased a small amount of food for the children and mother. He needed this coin to keep himself from starving or begging until he

should receive more money, but he had faith in God and knew that He would answer his prayer and provide food for him. In the next mail the missionary received, from an unknown source, a hundred times the amount that he gave the needy. Truly God will provide for us if we help others.

RETURNED IN GOOD MEASURE

A little girl, whose mother was a widow and ill, stopped a young man on the street and begged him to buy some of her chestnuts. He was very poor, but could not withstand her pitiful look. He handed her a coin, saying, "I can not use your chestnuts, but you are welcome to this." The little girl thanked him and hurried away.

Twenty years passed. The little girl grew to womanhood and became the wife of a great banker. Passing the library one evening she saw a man with her husband, whom she recognized as the man who years before had assisted her. When he had gone, she inquired his errand. "He came to see if I could give him a vacant position in the bank." "Will you give it to him?" she asked. "I don't know," he replied. "I wish you would," she said, and then recited the story of her poverty and the man's generosity.

The man sat that night beside the bed of his sick wife, when a liveried servant brought him a note. "We shall not starve," he exclaimed to his wife. "I have a position." On opening the note, he found enclosed a check for two hundred and fifty dollars, with these words, "In grateful remembrance of a little silver piece a kind stranger gave the little chestnut girl twenty years ago."

Reader, a good deed is never lost. Giving brings material prosperity to the giver. Jesus says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal, it shall be measured to you again."

READING NO. 2—

TITHING BRINGS BLESSING

Almost everyone agrees that it is all right for well-to-do people to pay tithes; "for they will have enough left." But what about the poor, those who earn very little, and sometimes have large families to feed and clothe and send to school? Shall they pay tithe?

If we take the Bible as our guide, we can find only one answer to this question. God's ways are first of all just. In the tithing plan He has made it possible for the very poor as well as the rich to have a part in His work of saving men.

A minister who is teaching the duty of tithing once received a letter from a very poor man. He and his wife had not been Christians long, but they had heard of the duty of tithing, and wished to know what to do. The man worked six days every week, and for full time received only \$8.25. The rent for their rooms was ten dollars a month, groceries and milk cost four dollars a week (there were four children, the eldest only six), and forty-five cents a week for the father's car far. This left, for fuel, clothes, sickness, and all other expenses, only fifty-five cents a week.

"To tithe my pay will mean eighty-two and one-half cents a week," wrote the man; "and we are ready to do it, if it is our duty."

The pastor who received the letter did not know what to say. But after praying over the matter, he advised the man to follow the Lords' plan, and trust Him for the promised blessing. Four months later he received this letter:

"You will remember last fall my wife and I saw our duty in regard to tithing, but could not see how we, with four little children, could possibly tithe on a salary of \$8.25 a week. However, on your advice, we enrolled in the Association of Christian Stewards. Now the winter is nearly past, and we have been wonderfully cared for, and at times have been virtually clothed and fed by God, apart from my wages altogether. I had no overcoat when the winter began, and thought I would try to get on without one. However, it was cold, and I saw it was necessary, so I took the matter to the Lord in prayer. In two weeks I was in possession of three overcoats, given in such a manner that even one overburdened with pride could not take offense, and I was placed in a position to help some other poor fellow out. Then we prayed for warm clothes for my wife, and almost immediately a relative sent some. Just before Christmas my salary was increased, the increase about equalling the amount of the tithe. I could add other instances; but it is sufficient to say that in temporal things we have been repaid three-fold, and in spiritual blessings a hundred fold, for our obedience to God's money law."

This man, poor and needy, accepted the Lord's plan; and the Lord, true to His gracious promise, richly blessed him. So will He bless all those who return to Him His own.

WILLING TO SACRIFICE

A missionary writes:

"Along with others who receive the love of the present truth into their hearts, the native African convert is willing to sacrifice for the cause he loves, and give as God prospers him. Of late we have seen some very striking examples of devotion and faithfulness among this people, a few of which we will mention.

