



KEYNOTE

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THE MAID-SERVANT AT THE INN

"It's queer," she said: "I see the light
As plain as I beheld it then,
All silver-like and calm and bright --
We've not had stars like that again!

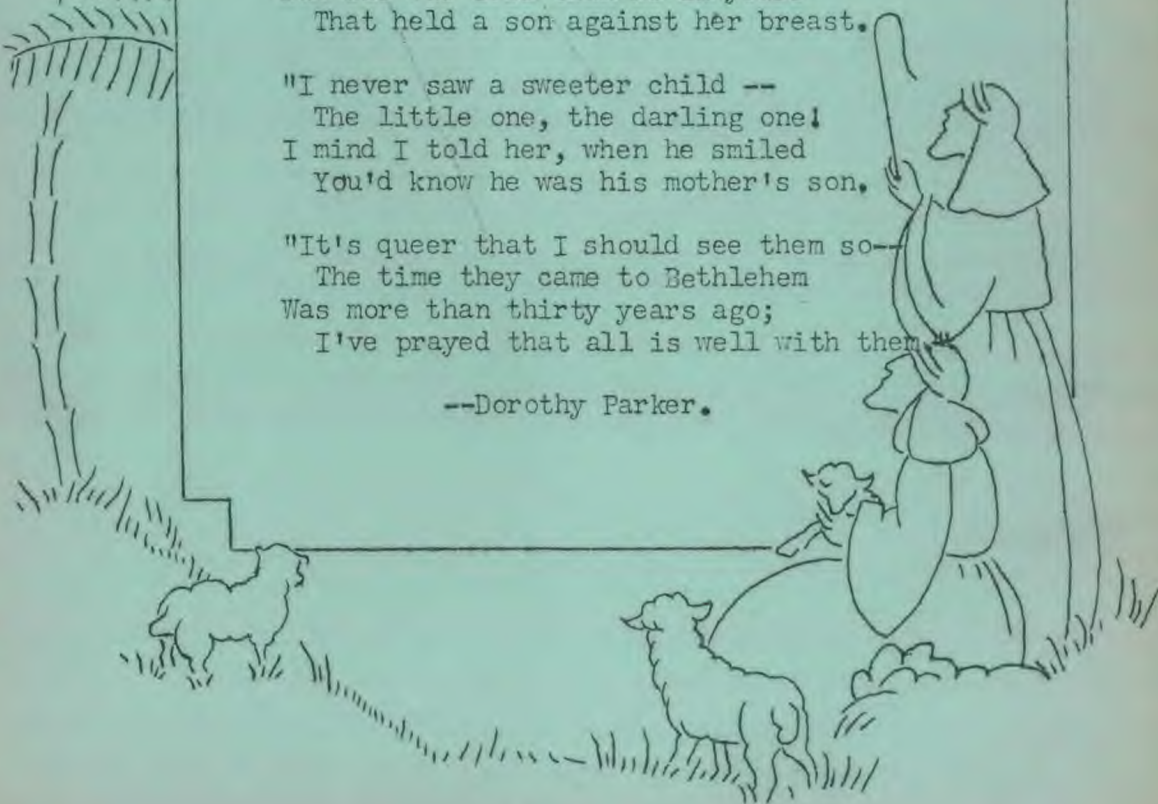
"And she was such a gentle thing
To birth a baby in the cold.
The barn was dark and frightening --
This new one's better than the old.

"I mind my eyes were full of tears,
For I was young and quick distressed,
But she was less than me in years
That held a son against her breast.

"I never saw a sweeter child --
The little one, the darling one!
I mind I told her, when he smiled
You'd know he was his mother's son.

"It's queer that I should see them so --
The time they came to Bethlehem
Was more than thirty years ago;
I've prayed that all is well with them.

--Dorothy Parker.



