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ADIEU

Gone are the happiest days of life!
Ceased, in these halls, the noblest strife
That man can wage or e'er shall wage,
The strife that fits for that Endless Age.

Ready for service, lowly or great,
Ready what e'er may be our fate;
True to our motto, our colors, our trust:
For service we stand. "If we rest we rust."

Few though we be and feeble our might,
Yet firm we stand for truth and right,
For numbers are naught, and might less still,
In the duties which we must now fulfill.

For our work's not of man, nor yet our might;
But of Him who dwells in unapproachable light;
'Tis He who has called us to bear the cross—
Christ Jesus who died to save that which was lost.

Henceforth we turn from this dear old place
Relying upon the Almighty's grace,
To turn precious souls from this world of lust,
To the world to come. "If we rest we rust."

So farewell, farewell to thee, Oakwood!
Farewell, the land that's fair and good.
Ye meadows green and wooded dells,
Ye fields and hills, and mountains, Farewell!

Dear friends and students, farewell to you;
To your God, your faith, and yourselves be true,
Though perchance we meet in this life no more,
We'll meet in Heaven where parting's o'er.

C. E. MARTIN.

The Spring Council

At the spring council of the North American Division Conference Committee which was held at the Oakwood School, April 12-19, steps were taken to enlarge this

school. It was recommended that the school be advanced to a Junior College, beginning in the fall of the present year. Provision was also made to enlarge the plant by erecting a new college building and

boys' dormitory and other improvements which, when perfected, will give us a school second to none in the South. It was recommended that \$60,000.00 be raised in the next four years in the Division Conference by special collection and donation. The colored people are asked to raise \$10,000.00 of this amount, which I am sure they will take great pleasure in doing. The first collection will be in October. The definite date will be announced later. This will be known as "Dollar Day." Every Seventh-day Adventist in the Division Conference will be requested to give at least a dollar.

We are very thankful indeed for the bright out-look for the education of our colored people. The Oakwood Junior College is the only college conducted by this denomination for the colored people, and we hope to see it placed on a strong basis at as early a date as possible. The work in this department is making rapid progress. The harvest is white but the laborers are few. We are very short of workers to carry the message to over twenty millions of Negroes in the United States and the West Indies. Over seventy-five per cent of our workers have had more or less of their training at this school. They are as faithful and loyal as any people on earth to this message. Many of them are carrying heavy responsibilities.

We earnestly appeal to our brethren everywhere to be loyal to the school by sending their children here to receive a preparation for some place in the master's work. I am thoroughly convinced that there is no better place in the world for our young people. Tho we have to sacrifice, it will be money well invested; it will be like casting bread upon the waters that will return to us after many days, even in the salvation of our children in the Kingdom. The school will

carry fourteen grades next year. We especially desire a large class of advanced students the first year of our Junior College.

It was recommended that Professor Beardsley of College View, who is a college graduate and highly recommended, accept the principalship of this school. Professor Boyd has been called to connect with the North American Division Conference to act as field representative of the Oakwood Junior College interests. Professor and Sister Boyd have rendered most valuable service for many years in connection with our work at Oakwood. They have greatly endeared themselves to all who know them. They have won the confidence of the outside people in Huntsville, and in the vicinity of the school. The prejudice that existed in the early history of our work has passed away, and our school is regarded very highly by every one.

We bespeak for Professor Beardsley the same confidence and hearty cooperation that has been given to Professor Boyd, and we look forward with happy anticipation to a more extended work.

C. B. STEPHENSON.

Theater Going

AMONG the most dangerous resorts for pleasure is the theater. Instead of being a school for morality and virtue, as is so often claimed, it is the very hotbed of immorality. Vicious habits and sinful propensities are strengthened and confirmed by these entertainments. Low songs, lewd gestures, expressions, and attitudes, deprave the imagination and debase the morals. Every youth who habitually attends such exhibitions will be corrupt in principle. There is no influence more powerful to poison the imagination, to destroy religious impressions, and to blunt the relish for the tranquil pleasures and sober realities of life, than theatrical amusements. The love for these scenes increases with every indulgence, as the desire for intoxicating drink strengthens with its use. The only course is to shun the theater, the circus, and every other questionable place of amusement."—*Counsels to Teachers*, p. 334, 335.

