

Signs of the Times.

EXTRA.

CA Wilson

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"Behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Rev. 22:12.

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THIS EXTRA.

THE fact that the publishers of the SIGNS incur considerable expense in issuing this extra is evidence that they deem the matter it contains very important. When every article shall have been carefully perused, the candid, conscientious reader will realize a benefit. When the matter of helping the Lord's cause with our means as well as with our good will is presented from the standpoint of the word of God, it becomes clear that the benefit is not confined to the special institution or enterprise that is assisted. The word always shows that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

When the pressing financial wants of the cause are presented to the people, there is a great tendency to view the matter from the side of *helping* only, rather than from the point of *investment* with a certainty of incalculable gain. Why is it that there is not more eagerness to sell all for the purpose of purchasing the "pearl of great price," or the "field" wherein has been found the "hidden treasure"? Why is it that there is not more anxiety to invest in the "city which hath foundation," and in real estate that we can keep forever, on the strength of God's promises of everlasting profit? Is it because of unbelief? Read the pointed articles in this supplement, and think of these things.

When the speculations of this world are brought to notice, they generally receive marked attention. Now God offers opportunities for investment, which his word assures us are far better than any offered by the world. It is the part of wisdom on the part of Christians to stop and consider the opportunities that are so graciously offered for unailing investment. For your own benefit, give this paper a careful reading.

OUR WORK A MISSIONARY WORK.

BY ELDER S. N. HASKELL.

THE nature of the work of God in the closing scenes of this world's history is emphatically a missionary work. The proclamation of the First Angel's Message is: "I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come." "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is

baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." "And the third angel followed them," that is, the first and second angels which went to every nation, kindred, and tongue, and people. This is the work God has committed unto his people.

In his word we have set before us the living example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. From his example and the instruction he gave and the example of the early apostles who were with him and took up the work when he ascended to heaven, we learn of the true missionary work. It is from these examples and the inspired teachings that we gather all the light we have on this all-important subject. From a few Bible expressions we learn that it is the same spirit and motive which actuated Christ, his early disciples, and all Christians to the end of the world.

In the fourth of Luke and the first verse we read, "And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan." Mark the expression, "being full of the Holy Ghost." Now concerning the early disciples, who took up this work of Christ after he ascended to heaven, to whom the Saviour said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me . . . unto the uttermost parts of the earth," we read, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." When the Saviour entered upon his work, he was "filled with the Holy Ghost." When the disciples took it up, they "were all filled with the Holy Ghost." After being filled with the Holy Spirit, they were charged by their enemies with being drunk with new wine, but Peter vindicated them. It was because every man heard them speak in the tongue in which he was born. It stirred them and gave them a zeal uncommon and about which the proud Pharisees knew nothing.

Now concerning the Christians we read in Ephesians: "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit. Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs." Here again occurs the same expression. And when filled with the Spirit we will speak to one another with psalms and spiritual songs. In the eyes of the cold professor, we shall appear as different from the mere formalist as an intoxicated man does from the sober man. There will be a sincerity, a devotedness, and a zeal inspired by the Spirit, that will arrest the attention of others. "Behold, how these brethren love each other." The zeal that should actuate those looking for the second coming of Christ should be as great as that of the early apostles.

But the question may be asked, How shall this zeal be manifested? We answer, In the same manner as it characterized Christ and the early disciples. Of Christ his own brethren thought

he was beside himself. It was the same with the early disciples on the day of Pentecost. "These men are full of new wine," said the looker on. Christ went about doing good; self-interest was forgotten in the interests of others. We look abroad throughout christendom and there is no denomination but to a greater or less extent is stirred with the missionary spirit in this nineteenth century. Almost continually there is a stream of young men and women flocking to China, India, and Africa as missionaries. Do we possess the same zeal and spirit? Many of these go with a promise of but little if any remuneration. Within the arrangement of the present organization of this people, there are open doors for everyone. They are needed for missionaries of both sexes, as teachers, preachers, Bible workers, canvassers, corresponding secretaries, as well as managers both home and abroad. There never was a greater demand for workers than now; also for means to prosecute an aggressive work. Instruction is imparted by our periodicals in both the home and foreign field. Are these taken and studied by families and individuals? Where are the men and women who this day will consecrate themselves and their means to the cause of Christ? Where are those who will empty themselves, as others have done, and say, "Lord, here am I, send me."

Zinzendorf was a wealthy German lord, but he emptied himself of his honor, his wealth, his home, his friends, and his all for Christ. When he was about to have his estate confiscated, he secured it all to the Herrnhutters (Moravians). After making a full surrender, he said, "Lord, I surrender it all up." Immediately after he said: "I have but one passion—it is He, it is He alone. The world is the field, and the field is the world; henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in the service of Christ." He was thought to be beside himself. It is reported that he baptized the first convert in this country, and that was near what now is known as the State of Georgia. Through his influence the Herrnhutters sent forth their missionaries to the remotest corners of the earth. He virtually became the founder of the denomination known as the Moravians, one of the greatest missionary denominations in the world. The same spirit has existed and does to some extent yet exist in our midst as a people. Names might be mentioned. But this practical consecration does not exist among us as it should.

Do we hear it said, What can I do? Begin in your own church. Visit the sick; take Christ to the sick and desponding; do not think at first you must press home some peculiar idea, but tell the story of the cross of Christ. Then take with

you those periodicals that are especially prepared, and let them read. Send them to those at a distance and correspond in a manner that will bring men and women to our Lord Jesus Christ. Be faithful in the circle in which God has placed you, and leave an influence that will tell for God there. If God has a wider field of usefulness for you, he will open the way.

Then there are others who can go into the foreign fields and support themselves. To such we say, Go, and let a godly life tell that you are a Christian. Some can make themselves useful as nurses, and looking after the poor. In every phase of Christian life there are open doors for those who possess the Spirit of Christ. The missionary spirit can no more live in a heart and not show itself than can water exist and there not be a moisture arise from it. It is the Spirit of Christ. It is the Christian religion. It is all there is to life. Home missionaries in all our churches are wanted. Children should be instructed in every principle of the Christian religion, and before their youthful minds should be placed the nature of the work of Christ in the earth. Tell and read to them such anecdotes as will inspire them with the true missionary spirit, that will lead them to think of souls for whom Christ died. Let them learn to sacrifice. Let them feel the importance of self-denial for others' good. Work is everywhere to be done; the world is full of hearts which are bleeding from wounds that nothing but the gospel of Christ administered by those who have felt its subduing power can heal.

But, first of all, get the heart imbued with the Spirit of Christ. Know that your sins are forgiven, that you have the evidence of divine acceptance. God is more anxious than we are to impart to us the assurance of his love. Will we accept it, and then work out as he works in? Will we make life real and earnest? Will we begin now, right where we are, will we begin to educate ourselves in the school of Christ, by self-denial, by prayer, by encouraging the missionary spirit in ourselves and others?

FAITH AND WORKS.

BY MRS. E. G. WHITE.

God will work for us just in accordance with our faith. At the slow rate our people in many States are working, it would take a temporal millennium to warn the world. The angels are holding the four winds that they should not blow until the world is warned, until a people has decided for the truth, the honest of heart have been convicted and converted. Their power, their influence, and their means will then flow in the missionary channel. This is putting out the money to the exchangers, that when the Master shall come, his stewards may present the talents doubled in the ingathering of souls to Jesus Christ. But the wealthy farmers are some of them acting as if in the day of God the Lord only would require of them to present to him enriched, improved farms, building added to building, and they say, "Here, Lord, are thy talents; behold, I have gained all this possession." If the acres of their farms were so many precious souls saved to Jesus Christ, if their buildings were so many souls to be presented to the Master, then he could say to these men, "Well done, good and faithful servant." But you cannot take these im-

proved farms, or these buildings, into heaven. The fires of the last days will consume them. If you invest and bury your talents of means in these earthly treasures, your heart is on them, your anxiety is for them, your persevering labor is for them, your tact, your skill is cultivated to serve earthly, worldly possessions, and is not directed or employed upon heavenly things. And you come to look upon the means invested for larger plans in extending the work as so much means lost which brings no returns. This is all a mistake, because the earthly is exalted above the eternal. While the heart is on earthly treasures, it can only estimate such; it cannot appreciate the heavenly treasure. It is fully occupied just as the devil wants it should be; and the eternal is eclipsed by the earthly.

