

# Union Conference Record

"Be strong all ye people, saith the Lord, and work; for I am with you."

VOLUME VI.

February 15, 1903.

{Registered at the General Post  
Office, Sydney, for transmission  
by Post as a Newspaper

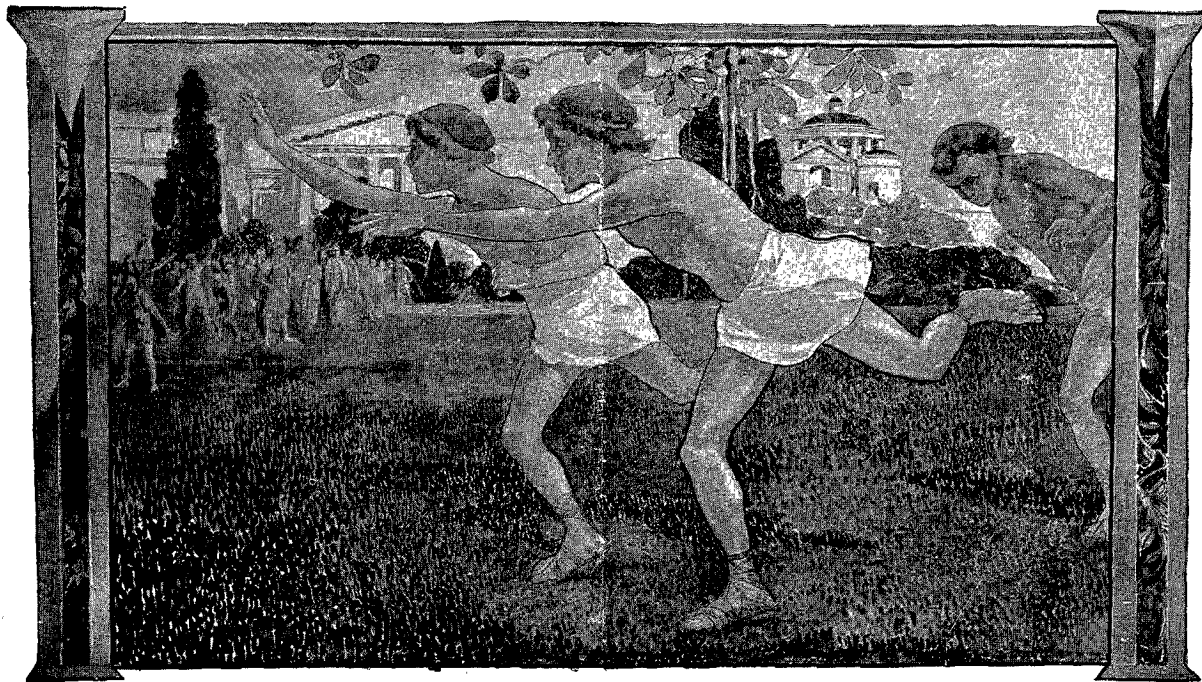
NUMBER IV.

## In the Race for Eternal Life.

TO ILLUSTRATE the race of the Christian for the crown of life, Paul uses the races of the ancient Greeks. He says, "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible."

beset, . . . and . . . run with patience." One of the weights that they must lay aside is the indulgence of appetite. Intemperance has cursed the world almost from its birth. Noah's son was so debased by the use of wine that he lost all sense of propriety, and the curse that followed his sin has never been lifted from his descendants.

Nadab and Abihu were men in holy office; but their minds became so clouded by the use of wine that they



To win the prize—a chaplet of perishable flowers, bestowed amid the applause of the multitude—was regarded as the highest honor by the Grecian runners. In the hope of gaining this prize they subjected themselves to the most severe training and to continual self-denial. They put aside every indulgence that would tend to weaken the physical powers. We are striving for an infinitely more valuable prize,—even the crown of everlasting life. How much more careful should be our striving! how much more willing our sacrifice and self-denial!

There is work—stern, earnest work—before those who win this prize that God holds out. They must "lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily

could not distinguish between sacred and common things. They "offered strange fire before the Lord, which He commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord."

Alexander found it much easier to subdue kingdoms than to rule his own spirit. After conquering nations, he fell through indulgence of appetite,—the victim of intemperance. Through appetite Satan controls the whole being. Thousands who might have lived to honor God and bless humanity have gone down to the grave, physical, mental, and moral wrecks because they sacrificed their powers to self-indulgence. Those who gain eternal life must bring every appetite under the control

of the Spirit of God. Then will they have power to run the race set before them.

The Christian must lay aside all selfishness, living and working for the good of others. The only way to grow in grace is to do the work that Christ has enjoined upon us, helping and blessing those who need the help we can give. Strength comes by exercise; action is the very condition of life. Those who endeavor to maintain Christian life by passively accepting the blessing that come through the means of grace, and doing nothing for Christ, are trying to live by eating without working. And in the spiritual as in the natural world, this always results in degeneration and decay. A man who refuses to exercise his limbs would soon lose the power to use them. The Christian who will not exercise his God-given powers, not only fails of growing up into Christ, but he loses the strength that he already had.