About a year ago a church was organized over near the Indian Ocean among the Kafirs. This church is wholly a native church, no white people being connected with it. Many of them were, a short time ago, Red smeared with red clay, and scantily covered with orange-colored clothing. This church came out of the dense darkness of heathenism when they accepted present truth, and knew but little of God or the plan of salvation. For two or three years their crops have been a failure, their lands have produced but little, so their incomes have been very small indeed; but a short time ago this native church sent to our Union Conference office a check of nearly \$270. This certainly speaks loudly in favor of the faithfulness of these native believers of the Fish River church.

Another instance of faithfulness came to the writer's notice a month or so ago, when visiting one of our mission stations in Rhodesia. We were at Somabula, holding a Bible school with our native workers, when one day a native woman came to the mission carrying on her head a basket of grain. This grain was the tithe of all she had raised, as her crop had been terribly cut with the drought, but gladly and willingly she gave God His own, and had brought it six miles on her head."

Some years ago at a chapel hour in old Battle Creek College, a gentleman, who had recently accepted the truth, was asked to relate his experience to the students. He had been a gambler; money, ease, and comfort had come to him without work or effort. But when he had decided to give himself to God for service, he found that his former training had unfitted him to immediately enter any public work for God. But after much prayer and counsel, and the promise of friends to help him, he decided to farm ten acres of ground. After the ground was prepared and the seed planted, and when the seed sprang forth in plant and blade, he would go every morning, kneel down in the

field and ask God's blessing to attend its growth and harvest, at the same time declaiming, as Jacob of old, "If God will be with me and will keep me in the way that I shall go, and give me bread to eat and raiment to put on, I will surely give the tenth to thee."

There was one field in his venture that he was particularly proud of, and that was an acre of squash that promised an abundant yield. One day, as he was admiring the fruitage, and thanking God in his heart for His blessing, a neighbor in an adjoining field inquired if he had noticed how the gophers were destroying the squash. He replied that they had done him no damage, and in fact, he had not seen one on the field. He then related to his neighbor his experience. He said, "I am farming for God, and I promised Him that if He would protect my crop and give me a harvest, I would pay the tithe and give him a liberal offering." Then he added: "If God wants to feed His gophers on His squash, He can do it."

The Lord rebuked the devourer for his sake, and when he gave the figures representing his share, and the amount paid in tithe, the result was astonishing, from a human standpoint. But only what God has promised to those who believe in Him.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But and night. And he shall be like a and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Another example of God's care for those who are faithful in obeying all His requirements is shown by the following incident. A poor widow with several children lived on a little place of one acre. It was with great difficulty that they could produce enough from this small plot for their living. One son, who was working, helped some, but he was not in sympathy with the truth. One year a very heavy frost came out of season and killed practically everything in the neighborhood except this sister's one acre. Just over the fence everything in the neighborhood was black as the result of the frost, while on her side everything was in fair condition. Everyone who passed by noticed and remarked about the strange condition of things. This woman always has

been, and is today a faithful tithe payer, and she attributed the above occurrence to it, as a fulfillment of God's promise in Malachi 3:11.

A brother from Pennsylvania, living in California, moved from the vicinity of the church, because he did not enjoy the meetings on the Sabbath, as the elders were talking so much about tithe and offerings. This annoyed him so much that he finally decided to move up into the mountains away from the church, and start a chicken farm. He started in with 100 chickens. Now, up in the mountains they have what they call a mountain cat, which prowls around at night and seeks to sustain itself by fastening itself to the necks of the chickens and sucking their life-blood, in this way killing them. This brother decided he would pay no more tithe to the church. But as he went out morning after morning, he found his chickens steadily reduced night after night by this mountain cat. Finally they had killed off all his chickens but ten. These ten seemed to remain and were free from attacks. Finally the Dutchman awoke to the fact that nine-tenths of his chickens were gone and one-tenth left. He felt convicted that he had done the wrong thing by leaving the church and living in the mountains with the idea of escaping paying tithe. He then went back to the church and related this touching story how he had robbed the Lord of the tithe by taking all: "Now," he said, "the Lord has taken all that belongs to me and left me the tithe. Hereafter I will give the Lord His own." He has been a faithful payer of tithe since and has prospered in the raising of chickens.

