

Union Conference Record

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

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NUMBER VII.

Our Battle with Evil.

THE will of man is aggressive, and is constantly striving to bend all things to its purposes. If it is enlisted on the side of God and right, the fruits of the Spirit will appear in the life; and God has appointed "glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good."

When Satan is permitted to mold the will, he uses it to accomplish his ends. He often works under cover as an angel of light. He has synagogues for worship, and a multitude of followers. But with all his high professions, he is at enmity with God. He instigates theories of unbelief, and stirs up the human heart to war against the Word of God. With persistent, persevering effort, he seeks to inspire men with his own energies of hate and antagonism to God, and to array them in opposition to the institutions and requirements of heaven and the operations of the Holy Spirit. He enlists under his standard all evil agencies, and brings them into the battle field under his generalship to oppose evil against good.

It is Satan's work to dethrone God from the heart, and to mold human nature into his own image of deformity. He stirs up all evil propensities, awakening unholy passions and ambitions. He declares, "All this power, these honors, and riches, and sinful pleasures will I give thee; but his conditions are that integrity shall be yielded, conscience blunted. Thus he degrades the human faculties, and brings them into captivity to sin."

God calls upon men to oppose the powers of evil. He says, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin; but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

The Christian life is a warfare. But "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." In this conflict of righteousness against unrighteousness, we can be successful only by divine aid. Our finite will must be brought into submission to the will of the Infinite; the human will must be blended with the divine. This will bring the Holy Spirit to our aid; and every conquest will tend to the recovery of God's purchased possession, to the restoration of His image in the soul.

The Lord Jesus acts through the Holy Spirit; for it is His representative. Through it, He infuses spiritual life into the soul, quickening its energies for good, cleansing it from moral defilement, and giving it a fitness for

His kingdom. Jesus has large blessings to bestow, rich gifts to distribute among men. He is the wonderful Counsellor, infinite in wisdom and strength; and if we will acknowledge the power of His Spirit, and submit to be molded by it, we shall stand complete in Him. What a thought is this! In Christ "dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him." Never will the human heart know happiness until it is submitted to be molded by the Spirit of God. The Spirit conforms the renewed soul to the model, Jesus Christ. Through the influence of the Spirit, enmity against God is changed into faith and love, and pride into humility. The soul perceives the beauty of truth, and Christ is honored in excellence and perfection of character. As these changes are effected, angels break out in rapturous song, and God and Christ rejoice over souls fashioned after the divine similitude.

It is by contemplating Christ, by exercising faith in Him, by experiencing for ourselves His saving grace, that we are qualified to present Him to the world. When the soul is renewed through the truth, and brought into harmony with God, the Lord will accept us as workers together with Himself for the salvation of others. Jesus will be our theme: His love, burning upon the altar of our hearts, will reach the hearts of the people. The truth will be presented, not as a cold, lifeless theory, but as a living force to change the life. But the power is of God through His Spirit, which works effectually on heart and mind. When Jesus left to His disciples the work that He had begun, He charged them, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." And He promised, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." And the disciples "all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication," waiting for the fulfillment of the promise."

We should pray as earnestly for the descent of the Holy Spirit as the disciples prayed on the day of Pentecost. If they needed the Spirit's power at that time, we need it more to-day. All manner of false doctrines, heresies, and deceptions are misleading the minds of men; and without the Spirit's aid, our efforts to present the divine truth will be in vain.

The warfare between good and evil has not grown less fierce than it was in the days of the Saviour. The path to heaven is no smoother now than it was then. All our sins must be put away. Every darling indulgence that hinders our spiritual progress must be cut off. The right eye or the right hand must be sacrificed, if it causes us to offend. Are we willing to renounce our own wisdom,

and to receive the kingdom of heaven as a little child? Are we willing to part with our self-righteousness? Are we willing to sacrifice the approbation of men? The prize of eternal life is of infinite value. Are we willing to welcome the Holy Spirit's aid, and co-operate with it, putting forth efforts and making sacrifices proportionate to the value of the object to be obtained?

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

MRS. E. G. WHITE.

The Mission of the Church.

THE supreme mission of the church is to save the world. The race is sick; the church is to continue the labor of the great Physician, and give it health. Humanity is lost; Christ has found it, and He would lead the church to the lost, that it might enjoy the glorious privilege of leading the wanderer to the home eternal. Man is a sinner, a rebel; the church is sent to subdue him, and fashion him into a saint, fit for the never-ending service of God. As Dr. Jenkyn said, "The world had forfeited its life; its reprieve has been procured by the atonement of Christ, and the church intrusted with the delivery of the reprieve into the hands of a world under condemnation—a commission which would have conferred distinction on angelic intelligences."

