

The Missionary Leader

"The leaders took the lead in Israel"

Vol. 2

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No. 12

Church Missionary Programmes

First Week Christian Service

Opening Exercises

Reports of Labour.

Bible Study: "The Life and the Work."

"Impressed to Study the Prophecies."

"Church Elder's Experience."

"Useless Prayer."

"Hindering Our Christianity."

Plans for Work.

Hymn.

LEADER'S NOTE.—To read or to hear the Scriptures, and not to do the things they say, is useless. Each member should be encouraged to consider the instruction given in the lesson as personal to him. The use of the blackboard in connection with it would be helpful. As each text is read, let some one write the leading thought on the board. At the close of the study it will then be easy to briefly review them. Remember always that we are in the days of the *finishing* of the work. Keep this constantly before your members, that they may not be tempted to relax their efforts because they think the Lord delays His coming. Sister White was recently shown that our work will close suddenly when we least expect it. Our only safety, therefore, is in doing it now, as rapidly as we can, that we may not be caught unawares.

There are lines of work suited to all. We have tracts, periodicals, and magazines to circulate. They are surely meat in due season. Do not forget the sick, the poor, the infirm, the unfortunate, the sorrowful. The opportunities are everywhere. Will your members use them? Much will depend upon the leaders whether they do or not.

The Life and the Work

1. WHAT does Peter say Christ left us? 1 Peter 2:21.
2. What was His great purpose in life? Matt. 28:20; Luke 19:10.
3. Shall we, if truly converted, manifest the same spirit? 1 John 3:16.
4. What great privilege has God given us? 2 Cor. 5:18, 20.
5. Can we remain idle if we really have the spirit of Christ? Matt. 4:19.

6. What scripture shows that we are to begin at home and work out as far as we can reach? Acts 1:8.

7. Are some excused for lack of ability? Matt. 25:14, 15.

8. How shall we know what to do? Matt. 11:29; 1 John 2:27.

9. What assurance have we of Christ's help? Matt. 28:20.

10. Will you not determine, to-day, to spend the short time remaining before the Saviour comes in earnest service for Him?

"Impressed to Study the Prophecies"

RECENTLY, while canvassing for "Bible Readings," I interviewed a well-educated lady who, from the first, gave me her undivided attention. When I had finished the canvass, she said, "I have been impressed of late to study the prophecies."

I asked her if she had been reading some books or other literature that had caused her to be thus impressed, and she replied that she had not, but that since the European war began, she had been studying her Bible more, and consequently had been impressed to study the prophetic portion.

She seemed to realise something of the true nature of Catholicism, as her husband had been brought up in the Catholic faith, but had recently severed his connection with it. At my suggestion she readily gave her subscription for the *Protestant Magazine* for a year. This was done after she had given her order for the book.

There are many people in this world who, like this lady, have been impressed recently with the importance of studying their Bibles; but they do not know just how to study these prophecies, and are waiting for the books and magazines that we have. We have only a little time yet in which to work. Shall we not make the most of this time?

A COLPORTEUR.

Church Elder's Experience

"I BELIEVE there are many who will be strengthened and encouraged by reading the experiences of some of God's people whose lives have not been all sunshine, nor their paths in life strewn with flowers. My lot in life has been with the labouring class of people, with no home of my own until I earned one. Having no one to care for me, I paid my way in the world among strangers from the time I was eleven years old. The little education I have was paid for by my own earnings. From childhood hard work on a farm was the principal part of my education. In disposition I was naturally quiet, bashful, timid, and retiring, particularly wishing to avoid making myself conspicuous in any way, lest some one should hurt my sensitive feelings by some unkind remark. Well do I remember my loving mother kneeling at the bedside, and praying that God would guide the feet of her little son in the paths of rectitude and duty. Have these prayers been answered? We shall see.

"I have never forgotten the prayers of that loved and loving mother, who delighted in reading God's Holy Word. I learned to love it, too, for it told me that God loved me, and had a beautiful home for all who would love and obey Him, and a crown of eternal life in the sunshine of His glorious presence throughout eternity. Oh, what a glorious prize to win! Yes, I would *try* for it. I gave my heart to God, and my prayer to Him was that He would lead and guide me. Have these prayers been answered? We shall see.

"I joined the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, of which I was a member for several years. They wanted to elect me as deacon, but I could not accept the position. I was trying to understand how Sunday could be the Sabbath, and how several denominations could make three separate modes of baptism out of one, and why they teach that the soul is

immortal, all of which were in direct contradiction to the teaching of the Holy Book I loved so well. About that time the Seventh-day Adventists held a tent-meeting in this beautiful city. I was with difficulty induced to attend by one of those people, who had known me for some time. There I listened to a sermon on the Sabbath and keeping of the Law. Before the sermon was half finished, I saw very plainly that while I had been professing to be a Christian, I did not possess any Christianity whatever, for I was condemned because I was not a doer of the Word. Then and there I resolved, by the grace of God, that I would obey Jehovah and keep His commandments. Soon after, I was baptized and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in this city, of which church I am still a member.

"Are my mother's prayers in my behalf still being answered? I have already told of my quiet, timid, bashful nature. When I was called upon to pray in church gatherings, my voice would tremble and great drops of perspiration would come out on my face; but, asking God's help, I would do the best I could. Can you imagine how utterly helpless I felt, when, about six years ago, I was elected elder of the church, and I dared not refuse to serve my loving and loved Master the best I could? I have filled the position of elder for four years to the best of my ability, but I was often in secret prayer for divine help, not forgetting His promises to those who obey Him. And in answer to prayer, He has removed all of those difficulties from me. Many, many times before howling in prayer I breathe a few words to God in silent prayer for help, wisdom, and consecration, and the answer has come instantly, for faith is the victory, praise be to God!"

This brother's experience has been given fully, because there are several points of encouragement in it. How his mother's prayers and the study of God's Word moulded his life! Through this mother's prayers this brother was led to pray himself, and through his prayers the Lord has been enabled to lead him to a life of usefulness in His cause. Prayer and study of God's Word will make a successful soul-winner of any and every one.

"No CHURCH can flourish unless its members are workers."

Useless Prayer

A CITY missionary tells of an experience in London. He was hurrying on his rounds one bitter January day, when he heard cries of little children in a house he was passing. He listened for a moment, then knocked at the door, but no one answered his knocking. Then he opened the door and went in. He found himself in a miserable apartment, without furniture, without fire. In one corner, on a pile of straw, lay a woman, dead, with two children clinging to her and crying piteously.

At a moment's glance the missionary saw the sadness of the case, and, falling upon his knees, began to call upon God. He believed in prayer, and pleaded with intense earnestness that heaven would send help to these poor orphaned children in their great distress. So importunate did he become in his pleading that he spoke rashly, and said: "O, God, send Thine angel to care for these poor children. Send at once, or my faith this instant dies." Immediately he seemed to hear, plainly and clearly, as if a divine voice were speaking to him, the words, "Thou art Mine angel; for this very purpose did I send thee here."

He saw now that he had no right to ask God to send any other messenger to minister to these needy little ones; that prayer was presumptuous. Taking the children by the hand, he quickly led them to a place of shelter, where they were cared for.—*Selected.*

Hindering Our Christianity

AN energetic woman whose housewifely feats were always pushed to the limit of endurance and strength, was observed to have changed her routine. "No, I've ceased to do my work that way," she admitted. "I've found that I can't wash, iron, and be a Christian all in one day." It was a fortunate discovery and a wise amendment. There are many people doing their work—good and useful work—at such a rushing rate that there is neither time nor strength left for being a Christian. When the nerves grow tense and the temper sharp, when our fellow-creatures seem chiefly interested in keeping well out of our way, and there is no time for a word of sympathy with the children's pleasure or the neighbour's grief, there is surely a need

to call a halt in our rapid pace. The Master can not use that kind of service.—*Selected.*

Second Week

Co-labourers with God

Opening Exercises.

Reports of Labour.

Lesson: "Missionary Work."

"Missionary Lives."

"The Lord's Guidance to Honest Souls."

"Witnessing at the Door."

Plans for Work.

Hymn.

LEADER'S NOTE.—In the smaller churches the reports might be given this week in the following manner, for a change: Before the meeting opens, write on the blackboard the lines of work being carried on by the church, and place the board where it can be easily reached. Sing the hymn, "Working, O Christ, with Thee," as the members go, one by one, to put the figures representing their work on the board. Call attention to the figures, and that they represent avenues through which the Holy Spirit can work; then ask for any interesting incidents connected with the work that has been done.

Each question in the lesson should be given to a member the week before the meeting, with instructions to find a reply to it from the chapter on "The Work and the Life," in "Steps to Christ." It will be well for the leader also to look up suitable replies, in case any fail in doing their parts.

Seeing that God has honoured us by choosing us to be labourers together with Him, plans should be carefully laid to enable each member to labour according to his opportunities.

Missionary Work

FIND answers in "Steps to Christ," chapter on "The Work and the Life," to the following:

1. What will constitute the Christian's real joy?
2. Give reasons why God has chosen us to be labourers together with Him.
3. What is the sure effect of unselfishly working for others?
4. "There is nothing that I can do."
5. "I cannot talk to people about their souls."
6. "I am not good enough to help others."
7. "There is so much to be done that I do not see how the little I can do will amount to anything."
8. "I cannot leave home to engage in missionary work."
9. "I have no ability."
10. What is the meaning of Paul's words, "Work out your own salvation"?

Missionary Lives

"WE all should be missionaries wherever we go. All missions are not to foreign lands. Everywhere we go, people should get a little of the gospel of love from us, if not in words, certainly in deeds and in influence. There is a legend of Jesus which says that as He walked away from His grave, on the morning of His resurrection, sweet flowers grew in the path behind Him. The legend is true in a spiritual sense—wherever His footsteps have pressed the earth, all these nineteen centuries, flowers have sprung up,—flowers of love, of kindness, of gentleness, of thoughtfulness."

