

THE EDUCATIONAL MESSENGER

VOL. 5

COLLEGE VIEW, NEBRASKA, JANUARY 15, 1909

No. 3

The Educational Messenger

Representing the Educational Department of the Central Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists

Published Weekly by Central Union Conference, College View, Nebraska
Terms, 50 cents per year (48 numbers)

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General Articles

Letter from Eld. J. T. Boettcher

(Concluded)

OUR work has progressed under the greatest of obstacles. It is twenty-one years ago that some of our German brethren in America who had come to the States from Russia sent literature to their native country. This was a step in the right direction. As a result a number accepted the truth. At first some were put in jail, others banished to Siberia or to the Turkish border. The truth, however, cannot be banished. Wherever they came they were living witnesses for the truth of God. When, on October 17, 1906, the Czar proclaimed religious freedom to everybody in Russia, our people were very happy. This freedom is limited. Propoganda, or freedom of speech, is yet forbidden. If we wish to hold meetings in any town we are not allowed to do so until we have an established church. Then we petition to the governor to permit our holding prayer meetings, as we call them. Men are sent to investigate the matter, and if everything is all right, after about three months, we get an answer. Before we get enough members together to form a society, we work in secret with our books and papers and also by means of Bible readings. In this way we got a foot-hold in St. Petersburg. Our church there numbers sixty-two members. The brethren have built a chapel this summer which will be dedicated during the week of prayer. It is the first chapel of our own in Russia. In other places we rent houses and halls, but we have a hard time getting places where we can conduct our meetings.

A year ago we started the work in Moscow. A suite of rooms was rented and meetings opened. As soon as the Russian priests learned of this, they came

every evening and contradicted what was said. On the street they distributed free literature containing falsehoods written against us. The owner of the house was influenced by the priests, and so asked us to vacate the house at once. Nevertheless we have about thirty Sabbath-keepers as the result of the first effort. Some are very fine people. Among them are teachers and soldiers. We have since rented another compartment.

Our work was also opened in Warsaw the last year. This is the old capitol of Poland, numbering at present about 756,000 inhabitants; among them are 15,000 Germans and 265,000 Jews. The Polish language is predominant. With it goes the Roman Catholic religion. Here even Bible canvassers are not permitted. The brother who works there is a German, for we had none other to send. He invites the people to his home and presents the prophecies to them. During the day time his wife canvasses for our papers without permission. Quite a number of people have become interested in our work and soon we hope to have a church there.

We also opened up the work in Tiflis, the capitol of Kaukasia. The city has about 160,000 inhabitants and as you will notice on the map, it is in the Southern part of Russia. A young man who has been in Friedensau, Germany, attending school is working with good success. We are getting other young people into the work who have received an education in Friedensau. This country is so great that we could find work for hundreds of young men who would be willing to endure hardships but see glorious results.

Our aim is to open missionary work in the cities as fast as we find men and means to do it. Our young people over here know what it means to sacrifice for the Master. In some parts of Russia it is very cold in winter. A young man who is a Bible worker wrote me the other day that he had no overcoat to shelter him from the cold. So I sent him \$12.00 to get a coat with. The wages are not so high as in America. We could not send out so many workers. Our income is about \$3,000.00 per quarter from the Russian Union. We pay forty-three workers. Our good people in the States send us about \$7,000.00 a year to cover the deficit. In this way they help gather in the ripe fruit for the Master. Often I tell our Russian brethren with what interest the work is looked upon in the States. We know that many prayers ascend to God in our behalf.

In the Interests of the Blind

UNDER the foregoing heading the *Nebraska State Journal* of January 5th contains the report of the meeting in the interests of an organization for the blind, which, on account of its relation to two of our fellow-townsmen, A. O. Wilson and C. N. Roberts, will be of interest to the readers of the MESSENGER. The report is as follows:

"The annual meeting of the association for promoting the interests of the blind was held at the office of Secretary James A. Brown, in the Funke Block, at two o'clock yesterday afternoon. The attendance was not large, but enough were present to transact considerable business in a brief space of time. President A. O. Wilson presided.