The spirit of unselfish labor for others gives depth, stability, and Christlike loveliness to the character, and brings peace and happiness to the possessor. The aspirations are elevated. There is no room for sloth or selfishness. Those who thus exercise the Christian graces will grow and will become strong to work for God. They are most surely working out their own salvation. The Christian must lay aside doubt. Not one that in penitence and faith has claimed His protection will Christ permit to pass under the enemy's power. The Saviour is by the side of His tempted ones. With Him there can be no such thing as failure, loss, impossibility, or defeat; we can do all things through Him who strengthens us. When temptations and trials come, do not wait to adjust all the difficulties, but look to Jesus, your Helper. There are Christians who think and talk altogether too much about the power of Satan. They think of their adversary, they pray about him, they talk about him, and he looms up greater and greater in their imagination. It is true that Satan is a powerful being: but thank God, we have a mighty Saviour, who cast out the evil one from heaven. Satan is pleased when we magnify his power. Why not talk of Jesus? Why not magnify His power and love? The rainbow of promise encircling the throne on high is an everlasting pledge of God's love for us. It testifies to the universe that God will never forsake His people in their struggles with evil. It is an assurance to us of strength and protection as long as the throne itself shall endure.

Envy, malice, evil-thinking, evil-speaking, covetousness,—these are weights that the Christian must lay aside if he runs successfully the race for immortality. "If thy hand cause thee to stumble, cut it off; it is good for thee to enter into life maimed, rather than having thy two hands to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire. And if thy foot cause thee to stumble, cut it off; it is good for thee to enter into life halt, rather than having thy two feet to be cast into hell."

Why this earnest language, than which none can be stronger?—Because "the Son of man is come to save that which was lost." Shall the disciples of Christ show less regard for the souls of their fellow-men than the Majesty of heaven has shown? Every soul has cost an infinite price, and how terrible is the sin of turning one soul away from Christ, so that for him the Saviour's love and humiliation and agony shall have been in vain.

Any habit or practice that would lead into sin and bring dishonor upon Christ, would better be put away, whatever the sacrifice. That which dishonors God can not benefit the soul. The blessing of heaven can not at-

tend any man in violating the eternal principles of right. And one sin cherished is sufficient to work the degradation of character and to mislead others. If the foot or the hand would be cut off, or even the eye would be plucked out, to save the body from death, how much more earnest should we be to put away sin, that brings death to the soul.

Every step that the Christian takes is a step of advance. The Lord draws near to him as he strives to reach the object set before him. Each temptation overcome marks a triumph. Each night of conflict and trial, bravely borne, hails the dawn of a better day. Laying aside all that would hinder his progress, forgetting the things that are behind, he presses toward the mark of the prize of his high calling. MRS. E. G. WHITE.

### "But He That Endureth to the End Shall Be Saved."

IN the Christian life, as well as in every great enterprise connected with the work of God in the earth, the reward awaits at the end of the race. In the history of every great enterprise, however worthy, there comes a lull before success fully crowns the effort. Many will connect with and take part in the beginning of a work when the first wave of enthusiasm is on, but after a measure of success has crowned the effort, and the enterprise seems to lag, they drop out. But such, while they may receive a temporary blessing, will never be able to garner to their souls the joy and satisfaction which those receive who remain in and with the work from the beginning to its close.

In the great day of final accounts, when the life work of each individual passes in review before the Judge of all the earth, the difference between the faithful and the unfaithful will be made manifest. All are called, and all have the privilege of engaging in the Lord's work, but it is only those who do not become weary in well doing, but continue faithful unto the end, that will reap the reward.

The soldier who becomes weary or faint-hearted and falls back or drops out by the way, cannot enter so heartily into the general rejoicing that comes at the close of the war as the battle-scarred veteran who remained faithful at his post of duty until honorably discharged by him who called him to be a soldier.

How is it in the work with "Christ's Object Lessons"? Have you enlisted in this enterprise to endure unto the end and join heart and soul in the jubilee song of freedom? Have you sold your full quota of books? If you have not, do not quit in despondency, but take fresh courage and buckle on the armor again, determined to endure to the end of the race. Never quit the field until the joyful news passes down the entire line, It is finished. If you have sold your number as an individual, don't stop; help your weaker brother, and thus help the church with its quota. And when your church has disposed of its quota, don't stop till your conference is free. In short, don't stop until the note of victory rings out loud and clear through the whole land. Many individuals are out, some churches are nearly through, and three conferences have passed the last quarter post, and are on the home stretch, so let us "be of good courage, and let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God: and the Lord do that which seemeth Him good."

G. A. IRWIN.

## God's Thoroughness.

(Concluded.)

TO MAKE the above plain, we will consider one of the laws of light, the one that says, "The intensity of light varies inversely as the square of its distance from its source." That is, if we double or halve the distance the light will decrease or increase fourfold, and *not* be one-half or twice as bright as one would easily believe without investigation. We can demonstrate this law in a simple way; if we place a light in the centre of a room ten feet high, wide, and long, we will have a certain amount or intensity of light on the walls, ceiling, and floor; the area of each side, the floor, and the ceiling will be 100 square feet, or a total of 600 square feet. Now place the same lamp in the room 20 feet in every dimension; the distance of the lamp will be just twice the distance from the walls, etc., as it was in the room 10 feet each way, but the *intensity* of the light on the walls will be only one-fourth of what it was in the smaller room, because the area of the walls, floor, and ceiling will now be 400 square feet each, or a total of 2,400 square feet. To put it another way, we will have just the same amount of light, but it will be spread over four times the area.

Next, to understand why the light from Rigel appears nearly the same to-day as it appeared hundreds and even thousands of years ago, I will give another illustration of the same law. Place a lamp one foot from the eye, and we get a certain quantity or intensity of light, no matter how bright or how faint. Now move the lamp away from the eye one foot, doubling the distance, and the intensity will be only a fourth; four feet would reduce it to a sixteenth; eight feet, to a sixty-fourth; one hundred feet, to the one ten-thousandth part, and so on; each time we double the distance the intensity or brightness will decrease four times.