But to men—to us—and not to angels, God has committed the glorious work; and we should count it all joy to run with eager feet and carry this reprieve to all for whom Christ died. Heed this word of the sainted Simpson: "The church must go down into the pit with the miner, into the fore-castle with the sailor, into the tent with the soldier, into the shop with the mechanic, into the factory with the operative, into the field with the farmer, into the counting-room with the merchant. Like the air, the church must press equally on all the surfaces of society; like the sea, flow into every nook of the shore-line of humanity; like the sun shine on things foul and low as well as fair and high; for she was organised, commissioned, and equipped for the moral renovation of the whole world."—(Rev. Geo. T. Lemmon, in the *New Voice*.)

HE who refuses forgiveness, breaks the bridge over which he might pass, for all need forgiveness. Are there any of us who can look back on wrong and injury done to us by our fellow-men? This, if we were wise, we would not wish to forget. For more noble is it to remember in full, and yet forgive; to retain our sensitiveness unimpaired, and yet to take the offending brother to our hearts as if he had done us no wrong.—A. P. Peabody.

THE LEDGER OF HEAVEN.

O, THE wonderful ledger the angels keep!
And the watchful eyelids that never sleep,
And the tireless penmen that watch and weep
Over the words they write!
How oft are the hearts of the angels pained,
And how oft are the pages soiled and stained!
How much is lost and how little gained
In struggling for the right!

'Tis thus I mused, in the twilight gray,
In the deep'ning gloom at the close of day,
Ere I reverently knelt by my couch to pray,
And laid me down to rest.
And I dreamed that a glorious angel fair
Had borne me away through the boundless air,
To the pearly gates of that city where
Dwelt the good and blest.

O, the peace I felt, as my mortal tongue
Joined in the songs that the seraphs sung,
As back were the massive portals flung
At the touch of the angel's hand!
We stood on the banks of the river wide,
Which flows from the throne in a crystal tide,
And I safely followed my shining guide
Over that blissful land.

Still on through the ambient air we sped,
Till she laid her hand on my trembling head;
"Behold the ledger of heaven," she said—
And quick on my wond'ring view
There seemed to flash like a ray of light,
The mystic pen of an angel bright,
As he wrote in the ledger pure and white
The record of life—so true!

And every deed of my life was there—
The careless word and the honest prayer—
And some of the pages were white and fair,
And others were soiled with sin.
And the thoughts of my heart that were long concealed
Were written down and all revealed.
And, O, how I wished that the book were sealed,
And the record were hid within!

And my cheek was crimson, as, one by one,
I read the record of deeds I'd done,
And of victories lost that I might have won,
In the hour of mortal strife,
And of gentle words that I might have said;
But, ah! there were hasty words instead;
And now were the golden moments fled,
And mine was a misspent life!

"O, had I but known!" in my grief I cried,
And weeping turned to the angel's side.
"I bring thee hope," said the angel guide;
"Thy Saviour has prayed for thee,
And thou shalt return to the earth again,
And dwell once more 'mong the sons of men.
But, O, remember the angel's pen!
Ah! what shall thy record be?"

With tears of joy at length I woke,
And rose from my couch, for the morn had broke.
"The Lord be praised!" were the words I spoke
"For the beautiful lesson given.
I will guard my lips with a jealous care,
I will keep my heart from the tempter's snare,
Lest sin be found on the pages fair
Of the record book of heaven."

My soul, how oft have the angels wept
Over the shameful record kept,
While the daughters of Zion have idly slept,
Nor dreamed of their fearful doom!
O, haste, for the moments are passing fast
Ere the summer is ended, the harvest past,
And the ledger of heaven is read at last,
And the King of kings shall come!

MRS. L. D. AVERY STUTTLE.

The Advent Message Lives.

FIRE cannot burn up this advent message. Satan and all his hosts cannot destroy it. It is a part of the eternal purpose of God, and it has in it the living and life-giving power of God's own life. And the home of this message is not in buildings of brick and mortar, but in the hearts of those who receive it. The one thing which retards the progress of this message is the coldness of many who are only half-hearted in their devotion to it. The flames of the fiery furnace simply burned the bonds of the three worthies, so that those who "fell down bound" were seen "loose, walking in the midst of the fire." We accept with humble submission any experience which will teach us how to stay our souls upon God with an increasing faith in the power of the naked truth, and which will set us free from the cords with which the world binds us in selfish ease, and will send us forth to the ends of the earth to carry the warning message. A greater fire is just ahead of us. "For, behold, the day cometh, it burneth as a furnace; and all the proud, and all that work wickedness, shall be as stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith Jehovah of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." Let us go forth with our hearts on fire with zeal for the spread of the message which will "make ready for the Lord a people prepared for him." "Who among us can dwell with the devouring fire? who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?" "The heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment; and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner; but My salvation shall be forever, and My righteousness shall not be abolished." Happy are those who know that the advent message lives in their hearts.—*Exchange.*

Willing Property to the Cause of God.