BURYING TALENTS IN THE EARTH.

Now there are many diligently at work just as though their salvation depended upon their wonderful economy in investing means in the cause of God, as though the least money they consumed in plans and efforts to broaden and build up the work of God was a virtue. And money is held in farms and in business as though their salvation depended upon the improvements to be made upon their earthly property. Do these men know that they are bound up in selfishness? Do these men know that they are robbing God every day of their lives? Do they know that they are devoting their time, their physical and mental talents, in laying upon the foundation, hay, wood, and stubble? All the improvements of years will be consumed with the fires of the last day, and if they themselves are saved, it will be only as by fire. Their whole life work is in ashes. The reward that they might have gained if they had been faithful stewards, is lost, eternally lost. A host of souls that they might have saved are not saved, because of their neglect. All their powers God had given them to prove them as probationers, whether they are worthy to be intrusted with eternal riches. And there are many whose testimonies have been heard in meetings in continual cautions, lest some advance move shall be made calling for some of their means to reflect light to the world. They are found so buried up with earthly things that they have no right estimate of the eternal riches, and would not prize heaven if it were given them. Their taste, their appetite, their pursuits, their inclinations, are all of an earthly, worldly character; they are unfitted for heaven; they perish with their treasures. All our talents are to be used to the utmost. We are required to develop our abilities by exercise until they have reached the highest standpoint in doing—your farming? your building?—No; but God's work, as stewards of the grace of God.

Your powers are to be used as a blessing to the world. To take God's intrusted talents and employ them for earthly, selfish, worldly purposes, and neglect the work of God in winning souls to Christ,—unfaithful servants is charged upon all who do this and neglect a sacred responsibility. It is a fearful thing to take the powers of the body and of the mind, given you to be employed to be a blessing to the world, and use them in such a way that God is not honored. It is also a fearful thing to fold up the talent in a napkin, and hide it in the earth, or world, for fear God would demand it of you. This will be the cutting off of our own hopes of an eternal reward; it is the forfeiting of the crown of life, and show-

ing that we have no esteem for an eternity of bliss.

TRANSFORMATION NECESSARY.

God calls upon you who have the precious light of truth to no longer have your time and talents devoted to selfish purposes, and thus lost to humanity, and lost to God, by folding up your talents and hiding them in the earth. All these talents must be employed to bring glory to the Giver. Accept your God-given responsibilities and take up your cross, denying yourself, or you cannot be disciples of Christ. God did not design that you should devote brain, bone, and muscle to earthly employments; he intended you should improve your talents to fill some grand and noble place in God's plans, in saving of souls, and in doing God's work. The selfish thoughts and feelings have dried up your souls. The moisture of heaven is not upon many of you. You are as dry as the hills of Gilboa, that were not visited by dew nor rain. Grand opportunities are being lost, and you are shriveled and dying spiritually of *non-use* of your talents. You cannot fulfill your solemn responsibilities to God unless you are transformed in character. Your unconscionable influence in your spiritual attitude of selfish love of the world is saying to the world, "My Lord, delayeth his coming." Your guilt is similar to that of the inhabitants of the old world. You are planting and building, and your works testify that you are not looking and watching and waiting for our Lord's appearing.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOD.

How can you, who are men and women blessed with so great light, so high and sacred privileges, render an account to God why you have done so little as his servants? why you have fulfilled life's grand works so unworthily? God lays responsibilities in your hands to do his work, to educate, to train all your powers to do his work with that efficiency which shall earn for you the, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Wherein does this faithfulness consist? in your withdrawing your interest, your time, your influence, from the work of God, and devoting all your powers to earthly, selfish purposes?—No, the blessing will be pronounced upon those who yoke up with Christ in doing his work. Ye are laborers together with God. You will reveal to the world all the faith you have.

You are not all compelled to go to heathen lands; there are souls just as precious in the sight of God and valuable as your own soul right within your own borders. And how few, very few, workers are employed in giving the message of warning in the large cities? What excuse will you have prepared to offer to God for this terrible neglect of your God-given responsibilities? These souls unsaved within your reach, I was shown, will confront you in the day of judgment. You worshiped your farms, you worshiped your money, you prided yourself upon your wisdom as wise financiers in worldly affairs; but how does all this weigh with God? He said of the rich man, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee; then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" Now the application: "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." The Lord has given you light in testimonies of warning, of reproof, and counsel, but you do but little in accordance with the light given. The words of Christ are explicit, but you are not doers of his words, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Do you contemplate that Christ sacrificed his majesty, his honor and glory, to bring salvation within your reach, and save every son and daughter of Adam? He for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be made rich.

"We are laborers together with God." When he ascended on high, he left his work in the hands of his followers to carry it forward, as he has given us an example in his self-sacrificing life. He went about doing good. Do you follow his example in this? Does your own business seem of greater importance than the precious souls Jesus came to the world to save? Oh, that I could open many eyes that Satan has blinded. Oh, that pen and voice could have an influence to arouse you from your paralysis. Oh, that you could see that you are doing nothing while all heaven is engaged in intense activities to prepare a people to stand in the great day of God.

OUR WORK.

BY ELDER U. SMITH.

THE Lord declares, concerning his people, by the mouth of the prophet: "I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth and warn them from me." If God has given to us special truths for this time, which no true Seventh-day Adventist will deny,—truths which are not found in other movements and with other people, what is our duty with reference to them?—It is our duty to make them known to all the people, in the simplest and most direct way possible.

And there are but two ways in which to do this. These are by word of mouth and by the printed page. People must hear them or read them, one or the other, or, better still, both. Every individual believer has his influence to exert within the circle of his relatives, friends, and neighbors; but ministers, teachers, canvassers, colporters, Bible workers, and correspondents are engaged more directly in the work. Would that there were a hundred of all these classes where there is now but one.

And thus to preach and circulate literature and make known to the people the light of this message, would not seem to require a great amount of elaborate machinery. We have often felt that there was danger of getting up so much machinery that most of the energy, talent, and time of the ablest workers in the cause would be all absorbed in running the machine, and establishing very fine grooves in which the work should move, when they could be better expended in the direct work of the gospel field.

Organization in certain lines, and to a certain extent, is of course indispensable. But may it not be multiplied to too great an extent, and drawn out to too fine points?

We can easily recall times in the past when everyone's ambition seemed to be to go out into the field where people were sitting in darkness, and make known to them the special truths for this time, and bring them to the light and to Christ. And then there were everywhere in the home field accessions to the ranks of men and women who would be bone and sinew to any cause. It is not so much so now. Where is the numerical growth that should have been seen during the past few years in Michigan and other States that might be named? A writer in another denomination recently published a remark which may be applicable to our cause as well. He said, "What we need is not more *harness*, but more *horse*."—*Review and Herald*.

OUR CALLING AND WORK.

BY ELDER DAN. T. JONES.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS are, by the doctrines they hold and their relation to those about them, forced to be a missionary people. To accept the situation and act upon it is the only consistent thing we can do. We believe that God has given us light and truth in advance of that held by the Christian people about us; moreover, we believe that this light and truth which we have received embrace a message, symbolically represented by the three angels of Revelation 14, which is to go to all the world just before Christ comes, to ripen the world for the final harvest. The acceptance of such a faith lays at the door of those who profess it grave responsibilities.

