

The West Michigan Herald.

"Watchman, What of the Night."

VOL. III.

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No. 37

An Appeal for the Colored Race.

The proclamation that freed the slaves opened doors through which Christian Workers should have entered to tell the story of the love of God. In this field there were precious jewels that the Lord's workers should have searched for as for hidden treasure. But though the colored people have been freed from political slavery, many of them are still in the slavery of ignorance and sin. Many of them are terribly degraded. Is no message of warning to reach them? Had those to whom God has given great light and many opportunities done the work that He desires them to do, there would to-day be memorials all through the Southern field,—churches, sanitariums and schools. Men and women of all classes would have been called to the gospel feast.

The Lord is grieved by the woe in the Southern field. Christ has wept at the sight of this woe. Angels have hushed the music of their harps as they have looked upon a people unable, because of their past slavery, to help themselves. And yet those in whose hands God has placed the torch of truth, kindled from the divine altar, have not realized that to them is given the work of carrying the light to this sin-darkened field. There are those who have turned away from the work of rescuing the downtrodden and degraded, refusing to help the helpless. Let the servants of Christ begin at once to redeem their neglect, that the dark stain on their record may be wiped out.

ELLEN G. WHITE.

Another Surprise.

Let us plan a great surprise for our brethren in the Southern States, who are working for the salvation of the colored people.

Let us surprise the teachers of the mission schools with an assured support, and with means to open some new schools.

Let us surprise the managers of the Huntsville Training-School with sufficient means to complete their unfurnished cottages, to repair the old mansion-house, and to build suitable treatment-rooms, and fit them up for the training of nurses.

Let us surprise our brethren of the Southwestern Union Conference with the means that they need to help to build some small meeting-houses, and establish some mission schools.

Let us surprise Brother Sheafe by helping to provide the means for the opening of a Workers' Institute in the V St. meeting-house in Washington, D. C.

Let us surprise our brethren at Nashville by furnishing them with means for the carrying forward of a Christian medical missionary educational effort in that great center of influence.

Let us take an earnest, honest look at the great need of Christian education and true medical missionary work among the eight millions of colored people in the Southern States, and surprise everybody by the liberality of our gifts. Let us make an actual sacrifice, denying ourselves of things that we need, in order that those who have long been left to suffer may have the education that they need in order to make them intelligent workers for the Master.

Let us surprise the holy angels by the heartiness with which we endeavor just now to do unto others as we would have them do unto us, were we in the same suffering need.

W. C. WHITE.

Postponement of the Missionary Convention.

As has been announced, the collection for the work in the South is to be taken up October 7, which is the day appointed for the first Missionary Convention. It has been thought best, therefore, to postpone the convention one week, or until October 14. The second convention will be held November 18, as first announced.

Remember that the best way of preparing for these conventions is to take the first three steps as outlined in the Campaign program. They are as follows:

1. The subscribing for the Review and Herald by every Sabbath-keeping family.
2. The circulation of at least a pound of the Signs of the Times Leaflets by every Seventh-day Adventist.

3. Entering upon a campaign in behalf of our periodicals by the whole denomination.

Have you taken, or are you preparing to take these steps? If not, will you not do so at once? You will enjoy the convention much better if you will.

H. H. HALL,

Sec. Gen. Missionary Com.

From the Field.

AGNEW.

By request of the conference president I visited the church at Agnew Sept. 8-11. The brethren gave up their work and attended the meetings. The Spirit of God came in and differences were made right and all felt that it is a solemn thing to live in the hour of God's judgment. Three adults who had been investigating the truth decided to keep the Sabbath.

EZRA BRACKETT.

MUSKEGON.

The Lord is blessing us in our work here in the city and we are of good courage.

Although none have yet accepted the truth, many are interested. And we are still working and praying that the Lord will touch their hearts that they may see and accept the truth as it is in Christ Jesus.

EDITH AND EDNA WILBUR.

BANGOR.