THE following extracts on making wills to the cause of God, are taken from Volume 4 of the "Testimonies," pp. 180-182. Let those who have means and who desire to make good use of their earthly possessions, carefully consider what the Lord says in this matter:—

"It is utter folly to defer to make a preparation for the future life until nearly the last hour of the present life. It is also a great mistake to defer to answer the claims of God for liberality to His cause until the time comes when you are to shift your stewardship upon others. How dare rich men run so great a risk. Those who wait till death before they make a disposition of their property, surrender it to death rather than to God. In so doing, many are acting directly contrary to the plan of God plainly stated in His Word."

"Those who neglect known duty by not answering to God's claims upon them in this life, and who soothe their conscience by calculating on making their bequests at death, will receive no words of commendation from the Master, nor will they receive a reward. They practised no self-denial, but selfishly retained their means as long as they could, yielding it up only when death claimed them.

"Many are not exercised upon the subject of making their wills while they are in apparent health. But this precaution should be taken by our brethren. . . . Death will not come one day sooner, brethren, because you have made your will.

"By becoming their own executors, they could mee-

the claims of God themselves, instead of shifting the responsibility upon others. . . . In making their wills, they will remember those objects and friends that hold the largest place in their affections. THEIR BEST FRIEND IS JESUS."

The Way to Success.

SUCCESS is not a matter of luck; it is invariably the result of thorough preparation and persistent effort, and failure in canvassing is often caused by lack of appreciation of the book you handle, and lack of appreciation is always due to lack of knowledge.

The agent who knows his book thoroughly will have an appreciation of it that will make itself felt with the people he meets. Many workers who bemoan their failure might just as well be rejoicing in their success if they would only take Paul's advice and "give diligence to reading." There is power in the truth; and all the power needed to convince and persuade people that they need our literature, that their soul's salvation depends upon the truth, becoming a living principle in their lives, is found in the book we handle. "Every soul is surrounded by an influence of its own. An atmosphere, it may be, charged with the life-giving power of faith, courage, and hope, and sweet with the fragrance of love."—"Christ's Object Lessons." And the only way to get charged is by loading up; as Peter says, "That ye may be mindful of the words spoken by the holy prophets." The man who has his mind full of the truth is charged with power, and if he is full of it there is no room for doubt, discouragement, or failure. If you desire to make this work a success, then study the description of your book. Study your prospectus, and day by day, with your Bible, carefully study the book you are selling. In this way you will continually get fresh strong points on your book that will be an inspiration to you, and through you a blessing to the people; for "by the atmosphere surrounding us every person is consciously or unconsciously affected."

J. M. J.

THE Christian life necessitates missionary work. You cannot help loving, caring for, and going to the lost, if there be within you the love of God. Therefore, I want to say that if you find you have no interest in missionary work, before you criticise it, go to some quiet place of soul communion with God, and let Him criticise you, and you will discover that, somehow or somewhere, even if that light was there, it has become extinguished. For your own soul's safety, test your relationship to God by your interest in this great work. Missionary work is the necessary outcome of Christian life. It is not a privilege of life—it is a necessity of life. Live the Christian life, and you are bound to be a missionary.—*G. Campbell Morgan.*

THE Spirit of God will not abide where there is disunion and contention among believers in the truth. Even if these feelings are unexpressed, they take possession of the heart, and drive out the peace and love that should characterise the Christian church. They are the result of selfishness in its fullest sense. This evil may take the form of inordinate self-esteem, or an undue longing for the approbation of others, even if it is obtained undeservedly.

SUNDRY TERSE SAYINGS.

"SOME men are like brooks; they are always murmuring."

LOOK to your day-book, and God will take care of the ledger.—*Lookout.*

DRINK neither wine nor strong drink, so long as by it you cause to stumble, or tempt into ruin or misery, the soul of a brother.

"SET your mind free; put away every prop. Lean directly upon God; go back to the divine individual conviction of right. It is your duty and privilege to think for yourself."

NO MAN or woman of the humblest sort can really be strong, gentle, pure, and good without somebody being helped and comforted by the very existence of that goodness.—*Phillips Brooks.*

HOLD the fort a little longer;
God is loving, Christ is true;
He has said, The truth shall triumph;
Who will dare to doubt it? You?