It has been God's plan ever since the gospel was instituted to work through man for the salvation of men. A gentleman prominently connected with the great missionary movement that is now agitating the Christian world lately said that he seriously questioned whether God had ever converted a soul or ever would convert one without in some way connecting man with it. Addressing the church, the apostle says: "But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave unto us the ministry of reconciliation, to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, . . . and having committed unto us the word of reconciliation, we are ambassadors therefor on behalf of Christ." 2 Cor. 5: 18-20, Revised Version.

As in the natural world electricity does not pass from one object to another without a conductor, so in the spiritual world the work of God for the salvation of man must pass through the channel that He has ordained. Man must be connected with it. Man's part in the work of converting souls may sometimes be very slight,—a word spoken, a line written, a tract or paper handed to an individual or sent through the mails. An act in standing out for truth and right may be, and often is, used by God for the salvation of men. When a people have departed from the truth and gone into darkness and forgotten the laws of God, the Lord has revealed himself to individuals who were loyal to him, and through them revived a knowledge of the truth in the earth. This principle is illustrated by the calling and work of such men as Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Hezekiah, the prophets, Martin Luther, and others, and by the calling of Israel as a nation, through whom God designed to let the knowledge of himself and the light of the gospel go to all the world. Had Israel been true to her high calling, instead of the majority of the people of the earth groping in the darkness of heathenism, forgetting God and his truth, all the nations of the world would have received, through the chosen people, a knowledge of the true God, and have heard the gospel of salvation.

The fact that so much depends upon the work of even the disciples of Christ makes it of the greatest importance that every possible effort should be made to reach our fellow-men with the truth of God. Even the smallest acts that we do—and *everyone* can do something—may, through the blessing of God, accomplish much. The Lord says, "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand, for thou knowest not which will prosper, this or that, or whether both will be alike good." Everyone

who accepts the Third Angel's Message is called to work in some capacity for the spread of the gospel of the kingdom. In the closing invitation of the gospel, the true witness says, "LET HIM THAT HEARETH SAY, COME."

As the closing work of the gospel is to be a thorough work that will develop a perfect people, so the Lord has caused to be recorded the failings of his people in the past, that we may be admonished thereby, and avoid falling into the same errors that marred and destroyed their work. Their lack of faith, their murmurings, their faultfindings, their idolatry, their temptings of Christ, their failures to receive the message of God as he gave it to them, their neglect of the work which he gave them to do, these and many other things are "written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

It is the duty of one as much as another to become an active worker in the Lord's vineyard. The fact that we may not be able to devote much time to the work, or do something that will seem large in our own eyes and in the eyes of those who look on, does not excuse us for devoting *no time at all* to working for God, or in neglecting to do *the little that we might do* for the spread of his truth. The Lord judges "according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." The mites of the poor widow who had no more, were in the sight of God a greater offering than the shekels of the rich who had an abundance left. The same principle holds good in the missionary work. The smallest act performed or sacrifice made in the name of Christ, with an unselfish motive and in the spirit of love, cannot fail to accomplish good, and will receive its reward. The greatest demonstration is not an evidence of the greatest power. God was not in the wind, though it rent the mountains; nor in the earthquake, though it shook the hills; nor in the fire, though it consumed the forests; but he was in the still, small voice which said, "What doest thou here?"

In the parable of the talents each man received a portion, but it was the man that received the one talent who failed to make a satisfactory use of that which was committed to his trust. Likewise there is danger that those who have but little of time or talent or means to use for God, will neglect to use what they have because it is small, and will therefore fall under the condemnation of a "slothful and wicked servant." "Who, then, is that faithful and wise steward, whom his Lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing." "Therefore to him that knoweth to do well, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

IS IT A SACRIFICE?

BY ELDER S. N. HASKELL.

THE spirit of sacrifice is an essential element in the Christian religion. The expression is used to describe such acts as partake of the same spirit that brought Christ to this earth. It was a renunciation by him of the glory which he had with the Father before the world was, and the humbling of himself, even to the death of the cross, that we might be saved. It is a spirit of disinterested benevolence, a yielding of that which is precious to us, for the good of others. The first religious service of which we have any account

was a sacrifice by man, prefiguring the death of Christ upon the cross. In the Mosaic economy, the sacrifice of animals and the gifts of the first fruits were numerous, and when the people lost the spirit of giving the best, so that their labor and service were merely formal, the offerings were not acceptable in God's sight, and the people became estranged in their hearts from God. All acceptable sacrifices were consumed, and when consumed it was an evidence of God's acceptance.

Malachi, the last prophet of the Old Testament, testifies that the Jews had lost the proper spirit, as they offered for sacrifices the blind, the lame, and the sick, and such animals as were worthless. They had gone so far that they would not even shut the doors of the Lord's house, or kindle a fire upon his altar, for naught. They must be paid for everything that they did in the service of God. They also said, "What a weariness is it!" and they snuffed at the services of the Lord's house, and brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick. God then pronounces the following curse upon them: "But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing; for I am a great King, saith the Lord of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen."

Every work of reform has been carried forward by those who possessed a spirit of sacrifice. In the early history of this message it was sustained almost exclusively by the offerings and donations of the poor. Many a man gave of his substance until he was reduced to poverty, and though in many instances God afterwards blessed such ones temporally, there are living witnesses to-day who can testify that their farms and all their earthly possessions were consumed in sustaining the Third Angel's Message in its early history. Our brethren since that time have been called upon to help the cause of God in a special sense. Our work is an aggressive one. From the beginning it has been as it was in the days of Luther, Wesley, and other reformers; it is a reformatory work from beginning to end. We never expect while probation lasts that we shall reach a time when we shall cease to enter new fields. When the work is finished, the Lord will come, and the saints will be taken from this earth. We have a special warning to give to the world, and when that warning has been given, and has produced its effects, the saints will be gathered. We must enter new fields, and gain new conquests as individuals and as a people, and this will continually call for an increased outlay of means. The call for means to-day is more urgent than any time in the past history of this work. We can but thank and praise God when we see the openings from those fields which have hitherto been closed to the truth. But shall not we, as a people, come up to the work of the Lord in a time like this?

In the closing of this work, when the half-hearted and world-loving professor sees that probation is really ending, he will bring his money and lay it at the feet of God's servants, but there will be no use for it. Then James 5: 1-3 will be literally fulfilled. But at the present time means are wanted. Men and women are called upon to sacrifice whatever talents they possess. Our brethren have given nobly to help the work in the past, and many have pledged liberally of their means to help in the present crisis; but the question arises, Who makes real sacrifices to ad-

vance the truth of God? Is it those who make pledges that they will give of their means, and then refrain from disposing of their property until they can get the highest market price, while the cause is left to suffer? If such individuals conclude that they have done their duty, when God's providence opens the way for a disposal of their property, but they hold on in hopes of getting the full value, they will find that they have made a mistake. The Jews were to reckon the value of their land in proportion to the number of years to the jubilee. Do our brethren and sisters take this into account in their efforts to dispose of their property?

Again, our institutions are the safest places in which our brethren can deposit their means. Banks are failing, almost constantly, and every worldly enterprise is insecure; but the institutions planted in the interests of present truth, and sustained by our people as a body, can never fail so long as they are devoted to that work, and so long as there is a demand for the truth. Our brethren are induced to place their means in these institutions to help forward the work. This is a good move, and by this means the cause is carried forward; but if they merely loan their money to our institutions, and receive as much interest as they would in the banks, or from outside parties, is there any sacrifice in this? We think not. Would it not be far better, if we have means in the world, to take it and sacrifice at least the interest, giving the cause the use of the money, and have it so arranged that should the individual die, the money could not be drawn out from the work of God by those who would not recognize that it had been consecrated to a sacred work? There would be some sacrifice in that.

But we often hear it said, "We have a few hundred or a few thousand dollars out at interest, and every year we give the income to the Lord." Now it would help the work of the Lord far more to place the principal without interest in our institutions. Then the institution not only gets the benefit of the interest on the money, but the money itself, and so long as they hold it, it counts the same as though it had been actually given.