"There are thousands upon

thousands, millions upon millions, who are making their decision for eternal life or eternal death. The man who is wholly absorbed in his counting room, the man who finds pleasure at the gaming table, the man who loves to indulge perverted appetite, the amusement lover, the frequenters of the theater and the ballroom, put eternity out of their reckoning."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. VI, pp. 406, 407.

"The Shaking"

MANY years ago we were told by the servant of God that there would be a shaking among God's people: Surely we have come up to that very time. On page 131, "Early Writings," I find these words, "I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth." This of course will cause a shaking, because it says in the same article, that "Some will not bear this straight testimony."

What will they do? "They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking." Now isn't that too sad? Poor human beings, subject to death the same as other dependent creatures, will rise up to oppose the very message of mercy God sends to heal them. We do not know how far from the mark we really are, until our loving heavenly Father condescends to reveal our short comings to us.

I received an announcement from the People's Church, Washington, D. C. recently, posing under the name of the People's S. D. A. Church, openly publishing their stand against the organized body of Seventh-day Adventists, whose headquarters are at Washington, D. C. and whose conferences, operating under one great general conference with Eld. A. G. Daniels as general president, are world wide.

I have no railing accusation to bring against these deceived brethren and sisters, but only feelings

of sorrow that the enemy was allowed to come in among them and pull them off on a tangent like that. They claim to be a free church, since they have separated from the body—Sad indeed—but who is at fault? Can it be the great organized body of Seventh-day Adventists preaching the three great angels' messages of Rev. 14: 6-13?

Surely no well informed Seventh-day Adventist, who is truly born of God, and who is rooted and grounded in this blessed truth, can answer in the affirmative. The organized body of Seventh-day Adventists must stand firmly to organization in order to do the great work of warning this sinful world in this generation.

When God himself cannot please everybody, how can the Seventh-day Adventist church please everybody? The Free Church at Washington, D. C. under consideration, has assumed the task of warning the mission S. D. A. churches of this country (composed mostly of colored people) against the organized body of Seventh-day Adventists.

My dear brethren of the mission churches, let me (being 28 years in the message) admonish you to stand by the organization and be assured that we need no advice from the "Free Church" of Washington, D. C. In Vol. 9, p. 257, we find a timely warning from the Lord concerning those who would pull away from the body, and assert their freedom and independence. But they are deceived in thinking that God is pleased to have them choose their own course independent of the counsel of their brethren. Satan is at the bottom of that independent movement against the organization.

Again let me admonish you as a brother, to stand fast in the message which has called us out of Babylon, and confusion, and let us love one another as brethren and work together as a unit to finish the work in this generation, for we have only a short time to work, as we surely can see plainly, that the "end of all things is at hand."

T. B. BUCKNER.

"If you can't solve a problem, plow around it."

The Council's Resolution

Concerning Oakwood Junior College

THE growth of the work among the colored people requires increased facilities at the OAKWOOD MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL, at an early date. It is understood that building operations will proceed only as fast as funds are in hand to pay for the same. The following recommendations were passed:

"WHEREAS, The time has come for the educational standards in our training schools to be the same throughout the country, in order that there may be a more uniform state of efficiency of service in the ministry and of other trained workers; and,

"WHEREAS, The present facilities of the Oakwood Manual Training School for the care and training of students are now taxed to the utmost capacity, and there is no room for increased patronage, and,

"WHEREAS, The ministry of the Negro race have set for their goal the gathering in of ten thousand new converts during the next four years, which will mean an increased demand for facilities in training schools for the education of the children of their people; and,

"WHEREAS, The colored people have signified their desire to cooperate in increasing the facilities of the Oakwood Manual Training School, by offering to contribute the sum of ten thousand dollars toward this work; therefore,

"We recommend, 1. That the educational standard of the Oakwood Manual Training School be raised to fourteen grades, and that it be known henceforth as the Oakwood Junior College.

"2. That when funds are in hand, the Negro Department, under the advice of the North American Division Executive Committee, be hereby authorized to enlarge the facilities for educating our Negro young people, in such a way as the needs of this people can be best served.

"3. That we approve of plans for extending the facilities of the school, that will not exceed the final cost of sixty thousand dollars, the colored people to raise ten thousand dollars; and that these extended plans shall be completed within a period of four years.