The Sabbath-school convention held Sept. 22-24 at Bangor was quite well attended by the brethren from Covert, Hartford and Bloomingdale. The writer occupied the time in the evenings and Sunday a. m. speaking to an attentive congregation.

After an interesting Sabbath-school Sabbath forenoon Sister Margaret Haughey occupied the chair in the first session of the convention. Sister Haughey opened the convention with some very appropriate remarks after which the subjects, Duties of Sabbath-school officers, Importance of Consecrated Teachers, and Duties of Sabbath-school Scholars were all spoken upon with freedom and discussed with much interest by many who were present.

The second session was called at 3 p. m. Sabbath and the following subjects were considered: How shall our Sabbath schools be Made More Effectual for the Conversion of Our Children and youth, How to Make the Opening Exercises More Interesting, The Importance of the Sabbath-school Worker. Those who had been chosen to talk on these subjects were present and showed their interest by being well prepared.

At 3 p. m. Sunday a third meeting of the convention was held and the very important subject of "The Relation of our Sabbath-schools to the Mission Fields, How shall we Improve the Singing in Our Sabbath-schools, What the Sabbath-school has Done for me, were considered.

The convention and meetings were a success and we trust that the blessings received by those present will be put into practice.

EZRA BRACKETT.

BLOOMINGDALE.

We opened our meetings in Bloomingdale Sunday evening, Sept. 10. We were fortunate in securing a good site overlooking the village, and like a city set upon a hill, which cannot be hid, our gospel tent bears witness to the truth.

The attendance has been good from the beginning, but is increasing, and a decided interest is being manifested by several who attend. The prospects are encouraging for a gospel triumph.

Sabbath, Sept. 16, meeting was held in the tent, and it was of special interest and profit. Some twenty of the believers in the vicinity were present. As a basis for the remarks presented by Bro. Collier the text was used, "Acquaint now thyself with Him and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee." After this Elder H. Nichola, who was present, gave fitting and interesting remarks concerning the ordinance of baptism.

In the afternoon two of the sisters, recently come into the faith, of the vicinity of Berlamont, were buried with Christ in baptism. Eld. Nicola administered the rite in Bear Lake. The spirit of the blessed Master was present on the occasion and hearts were touched and souls affected to tears. O, what holy delight in being co-workers with Christ in his ministry of love!

E. F. COLLIER,

B. F. KNEELAND.

Educational.

A Voice From Within.

H. C. PITTON.

Shortly after James A. Garfield had finished his course of study at Williams college and had been chosen president of Hiram institute

in Ohio, he wrote a letter to an acquaintance who was fighting the battle of life under discouraging circumstances. From this letter to the young man, I have gleaned the following remarks which may be appropriately applied to any young person similarly situated.

"Tell me, do you not feel a spirit stirring within you that longs to know, to do, and to dare, to hold converse with the great world of thought, and hold before you some high and noble object to which the vigor of your mind and the strength of your arm may be given? Do you not have longings like these, which you breath to no one, and which you feel must be heeded, or you will pass through life unsatisfied and regretful? I am sure you have them and they will forever cling round your heart till you obey their mandate. They are the voice of that nature which God has given you; and which when obeyed will bless you and your fellowmen."

Every one must decide and direct his own course in life, and the only service friends can afford is to give us the data from which we must draw our own conclusions and decide our course. Sit down for a moment and look over the field of life and see what are its aspects. It is not a question to be decided in the spirit of debate, but to be thought over and prayed over as a question "out of which are the issues of life."

Do not think for a moment that you have not time to spend in getting an education, nor content yourself without it because your means are limited. We should not measure life by the days and moments that we pass on earth, nor by the amount of wealth which we may store up.

"The life is measured by the soul's advance. The enlargement of its powers; the expanded field wherein it ranges till it burns and glows with heavenly joy, with high and heavenly hope."

This spirit which Garfield im-

magined was stirring within the young man to whom he wrote the letter, stirs itself and speaks at least once to every intelligent young man and woman.

Perhaps the West Michigan Herald will be read by some young person who has not had the privilege of attending an academy or college heretofore, but yet may hear the pleadings of this little voice from within. If so do not turn a listless ear.

This is the time to begin to develop the very best there is in you. It may be that if you listen and obey you will enter Cedar Lake Academy or Emmanuel Missionary College this year. If you have a will strong enough you can find a way.

Twenty-Third Psalm.

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."—

(1) Rest—"He maketh me to lie down."

(2) Drink—"He leadeth me beside still waters."

(3) Pardon—He restoreth my soul."

(4) Guidance—"He leadeth me."

(5) Companionship—"Thou art with me."

(6) Comfort—"Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

(7) Food—"Thou preparest a table before me."

(8) Joy—"Thou anointest my head with oil."

(9) Anything—"My cup runneth over."

(10) In life—"Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."

(11) In eternity—"I shall dwell in the house of my Lord for ever."

A thousand years ago or so, after this Psalm was written, Christ came to earth and proclaimed himself "the Good Shepard" (John 10.) Notice how in the New Testament all these eleven things are ensured to us in Christ. If Christ is my Shepherd I shall not want:—

(1) Rest—"Come unto me, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28.)

(2) Drink—"If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink" (John 7:37.)

(3) Pardon—"The Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sin" (Mark 2:10.)

(4) Guidance—"I am the way" (John 14:6.)

(5) Companionship—"Lo, I am with you always" (Matt. 28:20.)

(6) Comfort—"He shall give you another comforter" (John 14:16.)

(7) Food—"I am that Bread of Life" (John 6:48.)

(8) Joy—"These things have I spoken unto you . . . that your joy might be full" (John 15:11.)

[9] Anything—"If ye shall ask anything in my name, that will I do" [John 14:14.]

[10] In life—"Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do" [John 14:13.]

[11] In eternity—"I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also" [John 14:3.]

—The Consecrated Life.

Family Worship.

"If ever there was a time when every house should be a house of prayer, it is now. Infidelity and skepticism prevail. Iniquity abounds. Corruption flows in the vital currents of the soul, and rebellion against God breaks out in the life. Enslaved by sin the moral powers are under the tyranny of Satan. The soul is made the sport of his temptations; and unless some mighty arm is stretched out to rescue him, man goes where the arch-rebel leads the way.

"And yet in this time of fearful peril, some who profess to be Christians have no family worship. They do not honor God in the home; they do not teach their children to love and fear Him. Many have separated themselves so far from Him that they feel under condemnation in approaching Him. They cannot 'come boldly to the throne of grace,' 'lifting up holy hands, without wrath or doubting.' Heb.

4:16; I Tim. 2:8. They have not a living connection with God. Theirs is a form of godliness without the power."

"In every family there should be a fixed time for morning and evening worship. How appropriate it is for parents to gather their children about them before the fast is broken, to thank the heavenly Father for His protection during the night, and to ask Him for His help and guidance and watchcare during the day! How fitting, also, when evening comes, for parents and children to gather once more before Him, and thank Him for the blessings of the day that is past!

"The father, and in his absence, the mother, should conduct the worship, selecting a portion of scripture that is interesting and easily understood. The service should be short. When a long chapter is read and a long prayer offered, the service is made wearisome, and at its close a sense of relief is felt. God is dishonored when the hour of worship is made dry and irksome, when it is so tedious, so lacking in interest, that the children dread it."

"Fathers and mothers, each morning and evening gather your children around you, and in humble supplication lift the heart to God for help. Your dear ones are exposed to temptation. Daily annoyances beset the path of young and old. Those who would live patient, loving, cheerful lives must pray. Only by receiving constant help from God can we gain the victory over self.

"Each morning consecrate yourselves and your children to God for that day. Make no calculation for months or years; these are not yours. One brief day is given you. As if it were your last on earth, work during its hours for the Master. Lay all your plans before God, to be carried out or given up, as His providence shall indicate. Accept His plans instead of your own, even though their acceptance requires the abandonment of cher-

ished projects. Thus the life will be molded more and more after the divine example; and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.' Phil. 4:7."—Testimonies, Vol. 7.