The time has come when "sell and give alms" is present truth. The cause is crippled in almost every part of the field. Funds are wanted in every department of the work. Missions are to be established in fields which are untouched as yet, and those already established must be sustained. Some of these missions bring no money back to our institutions to pay those who loan their money with interest. But if our brethren have money out at interest, we think it would be commendable, and they would manifest a spirit of sacrifice, if they would take that means which they have, and if they cannot give it, at least place it in the cause without interest. Some of our brethren have borrowed money to the extent of the worth of their property, and from the proceeds of their farms have paid the interest, loaning the principal to our institutions. We do not say that this is the duty of all, and in fact it would be unnecessary for all to do this if those who have means would place it in the cause without interest.

We have often feared that as the demands of the work for means are great, and we have encouraged our brethren to loan their means by paying interest, as has been done in the past, they would get a false idea of sacrifice. There

are cases in which widows or individuals who are feeble have means, and depend upon the income from the same for support. In such cases we think it perfectly right and proper that interest be paid; but for our brethren to loan to the Lord, and place their money in a safer place than any worldly institution, and then require as much interest as they would in the world, we think is a great mistake if they think by so doing they are making a sacrifice. We hope none of our brethren will be deceived in this matter, but that they will make such sacrifices as God will be pleased to accept, and that the spirit of sacrifice will run through our people far and near. May the Lord bless our brethren in this respect. The Lord is coming soon, and we want to prepare to meet him, and do our work, and transact our business, in such a manner that God can accept the efforts which we put forth. This spirit is what God requires. It is the Lord's cause and the Lord's work, and none of our institutions in any way contribute to the advantage of any individual.

WHY THE SIGNS WAS INCREASED TO SIXTEEN PAGES.

THE first number of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES bears date of June 4, 1874. Ever since that issue the SIGNS has been regarded as the pioneer missionary paper of the denomination, and millions of copies have been sent to different parts of the world.

One year ago, in response to the demand of missionary workers in different parts of the field for a paper that might be more extensively used in missionary work, the SIGNS was reduced to eight pages, and the price reduced accordingly. After running in this way for a few months, it became evident that the paper did not meet the demand, and that it was not giving satisfaction to the large majority of missionary workers. In a paper with only eight pages the publishers found it impossible to give the amount and variety of matter which a journal of this kind ought to contain. Accordingly, at the last annual meeting of the stockholders of the Pacific Press Publishing Company, held in April, 1891, the question of enlarging the SIGNS OF THE TIMES to sixteen pages was raised, and, after a free expression of the sentiments of the stockholders, the following resolutions were adopted:—

WHEREAS, We fully sense the demand for a missionary paper at a price which will place it in the reach of our Tract Societies and missionary workers, and at the same time properly represent the truths which it advocates; therefore,

Resolved, That we hereby instruct the board of directors that shall be elected at this meeting to take into consideration: (a) The advisability of increasing the SIGNS to sixteen pages at the beginning of the next volume. (b) The advisability of inserting a select line of advertisements. (c) The advisability of offering a premium with the paper and making a strong effort to secure a large list of single subscriptions.

Resolved, That we request the board of directors to confer with the General Conference Committee, the officers of the International Tract Society and State Tract Societies, ministers, and our people generally, so far as practicable, on the points above referred to, that we may understand what the general desire is in reference to the paper; and, further,

Resolved, That we hereby authorize the board of directors, after ascertaining as fully as possible the sentiments of our people on the points above mentioned, to take action as they may consider best for the interests of the SIGNS and the Publishing Association.

In harmony with the instruction of the stockholders, letters were sent to Conferences and Tract Society officers, ministers and other leading brethren throughout the field. The responses to these letters were almost unanimous in advising that the SIGNS be increased to sixteen pages. The matter was also submitted to the General Conference Committee at its meeting last August, for advice, and the following response was received from the General Conference Association, it having been indorsed by the General Conference Committee and the General Conference Association:—

"We advise the publishers of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES:—

"1. To increase the size of the paper to sixteen pages, commencing with the next volume.

"2. That it be made up and edited wholly with reference to its mission as a pioneer missionary paper. That a competent corps of special contributors be engaged to furnish articles on different subjects, so that a large list of subjects, both doctrinal and practical, may be treated in each volume.

"3. That we discourage the insertion of commercial advertisements.

"4. That the time of commencing the volume be changed to the first of November.

"5. That the subscription price be \$1.50 for single subscriptions.

"6. That no commission be given to canvassers for the journal.

"7. That the General Conference Committee make a proposition to the Pacific Press Publishing Company to take the editorial management of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES, and bear the expense of the same for a term of two years, and in case this recommendation is accepted, the price of the paper in clubs of ten or more be placed at \$1.25."

As our readers are aware, the publishers decided to adopt the recommendation of the General Conference Committee, and increase the paper to sixteen pages. It was also decided to make the page a little larger, use better paper, and make other important changes.

The first number of the new volume was issued November 9, 1891, and so far as we have been able to learn, gives general satisfaction.

The subscription price is as follows:—

Single copy, one year, postpaid.....\$1 50

In clubs of ten or more to one name
and address..... 1 25

The editorial management is now in the hands of the General Conference Committee. Elder M. C. Wilcox has been appointed editor, and a large number of contributors from different parts of the field have been enlisted to write for the paper.

The design will be to make each volume complete in itself in the presentation of all phases of the truth, including a large proportion of practical matter, so that anyone who receives the paper for one year and reads it carefully will be quite well instructed on all points of the Third Angel's Message.

The price in clubs of ten or more is placed at the very low price of \$1.25 as a special inducement to Tract Societies and missionary workers to take clubs for missionary work. At this rate the paper will be furnished for less than cost unless all will take hold, and by united effort increase the subscription list to 20,000 or more; but the desire of the publishers and of the General Conference Committee is, first of all, to make the SIGNS OF THE TIMES fill the place for which it was designed from the beginning, that of a pioneer missionary paper through which Bible truths can be elucidated and placed before the reader in such a way as to attract his attention and lead him to investigate; and, second, to give it a wide circulation, that the influence of the truths which it presents may be as widely extended as possible.

The editors and publishers will endeavor to make the paper as good as it can be made; and we ask the co-operation of ministers, Tract Society and Conference officers, church elders, mis-

sionary workers, and all who are interested in the spread of the truth, in getting the paper into the hands of the people.

As a careful estimate shows that the SIGNS, when increased to sixteen pages, will cost \$1.53 per volume of fifty numbers for an edition of ten thousand (which is more than we are printing at the present time), there would be a loss of twenty-eight cents on all the papers taken in clubs. But the General Conference Committee has expressed a willingness to assist in bringing the paper up to the standard which it should occupy, and the publishers are also willing to raise the paper to a high standard without too much regard to the cost, that it may the better fill its place as a pioneer missionary paper. But there are ways in which you can assist the General Conference Committee and the publishers to make the paper what it should be without its being published at a constant financial loss. We will suggest for your consideration some of the ways in which this may be done:—

1. By inducing as many as you can to take the paper at the regular price for single subscriptions.

2. By encouraging Tract Societies and individuals to take clubs for missionary purposes, so that the list may be raised to a paying basis, which would require at the club rate which we now make between sixteen and twenty thousand.

3. By securing donations to be applied towards the running expenses of the paper.

We have about twenty-seven thousand church members in the United States, so if each State society would work up a list for the SIGNS equivalent to two-thirds of its church membership, it would be placed on a self-supporting basis.

The publishers feel greatly encouraged for the hearty indorsement which the paper in its new form has received from all quarters and the promises made to work for a large circulation. We are also glad to say that the subscription list is on the increase. We now print about ten thousand copies weekly. Will you be one of the number to help increase the list to twenty thousand copies weekly?

PACIFIC PRESS PUBLISHING CO.,
Publishers Signs of the Times.

CIRCULATE THE "SIGNS."

BY ELDER DAN T. JONES.

So far as we have been able to learn, through correspondence and from visiting churches, the SIGNS OF THE TIMES in its present form is giving excellent satisfaction. It is filled from week to week with a variety of choice, fresh matter covering all points of the present truth. The SIGNS was designed, from the time it was established, to be the pioneer missionary paper of the denomination. The design of the General Conference Committee, which now has the editorial management of the paper, is to have it fill that place.

The next important point is to give it the circulation that a pioneer paper should have, for unless it is placed in the hands of the people, all the labor and expense of preparing and publishing it will be lost. The pioneer missionary work should not be left to the few, but should be done by the many. By this we do not wish to be understood as advocating that those who can do much should curtail their work, for this they should not do; but what we wish to say is that every individual connected with our churches or Tract Societies should act a part in this work. The work is suited to the circumstances of all. The paper is at a price so low that none are so poor but that they can pay for one or more copies, and the work of wrapping, addressing, and mailing is quickly and easily done.

In order that all may get the benefit of the club rates and have a part in the work of sending the SIGNS, we would recommend the following plan, which we know is working well where it has been tried:—

1. Let all the papers going to a church or company be ordered in one club and to one address.

2. In making up this club, ascertain how many papers each individual member will pay for, paying quarterly in advance.*

3. Let the librarian, or the one selected for that purpose, take a list of the names, with the number of papers that each becomes responsible for, and collect the money and remit to the publishers or to the treasurer of his State Tract Society, each quarter.

4. An effort should be made each quarter to increase the club by adding new names and by getting those who are already taking papers to take more if they are able to do so, and if any of those who have been taking papers cannot continue to pay for them, their papers should be dropped from the club.

5. Where it is practicable, weekly missionary meetings should be held, and the program laid down in the *Home Missionary*, or some other better suited to the particular local circumstances, should be carried out. At this meeting the papers should be made ready for the mails. It will often be found advisable for the one who receives the club through the mails to wrap the papers, using stamped newspaper wrappers, and taking care that the work is neatly done. This will leave only the addressing to be done at the meeting, which will save time and generally secure neater work.

6. Where the individuals do not take a separate copy of the paper for their own reading, they should reserve one copy from the club till they read it carefully. All should know what they are sending out; this will help us in praying for the success of our work.

7. A list of the names to whom the papers are sent should be kept on file, so that duplicates may not be sent.

8. It is very desirable, though not absolutely necessary, that missionary letters should be written to those to whom papers are sent. A postal may answer to notify the individual that you have sent the paper, so that he will not think it a mere advertising sample from the office of publication. But afterward a letter should follow, calculated to learn, in an indirect manner, the reader's interest in the contents of the paper.

9. Where parties to whom papers are sent are not corresponded with by those who send the papers, the names and addresses should be forwarded to the State secretary of your Tract and Missionary Society.

10. The expense of postage can properly be taken out of the fourth Sabbath collections for missionary work.

Other points will suggest themselves to those who engage in this work. If this plan or a similar one is carried out and our people all over the land engage in it heartily, we shall confidently expect to see great good accomplished. Here is a chance for all to do something. Should we not prove our willingness to do missionary work?

THE "SIGNS" AND "REVIEW."

BY ELDER S. N. HASKELL.

It will be seen that in this supplement special efforts are made to increase the circulation of the SIGNS OF THE TIMES. It should be distinctly understood that the SIGNS is our pioneer paper, and the object of increasing its circulation is twofold, embracing two important considerations:—

First, it is to place the light and knowledge of the truth before those who are now in darkness.

Second, it is to educate our brethren and sisters in the missionary work,—to get them to feel more interest in the cause at large than they have hitherto done.

While this spirit is taken into families, and they carry it out in a practical manner, remailing the SIGNS OF THE TIMES, opening a correspondence, and talking about letters received, and

*This suggestion may not be suited to the condition of every society. Where such a course is not practicable for want of ready means, other plans may be devised, as the society may deem best.

seeking God at the same time for his blessing to attend the efforts, it will be found to develop in families and individuals more of a missionary spirit, that will not only lead some to go forth and labor in this country, but who will find their way to foreign fields. There is not, therefore, a family of Seventh-day Adventists who love the truth of God, but should engage in this work. Some can go out and canvas from house to house and secure subscriptions, and others can remail the papers and send them to their friends. Our sisters should enter heartily into this work. It is a phase of the work that seems to come directly home to them. They may not have time to leave their homes, but they can take time to pray, to remail the papers, and to write some good Christian letters to individuals,—letters which will breathe the Spirit of Christ.

Such letters cannot fail to do good. We have evidences of this continually. But while this work is going on, it should not be forgotten that the *Review and Herald* is our church paper, and that it, too, belongs in every family circle. It is not so well adapted to do missionary work with as the SIGNS OF THE TIMES, especially with those wholly unacquainted with our work. But it would seem that no family of Seventh-day Adventists can live and prosper without a knowledge of the progress of our work, which is found in the *Review and Herald*. We advise the brethren, therefore, in every place to take this paper. It comes from week to week laden with meat in due season, and with information concerning the progress of the cause.

And so it is with each of our periodicals. Each has a field of its own. It may be said that we cannot read so many papers. Is it not time for us to begin to make special preparations for the second coming of Christ, to take more time to think of heaven, and to pray? We shall never lose in doing this.

May God bless our brethren, bless the SIGNS, bless the *Review*, and every one of our periodicals; and may these be the means of a growth in grace among our people, and a preparation for the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

APPEAL IN BEHALF OF THE WORK IN LONDON.

NOTWITHSTANDING we have recently submitted to you a carefully-studied, itemized statement showing the amount of publications required for the next twelve months and the necessary means to produce them, we thought it fitting to write you more fully relative to this important matter. Your Advisory Committee have very carefully and prayerfully considered this whole question, and we may say that after a reconsideration of the figures submitted to you, we are satisfied that if we have erred in the matter it has been in not making them as large as the case will warrant. The figures are based upon:—

1. The present number of canvassers, making no allowance for any increase of our working force in these fields; and,

2. Upon the present efficiency of the workers, quite a per cent. of whom are beginners at the work, and who, we trust, will become more successful as they get an experience.

The force in Australia is steadily increasing, and the same is true of Africa; and we shall be disappointed if in the next six months it is not materially increased here also. We have every reason to believe that it will be.

A BRIEF SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

We refer to the territory for which the London house is called upon to furnish publications.

1. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, with its 38,000,000 of people; its greater London, with 5,633,332; its ten cities outside of London, with a population ranging from 200,000 to over 500,000; with its sixty-two cities, with a population each of over 50,000; its numerous smaller towns and villages, the remotest of which can be reached from our office in twelve or fifteen hours, furnishes a population sufficient to employ our present canvassing force over twelve years in

visiting the people once. Suppose we say that the canvassers will be able to reach but one-third of this vast population, then, with our present force, four years will be required to go over the ground with one book. When we consider how readily the publications are going, and the fact that this is, in an eminent sense, a nation of readers, we see in the United Kingdom alone a territory almost unlimited in resources, calculated to build up a publishing house and make it a financial success. But we stop not here.

2. SOUTH AFRICA.—The Colonial possessions of Great Britain in that field are becoming more important every year. The book business is already assuming large proportions there. The population is rapidly increasing, and twenty-five canvassers are already at work there. Africa looks to London for books, and she should not look in vain. The predominating languages in South Africa, outside of the native races, are the Dutch and the English, and the printed truth in that form most acceptable to these people should be speedily placed in their hands. Shall this be done or not?

3. AUSTRALASIA.—England's active, wide-awake colonies of Australia and New Zealand are outstripping almost every other territory in the sale of our literature. These Colonies are anxious to get their books from London, but we have been able to furnish them only to a limited extent because we had not the money with which to produce the books. Urgently they are asking us, When can you supply us with books from London? What is to be our answer to Australasia?