By a brother from Missouri the following incident was related:

The army worms were destroying the crops of his neighbors, and were drawing near his. One morning one of his three sons came in and told him they were destroying his neighbor's field, adjoining a very large wheat field of his. He called his family together, and opened his Bible to the third chapter of Malachi, and began reading at the tenth verse. They all knelt in prayer. He kept the place open, and read it on his knees before the Lord, saying to the Lord that he had striven to be faithful in paying tithes and offerings, also in keeping the Sabbath, yet he told the Lord that He knew his heart, and would leave his farm in His hands. They arose, and he told all to go about their work faithfully, and not to worry. The next morning, just at daylight, there came

a knock at his door, waking them all up. When they answered it, a neighbor had come to have them go with him to see a wonderful sight. He took them to their own fence line where the army worms were rolled up like a large billow all around his farm, not one going over his fence. In many places they were nearly eighteen inches deep.

READING NO. 3—

REWARD FOR FAITHFULNESS

About thirty years ago, while living in New Zealand, the message of truth came to our family. Father and mother, and eight children embraced it, and stepped out of the Episcopal Church. We were living on our farm at the time, and it caused quite a little stir. Some were favorable; others were decidedly opposed. The ministers did not remain with us long, but occasionally stopped off for a few days. We were in a rather unhandy place to get at, living on the coast about half way between Wellington and Christchurch. There were no railroads, and steamers ran about once a week.

Father was determined to live the message, cost what it would. There were many tests and trials. The keeping of the Sabbath and the paying of tithes are tests, one of which I wish to mention in particular. We had harvested our oats crop, and it was ready in the stacks to be threshed. A company had a threshing machine, and they did all the work in our section of the country. They would go from farm to farm in rotation until everybody was served. They made their plans to reach our farm on the Sabbath. Father and mother knew this, and after praying over the situation, notified them that it would not be agreeable. Father went to the next neighbor and arranged for him to take the threshers first, and then they could drop back to our farm. It was a very short distance, but no, this was opposed by the manager of the company. They were determined to force father to accept them on the Sabbath.

Father was firm, and the threshers went by. He knew that while he was true to God, and faithful in keeping the Sabbath and paying his tithes, God would vindicate him. At the close of the season they were about fifteen miles away, and sent father word they would thresh his grain if he would come after them. Father said no, and the threshing outfit went into the barns, and our grain remain-

ed in the stacks. Oats at this time were at a very low figure.

But three months later oat chaff went up to the highest figure. Father hired a chaff cutting company, who came in and cut every sheaf into chaff and were agreeable not to work on the Sabbath. The outcome of the whole affair was a real triumph for the truth. Everybody knew about it, and they knew that father could not be dissuaded. Four times as much was realized for the crop cut into chaff as would have been if it had been threshed.

A good tithe check was paid, and it came in time to help out in the conference work. God's promise was vindicated.

A sister writes: It was after the precious truth of Malachi 3:11 had been brought to our attention that, with hearts tender and yielding to every ray of light, we stepped out upon the promise contained in the tenth and eleventh verses; and in a direct manner we had evidences that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was still rewarding His people for faithfulness.

We were living in a very nice neighborhood, and had very fine neighbors. Our gardens were our chief delight, and after supper each evening, as a usual thing, we spent our time planting, weeding or cultivating. Our gardens were not large, there being four families cultivating one acre. The soil was the same in all, and all that divided them was a narrow path.

Every year we were able to raise all the garden truck needed for our tables, and all seemed to fare alike until this particular time when we had started to meet the requirements laid down in God's Word. We all did the usual amount of work, planted as usual, and watched with interest the growth of each other's garden. It was clearly seen that God was greatly blessing our garden above the others. Never did we have such a crop of vegetables. Our beans kept on blooming and bearing and were larger and more tender than we had ever seen; the tomatoes bore so plentifully that after canning all we could, we supplied our neighbors to help them out of their disappointment, because when their tomatoes matured they were the little yellow kind. Our garden kept on yielding, which was surely a direct fulfillment of the promise attached to faithful tithe paying.