"4. That we appropriate annually from one fourth to one half of the required amount, according to the needs the situation, from such funds as may be in hand for the extension and completion of this work, it being understood, however, that this work is to proceed only as rapidly as the funds will permit, without the institution's incurring any indebtedness.

"5. That in the annual collection for our colored people, we call for a specific donation of one dollar per member from the membership of the North American Division Conference, for the purpose of financing this work, and providing a fund for church extension work among the colored people."

OBITUARIES

GAVIN: Mrs. Bettie Gavin, mother of Sister Maggie Mundin, died at Memphis, Tenn., April 18. She was 85 years old and had been confined to her bed for a considerable time. She leaves behind, one son, four daughters, and several grand children to mourn their loss; but they sorrow not as those who have no hope, as she was faithful in what she believed. At the age of 32 she was converted and joined the C.M.E. church of which she remained a faithful member to the end. Sister Mundin's daughter and son-in-law accepted the truth during the tent effort here last summer and joined the church; and she stated to me that her mother expressed a strong desire to attend, but her condition would not permit. Could she have attended, she probably would have accepted also.

The funeral was conducted by the writer at the Chautauqua Hall (S. D. A. meeting hall).

My theme for a few brief remarks was "Comfort", making use of the following texts: I Thes. 4: 16-18; Ps. 119: 50; Isa. 40: 1, 2; John 16: 5-7. J.W. DANCER.

MATTIE H. MCKELVY: Came to Atlanta from Augusta, Ga. about December 1, 1916, to be treated for tuberculosis. Although her case was hopeless, she hailed her visit with much joy, finding an opportunity to gratify her soul's longing for two years to unite with a commandment keeping people.

On Sabbath, Dec 2, 1916, she united with the Atlanta S. D. A. church No 2, and on the following Sabbath was baptised.

After four months hard struggle with her deadly foe, she succumbed to the inevitable Thursday morning at 6 o'clock, April 5, 1917.

Her faith was bright and real in the hope of falling asleep for a short time to be awakened by the soon coming of the Lord.

The funeral was conducted Thursday night, April 5, 1917, T. S. Tate officiating, and the remains were shipped to Johnson, S. C. for interment.

Augusta, Ga.

ROM. 8:23. Indeed God has said that all things work together

for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. If we only trust him, we will see that his ways are best and all things work out to the honor and glory of his name.

In this city, (Augusta) we had arranged with our brethren (the Holiness people) to use their pool for baptism. We cleaned out this pool and three rooms in the basement of their church for the accommodation of the candidates February 6. On the morning of the 17th the baptism was to take place. About two hundred people gathered on the ground to behold the scene. Before we arrived on the ground, word came saying that we could not use the pool again. We were greatly disappointed, but believing Rom 8:28, we took it patiently. Baptism was then planned for the next Sunday at a creek about a mile and a half away. Over one thousand people were present, many of whom had never visited our meetings before. God used the speaker to impress hearts. What the outcome will be, I do not know. Many of those who attended the baptism are now attending our meetings. The seed is sown. Pray that God will give the increase.

The exodus of our people from the South to the North has affected our church. Our membership is fifty-three, thirteen having moved. Others however are taking their places. Sister Jennie Hankinson, our Bible worker and organist, is rendering valuable assistance in this great work.

We are about to launch out now in our spring campaign. Pray for our success.

The amount of funds received by the Augusta church from December to the end of March is \$240.84. The amount of books, tracts, and papers bought and sold is over \$200.00.

Our aim is to do more this year than we have ever done before.

R. E. WILLIAMS.

Important to Fireside Correspondence School Students:

Hereafter all books and supplies for F. C. S. courses of study should be ordered from the School instead of the Review and Herald, New York. C. C. Lewis, Principal.

Commencement at Oakwood School May 20-23.

SUNDAY, May 20, at eleven o'clock, we all gathered in the auditorium at Study Hall for the Baccalaureate program. After a beautiful selection by Oakwood's male quartet, Scripture reading and prayer, we listened to an inspiring sermon by Elder C. B. Stephenson, who spoke of the importance of our lives being spent in service for God, and the utter impossibility of our accomplishing anything without him.

