

The North Carolina Messenger

"THERE SHALL BE DELAY NO LONGER"

VOL. II.

EUFOLA, N. C., MARCH, 1905

NO. 1

HOW MAY OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AVOID ILL-ASSORTED MARRI- AGES?

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Prov. 4:23. In previous articles I have spoken very plainly on this subject. If there are those who feel shocked, I counsel them to pass this article by unread; for it is my desire still to deal very plainly. First then, dear boys and girls, I take it for granted that you really desire to avoid the evil and cleave to the good. You are young, and the world is before you. You are inexperienced, and the words of an older friend will not be regarded as an intrusion upon the privacy of your own life.

1. Have a jealous care for the company you keep. Many an error could have been avoided, many an hour of bitterness shunned, many a heartache missed, if the necessary care had been exercised in making a choice of company. But it may be said that the company of the world must be had or none. To this I answer, Nothing can be farther from the truth. Does not our God know every need and longing of our hearts? Will He withhold any good thing from them that walk uprightly? In His own good time and in His own good way, will He not give what is best for us? Will He bless us with all spiritual blessings *except* that which is most

important? But even if it be so, what then? Shall we start in a way the end of which is sorrow? "Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth." The little flame of the little match! How small and insignificant! The puff of a breath can easily extinguish it. But set to the inflammable fuel, how quickly the fire spreads, how fierce the heat, how difficult to subdue. Yes, people will doubtless speak of you as peculiar, and your young, thoughtless neighbors may not understand you; but are not God's people ever to be peculiar? "Is this vile world a friend to grace, to help you on to God?" Of course you long for the association of people of your own age; but would it not be better that you forego the pleasure than to try an experiment fraught with such a hazard? Cannot our God, who has implanted in our hearts the desire for companionship, supply that desire when He shall please? Or will you insist in letting Satan supply it when he pleases? I have heard a conscientious young woman lament her position. "I don't know what to do," she said. Her heart was sad. There was a stern struggle between duty and inclination. It might have all been avoided. Had she kept her heart with all diligence, she would have been untroubled and untrammelled. In such cases one of two things is

sure to happen,—either duty triumphs, and a storm of conflicting emotions is endured; or, more likely, and more sadly, inclination is followed, and disobedience to God's instruction results in decline, decay, and death of spiritual life. When Dinah the daughter of Jacob went out to visit the daughters of the land, she little knew the sad fate that awaited her. Had she avoided the beginning, the sad ending need not have been thought of. T. H. J.

(To be continued.)

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEET- ING PROCEEDINGS.

At the meeting of the Conference Committee held at Hildebran, February 21 and 22, many important and interesting questions were discussed, and some important decisions were made. Space forbids the publication of the minutes entire, but the following were some of the points noticed:—

It was decided to hold the annual conference at Newton, N. C., July 7-15, preceded by a canvassers' institute, beginning June 9, and continuing up to the meeting. During the time of the institute a tent meeting will be held, and it is hoped that the town and adjacent country may be thoroughly canvassed, and thus prepared to receive the message.

It was decided to sell to Bro. M. H. Johnston, the real estate

belonging to the Piedmont Sanitarium, the price realized to be used in liquidating the Sanitarium debt. It was also decided to transfer the sum of \$200.00 held by Conference against the Sanitarium to the Sanitarium account. Thus the indebtedness of the Sanitarium is reduced, and the Conference really is made no poorer.

It was a matter of rejoicing that the finances of the Conference are now such that it is possible to resume aggressive work in the field. The following persons were therefore asked to devote a part or all of their time to the work: J. O. Johnston, D. T. Shireman, W. H. Armstrong, Albert Carey, Jessie V. Bosworth, H. G. Miller, H. R. Shelton, T. H. Jeys. Dr. Carey takes up work in our Conference as a representative of the Medical Missionary branch of our message. It is hoped that he may be able to accomplish much good, and that his efforts will be seconded by every believer in our State. The meeting was characterized throughout by deep earnestness.

T. H. JEYS.

Pres. N. C. Conference.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS NO. 4.

The First Fruits.

Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase." Prov. 3:9. "Besides the tithe the Lord demands the first fruits of all our increase. These He has reserved in order that His work in the earth may be amply sustained. The Lord's servants are not to be limited to a meager supply. His messengers should not be handi-

capped in their work of holding forth the word of life." *Test. Vol. 6, page 384.*

Is it not strange, brethren, that these plain words are passed by, and we do not give heed to them? How many of our brethren in North Carolina can say, I have kept this command of God, and have given to Him, not only the tithe but the first fruits also? If we cannot claim that, are we in a position to claim God's promise as recorded in Malachi? The Lord brings this charge against us, "Ye have robbed me . . . in tithes and offerings." He has commanded us to honor Him with the first fruits of all our increase. This is to be given before the tithe is taken out; for it is the first fruit, and represents God's great Gift to our world and to us, and surely it cannot be pleasing to Him when we pay no attention to the matter. It is surely time that a decided change should be made in this respect by our people everywhere. We cannot plead that we do not know what our duty is in the matter of "first-fruits," if we claim to believe the Bible and Testimonies. The Testimony is positive and plain that "If all would pay a faithful tithe, and devote to the Lord the first-fruits of their increase, there would be a full supply of funds for His work. But the law of God is not respected or obeyed, and this has brought a pressure of want." *id. 385.* What we should do with the first fruits will be considered in our next.

J. O. JOHNSTON.

MOORESVILLE.

I enjoy living among the people, and find many dear souls hungry for the Bread of life. There are many opportunities for sowing the precious seeds of truth. I am holding readings; and one family I trust will soon obey, while others are interested. I distribute periodicals and visit the sick, and have ordered one hundred more *Watchman* to sell. Thus is afforded the opportunity of sowing beside all waters. One minister, who bought a paper, is interested in reading "Christ's Object Lessons." Now is the time to sow; the harvest time is near, but the reapers are few.

MOLLIE L. MILLER.

FROM THE FIELD.

On my return from the Union Conference meeting, I went to the neighborhood of Bro. N. P. Nelson, near Spero. The weather was very unpropitious while I was there, nevertheless the interest was fair on the part of those who attended. I left after a stay of three days, with the promise to return at a more favorable time, to follow up the interest. February 11, I went to Greensboro, and after a short time spent there, passed on to Winston-Salem. I preached one sermon, and then went, on Friday the 17th, to King, where I was met by one of Bro. F. A. Slate's sons, who took me overland to his home in the country. There I spent the Sabbath. This family is entirely alone, so far as any of like faith is concerned. They are all trying to hold up the banner of truth,

and God will bless them in their efforts to do so. Returning on Sunday, I spent one day at home, then on to Hildebran to the Committee meeting. Our meeting was one long to be remembered. There were many difficult and perplexing problems to deal with; and while there was diversity of opinion, there was unity of spirit. Personally, I feel to praise God for a truth that brings men together and holds them together. The results of the meeting are given elsewhere in this issue. Our last meeting closed at midnight. On adjournment, we bowed together, and prayed God's blessing on the work of His own planting. His blessed Spirit came very near, and we separated with good courage.

T. H. J.

HERE AND THERE.

On my way to Hildebran to attend our spring Conference Committee meeting, I stopped at Winston-Salem, and held some meetings with the church at that place. The election of officers was held, with but little change. I was grieved to find Bro. Joseph Self's child very ill. It died at 2 A. M., and was buried on Sunday. The funeral services were conducted by the writer. I arrived at Hildebran the 21st. Our Conference meeting passed off very pleasantly and the Spirit of God lead the right way. From there Eld. Jeys and I went to Hickory, where we spent a few pleasant hours visiting with the saints. From there we stopped over night en route at Eufola, and were delightfully entertained at the hospitable home

of Eld. J. O. Johnston. We were reluctant to leave, but went on the next morning. Eld. Jeys left me at High Point for his home at Archdale, while I went on to Greensboro, where I held meetings with churches Nos. 1 and 2. At No. 2 the church election was held, and most of the old officers were re-elected. The presence of the Spirit of God was manifest, and many expressed their desire for a closer walk with God, that they might render a more perfect obedience to His requirements. I am safely back to my field of labor at Wilmington. May the blessing of God rest upon us all.

W. H. ARMSTRONG.

NORWOOD.

We are glad once more to bear our testimony to God's love and greatness. We are of good courage, rejoicing in Him. The cause of God at this place is onward. One family has lately begun to observe God's Sabbath; and we trust that the work of grace may go on till its members are sanctified, soul, body, and spirit. Last Sabbath was a good day with us. Most of our little company were out to Sabbath school, and God's Spirit was manifestly present. Each family is now taking the *Review*. It has been hard to get some to see the need of this; but when they receive the paper each week, they will learn to prize it, and will not wish to be without it for any price. We are planning to circulate a few hundred of the "Appeal to Clergy." For several reasons, principally the lack of means, our school work is not

making much progress just at present. One boy comes to our home every day to study, and others are planning to come soon. We hope to re-open the school in town in the spring. The Sabbath truth is being discussed by many, and the convicting power of God's Spirit goes with it whether promulgated by friend or foe. Pray for the work here.