The Lord's Guidance to Honest Souls

FROM a brother in the State of Washington we have another evidence of the way in which the Lord is guiding our people to the honest-hearted souls. His account of this experience is as follows:

"A few months ago, after trying to think of some way that I might help advance the cause, I dreamed that a neighbour of mine, whose family consists of himself, wife, grown daughter, and boy of eleven years, was in my presence, and asked me to express to him my opinion of the state of the dead. I told him that my opinion was of no importance whatever, but asked what was his opinion. He gave the popular view as being his opinion, and again requested that I give mine. I refused to give my opinion, but said I would be willing to show him what the Bible said on the subject. He asked me to do so, and expressed himself as being astonished to see such things in the Bible, and that that explanation was the most reasonable he had ever seen or heard. The dream then ended, and I awoke. From the time of waking there was a strong impression on my mind, as though some person in authority had spoken to me, that I should go and hold Bible readings with that family. This impression continued for weeks, ever growing stronger. I had only visited the family in a business way, and had never talked on any Bible subject with any of them, and how could I go and hold Bible readings with them? But after weeks had passed away, I consented to go.

"The daughter was doing domestic work away from home. One day I took my Bible and called at the house. I found them engaged in a game with a neighbour who had called in for the evening, so after staying for a while I returned home. But the impression that I should hold Bible readings with that family would give me no rest. In about a week I went again, but again I was hindered, and could do nothing but remain a while and return home. In obedience to the impression, which had grown stronger, I went again in about another week. These people are Norwegians, and at this visit the daughter was at home, and there was nothing to hinder holding a Bible reading.

"After visiting for a few minutes, I said to the daughter, 'Ruth, can you read Norwegian?' 'Yes.' 'I wish you would get your father's Bible, and show me how John 3:16 reads.' She got the Bible, and the whole family sat round the kitchen table and listened. After calling their attention to the last part of the verse, I took them to Luke 18:30, last part, 2 Peter 3:13 Isa. 65:17-25, all the while leaving the impression that they were teaching me. In this way I gave them a Bible reading on the home of the saved before they knew it. When I had finished that subject, the one came up that was before us in the dream, and the talk and study of it were practically just as I had dreamed. Thus the dear Lord showed me how to go before these people and open the Scriptures to them. I have tried the same plan in other families, and, as in this case, it has resulted in a cordial invitation to come and hold more studies.

"A short time ago I stepped into a strange house to get shelter from the rain. The lady, with her children, sat down to entertain me. I asked if we might not have a little Bible study while the rain lasted. Having their consent, I requested them to get their Bibles, and I gave them a study on the home of the saved. The lady expressed herself as being surprised to read such things in the Bible, but said that such a home would be a great deal better than the one that popular theology tells about."

These experiences remind us of these words, "Find access to the people in whose neighbourhood you live. As you tell them of the truth, use words of Christlike sympathy. Remember that the Lord Jesus is the

Master-worker. He waters the seed sown. He puts into your mind words that will reach hearts. Expect that God will sustain the consecrated, unselfish worker."—*"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. IX, page 41.*

Witnessing at the Door

THE following interesting little story was heard over the counter in the book tent at the Richmond Camp-meeting:

"A poor widow called at our door a few days ago, and told us she had a son who had a crippled hand, and she wondered if we could give him some work to do on Saturdays. I told her that Saturday was the Sabbath, and that we never did any work on that day. She seemed surprised, and so I asked her if she would like to have a little reading matter on the subject. She seemed very interested in our conversation, and said that she would be very thankful for any literature I could give her.

"I gave her a few copies of the *Signs*, and also a copy of "The World's Crisis." When she saw this little book, she was very pleased, and said she would read every word of it.

"On her way home a gentleman on the tram saw her reading the book, and his curiosity led him to ask her where she obtained it. She told him that it was given to her. Then he asked her if she would sell it to him. She refused to do this, but offered to let him look it over while she was on the tram. He took the book and read it very eagerly, and also wrote down the name of the publishers, informing the woman that he wanted copies of it." This incident illustrates what possibilities are wrapped up in a simple little testimony such as our sister gave to the widow when she called at her door. Let us be "out and out" for the truth, ready with the reason for our hope, and we may rest assured that the influence will count for the kingdom. E. L.

"If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"

Third Week Our Neighbours

Opening Exercises.

Lesson: "How We Can Help Our Neighbours?"

"Remembering the Prisoners,"

"Ashamed."

Poem: "Go, Work,"

Reports of Labour: How have we helped our neighbours?

Hymn.

LEADER'S NOTE.—In this lesson are made valuable suggestions for soul-winning work. As each extract is read, the leading thoughts should be emphasized. It would be well to note on the blackboard the different methods of working that are mentioned, and at the close of the study show the members how much there is they may do.

How We Can Help Our Neighbours

1. WHAT are needed for this work?

Missionaries for God are wanted, faithful men and women who will not shirk responsibility. Judicious labour will accomplish good results. There is real work to be done. The truth should be brought before people in a careful manner by those who unite meekness with wisdom. We should not hold ourselves aloof from our fellow-men, but come close to them; for their souls are as precious as our own. We can carry the light into their homes; with a softened and subdued spirit plead with them to come up to the exalted privilege offered them, pray with them when it seems proper; and show them that there are higher attainments that they may reach; and then guardedly speak to them of the sacred truths for these last days.—"*Gospel Workers*," page 327.

2. What may we be sure of receiving in this work?

The humble, efficient worker, who obediently responds to the call of God, may be sure of receiving divine assistance. To feel so great and holy a responsibility is in itself elevating to the character. It calls into action the highest mental qualities, and their continued exercise strengthens and purifies mind and heart. The influence upon one's own life, as well as upon the lives of others, is incalculable.—"*Gospel Workers*," page 359.

3. Where should we begin?

Take up the work anywhere and everywhere. Do that which is the nearest you, right at your own doors, however humble and uncommended it may seem. Work only for the glory of God and the good of men. Let self sink out of sight, while with earnest purpose and solemn prayers of faith you work for Him who has died that you might live. Go to your neighbours one by one, and come close to them till their hearts are warmed by your unselfish interest and love. Sympathize with them, pray for them, watch for opportunities to do them good, and as you can, gather a few together and open the Word of God to their darkened minds. Keep watching as he who must render an account for the souls of men, and make the most of the privileges that God

gives you of labouring with Him in His vineyard. Do not neglect speaking to your neighbours and doing them all the kindness in your power, "that you may by all means save some." We need to seek for the spirit that constrained the apostle Paul to go from house to house, pleading with tears, and teaching "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."—"*Gospel Workers*," page 336.

4. Where should we gain access?

To all who are working for Christ, I would say, Wherever you can get access to the fireside, urge your way there. Take your Bible and open before the people its great truths. Your success will not depend so much upon your knowledge and accomplishments, as upon your ability to find your way to the heart. By being social and coming close to the people, you may turn the current of their thoughts more readily than by the most able discourses. The presentation of Christ, in the family, by the fireside, and in small gatherings in private houses, is often more successful in securing souls to Jesus than are sermons delivered in the open air, to the moving throng, or even in halls or churches.—"*Gospel Workers*," page 340.

5. How should we visit?

Much depends upon the manner in which you meet those whom you visit. We should manifest cheerfulness in our work. You can take hold of the hand in such a way as at once to gain the confidence, or in a cold, unimpressive manner, as though you were an iceberg, and had no interest in the person. Such a manner will repulse, and you will find no warmth of feeling. We should not act as though it were a condescension to come in contact with the poor. They are as good by nature as we, and we must talk to them as though we thought them so. We should clothe ourselves in plain, simple attire, so that none may be needlessly embarrassed. The joy which comes into the homes of the poor is often very limited, and why not carry rays of light to shine in upon them and fill their hearts? What we need is the tender sympathy of Jesus; then we can win our way to the hardest heart.—"*Gospel Workers*," page 395.

6. What should be the duty of every church member?

Every church member should feel it his special duty to labour for those living in his neighbourhood. Study how you can best help those who take no interest in religious things. As you visit your friends and neighbours, show an interest in their spiritual as well as in their temporal welfare. Present Christ as a sin-pardoning Saviour. Invite your neighbours to your home, and read with them from the precious Bible and from books that explain its truths. This, united with simple songs and fervent prayers, will touch their hearts. Let church members educate themselves to do this work. This is just as essential as to save the benighted souls in foreign countries. While some feel the burden of souls afar off, let the many who are at home feel the burden of precious souls around them, and work just as diligently for their salvation. The hours so often spent in amusement that refreshes neither body nor soul, should

be spent in visiting the poor, the sick, and the suffering, or in seeking to help some one who is in need.—"*Testimonies for the Church*," Vol. VI, page 276.

7. For what does God call?

God calls not only for your benevolence, but for your cheerful countenance, your hopeful words, the grasp of your hand. As you visit the Lord's afflicted ones, you will find some from whom hope has departed; bring back the sunshine to them. There are those who need the Bread of Life; read to them from the Word of God. Upon others there is a soul sickness that no earthly balm can reach or physician heal; pray for these and bring them to Jesus.—"*Testimonies for the Church*," Vol. VI, page 277.

8. How should we help the needy?

Methods of helping the needy should be carefully and prayerfully considered. We are to seek God for wisdom, for He knows better than short-sighted mortals how to care for the creatures He has made. There are some who give indiscriminately to every one who solicits their aid. In this they err. In trying to help the needy, we should be careful to give them the right kind of help. There are those who, when helped, will continue to make themselves special objects of need. They will be dependent as long as they see anything on which to depend. By giving undue time and attention to these, we may encourage idleness, helplessness, extravagance, and intemperance. When we give to the poor, we should consider, "Am I encouraging prodigality? Am I helping or injuring them?" No man who can earn his own livelihood has a right to depend on others.—"*Testimonies for the Church*," Vol. VI, pages 277, 278.