Sunday evening the annual recital of the Music department was given. Every number on the program was well rendered and spoke well for the efficiency of the department. Especial credit is due to Miss Jennie E. Stratton, who has carried the brunt of the burden in instrumental music this year. Perhaps the most interesting number of the evening was "Come Where the Lilies Bloom", rendered by the mixed Chorus.

Monday Evening the mixed Chorus under the direction of Professor C. S. Corkham, rendered the sacred cantata "Esther", Mrs. G. H. Jeys playing the accompaniment. A stage was arranged in front of Henderson Hall's broad veranda, and the audience was seated in chairs in the front. Over four hundred of our friends and neighbors, many of them prominent business men from Huntsville, were present. This well known musical interpretation of the Bible narrative of Queen Esther was beautifully rendered. Many expressed themselves as being highly pleased with the program, and we feel sure that the occasion was both pleasant and profitable to all who were present.

Tuesday was class day. Every seat in the chapel was filled and all listened attentively to the program rendered by the eleven graduates who occupied the stage. Every member of the class did well his part. One unique feature of the program was a demonstration by the graduates in carpentry, H. W. Gray and E. U. Carter. They constructed a chair and a table on the stage. While they worked, the piano played and the hammer blows keeping exact time with the music was very pleasing. It took the

boys just ten minutes to assemble these pieces of furniture.

Wednesday, May 23, the final program was rendered. This evening is one that will live long in the memory of many who were present. Pastor J. H. Lawrence delivered the address of the evening. His subject was "True Success." He showed conclusively that no worldly success is true success, and in a very earnest manner he admonished the members of the class and all who were present, to achieve true success by devoting the whole life to service for God. Professor Boyd in a few well chosen remarks presented the diplomas and certificates. He said in part, "The traits of your character which you believe to be worthy may not always be recognized by the world. Don't be disappointed. See things and think. Keep on working. Be willing to do that which others pass by. The very best service which you can faithfully and constantly give will bring its ultimate reward. Heaven blesses those who are careful." As Professor Boyd sat down one of the young lady graduates arose and in behalf of the senior class presented Professor Boyd a beautiful bath robe. One of the young men next presented Mrs. Boyd a seal-skin hand bag in behalf of all the school. The Professor and his good wife were taken very much by surprise, but soon turned the tables on the students by presenting each one with a neat souvenir folder containing a picture of themselves and their son Harold.

This commencement marks the end of the Oakwood Manual Training School as such. From now on the school will be known as Oakwood Junior College. It also marks the passing of our beloved principal, Professor Boyd, who has toiled unceasingly during the past ten years for the good of the school. As Professor Boyd goes from us into field work, our prayers and best wishes go with him. We believe it is in the plan of God that he be used in a larger way for the upbuilding of His work in this field.

The names of those finishing courses at Oakwood this year are as follows: H. D. Greene, Lena V. Strother, Ministerial course; J. L. Martin, Margaret M Brandon, E.

U. Carter, H. W. Gray, Secretaries' course; Mary E. Miles, Dorence S. Bivens, Maggie L. Price, Normal course; Mrs. Clarice Gittens, Lucile Long, Bible Workers' course. A certificate was also granted to Elzilah Pearson from the Sacred Music course.

Cumberland Conference Mission

THE work in this mission is onward despite the obstacles that every branch of the work has to face from Satan's attacks on the people of God.

During the latter part of March, I visited the Knoxville church. The believers here are of good courage and are pressing the battle with great determination using the *Signs of the Times, Watchman* and *Present Truth* series freely. The exodus to the North has affected this church, as other colored churches in the South.

From this place, I went to Morristown and found the believers there also of good courage. They were greatly encouraged by knowing that the first effort of the summer is to be held there.

Returning, I visited our isolated members at Cleveland and Dalton, also spending a week with the Bakewell church. This church lost one of its strongest members in the person of Brother George Springs (deacon) who died in the month of March.

Chattanooga Churches: There are two churches in this city; the Missionary Ridge church, and the city church. The members of both are striving to hold up the standard of truth. Last Sabbath, May 12, eight candidates were baptized in the waters of the Tennessee river. So strong was the faith of one of the sisters, (remembering the incident of the palsied man who was healed by stepping down into the water), that she asked Jesus to heal her physically as well as spiritually. The result is that she believes that she is healed of rheumatism from which she suffered terribly for three years.