"One of the principal items of business transacted was an amendment to the by-laws, increasing the number of members of the board of trustees from five to nine. This board as chosen at yesterday's meeting is composed of the following gentlemen: A. O. Wilson, C. N. Roberts, A. J. Sawyer, James A. Brown, John Davis, Rev. Dr. Batten, Dr. C. E. Prevey, Dr. B. L. Paine, W. O. Jones.

"The board of trustees re-elected A. O. Wilson president, C. N. Roberts secretary, and Dr. Prevey treasurer. It was difficult for the board to get a man to accept the secretaryship until Mr. Roberts generously threw an offer of his services into the breach, stating that if no one else would accept the office, he would. An effort was made to re-elect Attorney Brown, but on the plea of having more business than he could take care of he positively declined to accept. Then Dr. Prevey was elected before he arrived at the meeting, and when he did come, on being notified he promptly and pre-emptorily resigned, and there is where Mr. Roberts came to the rescue.

"A legislative committee of three to formulate bills affecting interests of the association was elected. It consists of A. J. Sawyer, James A. Brown and C. N. Roberts. This committee will look after and urge at the coming session of the legislature, measures intended to advance the interests of the association. This committee was instructed to get to work immediately upon certain proposed bills for early introduction in the House. One of the measures that will be urged will be an appropriation of \$10,000 for the purpose of providing and equipping a building in which the sightless may be taught trades and given employment.

"The secretary's books show the association and its affairs to be in good condition. The membership is 540. All indebtedness has been paid and there is a surplus of \$200 in the treasury.

"President Wilson is reported to be doing good work throughout the state in the interests of the association. Mr. Wilson travels, lectures, and takes memberships. The association allows him fifteen dollars per week for such service, providing he man-

ages to take in that much, and he pays his own expenses. If his collections exceed that amount the residue is turned into the treasury.

"There are twelve inmates in the institution at present, but it was intimated by one of the board yesterday that that number would be increased in the near future as there are several blind children expecting to come here for instruction.

"The regular meetings hereafter will be held on the first Monday in each quarter and will be at the office of Secretary C. E. Prevey of the charity organization."

Choice of Reading

One's reading is usually an index to his character. As a man is known by the company he keeps, so is a man known by the literature he reads. Sister White says, "Education is but a preparation of the physical, intellectual, and moral powers for the best performance of all the duties of life." Then to read books which present false pictures of human life is decidedly dangerous. Life is neither a tragedy nor a farce. "How poorly prepared is that young man or young woman for the duties of to-day who spent last night wading through brilliant passages descriptive of magnificent knavery and wickedness. All day the man will be looking for his heroine in the factory or by the forge and he won't find her, and then he is sullen and disappointed. How about the woman who reads novels? There she is, hair uncombed, dress untidy, cheeks pale and hands trembling; bursting into tears at midnight over the fate of some unfortunate lover, and in the day-time when she ought to be busy she sits staring by the half hour at nothing, biting her finger nails to the quick. And her plain industrious companion has become very unattractive because she has walked by the river bank or through the park with a plumed prince or a polished desperado. You don't like the picture, do you? Then novel reading is disposed of. But there are some books, which, while they have a great deal of good about them, have also a mixture of evil. Which struck you, the good or the bad? Yes, the bad. As one author states, "The hearts of most people are like sieves, which let the small particles of gold through, but keep the great cinders." If you attempt to plunge through a hedge of burrs to get one blackberry you will get more burrs than blackberries. Master a few good books. Time is short and books are many. Instead of having your mind a garret filled with rubbish, make it a parlor with rich furniture beautifully arranged, into which you would not be ashamed to have the whole world enter. The following quotation is worth remembering: "There are many silver books, and a few golden books; but I have one book worth more than all, called the Bible, and that is a book of bank notes." Some people say, "Well, the Bible doesn't suit my temperament." But that is not so far. God intends that His Word shall satisfy every soul that turns to