9. What are the benefits of circulating our periodicals among our neighbours?

(1) But few realise what can be done in reaching the people by personal, interested efforts in a wise distribution of our publications. Many who will not be induced to listen to the truth presented by the living preacher, will take up a tract or a paper, and peruse it; many things they read meet their ideas exactly, and they become interested to read all it contains. Impressions are thus made upon their minds which they cannot readily forget. The seed of truth has in some cases been buried for years beneath the rubbish of the world and the pleasing fables that deceived ones have enjoyed. After a time some earthly sorrow or affliction softens their hearts, and the seed springs up and bears fruit to the glory of God.

(2) Again, many read these papers and tracts, and their combativeness is aroused, and they throw the silent messengers from them in a passion. But ideas all new to them have, although unwelcome, made their impression. Again the hand takes up the neglected paper or tract, and the eye is tracing the truthful lines, and again in passion it is thrown from them as their path is crossed. But the mind is not at rest; the abused paper is at last perused, and thus point after point of truth begins its convincing work; step by step the reformation is wrought, self dies, and the warfare against the truth is ended.—"*Gospel Workers*," pages 409, 410.

Remembering the Prisoners

"I WAS in prison, and ye came unto Me." A Christian who was crippled for life felt that there was little he could do. But when it was suggested to him that he might write to other prisoners—those in jails—he decided to undertake the task. He put into those letters all the wit and cheer and strength of his Christian manhood. No replies ever came, and it was hard to be faithful in a work so unappreciated; until, one day, a line came from the jailer. "Dear Sir, will you use thick paper, for your letters drop to pieces with much reading as they pass from cell to cell?"

Ashamed

A VISITOR at the hospice of St. Bernard in the Alps tells of one of the noble dogs coming in one morning holding his head and tail to the ground, and slinking away to a dark corner of his kennel, as if ashamed to look any one in the face. The monks explained to the visitor that the dog had not been able to find anybody in the snow that morning to rescue, and therefore was ashamed to come in from his search. How will it be with us when we reach the end of our life, if we have not rescued any one from its storms and its dangers?—*J. R. Miller.*

"Go, Work"

* Let not thy hands be slack,
The Lord hath need of thee;
He bids thee work whilst it is day,
Hark! now He calleth thee.

Why stand ye idle here?
The fields are white with corn,
Souls now are perishing for bread;
Go, work while yet 'tis morn.

Go to the starving sheep
Scatter'd o'er mount and hill;
Gather and lead into My fold,
Where open mouths I fill.

Tell them of Jesus' love,
Of Him, the living bread;
Of the life spring—of pastures green,
Where safely they may tread.

Go, work; the Master calls!
The labourers are few.
Hide not thy talent in the earth,
He will with power endue.

Wilt thou not heed His call?
Why stand ye idling here?
What shall thine answer be when thou
At judgment shall appear?

—*Maud Crogen.*

Fourth Week

Personal Work

Opening Exercises.
Reports of Labour.
Lesson: "Working for Individuals."
"How Tom Won a Soul."
Plans for Work.
Hymn.

LEADER'S NOTE.—A good way to present this subject would be to put the various headings on the board, and then have the answers in Scripture texts and quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy read by members to whom they have been previously given out. Review the statements on the board at the close of the study to emphasize the thoughts presented.

Working for Individuals

I. *Christ's Plan for His Followers.*
Mark 1:17.

"It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of saving souls depends solely on the ordained minister. All to whom the heavenly inspiration has come, are put in trust with the gospel. All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of their fellow-men. For this work the church was established, and all who take upon themselves its sacred vows are thereby pledged to become co-workers with Christ. . . .

"Whatever one's calling in life, his first interest should be to win souls for Christ. He may not be able to speak to congregations, but he can work for individuals."—*"Desire of Ages," page 985.*

"It is by no casual, accidental touch that wealthy, world-loving, world-worshipping souls can be drawn to Christ. These persons are often the most difficult of access. Personal effort must be put forth for them by men and women imbued with the missionary spirit, those who will not fail or be discouraged."—*"Ministry of Healing," page 213.*

II. *Make Jesus Your Personal Saviour.* John 1:40-45; Matt. 1:21.

III. *Unconditional Surrender.* John 2:5; 2 Kings 5:11-14.

"In all your work, remember that you are bound up with Christ, a part of the great plan of redemption. The love of Christ, in a healing, life-giving current, is to flow through your life. As you seek to draw others within the circle of His love, let the purity of your language, the unselfishness of your service, the joy-

fulness of your demeanour, bear witness to the power of His grace. Give to the world so pure and righteous a representation of Him that men shall behold Him in His beauty."—*"Ministry of Healing," page 156.*

IV. *Willingness to Be Led.* Acts 8:26, 27; 10:20, 21.

"To His servants Christ commits 'His goods,'—something to be put to use for Him. He gives 'to every man his work.' Each has his place in the eternal plan of heaven. Each is to work in co-operation with Christ for the salvation of souls. Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God."—*"Christ's Object Lessons," page 326.*

V. *God Will Give You Words to Speak.* Ex. 4:11, 12; Jer. 1:9; Isa. 50:4.

"The word of the Lord will be in your mouth as truth and righteousness.

"Personal effort for others should be preceded by much secret prayer; for it requires great wisdom to understand the science of saving souls. Before communicating with men, commune with Christ. At the throne of heavenly grace obtain a preparation for ministering to the people."—*"Christ's Object Lessons," page 149.*

VI. *Study.* 2 Tim. 2:15.

"God requires the training of the mental faculties. He designs that His servants shall possess more intelligence and clearer discernment than the worldling, and He is displeased with those who are too careless or too indolent to become efficient, well-informed workers. The Lord bids us love Him with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and with all the mind. This lays upon us the obligation of developing the intellect to its fullest capacity, that with all the mind we may know and love our Creator.

"If placed under the control of His Spirit, the more thoroughly the intellect is cultivated, the more effectively it can be used in the service of God. The uneducated man who is consecrated to God and who longs to bless others, can be, and is, used by the Lord in His service. But those who, with the same spirit of consecration, have had the benefit of a thorough education, can do a much

more extensive work for Christ. They stand on vantage ground."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 333.

VII. *Begin in Jerusalem—Your Own Home.* Acts 1:8.

"One of the most effective ways in which light can be communicated is by private, personal effort. In the home circle, at your neighbour's fire-side, at the bedside of the sick, in a quiet way you may read the Scriptures and speak a word for Jesus and the truth. Thus you may sow precious seed that will spring up and bring forth fruit. Our work for Christ is to begin with the family, in the home. . . . By precept and example parents are to teach their children to labour for the unconverted."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. VI, pages 428, 429.

How Tom Won a Soul

TOM said, "It won't do to keep all this blessed news to myself," so he thought how he could bless others with it. His bed stood close by the window-sill, which was low, and somehow he got a pencil and paper and wrote out different texts, which he would fold and pray over and drop in the noisy street below, directed, "To the passer-by—please read."

He hoped that by this means some might hear of Jesus and His salvation. This service of love, faithfully rendered, went on for some weeks, when, one evening, he heard a strange footstep, and, immediately afterward, a tall, well-dressed gentleman entered the room and took a seat by the lad's bedside.

"So you are the lad who drops texts from the window, are you?" he asked kindly.

"Yes," said Tom, brightening up. "Have you heard that some one has got hold of one?"

"Many, lad, many. Would you believe it if I told you that I picked up one last evening, and God blessed it to my soul?"

"I can believe in God's Word doing anything, sir," said the lad, humbly.

"And I am come," said the gentleman, "to thank you personally."

"Not me, sir. I only do the writing: He does the blessing."

"And are you happy in this work for Christ?" said the visitor.

"Couldn't be happier, sir. I don't think anything of the pain in my back,

for shan't I be glad when I see Him, to tell Him that as soon as I knew about Him I did all that I could to serve Him? I suppose you get lots of chances, don't you, sir?"

"Ah, lad, but I have neglected them: but, God helping me, I mean to begin afresh! At home, in the country, I have a sick lad dying.

"I had to come to town on pressing business. When I kissed him good-bye, he said, 'Father, I wish I had done some work for Jesus; I cannot bear to meet Him empty handed,' and the words stuck to me all day long, and the next day, too, until the evening, when I was passing down the street, your little paper fell on my hat. I opened it and read, 'I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.' John 9:4. It seemed like a command from heaven.

"I have professed to be a Christian for twenty-five years, my lad, and when I made enquiries, and found out who dropped these texts into the street, and why it was done, it so shamed and humbled me that I determined to go home and work for the same Master that you are serving so faithfully."

Tears of joy were running down the lad's face. "It's too much, sir," he said, "altogether too much!"

"Tell me how you managed to get the paper to start it, my lad."

"That wasn't hard, sir. I just had a talk with granny, and offered to give up my halfpennyworth of milk she gives me most days, if she would buy me paper instead. You know sir, I can't last long. The parish doctor says a few months' cold weather may finish me off, and a drop of milk is not much to give up for my blessed Jesus. Are people happy who have lots to give Him, sir?"

The visitor sighed a deep sigh. "Ah, lad, you are a great deal happier in this small room, making sacrifices for Jesus, than thousands who profess to belong to Him, who have time, talents, and money, and do little or nothing for Him!"

"They don't know Him, sir. Knowing is loving, and loving is doing. It is not love without."—*Selected*.

"A MAN'S faith may be known by his faithfulness."

Missionary Volunteer Programmes

First Week

The Ministry of Angels

Hymn.

Prayer.

Secretary's Report.

Scripture Drill.

Hymn.

Reports of Labour.

"Good Angels."

Poem: "Invisible Friends."

"He Shall Give His Angels Charge over Thee."

Bible Incidents by Members.

Hymn.