We felt very conscious of God's blessing, and could not refrain from speaking to our neighbors about it. They were very loath to give God the

credit, but we feel that in their hearts they were conscious of the fact.

We stepped out into the truth, entered the Lord's work, and have been faithful in tithe paying, and as a result, God's blessings have been very numerous and bountiful all these years.

TITHING IN SIAM

One of the elders in the Tap Teang Church, Siam, is a firm believer in tithing. During the recent floods in his section of the country, his rice field, as well as that of his unbelieving neighbor, was almost covered by the water. It seemed a complete loss to the Christian, although there was some hope that the neighbor's could be saved. But the elder believed it was his duty to keep on tithing in spite of the loss, and he now feels he has reaped the reward of his sacrifice, for when the harvest time came, he found the crop the largest he had ever had. The neighbor's field was a complete failure. Now the elder says that God opened the windows of heaven, according to His promise, as a reward for his trust in giving his tithe.

A Minister Writes as Follows:

"When I was new in the truth, I remember a time when it seemed as though the heavens were falling. I had promised God I would serve Him 'though the heavens fall.' There came a time when we had nothing in the house to eat, not even a slice of bread, and not a penny in the purse. It was winter. Noon time came, and to keep the three children from asking for food, my wife took them for a walk. Two were in the baby carriage and the boy walked. Tired out they returned home. Lifting one baby out and carrying it upstairs, (we lived in a flat) my wife returned for the other. In lifting the baby out of the carriage, the seat, which was a movable one, turned over, and there under it lay a shining new dime, that I have always said was not coined in a U. S. mint. We have always believed an angel placed it there. With it was bought two loaves of bread. We said and have always said since that the Lord has not promised to give all we want, but has said He would supply all our needs. He has assured us that 'bread shall be given him, his water shall be sure.'

"At another time one cold winter I had put the last shovel full of coal on the fire. I said to my wife, 'When that is burned, the fire will go out, for

there is no more coal.' Before that was burned, a ton of coal was put in the cellar, and we were handed a paid and receipted bill. We did not know who sent the coal except 'that every good gift cometh from above,' and that God had again fulfilled in a remarkable way His goodness to His faithful children."

The "Missionary Review" relates the following experience of a Mr. Duke of Dallas, Texas.

I went into a mercantile business known as the five and ten cent business in Bowie, Texas, in 1894, and in January following, my partner, F. M. McConnell and I agreed to pay tithe for one year. Before the year was up, I said, "This suits me and I will tithe not for one year only, but for life."

The business prospered from the start, although only beginning in a small way. Having only about \$700 capital, and doing a strictly cash business, both in buying and selling, of course our business was limited. Yet the first year the tithe was \$110, our business increased until in fifteen years the tithe was \$2,742.

I have tried the Lord in this business way, and I would no more quit tithing than I would quit providing for my family.

Several years ago, a brother living in Vermont moved to a house where there was a fine peach tree. The neighbors said the tree would bloom and look very healthy, but it never had any fruit. So he and his wife determined to prove the Lord, and they prayed earnestly to the Lord to give them peaches on the tree. They paid a strict tithe, and told the Lord what He had promised in the third chapter of Malachi. The first year they had to prop up the tree because there was so much fruit, but it was not very large fruit, yet they filled all the empty jars they had by canning them and making preserves. The next year they asked the Lord to give them quality instead of quantity. The tree bore the second year very large fruit, the finest they ever saw. They moved the next year two or three squares away, where they lived three years, but the tree never had any fruit on it after they moved from the place.

In one of the conferences of this Union there lives a man who has been very liberal. This man is particular to give God the tenth, besides paying large offerings. The work of this brother is to estimate timber and find buyers. It is marvelous how he has been prospered. Whenever a timber deal is in sight, the Lord is promised

a fine sum if the sale goes through. In the last few years this brother has paid the schooling of several young people, and even given thousands of dollars to missions. He feels that his prosperity is due to the blessing of God, because of faithfulness in tithes and offerings.

