

The Indicator.

"ARISE, SHINE ; FOR THY LIGHT IS COME, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD IS RISEN UPON THEE."

VOL. VI.

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No. 2.

TO OUR SABBATH-SCHOOLS IN NEW YORK. 4.

In our previous articles we have dwelt wholly upon the Word of God, upon its importance, and upon the manner in which it should be studied. But there are other important things of which we wish to speak besides the study of the Bible, or the manner in which to study it, which has much to do with the prosperity of our schools.

It is true, to some extent at least, that we are creatures of circumstances ; therefore, our surroundings have much to do with our lives, and act no small part in shaping our future destiny. We see this demonstrated in the past history of God's people ; when a good influence was exerted over them they were good, and when an evil influence was exerted over them they were very bad. It is thought by some that a bad man will not have an influence over others because he is so bad ; but there is where we are greatly deceived. It would please the great deceiver could he but get us to believe that this is true. We would thus be thrown off our guard, and quite unprepared for the deceptive workings of the enemy. We desire, therefore, to notice in this article the power of influence.

Upon this point our Sabbath-schools should be well informed. Very few realize what wonderful power there is in influence, and that each one of us is doing our part, either in winning souls to Christ or in driving them farther into darkness and unbelief. No place can be occupied, or work engaged in, that will afford us such golden opportunities for exerting a salutary influence over others for the truth, as that of the Sabbath-school. But do all do this ? This cannot be done alone by learning our lessons well. While this is an essential feature in an influence for good in our schools, it is only one, and may be overbalanced by many failures in another direction.

To illustrate. Brother and Sister A are busy farmers ; they have four children, bright

and promising, aged from six to eighteen. Brother and Sister A seem to love the truth, and the children are trying to live Christian lives. But perplexities in business, and anxious cares seem to demand every moment of time, and absorb the whole time in worldly considerations. The week passes rapidly by, and, alas, it is Friday afternoon. Brother A has not been able to carry out all his plans, and because of this he is sour and unpleasant in his family, or settles down into a mood of quietness that throws a shadow over the whole household.

Sister A has also worked very hard, and in her wearied condition is peevish and irritable. The children see that everything goes wrong with father and mother, and as they too have worked hard all the week to please their parents, and now see them so unpleasant, dissatisfied, and ungrateful, they quickly catch the same spirit ; and then in what a deplorable condition we find that family to enter upon the hours of a sacred day, to engage in the work of the Sabbath-school or meeting. But let us go back. The busy cares of the week have crowded out all thought of the Sabbath-school lesson, and Friday evening finds them all too weary to engage in its study. But Sabbath morning the lesson is taken up and forced upon the mind, without carefully studying the principle which it contains ; and before the family are prepared to go it is time for the Sabbath-school, and all hasten to get ready and go to the church. Not because they love to go, nor because they have any relish for the Sabbath-school or meeting, but simply from force of habit, or for the influence it would have upon others should they remain away.

In this condition of mind and body, they take their place in the classes, and answer the questions with an air of indifference ; and in a tone and with a look indicative of their disapproval of the management of the school.

This spirit of coldness and indifference is felt by the whole school, and especially by the superintendent and teachers. They feel that the school is becoming dissatisfied with them, and they soon lose their courage and zeal to that extent that the school begins to see and feel that they are losing courage, and then defeat is sure to follow. What was the cause of this? Was it because of a failure to learn the lesson? No; the lesson was learned, but it was forced upon the mind without getting the spirit of the lesson in the heart. The spirit of coldness and lack of love manifested by one family had a telling influence upon the school, for which the parents are responsible.

This illustration is not wholly visionary as we wish it was. There are far too many Sabbath-schools who know that this condition of things is a stern but sad reality. But brethren and sisters, this ought not so to be. The work to which God has called us in the Sabbath-school is too high, to noble a work to disgrace by such conduct. It is my purpose to speak plainly upon this point, for it is an important matter. In our illustration we see that the parents were at fault. They are cumbered about too much serving; they have not fully chosen that good part which shall not be taken from them; their influence was pernicious over both the home and school. But it might have been different had they been less worldly.