LEADER'S NOTE.—In the study on "Good Angels," the leader should make the statements and call upon the members, to whom the texts and quotations have previously been given, to read the answers. To make a break in this study, we have suggested that the hymn, "Hark! Hark! My Soul," be sung where indicated. "Bible Incidents." Each member should be asked the week previous to come prepared to relate a Bible incident showing how God has used angels to protect and work for His children. This part of the programme should be a very interesting one.

Good Angels

I. *The Heavenly Family.* Eph. 3:14, 15.

"WITH the Word of God in his hands, every human being, wherever his lot in life may be cast, may have such companionship as he shall choose. . . . He may dwell in this world in the atmosphere of heaven, imparting to earth's sorrowing and tempted ones thoughts of hope and longings for holiness; himself coming closer and still closer into fellowship with the Unseen; like him of old who walked with God, drawing nearer and nearer the threshold of the eternal world, until the portals shall open, and he shall enter there. He will find himself no stranger. The voices that will greet him are the voices of the holy ones, who, unseen, were on earth his companions,—voices that here he learned to distinguish and to love. He who through the Word of God has lived in fellowship with heaven, will find himself at home in heaven's companionship."—*Education*, page 127.

II. *The Number of Angels.* Rev. 5:11; Dan. 7:10.

III. *Guardian Angels.* Matt. 18 : 10 ; Eccles. 5 : 5, 6.

"A guardian angel is appointed to every follower of Christ. These heavenly watchers shield the righteous from the power of the wicked one. This Satan himself recognized when he said, 'Doth Job fear God for naught? Hast not Thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?'"—*Great Controversy*," page 512.

IV. *Angels Communicate God's Will.* Rev. 1 : 1 ; Dan. 8 : 16.

V. *Angels' Part in the Work of Redemption.*

1. Ministers to the heirs of salvation. Heb 1 : 14.

"The heavenly intelligences will work with the human agent who seeks with determined faith that perfection of character which will reach out to perfection in action."—*Christ's Object Lessons*," page 332.

2. Their joy in conversions. Luke 15 : 10.

"Angels weep, while human eyes are dry and hearts are closed to pity."—*Christ's Object Lessons*," page 192.

"And when one is brought back to God, all heaven is made glad : seraphs and cherubs touch their golden harps, and sing praises to God and the Lamb for their mercy and loving-kindness to the children of men."—*Christ's Object Lessons*," page 192.

3. Restrain Satan. Rev. 7 : 1.

"Angels are now restraining the winds of strife, that they may not blow until the world shall be warned of its coming doom; but a storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth; and when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture."—*Education*," pages 179, 180.

[Here sing, "Hark! Hark! My Soul."]

VI. *Angels Protect Men.* Ps. 34 : 7 ; 91 : 11.

"Not until the providences of God are seen in the light of eternity, shall we understand what we owe to the care and interposition of His angels. Celestial beings have taken an active part in the affairs of men. They have appeared in garments that shone as the lightning; they have come as men, in the garb of wayfarers. They

have accepted the hospitalities of human homes; they have acted as guides to benighted travellers. They have thwarted the spoiler's purpose, and turned aside the stroke of the destroyer."—*Education*," page 304.

"The heavenly sentinels, faithful to their trust, continue their watch. Though a general decree has fixed the time when commandment-keepers may be put to death, their enemies will in some cases anticipate the decree, and, before the time specified, will endeavour to take their lives. But none can pass the mighty guardians stationed about every faithful soul. Some are assailed in their flight from the cities and villages; but the swords raised against them break and fall as powerless as a straw. Others are defended by angels in the form of men of war."—*Great Controversy*," page 631.

VII. *Angels Appear to Men.* Gen. 18 : 8 ; 19 : 3 ; Judges 6 : 11.

"Though the rulers of this world know it not, yet often in their councils, angels have been spokesmen. Human eyes have looked upon them; human ears have listened to their appeals; human lips have opposed their suggestions and ridiculed their counsels; human hands have met them with insult and abuse. In the council hall and the court of justice, these heavenly messengers have shown an intimate acquaintance with human history; they have proved themselves better able to plead the cause of the oppressed than were their ablest and most eloquent defenders. They have defeated purposes and arrested evils that would have greatly retarded the work of God, and would have caused great suffering to His people. In the hour of peril and distress, 'the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.'"—*Great Controversy*," page 632.

VIII. *Angels at Christ's Coming.* Matt. 25 : 31 ; 24 : 31.

"Every redeemed one will understand the ministry of angels in his own life. The angel who was his guardian from his earliest moment; the angel who watched his steps, and covered his head in the day of peril; the angel who was with him in the valley of the shadow of death, who marked his resting place, *who was the first to greet him in the resurrec-*

tion morning,—what will it be to hold converse with him, and to learn the history of divine interposition in the individual life, of heavenly co-operation in every work for humanity!"—*Education*," page 305.

Invisible Friends

The light of many tempted ones
Is waxing dim.

Earth's cup of wickedness will soon
O'erflow its brim;

But Jesus sends His angels down
With mighty power,

Invisible, but with us now,
This very hour.

With courage, ye who dwell below,
Lift up your eyes.

Behold the armies of the Lord!
Awake, arise!

By faith we see those beings bright
Around us here;

They talk with us as friend with friend;
We know they're near.

And closer still when we are tried,
Or sick and sad,

They labour to uplift our hearts,
To make us glad.

When we are blessed in winning souls,
The word above

Is heralded before our God
With holy love.

And heaven is brought so near the earth
That we discern

The ladder bright that Jacob saw,
And this truth learn,

That earth recedes far out of sight
When we behold

The city with the pearly gates,
And streets of gold.

ELIZA H. MORTON.

"He Shall Give His Angels Charge over Thee"

"HE shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

As we have been visiting our mission stations in Africa, we have been strongly impressed with the loneliness of the situation. The mission farms are usually miles from the nearest white neighbour. One wonders that, under these conditions, he rarely hears any expressions of worry or fear. As we listen to some of the experiences of the missionaries, we can understand how it is that the weak may become strong, and faint hearts stout.

When Brother Campbell was on his way to visit an outstation about forty miles from the Barotse Mission, he noticed in the tall grass, about twenty-five yards away, an animal that looked like a wild hog, but he could see only its back through the grass.

He raised his gun and pulled the trigger, but it missed fire. He quickly put in another cartridge, and again pulled the trigger, but again it missed fire. The gun had never missed fire before, nor has it done so since. Just then the animal sprang to its feet, and it proved to be a large lion. In another second the lioness bounded into view, and the two beasts disappeared in the tall grass together.

A wounded lion at short range is very dangerous, and usually kills the hunter. If the one animal is wounded or killed, its mate comes on, full of rage. Brother Campbell was alone at the time, as he had walked on ahead of his native carriers. He could well believe that his guardian angel was at his side, and directly interposed to save his life.

Once when Brother Anderson was on a similar visit to the outschools, he lay down at night beside the fire. As he was about to fall asleep, the oxen suddenly jumped up in alarm. He took his rifle, and had a good look round, but could see nothing, so he lay down and slept soundly. In the morning, as they were yoking the oxen to move onward, one of his native boys pointed out to him a lion's track beside the spot where his head had been as he lay asleep. The tracks of the two fore paws were together, and had left a deep imprint in the soft ground, showing that the lion had been standing by the head of our sleeping brother, ready to spring upon him, but that the angel of the Lord had closed the lion's mouth.

Again, when Brother Robinson was stationed at this mission, he went down to a water-hole one day to drink. After satisfying his thirst, he turned around to retrace his steps, and came face to face with a lion, which had evidently been following him. He was quite alone and unarmed. It was a terrifying situation. It was no use to attempt to run away, so our brother faced the lion, singing a hymn. Without any apparent reason the lion turned and run off through the tall grass.

To our missionaries on the frontier, and to our people throughout the world in the more troublesome times soon to overtake us, God will be a very present help in time of trouble. If we look to Him in faith and trust, there is no need for fear or anxiety.

W. C. DUNSCOMBE, M. D.

Second Week

Work of Evil Angels

Hymn.
Prayer.
Secretary's Report.
Scripture Drill.
Reports of Labour.
Hymn.
"Bad Angels."
"A Personal Experience."
"False Christs."
Hymn.

Bad Angels

I. *The Origin of Bad Angels.* 2 Peter 2:4. (See "Patriarchs and Prophets," chapter I, and "Early Writings," page 145.)

II. *The Chief Work of Satan and His Angels.* Mark 1:13; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 Kings 22:20-22.

1. With Jesus.

"There came to the Saviour, as if in answer to His prayers, one in the guise of an angel from heaven. He claimed to have a commission from God to declare that Christ's fast was at an end. As God had sent an angel to stay the hand of Abraham from offering Isaac, so, satisfied with Christ's willingness to enter the blood-stained path, the Father had sent an angel to deliver Him; this was the message brought to Jesus. The Saviour was faint from hunger; He was craving for food when Satan came suddenly upon him. Pointing to the stones which strewed the desert, and which had the appearance of loaves, the tempter said, 'If Thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.'"—*"Desire of Ages," page 118.*

2. With men.

"He who is the father of lies, blinds and deceives the world by sending forth his angels to speak for the apostles, and to make it appear that they contradict what they wrote by the dictation of the Holy Ghost when on earth. These lying angels make the apostles to corrupt their own teachings and to declare them to be adulterated. By so doing, Satan delights to throw professed Christians, and all the world, into uncertainty about the Word of God. That Holy Book cuts directly across his track, and thwarts his plans; therefore he leads them to doubt its divine origin."—*"Early Writings," page 90.*

III. *Objects of Special Attack.* Acts 7:52.

"He is now preparing for his last campaign against the church. All who seek to follow Jesus will be brought into conflict with this relentless foe. The more nearly the Christian imitates the divine Pattern, the more surely will he make himself a mark for the attacks of Satan. All who are actively engaged in the cause of God, seeking to unveil the deceptions of the evil one, and to present Christ before the people, will be able to join in the testimony of Paul, in which he speaks of serving the Lord with all humility of mind, with many tears and temptations."—*"Great Controversy," page 510.* See also "Early Writings," page 283.