Let us imagine, now, that the lamp is placed at the distance of the moon, or 240,000 miles away, and still remains visible, could our observer detect an increase or decrease if the lamp were moved to or from him one foot?—Certainly not; and even a mile would be only the one two hundred and forty thousandth of the whole distance, an insignificant part, yet great enough, if it is the first mile, to increase or decrease the intensity twenty-five millions of times.

It is easy now to see how great and incomprehensible must the distance be to Rigel; for, although the star is travelling from us hundreds of miles a second for every tick of the clock, the distance is comparatively but little greater now than it was in the time of Job, and the difference can be safely ignored.

We have a still more speedy traveller, however, than Rigel, beside which the star would appear to be at rest. I refer to light, the swiftest motion known to astronomers, which speeds on its way 186,000 miles a second, a thousand times the velocity of Rigel at the rate we have imagined the star to be leaving us.

Suppose we could harness two rays of light and start them to the east and the west; in a single second they would be separated by a distance equal to sixteen times the circumference of the earth, while in a whole minute they would be a score of millions of miles apart. When would they reach their journey's end? Could they have started in the days of Job, or even "in the beginning," at what stage of their journey would they now be? It would not be true to say that they had accom-

plished at least a *part* of their journey, no matter when they started, for the distance in either direction is infinite, and nothing less than an infinity of time can end their journey; and the time that has elapsed since "the beginning" to the present is finite (though not comprehensible), and is an infinitesimal part of infinity.

If our transgressions are removed from us "as far as the east is from the west," how completely are we forgiven, how perfect our pardon! The Lord's ways are not our ways (praise the Lord), but His pardon is worthy of even Him; for He removes us from our sins "as far as the east is from the west."

GAMMA BETA.

## "The Rights of Man."

ITS HOME FIELD.

AS WE consider plans for circulating our new book, "Rights of Man," let us remember that the basis of our missionary effort should be a personal study of the book. It is hard for a person to work up enthusiasm in a cause with which he has but slight acquaintance. We can never be successful in impressing others with the importance of any principle until we first realise its importance ourselves. But although it is important that we should be sufficiently acquainted with the subject to be able to present it intelligently to others, it is of still greater consequence that we become so conversant with right principles that we may know how to act in a time of crisis. Let us make the most of our present opportunity. We were glad to receive the following lines showing that classes were already being formed for this purpose:—

"'The Rights of Man' received and carefully read. It is a book for the times . . . and should be in the hands of the people. . . . Now is the time to study and circulate this book. I expect to form a class to study this important subject, taking 'Rights of Man' as our text book."

(Signed) W. WOODFORD.

"We are planning to devote one night in the week (generally missionary evenings) to the *chapter* study of the book, outlining the principal points on a black-board, etc."

(Signed) G. W. TADICH.

Here is a way by which the members of our companies may become more intimately acquainted with the principles that should govern the relations of the church and State. What better plan could our churches follow than to devote a series of missionary meetings to the study of this book. To do this it would be necessary for each member to possess a copy of the book and to make a personal study during the week of the portion to be considered. The missionary meeting could then consist of a short study on religious liberty and reports of, and plans for, aggressive work with our new literature.

The subject is well worthy of systematic study, and for a text book we could have none better than "The Rights of Man." Of this book and the tract "Religion and the State Schools," Pastor E. Hilliard, of Tasmania, writes, "I am greatly pleased with them, and think they are the best I have read on the subject."

ITS MISSION FIELD.

The field in which this book will accomplish most, in which it will wield the greatest influence, is among those men whose life-work brings them face to face with the questions with which the book deals. We would suggest that a strong effort be made to place a copy in the hands of members of our Legislature, newspaper

editors, judges and magistrates, lawyers, ministers of religion. We have named them in this order because our experience with the tract, "Religion and State Schools," has led us to believe that it is a wise plan to place the weighty arguments contained in these publications in the hands of politicians and editors first of all. These men are often the means of presenting the true principles to hundreds of others. The following from Pastor W. L. H. Baker will show that this has been the case in New Zealand:—

"We have used about 7,000 of those little tracts 'Religion and the State Schools.' Our tract society has posted a considerable number to school teachers, members of Parliament, and to seven hundred ministers. Some of the ablest politicians have used on the public platform the arguments therein contained."

people who are interested in the subject of religion and the State. Let us ask such to buy the book. Many will be glad of the opportunity.

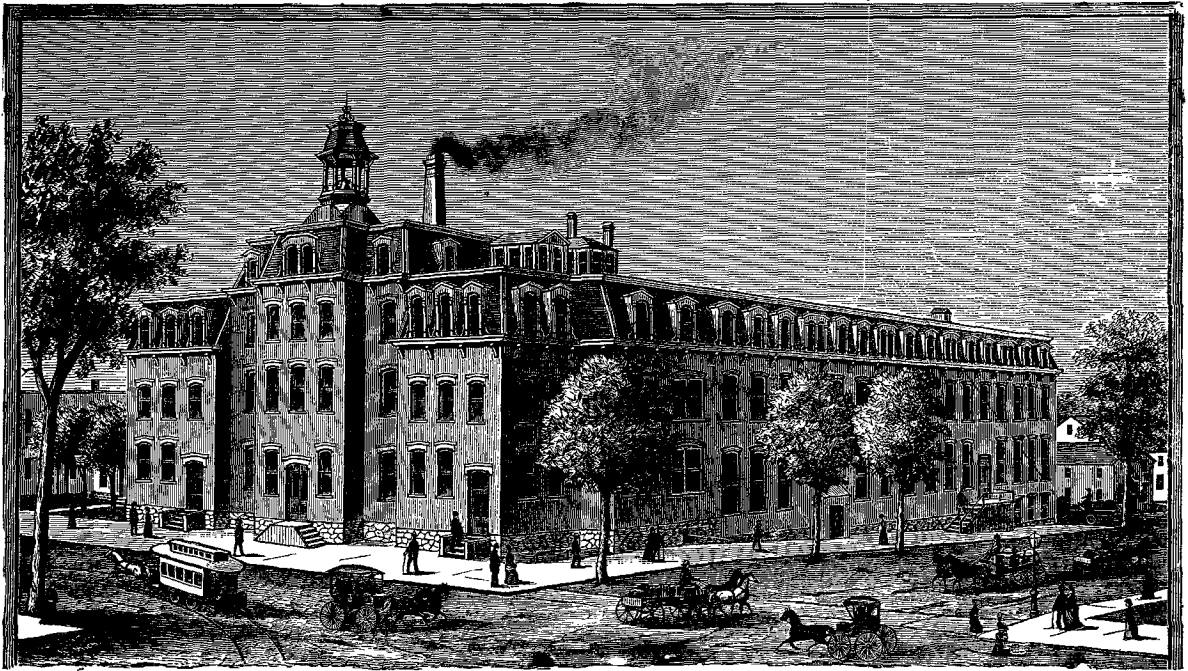
We trust that by united effort we may be successful in placing thousands of copies of this book in the hands of the people, thus sounding a note of warning against all attempts to secure religious legislation.

W. W. FLETCHER,  
*Book Department, Echo Publishing Company, Limited.*

#### BURNING OF THE REVIEW AND HERALD OFFICE.

IT is with sad hearts that we pen these few lines to acquaint our brethren with the above fact.

The fire occurred the evening of December 30, 1902. Its exact origin is not known, but it is supposed



Buildings of the Review and Herald, Battle Creek, Mich., before the Fire.

Brother Baker also tells us of one candidate for election who displayed the tract in his meetings, made quotations, and remarked that he did not know who sent him the tract, but that he had read it, and carried it about with him, as it expressed his opinion exactly.

The good work that has been begun with the tract must be carried on with "Rights of Man." To make sure of thorough work and to avoid confusion and uncertainty, it will be necessary for us to organise our efforts. It has been suggested that the president or committee of each conference arrange with their State tract society to divide up the work to the churches of their conference. The members of one church could concentrate their efforts upon supplying the members of Parliament in their State. Another company could see that a copy was sent to each of the leading editors. In this way each church would have its own particular part of the work to look after, and much more would be accomplished than if each individual acted independently.

There are many other ways in which we can help to circulate this book. Some of us are acquainted with

to have been from defective electric wires. The fire raged furiously from the very beginning, and soon got beyond the control of the fire department.

The loss is estimated at over £60,000, with an insurance of about one-half that amount.

The Review and Herald, or Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Company as it is known in law, was established in the year 1850, and from a very small beginning has gradually grown, until prior to the fire it was recognised as being one of the best equipped publishing houses of its kind in the State of Michigan.

From this institution have gone tons of valuable reading matter to all parts of the world, and although the building is now in ashes, its moral influence still lives in the hearts and lives of men and women who have been redeemed from sin and lifted to a higher and nobler life.

In the providence of God, one important building belonging to the plant was saved; viz, the one containing the offices and the bank, where all moneys, accounts, and valuable papers and documents were stored.

In the basement of this building were stored all manufactured products pertaining to our work ; such as, tracts, pamphlets, and bound books of all sizes and grades. A stock of such publications to the value of £18,000 to £20,000 was usually stored in this building to provide against a possible contingency like the present. This supply will keep the canvassers going until arrangements can be made to continue their manufacture either in Battle Creek or elsewhere as the Lord may indicate.

Of the lessons to be learned from this calamity I will venture no comment. Time, evidently, will make it clear to those who patiently wait. One thing, however, we can be assured of ; the death of men or the burning of buildings, however important, will not stop the work of God. God hath His way even in the whirlwind. If we relate ourselves properly to the Lord as individuals and as a people, by humility of heart and confession of sin, these seeming disasters will prove to be blessings in disguise, and will fall out unto the furtherance of the gospel.

G. A. IRWIN.

ders. We trust this faithfulness may never abate, but continue to increase until all is consumed upon the altar, and each individual hears the welcome plaudit, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

G. A. IRWIN.

**SABBATH-SCHOOL OUTING.**

A FEW weeks ago the Sabbath-schools near Sydney spent a day in a quiet nook on the Parramatta River in physical, mental, and spiritual recreation. A short programme was rendered both before and after luncheon. The exercises consisted for a time in fighting mosquitoes, but after a time these subsided, and we proceeded with our programme, which consisted of several good talks and papers, interspersed with vocal and instrumental music. Some of the thoughts impressed upon the writer's mind were as follows:—

1. Object of the Sabbath-school and who should attend. The Sabbath-school is not a mere machine for empty rattle, but a heavenly sitting together for mutual edification and instruction in practical righteousness. All should attend who have not graduated in grace and attained to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

2. The study of the lesson. (a) What to study. The Word itself. As a new-born babe desires milk, not from a bottle, but warm from the mother's breast, so we must study the Word by the direct contact method. Lesson pamphlets, etc., are only helps toward this end. (b) When to study. Continually; it is not he that takes an occasional drink, but he that "drinketh" (keeps drinking) that shall never thirst. (c) How to study. "Study to show thyself approved unto God," instead of studying to show yourself approved to the teacher or to the class.