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In New York City two families of Italians became tired of the teaching of the Catholic Church and began searching the Scriptures for themselves. As they read, they began to practice. Soon the Sabbath truth was seen. They determined to walk in the light, and they thought that the only way for them to do it would be to buy a farm where they could follow fully the Lord's instruction. A farm was soon bought, but as these humble people did not know the value of farm land, judging from a human standpoint, they made a very poor investment. Two priests came to them, and tried to persuade them that Sunday could be substituted for the Sabbath. However, no Bible authority could be given for a change in the day, and these simple farmers continued to follow God's Word. After a time the Greater New York Tract Society heard of the situation and sent a man to encourage them. How happy they were to learn that there were others keeping the Sabbath, and to receive more light in regard to the right way of living. The brother from the office explained to them the Bible plan of tithe paying. To his surprise they brought out two small bags of money. They had read of this obligation as laid down in God's Word, but they did not know what to do with the money.

Your curiosity may be aroused to know how the old farm produced. We are glad to tell you it did better than any farm in the community.

READING NO. 4—

Doctor Brock, a prominent minister in the East, recently came to our church treasurer in the city where he is located with a request for information concerning the amount of tithes and offerings paid by our small church. Our treasurer freely gave the desired information, which was to Doctor Brock an astonishing amount. In a service following, he referred to the liberality of our people, and held them up as an example before his own congregation. No doubt the amounts given by our churches seem astonishing to the other religious organizations. But if all were giving to God

His own, there would be an abundance in the treasury to carry on the Lord's work. Today, however, many calls are unanswered, an evidence that many are withholding the portion that is not their own.

BLESSINGS IN PAYING BOTH TITHE AND DOUBLE TITHE

A worker writes as follows: "I personally knew of a brother who, a few years ago, had to be helped by the church. He did not seem to be able to make a good salary cover his expenses. He finally decided to pay the Lord His own any way, whether he had sufficient to meet his personal requirements or not.

"Only a few days ago, he told me ever since he began to pay tithe he has prospered. During the time he did not pay tithe, he was compelled to frequently borrow money. He soon found he was not able to pay the money back when due. In this way he became heavily involved, almost hopelessly so. Then he made a covenant with the Lord promising to pay a double tithe if the Lord would help him pay up his debts. He began at once to pay a double tithe, and the way opened up for him to pay all his bills and have a surplus within two years' time. This brother said, 'There is not only a blessing in paying tithe, but a double blessing in paying a double tithe'."

Some years ago one of our workers who was personally acquainted with William Booth, the head of the Salvation Army, asked the General in what respects he would change his plans of organization and support of the army if he were to begin over again. The old man studied the question for a few minutes, and then replied "My greatest mistake was in attempting to raise funds largely by street collections instead of by adopting the Bible method of tithes and offerings."

A gentleman in New Hampshire who used to work every day in the week, was always in debt. He became an Adventist and paid a faithful tithe. The last time that we met, he said to me, "Brother C, I used to work seven days in the week, and never was out of debt. Now I am working only five days per week, but I am prospered so that I am building myself a house."

A laborer writes as follows:

"On account of being absent from

home quite a bit doing field work, I sometimes would let my tithe account grow, waiting until the end of a quarter, or even longer, and settling it up at once, keeping account of the time covered. I found that as the weeks added up, the tithe account became proportionately bigger, and it seemed more difficult to pay the larger amount. At one time several months went by with the tithe account thus growing, and I all the time expecting to pay it up quite soon. With the pressure of work it was an easy matter to put off from day to day the matter of running up the account.