IV. *The Works of Satan in the Last Days.* Rev. 12:12.

A Personal Experience

IN 1884, the author of "Past, Present, and Future" was in business in Kansas City. He gives the following experience: "We had in our employ a stenographer who was an ardent spiritualistic medium. Two or three nights in each week he would be at some séance, and each time, on his return, had wonderful stories to tell of what he had seen.

"At first, little attention was paid to his representations, because we were then as well convinced of the true nature of Spiritualism as we are to-day. But one morning he came in full of his experiences of the night before, and said:

"There is no use denying the wonders I witnessed last night. I saw a young girl who was not a musician take her seat at a piano, and play accurately some of the most difficult music by Beethoven and other of the old masters."

"I believe you,' was my reply.
"He looked startled, and added, 'I saw a piano lifted from the floor without hands while the girl was playing, and then it was dropped to the floor with a jar that would utterly ruin any ordinary piano. I saw this, and no one can convince me that I did not see it. How do you account for it? It must have been the power of spirits which did all this.'

"I agree with you,' I replied.
"But you are not a Spiritualist?"
"Most emphatically, no."

"Then how do you explain these things?" he asked. We then stated our position, saying that evil, satanic spirits are working with men wherever they can. They are powerful, unseen angels, who deceive in every conceivable manner. They give communications, they personate our dead friends, and perform all kinds of wonders. Our Saviour said of them, "If it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Our only safety is in knowing the danger of these wicked workings and keeping away from them.

"And as to the music, I understand that Satan was a master musician in heaven, and when he takes possession of a human being, he can, through him, excel the music of any human musician.

"As to lifting a piano from the floor, he who is 'prince of the power of the air,' can and will do far greater wonders than this."

"The stenographer considered for a moment, and then said, 'You are the only opponent of Spiritualism that I have ever met who could take a reasonable, logical position against its manifestations. I have no argument with which to meet your position.'"

False Christs

"TAKE heed that no man deceive you." And, "If it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matt. 24:4, 24.

It is only by careful adherence to the teachings of God's Word that even "the very elect" are saved from these fatal deceptions. Yet one simple statement from the Lord, if heeded, will guard us from the issue of error and deception which has been, and is being, woven around this subject. Jesus said:

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24:27.

In the light of these scriptures it may be interesting to read the following description of "A Wonderful Materialization" which took place at Cincinnati, Ohio:

"Friday evening we had a private séance, at which only eight persons were present, including Dr. Pence. The medium entered the cabinet, and in about twenty minutes was entranced.

"After a little while, during which the controlling spirit talked as usual, the cabinet door opened, and a majestic form appeared that filled us with awe; for there in the door stood, in majestic grandeur, Jesus of Nazareth; the Lord of glory; the King of kings; the pure and holy Christ of God. He had come according to promise, and stood manifest before our eyes.

"He stood looking at us for several moments, and then said, 'You are faithful soldiers, and greater wonders than these shall ye yet see.'

"He reached His hand to Mrs. Lewis, who sat nearest to the cabinet. She took it, and gave Him a bouquet of flowers. He then reached His hand to Mrs. Dr. Cutter, who sat next to Mrs. Lewis, then to Mrs. Kline, who stepped onto the platform. He took her by the hands, then laid His hands upon her head, blessed, and kissed her. He then beckoned each one of us to Him, took us by the hand, and blessed and kissed us before retiring to the cabinet.

"He stood in the door and on the platform for nearly half an hour. He wore a white robe, and a crown upon his head, in the centre of which glittered a beautiful gem. A faint halo was visible surrounding His sacred head. He left us awe-stricken with His sacred presence.

"This was the masterpiece of materialization. Surely these are the days foretold by John the Revelator, when he declared that Jesus Christ should come again a second time, with power and great glory; and have not the dead arisen throughout the land, and angels returned, appearing unto many?"

"Would to God every mortal could have seen, and know, as we know, this glorious truth. The Saviour of mankind has reappeared; the second advent has arrived; the heavens are opened; the dead are raised; mortality is swallowed up in immortality; death has lost its sting, and the grave its victory." [Then follows the testimonial of the truthfulness of the foregoing statements by all who were present.] —*Cincinnati Inquirer*.

Have we cause to wonder at such a manifestation? Not if we accept the Bible statements regarding just such phenomena. Satan can take any form he desires. Paul, speaking

of deceitful workers, and their leader, Satan, said:

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel: for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." 2 Cor. 11:13, 14. How shall we classify such a manifestation? The Saviour should be authority regarding His own movements. He said, "If they shall say unto you, Behold, . . . He is in the secret chambers, believe it not." Matt. 24:26.

Then what shall we do with such a representation?

Give it its proper place as one of Satan's deceptions. In the foregoing account the spirit representing Jesus said, "Greater wonders than these shall ye yet see." Yes, the Lord Himself said that this very deceptive power should "show great signs and wonders." Matt. 24:24. John was shown "spirits of devils, working miracles." Rev. 16:14.

Perhaps the climax will be reached when "he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do." Rev. 13:13, 14. But the most heaven-daring is such representations of Jesus Christ and His second coming as recorded in the foregoing paragraphs.—"*Past, Present, and Future*."

Third Week

The Influence of Reading.

Hymn.

Prayer.

Secretary's Report.

Scripture Drill.

Reports of Labour.

Hymn.

"The Culture of Reading."

"The Books We Read."

"The Missionary Volunteer Reading Course."

Hymn.

LEADER'S NOTE.—For this programme be sure to have on hand a copy of each of the books in the 1916 Reading Course and some enrolment blanks. Have for your rally cry, "Every young person in this church a member of the reading circle." "The Influence of Reading." Have several appointed to give these quotations showing the effects of reading, both good and bad. "The Culture of Reading." This should be given to one of the best readers, who can give expression to the many gems of thought contained therein.

The Culture of Reading

ALPHONSE KARR, a French writer, has said that intellectual culture is easily discernible, as also the lack of it. Manner can never become a substitute for matter. Display may catch the eye, but only worth can hold it. "There are some people," says Billy Sunday, the evangelist, "who have a brownstone front, but nothing behind it; open the front door and you are in the back yard." When Mr. Longworth was introduced to Mr. Longfellow, the former commented upon the similarity of their names. "Yes," said the poet, "but it is worth that makes the man, and want of it the fellow." True culture vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. "Empty wagons," says George Eliot, "rattle prodigiously."

How books furnish a home! Beecher well said: "The plainest row of books that cloth or paper ever covered, is more significant of refinement than the most elaborately carved sideboard." "A man is known by the company he keeps," said Sam Jones, "and his books are his company as well as anything else." Tell me what a man reads and I will tell you what he is; tell me what he is and I will tell you what he reads. The columns of the daily papers bear a direct relation to crime. It has been discovered that reports of suicides, lynchings, etc., lead to epidemics of the same kind of tragedy. Cheap seafaring tales make runaway boys. Moody said that at the beginning of his career he read all the sermons of Spurgeon that he could obtain. The Atchison *Globe* says that many a woman who would not soil her white hands by bringing them into contact with the black kitchen stove, will soil her white soul by reading novels.

Paul's advice to a young preacher was, "Give attendance to reading." It is not necessary to have a college education, immense though such an advantage is, to become an educated man. Some are like the young man who was "half-back in the football team, and all the way back in his studies." I knew in a Western State a bricklayer who roomed in the home of a high school principal, and who, after working hours, buying the works of Carlyle, Emerson, and Ruskin . . . from his scanty earnings, soon acquired a ripeness of

intellectual taste that a lifelong association with the training of the schools had never brought to his superior. . . .

How little intellectual culture there is in most lives! I have a friend, a man of large success in the business world, the most attractive feature of whose elegant home is the library. The cream of the world's best literature is here, and in carefully selected bindings. After the cares and responsibilities that have thronged the day, it is his custom to read all the evening, often far into the night. Many a college professor is his inferior in literary culture. I congratulated him on this habit, and remarked on the opportunity that lies at the feet of every business man in such self-culture. He said, "I do not know of another business man in Portland that reads anything." O, the bareness of most lives! On many a tomb, were the truth told, the epitaph would be, "Too easily satisfied." . . .

Read only the best. There is too great an area to cover, even of the best that has been written, to fritter one's time away on that which is second best. . . . Select the best. . . . One lad reads a penny novel, and kills a playmate; another reads a beatitude, and saves a soul. Not one book in a thousand is worth reading. . . . Emerson says that it is easy to compute by arithmetic how many books one would read in a lifetime by reading ten hours a day, but there is no profit in such computation. He says, "There is always a selection, and then a selection from the selection." Amos Bronson Alcott says, "Good books, like good friends, are few and chosen; the more select, the more enjoyable." . . .

Re-read. "A handful of wheat eaten is worth a whole harvest looked at." Franklin and Lincoln were shut up in their day by their poverty to a handful of books, whose strong and simple diction and tremendous seriousness were burned into their souls by iteration. . . . Phillips Brooks said, "Familiarity does not breed contempt, except of contemptible things or in contemptible people." Dr. Bonar, of Scotland, read the Bible through one hundred times in course, and said he found something new on every journey through those golden pages. . . .

Read systematically. Drop haphazard reading, and lay out a path

. . . that will bring you to the books you have all your life postponed. A ripe culture may be acquired in those odd moments that most men waste who complain that they have no time for reading. Some of the choicest works that I have ever read, both in English and in other languages, have been read on the trams.