I desire to urge upon our schools the importance of exerting an influence that will be salutary for the truth of living in Jesus Christ. This cannot be done by being worldly-minded; or cold, indifferent, sour, or disagreeable; or by being harsh and unkind. These are traits of character which are not moulded after the true pattern. It is wonderful what power there is in influence; hence the importance of exerting it in the right direction. Could fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, always keep this thought before them, what sorrow and sadness it would save; and what joy and peace it would bring. This must begin at the home if it is carried out in the Sabbath-schools. It must first begin with the parents; they should be kind and affectionate to all around them, not fitful and changing, first kind and gentle, then sour, complaining, and irritable. This destroys the confidence of others in our sincerity, and weakens our moral force of character.

Parents should be kind and gentle, yet firm and decided; and should be every day and hour the same; and then the same spirit will be infused into the whole family, and also into the schools. Thus as we meet at the school, a pleasant look, a kind word, and a hearty shake of the hand, will give fresh courage and renewed zeal in the Master's work, and an influence for good will be exerted by each one of us; and in turn each will receive help from the other.

This is what God designed the Sabbath-school should be, and this is what we expect it will be. This will all come as a matter of course if we all have the spirit of the author of our study in our hearts. Let us profit by the responsive reading of from the seventeenth verse to the close of the fourth chapter of Ephesians in our schools next Sabbath, and may we be especially impressed with the last verse. Oh, that the spirit of Christ may pervade our homes and our schools, that the lives of both parents and children may be more perfectly moulded after the divine pattern; and that love may abound, and selfishness be banished; then we will be in a condition to work for the school, and when love is the ruling principle, it will attract the children.

S. M. COBB.

Field Reports.

AMONG THE CHURCHES.

SABBATH, Dec. 7, I met with the church at home, and also Sunday I spoke to a good outside attendance, and in the evening I spoke in the Presbyterian church to an attentive congregation. Thursday I went to Salamanca and spoke in Brother F. H. Hicks' parlor to a goodly number. Sabbath and Sunday I met with the company in Olean and spoke four times, the last service was in the colored people's church, nearly all of our people were present.

Monday I went Wellsville and spoke in the evening, quite a number not of our people were present. From there I went to Corning, and Sister Austin invited in some of her neighbors, and I talked to them. Wednesday and Thursday nights I spent with the Catlin church; the meetings were held in the school-house, and it was filled. I took up a collection and received

The Canvassing Work.

Report for the Week Ending Jan. 3.

Post-office.	County.	Agent.	Hrs.	Days.	Ords.	Value.	Miscel.	Del.	Val.
Bible Readings.									
Utica,	Oneida,	Norman Kling,	16	4			1.50		
Sidney,	Delaware,	C. W. Inskeep,	1	1	1	\$2.75			
Patriarchs and Prophets.									
Rochester,	Monroe,	M. A. Millington,	20	4	7	13.75	1.75		
Miscellaneous sales,						3.25			
Totals,		3 Canvassers,	37	9	8	\$19.75	\$3.25		

\$1.90. From there I went to Elmira, and found that they had a Bible reading appointed for that evening. Brother R. B. Gorden conducted it, and it was enjoyed by all. Sabbath and Sunday the meetings were held in a hall on Lake Street, which is lighted and warmed for fifty cents each service. Sunday the room was well filled, and the outlook for Elmira was never better than now.

From there I went to Cortland; but on account of the rain there were only a few out. I here met Brother G. D. Ballou, who now resides here. He is selling Doctor Kellogg's works, and is doing well. Lincklaen Center was the next place I visited, and I spoke four times. I enjoyed this visit very much; but there were not as many out as there was one year ago; but some who had grown cold made a new start to serve the Lord, and on the whole the meeting was a profitable one. Some not of our faith told me they believed we had the truth.

Thursday night I found myself in Norwich, not, however, without knowing how I came there, for Brother Coon carried me five miles, and then I took the stage twenty miles, and the roads were very bad. The little company there are doing well and seemed to be of good courage in the Lord. Friday I went to Brookfield and held four meetings with that church. This little company seem very grateful for ministerial help, and some labor ought to be done there to strengthen that which remains.

I then came to Rome and found Elders Place and Kinne very busy in the office while Brother Wilcox is away for a few days. I go from here to Saratoga and Warren Counties to labor for a while. Brethren and sisters, aid me by your prayers.

