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FAULT-FINDING

"Any savage can find fault."—*Sir Benjamin West.*

Nothing is so easy
As to criticize,
Looking on a neighbor's work
With unfriendly eyes,
Nothing is so easy,
With unruffled mien,
To dissect a masterpiece—
Book or painted scene—
And tear down those idols
Which the soul exalt:
Oh, yes! "Any savage
Can find fault."

Nothing is so easy
As to find a blot
On a place where other men
Might discern it not.
Nothing is so easy
As to drag down men
Who are making dreams come true
With chisel, brush, and pen;
Who would seek to help us
To the skies to vault.
Oh, yes! "Any savage
Can find fault."

—*Willis Leonard Clanahan.*



THE VALUE OF OUR PROPERTY

BY W. B. WHITE

WE very often hear it remarked that such a man, or woman, owns property to the value of \$5,000.00 or \$20,000.00, more or less, and that this sum consisting of lands, cattle, horses, machinery, etc., is theirs, as they have made it, by industry and economy, and now they own it all, and can do with it as they see fit.

This idea is a very prevalent one in the world, and is also a very erroneous one, for in the light of God's word, we poor mortals do not have much that is distinctively our own, and which we can call ours. Let us listen a moment as God speaks to us on this point. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein." Ps. 24:1. Here the statement is positive that God owns the earth and all that is in it, and us with the rest. With a few brief words he lays claim to it all, and closes the argument of our direct ownership of any portion of it entirely.

Again in another Scripture he makes the matter a little more definite for he says, in Ps. 50:10-12, "For every beast of the forest is mine and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the fields are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell thee for the world is mine and the fulness thereof."

Here again the statement is clear-cut that God owns the cattle, sheep, horses, fowls, wheat fields, forests, gardens, and all things else in the world. He goes a little farther and states clearly that he even owns us and that we are not our own. Hear him speak again. "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own for ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit which are God's." What a sweeping statement. We are not our own, we have been purchased, and so belong to another, therefore we are not at liberty to do as we choose, but as he wills, and chooses, who bought us with his own blood.

Then, says one, if this is true that God owns all; the land, cattle, sheep, orchards, forests, and all in the earth, what relation do I sustain to this property which I have accumulated? Well, dear reader, you are only a steward whom the Lord is trusting with his goods.

The Lord places more in some hands than in others to use for him, but it is all his, and he desires that we shall use it right and to his glory. He wants us to use it; to trade with the talents he has left in our care, but he says that after awhile he is going to return from heaven and reckon with us, to see what we have done with his goods, and how we have used the same. This certainly lays upon us a solemn responsibility to use our property to the glory of God and the advancement of his cause in the earth, that when he returns we may hear from him the words "Well done thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things I will make thee ruler over many things, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

MAN IN THE PLACE OF GOD

WHEN men make decrees binding their fellow men in matters of religion, they put themselves in the place of God, who alone has the authority and the right to bind the conscience. It was through man-made decrees binding the consciences of men that the papacy arose, and a man was finally exalted to a position where he "as God" sat "in the temple of God," and received worship as a divine being. The like course followed to-day tends to produce the like result. The enactment of religious laws tends to put the human law-makers in the place of God, not only by their assumption of a divine prerogative, but because their fellow men look to them as to God, they flatter them as being the mouthpieces of God to the people. Note the following illustration on this point:—

In a report of a Sunday-law hearing before a committee of the Pennsylvania Legislature at Harrisburg, in 1894, Prof. David Steele, D. D., is quoted as having addressed the legislators in this fashion:—

"You are our Christian representatives. We honor you; you have power over us, and we are to bow to your authority. The powers that be are ordained of God, and you are the powers that be. You represent God. Therefore you are God to us, and we beg of you not to make any laws that will lessen the respect for our sabbath."