The recent floods that visited this city did not leave us untouched. The number two church (colored) was fully six feet under water. The entire church equipment was destroyed, including the organ,

table, book case, and one hundred twenty chairs. As we were already under a burden of debt this loss seems to us like a crushing blow.

H. N. GEMON.
422 Lookout St., Chattanooga, Tenn.

Nashville, Tenn.

DURING the first quarter of 1917, four members have been added to the above named church. There are others who are keeping the Sabbath, but are not yet ready for church fellowship; and there are others who are deeply interested in the truth. They believe it, but it is hard for them to decide. With many the love of worldly gain and popularity stands between them and the truth; for these we are earnestly praying that with the Lord's help they will surmount every difficulty and decide in favor of the truth.

The home missionary institute during the month of February was one of the best meetings of its kind our people have ever attended. The instruction given is just what is needed. The colored believers have enlisted in the "Win One" campaign, heart and soul. The church is divided into seven missionary bands and a territory has been assigned to each band. We are handling five hundred of the *Present Truth* series, but this number is hardly adequate to the demand, so we are contemplating increasing the number to 1,000.

The magazine work has revived. With the close of the institute, twelve names were registered as agents. They are handling the *Watchman*. It is encouraging to listen to the experiences of our home missionary workers. They tell what the Lord is doing with us and that he is truly preparing the hearts of the people for the printed page. The Bible class conducted by the writer at his residence every Tuesday evening is well attended, and the students express themselves as being greatly helped and benefitted by the studies.

Our Sabbath school is doing excellent work. During the first three months of 1917, its membership has increased from eighty to one hundred. Besides being interested in the study of the lessons, our people are also interested in the salvation of souls in foreign

lands and give every Sabbath of their scanty earnings for the support of their work in those regions. From the Sabbath School, \$92.25 for foreign missions was turned into the treasury at the close of the quarter. The goal set for the thirteenth Sabbath was \$50.00 and the amount was raised. Never before in the history of this Sabbath school has such a large amount been turned in at one time. It is more than double the largest amount ever raised by the Sabbath school previous to this.

Our tithe for the first quarter amounted to a little over \$210.00. In these times of peril for a church to be able to show such substantial financial growth is encouraging to its workers and officers. It may be well to state that our people raise a large proportion of their money given to home and foreign missions through the sale of literature. Besides the *Watchman*, they handle our small books such as "The Christian Sabbath", "The Other Side of Death", "Armageddon", etc. Last Sabbath it was decided that we put in an order for five hundred of the new book on the world war by Elder A. G. Daniels. The people of Nashville enjoy reading our literature—and why shouldn't they? Are not our books and periodicals filled with a saving message and has it not been said that "God has a care for his truth and the time will come when these books will be sought for and read?"

The prospects of the work for this quarter are bright and encouraging. We expect to do great things for God.

J. GERSHOM DASENT.

Efficient Service

"IN the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

"Give a portion to seven, and also eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth." Eccl. 11:6,2.

Our efforts are largely spasmodic, our service rather intermittent. By such efforts we can never hope to effect any very decided reformation. Morning, noon and night,

we must be on our guard. We must watch for souls as they that must give an account.

We are never to become weary in well doing. We must never think that we have done all that God requires of us. We must never feel that we have reached a stopping place.

"Give a portion to seven [seven represents completeness] and also to eight." Always go on to do better. This is to constitute the basis of our activities.

Give a portion. It might be very profitable to study just what this means. Whatever our occupation, whatever line of work we are engaged in, wherever we may be, we can and we must give sympathy, show kindness, extend courtesy, to every soul with which we come in contact. We must let them see and feel the grace of Christ in action. This is a ministry within the reach of all and it must be made of paramount importance.

There are many ways in which church-members may give the message to those around them. One of the most successful is by living helpful, unselfish, Christian lives. Those who are fighting the battle of life at great odds may be refreshed and strengthened by little attentions which cost nothing. Kindly words simply spoken, little attentions simply bestowed, will sweep away the clouds of temptation and doubt that gather over the soul. The true heart-expression of Christlike sympathy, given in simplicity, has power to open the door of hearts that need the simple, delicate touch of the spirit of Christ." — *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 9, p. 30.