—*Selected.*

ALL things are the result of and subject to certain methods or laws. To insure health and happiness all beings must place themselves in harmony with these laws; any attempt to violate them, whether it be done purposely, ignorantly, or accidentally, produces discord and consequent suffering.—*W. T. Nichols, M. D.*

HOPE is necessary in every condition. The miseries of poverty, of sickness, or captivity would, without this comfort, be insupportable; nor does it appear that the happiest lot of terrestrial existence can set us above the want of this general blessing; or that life, when the gifts of nature and of fortune are accumulated upon it, would not still be wretched were it not elevated and delighted by the expectation of some new possession, of some enjoyment yet behind, by which the wish shall be at last satisfied and the heart filled up to its utmost extent.

Hope is, indeed, very fallacious, and promises what it seldom gives; but its promises are more valuable than the gifts of fortune, and it seldom frustrates us without assuring us of recompensing the delay by a greater bounty.—*Dr. Samuel Johnson.*

"A WOMAN who is not strong, and yet has to perform the multifarious duties of house-mother and home-maker, must learn to recognise her limitations, or she can not get through her task with satisfaction to herself or her family," writes Elizabeth Robinson Scovil in the *Ladies' Home Journal*. "She must learn to economise her strength and not fritter it away in doing unnecessary things, which some one else can do as well, that she may have enough left for the important demands that no one else can satisfy. She must balance the claims of charity, society, and her own household, and resolutely refuse to be pushed beyond her powers of endurance. It is hard to shut one's ears to what seems a call of duty, but to the wife and mother home is the first duty, the special field given her to cultivate, and her part may be only to train and support the workers whose business and duty lie outside in the world."

THE path of a good woman is indeed strewn with flowers; but they rise behind her steps, not before them.—*John Ruskin.*

THINKING and doing are inseparably connected. We cannot think good thoughts while we indulge in bad actions.

Self-exaltation must be renounced by those who profess to love God and keep His commandments, or they need not expect to be blessed by His divine favor.

Mrs. E. G. WHITE.

AH! it is such a thrice blessed thing to have a praying mother, a mother who does not merely say in set form and speech, "Go to Christ, my child," but in her daily life, full of sweet experience of all that is involved in it, says, "Come to Him."—*Mrs. Prentiss.*

SMALL kindnesses, small courtesies, small considerations, habitually practised in our social intercourse, give a greater charm to the character than the display of great talents and accomplishments.—*M. A. Kelly.*

HE that has never known adversity is but half acquainted with others, or with himself. Constant success shows us but one side of the world.—*Colton.*

IT is astonishing how soon the whole conscience begins to unravel if a single stitch drops; one single sin indulged makes a hole you could put your head through.—*Charles Buxton.*

THANK God there are some men and women full of the power of the Gospel, who can not rest satisfied till they have opened their very hearts, and given the poor wayfaring men the only thing which is really their own,—themselves, their faith, their energy, their hope of God.—*Brooks.*

NOTHING will yield you richer reward of gladness, and a greater wealth of joy, than faithfully to cultivate and develop the happier, warmer, sunnier side of your nature, that you may be a blessing to yourself, and a blessing to all around you.—*Schuyler Colfax.*

"If you are told that another reviles you, do not go about to vindicate yourself; but rather say, My other faults I find are hid from him, else I am persuaded he would have told of them also; and if *this* be true, no one will believe it long."

WHEN the world misinterprets and maligns our motives, when it would even assault and destroy the very life of us if it dared, it is a consolation to seek the recognition of a Being so infinitely greater and better than the world, and who is as willing as He is able to shield all His followers from harm. The soul's spiritual aspirations can be satisfied only by communion with its Maker and Redeemer. It looks away from earth-born contentions and perils of the halcyon rest and blessedness of the eternal realm.—*T. S. Doolittle.*

WITHIN less than thirty years the Rhenish Society will have gathered in the Toba country, Sumatra, 90 churches, 12,000 members, and 4,000 candidates under instruction, located in seventeen chief stations, surrounded by their branches.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD.

GENERAL LETTER FROM PASTOR E. H. GATES.

OUR steamer, the *Manapouri*, left Sydney January 13, at 11.15 P.M., and after an uneventful voyage, reached Lautoka, Fiji, the forenoon of the twentieth. This town is on the west side of Viti Levu, the large island of the group. The town is quite new, having been started only a year or two ago. The second largest sugar mill in the world is in process of construction at this place, which will employ thousands of Indians. Many thousand acres of sugar cane have been planted, extending along the coast for twenty-five to thirty miles. It is expected that the first crushing of cane will yield 25,000 tons of sugar.