E. R. ALLEN.

THE CANVASSERS' INSTITUTE.

Dear Brethren and Sisters: I am very glad to announce to you that we are to have a canvassers' institute of three weeks, beginning June 9, to be held at Newton. The Lord says that the canvassing work is to be revived, and let us say, Amen. How can we all help to revive this work? By attending this institute to prepare for labor in the great harvest field, or by assisting others to come. I request each one who reads these lines to study Luke 10:2 often, and carefully follow the instruction there given, also to read Isa. 6:8, 10 and Matt. 20:4; and please make this a subject of special prayer. It is none too early for those whom the Lord is calling to this work, to lay definite plans to come. Full particulars will be given in the April and May numbers of the MESSENGER. All who desire to come should correspond with the undersigned.

H. G. MILLER, *State Agent*.
Mooresville, N. C.

CANVASSING REPORT.

(For January, 1905.)

	His	Value Ord.	Value Del.	Helps.
H. G. Miller	180	\$ 78 75	\$ 41 90	\$11 25
R. L. Underwood	117	124 00	13 50	9 50
Total,	297	\$202 75	\$55 40	\$20 75

H. G. MILLER, *State Agent*.

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NEWS AND NOTES.

As we enter upon our second volume, we wish to thank most heartily all who have aided in the support of the MESSENGER during the past year, and in behalf of the Conference to bespeak for the little sheet your continued patronage. You need the MESSENGER, and we must have your help in order to continue its publication. Will those whose subscriptions expired with the February number who have not already done so, please renew at once?

The pupils of the church school at Archdale, with their teacher, Sister Jeys, are distributing the new tract, "Open Letter," in the town of High Point, having ordered over five hundred copies for this purpose. They are connecting with the tract work, the circulation of our papers also. In what better way can the main object in the education of our young people be encouraged?

For the encouragement of our canvassers we give the following testimonial from a private letter written by Bro. E. R. Allen, of Norwood: "Where I have sold 'Coming King,' 'Best Stories,' and 'Gospel Primer,' the purchasers seem well pleased, and I often make another sale. For instance:

At Christmas time we gave 'Best Stories,' to one of Mrs. Allen's pupils, a bright boy of about nine years. His father has por'd over that book, going to the Bible for the texts quoted, and knows more of the actual truths of the Bible than many of the church leaders. Now his wife is keeping the Sabbath, and he came to meeting last Sabbath with the boy. A widow lady with six children saw that copy of 'Best Stories,' and I sold her one. She read it all through, and a neighbor borrowed it, and told her he wanted one very much. Of course I shall give him an opportunity to buy."

Elder D. T. Shireman writes thus briefly concerning his work: "My time for the past few months has been spent in taking care of my sick wife, who has been a great sufferer. Last Wednesday we thought her time had come; it seemed impossible for her to live. But Wednesday night a change came, and now she seems to be improving every hour, yet she is in a very critical condition. We are doing what we can in getting material ready for a students' home for the Toluca school. Remember us in your prayers."

We quote the following from a letter received from the Financial Secretary of the General Conference, which we believe will be of interest, especially to those who have sent donations to the Washington Building Fund: "We almost shrink from taking gifts from those who have so little as many who helped to make up the amount which you have forward-

ed; but we know that their hearts go with the gifts, and that they would be very sad to have us refuse to accept their offerings. The Heavenly Bookkeeper, who measures the exact value of every gift, will reward all these dear friends, who would do much more if they were able. We very much appreciate the work of Bro. L. A. Robinson, who secured donations from so many who are not Adventists. When we consider that they are not especially interested in the work of S. D. Adventists, their gifts are indeed quite encouraging. The church in Hildebran has done nobly in this work. Since their sanitarium burned, they have had a hard time, but the way will certainly open for them if they are patient and continue faithful. Surely this is the time when the 'saints' are being tested on the pivotal point of patience. Will you thank each of the friends who helped to make up the amount which you forwarded, on behalf of the General Conference Committee. Now is the time to work for Washington. The ministers are making a united campaign for Sunday enforcement and the city is stirred. The interest in our meetings is excellent. The truths of the Third Angel's Message are coming to the front with mighty strides. Our people in every part of the world are thrilled with hope and courage as the result of this move to Washington. Rev. 18:1-4; Psalms 46."

Title Receipts for February, 1905.

Archdale	\$16.90
Eufola	7.55
Greenwood No. 1	6.55
Hickory	7.00
Hildebran	85.77
Norwood	2.20
Salisbury	1.25
Winston-Salem	5.42
Waynesville	6.00
Wilmington	6.10
Individuals	17.38

Total, \$162.12
JESSIE V. BOSWORTH, Treasurer.