Such talk savors little of Christianity. The man who consents to be exalted by his fellow mortals is in danger of being humbled by the Lord.—*Liberty.*



THE period of our probation is fast closing. The year 1906 will soon be as a tale that is told. Soon our opportunity to give the last message of mercy to the lost will be forever past. The help of every one that loves Jesus is needed now, in the Lord's work. Let there be no idlers in the Master's vineyard. Let there be no robbery of God in tithes and offerings needed to sustain his cause.—*Mrs. E. G. White.*

THE GOSPEL HERALD

A WORD WITH OUR READERS

It is not unlikely that this will be the last number of the GOSPEL HERALD to be sent to our subscribers in its present form.

It is the opinion of a number of our leading brethren that the form and name of the GOSPEL HERALD should be changed, and it is likely that the next number to be issued will consist of sixteen pages under the name, *The Message*, bearing underneath the head the words, "Continuing the *Gospel Herald*," together with the motto, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Inasmuch as the paper is to be enlarged, the price will be increased to twenty-five cents a year. GOSPEL HERALD subscriptions will, however, be filled with the new paper without additional expense to our subscribers. Old subscribers who would esteem it a privilege to assist in the publication of this new paper can do so by increasing their donations.

We wish to thank our friends, one and all, for the deep interest they are manifesting in the work in this field. We have been highly gratified by the hearty response which has met every appeal made in behalf of the work for the colored people. Those who have money seem willing to give it to assist in this work, and many who have not the ready means to help are doing so by selling "Story of Joseph" on a missionary basis. In other words, they are donating their time. Of course those who are giving of their means or time are giving their prayers also in behalf of this work.

There has never been a time in the history of the work for the colored people when the outlook was so encouraging as it is now. The hearts of our people are being turned this way as never before. We believe this is due largely to the fact that they are becoming more intelligent concerning this branch of the work. Seventh-day Adventists are liberal, and are willing to give; but they like to know something about the work that is being done, and they like to understand the needs of the fields to which they are giving. This is only reasonable and right. It is impossible for any one to be interested in that about which he knows little or nothing. We propose to do our best to keep our readers informed, not only in regard to the needs of the colored work, but also in regard to what is being accomplished.

OUR SCHOOLS

We have been much cheered by good letters received from our mission school teachers in various parts of the country. These schools are unusually full this winter, and are, we believe, doing excellent work.

Every mission school teacher is more than simply a teacher. Each teacher is also a Bible worker. Generally the teachers are leaders of the little companies of believers where they are located; so that they are doing all-round missionary work. They teach the

schools, visit the parents in their homes, hold Bible readings, visit the sick; and in addition to teaching the children in the schools, try to be generally helpful to the parents in their homes. We know of no better work, nor of any that is more generally helpful, than that of the mission school teachers.

One correspondent has inquired about the instruction given in our mission schools, saying that she wished to send some clothing to a school in which the pupils were being instructed in sewing. We are glad to be able to say that in nearly all our mission schools, instruction of this kind is given. Perhaps more attention is paid to this kind of work at Vicksburg and Natchez than in any of our other schools.

Of course the mission schools do not attempt to give an all-round education. They are not training schools, nor are they even intermediate schools. But we do try to lay a broad foundation, and to instruct the children not only in the rudiments of the sciences, but also in those things that tend to make them self-helpful wherever they may be. We are raising the standard in these schools just as rapidly as possible. We believe they are becoming more and more efficient each year.



WITH OUR CORRESPONDENTS

THIS is one of the most interesting departments of our paper. These letters are not written for publication, but they are so good that we feel we would not be justified in keeping them all to ourselves. We are therefore passing a few of them along for the benefit of others. This department is a sort of social meeting wherein we exhort one another and "provoke unto love and to good works."

HOW WE DO IT

One subscriber does not understand how we can furnish the GOSPEL HERALD three years for twenty-five cents, and says:—

"I see in the GOSPEL HERALD that you can subscribe three years for twenty-five cents. How can you knock off a nickel when it is so cheap anyway? How can you print it for so little? I am going to give you forty cents for three years' subscription to the GOSPEL HERALD, and a two-cent stamp for returning word if you received it."

In reply to this inquiry we will say that ten cents is a common price for small monthly papers. The five cents reduction in the price for three years is fully saved in the time and money which would otherwise be spent in securing renewals.

