

THE WEST MICHIGAN HERALD

HE THAT REAPETH GATHERETH FRUIT UNTO LIFE ETERNAL

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Margaret Haughey, Editor.

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The Spotless Church.

Sermon Delivered in the Tabernacle
April 20, 1907, By Elder M. N.
Campbell.

NUMBER THREE.

The theater is one of the main entrances to hell, and Christians have no business dallying about its gates. I suppose that every Seventh Day Adventist recognizes the fact that when he decides that he will become a theater goer, that he thereby decides that he will no longer remain a member of the Seventh Day Adventist church.

He can not be both. The line is drawn very clear and straight. And those who go to the theater, must understand that they can not remain in the fellowship of this people. I feel that it is time that

this should be distinctly understood. The devil has all kinds of steps leading downward, and if he can get us to take a small step at first, he is quite satisfied for the time being; for if he can persuade us to take one step, however small, he is pretty sure to lead us to take the second. Some say, "Why some things at the theater are quite good. There are the moving pictures; musicals etc., we feel quite clear in attending them." I can not understand how a Christian can feel clear to go to a theater under any circumstances. The theater is the devil's play house. My brethren and sisters, keep away from these places. And what kind of an example are Christians setting before our young people when they go to such places for entertainment? I hope this sort of thing will be cut off short and that there will be no more going to theaters by those who profess to be Christians. I speak of these things because I know what I am talking about. During the last few weeks young people have come to me and talked to me about these things, explaining how they formed the habit of going to the theater. They were brought up better, but they saw some "good" church member, going to some "moral" entertainment in a theater and that good church member, perhaps, invited them to go along, and they saw the inside of a theater for the first time in company with one who should have been praying with them instead of taking them off to such a place. These young people were greatly pleased with what they saw; they concluded that it was not so bad a place as they had

imagined, and it was a very easy matter to go the second and third times, and soon theater-going became a habit. Now, where are you going to draw the line? If you go at all, where will you draw the line? "Touch not, taste, handle not," is the only safe rule. Oh, if Satan has tempted you to fall along these lines, from now on you should straighten up and determine to do these things no more. May God help and bless every one who has been tempted in this manner. I do not speak of these things for censure, but for warning; you do not realize what your influence has been in this matter. Those who have yielded and gone to these places surely need to have some of these things set before them to-day. In Testimony, Volume 1, page 514, I read as follows:

And this is for the people who are working too hard as well as for the pleasure seeker.

"I was shown that Sabbath-keepers as a people, labor too hard, without allowing themselves change or periods of rest. Recreation is needful to those who are engaged in physical labor, and is still more essential for those whose labor is principally mental. It is not essential for our salvation, nor for the glory of God, to keep the mind laboring constantly and excessively even upon religious themes. There are amusements, such as dancing, card-playing, chess, checkers, etc., which we cannot approve, because heaven condemns them."

Since I read that, there have been no chess boards or checker boards in my home. I do not want anything in my home that heaven con-

demns. There was a time when I was an inveterate checker player, but since I learned that heaven condemns these things, I have put them away and have never touched them since.

"These amusements open the door for great evil. They are not beneficial in their tendency, but have an exciting influence producing in some minds a passion for those plays that lead to gambling and dissipation. All such plays should be condemned by Christians and something perfectly harmless should be substituted in their place."

Now, I am perfectly free to confess on the part of the church, that we have not done our duty by the young people. I hope this wrong will soon be righted. There ought to be opportunities where both the young and the old could come together and get better acquainted. That reception held in the south vestry last November, was a good thing. These things are perfectly proper and legitimate and I favor them, and hope that arrangements can be made before long for something of the kind to be held again. These other things that heaven condemns we do not want to have anything to do with.

Now, I come to another question that strikes a little closer home. Let us study a little and see what God thinks of this matter of personal adornment. I want to say I am not here to criticise or censure; I am simply laying these things before you, that you may know what the Lord says about it, and then it lies with you to decide whether you will be obedient or not. I refer to 1st Peter 3:2,3—

"While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel."

There is another text bearing upon this same question:

1 Tim. 2:9,10—In like manner also, that women adorn themselves

in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array, (but which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

This appeals to the sisters, but applies just as truly to the brethren who may have any tendency to follow ridiculous fads, that come into vogue,—the practice of parting the hair in the middle for instance, or any other unmanly or effeminate fashion.

(To be continued)

Meeting at Aalborg, Denmark.

A Conference meeting with the Denmark delegates and Scandinavian Union Conference was held at Aalborg, Denmark, April 24-30. There were present 340 Sabbath-keepers on the Sabbath, April 17. This was said to be the largest gathering of Sabbath-keepers that ever convened in Denmark.

There were representatives from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Labrador, England, Germany of European countries, besides the delegates that had lately crossed the Atlantic from America.

The services were held almost constantly from seven a. m. until nine thirty p. m. From three to five sermons were given each day. A number of the Scandinavian ministers occupied the pulpit at the hours for preaching and when they spoke no translator assisted. Elders Daniells, Evans, Conradi, Andross, Underwood, and Covert spoke in the English and the same was translated into the Danish-Norwegian language.