D. A. BALL.

HASBROUCK.

WE made a break in the work at Hasbrouck to take up the week of prayer work. We first visited the companies at Middletown and Slate Hill, being there from Friday, Dec. 20 to Monday, Dec. 23, holding in all eleven meetings. Sunday we organized a church at Middletown, numbering twenty-four members. Tract societies were organized at both places. God's hand was present and his Spirit was present as the first quarterly meeting was held at this place. Tuesday, Dec. 24, found us at Newburg, and here we stayed until the 26th, holding eight meetings including an ordinance meeting. There is considerable outside interest here, showing the work of this small company. Good attention was paid to the word spoken, and a desire to hear more expressed. Newburg out to have work done for thousands know not the gospel of Christ. Friday evening we stopped on our way to preach at Slate Hill, and Sabbath and Sunday were spent at Wurtsboro. Sunday we celebrated the ordinances of the Lord's house. Although this little company have had considerable opposition, they find their strength in Christ, and are "growing in grace." Eighteen subscriptions to our papers were received during the trip. Pray for the work in south-eastern New York.

W. A. WESTWORTH.

NOTICE.

WE trust that all the church clerks will promptly attend to the annual reports sent them before election. Thus time and labor will be saved, and the lists completed in good season.

W. A. WESTWORTH, Sec'y.

Hasbrouck, N. Y.

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W. A. WILCOX, Secretary and Treasurer.

J. R. CALKINS, State Agent.

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SPECIAL ATTENTION!

WE call the attention of our brethren and sisters once more, in this special way, to the matter of sending money or orders to the Society. It will be a great favor to us and save some embarrassment, to say the least, if all who send communications to us, will direct to the New York Tract Society, 317 West Bloomfield Street, Rome, N. Y., and *not* to any individual. It sometimes happens that orders are sent in for books etc., and the envelope addressed to an individual, and that individual may be away from the office for a day or more, thus orders are liable to be delayed. Besides this it is much better for all business to be done with the Society. We believe this will be appreciated by all who take a moment to think about it.

Thus please address all letters of a business nature, New York Tract Society, and also make all money orders, drafts, checks, etc., payable to New York Tract Society. We believe this will be found to be the wisest and best way under all circumstances. Please note instructions on this and other points on the this page.

N. Y. T. Soc.

FALLSBURGH.

LEAVING Rome, Nov. 11, I went to Brookfield, remaining there over the next Sabbath. Those there who have been long in the race took quicker steps as they learned some of the more recent signs proclaiming the nearness of the desired goal. Since then I have been working here, besides speaking twice at Hasbrouck, and once in Monticello. Several are deeply interested, and one has promised to obey.

Reader, pray that God's Word may take deep root in every honest heart here.

W. W. WHEELER.

APPOINTMENTS.

I EXPECT to fill the following appointments at dates named: West Monroe, Sabbath and Sunday, Jan. 11, 12; (meeting to begin Friday night.) Roosevelt, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Jan. 13-16. Lincklaen Center, Sabbath and Sunday, Jan. 18, 19.

A. E. PLACE.

I WILL meet with the Sinclairville church in quarterly meeting, Sabbath and Sunday, Jan. 11, 12. I will also meet with the Jamestown church in their quarterly meeting which has been postponed on account of storms until Jan. 18, 19. The friends at Blockville are invited to meet with us. Hope to see a large attendance at these meeting.

J. B. STOW.

NOTICE.

QUITE a number of our brethren at Auburn, including myself, requested Brother Wilcox to get them a copy of Isaac Leiser's translation from the Hebrew. This work is a great help to an understanding of the Scripture. I have lost the names of those who requested them, and will ask all such to send the order to New York Tract Society, as they are now ready for delivery. Price \$1.00.

D. A. BALL.

—Elder D. A. Ball's present address is, 1st Avenue, Bath-on-Hudson, N. Y., care of D. P. Millias.

—All who have not renewed their subscription for the INDICATOR should do so at once, as this is the last number that will be sent to those who have not sent in their name.

—All persons sending copy for the INDICATOR should mark it such on the envelope; and when appointments are inclosed mark the envelope, "INDICATOR appointments." This will insure prompt attention.