Other Colonial possessions of Great Britain we will not mention here. The territory already referred to is sufficient for our present consideration.

THE PRESENT SITUATION.

1. Our publishing house here in London needs to invest but little in plant and machinery, since the printing and binding of our books can be done cheaper, better, and more expeditiously by outside parties than we can do it ourselves. This is greatly to our advantage, as it would require a large amount of capital to be invested if we were obliged to do this work ourselves.

2. The London Branch has endeavored to run its business in a way that would make it a safe place of deposit for our brethren in this field who have more or less means to loan. This plan we must continue to pursue, because it is right, and because, as the work develops, we shall need the confidence and support of our people in these fields.

3. Our capital upon which to do business is wholly inadequate to warrant our doing what ought to be done and what must be done unless we allow the book business and the canvassing work to be greatly crippled. Some of the difficulties we have experienced owing to the working capital of the London Branch not being sufficiently large to cope with the phenomenal increase of the business, are: (a) We have been unable to produce large editions of our subscription books, and so could not promptly fill orders that have come from South Africa, thus causing disappointment and monetary loss to the agents, the depositories, and the publishing house. (b) When the work of bookmaking has to be hurried, mistakes are more likely to occur, and it is impossible to turn out good work. This is especially so in the case of binding in the several styles of leather, and the London binders will not hold themselves responsible for work that is hurriedly done.

Had we the proper amount of capital with which to meet the demands for publications that are already upon us for the next twelve months, the returns from the sales of our books would then keep such capital stock good as a reserve upon which to do business. If we had seventy-five thousand dollars now, this office could use it to good advantage directly in the publishing work. With ready cash our printing could be done much cheaper, our paper bills one month could be discounted eight per cent. Judging from the

present outlook, from the present success of the canvassers in Australasia, Africa, and the United Kingdom, there will be needed in the next twelve months not less than sixty thousand books, which will require an outlay of about \$75,000. Of course, during this time if we can get the books to place in the hands of the canvassers, a considerable portion of this sum will be returned to us from their sales, but the investment is needed to properly and successfully carry on the business.

The following figures will give a correct idea of the books required and the necessary capital to produce them. These computations are based upon such books as "Bible Readings," "Patriarchs and Prophets," "Ladies' Guide," and "Masterpiece." We submit these figures for your careful consideration.

During the next twelve months the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Australia, and South Africa will need 55,000 books, the aggregate selling price of which will be \$240,604.85, less agents' profits, \$122,302.42.

We solemnly believe that, located here in the world's metropolis, with facilities for producing books cheaper, better, and quicker in very large quantities than any or all of our publishing houses can do it, and with a self-supporting territory second to none in the world, this house at once becomes a missionary enterprise of the first importance. If our brethren who have the means at their disposal, perhaps deposited in banks or railroad stocks, could see the situation as it is, and take into account the opportunities which present themselves, and the demands which are even now pressing upon us for publications which we cannot furnish for lack of means, we feel sure they would respond to the present needs.

At a dark period in America's history, when she had met with frequent reverses and the spirit of alarm prevailed, State officials were resigning their positions because they were thought to be inefficient, and when half a million dollars was needed to put the city of New York in a state of defense, and the money could not be procured on the public credit, a senator, loyal to his country, applied to the governor of the State to raise the money on his own responsibility. The governor hesitated on the ground that it might ruin him. "Then," said the senator, "ruin yourself if it becomes necessary to save the country, and I pledge you my honor that I will support you in whatever you do." Through the grand patriotism of these two men the necessary sum was obtained, and the city was fortified against the enemy. We all admire such spirits as these, whose daring deeds of valor and self-sacrifice stand out in bold relief on the page of history. But how insignificant is the cause for which such men sacrificed and suffered and bled and died when contrasted with the warfare in which we have enlisted.

Will the spirit of true patriotism and genuine loyalty to the cause of God be manifested by our brethren who have means, at this important crisis in our work? We must do one of two things, either secure the necessary means, or ask our canvassers not to sell so many books. We appeal to you to tell us what to do. We dare not call any of our canvassers in, but if we do not, we must be able to meet their demands upon us. Oh, that the urgent necessities of the hour might be the rod that would smite the rock of our denominational resources and thus cause abundant streams of revenue to flow forth, whereby these demands could be met, the truth scattered, and the final consummation hastened, the warfare ended, and the victory won! We need not add more, but we look imploringly to you for help just now, praying that He to whom the cause belongs will put it into the hearts of his dear people to recognize the needs of the present hour, and to supply those needs with the ability that God has given them.

Yours very sincerely,

JOHN I. GIBSON,
E. M. MORRISON,
D. A. ROBINSON.

"THE SABBATH SCHOOL WORKER."

THE work and influence of the Sabbath school have come to be potent and powerful factors in the cause of truth. Since 1878, when steps were first taken for general organization, the Sabbath-school department of the work has increased in volume, power, and efficiency. To-day, by the prospering hand of God, it is one of the recognized pillars of the church, and a powerful agency in the conversion and education of the young.

But no cause can prove successful without general harmony and unity of action in the methods, plans, and laws which should regulate it. No such unity of action can be secured without an agency whereby all may be influenced, by which thought may be interchanged and instruction imparted, and by which the general good of the cause may be considered and promoted.

The need of such a medium in Sabbath-school work has brought into existence the *Sabbath School Worker*, which is just entering on its eighth volume. During the seven years it has been before the public it has been working earnestly, yet unostentatiously, to bring about in Sabbath-school work improved methods of labor, concerted and unified action, increased interest in the study of God's word, and greater devotion and consecration in all its readers. This has been its object in the past. For the future, "Excelsior" will be its motto. It enters upon another year with better and broader facilities to extend its field of usefulness than ever before. With its regular staff of contributors, with its increased patronage, with the benefit of its past experience, and with the blessing of Heaven, we see no reason why its field for good may not be greatly enlarged for the future. The *Worker* for 1892 appears in a new dress, which greatly adds to the beauty and interest of the journal. Six choice departments of study are included in its scope of instruction. We note these in their order:—

GENERAL ARTICLES,

In which is given in condensed form the best thought of our leading workers on the various lines of Sabbath-school work. In this department, during 1892, special articles from the pen of Sister White will be made a leading feature.

EDITORIAL

Articles will appear in this department each month from both editors, whose constant connection with the work keeps them alive and awake to its needs.

SPECIAL MENTION.

Here will be given notices of important changes, articles of interest from the pen of the president of the association and the Executive Committee, and items of interest regarding the advance moves of the work all along the line.

OUR MISSION FIELD

Deals with the object of the Sabbath-school donations, presenting its needs to the schools, thus acquainting them with the general features of the missionary cause, and educating and enlisting an interest in missionary enterprise.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD,

As its name indicates, presents items of news, reports of meetings, and letters from our workers in all parts of the world. It will always have a testimony of cheer, courage, and admonition from some laborer in the harvest field.

HINTS ON SABBATH-SCHOOL LESSONS.

To teachers this is one of the most important departments of the journal. The lesson notes for each series of lessons are written by one of the lesson writers of that series, which makes them of special interest and value. Many teachers can testify to the benefit derived from these helps.

Every three months are given the quarterly statistics of all schools among Seventh-day Adventists in the world. When these reports are printed, the journal contains twenty-four pages instead of sixteen, so that none of the regular space is consumed by statistics.

A recent effort has been made to increase the circulation of this excellent Sabbath-school help.

This effort has been fairly successful, resulting in about two thousand additional subscribers. A number of State associations have placed it in the hands of all its officers and teachers. This has worked well so far, and we believe it will prove very successful. But there is need of a more general interest being manifested in this journal. It is designed especially for the help of Sabbath-school officers and teachers, and, as such, ought to be in the hands of all who hold such positions in our Sabbath schools. If our friends will speak a good word for the *Worker*, and extend its circulation in their community among the members of their own school and church, this result can be accomplished. The *Worker* should also have a wider circulation than it does outside of our own ranks. There are many officers and teachers in the Sunday schools of various churches who would welcome the *Worker* could their attention be called to it. A good opportunity is afforded to thus introduce it this year, while it contains lesson notes on the International Sunday-school lesson subjects. These could be used as an entering wedge. Will not all try to increase the subscription list of the *Worker* during 1892?

The subscription price of the journal is 50 cents per year. In clubs of five to ten, to one address, 45 cents; in clubs of ten or more, to one address, 40 cents. Address, *Sabbath School Worker*, Box 548, Oakland, Cal.

DO NOT READ THIS

UNLESS you are willing to act upon it. That we are living in the last days, a multitude of omens in the physical, political, social, and religious worlds surely show, as declared by our Lord in Matt. 24:33 and Luke 21:25-27. Among the indications of the world's approaching doom and dissolution, are gluttony, drunkenness, licentiousness, unrestrained looseness of the baser passions and appetites, and sickness and disease of every kind. The great questions of the world are: "What shall we eat? and, What shall we drink? and, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?" The majority of professed Christians follow in the same line, not only making the religion of Christ a religion of sensuousness, but too often of sensuality. The world is living over again the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, against which our Lord has given us many and frequent warnings in his word and otherwise. See Luke 17:28-30; 21:34,35; Rom. 13:12-14. The only hope which we will have of not being swept away by all these diseases of spiritual Egypt is to submit to God's will, eat and drink to his glory (1 Cor. 10:31), and then we can consistently ask the protecting care of God in shielding us from disease. On the other hand, if we persistently ignore the light God has given us on healthful living, our minds will become blinded, and we will drift to destruction, while consoling ourselves that we are safe. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Hos. 4:6; Isa. 5:13.

In the providence of God we have journals whose object is to teach the way of healthful living, to teach us how to get well, and how to keep well; not only this, but how to help us to preserve pure minds, clean hearts, clear intellects, so as to best glorify God. The chief of these are *Good Health*, in the East, and *Pacific Health Journal*, on the Pacific Coast and in the West. The latter has a small circulation among our own people. Its circulation among those without should be three times what it is at present, and it would reach that figure if our people were as interested in it as they should be. It contains every month that which would be of priceless value if reduced to practice in our homes.

It is often said, "We cannot afford it." But how often it is that we can afford to be ill, and spend without a murmur from five to twenty-five times, in the course of the year, what the *Health Journal* would cost us. Are not these things so? They have a bearing on our eternal destiny. Can we afford not to take one of our health publi-

cations? And ought not those on the Pacific Coast to support our attractive, and, by many, highly-prized *Pacific Health Journal*? You cannot afford to be without it. May we not see in 1892 a much larger circulation of our health publications? The price of the *Journal* is \$1.00 per year. Address, *Pacific Health Journal*, Oakland, Cal.

"OUR LITTLE FRIEND."

OUR child's paper has now been before the public almost two years. It entered a field which, until its advent, was entirely unoccupied by any Seventh-day Adventist periodical. It was well received from the start, as testimonials published in its columns from time to time, and many others not published, abundantly show. The fact that it did not attempt to intrude upon the ground of any other publication, at once secured it a welcome which soon gave it a prestige.

There is no doubt that lessons are more highly appreciated by children when published in connection with other attractive matter. Both teachers and parents realize this fact. There is, however, opportunity for children to do good with the paper, as well as to get good from reading it and studying the lessons it contains. They can be taught to do missionary work with *Our Little Friend*. By the introduction of this attractive little paper into families through their children, prejudice against our other literature may, in a great measure, be allayed. We have one instance of an Episcopal Sunday school taking thirty copies for the use of the school. And the choice was made after comparing *Our Little Friend* with many other child's papers. The policy of trying to wean children toward our faith by little attractions may pave the way for their acceptance of the truth as they grow older. Let our little ones also engage in sowing seed for the Master.

TESTIMONIALS.

SISTER NANCY PONTIOUS, Brayton, Iowa, in ordering extra copies, adds:—

"We occasionally have little visitors come into our school, and therefore need extra copies. We think it is the best paper that was ever published for the children. It is encouraging to see the faces of the little ones brighten up as the papers are unwrapped and given to each one."

SISTER HELEN M. ANDRUS, Chetek, Wis., testifies:—

"It just meets the wants of all our children; it is both interesting and instructive to children and older ones, too. I read it with as much interest as do the children."

N. E. MOORE, Ripley, Texas, with order for additional numbers, writes:—

"*Our Little Friend* is a splendid little paper, and is doing a great deal of good among the children. I feel that I can say from my heart, Long live *Our Little Friend*."

SISTER MAY CORBIT, Bethlehem, Iowa, says: "The little paper is indeed a friend, to Sabbath-school teachers as well as scholars. May it be the means of bringing many lambs into the fold of Christ."

SISTER M. C. WHITE, Toledo, Ohio, ordering club continued, says:—

"Words cannot express the merits of this little paper. All, from the youngest to the oldest, enjoy its pages; and the lessons are just good."

BROTHER S. HEATHCOTE, Orland, Cal., adds to a business letter this testimony:—

"We like the paper very well. The lessons are the best I ever saw in my life for little ones. The Baptist and Methodist neighbors' children have exchanged some of their papers with our children, so that we have had a fair chance to compare them, and theirs are nowhere beside *Our Little Friend*."

JESUS came to save men from sin. He came to seek and to save that which was lost, or strayed away. His whole mission was devoted to the welfare of mankind. We are saved, then, through Christ, by the operation of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, cleansing and refining us, and bringing us into his spiritual likeness; for we must be like him, having his Spirit, or we are not saved through him. "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

"THE AMERICAN SENTINEL."

THE work to which the *Sentinel* is designed to call special attention is still going forward. There is a constant tendency on the part of our people to slacken their efforts to circulate this paper at times when the enemy is apparently dormant. Herein lies a great mistake. The great foe of religious liberty never sleeps. When he has no pressing measure before Congress or the State Legislatures, he is doing a more insidious work by endeavoring to stir up municipalities, churches, and labor organizations, and to enlist the co-operation of influential individuals in the so-called reform movement.

The purpose of the *Sentinel* is to warn the people, that they may not be deceived. This work is too often done in a way to indicate that it is merely a temporary one, just to oppose Sunday laws where they threaten the temporal liberties of Seventh-day Adventists. But the object of the paper is one that demands untiring zeal and patience on the part of those whose duty and privilege it is to see that it is put into the hands of the people at large. The truth is not designed merely to save them from personal inconvenience here, but that they may not be deceived to their everlasting destruction.

Many of our people have yet to learn for themselves the precious truths taught in the *Sentinel*, lest even they be deceived by some shrewd movement with a fair exterior, whose real object they would oppose if laid bare before them. The enemy would deceive if possible "the very elect." Says the testimony of the Spirit: "The *Sentinel* has been, in God's order, one of the voices sounding the alarm, that the people might hear, and realize their danger, and do the work required at the present time." What more is necessary to say? "The Lord intends that his people shall heed whatever he sends them." Can our words add anything to its importance?

"THE YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR" ENLARGED.

THIS valuable journal for the youth and children will contain eight pages per week during the coming year, instead of four, as formerly.

Five pages will be devoted to the youth, two pages to the children, and one page to the Intermediate Sabbath-school lessons, notes, etc.

A special staff of writers in different parts of the world will contribute illustrated articles for its columns, including our missionaries on board the *Piteairn*; L. C. Chadwick, who is now making a tour of the world; and others at home and abroad, equally well known to our readers.

The choicest literary matter obtainable will be presented from week to week, under the following department headings: "From Land and Sea," "Pen and Pencil," "The Animal Kingdom," "Science and Art," "Historical," "Biographical," etc.