the Bible with a sincere desire to learn. If it were not so we would not find the following words recorded: "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; for it shall be in him a well of water springing up into eternal life." The Bible has strong reasoning for the intellectual; it takes the calm and contemplative to the well-balanced James, and the affectionate to the loving and beloved John. And the plain and practical may go to the wise Ecclesiastes, or the out-spoken Peter. Or if you have a strong imagination, and wish to wander through eternity—then open the Revelation and look upon the glory of the New Jerusalem with its pearly gates and golden streets. But why say any more? We all know that the Bible should be our first and principal book of study; yet it should be by no means the only one. History, science, travel, biography and many poets can well be studied, and instead of being weakened we will be strengthened and uplifted.

Program for the Missionary Volunteer Council

To be held at College View, Nebraska, January 19-25, 1909.

Tuesday, 7:30 P. M.

- 1. Address, Macedonian Call to World-wide Missions
R. A. Underwood

- 2. Address, Answering the Call.....M. E. Kern
Wednesday, 8:00 to 9:30 A. M.

- 1. Devotion, Prayer and the Morning Watch.....M. E. Kern
- 2. Needs of Our Young People, Spiritually, Intellectually and Socially and How Far Can the Missionary Volunteer Movement Meet These Needs?.....H. M. Hiatt
- 3. Discussion.....J. I. Beardsley

10:00 to 10:45 A. M.

- Address, Call to Missionary Volunteer Work....C. L. Benson
11:00 A. M. to 1:00 P. M.

Junior Work

- Boys—Devotion, Social.....F. J. Wilbur
- Discussion.....O. A. Hall, Glenn George
- Girls—Devotion, Social.....Miss Winnifred Collins
- Discussion, Misses Nettie Hardiman, Edna Schee
3:00 to 4:30 P. M.

Missionary Volunteer Methods

- 1. Personal Evangelism..... Geo. McNey
- 2. Christian Help Work.....J. W. Christian
- 3. Discussion.....W. W. Ruble
- 4. Literature Work..... Ralph Emery
- 5. Reform Work—Temperance, Religious Liberty, etc.
J. G. Lamson

- 6. Discussion.....B. E. Huffman
7:30 P. M.

- 1. Address, Responsibility of Students in the Missionary Volunteer Work.....C. C. Lewis
- 2. Testimony Meeting

Thursday, 8:00 to 9:30 A. M.

- 1. Devotional, A Reason for Our Hope.....A. T. Robinson
- 2. Study, Adolescence.....M. E. Kern

10:00 to 10:45 A. M.

- Chapel, Preparation Needed for the Mission Fields
M. N. Campbell

11:00 A. M. to 1:00 P. M.

Work of the Conference Missionary Volunteer Secretary

- 1. Field Work, Reaching the Homes.....O. A. Hall
- 2. Discussion.....Miss Lillie George
- 3. Correspondence and Work for the Isolated... M. E. Ellis

- 4. Discussion.....Miss Nora Hough
- 5. Conventions and Institutes.....Chester Prout
- 6. Camp-meeting Work.....J. I. Beardsley
- 7. DiscussionLed by Conference Presidents
3:00 to 4:30 P. M.

- 1. Plan of Organization, Membership, Reorganization
M. E. Kern

- 2. Discussion
Led by Conference Missionary Volunteer Secretaries
7:30 P. M.

Symposium, Foreign Missions

Friday, 8:00 to 9:30 A. M.

- 1. Devotional, Power for Witnessing.....C. J. Kunkel
- 2. Study, Adolescence.....M. E. Kern

10:00 to 10:45 A. M.

- Chapel Address, The Blessed Hope.....A. R. Ogden
11:00 A. M. to 1:00 P. M.

- 1. Missionary Volunteer Society as a Department of the Church.....J. W. Lair
- 2. Discussion.....Led by S. E. Jackson
- 3. Missionary Volunteer Society Program and Lesson
Leon Cobb

- 4. Discussion.....Ralph Emery
- 5. Reports of Committees
3:00 to 4:00 P. M.

Reports of Committees

7:30 P. M.