President Dwight, of Yale, said: "I believe that the chief value of an education is that it gives its possessor interesting thoughts. He lives in a new and varied world. Pictures hang on the walls of his soul. He is never alone. He walks the streets with Carlyle, the fields with Ruskin, and stands on the very Mount of Transfiguration with Christ."—*Arthur S. Phelps, in "Service."*

The Books We Read

"THE young are in great danger. Great evil results from their light reading. Much time is lost which should be spent in useful employment."—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. II, page 236.*

"The influence of such reading is injurious to both the mind and the body: it weakens the intellect and brings a fearful tax upon the physical strength."—*Testimonies for the Church, Vol. IV, page 497.*

"The more one reads of sentimental and exciting matter, the drier and less interesting good literature will seem."

"The mind is built up by what it feeds upon. The person who feeds his mind with this kind of literature is nothing more nor less than an air-castle builder. He lives in an unreal, imaginary, sentimental world, in which everything is run by chance, and the final outcome is always unsatisfactory. Such a person makes a miserable failure trying to solve any of the practical, everyday problems of life, for he imagines—unconsciously perhaps—that in some mysterious way, these, too, will solve themselves, and in the end he will find all his desires fulfilled. It is almost needless to add that such reading soon destroys all desire for good, wholesome reading, and the result is a habit as strong and irresistible as the opium habit. There is only one safe course, and that is to avoid the novel as any other plague is avoided."

"Truly there is nothing else in all the world which gives us such refined and elevated pleasure as good reading, and nothing else can so round out and fill in our characters; can add to our happiness, sustain us in sorrow, and teach us to look forward to that glad time when we shall see Him as He is, as the earnest reading of the things that God has caused to be written in His Word."

"You should restrict your reading to the Word of God, and to books that are of a spiritual and useful character. In so doing you will close a door against temptation, and you will be blessed."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. III, pages 81, 82.

"In every book we read, the author hangs some new picture on the wall of our mind. Whether good or bad, it will remain for ever. It is for us to decide which it will be. Before we read a book, let us ask ourselves the question, Can I afford to spend my time in that way? Is it worth while? Much of the reading circulated to-day, such as novels and the stories in the popular magazines, is far from being 'worth while.'"

"The character of your religious experience is made manifest largely by the character of the books that you choose to read during your leisure moments."—*Mrs. E. G. White*.

The Missionary Volunteer Reading Course

JOHN, the beloved disciple, nineteen hundred years ago, wrote through inspiration, "Blessed is he that *readeth*, and they that *hear* the words of this prophecy." The panoramic view given on the rocky, sea-bound island of Patmos, spanned the closing years of earth's history. A blessing was pronounced upon those who would *read* this wonderful history. God desires His people to read. What a wonderful field of information is open to the man who can read. Inspiration affirms, "My people are destroyed through lack of knowledge." Are you perishing intellectually and spiritually for lack of knowledge? If so, as God directs, read.

Jesus kept abreast with His times. He read. His mind was stored with knowledge, quotations, and illustrations. He acquired information

the same as you and I. Often He asked His questioners, "Have ye not read?" "How readest thou?" Suppose He were to ask you this question to-day, how would you answer?

Daniel was told that in the time of the end "knowledge shall be increased." Is this prophecy true of you? As in no other age this prophecy meets its fulfilment to-day. Every one reads. Newspapers, magazines, and books are multiplying every day. Unusually large editions are printed, sold, and read. Are you keeping abreast with your generation? Thousands of our young people are systematically, conscientiously reading the excellent books contained in the Missionary Volunteer Reading Courses. Did you read these books last year? What kind of books did you read?

Plan to be one of the blessed who read. Include the Missionary Volunteer Reading Course in your list.

Testimonials are received from every direction, stating how those are blessed who read the Missionary Volunteer books. Do not fail to read one of the courses for 1916.

Fourth Week

Reflections on the Old Year

Hymn.
Prayer.
Secretary's Report.
Scripture Drill.
Reports of Labour.
Hymn.
"The Year's Reckoning Day."
"What the New Year Offers Us."
Poem: "The Old—The New."
"Gifts to Jesus."
"Two Wishes."
Hymn.

LEADER'S NOTE.—The first item on the programme, "The Year's Reckoning Day," should be divided up, and the leader present the opening paragraph and the closing one, and assign the four paragraphs in between to four members who will make a study of them and present the thoughts in their own words, one after the other, without being called upon. In the same way the next item in the programme should be rendered, each paragraph given to different members who should make them their own, and present them without having to refer to notes. "Two Wishes" is for the children especially. Call attention to this as their own item of the programme, and let them tell at the close of the lesson what they have learnt from it.

The Year's Reckoning Day

It is natural, as we note the passing of the few remaining days of the closing year, to pause a little, and reflect on what it has brought to us, and the way we have used or misused its gifts. One by one they rise before us—an unnumbered procession! Let us look at them honestly, and at our relation to them.

The first gift that the year 1915 laid at our feet was time—a God-given gift, and one of the best bestowed upon men: "for it is with time that all other good things are bought." As we think of the days and weeks and months that have made up this year so nearly closed, do we find any part of them wasted in vain thoughts, idle words, frivolous conversation, or unprofitable reading? Have we squandered precious hours doing the kind of work that Satan often finds for idle hands,—the work that consumes time, strength, and money, and yet adds nothing to the health or comfort or real happiness of the world? The question is for each to answer.

The year brought privileges, too, among the first of which stands our duty to God,—faithfulness in reading His word, faithfulness in secret prayer, faithfulness in attending the services of His house. Have we neglected any of these privileges? Have we allowed other things—such trifling things—to occupy the hour set apart for study and communion with God, or our attendance at the regularly appointed gatherings of His people?

Other gifts, spiritual and material, have come to us through the days of the year now passing. To our cries for pardon and peace, how often has God spoken graciously; He has delivered us in the time of trouble, and in the dark hour of temptation has made a way of escape. Have we passed these blessings on to others, who need them as much as we, or held them close to our hearts, and so lost them? And the money, more or less, that he has allowed us to handle—have we hoarded it miserly or wasted it foolishly, or have we bestowed it unselfishly, yet wisely, as those who must render an account for their Lord's goods? For we are stewards; and "it is required in stewards," you remember, "that a

man be found faithful." Have *we* been found faithful?

Opportunities for service—when we come to this gift of the old year, it is difficult to enumerate. Do they not rise up and pass in review before us—their number as the days of the year, multiplied by the hours of the days, and almost again by the moments of the hours? Those in need and in trouble have looked to us for help and comfort. Have we failed them? Our boy and girl friends have perhaps watched us more closely than we knew as an example of daily Christian living. How has our influence told in our associations with our most intimate friends? Perhaps in our home there are aged relatives who, when they and we were younger, did not spare themselves in our behalf, and now in these later years they have looked to us for loving service and for cheerful companionship. Have we ever found this duty irksome, and neglected those who, were conditions reversed, would never neglect us? And the brothers and sisters—have they found us unselfish, sweet, sympathetic, and always ready to help them over the hard places? Of course, father and mother have looked to us this year, not only to be the sunshine of their home and the joy and pride of their hearts, but to begin to relieve their burdens, and to be trusted to do so well the work that is given us that they need have no further care concerning it. Have we ever disappointed these, our best and truest earthly friends?

Time; the privileges of secret prayer, reading God's Word, and attendance at the services of His house; faithful stewardship; opportunities for service,—if we honestly review these gifts and our use of them, we ourselves being judges, how many must turn away self-condemned!—*Youth's Instructor*.

What the New Year Offers Us

BUT, next year, we say,—and we have said it often before,—next year shall be different. We feel strong and of good courage to make it so, as we look out on the fair vista of the days to come. Yes, they shall be different! But when they come, we find them much like other days,—the

same temptations, the same defeats, the same high resolves broken, our feet slipping, and we ourselves, like the apostle of old, daily neglecting the things we would do, and doing the things we should hate.

Must it always be so?—Always, as long as we leave God out of our lives, and to just that degree. But there is a better way—and that way is Christ, the new and living Way. With the life hidden with Christ, the new year, with all its varied experiences, is safe. But when the life is so hidden, there will be a change in us. The old must die. We shall be new creatures, a new creation, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. That is the secret—the blessed secret that all may share. Not resolutions, though the list be long, nor striving, though we strive to the uttermost, will make our lives reach the high standard of perfection required in God's Word,—not these things, but yielding the will to God, opening the heart to His presence, and consecrating the life to His service. And when this is done, and from the time that it is done, the life to follow will be a new life indeed.

Notice the new things that God has provided for all who will receive them:

"A new heart also will I give you," He promises, "and a new spirit will I put within you." Then, when the heart is new, and perfect toward God, the life will conform to His law. "I will put My Spirit within you," He declares, "and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do them."

And this blessing of a new heart is not for one stated time. Each day brings its need of heavenly strength and grace and blessing; so for our encouragement we are told that the Lord's mercies are "new every morning," and the prophet adds, as if in wonder at the thought of God's constant care for His children, "Great is Thy faithfulness."

For those who take the new things that God freely offers, there will be victory during the coming year,—victory, growth in the Christian life, and the peace that passeth knowledge. Nor is this all: for in the glad day of deliverance, so long looked forward to by God's people, so earnestly desired, and so soon to

come, His children will be given a new name; their lips will shout the praises of their Saviour and Redeemer in the inspired words of the new song of which John tell us; and they will enter into their inheritance of the new earth, the heavenly Canaan, with its glorious capital city, the New Jerusalem. May all the missionary volunteers be among that happy number!—*Selected*.

The Old—The New

One more ship in the harbour
With its cargo of gold or of dross;
One more pennant declaring
The service of sin or the cross;
One more ledger completed:
And what does the auditor say?
Treasures the past year assembled,
Or ruthlessly trifled away?

One more ship is departing
To sail on the sea of the year;
One more pennant lies waiting
A symbol inscribed to appear:
One more ledger is opened,
Unwritten, unblemished, and new,
Who will your vessel commission,
Accounting each ledger page true?
—WORTHIE HARRIS HOLDEN.