3. Organisation of the school, by Mrs. J. Hindson, appended:—

"God is a God of order. As we look around us and view the works of nature, we see that this is so. Seed-time and harvest, summer and winter, day and night, follow each other in succession, and in the movement of the heavenly bodies the precision and order of God are clearly shown. Sun, moon, and stars, following certain fixed rules, work together in perfect harmony.

"In all this our Creator has given us an example. He has also told us in His Word to 'let all things be done decently and in order,' 'For God is not the Author of confusion (margin, tumult, unquietness), but of peace.'

"We often hear form and organisation demerited on the ground that it leads to formalism. But form in true service is not formalism. Form attended by the power of God is all right, it is only when the power of God ceases to attend the form that it results in formalism.

"Form or system is recognised as essential in every business pursuit, and is quite as necessary to our work as is the frame-work or skeleton to the human body. The organisation of the Sabbath-school is sometimes called its machinery. Now we all recognise the value of machinery. But we must not depend upon the machine to furnish the motive power. The Holy Spirit of God alone can bring life and power into our work. But since God is the Author of order and system, and the Holy Spirit is the spirit of true organisation, it will utilise a certain amount of machinery for the carrying forward of the work.

**REPORTS FROM THE FIELD.**

**AN INTERESTING REPORT.**

THE following report submitted by the treasurer of the Cooranbong Church at the close of the year 1902, is worthy of careful study, and the spirit of liberality therein revealed is worthy of emulation:—

**BALANCE SHEET OF AVONDALE CHURCH FOR 1902.**

Receipts.

Incidental Fund	£10	11	2
Fund for the Poor	7	2	3
Cemetery Fund	1	18	6
Echo Fund	5	13	2
Joyful Tidings	4	1	2
Missionary Fund	17	11	
Fiji Launch	3	18	3
Students' Aid Fund	5	5	10
Avondale School Launch	1	3	2
Collection for book, "Rights of Man"	1	15	6
Children's Tuition Fund	2	11	4
Fiji Book Work	1	4	0
Good Health (special number)	1	5	0
Sanitarium Furnishing Fund	2	6	3
Annual Offering (week of Prayer)	37	19	9
Ingathering Harvest, Cash	10	2	6
Ingathering Harvest, Goods Estimated at	10	0	0
Behalf of Burwood Camp-meeting	5	11	3
Fund Towards Educating a Missionary for the Islands	11	11	3
Total Receipts not Including Tithes	124	18	3
Tithe for year 1902	578	19	4
Second Tithe	10	18	9
Church Collections for 1901	54	7	10
" " " " 1902	124	18	2
Making an increase for 1902 of £70 10s 4d.			
Tithe for 1901	383	9	2
" " 1902	578	19	4
Showing an increase for 1902 of £195 10s 2d.			

M. HARE, Treasurer.

To the total report of the tithe, both first and second, should be added £28 more paid directly to the treasurer of the Union Conference by members of this church who are in the employ of the Union Conference. This brings up the total tithe paid by the church for the year to £616. Of the 136 members of the church only 109 are entered upon the treasurer's book as tithe payers. Dividing the total amount of tithe paid by the number of those paying we have an average of £5 13s. Uniting the tithe and offerings we again have an average of £6 17s 7d.

Faithfulness in the payment of tithes and offerings is always accompanied with God's blessing, and as might be expected, the church is enjoying a good degree of spirituality, and union and harmony prevail in her bor-

"The machinery of the school to be most effective should, for the most part, be kept out of sight. The way to hide the machinery that the result of its working may be clearly seen, is to keep it in perfect order. Any one at all acquainted with machinery well knows that a machine, to be kept in working order all the time, must be oiled frequently, watched carefully, and repaired as soon as the necessity appears for such repairs, for if neglected, a break may occur that will stop all work for many days and weeks. Let it never be said of our Sabbath-school that it has 'run down.'

"Seeing that a certain amount of machinery or organisation is essential to the successful working of the school, let us give it the necessary attention enabling it to go forward smoothly and quietly.

"On this point we have the following instruction given to us: 'The object of the Sabbath-school should not be lost sight of in the mechanical arrangements, yet if we see no necessity for harmonious action, and are disorderly, undisciplined, and disorganised in our course of action, angels who are thoroughly organised, and move in perfect order, cannot work for us successfully. They turn away in grief, for they are not commissioned to bless confusion, distraction, and disorganisation.' Again, 'We are living in a time when order, system, and unity of action are most essential. Oh, how Satan would delight to get in among the people, and disorganise the work at a time when thorough organisation is most essential.'

"It was my privilege for a number of years to be connected with a Sabbath-school which had for its superintendent one of the leading Sabbath-school workers in our ranks. Although holding the positions of manager and superintendent of one of our largest printing offices, constituting him a very busy man, he always had time for his Sabbath-school duties. He was not only full of enthusiasm but also of the spirit of the work. So much so that his fellow officers and teachers almost unconsciously caught the same spirit. The school numbered about 400 members, yet he did not feel that this was too many for him to become familiar with every name, and the formation of every class, and he expected his secretary to do the same. He made a personal study of the record books and of the list of absent members that would be furnished him from week to week. Every detail of the school was of interest to him. He never seemed to feel his work a burden, and I can never remember that he spoke a discouraging word to his officers and teachers, although there must have been much that was perplexing in a school so large. I have always thought that the secret of his success as a superintendent lay in the fact that he had his school so perfectly organised. Although the mechanical arrangement seemed about all that could be desired, it was not made prominent. In other words, the machinery was so well oiled and cared for that it did not manifest its presence in squeaks and rusty groans as machines sometimes will. The study of the lesson and the spiritual interests of the school were ever kept paramount. The teachers' meeting was full of interest and well attended by officers and teachers. In addition to the consideration of the lesson and the best methods of imparting it, the workings and welfare of the school would be discussed, and prayer offered for members needing special help.