If one has given himself to Christ for service, and dedicates every talent anew each morning to this blessed ministry, he will find opportunities on every hand to witness for Christ. We must constantly remember that the right attitude while performing the more menial tasks will open the way for work in advance lines of Christian service. It is results that we are seeking, and we know that right causes produce right results.

F. W. PAAP.

"We are not forgiven *because* we forgive, but as we forgive."

The Seal of God. No. 2.

THE change of the Sabbath is a sign or mark of the authority of the Romish church. Those who, understanding the claims of the fourth commandment, choose to observe the false sabbath in the place of the true, are thereby paying homage to that power by which alone it is commanded. The mark of the beast is the papal sabbath, which has been accepted by the world in the place of the day of God's appointment.

There are true Christians in every church, not excepting the Roman Catholic communion. None are condemned until they have had the light and have seen the obligation of the fourth commandment. But when the decree shall go forth enforcing the counterfeit sabbath, and the loud cry of "the third angel" shall warn men against the worship of the beast and his image, the line will be clearly drawn between the false and the true. Then those who still continue in transgression will receive the mark of the beast.

With rapid steps we are approaching this period. When Protestant churches shall unite with the secular power in sustaining a false religion, for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution, then will the papal sabbath be enforced by the combined authority of church and state. There will be a national apostacy, which will end only in national ruin.

Marvellous in her shrewdness and cunning is the Roman Catholic church. She presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies, her record of horrible cruelties, and declaring that her spirit of persecution no longer exists. But she is the same as in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up at the peril of their lives to expose her iniquity; the same as when she assumed the power to control kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. She may clothe herself in Christ-like garments, the better to carry forward her purposes; but she still retains the venom of the serpent, and her principles are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in churches and in the hearts of men. Her spirit is no less cruel

and despotic now than when it crushed out human liberty, and slew the saints of the Most High.

By compromises and concessions, Protestants have tampered with and patronized popery, giving her vantage-ground which papists themselves are surprised to see and fail to understand. The Protestant world needs to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty.

When the state shall enforce the decrees and sustain the institutions of the church, then will Protestant America have formed an image of the Papacy. Then the true church will be assailed by persecution as were God's people in ancient times. Almost every century furnishes instances of what human hearts, controlled by rage and malice, can do under a plea of serving God by protecting the rights of the church and State. The Protestant churches that have followed in the steps of Rome by forming alliances with worldly powers have manifested a similar desire to restrict liberty of conscience. How many non-conformist ministers have suffered under the power of the Church of England! Persecution always follows a restriction of religious liberty on the part of secular governments.

Rejection of Great Light.

It is urged by many that the intellectual and moral darkness prevailing during the middle ages favored the spread of dogma, superstition, and the oppression of popery, and that the general diffusion of knowledge, and the well-nigh universal acceptance of the principles of religious liberty, forbid a revival of superstition and tyranny. It is true that great light, intellectual, moral, and religious, is shining upon this generation. Since 1844 light from the heaven of heavens has beamed from the open door of the temple of God. But it is to be remembered that the greater the light bestowed, the greater the delusion and darkness of those who reject the Word of God and accept fables, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men.

Satan will excite the indignation of apostate Christendom against

the humble remnant who conscientiously refuse to accept false customs and traditions. Blinded by the prince of darkness, popular religionists will see only as he sees, and feel as he feels. They will determine as he determines, and oppress as he has oppressed. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. The church and the world will unite, and the world will lend to the church power to crush out the right of the people to worship God according to His word.

The decree which is to go forth against the people of God in the near future is in some respects similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews in the time of Esther. The Persian edict sprang from the malice of Haman against Mordecai. Not that Mordecai had done Haman harm, but he had refused to flatter his vanity by showing him the reverence which is due only to God. The king's decision against the Jews was secured under false pretences. Satan instigated this scheme in order to rid the earth of those who preserved a knowledge of the true God. But his plots were defeated by a counter-power that reigns among the children of men. Angels who excel in strength were commissioned to protect the people of God, and the plots of their adversaries returned upon their own heads.

History repeats itself. The same masterful mind that plotted against the faithful in ages past is now at work to gain control of the Protestant churches, that through them he may condemn and put to death all who will not worship the idol sabbath. We have not to battle with man, as it may appear. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. But if the people of God will put their trust in him, and by faith rely upon his power, the devices of Satan will be defeated in our time as signally as in the days of Mordecai.