- 1. Sermon, The Present Crisis and the Call to Consecration
E. T. Russell

- 2. Consecration Service

Sabbath, 11:15 A. M. to 12:30 P. M.

- Sermon, Finishing God's Work, and the Place of the Young People in It.....M. E. Kern

3:00 to 4:00 P. M.

- Personal Experiences of a Foreign Missionary
A. T. Robinson, D. U. Hale, A. R. Ogden

6:30 P. M.

- State Meeting, Students and Officers

8:00 P. M.

- Recital.....Music Department
Sunday, 10:00 to 11:00 A. M.

- 1. Devotional.....Chas. Thompson
- 2. Standard of Attainment.....F. J. Wilbur
- 3. Reading Course and Good Reading, Miss Nettie Hardiman
- 4. Written Discussions.....Miss Lillie George
- 5. How to Meet the Social Needs of Young People
J. G. Lamson

- 6. Discussion.....G. A. Grauer
Recess

11:30 A. M. to 1:00 P. M.

- 1. Training of Secretaries, Mt. Vernon Resolution 24 and 25
C. L. Benson

- 2. Secretary Helps—Books, Reading Course, etc.
W. W. Ruble

- 3. Discussion.....O. A. Hall, H. M. Hiatt
Sunday, 3:00 to 4:30 P. M.

- 1. Qualifications and Education of Local Leaders
J. G. Lamson

- 2. System of Reporting; How to Get Reports; Who Should Report?.....Ralph Emery

- 3. Discussion.....H. M. Hiatt
- 4. Preparation of Literature, Leaflets, Books, etc.
C. L. Benson

- 5. Discussion.....M. E. Kern

- 6. Reports of Committees

7:30 P. M.

Reports of Committees and Unfinished Business

Monday, 10:00 to 10:45 A. M.

- Chapel, Summing Up of Good Things from the Convention
M. E. Kern

Character

ELLA LULL

LONGFELLOW said, "Character is what God and the angels know of us."

The character is not formed in a day or even a year, but every act of life helps to perfect or mar the character. It is a prevalent idea among the people of the world that an occasional deviation from right doing will do no harm, for such a little thing can make no difference in one's life; but it is the little foxes that spoil the vines. Sin once indulged in becomes to the wrong-doer less of a sin and probably soon becomes a habit.

When God made man he gave him a symmetrical character and surrounded him with everything with which he could improve until he might elevate himself to almost any height, for God's ideal for his children was much higher than we, who are blinded by sin, can imagine.

God could have made man under different conditions and have kept from him the power to sin; but then he would have had no stability of character and no will of his own so he gave him the power to choose for himself. God has given us the power to choose for ourselves and he often places us in trying positions in order to prove our characters.

A good character is more precious than worldly treasure and the work of forming it is a noble one. This work does not consist in merely doing the pleasant things of life, for any one can be cheerful and pleasant when the sun shines and the birds sing; when all that is required is to speak a kind word to

some one occasionally, although that, too, is an essential in forming a beautiful character. The Christ-like character can be formed only by acts combined with works; by doing the things no one else wants to do; by watching for opportunities to help someone. The first essential is to consecrate ourselves to the service of God, and depend on Him. Then, with His help, we can weed out all the rough traits of character. This is often done through suffering and hardship, because a true Christian character can be developed by submitting to God's plans.

Our characters can be formed only by ourselves. All have talents. The sort of character we develop depends on what use we make of these talents. If we improve them, we may develop noble characters; but if we put them to a wrong use, weak, shallow character is the result.

The fruits of a noble character are many, for a truly noble character can be formed only by taking Christ as the ideal. The individual has discovered how inferior he is to His great Master, and therefore is very humble, and willing to do God's bidding. His mind is elevated above personal interest and reaches out with love toward his fellow-men. Nothing is too humble for him to do because Christ did it when he was on earth. He is ready to give encouragement to someone who is discouraged. He can always find someone who is worse off than himself, and by so doing he not only makes others happy but he has made himself happy, and of still greater importance he has pleased his Heavenly Father and stored up treasures in heaven. Such a character will last throughout eternity.