WISHES SHE COULD DO MORE

A good sister who wishes she could do more sends us a dollar and says:—

"I received the Self-denial Boxes some time ago, and will now send you a money order of one dollar, which is the amount dropped in the boxes up to date. I wish it were more, but am thankful to have even a small part in helping to spread the knowledge of God's last message of mercy among those who are in darkness. I hope I shall be able to send you a

larger amount some time in the near future. I wish you God's richest blessings in your labor of love."

This sister has sent us something the value of which cannot be measured by money. Such letters give us new courage.

A GOOD SUGGESTION

Here is a suggestion of a way to raise money for missionary work. It may be helpful to others:—

"I am interested in the Southern work. I love the GOSPEL HERALD. It is full of inspiring news. I want to see the good work go on. I have been raising begonias and selling them for missionary work in the South."

What better way can there be of helping the cause of God than by growing some beautiful or useful thing? Surely God's blessing must attend every effort put forth in his fear and with his love in the heart.

FINDS TIME TO SELL BOOKS

The writer of the next letter has had a good experience in selling the "Story of Joseph." She says:—

"I received the six copies of the 'Story of Joseph' and have sold them without any trouble at all. One lady took two copies. Please send me six more copies and I will try to sell them. I do not have very much time to sell books, as I am caring for an old lady, and I can go out only as I hire some one to come in and sit with her while I am away, as she is eighty-four years old. But I want to do all I can and I know with the Lord's help I can do great things. I give the Lord all the praise, for without him we can do nothing."

YES, WE ARE FRIENDS

A friend to whom we sent a sample copy of the GOSPEL HERALD writes in this pleasant vein:—

"MY DEAR FRIEND— for I am sure we are to become dear friends if we are not so already:— Although I never saw your black and white face until to-night, yet I like you and am enclosing twenty-five cents that you may visit my home monthly for one year at least."

We do not charge twenty-five cents a year for the GOSPEL HERALD, and so credited this correspondent with three years' subscription.

CHEERFUL UNDER DIFFICULTIES

A brother in Missouri who is enduring hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ says:—

"I have just received a sample copy of your paper, the GOSPEL HERALD. I intend to subscribe for it in a few days, but want to secure the subscription of a few colored Seventh-day Adventists in our town who were lately converted under the labors of Elder D. E. Scoles.

"Please send me a Self-denial Box; also one dozen 'Story of Joseph.' I am in a mining district and often out of work on account of the Sabbath. This week I got to work only

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December, 1906. Price 10 Cents a Year

NEARLY all who have ordered charts are pleased with them. We still have a good supply on hand. They are fifty cents each, or one dollar for a set of two.

OUR new calendars are now ready and will be sent upon request. It will save trouble and expense if a supply for each church or company can be sent to one address.

If you are in arrears on your subscription to this paper be so kind as to renew at once. You need the paper, and the cause it represents needs your help. Please do not neglect this request.

If you receive a copy of this paper without having subscribed for it, it is sent you for the purpose of asking you to become a subscriber. The price is only ten cents for a year, twelve numbers. Address, Gospel Herald, North Station, Nashville, Tenn.

CALENDARS FOR 1907

Our 1907 Calendars are now ready. Let the friends of the Mission School work send in their orders for the new calendar at once. It will save trouble and expense at both ends of the line if the calendars for a church or company are ordered to one address, to be distributed by the one receiving them. They are sent free by the Society, but each request sent by postal card costs a cent, and there is quite a saving to this office also, where several calendars are sent in one package.

Address Southern Missionary Society, North Station, Nashville, Tenn.

THE SELF-DENIAL BOX

FROM the pen of Mrs. E. G. White, under date of July 6, 1904, we quote the following:—

"Many should become interested in the work of placing these Boxes in homes. Ask old and young to aid the work for the colored people by placing these Boxes in every home possible. A blessing will surely follow the gifts of Self-denial thus brought to the Master."

"INVITE THOSE NOT OF OUR FAITH TO DO ALL THEY CAN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THIS WORK. The Lord has placed the responsibility upon them. He expects them to act their part. As they have received, so they are to impart."