The decree is to go forth that all who will not receive the mark of the beast shall neither buy nor

sell, and, finally, that they shall be put to death. But the saints of God do not receive this mark. The prophet of Patmos beheld those that had gotten the victory over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having the harps of God, and singing the song of Moses and the Lamb.

To every soul will come the searching test, Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Satan is putting forth his utmost efforts in the rage of a last despairing struggle against Christ and His followers. False teachers are employing every device possible to stimulate the hardened sinner in his rebellious daring, to confirm the questioning, the doubting, the unbelieving, and, by misrepresentation and falsehood, to deceive, if it were possible, the very elect. Who are prepared to stand firmly under the banner on which is inscribed, "The commandments of God and the faith of Jesus"?

Christ never purchased peace and friendship by compromise with evil. Tho his heart overflowed with love toward the human race, He could not be indulgent to their sins. Because He loved men and women, He was a stern reprovcr of their vices. His life of suffering, the humiliation to which He was subjected by a perverse nation, show His followers that there must be no sacrifice of principle.

God's tried people must maintain watchfulness, with fervent prayer, lest, in their eagerness to prevent discord, they surrender truth, and thus dishonor the God of truth. Peace is too dearly obtained if purchased by the smallest concession to Satan's agencies. The least surrender of principle entangles us in the snare of the enemy.

Paul writes to the Romans, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." But there is a point beyond which it is impossible to maintain union and harmony without the sacrifice of principle. Separation then becomes an absolute duty. The laws of nations should be respected when they do not conflict with the laws of God. But when there is collision between them, every true disciple of Christ will say, as did

the apostle Peter when commanded to speak no more in the name of Jesus, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

—Mrs. E. G. White,
In The Signs of the Times, November 8, 1899.

Florida

The Tampa church number two held its second annual temperance educational program at the Allen Temple A. M. E. Church April 26. The house was filled and all seemed to enjoy the recitations, songs, and addresses.

Eighteen large temperance bulletins were hung on the inside walls of the church warning against the evil effect of strong drink. A large cloth sign was placed at the front entrance of the church announcing the exercises three days before the date. Two of the leading pastors of this city gave short addresses. The Temperance *Instructors* were distributed, and the offering amounted to \$10.68. Pledge cards were given to those who wished to sign them and disallow their allegiance to king alcohol. MRS. A. E. NOGEST.

Our Position On War

At the Spring Council of the Executive Committee of the North American Division Conference of Seventh-day Adventists held at the Oakwood Manual Training School near Huntsville, Alabama, April 12-19, the following pronouncement was unanimously adopted and has been filed with the Assistant Secretary of war in Washington:

"In behalf of the Seventh-day Adventists in the United States of America, the Executive Committee of the North American Division Conference of Seventh-day Adventists respectfully submit the following statement:

"We believe that civil government is ordained of God, and that in the exercise of its legitimate functions it should receive the support of its citizens. We believe in the principles upon which this Government was founded. We are loyal to its constitution, which is based upon the principles of democracy, and guarantees civil and religious liberty to all citizens.

"We deplore that our nation has

been drawn into the horrors of war, and shall continually pray that the God of Heaven may speedily bring peace to our country.

"We have been noncombatants throughout our history. During the Civil War our people officially declared:

"That we recognize civil government as ordained of God, that order, justice, and quiet may be maintained in the land, and that the people of God may lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty."

"In accordance with this fact, we acknowledge the justice of rendering tribute, custom, honor, and reverence to the civil power, as enjoined in the New Testament. While we thus cheerfully render to Caesar the things which the scriptures show to be his, we are compelled to decline all participation in acts of war and bloodshed, as being inconsistent with the duties enjoined upon us by our divine Master toward our enemies and toward all mankind."

"We hereby re-affirm the foregoing declaration. We petition that our religious convictions be recognized by those in authority, and that we be required to serve our country only in such capacity as will not violate our conscientious obedience to the Law of God as contained in the Decalogue, interpreted in the teachings of Christ, and exemplified in his life."

Home Nursing and Simple Treatments.