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Quarterly Meeting of the College View Church

FOR two years it has been necessary to celebrate the ordinances in sections on account of the number who desire to take part. Two weeks ago, the Scandinavians held their meeting for this purpose; last week the Germans and the resident and older English members; and last Sabbath the English students and teachers. At the last-named meeting two hundred or more were present—enough to fill the auditorium of the church when arranged in alternating seats for the communion service. An excellent spirit was present. It was good to see the cheerfulness and promptness with which the young people engaged in the ordinance of humility and to listen to the testimonies of the young men while waiting between the two ordinances. The sweet peace of God rested upon the assembly.

At the forenoon service, Eld. G. F. Haffner, superintendent of the German work west of the Mississippi River, spoke to the congregation from 2 Cor. 5: 14-21, dwelling especially upon the word of reconciliation, as brought to view in verses 18-20. In connection with this service, the following persons were received into the College View church: Prof. and Mrs. A. G. Larson, by letter from Omaha; Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Dock, from Denver, Colorado; S. Herbert Miles, from South Lancaster, Massachusetts; John Boos and John Jensen, from College Place, Washington; Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Curtis, from Chanute, Kansas; Leon W. Cobb, from Hartford, Connecticut; Prof. and Mrs. E. C. Witzke and Marie E. Hardt, from Elida, New Mexico; Esther M. Anderson, Louise Dean and Rena Strickler, were received in fellowship on profession of faith.

The following persons were received into the church on baptism and profession of faith. They are students who have been baptized during the last few weeks: Ella Lull, Cedar Rapids, Nebraska; Earl Bullock, Riveria, California; Junius Paulson, Boelus, Nebraska; J. C. Larson, New Kirk, Oklahoma; Nina Vosburgh, Perkins, Oklahoma; Velma Weston, Maribank, Nebraska; Gladys Andrew, Meeteetse, Wyoming; Lena Lubitz, Marion Junction, South Dakota; Edith White, Shattuck, Oklahoma; F. E. Anderson, Ruthven, Iowa; C. R. Schmidt, New Castle, Wyoming; Oscar Rankin, Oxford, Nebraska.

Letters were granted to the following persons to unite with other churches: Eld. and Mrs. O. E. Jones, at Hastings, Nebraska; Mabelle Brown, Minatare, Nebraska; Mr. and Mrs. D. L. A. O. Paxton, Conconully, Washington; Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Dunkin, Yuma, Colorado; Beatrice Baharian, Takoma Park Station, Washington, D. C.; and Eld. and Mrs. B. L. Dffenbacher, Canon City, Colorado.

THE newest arrival in the village is a boy—eight pounder, at Wm. Cross's.

C. G. BELLAH has been called to Poplar Bluff, Missouri, by the illness of his mother.

ELD. B. E. HUFFMAN and F. F. Byington are attending the Bookmen's Convention in Kansas City.

MISS GRACE CADY, of the Nebraska Sanitarium, has returned from a short visit to Hastings, Nebr.

MISS ALTA WORDELL has returned from a few weeks' visit to her sister at Whitney, Nebraska.

MISS LENA LUBITZ has been called to her home at Marion Junction, S. Dak., on account of the illness of her mother.

MISS ETHEL BENSON, of Plateau, New Mexico, has arrived in College View and will spend the rest of the year in school.

MARGARET E. YOUNG has been called by the General Conference to labor in New Orleans. Her address is 810 Jackson Ave., New Orleans, La.

At the regular meeting of the Mathematical club Saturday evening, Mrs. H. A. Morrison, Prof. E. C. Kellogg, and Fred Rigby presented papers.

DR. R. S. CUMMINGS, a former Union College student, spent a short time in College View last week. He has recently returned from Europe and was on his way to his home at San Diego, California.

MISS PEARL E. JONES, stenographer for the Nebraska Conference, at Hastings, Nebr., recently visited friends in College View. She was returning to Hastings after a two weeks' visit in Des Moines and Nevada, Iowa.