"I then began to feel under some condemnation, and this grew along with the tithe account until the thing simply became unbearable. Finally, on running up the account, the sum was big enough to take almost every dollar of ready money. But there were a number of other things for which the money could be used, and for which it seemed necessary. It took a very definite decision, and the only one I could make, of course, to settle the whole matter by writing my check for the entire amount of tithe that was due. At once on signing the check, I felt a relief that could be measured only by the load I had carried. Of course, I got along. I probably did not buy everything I expected to get. I found that is absolutely necessary for me to pay my tithe promptly. The best way for me is to pay my tithe every week."

A prominent worker writes:

From my earliest recollection, my father and mother were always faithful in tithe paying. I was reared on a farm, and I remember so well how at the end of the year they computed not only their increase from the regular crops, but also considered quite minutely the products of the garden, and also the value of what was eaten by the family, and everything of that kind constituting farm income was conscientiously tithed. Previous to this time there had been much sickness, and a mortgage had been placed on the farm. During the twenty years of tithe paying and of faithfulness in this message, when I myself was home, I remember that the doctor's bill amounted to only fifty cents, and that in many ways the Lord blessed us and helped us to pay off the mortgage entirely.

Some months ago I stood by the bedside of a friend whose life was evidently near its close. He had been

faithful many years in this cause, but when facing the final account, his mind was acute in running over the past to see whether any duty had been neglected. He had paid tithes on his regular salary nearly all his life, but in those last hours he recalled that at a certain period he had received a little income outside his regular salary, and did not remember definitely whether those extras had been tithed. Therefore, in order to make certain on this point, involving not a large item, he directed that \$20 from savings in hand be paid immediately into the treasury to cover all possible delinquencies that might have occurred.

I was very deeply impressed by this incident. It brings to our minds a great truth, namely, we may be careless during the days of health, but when we come face to face with the final reckoning, we feel the infinite importance of having all matters of this kind adjusted, so that they can be met without shame in the judgment day.

The following article appeared in the *Charleston (W. Va.) Gazette*, April 8, 1919:

THE STIRRING BELIEFS OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

"The brains of people are not usually stirred unless some galloping assault of ideas have charged against their mind. The ferment which has agitated the souls of Charlestonians by the preaching at the tabernacle would never have been possible had not the message contained dynamic force.

"Adventists foresee in clear lines not only what is, but what is to be. Their telescope is the Bible and the Bible only. This book, which has so often stirred up from its depths the whole world, they use as speaking forth a new message. You may build your fine homes, have your beautiful lawns, and stride on in pomp and pride, but never forget they say that this world has crucified the Lord of glory. Some day this crime must be atoned for, therefore they believe in the personal, the visible return of Christ. Christ, His death, His burial, His resurrection, His atonement—is the foundation and central theme of their message. In the great events, which are now agitating the world, they behold the preliminary preparations for that majestic arrival. The affairs of men are being agitated by the breath of the approaching age. Already the old world is in the new

world's arms.

"The people, who will be translated at Christ's return, must believe the whole Bible. The truth, which has been trampled under foot by systems of error, must be rescued and restored. Therefore, God's true Sabbath, the seventh day of the week—Saturday—will be a prominent belief, will be observed as ordered by divine example and divine precept. This is the day which Christ kept and expected His church to observe. No proof to the contrary can be found in the Word of God, which is the supreme authority in religion.

"Seventh-day Adventists believe that the Sabbath was changed from Saturday to Sunday by the Roman power. Daniel 7:25. The first law for Sunday keeping was made by Constantine, the Roman emperor, 321 A. D., and came into the practices of Christians solely through tradition. And any reform on the subject of the Sabbath to prepare a people for the coming of the Lord, and to stand the test of the judgment, must bring us back to the Sabbath of creation, the Sabbath of Jesus Christ. Isaiah 58:13, 14; Revelations 14:12.