THIS is the title of a series of lessons based on Amy Pope's "Home Care of the Sick" and Dr. G. H. Heald's "Colds, Their Causes, Prevention, and Cure." They have been examined and endorsed by the General Conference Medical Department. They are designed to meet the needs of mothers in the home, and of others who wish to do missionary nursing, but are unable to take a full course of instruction at one of our sanitariums. The total cost, including text books, is \$5.50. Those who are interested should write at once for full particulars to

THE FIRESIDE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL,

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JOTTINGS

Among our recent visitors was Mrs. Seeney of Battle Creek, Mich., daughter of Elder T. B. Buckner. She spent a few days here visiting her brothers and sister. Sister Seeney was once a student at Oakwood.

Professor O. J. Graff, President of Emmanuel Missionary College, made the School a pleasant call recently and addressed the students in the chapel. His earnest remarks and direct method of appealing to his hearers were very impressive, and his talk was appreciated by teachers and students alike.

We were pleased to have with us during commencement week, Sisters Diggs, McKnight, and Jackson of Birmingham, Ala.

At the close of school, eighteen of our young men and women went out into the colporteur work, and several others are connecting with tent efforts for the summer. As these earnest young people go out to put into practice the things they have learned, we who remain behind will support them with our prayers, asking our heavenly Father to make them successful light bearers.

It is not too soon to begin planning to attend Oakwood Junior College the coming year. There are many of our workers who ought to avail themselves of the strengthened course of study and prepare themselves for greater usefulness

in the ministry, in Bible work or in teaching. Why should *you* not plan to be at Oakwood when school opens in September?

The copious rains and warm days of the past week have indeed been a blessing to Oakwood. We must also mention the earnestness with which our farm boys have taken hold of the work. Our farm manager tells us that the farm is in the best state of preparation that it has ever been since he has had any connection with the work here, and that if the season is at all propitious, our harvest will be abundant.

Because of the war conditions and his inability to procure material for tent making, Brother D. H. Lewis has left Oakwood and is now located near Dimondale, Michigan. We regret very much to lose Brother Lewis and his family from our midst, and as he enters a new field of endeavor, our best wishes go with him.

The second story of the Dining Hall, formerly occupied by the tent department is now being fitted up to accommodate students. These rooms will help to relieve the congested condition that has sometimes prevailed in the Boy's Dormitory.

We are glad to welcome to our family Misses Gladys Bartholomew, Ellen Bird, and Lillie Swofford who will spend the summer with their parents and relatives at Oakwood.

MARRIED: Sister E. I. Cartwright who has served for the past two years as matron at Oakwood and who is employed in the same capacity for the coming year, was quietly married on the evening of May 19, to L. E. Cunningham, a successful colporteur, who is at Oakwood preparing for greater usefulness in the cause of Christ. GOSPEL HERALD wishes these earnest workers much of God's blessing as they unite their interest in the common cause.

In another column we are printing the memorial which the Spring Council passed defining our position on the war situation. We recommend a quiet and reserved behavior of our brethren in this

crisis. It is a time for calm reflection and earnest prayer. The instruction given us for times of trial should receive careful attention. The day set for registration is June 5. Every man between the proscribed ages should comply with the requirements without question or delay.

We would call special attention to an article by Elder Wilcox in the recent *Review and Herald* and urge upon all workers to prayerfully study the following resolution passed at the Spring Council:

"We urge upon our brethren and sisters throughout the field and especially upon our ministers, teachers, and writers, the necessity of safeguarding their public utterances and work from extravagance of speech, unwarranted statements and predictions and sensational methods."

Work at Springfield, Ill

In answer to a call from the Southern Illinois Conference, I left Chicago February 28, arriving at Springfield, March 1. I met with the church that evening.

There are about seven thousand colored people in this city. Little or nothing has been accomplished for the advancement of the work among these people. We have a church building, erected a few years ago. We began a series of meetings on Sunday night, March 4. We have secured an outside hearing with an increase in attendance every night.

We have a membership of nineteen, a Sabbath school of twenty-six, and a M.V. Society of eleven members with a live missionary spirit. Every week we use for house-to-house work one hundred and fifty of the *Present Truth*. We are kept busy with our cottage meetings and Bible studies, and there is all ready quite an interest manifested on the part of some who seem hungering for truth. We believe that with faithfulness on the part of all, the work among the colored people of Springfield will advance, and many be brought to a saving knowledge of the truth.

FRED C. PHILIPS