MISS IVY ENDICOTT, formerly a student of Union College, writes from Waterloo, Kansas, desiring the books used by the shorthand classes in the college in order that she may pursue this study by herself this year, since she cannot at present return to the college.

At a meeting of the conference committee of the Western Colorado Conference, held December 27th, it was voted that Brother Prout, secretary of the missionary volunteer work, and Miss Carrie Dowden, state Sabbath-school secretary, be sent to College View to attend the missionary volunteer and Sabbath-school conventions to be held January 19-26.

JOHN NEUFELD, who attended Union College during 1903-1905, has been visiting his relatives in College View. Some time ago he married Mary Fast, a former resident of College View, and they live in Enid, Oklahoma. They are planning with their relatives, to move to Bakersfield, Calif. in the spring. Brother Neufeld returned to his home Sunday, January 10th.

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Entered at the post office in College View, Neb., as second class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

News and Notes

MAX TRUMMER has gone to Kansas City, Mo., to attend the Bookmen's Convention.

L. E. REED, the College janitor, was called to Omaha Tuesday evening by the serious sickness of his mother.

MISS LUCY PATTERSON, of Carthage, Mo., has been visiting friends at the college several days. Miss Patterson was a student in Union two years ago.

MISS NELLIE DAVIS, formerly of the Nebraska Sanitarium, recently visited friends in College View. She was on her way to Minatare, Nebraska.

THE preparatory medical students' club met Saturday evening and an interesting program was given. Those taking part were Miss Maude Noel, R. S. Irvine, E. K. Brigham, and Herbert Miles.

H. H. HALL of the Pacific Press, Mountain View, Calif., spoke to the students in chapel Thursday morning, January 7th. He was on his way to Kansas City to attend the Bookmen's Convention. He was accompanied by J. Rollin Ferron, who has charge of the circulation department of the *Signs*. Mr. Ferron is a former student of Union College.

THE following was received from Miss Louise Scholz just before she sailed for Germany: "I would like to write to every one at Union College to show them that I am still thinking of them, but as I can't I shall send you a few words before I leave this country and the old year passes. My ship was delayed and I am leaving January 2d. I would like to be remembered to every one at Union College. My prayers for them ascend many times during the day to our heavenly Father. I wish you all a blessed new year. May God grant that the missionary spirit may increase during the new year among the young people at the College. My courage is good. I trust in God even though I have to travel alone to India. The angels of God are my companions day and night, and I am sure the time is short and I am anxious to work for souls. God be with you at Union College."

CELIA M. CHRISTENSON of Dodge Center, Minn., writes that she is always pleased when the MESSENGER arrives. Her health is improving and she hopes soon to be able to enter the work again. She will never forget the many good things learned in the college and asks God's blessing on the workers.

C. N. HARVEY and Miss Winnifred Glunt were married at the home of the bride's parents in College View, Tuesday, January 12th, at 12 o'clock, Prof. C. C. Lewis performing the ceremony. After spending a week in the village they will go to Bonacco, Bay Islands, where Mr. Harvey will teach school. Both have been students of Union College for the past two years. The MESSENGER extends congratulations.

PROF. C. D. LUDE, class of 1902, is still connected with the school work at Diamante, Argentine, South America. He writes as follows concerning his work: "I am engaged in teaching German and a few classes in Spanish and have charge of the home and work outside on the school grounds. The tender recollections of friends of past years and of 'dear old Union' cheers us amidst trials and perplexities which we meet in this great mission field. We recently had a cheering meeting in our young people's society Sabbath afternoon. We studied the various locations of our colleges, academies and mission schools. It was encouraging to note that the earth is being surrounded with these schools pressing to the front and advancing the work of God. At present we have three schools in South America, one in Brazil, one in Chile, and our own school in Argentine. Thus we are pushing the message toward the north and our dear friends in the north are pressing toward the south, hoping and praying that the work will soon be done. With unusual interest we have watched the movements of 'old Union.' It's progress is a great pleasure to us."

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