At 5 A.M. on the twenty-first, we left Lautoka for Suva, which we reached at 3 P.M. Brother Ambrose, our native *Roko* or high chief, was on the wharf to meet me, and a few minutes later, Brother Currow, a former student of Avondale, and one of Australia's first foreign missionaries, came across the bay from Suva Vou to take me across to his home. Though Brother Currow has been in Fiji for about sixteen months, I was glad to see that he had gained in flesh, and seemed to be in almost perfect health. He is contented to remain in Fiji, and believes he is just where God wants him to be.

Before crossing the bay we went to see the new launch, which so many of our Australian brethren helped, financially, to build.

While this is a beautiful boat, and apparently well adapted to the needs of the field, it has not yet made a single trip. Through some misunderstanding, the shaftings for the propeller were not for salt water, and so there is no use to try to run the launch till proper fittings can be sent from America. It is hoped that this will be remedied soon; for the boat is badly needed for use in carrying the publications into all parts of the Fiji group.

The next day after landing, Brother Currow and I spent much of the day in consultation about the needs of the field. Though the workers in this group are but few, and every advance move is opposed by the enemy, advance is plainly to be seen. From Brother Currow I learned the following facts: Number of adult Sabbath-keepers in the group, about 125. In addition to this there are about thirty-five who can be counted as sympathisers, that is, who rest on the Sabbath, but who are not fully identified with us, and about fifty children and youth. The probable amount of tithes per year now being paid is £100, Sabbath-school offerings, £3 per year. As a new church building is needed, steps are being taken to erect one at Suva Vou. Already the foundations have been laid. The native brethren are donating for this enterprise as liberally, perhaps, as their limited means will allow. Already, the treasurer has about £34 in sight. I was able to place in their hands £111 from Australia to help on the enterprise.

At night I spoke to the native brethren, Brother Currow acting as interpreter. I told them of the work which it is hoped will be accomplished for the heathen world through the coming General Conference, showing them that the larger part of the world is still in gross darkness concerning the gospel of the coming kingdom, and then urged them to do their best to help on this great work by paying their tithes, so that the work in their field could be as far as possible self-supporting. I tried to encourage them to push on with the work of erecting their new church building. All seemed interested.

As I was on my way to the General Conference, I was not able to stay in Fiji long enough to visit Brother Parker in the eastern part of this group. There are a few young men in Fiji who are trying to get an education to fit them for teachers. Some should go to Avondale, if possible, to be fitted for work in the island groups to the west and north-west of Fiji. The climate in those islands is very trying for white people, but natives can endure it nearly as well as in their own islands.

Brother Currow is very anxious for one more white teacher to go to his assistance, so that he can give more of his time to visiting different parts of his island. I hope we can get such a person.

More work should be done for the white people in Suva; but as it is, our workers have had to employ all their time with the natives. One of the leading merchants has a good supply of our health foods on hand, which are selling fairly well.

Our next stop after leaving Suva was Levuka, sixty miles distant. Here almost the first person I saw was Mark Dods, a former student of Avondale. He has a position in the custom house, but has not lost his interest in our school. He hopes some time to go back and see the old places in Australia. I believe the seeds of truth planted there will yet bear fruit in his life.

As we were in this port for nearly a whole day, I called on some of the old friends of nearly twelve years ago. One man told of the intense interest with which he listened to the truth from our lips at a meeting we held in the Mechanic's Institute, which all the white people of the place attended. We have one sister in this place, formerly of New Zealand.

When we sailed for Samoa, a large number of Samoans gathered on the wharf to see Malitua, the ex-king of Samoa, off. Since the war, when he lost his kingdom, he has lived in Fiji. All seemed deeply moved at his departure, and many wept. As we moved away from the wharf, they sang a sweet, plaintive song. Then all waved their handkerchiefs for a moment, then threw them over into the sea. It looked like a little snow storm. A moment later, several of the men and youth jumped into the sea, and disappeared beneath the water, as if they were drowning their grief in a watery grave; but that was evidently not their design, for they quickly came to the surface, and swam about like fish. *They were after those handkerchiefs.* The next thing, over into the sea went a dozen or twenty women, feet first, with all their finery on. Ex-king Malitua took deck passage with the other natives, and spent the night on a bench on deck just outside of my state room.

The passage to this place (Samoa) was uneventful, except that we crossed the day line, and had two Sundays together. Since coming here, we have had consultations about future work. The proof sheets of the Samoan "Christ Our Saviour" are being corrected, and will soon be ready for the press. A tract on the second advent is in preparation. The publication and circulation of literature will be one of the chief works in the near future. Brother Floding and wife have lately arrived, and are taking hold of this work.

In order to study the field, I have taken two trips to different parts of this island in company with our brethren. Part of the way we travelled on foot, part of the way on horseback, and one trip in a trap. At one place we had breadfruit and bananas for dinner, and for breakfast not nearly so good as that. Our bed was almost as hard as the floor. But by this trip I learned the inconveniences of travelling in Samoa, and what our brethren need for carrying on the work.