In the afternoon, Sunday, there was a baptismal service, when about thirty-five believers were buried with their Lord in the Lord's appointed way.

Officers were elected to serve one year in the Denmark Conference, and Union Conference officers were elected for the biennial session. This Union Conference at present has a membership of two thousand

seven hundred, with a good prospect of increase. They have no training school, but steps were taken at the meeting to provide for one.

There is a population in Scandinavia of eight million people, and the outlook is good for many more persons to be added to those who are now in the faith. There has been a great improvement in the attitude of affairs in the work of the message since our people helped the Christiana Publishing House out of its embarrassment. It is hoped that the good work will still go forward.

WM. COVERT.

Sabbath School and Young People's Convention.

The General Conference has appointed a Sabbath-school and Young People's Convention, to be held at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, July 10-21. This certainly will be a very important meeting, and we feel sure that it will be a great help in solving many of the perplexing problems which confront us in our young people's work.

An excellent program has been arranged, covering the work for the entire time. About seventy-five persons have been arranged with to be present and assist in the work of the Convention. These comprise experienced Sabbath-school and Young People's workers from our various conferences and schools in the United States. Elders A. G. Daniells, W. A. Spicer, and other members of the General Conference Committee will be present and take part in the work of the Convention. The instruction which will be given during these ten days will be of great value, and we feel very anxious that as many attend this meeting as possible.

We would like to see a large attendance of our young people, especially those who are planning to soon enter the work. This should be so, especially from the adjacent conferences. Can not conference

officers assist many of the youth in their conferences to attend? We hope also to meet many ministers, and other conference laborers at this meeting, as well as church and Sabbath-school officers, that they may come in touch with the spirit of the meeting, and return to their homes and fields of labor to work for our young people with renewed interest. Plan to come, even at a sacrifice.

At the recent meeting of the General Conference Committee, held at Gland, Switzerland, a new department was organized, to be known as the "Young People's Department of the General Conference." This is a step which means much to our work. We have no doubt the Lord has lead in this, and feel profoundly thankful that the work of our young people has grown until it can be organized into a separate department, with the necessary officers. At the convention to be held at Mt. Vernon, the plans of work for this department will be studied, and its future policy outlined. For this reason, we feel anxious that as many as possible attend the meeting.

The Ohio conference will arrange to entertain all who attend, at a reasonable figure as possible. Let those who are planning to be present at the convention, write to Elder J. E. Shultz, Box 187, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

We earnestly ask all our people to pray for the success of this important meeting.

G. B. THOMPSON,
Chairman Sabbath-school Dept.

From the Field.

Report of the Sabbath-School Convention Held at Carlton Center, June 1 and 2.

The convention was a decided success. The Lord certainly blessed us. A hearty co-operation was given by all.

Miss Margaret Haughey, C. A. Russell and Dr. L. J. Otis were with us, also the two former teachers of this place.

Each meeting was well attended.

The following subjects were discussed: Influence of the Sabbath-School; Qualifications of Sabbath-School Teachers; Deportment of Our Young People; How to Co-operate with Our Sabbath and Church School Teachers; The Importance of Our Young People's work.

The children helped by a few recitations and songs. The children also gave \$2.14 for the Finns.

Sabbath night Dr. Otis spoke to us on healthful living. Sunday evening Brother Russell spoke on signs of Christ's coming.

I think each one who attended the convention carried away with him a blessing, also a determination to do more earnest work for the Master.

EDNA L. COOPER.

The Summer School at Berrien Springs.

In spite of the lateness of the notice sent out making definite announcement of the summer school for this year at Berrien Springs, thirty-five of the Lake Union Conference teachers were enrolled Thursday, June 6, for the work of the Summer Normal. Superintendent Russell, of West Michigan, with Secretary Curtis, of the Lake Union, were the only superintendents present; but the members of the Emmanuel Missionary College faculty gave valuable assistance and the work started out in good shape. Friday Superintendent Hicks, of Southern Illinois, and Superintendent Hallock, of Northern Illinois, arrived; and these with Mr. Fred Green, who has been in the conference offices at Otsego for sometime and who will give instruction in bookkeeping, made the work much lighter on those who were at the school to start with.

The sessions begin at 7:30 in the morning and run until 12:00 and from 2 until 4 in the afternoon, with a lecture hour in the evening

at 7:30. This lecture hour is preceded by a thirty-minute drill in vocal music.

The teachers are pleasantly housed in the Domestic Arts Building, North Hall, and some several who desired to combine the pleasure of an outing with the work of the summer school have fixed up some of the cottages down in the grove and seem to be enjoying themselves.

One very noticeable thing in connection with the summer school thus far is the quiet spirit and the manifest interest on the part of teachers to get the very most out of these weeks of study together. Theory and Art of Teaching and Bible are being conducted on an entirely different plan from what they have been taught heretofore. These hours are the convention hours of the sessions. Topics are suggested by the leader in charge and then the teachers are given opportunity to express themselves, giving the light of their experience, and if they have had no experience, expression of their sentiment, doubts, or otherwise, concerning plans suggested.