"Teatime!" reports Lydia Schander, the young woman who taught the Sabbath School lesson at the Youth's Congress, and now is a member of the General Conference secretarial staff. "Yes, indeed! As if touched by a magic wand, on the afternoon of November 13, the office of Elder W. E. Nelson turned into an attractive tea-room made gay and festive by tall red tapers which cast a warm glow over the beautifully arranged table. Delicious chocolate chip cookies, heaps of strawberry ice cream, and hot chocolate were served by three charming and gracious hostesses, Evelyn Wells, Frances Maiden, and Minnie Lou Campbell. Guests were all the people having permanent residency on the first floor of the General Conference office building who did not attend the Autumn Council. There were toasts to the hostesses, but momentarily joyful feelings turned to sorrow as thoughts came to mind of less fortunate friends in Grand Rapids. In spite of themselves, however, after Chester Rogers told the story that made him a 'gent'man evah since' the crowd were in a gayer mood. Marjorie Isner brought down the house with her little tale of the well behaved brothers. Bright sayings of kiddies also added to the fun. If there can always be tea parties at Autumn Council time, these first floor workers recommend having it quarterly.

On the other hand, most of the Keepers of the Keys who went to Grand Rapids had a delightful time. Helen Carpenter found the Autumn Council interesting, though she was quite busy reporting. Katie Farney spent a week-end with her brother in Detroit before returning to Washington. Stella Fleisher, who has attended Autumn Councils since 1922, enjoyed visiting with old friends. A friend visited Louise Surface, who afterwards spent some time in Detroit. Mercedes Moran attended the council advisory meetings. In one of the hotels, a cashier told her that Seventh-day Adventist conventions were always welcome because Adventists always conduct themselves properly and quietly. The Autumn Council was stimulating to Marion Nyman. Although she worked most of the time, she was comfortably busy, comfortably fixed, and had a good time visiting friends and relatives. Sabbath in Grand Rapids, Mary Paul was happy to see her two brothers, one from Michigan, and one from California, whom she had not expected to meet there. Frances Sampson thought the meetings she attended very interesting. On the way home she spent a week-end in Berrien Springs with her aunt and some friends. Hazel Shadel was especially glad to be in Grand Rapids because it is her old home town. While there she attended a dinner party given by some of the doctors attending the Council. Elsie Argent thought just "being around" at Grand

Rapids was delightful -- seeing lots of friends from California whom she doesn't often see, eating at the nice restaurants there, feeling the change of climate, and enjoying other "odds and ends." When she was not sick, Ora Williams found all the Autumn Council pleasant. On the Sabbath she reveled in the singing of the men's chorus. "These forty men marched onto the platform like Don Cossacks and sang sublimely," she said. "Among the hymns which this group sang was the chorus to "Canaan Land". The local pastor sang the first part of it with as fine a voice as I have heard. Then the string ensemble from Battle Creek was really professional and their music exquisite." Eva Linscott appreciated the special music too, and she thought the spiritual appeal -- especially that of the Sabbath meetings -- very good.

BOOKS FOR THE PHILIPPINES

Almost two years ago, under the leadership of Esther Benton, the girls in the General Conference office raised a sum of money with which to buy books for Philippine Union College to help in a small way the rehabilitation of that school. It was impossible to send the books then. Early this year the president of the college, Professor A. N. Nelson, was asked for a suggestive list of books needed, and he sent a list of elementary school books which were ordered from Scott Foresman & Company.

A recent letter from President Nelson states: "Those books which you so kindly sent have safely arrived. They are proving to be a great blessing in our elementary school because we lost practically all the books we had. We are happy indeed that these excellent publications are now available for our elementary students to use in their studies. Kindly thank your club, for we greatly appreciate what you have done for us.

"We are now in Quarter II of the 1947-48 school year, and the enrollment in the college is 197. In addition to this there are 225 high school students and 260 elementary students."

-- Mary Ogle

Since August 10, Keepers of the Keys have mailed 12 cartons of food and clothing (mostly clothing) weighing 366 pounds, to Mrs. J. C. Thompson for distribution among the needy in Germany.

At 7:45 the evening of November 9, eleven Keepers trooped up the walk at 810 Houston Street, and stood with their tongues in their cheeks while T. Rose Curtis rang the door bell. Professor Rebok opened the door and ushered them into the presence of Mrs. Rebok who sat in her charming living room adjusting hem lines on her daughter's dresses. Clearly, she was not expecting company but, gracious hostess that she is, she soon had the situation well in hand.

A couple of the girls took over the kitchen and served ice cream, cake, and punch; and all enjoyed a nice "chatty" evening.

In presenting the Keepers' parting gift, T. Rose told Mrs. Rebok the girls felt that even though she had quit working in the office she ought to make some provision for a rainy day, so they had bought her a lovely umbrella.