On account of having contracted elephantiasis, Brother Lake will go to America soon. Sister Braucht is running down in health, and Dr. Braucht will leave this field soon. This will leave but one family in this field. The government seems to be disposed to be liberal, and may allow us to send another American doctor here.

On one of my trips, I visited Leulu moengee, 20 miles from Apia, where the London Missionary Society are conducting a large school of natives. I was interested to see that the pupils are being taught to do different kinds of work. Mr. Hill, the teacher, is experimenting on his large farm to see what kinds of valuable trees and plants can be raised in this island. At my request, he sent me a list of what he is raising. In his letter, he states the different kinds of work done by the students.

In one week I go to Tutuila, seventy-five miles from here, where I will meet the other delegates to the General Conference, and take the *Sonoma* for Honolulu and San Francisco. I will try to write more at a later time.

Yours in Christ,

Apia, Samoa, February 9, 1903.

E. H. GATES.

THE isolated nation of Tibetans, while doing all it can to keep out the Gospel, is still beset on all sides by various classes of missionaries. The Church Missionary Society of England has recently extended the Western China Mission to Song-pan, on the frontier of Tibet. The missionary in charge of this station (Mr. Kniper) speaks highly of the feasibility of the place as a centre for reaching the Tibetan people. He says, "There are thousands of them living in villages northwest and south of the place, and by going only a few miles away from the town, Tibetan life is found as rude and simple as if there was no Chinese civilisation close at hand. The opportunities for preaching are abundant, and the need is just as great as, or greater than, in the far interior. They live very unrestrained lives. The women have as great liberty as the men. One of the sons is generally a priest, and it is his duty to sit in front of the idols and read the Buddhist scriptures, the others of the family being supposed to share in the benefit."

HAMILTON, N. S. W.

IN connection with our work at Wallsend, we have also been holding services with the church here. Quite an interest has been manifested by a part of the members in attending every service. Some have been kept away on account of sickness. We believe that the Lord has blessed the seed that has been sown. We have held a class with the new book, "Rights of Man," which has proved very helpful. Several have done a good work with the book, "Christ's Object Lessons." One sister has sold fifty copies. About 200 copies have been sold by the church here, and we hope to sell many more. We are anxious to see our school free from debt, and we are thankful for the blessings received in doing this work. We are pleased to see many awaking up to the importance of scattering the truth by the printed page. Let all take hold of this work in earnest, and soon we shall see the wonderful power of God in our midst.

The debt upon the church building is receiving attention. Our brethren are longing to be free. The work has begun; sacrifices are being made; every week small sums are coming in; the "Busy Bee Band" are making garments and selling them. May the Lord bless this work.

On Sunday, March 15, seven persons were baptised. One unites with the Hamilton, and six with the Wallsend church.

My prayer is that the work which has begun here may still go on till freedom from sin and debt shall be the glorious result, and may the Lord add many to the church who shall be saved in the eternal kingdom.

W. WOODFORD.

WALLSEND, N. S. W.

WE have been laboring at this place for a few months past, first in the tent, then in the room in which Sister Walker has been conducting the church school, and in which, also, the services were formerly held. Brother Tadich, Brother Thompson, and the writer have, during the past few weeks, been busy erecting a humble place of worship for the believers of this place. All have made sacrifice in giving their means for this work. The building is 26 feet by 17 feet. It is situated on a hill overlooking a large portion of the city. The cost of the building is about £100, including land, fencing, etc.

On Sabbath, March 14, the company were organised into a church, with leader, deacons, treasurer, secretary, and librarian. Twenty-one members were received into fellowship at this time; others will be added later on. May the Lord bless this newly formed society and keep them faithful in His service.

W. WOODFORD.

IT is not alone to the minister that God entrusts His talents. His goods are lent to every man as verily as they are lent to the most exalted angel in the courts of heaven.

To every man God has appointed his work, and the talents are given in proportion to the capabilities of the receiver. Every soul, in taking his position as a member of Christ's body, pledges himself to act faithfully his part as a steward of God; to work with the same prudence and wisdom in behalf of his Master that he would use if he were himself to be enriched by all that is gained.

"THE greatest hero is, perhaps, the man who does his very best, and still is not embittered by the failure."

SOUTH AFRICA.

KIMBERLEY.—Many times the work here has looked as if it would go down on account of financial difficulties, but the prospect now is the best it has ever been since we arrived here three years ago. Our bath and treatment rooms are rebuilt at a cost of more than nine thousand dollars. A large share of the expense is paid, and the debt of six thousand dollars has also been paid. With our new treatment rooms comes an increased patronage from a better class of people. Our income for the past few months has been about six hundred dollars a month.