"This was years ago, and many of the youth and children connected with the school when I knew it have grown up to fill places of usefulness and responsibility in the cause. Some have gone to foreign lands

to spread this message. Eternity alone will reveal the results of faithful work in our Sabbath-schools.

"Shall we sum up some of the leading features in a well organised Sabbath-school:—

1. The most capable and consecrated officers and teachers will be selected for the school.

2. The children and youth will be especially looked after, and provided with workers who will give them the best possible instruction.

3. The school will be provided with proper facilities for its work, in the way of helps, maps, boards, etc.

4. Each member of the school will be in his place every time that it is at all possible for him to be there, and he will be on time. Tardiness will be rare in a well organised school.

5. The school will begin promptly on time, and the opening exercises will be varied and made interesting.

6. Music will be made a strong element in building up the school. Nothing is more elevating than well-rendered sacred music.

7. The review exercises will not be formal. Much tact will be used with the children and youth to make the hour varied. Among the older ones, it will not be a time for technical discussion, but of spiritual edification.

8. The teachers' meeting will be indispensable. In addition to the Bible study, there will be instruction given in various lines of Sabbath-school work, and the best methods of teaching.

"Every Sabbath-school, large or small, can be perfect in itself; in other words, can make the highest use of every means within its reach.

"In some schools there is a disposition to cast all the burden of organisation upon the superintendent. The superintendent is expected not only to organise the school, but to keep it organised. But this can not be done by one person alone. When all take an active burden to make the organisation perfect, it should still be remembered that it is only a machine, a lifeless body incapable of effecting any good until God gives to it His power—breathes into it His spirit."

Other excellent papers on co-operation of parents and teachers, and suggestions for primary work were read, but the writer is not equal to the task of reproducing from memory the thoughts expressed.

Yours in the work,

GEO. A. SNYDER.

**Suffering from Cold.**—While we of Australia are suffering from exceptionally hot weather, a writer in Europe describes the situation there as follows: "The misery and sufferings endured by the poor in Paris and London during the Arctic weather have been simply appalling. In London it has been practically impossible to cope with the evil. London has 940,000 poor; that is to say, people who can not afford to obtain the comforts of life. There are 320,000 who have not enough to eat, and can not afford to buy coal or wood to warm themselves with, and nearly 100,000 who have to receive relief from the parish. It may, therefore, be said that 1,300,000 people in London live just on the border line of want, and nearly one-third of them on the line itself. The slightest dislocation of trade, a few days' frost, or what not, and these are over the brink, submerged, and starving." In the United States, throughout the great northwest, there is a great coal famine. The municipality of Battle Creek, Michigan, for instance, thought it necessary to buy ten carloads of coal to sell at cost to suffering people.



**Monthly Summary of Australasian Canvassing Work.**

New Zealand.		Queensland	
DECEMBER, 1902.		DECEMBER, 1902	
<i>Home Hand Book—</i> Orders. Value		<i>Ladies' Guide—</i> Orders. Value.	
A. Rickards, Southland ...	16 £24 10 0	J. Hewitt, Indooroopilly... 41	43 3 0
Mrs. M. Hamilton, Blenheim ...	7 11 0 0	<i>Coming King—</i>	
G. Masters, Wellington ...	1 2 0 0	Emma Hebbel, S. Brisbane	7 3 5 6
D. M. Adams, ...	1 2 0 0	Elsie Hebbel, "	5 2 8 6
<i>Ladies' Guide—</i>		<i>Bible Readings—</i>	
Mrs. Covell, N. Plymouth..	15 15 0 0	F. Brett, Mossman, etc. ...	24 21 5 0
Mrs. Masters, Wellington	5 5 0 0		77 £70 2 0
Mrs. E. Smith, Ch. Ch. ...	4 4 0 0	<b>Tasmania.</b>	
D. M. Adams, Wellington	1 1 7 6	DECEMBER, 1902.	
<i>Man the Masterpiece—</i>		<i>Ladies' Guide—</i> Orders. Value.	
W. J. Redhead, Canterbury	2 2 5 0	Miss F. Horne, Ulverstone	16 16 7 6
D. M. Adams, Wellington	1 1 0 0	Mr. J. Allen, Wynyard... 23	30 17 6
<i>Desire of Ages—</i>		<i>Daniel &amp; Revelation—</i>	
C. Reynolds, Canterbury..	1 1 10 0	Mr. J. Allen, Wynyard... 18	16 10 0
W. J. Redhead, Canterbury	24 27 17 6	" (other books) 2	3 10 0
<i>Coming King—</i>			59 £67 5 0
D. M. Adam, Wellington..	35 12 15 6	<b>Victoria.</b>	
H. Piper, Petone.....	5 3 7 6	DECEMBER, 1902.	
G. Johnson, Kaipara .....	4 1 16 0	<i>Home Hand Book—</i> Orders. Value.	
Miss M. Hamilton, Blenheim	3 1 1 6	L. Currow, .....	11 £18 6 0
<i>H. of the Morning—</i>		H. C. Harker, Yea, .....	82 127 8 6
C. E. Reynolds, Canterb'y	10 3 10 0	J. Anderson, Dandenong	3 5 19 0
<i>Patriarchs and Prophets—</i>		(Other books)...	2 2 0 0
W. W. Ward, Marton.....	16 10 12 6	<i>Ladies' Guide—</i>	
<i>House We Live In—</i>		L. Currow, Yea .....	2 2 17 6
Miss Hansen, Hawkes Bay	9 2 0 6	L. J. Lear, Boxhill ...	6 6 17 9
	160 £132 13 6	" (other books)	6 1 7 0
Good Health subscriptions.....	253	<i>Desire of Ages—</i>	
Echo sales, Miss Owen .....	1920	J. F. Ward, Warragul .....	7 11 7 6
<b>New South Wales.</b>		" (other books) 2	0 11 0
DECEMBER, 1902.		B. Judge, Warragul .....	4 6 10 0
<i>Daniel &amp; Revelation—</i> Orders. Value.		<i>Miscellaneous—</i>	
A. Hodgkinson, Inverell .	13 11 17 9	W. Ryder, Traralgon.....	2 1 2 6
R. Salton, Inverell .....	1 0 12 6		127 £184 6 9
G. Wood, Inverell ...	4 3 15 9	<b>Totals for December, 1902.</b>	
W. R. Lamb, Nowra ...	5 4 10 0	Orders. Value.	
<i>Desire of Ages—</i>		New South Wales.....	195 £153 1 3
G. E. Chapman, Wallsend .	4 6 2 0	Victoria .....	127 184 6 9
<i>Coming King—</i>		Tasmania .....	56 67 5 0
Mrs. Wheat, Auburn ...	11 5 9 6	New Zealand .....	160 132 13 6
G. Ryder, Gundagal.....	31 9 12 6	West Australia .....	...
Miss C. Allum, Bathurst... 21	7 8 6	Queensland .....	77 70 2 0
J. Mitchell-May, Mur'rdi	7 3 17 6	South Australia.....	...
T. W. Palmer, Murrur'di	17 9 1 6	Grand Totals,	615 £607 8 6
<i>Ladies' Guide—</i>		<b>Reports should reach the</b>	
H. J. Cooper, Rouse.....	21 22 9 0	<b>RECORD</b> by the 20th of	
Mrs. Gregg, Neutral Bay. 11	11 17 0	each month so that they	
W. Meyers, Boolaroo .....	9 9 0 0	may appear in the issue of	
Mrs. Paap, Mosman .....	4 5 4 0	the 1st of the month.	
G. A. March, E. Geeta... 12	12 16 3		
<i>Man the Masterpiece.—</i>			
W. Meyers, Boolaroo .....	9 9 10 0		
H. J. Cooper, Rouse.....	8 9 0 0		
<i>Home Hand Book—</i>			
N. Harker, Goulburn .....	7 10 10 0		
" (other books)	1 0 7 6		
	195 £153 1 3		