Mrs. Rebok is greatly missed around the office, but Mrs. Arabella Moore, now Assistant Secretary in the Department of Education is cordially welcomed as a Keeper of the Keys.

--Mary Ogle

Genevieve Melendy's cry, "What's the matter? Has everyone here gone crazy?" brought all those within hearing converging at her door. It was something of a relief to find everything as usual except that the switchboards were simultaneously flooded with calls. Perhaps everyone had gone mad or perhaps it was only a joke. Surely it wasn't mere coincidence that all the General Conference phones were picked up at 10:30 one morning. How about that?

Evelyn Wells, the Truitt twins, and the Smithfields (Helen and Grace) visited historic Williamsburg, Virginia, in November, and report a very pleasant time sightseeing.

Emma Howell is entertaining her niece and great-niece who are waiting in Washington for passage to their appointment in Northern Rhodesia. Her niece's husband, Delmar T. Burke, is scheduled to work in Barotseland.

In Detroit, Katie Farney has also visited recently her grand-nephews Jon and Jerel, identical twins, and a nephew's German war bride, Giselda, who comes from near Nurnberg. The twins, reported Katie with understandable pride, are five months old boys weighing twelve pounds each.

-- Frances Maiden

Elder and Mrs. Norman Dunn are happy that their son, Larry, his wife, Gertrude, and their nine-weeks old daughter, Bonnie Ruth, have come to Takoma Park to live while Larry, who has been in the army and has worked at the Loma Linda Sanitarium, attends Washington Missionary College.

Jewell Hatcher's father visited her for ten days during the early part of November and enjoyed sightseeing Washington. Jewell, Minnie Lou Campbell, Marion Nyman, Thelma Wellman, and Mrs. Marsh sang in the Thanksgiving cantata given at the Park church Friday evening, November 21, and in the Capitol Memorial Church, November 23 for Elder Boothby's evangelistic service. Jewell apparently has been very busy recently, for along with other activities she served as publicity chairman of the recent young people's relief drive. Minnie Lou also helped with publicity. Helen Smith was responsible for press notices, and Grace Fields made radio arrangements. Between ten and twelve tons of clothing and \$1,000 cash have been received.

Lelia Sanders left Washington Tuesday, November 25, to spend the Thanksgiving Holidays at home in Bloomington, Indiana.

Villa Houghton reports a new car, two canaries named Peanut and Cheery, and four gold fish.

-- Hazel Broome

LaVerne Case recently spent a day in Baltimore visiting an old school friend.

During December, Louise Meyer will attend child evangelism institutes in Denver, Colorado, Topeka, Kansas, Lincoln, Nebraska, and Kansas City, Missouri.

-- Norma Tron

Marylouise Black spent the Thanksgiving Holidays in Charleston, West Virginia.

Helen Miller was the dinner guest of LaVerne Case and her husband Thanksgiving Day. Kay Thomas entertained Jonna Smith and two other friends Thanksgiving. Mrs. Patterson welcomed her sister and family from Kilmarnock, Virginia, and her sister in Washington, with a sumptuous Thanksgiving Dinner.

It isn't too cold to go to the beach on Thanksgiving! Then the Adairs and the Caslows visited Rehoboth Beach in Delaware. This was a special occasion for the Caslows, falling on Louise's birthday and being Irene's first glimpse of the Atlantic Ocean.

During the latter part of November, Mrs. Wood, of the Takoma Park Dorcas Society received \$114.50 and some clothing gathered by Keepers of the Keys for refugees in Austria.

My sister Elizabeth and I took possession of one of the Seminary Apartments, November 21, preparing dinner for another sister, Catherine, and her husband, Ainsley Blair, from Alberta, Canada. Ainsley is a minister who plans to attend the Seminary.

--Mary Neufeld

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Tate have a new Ford in which November 21 they took Pruin Van Cleve and Bob Ford to Shenandoah Valley Academy where Pruin attended school. After spending the week-end there, they visited Mr. Tate's family in Richmond, Virginia, during the Thanksgiving Holidays.

Myrtle Burdette spent the week-end of November 15 in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

The Purchasing Department has rented the Fire Hall for volley ball games the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

Esther Fenn has been appointed P.T.A. leader of the Sligo Normal Training School.

--Pauline Vaughn



The editor, art editors, typists and printers of the Keynote wish you all A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BRIGHT AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.