The enemy of souls is using every means he can employ to lull us to sleep as to our condition, and what God requires of us. If

he can keep us wholly absorbed in our own affairs, so that we have no time for God's work, he is satisfied. Our real safety is in active labor for others. Some feel incapable of doing missionary work, and others have no time. Still another class are willing, but have had no experience, and are waiting for parents or church officers to lead the way.

To every man God has given a work to do. Through the servant of God a plan is now proposed by which every man, woman, and child can find active employment in home missionary work.

The mission schools that have been established in Mississippi and in other states, are doing a good work; and these should receive our continued support. Hundreds of these schools must be established. This line of effort has been especially presented before me as one of the most effectual and economical methods of giving the truth to the colored people.—Mrs. E. G. White.

SEED THOUGHTS

ONE of the wonderful attributes of the Bible is its simplicity. Like the nourishment contained in seeds, it is compact, and sufficient for its purpose. It is impossible for finite man to express such sublime truths in so few words as are found in the first chapter of Genesis. Like the message sent by God to the king of Babylon and written in blazing letters with the "fingers of a man's hand," so he records these great truths by the hand of man.

In the first verse are found truths, which, if believed as they are stated, would overthrow many modern beliefs. Let us notice a few: "In the beginning,"—this contradicts the eternity of matter. "God created,"—this strikes at the root of atheism, because it tells of a Creator; and of polytheism, because it speaks of one God. It forbids the doctrine of chance, because "he spake, and it was." As God is separate from creation, that precludes pantheism. Matter is not God, so it denies materialism.—*Claude Holmes.*

CALLED TO A GOOD FIELD

"AND the angel of the Lord appeared unto Philip, saying, Arise and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went." Acts 8:26, 27.

Thus the Lord called one of his servants to start out in the direction of a desert. He might have heard the call, and then reasoned with himself that there was no good sense in going to a desert for his field of labor, when doing so would cause him to turn away from wealthy regions where many precious souls needed the message of mercy for that time. But he did not hesitate, or commence to reason about what he should find in that desert. He

obediently turned from prosperous fields, and looked toward a barren waste.

There is something most inspiring in the simple statement, "And he arose and went." Not one question or murmur against going right out into a desert, where there was apparently nothing. Do you think you would go to a desert, too, if the Lord should thus call you. But there are some of us whom the Lord has not called to a desert. He has called us to a land where there is wealth,—a good field where there are many people needing God's message. We are called to take them the good books containing the message. Philip gladly answered the call to the desert. That took faith. Shall we refuse to walk by sight into a field which we can see is good, when the Lord calls? Has the Lord called you to this work? If so, shall it be said of you in the heavenly records, "And he arose and went"? That will be a good record for you in the judgment.—*Southern Illinois Herald.*

AMUSEMENTS

WHEN young men and young women are in deed and in truth converted, a decided change will be seen by all who have any connection with them. Their frivolity will leave them; the continual desire for amusement and pleasure, the longing for some kind of change, to be in parties and excursions, will no longer be seen.

If all would give themselves unreservedly to God, if they would cease to study and plan for their amusement, for excursions and pleasure-loving associations, and would study the words, "Ye are not your own, ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's," they would never hunger or thirst for excitement or change.—*Farm and Home.*

THE FATHER'S LOVE

"If each volunteer in the army of the Lord will do his best the Lord will do the rest. As soon as the human agent becomes united with Christ in soul, mind, and spirit, the Father loves that soul as a part of Christ, as a member of the body of Christ, he himself being the glorious Head."

"In the face of the fierce temptations which will surely come to the people of God, it will mean something to stand in the day when the Son of man cometh. A man that stands, is one who has not turned his back upon God's truth, nor run from the enemy, even though Satan in person has taken the field. He simply stands complete in Christ, fearing nothing but to obey God, having on the whole armor. 'Having done all, stand,' is the command of Christ to every soldier of his."

One teacher writes: "We are in need of clothing of all kinds. Is there any prospect of receiving any?" This is a sample appeal. If you have clothing to spare write us for shipping directions. The need is great.