Gifts to Jesus

THIS is the time of year when the thoughts of all the world are turned to gift-giving, in celebration of God's gift of His dear Son to the world. Is it not appropriate that at this time we should remember those less fortunate and happy than ourselves with some of the good things our Father has lent to us, even as the wise men of the East laid their gifts at the feet of the baby Jesus? For "inasmuch," He tells us, "as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

There is another way to bring a gift to Jesus during this Christmas week—to remember the offering to foreign missions with a gift that shall be sweet with sacrifice, and cheerfully bestowed. It is the love that enters into our gifts that makes them of value—but let us not forget that true love always gives willingly of its best. God gave the best Gift in heaven to us; let us give to Him our hearts, our lives, and all that we have.—*Selected*.

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not."

Two Wishes

"O MOTHER, I have just had the sweetest dream," said little Alice, as she awoke and saw her mother standing by her bed. "I thought that I was walking in the woods, and that an angel came to me, and, stooping over me, put his arm around me, and told me that I might ask for the one thing that I wanted most.

"So I thought of the Christmas offering, and of how little I had to give, and I said, 'Kind angel, I should like a basket full of gold and diamonds and pearls, so that I might have a splendid offering to give to Jesus.'

"O!" said the angel, 'haven't you anything more precious than that for Jesus?' and I felt sad and ashamed, because I knew that I had not been able to save quite a dollar for the year's offering.

"Then the angel asked me why I was sad; and taking my hand, he led me down to the brook, and told me to look into the water.

"And there I saw my own face reflected; but O! how strange it seemed! My eyes shone like diamonds, and my lips like rubies. I glanced at my hands, and saw that they were of the brightest gold, and my feet were two pearls.

"Then the angel asked again, 'Haven't you any precious offering for Jesus?' But this time I felt happy, and said, 'Yes, kind angel, I will give Him these hands, and these feet, and—why! I can give Him myself, all of myself.'

"I am glad," said the angel; 'Jesus has His wish now. He has been wanting you to make Him this gift.' Then he smiled and kissed me, and I awoke, and you were standing by my bed. How I wish the dream were true, mother!"

"It is true, darling, it is all true. How could you make Jesus a better offering than to give Him yourself? Hands that are ever willing to do any task for His sake; feet ready to go anywhere He bids; lips always speaking pure, cheerful, helpful words; and eyes always open to His goodness, ever closed to evil; a heart—yes, a little girl—all His own to be used as He chooses,—these are far more precious than mountains filled with diamonds and jewels, and all the gold mines in the world."
—Ella M. White Robinson.

Sabbath-School Missionary Exercises

(December 4)

Medical Work in the Cook Islands—No. 1

WHEN the government medical officer was leaving Aitutaki after a short visit to this island, we had a long talk with him concerning our work. He told us that he was sending a report to the New Zealand Government of the medical work on Aitutaki. He also said that he had mentioned our work, and had asked that the Government send us all necessary medical supplies, as we were willing to help the people. He made up a long list, and asked us to add to it anything we needed. He then said: "Aitutaki needs a great deal of help, but government help is not much good. What is really needed are people who are willing to go into the homes of the natives and give them help. It is of no use to preach religion to people whose bodies are in such a corrupt state." He was interested when we told him that we, too, believed this, and that it was part of our religion to teach people how to take care of their bodies, so that their minds might be in a condition to learn of spiritual things. He told one of the natives that Adventists were very good people, and that if he ever turned to any church it would be to the Adventist; but he said he was too old now to think of this. The native, who was an Adventist, tried to tell him that no one was too old to turn to the Lord.

Since then the Government has furnished for us a good, cool dispensary. This is a great help in our work, as patients can be treated there instead of being taken to our private house, which is native-built and consists of only two rooms.

Two natives came to us recently with sores on their feet. These men had been told by the doctor that he could do nothing for them, and that it would be necessary to have the feet amputated.

They refused to have this done, and pleaded with us to help them. The father of one young man said: "You try; you know what to do. He get better if you try." What could we do? We could not turn

them away. We asked the Lord to help us and then spoke to them regarding the cause of their trouble, and told them the part that they must act in helping to get well. The father was pleased, and promised to do as we had told them. He said, "If we clean man inside, you clean outside." We told them we would try. This young man has to be brought across the island in a hand-cart. He never misses a morning, and is there punctually at nine o'clock. He is very happy because his foot is getting better. As he takes off the bandages he says: "Very good, no smoke, no beer, no pork."

It does our hearts good to see the way the Lord is blessing our efforts and sending healing to these poor people. This makes the third case which has been almost cured after the doctor had said they were too far gone to help.

H. AND M. WICKS.

(December 11)

Medical Work in the Cook Islands—No. 2

WE have recently had a good victory over witch doctors and native medicine. The son of one of our Sabbath-keepers had a very bad attack of fever, and at one time we feared he would not live. We had forbidden food or native medicine, so had he died we should have lost all influence with the people. For two weeks we had a most anxious time; he seemed to get worse. We prayed much for help. One evening he was very low, so we called Brother and Sister Sterling to join us in a season of prayer in the room, after which he was given some more treatment. In a few days he began to show signs of recovery, and now he is well and able to walk about. We do thank the Lord that He helped us to nurse this boy for five weeks and keep native doctors away, for his recovery means much to our work,—much more than those in the homeland can realise.

Another man was confined to his house for two years with a bad leg. When we were asked to visit him we were told that we would not like to see his leg as it was very bad. We gave him treatment every morning, and now he not only walks to the dispensary, but also to the beach.

Our dispensary is a room next to the post office, adjoining the government building on the shaded side. It has a verandah in front, where the patients wait their turn. In the room we have a small table, one chair, several shelves filled with medicines and dressings, three tin dishes, two buckets, and a case which is used for a chair. We have a full set of forceps, and they are in constant use.

The natives had the idea that we are employed by the government to do this work. We told them that this is not so; we are not doctors, but Adventist missionaries, who have come to help all people on the island who heed help, regardless as to what church they belong. One native said, "You work like Jesus, He loved everybody." We explained that we were trying to follow His example.

We are thankful to the Lord for His help in healing these sick ones, and for giving us health and strength to do the work. We have many opportunities of giving the gospel to these people. We keep a supply of tracts on our table so that each patient may receive one. We have also held Bible studies with some of the people here. Pray that the seed thus sown may spring up and bear fruit unto life eternal.

H. AND M. WICKS.

(December 18)

From Fire-Walking to Walk- ing with God

TAHITI is one of the most beautiful of the many isles which dot the surface of the vast Pacific Ocean. We may still see in its landscape traces of the beauties of Paradise; but as the peace and beauty of Eden was marred by sin, so in these days our hearts are saddened as we see the destroyer at work in beautiful, yet wicked, Tahiti.

Among the many evils which draw the mind away from the Creator, the practice of fire-walking stands out prominently. This is undoubtedly a manifestation of the power of the devil—a form of modern Spiritualism which holds many in its toils.

But there is power in the third angel's message to save from all the power of the enemy, and thus it is that the Lord in His mercy laid His tender hand upon me and led me out from following this enchanting practice, for I was often found in times

past among the merry crowd who indulged in fire-walking.

Let me describe the scene:

Picture, if you can, a huge furnace, from twenty to twenty-five feet square, heated to a white heat until it appears like a miniature lake of tiny flames. The assembled crowd are all expectant, and eager to commence the ceremony. They impatiently ask as to the whereabouts of the priests. Presently a stir is made, and here they come with dignified bearing, four of them, and as they stand by the edge of the oven, they strike the sides with their branches of *rau ti*, and call upon the spirit Raipoia (a female notability of the spirit world) to protect the people while passing through the fires. The response from the spirit world is seen through the entire lake of fire becoming a faint blue in colour. The priests pass through the furnace and then out, and again pass through from the opposite direction. This completed, the assembly is invited to do likewise. The old and the young together pass through with their bare feet. The lightest of dress material is worn by the women folk. The gay songs and merry laughter tell all too plainly that the enjoyment of the hour is intense. It is certainly fascinating to pass through and experience no harm.

Truly has Isaiah said that the bruised reed will He (Christ) not break, nor quench the smoking flax. Unworthy though we be, Christ in His love can take the heart that has long been bruised by sin, and mould it over anew, and with His own miracle-working hand, make the bruised reed a new creature. The smoking flax (or wick), which was only capable of giving out offensive smoke, when supplied with the oil of His grace, can become a light to lead others from the shades of darkness into the light of His love.

Let me plead, therefore, as one of Tahiti's daughters, for those who still walk through the fires. By your prayers and offerings will you not seek to save those to whom the loving Christ can still apply His saving grace? AGNES P. DEANE.

"THERE is great danger in constant dissatisfaction. Sooner or later it will involve the health or finances, or both, for it destroys the mental balance and impairs the judgment."

Notice

THE Sabbath-school Missionary Exercise for the special object on Sabbath, December 25, will be given later, probably through the columns of the *Record*.

Fourth Sabbath Reading

Bible Study

"If Ye Be Willing and Obedient"

1. What is the condition laid down by God of our entrance into the promised land? Is. 1:19.
2. What hindered the children of Israel under Moses from entering Canaan? Num. 14:26-30.
3. After the forty years of wandering, what command was issued by Joshua? Josh. 1:10, 11.
4. What response came from the people? Verses 16-18.
5. What was the result of their being willing and obedient? Josh. 4:19-24.
6. What experience of Jonathan shows how God can bless willing co-operation? 1 Sam. 14:6, 7, 13-15.

NOTE.—"Angels of heaven shielded Jonathan and his attendant, angels fought by their side, and the Philistines fell before them. The earth trembled as though a great multitude with horsemen and chariots were approaching. Jonathan recognized the tokens of divine aid, and even the Philistines knew that God was working for the deliverance of Israel. Great fear seized upon the host, both in the field and in the garrison. In the confusion, mistaking their own soldiers for enemies, the Philistines began to slay one another."—"*Patriarchs and Prophets*," page 633.

7. What alone lies between the people of God and the promised land to-day?—Finishing the work. Matt. 24:14.
8. What characteristic in His people will bring the day of God's power? Ps. 110:3.

Pioneering in China

KADING is a quiet, peaceful little city of about fifteen thousand people, who appear to have more time than money. It not being on the main artery of travel, business is not as brisk here as in other places. Yet, geographically, it is an important centre, being a district city, where a mandarin is stationed who controls some fifteen or twenty towns and villages in the surrounding county.

It is a city of homes; and, moreover, a large percentage of the people are of the educated class. One man we know, who made his fortune in America, has now returned to China, and has settled down here in Kading to pass his remaining days on earth in peace and happiness.

The Quiet City Became Stirred

One day, the daily routine of life in this staid old city, which has been going around in certain prescribed circles since the days of Confucius, received such a shaking up as it had not experienced for many a day. A man suddenly appeared at the south gate, entered the city, and pasted up large green and yellow posters on the walls of all the important streets.

Immediately great crowds collected to see what it meant. The posters said plainly, in large letters, that "the countries of this world will eventually become one country."

Then there was a picture of the European war, and a statement of the soldiers of each country involved, with other statistics; but the provoking part of it was that it ended without saying what country was going to win and become the one world-wide kingdom. It simply said that any one who wanted to know about this could come to a certain place on a certain date, when they would be told the particulars. As the place mentioned was near the centre of the town, just around the corner from the mandarin's *yamen*, nearly every one who read the poster determined to go.

Excited about the Bamboo Tent

During the next two weeks, carpenters and bamboo workers could be seen daily engaged in erecting a mammoth bamboo tent, building seats, and setting up various paraphernalia. The men of the town left their work to come to see what was going on. The women, with babies in their arms, and children of all ages following at their heels, camped on the premises for hours at a time, busy with their knitting, or making cloth shoes, while the children capered around on the grass.

The day set for opening dawned bright and clear; and during the forenoon, while some of the workers were putting on the finishing touches to the tent, arranging the book display, and finishing up the decorations, the other half of the force,

armed with red and gold invitations, went out upon the main streets and gave personal invitations to the people.

Unexpected Reinforcements

Then came the surprise of the day, a feature which we had had no hand in planning, and which was appreciated all the more for that reason. About ten o'clock in the morning a boat came up the canal from Nanziang; and upon investigation, it proved to be our Nanziang "Young People's Missionary Volunteers," who came up at their own expense, bringing offerings of flowers, scrolls, and banners. They went through the city, singing hymns, distributing handbills, and inviting the people to the meetings. This is the more wonderful when we consider that the Nanziang work was only opened four months before, and these young people at that time were almost in the darkness of heathenism.

Remarkable Success of the Effort

As accommodations were made for the seating of only four hundred people, the capacity of the tent was stretched to the very limit from the start. Many were turned away the first few days. After that, the place was comfortably full.

For three full weeks, three meetings a day were held; and it was plainly manifest from the start that the Holy Spirit was moving on the hearts of the people. "Prepare to meet thy God" by keeping "the commandments and the faith of Jesus," was the key-note of every meeting, and it struck home to many hearts.

Breaking away from Heathenism

On the second night the subject was, "The One True God." After showing that idol worship was worship to the devil, we asked all to arise who were willing to take their stand to serve the true God. For the first few moments it seemed as though no one was going to respond; but after an earnest silent prayer, and a few words of exhortation, two men stood up. Instantly the presence of the Holy Spirit flooded the tent, and men and women arose throughout the congregation, until more than fifty were standing. Ushers took the names and addresses of those who thus responded; and the next day,

early in the morning, a visiting committee went out to find these people in their homes. This work was carried on daily, as we realise that it is what counts in the end. The preaching of the gospel sows the seed, and works upon the hearts of the people, to make them willing to receive; but the actual receiving of the Word and becoming Christians, is largely the result of personal work with the individuals.

Success of the Stereopticon

The meetings were brought to a close at the end of the third week with a stereopticon lecture on the "Signs of the End." We found a good place in a school not far from our chapel. Just inside the front gate was a large open space enclosed by a high wall, with a high gateway at the back. We hung our screen on the gateway, and put the machine at the back of the screen, out of sight; and by wetting the screen we were able to project the pictures through from the back. That left the front enclosure free for the people.

Tickets were distributed to all the enquirers, and to the prominent people of the city; and as soon as the place was filled, we shut the gates, and commenced the lecture. A great interest was manifested, and there is no doubt that this method of bringing the truth to the eye as well as to the ear has a lasting effect upon the hearers.

He Wanted the True Sabbath

The meetings are now continued in the building we have rented for a chapel, and an excellent interest has developed. The night meetings are crowded, and the Sabbath meetings are well attended. When the Sabbath question was presented, one man arose in the congregation, and said: "Now tell me, which day is it we ought to keep, Saturday or Sunday? I want to keep the true Sabbath, and worship God." The Chinese originally had no names for the days of the week; but since the missionaries came to China, the people all call Sunday "Worship Day." Monday is "Worship Day One," and so on. This brings Saturday as the sixth day of the week, and many of the Chinese think it really is such; so we have no end of trouble in explaining which day is actually the seventh.

This is the day of China's opportunity. The door is open to the gospel. The harvest is ripe, and waiting for reapers. This one province of Kiangsu has thirty million waiting for the message—by comparison, five times the population of the Australian Commonwealth. Our present force of workers cannot reach more than fifty thousand persons every year, probably not that number; but even figuring at that rate, it would take six hundred years to spread the message in this province. Surely we must have help. The Lord will cut the work short in righteousness, we know; but one way He will do this, is by moving upon the hearts of His people to give themselves to His service, to bring the gospel to these places. FRANCIS E. STAFFORD.

Two Testimonies

IN the second epistle of John, the apostle said, in writing to the "elect lady," "I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in the truth." The missionaries have such occasions of rejoicing when they find their children also walking in the truth. Perhaps you would like to hear two testimonies which I heard this week concerning our Marathi Christians.

One Testimony

One was about a man who had been in our mission employ as a servant for over a year. His name is Rama. He was not a member of our mission, but was a professed Christian, and he, with his wife and little boy, frequently attended our Sabbath-school and other church services. He left our employ of his own accord, saying he wanted to work on the railroad.

He came back this week for a little money we owed him. After receiving the money, he said, "Sir, may I attend your Sabbath-school and other meetings as usual?"

I replied, "Yes, certainly you may, and welcome."

This greatly pleased him, and he then related his experience with his superiors on the railroad. After being in their employ a few days he went to an official, and said, "Sir, I am willing to work all day Sunday, but will you please give me Saturday off?"

"Why Saturday?" the man enquired. "Are you not a Christian, and do you not want Sunday?"

"Yes, sir, I am a Christian; but I do not keep Sunday any more."

"That is strange, when all Christians keep Sunday the world over."

"But, sir," said Rama, "I have lived with a missionary at Kalyan who showed me that the Bible teaches Saturday, and not Sunday, is the Sabbath, and so I can not keep Sunday any more."

"Well, I never knew about this before," said the official, "but since you are so sincere about it, you may have your Sabbath, as you call it, and work on Sunday."

"So," said Rama, "you may expect my wife, our little John, and me at the Sabbath-school and church services hereafter."

The Other Testimony

Thomas came to us in the year 1896, with seventeen other boys, from the famine district of Central India. He was three and a half or four years old. He was cared for as all the other boys, till we went to America, when we put him in a large Methodist boarding school. Hearing of our return to India, Thomas wrote that he wanted to come to us, and we told him that he might do so.

We scarcely knew the lad when we saw him, he had grown so tall and manly. He helped us in the mission building work last year, and finally decided to become a nurse. He has now studied and worked hard for more than a year, and we feel we could not well do without him.

A few days ago one of the railroad men, a European, suddenly became ill. He was sent to the railroad hospital in Kalyan; but this hospital is for natives, and does not take Europeans. However, the man was too sick to be moved to the Bombay Hospital, so it was decided to make the best of the situation, though there was no one qualified to care for a European at that place. Some of the ladies of the town went in with food, etc.

The Bombay railroad doctor was called, and he said the man had pneumonia. Then the question was, "Who shall care for him?" Finally Mrs. Wood was called; and while the man was not her patient, she felt she must do all she could for

him, so she informed Thomas that he must go and do his best for the sick man. To this Thomas gladly agreed, promising to be faithful. For a time the sick man was practically entirely in his charge. Then a European nurse came from the Bombay Hospital to care for the man during the day, but Thomas was left to care for him at night. The nurse said, "I can trust that Christian boy entirely, he is so faithful"; and the doctor in charge of the hospital said, "That fellow is all right; and the patient is much improved." The doctor from Bombay said, "I wish I had that boy to work for me in Bombay; he seems to get on well with everybody."

But the best testimony was from one of the officials of the railroad, who had been spending the night at the hospital for the sake of the young patient, although his parents had now come to Kalyan. He said: "Mr. Wood, that boy you call Thomas is a genuine Christian, I can tell you that. He spent all last night with that poor sick man; and when the man couldn't sleep at three o'clock, Thomas began to talk to him about God and prayer. The sick man asked him to pray for him, and Thomas gladly responded. There I stood and looked at that quiet scene. Thomas did what I could not do, and I am a European and supposed to be a Christian; but I can't pray. I just turned away my head; it nearly choked me. The patient was gently saying 'Amen,' while Thomas talked with God in his behalf."

Such work as this counts, my friends. Thomas does not know that I am telling you these things, but I wish you to know that this message of truth is helping the converted heathen to live as we ourselves seek to live, and is helping them to get others ready to meet Christ. These things encourage the hearts of the missionaries. M. D. WOOD.

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