During the session there will be several lectures from prominent men of the denomination and outside, and we are satisfied that this summer school will be one of the best ever conducted in the Lake Union. Teachers who have not yet arrived will be welcome, even though they come late, and those expecting to enter the teaching work should make it a point to come to Berrien Springs as soon as possible.

J. G. LAMSON.

Closing Exercises at Battle Creek Academy.

The closing exercises of the Battle Creek Academy were held Thursday. These consisted of speaking and music rendered by the students at the Academy in the afternoon, and a fine program at the Tabernacle in the evening. The order of exercises was as follows:

Song by the students; Scripture reading by Clifford Russell; Invocation by Elder M. N. Campbell; Chorus by the students; Address by Prof. J. G. Lamson; Anthem by students; Presentation of certificates by E. L. Richmond; Benediction by Elder B. F. Kneeland.

In a few well chosen remarks, Elder Campbell spoke of the thorough work done during the year; and also mentioned the fact that every teacher had been paid in full, besides leaving a snug surplus on hand with which to start the work in the fall. This is indeed encouraging. Much of the credit for this prosperous condition of affairs rests upon Mrs. Flora Williams, the Principal, and her efficient corps of teachers—Mrs. Harriot Heffley, Mrs. C. N. Sanders, Miss Lottie Bell, and Miss May Williams.

May the Lord continue to bless the educational work of the Battle Creek church.

CLIFFORD RUSSELL.

The Mid-Summer Offering.

Word has been received from the General Conference Council in Switzerland that it was decided to take up the mid-summer offering on Sabbath, June 29, and that the proceeds of this offering be turned into the \$150,000 Fund. The time is near at hand, and yet there is time enough left for every one to make preparation for a liberal offering. It is not intended that those that have already contributed toward the \$150,000 Fund should be denied the privilege of making a still further contribution at the time of the mid-summer offering; and especially will this be an opportunity for those who have contributed nothing so far toward the fund for the extension of the work in the great mission field. What a grand privilege there is now in this opportunity for every loyal Seventh-day Adventist to make a liberal offering for the advancement of the work.

While our people throughout

the Lake Union Conference have done nobly in raising this large fund, yet it is not nearly completed. There is nothing inconsistent in believing that every one will now do his part, and that the balance of the fund will be provided for at the time of this mid-summer offering. Certainly it is not an impossible thing to accomplish. There are those perhaps that have means in the banks, that could be spared quite as well as not. If the Lord moves upon the hearts of such to contribute quite large sums, we feel very sure that the blessing of God will attend such a decision; for in this way such individuals may be able to make up for those that are in poorer circumstances, and not able to raise even the full amount of the smaller sum allotted. Let us lay aside all thought of an individual assessment, and give as the Lord has given to us. The power to get wealth is from the Lord, so we are told in the Word of God, and in our giving, let us give as He hath prospered us. This is the Lord's plan; and if it is strictly followed in the case of the mid-summer offering, there certainly will be an abundance to complete the raising of the \$150,000 Fund. A word to the wise is sufficient. Let us all act upon these principles, and the work will be accomplished.

ALLEN MOON.

Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the headquarters of the Lake Union Conference have been removed to South Bend, Indiana. All correspondence hereafter intended for the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Lake Union Conference should be addressed to Rooms 9 & 10, 209 S. Main St., South Bend, Indiana, instead of Room 223 Unity Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind.

News and Notes.

Dr. L. J. Otis attended the Medical Council that was held at Takoma Park, Washington, D. C., June 9-11.

The Conference Committee held a meeting this week to lay plans for the tent work for the summer and to arrange for the time and place for the camp-meeting.

The editor went to Branch County last Friday to visit the Quincy, Coldwater, Union City and Kinderhook churches. She attended a Sabbath school convention at Quincy last Sabbath, and will attend the Union City Sabbath school next Sabbath.

Notes From the Summer Normal.

We were glad to welcome Prof. Floyd Bralliar and six of the teachers from Iowa last Wednesday.

Elder Kauble went to Chicago Sunday, the 9th, to confer with Elder Covert, who returned that day from the General Conference Council in Switzerland.

Elder Kauble delivered the baccalaureate sermon to the graduating class of the American Medical Missionary College in the Tabernacle at Battle Creek last Sabbath.

Prof. Lamson and Clifford Russell went to Battle Creek Thursday to attend the closing exercises of the Battle Creek Industrial Academy. The former delivered the address of the hour.

The large number of teachers were glad to accept the invitation of the superintendent of the Berrien Springs Sabbath School, Brother Charles Waters, to unite with them during the Normal. Several new classes were formed, teachers being chosen from among the visitors.

Our attendance is constantly increasing. Fifty-two have matriculated to date, Friday, and others are expected to join soon. Considering the shortness of the notice, and the fact that there are three other Normals being conducted in the Lake Union, we are surprised, and much pleased with the attendance. The spiritual side of our educational work is receiving much attention, and it is the strong desire of all those connected with the school that God may have His way in everything.