News and Notes.

The church school at Covert opened last Monday with Miss Amy Woodruff as teacher.

This office has a supply of the book entitled "The Story of the Seer of Patmos." We hope the young people's societies will send in their orders.

Brethren Kneeland and Collier, who are holding a tent meeting at Bloomingdale, attended the Sabbath-school convention at Bangor last Sabbath and rendered valuable assistance.

The following teachers have been engaged in West Michigan:—

Eugene C. Waller, South Monterey; Ada Somerset, Grand Rapids; Florence Kelsey, Berrien Springs; Grace Evans, Carlton Center; Winifred Trunk, Wright; Mildred Wilson, Grand Ledge; Mrs. E. S. Clark, Charlotte; Janet Campbell, Bauer; Tina Jorgesen, Six Lakes; Josephine Hunt, Fennville; VoWyla Aiken, Cedar Lake; Edna Bellows, Glenwood; Amy Woodruff, Covert; Myrta Lawrence, Maple Grove; Mrs. A. J. Beardsley, Bedford; Estella Murphy, Bloomingdale; Grace Davis, Paw Paw; Maud Henry, Michigan Home for Girls.

Battle Creek.

We were favored by a call from S. D. Hartwell last week as he was passing through the city.

Mr. Frank Kellogg has recently connected with the Battle Creek Tract Society as colporter and agent.

Robert Walker and family are expecting soon to move to California, they having sold their home here, and made arrangements to go.

The A. M. M. College opened its year's work last Wednesday with an enrollment of between thirty and forty students in the new class.

The Sanitarium patients and guests were highly entertained on last Saturday evening, by Mrs. Haskell, an elocutionist of considerable fame, who is a guest at the Sanitarium.

Miss Myrtle O'Donnel and the Misses Frankie and Edith Ayers returned from Washington, D. C., Wednesday. They report Washington as a grand good place, but say "There's no place like home."

Prof. M. W. Newton and family have recently moved to Battle Creek from College View. We understand he is to have charge of the correspondence department of the Modern Medicine Co. We are glad to welcome old friends to our midst.

Mrs. Judd, wife of Brother George Judd, died at her home on last Sabbath morning, after a long illness from heart-disease. She was a great but patient sufferer, and at the last expressed herself willing to go. She leaves a husband and one little son to mourn their loss.

Last Sabbath was Home Missionary Day with the Battle Creek church, and Elder Morse preached a short sermon to the children appropriate to the occasion. The remainder of the hour was devoted to the older portion of the congregation, along lines of home missionary work. The choir rendered some beautiful and appropriate music.

We understand there is to be organized at the Academy, what is to be known as the Academy choir, under the direction of Prof. Nicola. This choir will render the music in connection with the Sunday evening services at the Tabernacle, which are to be a series of sermons or lectures especially arranged for our young people, as well as for the entire church.

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Suggestions.

The plan most generally followed by Life and Health workers is to order, in bulk, a supply of the journal, and take a bundle as they have time and opportunity and call at the homes of the people, and with a proper explanation offer to sell a single copy for five cents and ask to be permitted to deliver the next issue when it is ready.

Some who will not buy the copy offered will promise to buy the next number. Most all who buy the copy offered will consent to have the worker call again with the next number. The name of the party with the number of the house is recorded by streets in a book to be used by the worker in the next delivery. In a short time this method results in a surprisingly large number of copies sold, and a good list of future customers who will take the journal without being canvassed.

Each time the worker goes over the territory new names can be added to his list, and annual subscriptions taken as the readers become interested in the journal and acquainted with the agent. Each visit deepens the interest of the worker and the readers in each other; and the final result is many openings for further and more complete work for the full Message, besides the worker has received a good remuneration for his services.

This house to house plan does not debar the worker from selling copies on the street, in the shops or stores as opportunity presents, but it does systematize and concentrates his efforts and builds up a permanent, self-supporting and effective work.