But what gives us great joy is that the medical side of our work is coming up rapidly. Calls are coming for medical treatment. Seven physicians are sending us patients. We are called to the homes of some of the best and most influential people, to give treatments; among these are government officials, members of the legislative assembly, merchants, and mine managers.

Our health remains good, although the summer heat is very trying. We are deeply interested in our work, and rejoice to see it extend. There is no other place so attractive to us as our field of labor. J. V. WILLSON.

FROM A CANVASSER.

I CALLED at a house while I was canvassing, and a child let me in. The lady came to the door of the room and said that if I wanted to sell books, she did not want any, she did not believe in Seventh-day Adventists, and that they could understand their own Bibles without reading other people's books, etc. She was very angry. I sat still and listened, and when she stopped, told her I had an undenominational book that I would like to show her. It was "Christ's Object Lessons." She did like it, but had no money in the house. I next showed her "Steps to Christ," and told her what a blessing that had been to me. She borrowed the money of her sister to pay for that. She told me that she disliked Seventh-day Adventists because she knew some of our people who thought it was wrong to eat pork, and who kept pigs and sold them. She said we were told we were not to do anything that would cause our brother to stumble. She said she was a Rechabite and would not sell wine. She inferred that from selling the pigs our people did not believe the New Testament. She asked about the Sabbath, and I told her when it was changed and some of our reasons for keeping it. We had quite a nice talk, and she said she was sorry she had been so rude. We parted good friends. M. S. GOODHART.

Woodville, S. A.

THE sweet-toned bell rings out sweetness, however gently or rudely it is struck, while the clanging gong can not be so touched as not to respond with a jangle. There is the same difference in people. From some you learn to expect always a snarl, or a whine, or a groan, while others ever give words of cheerfulness and joy.

When the grace of God fully possesses mind and heart, you will respond with a sweet spirit to every touch, kind or unkind, rude or loving. You will be a voice for God, in whatever place or company you are thrown, a witness for charity and kindness and truth.

"When a man lives with God," says Emerson, "his voice shall be as sweet as the murmur of the brook and the rustle of the corn." Be a sweet-toned bell.—*Cumberland Presbyterian.*

A WORD OF FAREWELL.

MRS. ROBINSON and the writer desire to express, through the RECORD, our heartfelt appreciation of the many kind words of sympathy and love written to us by friends in different parts of Australia and New Zealand, to many of which communications we did not have time to reply personally; and also for the many prayers offered in our behalf.

It has been a great grief to us to have to leave the field and work that had become dear to our hearts, and where there is such a dearth of laborers. But we feel the fullest assurance that our steps are being ordered by the Lord, and it is also a great joy to know that our brethren and sisters, especially in Queensland, do not feel that we are running away from duty. After it was decided that Mrs. Robinson must go to Colorado, on account of failing health, we decided for her to go on with the General Conference delegates, and that I remain in Queensland for six months or a year, in the hope that she might then return to the work there; but our Queensland friends at first mildly suggested, and finally strongly urged, that I accompany Mrs. Robinson on the voyage. This, with other providential indications, led me to decide almost at the last moment, to go with the party, and accordingly the only remaining berth on the *Sonoma* was secured for me.

We are now nearing Pago Pago, and during this first half of our voyage to San Francisco, we have experienced very bad sea weather most of the time. All the members of our party have been very seasick most of the time. It has been a great cause of thankfulness to me to be well, and able to wait upon the sick ones. Mrs. Robinson and I have slept in our chairs on the open deck, except two nights when heavy seas were washing over it.

One day our good ship had to change her course, "lie to," as mariners would say, and do battle with the forces of "old king briny" for twelve hours, making no headway during that time. It was a really grand sight to see the ship climb the mountain-high billows, and then, like a great human thing, shake herself, and descend into the valley of the deep, as if preparing for the next onslaught. It made us think of the description given by the Psalmist of "those who go down to the sea in ships, who do business upon great waters."

This voyage will complete for us something over 37,000 miles of ocean travel since leaving our home land eleven years ago.

"O there'll be joy when the work is done,
Joy when the reapers gather home,
Bringing the sheaves at the set of sun
To the New Jerusalem."

With kind wishes to all, in which Mrs. Robinson and Gladys join,

I remain yours in the Master's service,
A. T. ROBINSON.

Pago Pago, February 17, 1903.

NOTHING can happen in any part of the universe without the knowledge of Him who is omnipresent. Not a single event of human life is unknown to our Maker. While Satan is constantly devising evil, the Lord our God overrules all, so that it will not harm His obedient, trusting children. The same power that controls the boisterous waves of the ocean can hold in check all the power of rebellion and of crime. God says to one as to the other, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther."