Notwithstanding the journal has been more than doubled in size, and appears with a new head and dress throughout, involving considerable expense, the price has been fixed at seventy-five cents, single subscriptions, and sixty cents in clubs of ten or more to one address, an increase of but fifteen and ten cents respectively. A limited number of reputable advertisements will be inserted. Rates made known on application. Address, *Youth's Instructor*, Battle Creek, Mich.

THE INTERNATIONAL S. S. LESSONS.

WE wish to call the attention of our workers to this department of the SIGNS, not for the purpose of urging them to use personally the helps which the SIGNS gives, but to use the department to introduce the paper among their friends and neighbors.

There are difficulties with the Sunday-school lesson helps generally, as published in other papers; they help the people but very little to an understanding of the word of God, or even of the lesson Scripture. They do not explain scripture by scripture. They simply give opportunity, as

a leading New York paper remarked, for the teachers to indulge in so many sermonettes, giving opinions of God's word, instead of teaching his word.

In the helps in the SIGNS we endeavor to make the lesson as simple as possible, and at the same time teach as much of the saving truth of God as we can. The lessons will not go out of the way to strike at some erroneous doctrine, and so prejudice the student. The object is to make the truth as it is in Christ—simple, forcible, effectual, ever honoring and exalting God's precious word.

Is not this a means by which your neighbor might be led to become interested in the SIGNS? As he found help on his lessons in the paper—as not a few Sunday-school teachers have—would he not be led to think that the SIGNS could help him in other respects? We believe that these lessons in the SIGNS OF THE TIMES may be made of great help in getting interested readers and seekers after the truth in multitudes of homes. May God help our people to use every lawful means to spread his truth; for the time is short.

TESTIMONIALS.

MANY letters of approval of the plan to bring the SIGNS back to its sixteen-page form have been received at the office of publication; also many others expressing appreciation of the paper since the plan has been put in operation. And many have been received acknowledging the good that individuals have received through the ministrations of this missionary periodical. We append a few expressions of sympathy with the good work:—

"I AM very glad to hear that the work in connection with the SIGNS OF THE TIMES is running so satisfactorily. The General Conference has taken a great interest in this matter, and will continue to do what it can to make the SIGNS what it ought to be, and give it such a circulation as will be in harmony with the importance of the paper. I am greatly pleased with the appearance and make-up of the paper in its new dress, and I am also pleased with the arrangement of the matter which it contains. I can make no comparison as to how much better I like the appearance and all about the paper as it is now than as it was in its small form. I wish it success and the blessing of the Lord in every respect. Whenever I have come in contact with our brethren in general meetings, they have all expressed themselves as very highly pleased with the present form, dress, and contents of the SIGNS. The subscription list will be largely increased if the brethren and the Tract Societies carry out the program on which they have entered. I hope this may be so."
O. A. OISEN,
Battle Creek, Mich. Pres. General Conference.

"I AM much pleased with the new volume, and am only sorry that it cannot be sent broadcast over this entire field. I know of much good that has been accomplished in the past by its circulation in this field. I shall do all I can to help advance the good work, and pray that God may raise up friends who will be able to lift the burden and scatter the truth."
R. M. KILGORE,
Atlanta, Ga. Supt. Gen. Conf. Dist. No. 2.

"I AM pleased to see this paper again enlarged to its usual size, and will do all I can for its support."
R. S. DONNELL,
St. Louis, Mo. Pres. Missouri Conference.

"WE want to assure you that you will have our co-operation in all your efforts. We feel in full sympathy with your plans. We pray that God's blessing may rest upon the effort to put the paper at the front, where it should be."
L. T. NICOLA,
Des Moines, Iowa. Sec. Iowa Tract Society.

"I AM much pleased with the change. I have never taken the same interest in the SIGNS since it was reduced in size. I think the present terms are very reasonable, and such as all must feel satisfied with."
E. T. PALMER,
South Lancaster, Mass.

"I AM glad of the improved change in our missionary paper, as I believe it is just such a change as was needed. The old SIGNS, when it was full sized, filled a place in our work which no other paper or papers could fill; and when it was made only half its regular size, many were disappointed."
H. J. FARMAN,
South Lancaster, Mass.

"I AM glad the SIGNS is enlarged again. It seems like an old friend since its enlargement. I realize that it is an important factor in the missionary work."
LYSLE REYNOLDS,
Atlanta, Ga. Sec. Southern Tract Society.

"I AM in sympathy with the change in the SIGNS. The club rates bring the paper within reach of many of our societies that now are doing little or nothing in that line."
G. B. TRIPP,
St. Cloud, Minn.

"I SHALL do all I can to increase its circulation, in hope that it may do others as much good as it has me and mine."
L. W. FELTER,
Ravenwood, Mo.

"I KNOW that the SIGNS has been the agent in leading many to see the light of present truth."
R. T. FULTZ,
Timberville, Va.

"I AM glad to work for so good a paper as the SIGNS. I deem it our best pioneer paper."
C. L. BURLINGAME,
Farnsworth, Mich.

"WE would not do without the SIGNS for five times its cost."
J. C. BRADLEY,
Goldsberry, Mo.

"I AM in sympathy with and heartily approve the efforts to improve the appearance and increase the usefulness of the SIGNS as a missionary paper. Am will pleased with the new volume."
E. A. CURTISS,
Princeton, Minn.

"I AM much pleased with the appearance and make-up of the 16-page SIGNS."
J. S. HALL,
Battle Creek, Mich. Rec. Sec. Michigan Tract Society.

"THE SIGNS is a constant visitor at my home at Mosinee. I am glad to see it rounded out to its former goodly proportions, though I cannot see how it can maintain its goodly appearance on so small a salary."
WM. SANDERS,
Shawano, Wis. Vice Pres. Wis. N. R. L. A.

"I COULDN'T get along without the SIGNS. I wait anxiously for it every week. I think the last one [December 14] was splendid, and I want to distribute some where I think they will awaken people to the truth as revealed in the word of God."
MARY E. ATHERTON,
Cleveland, Ohio.

"THE SIGNS in its enlarged and improved form is all that can be reasonably asked as a pioneer missionary paper, and I am much pleased with it."
S. B. WHITNEY,
Bridgewater, S. Dakota.

"I AM an old friend of your worthy paper. I am a teacher in the M. E. and Campbellite Sunday schools, and use the lesson notes from the SIGNS."
L. A. DALLAS,
Newmarket, Ind.

"THE language of my heart is, now and always, God bless our missionary paper."
MRS. A. W. HEALD,
Windham, N. H.

"I FIND the SIGNS a great comfort. It seems to contain each week just the counsel that I need for that particular week."
MRS. ANGIE KIDSON,
Del Sur, Cal.

"I WAS a subscriber for the SIGNS before it was reduced to an eight-page paper. After that I did not renew my subscription; but when I look back and remember what it has done for me, I feel ashamed. It was a preacher, a revivalist. God, through it and the Bible, wrought a wonderful work in me."
J. PETERSON,
Astoria, Oregon.

"I AM heartily in sympathy with the changes in the SIGNS. I find many who obtained their first knowledge of the truth by reading it. Only recently I visited a man who is in harmony with our people on nearly all points of faith, and is teaching it in a Sunday school, as a result of reading the SIGNS."
J. G. WOOD,
Washington C. H., Ohio.

"WE shall do all in our power for our good pioneer paper, the SIGNS OF THE TIMES. We are now trying to get our local societies to take clubs of the SIGNS and *Sentinel*, and engage anew in the missionary work as in times of old."
T. T. STEVENSON,
Oak Cliff, Texas. Sec. Texas Tract Society.

"I THINK the enlargement of the paper is a great improvement. No paper comes to my table with such an abundant amount of gospel truth and spiritual reading."
ETHAN LANPHEAR,
Plainfield, N. J.

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