"The great threefold message of Revelations 14:6-12, brings to view a people who will cast away every human tradition and practice, and keep all the commandments of God. The work of Seventh-day Adventists is a fulfillment of that great prophecy. The sanctuary on earth, the tabernacle in the wilderness, and the temple at Jerusalem, were types of the heavenly temple, and of the sacrifice and priesthood of Christ in heaven. And as that service on earth closed each year with the Day of Atonement, so once in the end of the world Christ appears to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself, and as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the JUDGMENT—so the day of atonement on earth symbolized the Day of Judgment in the heavenly sanctuary. This was to come according to that wonderful statement in Daniel 8:14, at the end of the 2300 days, which signifies years, in prophecy, Ezekiel 4:6. Beginning 456½ B. C., see Ezra, seventh chapter, margin, any child, who understands the first principles in arithmetic, will see that it must end in 1844. At which date the judgment out of the books began, and the Advent Message calls for a preparation for that solemn event, the coming of Christ to execute the judgment written.

"When Jesus comes He will raise the righteous living, and take them to

the mansions in heaven. John 14:1-3; Revelations 19:1. There they will remain 1000 years with Christ, while all the wicked will remain dead, (the wicked having been slain by the brightness of Christ's coming)—for 1000 years. II. Thessalonians 2:8; Revelations 20:5. Thus the earth will be desolate during the Millennium. And in this way Satan is bound.

"At the end of the Millennium the wicked dead are raised, and receive the wages of sin, the second death. Romans 6:23; Revelations 21:8. The word, 'Forever,' is a limited word. Jonah 1:17; Jonah 2:6; Exodus 21:6. The wicked will be utterly destroyed, root and branch, soul and body. Malachi 4:1-3; Isaiah 10:17,18; Obadiah 15:16. The dead 'know not anything.' Ecclesiastes 9:5,6; Psalms 146:3,4. 'God only hath immortality.' I. Timothy 6:15,16. After the wicked are entirely destroyed and become ashes, from the wreck of the old world, God will create new heavens and a new earth, where the righteous will dwell to all eternity. Revelations 21st chapter.

"In order to support the Gospel work, God has set apart one-tenth of our income, which is to be voluntarily paid into the Lord's treasury. This is taught as clearly in the New Testament as in the Old. Matthew 23:23; Hebrews 7:8. Seventh-day Adventists believe that baptism is a burial. Romans 6:3,4. They believe in the Lord's Supper, and in the ordinance of humility. John 13:1-17; I. Timothy 5:10. They believe that whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, we should do all to the glory of God. That those who are preparing for the coming of Christ should cleanse themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. No Seventh-day Adventist uses alcoholic liquors or tobacco. Neither do we believe in the use of pork, tea or coffee. We believe in the Holy Ghost, and that all the gifts of the eternal Spirit should be in the church to the end of time. We, therefore, believe that the gift of prophecy is in the church today, as well as the gift of evangelists, pastors and teachers. Revelations 12:17; Revelations 19:10; I. Corinthians 1:5-8. Thus Christ will prepare a people for His glorious coming. Since the tabernacle meetings began, January 5, 1900 have signed this covenant: 'We, the undersigned, do solemnly promise, by the help of God, to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus'."

Government statistics show that Seventh-day Adventists are gaining

more rapidly than any other church in the United States. Their headquarters are at Washington, D. C., where they have at Takoma Park, an extensive publishing office, and a large college, and sanitarium, and their missionaries are doing a great work in every part of the world.

DR. B. G. WILKINSON.

The "Signs Magazine" for May

The cover of the May number of the "Signs Magazine" pictures the angel of this world's peace sitting in the doorway of the temple of peace. Beside her on a scroll are the stipulations that the League of Nations has laid down concerning armaments, armies and navies. On the other side is a sacrificial altar upon which all they who would enter into permanent peace must lay their cannon, their sword, their submarines and their torpedoes.

In a strong editorial, the truth is taught that "armed peace" inevitably leads to war; and since the nations are unwilling to discard and junk their armies and navies, and because greed and suspicion are still existent, and because the Bible says that Armageddon is on the near horizon, the world's greatest war is not past, but future.

Of the eight or ten interesting articles in this issue, the following are of special significance:

A Fraudulent Key

Christian science purports to be the key to health. It denies the existence of disease, and then claims to heal. It teaches, "Man has a sensationless body," but claims to relieve pain. A convincing article on the fallacy of mental healing. There hangs a pall

It is unfeeling selfishness on the part of the rich, and retaliatory violence on the part of the poor, that threatens this world with troubles too black to contemplate. The Churches are Losing—The Theatres are Gaining

Shall we make laws to end the competition?

Are Parents Blind

The following, taken from a personal letter from a conference president, expresses what many of our people feel concerning the loss of so many of our young people. A suggestion is also made as to one of the causes which we parents will do well to consider.

"The most painful thing that I have seen in over thirty-three years' connection with this people, and in more than twenty-seven years' direct experience in the work, has been the wandering away of our boys and girls. I think I could

tell a few stories that have come under my personal observation which would make most of our fathers and mothers cringe. The confidence that most parents have in the innocence of their own children is appalling. Their children are so different from other folks, they know that their boy or girl is all right, and finally they wake up and find that somebody else, on the outside perhaps, knows a little bit better than they do. And as I look back and remember the many people who have come into the message under my observation, having children, and that as the years went by the children drifted away, I want to tell you that it has made me heartsick."

There are two extremes. Some parents do not seem to see any good in their children, and are all the time telling them how worthless they are. And this sort of thing created the very condition which they deplore. We are warned in the Bible to be careful not to discourage our children.

Another class cannot see their children's faults and are always willing to defend them if any question is raised in the school or community about their conduct. Nothing can be more harmful. One of the saddest things in the lives of teachers and ministers is to see children developing evil characters and being trained for destruction by this very thing.

Parents, if questions are raised concerning the conduct of our children, let us choke our pride and be quick to investigate the matter impartially. Be sure of this, that you are more likely not to be informed when your children are doing wrong than you are to be told of some wrong doing when they are not doing wrong. Remember that if you welcome suggestions and help in your difficult work of rearing your children, that will encourage your true friends to help you. And while some things may be said by some people that will hurt you (and that will likely be done anyway) you will always have reason to rejoice that you maintained an attitude of approachableness on this subject.

M. E. KERN.

"In Christ, God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait, resisting every temptation, however strong."

"He who is a child of God should henceforth look upon himself as a link in the chain let down to save the world, one with Christ in His plan of mercy, going forth with Him to seek and save the lost."

Christian Climb!

Climb though the path be rugged,
And the way seems narrow and steep;
Though the rocks are sharp and jagged
And may scratch and bruise your feet.

Climb though the outlook is dreary,
And the prize is far out of sight.
Onward, comrades! Never weary;
Trust God and keep up the fight.

Climb though the clouds hang o'er you,
And the mists of despair on you roll.
Leave cares and doubts behind you.
Climb onward 'til you reach the goal.

Climb though 'tis dark and stormy,
Though doubts and fears your soul assail:
We've a Pilot hovering o'er us,
To guide up the winding trail.

Climb though you're tired and thirsty,
And the world looks pleasant and bright;
Though further climbing seems useless,
Onward! Keep your goal in sight.

Climb though trials and struggles,
Across your pathway are strewn;
Look to the heights above you;
Cast off your fears and gloom.

Climb though footsore and weary,
Though blinded with dust and heat;
Though chasms yawn far below you,
Make no missteps with your feet.

Climb though the path be rugged,
Is the cry of our youthful hearts.
Onward! Classmates! Onward!
Duty demands our part.

Climb and the mists will vanish,
And the dark things will be plain.
The long winding path so rugged,
Will bloom with hope again.

Climb and your faith will strengthen,
And your vision become more bright.
Fix your eyes on your Redeemer;
He will make your burdens light.

Let, us therefore, cast off every burden,
And the cares which weigh us down;
Bend all our strength to conquer,
And finally gain a crown.

Let us each, with hearts o'erflowing,
With the peace of God's mighty love,
Climb Onward! Forward! Upward!
To the heights of the mount above.

There comes o'er my soul a sadness,
For soon must we say farewell
To our friends, schoolmates, and teachers;
And these walls we love so well.

The journey is almost ended,
And victory is just in sight.
God grant we each prove faithful,
And live in eternal light.

—James E. Lippert.