**A SCHOOL IN SPANISH HONDURAS.**

BROTHER H. A. OWEN, missionary to Spanish Honduras, and son of D. A. Owen, of New Zealand, writes to the *Review and Herald* of how the Lord has opened the way for a fine mission school in that land of darkness,—  
 "Mt. Infernitos, or Infernal Mountain, in its descent to El Chimbo pauses at one point, and spreads out into a beautiful savannah of rich, black soil. Mountain springs water this land, so that in the dry season, when all the country around is dry and brown, the Cieniga, or place of springs, is fresh and green.  
 "To this place of natural beauty, Don Juan brought the woman of his choice. A home was built, and Don Juan daily went to his toil in the mine. At evening he came out of the dark tunnel, and mounting his little

mule, rode through the pueblo, past the hill of many crosses, and by a winding path reached his pasture gate. In a few minutes he was home.

"After fifteen years, bent with toil and the drinking of much *guava*, he bethought himself of his old home in England, of the days of his childhood, and of his own six dusky children growing up in ignorance in this land so destitute of all human influences that are pure. He said, 'What must I do to save my children?' This question, asked in sincerity, is akin to that other, 'What must I do to be saved?'

"While searching for a suitable location for our school, I learned of this man, and visited him at Mt. Infernitos. With tears in his eyes, he repeated to me his story. He wished to give his home, farm, and cattle for the education of his children.

"The farm was just such a place as we had been praying for as a school location, a good distance from the city (three leagues), high above the malarial levels, good irrigable land. Our friends in Tegucigalpa rejoiced with us in what we all called a providential opening for our school.

"In due time the transfer was made, and we came into possession of a fine piece of property for school purposes, but with only sufficient house room for six students.

"Native kitchens have no chimneys, the women working in the smoke. We first built a stone chimney, and set up our cook stove; then there were stone fences to repair and raise. We work in the forenoon with the hired help and children, and have school in the afternoon. I presume this is the first time 'Joy to the world' and 'Just as I am' have been sung in Central Honduras by native voices. The children are learning rapidly, and we are teaching them of Jesus."

**Items of General Interest.**

THE annual camp-meeting of the South African Conference was held at Uitenhage, January 15-26. Only two camp-meetings have previously been held in that field.

THERE is at the present time a wondrous cry for gospel workers from all lands. Men and women are wanted everywhere whose hearts burn with love for the truth, and whose lips have been touched as with a live coal from off the altar. The time of the loud cry of the Third Angel's Message is here. The message must and will go quickly to "every nation, kindred, tongue, and people."

OUR family of students at the Avondale School is manifesting a thoroughgoing disposition to conquer difficulties. An excellent spirit prevails throughout the home, and it has been remarked more than once by the older students and teachers, that "this is the best year yet at Avondale."

THE *Australasian Signs of the Times* is a beautiful paper. While we miss the old name and face of *Bible Echo*, we can praise God for the *Signs of the Times* which He has given us. While we are blessed with such excellent literature, let us do our utmost to circulate and spread abroad the good news. Soon the night cometh when no man can work.

PASTOR G. B. Starr has gone to Devonport, Tasmania, to labor. Pastor G. Teasdale has for some weeks been conducting meetings there.

# Union Conference Record,

PUBLISHED SEMIMONTHLY BY THE

Australasian Union Conference of Seventh Day Adventists.

56 George Street West, Sydney, N. S. W., Australia.

All subscriptions, copy, and communications intended for the editor should be addressed UNION CONFERENCE RECORD, Cooranbong, N. S. W.

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Single subscription, per year, post-paid, - 2 6

Foreign Countries, per year, post-paid (75 cts.) 3 0

Printed for the Conference by the Avondale Press, Cooranbong, N.S.W.

**The Coming General Conference.**—By the time this number of the RECORD reaches you, the delegates from this field, with one exception, will be well on their way toward Oakland, California, the place where the Conference is to be held. Although it is not designed or expected that this Conference will be a large gathering as compared with some former ones, yet it will be none the less interesting and important, for upon the spirit manifested and the actions taken will depend to a large degree the future prosperity and advancement of our message. Special wisdom from above will be needed by the delegates that they may see and read aright the leadings of Him whose "path is in the great waters, and His footsteps are not known."

I would bespeak for this gathering the prayers of God's faithful people in Australasia, and also for the delegation from this field, that God may give them clearness of thought in the presentation of the work and needs of this field, and also discernment in the selection of workers to fill the various places made vacant by the return of so many to the homeland since the last session of the General Conference.

It has been decided to hold the next session of the Australasian Union Conference in or near Sydney, beginning August 13. It is hoped that we will be successful in securing a good number of experienced workers at the General Conference that will be able to reach the field in time to take part in this gathering, and from there go forth with courage to take up the work in the field assigned them.

Notice of the time and arrangements for our coming week of prayer will be announced in due time.

Pastor E. W. Farnsworth, vice-president of the Union Conference, will act as president during my absence. All communications relative to the work should be addressed to him at North Fitzroy, Melbourne, Victoria, care of the Echo Publishing Company. Matters of an official character pertaining to the office of secretary or treasurer should be addressed to Mrs J. Hindson, 56 George Street West, Sydney.

GEO. A. IRWIN.

Pres. Aust. Union Conference.

## PERPLEXITIES AND DISTRESS.

THERE is a strange mixture of peace and turmoil, poverty and luxury, anxiety and carelessness, distress, perplexity, and threatenings of war in the world at the present time. With the exception of the Venezuelan trouble, the nations are outwardly at peace, but inwardly full of fears both from within and from without. While millions are seemingly care-free, disaster and calamity are rampant in the earth, and the nations are bickering and struggling for every possible advantage almost to the verge of hostilities. Storms are threshing the earth in the fury of their power on both sides of the Atlantic and Pacific. The following are some of the striking

things that have come to our attention within the past few days: The destruction of a whole town in Russian Turkestan, in which over 4,000 persons lost their lives, and the homes of those who escaped death were ruined, while the earth in that vicinity continues to tremble, and the homeless people shiver and freeze in the zero weather; bloody fighting has occurred in Bostoff, Russia, between strikers and troops, in which 300 are reported to have been killed and 1,000 wounded, 2,000 women fighting with the strikers; 400,000 persons are reported starving in Finland as the result of the crop failure; there is widespread famine and destitution in European Russia and Siberia, and the government is spending several million dollars for relief; anarchists have been at work with dynamite in Geneva, Switzerland; the rebellion in north China is reported spreading instead of decreasing, while the poor are suffering from the famine and from the depredations of the imperial soldiery as well as from the rebels; the government of Colombia is threatening war on Nicaragua; France is pressing Peru energetically for a settlement of a claim of long standing; a rebellion is in progress in Morocco; the common people of Ireland are stirred over the large number of evictions; and in this land of peace and plenty many are suffering greatly from scarcity of fuel. It is not a peaceful or promising outlook.—*Signs of the Times.*

## HYMNS OF ZION IN A STRANGE LAND.

THEY are singing that good old Sabbath hymn away in the heart of China,—

"The God that made the earth, and all the worlds on high,  
Who gave all creatures birth, in earth and sea and sky,  
After six days in work employed, upon the seventh a rest enjoyed."

Here is a letter from Brother Pilquist to the Mission Board:—

"I am working with great delight on the preparation of a hymn book for our use. I take from an old hymn book such hymns as speak truth, and also translate from our English hymn book some very good hymns bearing upon subjects of present truth. I am also translating 'Bible Readings for the Home Circle.'

"Bible studies are held at my station every day. I have a teacher here who fully believes the Word of God, and calls the Sabbath his delight. Several others also rejoice in the Bible truth. One young, good-hearted man who is out selling Scriptures for me said the other day, 'Pastor, this is the best time I have ever had in my life. Now I see the word of God shineth brighter than the sun. The Bible class is a small heaven. I am unwilling to get out from here; but I will go and let all I meet on the road know what I have seen and heard.'

"God is our salvation. His work will prosper if we faithfully do our part. From the first of January, 1903, and until Jesus comes, I am, according to His and your calling, a worker under the direction of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission Board. I am in full harmony with the truth, and love my brethren."

What does it mean that so suddenly God gives us witnesses in the very heart of this long-neglected empire of four hundred millions?—It means that the time has come for a quick work. Just as we have really begun to enter China, and have sent a few workers forth to its people, the Lord shows how easily He can open work away beyond our efforts. He says to us, "Spare not; lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes. For thou shalt spread abroad on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall possess the nations."

W. A. SPICER.