Monthly Summary of Australasian and Natal Canvassing Work.

New South Wales.

FEBRUARY, 1903.

Daniel & Revelation— Orders. Value.

A. Hodgkinson, Inverell.....	6	£	9	12	0
R. Salton, Bingara.....	12	9	6	0	
G. Wood, Baradine.....	18	14	6	6	
A. Reekie, Bega.....	13	10	0	0	

Coming King—

G. Ryder, Tumut.....	23	6	13	6	
E. B. Rudge, Kiama.....	3	2	8	6	
Miss M. Reekie, Riverstone	3	1	5	6	
Miss E. Atkins, Liverpool	9	3	17	6	
F. Hedges, Gunnedah.....	17	11	12	0	
J. Mitchell-May, Gunnedah	29	15	14	6	
Miss C. Allum, Liverpool	10	4	8	0	
Various Workers.....	11	3	7	6	

Home Hand Book—

M. A. Connell, Monaroo ..	5	8	10	0	
A. G. Baker, Monaroo.....	4	6	14	0	
Mrs. G. James, Parramatta	1	4	0	0	
W. Gregg, Wiseman's Ferry	5	9	13	0	

Ladies' Guide—

Mrs. Rudge, Bowral.....	13	14	10	0	
Mrs. A. Wheat, Bowral ..	16	18	12	0	
E. Appleton, Bellingen ..	5	5	9	0	
H. J. Cooper, Coraki.....	42	45	3	0	

Man the Masterpiece

H. J. Cooper, Coraki.....	23	25	0	0	
268 £230 2 6					

South Australia.

FEBRUARY, 1903.

Orders. Value.

Patriarchs and Prophets—

M. Gunther, Maitland.....	38	£	35	11	6
A. Davey, Maitland.....	14	14	0	0	

Desire of Ages—

Mrs. Arnold, Penola.....	6	9	7	6	
A. H. White, Balaklava ..	6	8	16	6	
H. E. Hughes, Balaklava..	8	11	7	6	

Great Controversy—

C. Ellsley, Kangaroo Is....	3	2	18	6	
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Coming King—

M. S. Goodhart, Woodville	1	1	0	0	
E. Goodhart, Woodville... 8	4	13	0		
Miscellaneous.....	4	2	6		

84 £91 17 0

West Australia.

FEBRUARY, 1903.

Ladies' Guide— Orders. Value.

E. Cleal, N. Perth.....	20	£	20	6	0
" (other books)	1	2	0	0	

Desire of Ages—

F. Masters, Coolgardie ..	22	24	11	0	
" (Other books)	40	36	19	6	
R. A. Caldwell, S. Railway	24	28	12	6	
" (other books)	5	1	7	6	
R. S. Bell, Coolgardie ..	8	9	10	0	
" (other books)	7	7	10	0	

127 £130 16 6

Victoria.

FEBRUARY, 1903.

Home Hand Book— Orders. Value.

L. Currow, Flinders.....	27	£	41	0	0
J. Anderson, Dandenong... 23	35	10	0		
G. Burgess, Riddle's Creek	17	26	15	0	
F. W. Reekie, Scotts Creek	6	10	0	0	
" (Other books)...	5	3	17	6	

Ladies' Guide—

Mrs. Royal, Surry Hills....	11	11	7	6	
" (other books)	5	2	6	0	
Mrs. L. J. Lear, Surry Hills	12	12	0	0	
" (other books)	5	1	2	6	

Desire of Ages—

J. F. Ward, Morwell.....	7	8	10	0	
N. Tadjich, Bunyip.....	12	15	5	0	
B. Judge, Bunyip.....	3	3	0	0	

Bible Readings—

Mrs. Arthur, N. Carlton...	18	12	12	6	
G. Burgess, S. Yarra.....	9	6	3	0	
Miscellaneous	45	32	17	0	

205 £222 6 0

New Zealand.

FEBRUARY, 1903.

Desire of Ages— Orders. Value.

W. J. Redhead, Canterbury	55	£	71	5	0
A. Rickards, Canterbury...	11	14	10	0	
C. Reynolds, Canterbury..	20	28	0	0	

Coming King—

J. Macintosh, Palmerston N.	41	18	4	0	
M. Baxter, Greymouth.....	26	10	2	0	
D. M. Adam, Wellington..	14	5	9	0	
G. Smith, Gisborne.....	12	4	8	0	

Home Hand Book—

G. Masters, Wellington.....	6	9	10	0	
J. Knox, Wanganui.....	7	10	10	0	
W. W. Ward, