

"The night  
cometh, when  
no man can  
work."



# Australasian

## Signs of the Times

Supplement

January 26, 1903.

### THE BIBLE ECHO.

No doubt the changes found in this issue of the "Bible Echo" will come as a surprise and a shock to its friends and subscribers; for the "Australasian Signs of the Times" is the "Bible Echo" under another name. This supplement is published for the purpose of giving the reasons for the changes made.

On the 30th of December the Deputy Post Master General, in Melbourne, wrote to the Echo Publishing Company, asking for reasons why the "Bible Echo" should longer be registered as a newspaper. The Manager wrote in reply, giving the reasons, which to us seemed all that could be required. The law under which the "Bible Echo" was registered reads as follows:—

For the purposes of this Act a newspaper shall mean any publication known and recognised as a newspaper in the generally accepted sense of the word, and printed and published within the Commonwealth for sale, if—

(a) It consists in substantial part of news and articles relating to current topics, or of religious, technical, or practical information; and

(b) it is published in numbers at intervals of not more than one month; and

(c) the full title and date of publication are printed at the top of the first page, and the whole or part of the title and the date of publication are printed at the top of every subsequent page.

We had already printed and sent out the first number for 1903. As we did not hear from the postal authorities, we proceeded to print the two following numbers. It was not until the 7th of January that we received another letter, stating that they did not

consider that the "Bible Echo" came within the meaning of the Act as a newspaper, and it would be removed from the register from the 1st of February.

On receipt of this information the Manager of the Echo Publishing Company called at the Post Office, and was told that unless some other reasons were produced, than had already been given, the "Echo" would not be registered. The Deputy Post Master General showed him a number of periodicals which they could not register, and said that they had consulted legal authority, so that they were sure the measures they proposed would be carried out.

#### WHAT THIS MEANT TO THE BIBLE ECHO.

That you may understand what this meant to the paper, we will state that if periodicals are not registered, it is necessary to pay ½d. as postage on each two ounces posted in Victoria, and 1d. for every two ounces posted to other States in the Commonwealth. This would mean that we must pay about thirteen pounds (£13) for postage each week with our present circulation of the "Bible Echo," or about £700 for the year. As the paper is already published at a loss, if this measure were carried, it practically would mean prohibition, that is, that we would have to discontinue its publication.

Those having the matter in charge began at once to make earnest efforts to find a way out of the difficulty. We did not believe the Lord wanted this light extinguished, and we began to pray earnestly that He would open the

way so that the paper might be registered.

Our brethren visited the offices where religious journals of other denominations are published, but found that their registration had not been questioned, as they are made up of different matter than is found in the "Bible Echo." They also visited the Deputy Post Master General to inquire what we could do to conform with their ruling in reference to registration. It was pointed out that other religious papers are made up largely of reports of missions, of organisations, and other matter which might properly be called "news." The Post Master showed the brethren that our paper was largely composed of articles of a literary character, and for this reason they could not feel clear to register it. When asked how much news we must publish, they were told that *one-half* of the matter contained in the "Bible Echo" must be of that character.

A meeting was then called to consider what could be done. The "Bible Echo" is published for a definite purpose—that is, to proclaim present truth; and we did not feel that we could lower the standard in this respect. If we could not send it out laden with the third angel's message, then it might as well be discontinued. We had no disposition to give our readers a large amount of worldly news, such as can be found in the daily newspapers. But should we discontinue the paper entirely? Should those who have learned to joyfully anticipate its coming wait in vain? We could not endure such a thought.

But we could see how the events taking place all about us continually might be used to proclaim the coming of the Lord, and yet be counted as "news." We could see how reports of our work from all parts of the world-wide field might be used in the same way, and we knew that what the people need is not so much theory, but the knowledge of what is being accomplished by the gospel. The strongest evidence that can be given in favour of the truth is not its *word* but its *power*. You will remember that the book of Acts is composed almost wholly of what the church *did*. What it believed is brought in incidentally. Paul's strongest argument, even when brought before kings and rulers, was his *experience*. There was a power in that simple story that went to the hearts of his hearers, and persuaded them to accept Christ as their Saviour. The Gospels are almost wholly made up of the Life which became the light of men. Most people prefer to read what people are *doing* instead of what they are *believing*. If we accomplish something which is good in the world, it will be easier to convince them that the belief is right.

The questions we had to consider were so important that a telegram was sent for Pastor G. A. Irwin to meet and counsel with us, and this he did. At a meeting held January 14th, a resolution was passed recommending that the "Bible Echo" be changed sufficiently so it could be registered. In harmony with this recommendation the paper has been published as you now see it. For lack of space we were compelled to leave out the departments for "Young People" and "Temperance." We shall provide matter for these in the "Home and Health" department, as far as space will allow. We wish the paper was larger; and it will be enlarged as soon as our brethren will provide the circulation and means with which to enlarge it.

#### CHANGE OF NAME.

While considering the character of the articles which should in future appear in the "Bible Echo," a suggestion was made that the name be changed so as to harmonise more closely with the character of the matter contained

in it. As soon as attention is called to the name "Bible Echo," it is seen that it deals almost entirely with religious subjects. The name indicates that its character is that of a Bible expositor, and that its articles are of a literary, rather than a newsy character. The name suggested that the paper should bear in future was "Australasian Signs of the Times." It was thought that this name would better define the character of the periodical, therefore general satisfaction was expressed with this title, and it was unanimously adopted. Though it may take a little time to be accustomed to the change of name we trust it will be acceptable to our friends, and we ask those who are disposed to criticise to postpone their complaints for the present, and turn their attention to helping us in our difficulties. We would have been glad if these alterations could have been made at the beginning of the year; but we did not then know what was before us, and acted upon the best light we had. We believe the Lord will help us to register the paper, and that the plans laid to discontinue its publication will work for its good, and will greatly increase its circulation.

#### WHAT THESE THINGS MEAN.

In the experience already related, we see a fulfilment of these words:—

We have no time to lose. The end is near. The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with dangers on the right hand and on the left. Everything will be placed to obstruct the way of the Lord's messengers so that they will not be able to do that which it is possible for them to do now. We must look our work fairly in the face, and advance as fast as possible in aggressive warfare. From the light given me of God I know that the powers of darkness are working with intense energy from beneath, and with stealthy tread Satan is advancing to take those who are now asleep, as a wolf taking his prey. We have warnings now which we may give, a work now which we may do; but soon it will be more difficult than we can imagine. God help us to keep in the channel of light, to work with our eyes fastened on Jesus our leader, and patiently, perseveringly press on to gain the victory.

And again:—

Now is the time for the last warning to be given. There is a special power in the presentation of the truth at the present time; but how long will it continue?—Only a little while. If there was ever a crisis, it is now.

Recent admonitions which have come to us indicate that our time to work is very short. This is clearly set before us in the following paragraph:—

We are standing upon the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange, eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven. Everything in our world is in agitation. There are wars and rumours of wars. The nations are angry, and the time of the dead has come, that they should be judged. *Events are changing to bring about the day of God, which hasteth greatly. Only a moment of time, as it were, yet remains. But while already naton is rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, there is not now a general engagement. As yet, the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle.*

Brethren, the enemy is working to his utmost ability to silence the messengers who are giving the last warning message this world will hear. His designs are laid especially against us, and to hinder God's work. We shall be brought into difficulties of which we have little conception. We shall be compelled to make short turns, sudden changes, and to alter our methods of work many times. But, praise God, we fight a weakened and beaten foe. If we are faithful and true our difficulties will not bring defeat, but triumph. We are to "*get the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.*" Don't forget that the work for us at this time is to gain the *victory*. The word sounds good. It has the right ring, and we want to share with you in the experience.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO.

Now that we have a little longer to work let us do all we can to scatter the "Australasian Signs of the Times" broadcast all over this field and in other countries. Our circulation ought to exceed ten thousand copies before this year shall close. We can bring it to that point if we will. Will you help us?

1. By sending an encouraging report of any branch of work done in your church. Give us the benefit of any interesting experience which comes under your notice. You need not try to write an article for the paper. Simply

give us the facts, and we will prepare them for publication if you prefer that way.

2. We want reports from every one of our ministers each fortnight. You may not think your report will be required, but that is what they all think. You need not write a long article, but give us brief, newsy reports of what is being done in your part of the field.

3. We want reports at least once a month from the President of each conference, and from the Secretary of each tract society, giving items of interest from their field and a review of the work done. Mark this down as one of your duties which must not be neglected.

4. We want every labourer to do their utmost in obtaining new subscriptions for the "Australasian Signs of the Times." Remember the price has been reduced, while the paper has been enlarged.

5. We ask every member in every church to send us at least one new subscriber. Many can send more than one. The Lord has instructed us that "They do not in every church see and feel the necessity of using their abilities in saving souls. They do not realise their duty to obtain subscribers for our periodicals, including our health journal."

6. We ask every church member to take at least one copy of the "Australasian Signs of the Times" to use in personal, missionary work, and to sell, give, or post it each week to some one who may become interested in present truth.

7. We ask the children to help in selling the paper and obtaining subscriptions. Children may be the helping hand of their parents in missionary effort, and will thus gain an experience which will enable them to grow up as missionaries. Parents should pray with their children, and ask God to bless the papers before they start out with them.

Brethren, we ask you to do these things because it will do you good, and we believe that God wants you to do them. Will you respond to this call, and place the "Australasian Signs of the Times" in thousands of homes this year? Whether this is done or not depends upon you. We en-

treat you not to wait until the time comes when we can no longer publish our papers, and you wake up to find that the work you might have done you cannot do. Pray that God will give us all the spirit of labour. Pray that He will give wisdom in publishing our missionary paper. Pray that He will give us the privilege of printing and sending it out until it has accomplished its mission. Now let us wake up and work during the moment of time left us as we have never done before.

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### OUR SABBATH-SCHOOL DONATIONS.

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The first quarter of 1903 our Sabbath-school offerings will be given for the missionary circulation of the "Bible Echo," henceforth to be known as "Australasian Signs of the Times."

We propose during the year to publish several symposium numbers dealing with such questions as Religion in the State Schools, Health Reform, Religious Liberty, etc. These numbers should have a wide circulation, and we hope by this means to introduce our missionary paper to many who would not otherwise see a copy.

Then we should look from our home field to the regions beyond. No doubt our missionaries in China, Japan, Africa, and other countries could use copies to advantage, and the paper would assist them in their work for Europeans. We know that Pastor E. H. Gates could circulate a large number in working for those living in the islands of the sea. We must let the light shine as far and as brightly as possible. We are sure we can depend on our Sabbath-schools to carry forward this missionary work. We trust they will assist us by their contributions, and that the sum may be sufficient to greatly extend the circulation of our missionary paper.

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There are indications of a forward movement all along the line, and the definite message which is being given to-day is "There shall be delay no longer." The individual who waits and hesitates now will be left behind.

### WORK WHILE THE DAY LASTS.

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As we write this paragraph the foreman of the composing room comes to ask for "copy." Books and tracts are being shipped to places nigh and far off. Upstairs they are making neat and attractive bindings for books, and busy hands are setting type, folding, trimming, sewing, and posting our periodicals. In at the open window comes the click and hum of machinery as the large presses print the pages which shall go forth to give the message of warning to the world. Clerks, stenographers—all are busy. But "the night cometh when no man can work." Books and tracts will no longer be sent out. Our periodicals will not be published. Busy hands will not be allowed to labour. The hum of machinery will cease. The night will shut down, and will only be dispelled by the coming of the Sun of Righteousness. Will we work now, while there is opportunity? Will we use the facilities provided? Shall we be found among the good and faithful servants? "Our own future well-being, and also the salvation of other souls, depends upon the course which we NOW pursue."

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### ADDRESSES WANTED.

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We would like to obtain the addresses of all our brethren and sisters who, on account of the drought, are unable to subscribe for the "Australasian Signs of the Times." Will any one who knows of such individuals please send their addresses and a brief statement of their circumstances. And will others who have ability and a disposition to assist these sufferers by supplying them with our periodicals, send their contributions to the Office of publication for this purpose. A letter just received reads as follows:—

Please find inclosed Post Office Order for £2, from which kindly deduct my annual subscription to "Bible Echo," and with balance send the "Bible Echo" to deserving persons you should know of."

We hope to receive many similar letters.

## HOW THE CHILDREN HELP.

As an illustration of what the children can do if they have the right example and influence we quote from a letter sent to the Secretary of the New Zealand Tract Society:—"If you have any old 'Echoes' or papers I would be glad of them for the children to sell. Soon as my papers come they are off with them and sell them. I never get a shov at them. I got some old papers of one of the brethren, and my little boy went out with six of them one evening, and sold them in about an hour. My little girl found an old copy of 'The Alarm of War' to-day (Sunday), and she went out and sold it in about ten minutes."

## THE FINAL WORK.

BY MRS E. G. WHITE.

As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare, will in times of real peril make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. Those who have had great light and precious privileges, but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another, go out from us. Not having received the love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and will depart from the faith. But, on the other hand, when the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd's voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together, and present to the enemy a united front. In view of the common peril, strife for supremacy will cease; there will be no disputing as to who shall be accounted greatest. No one of the true believers will say, "I am of Paul, or I of Apollos, or I of Cephas." The testimony of one and all will be, "I cleave unto Christ; I re-

joice in Him as my personal Saviour."

Thus will the truth be brought into practical life, and thus will be answered the prayer of Christ, uttered just before His humiliation and death, "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me." John 17:21. The love of Christ, the love of our brethren, will testify to the world that we have been with Jesus and learned of Him. Then will the message of the third angel swell to a loud cry, and the whole earth will be lightened with the glory of the Lord.

You may receive more than one copy of this number of the "Australasian Signs of the Times," and if so, you already have in hand the material to begin missionary work. Show the paper to a neighbour or friend, and induce them to take it six months or a year. Sell it, and then send for

others to be used the same way; loan it, or post it—in *some* way do your part in introducing our missionary paper to the people.

We wish to emphasise what we have already said in reference to receiving reports from our churches and labourers. The life of our paper depends upon them. There is no other way, only that we *must* have them. We can make this department an inspiration and blessing to every reader if you will help us. Now let the reports come in.

We are sorry to say that our Sabbath-school paper, "The Children's Friend," is in difficulty as well as the "Bible Echo." While the postal Act as it reads affords no obstacle to its registration, yet we are not sure that it will be allowed to be sent by post as a registered paper. The question is yet undecided, but we are hoping for a favourable answer from the postal authorities, and can only wait their decision.

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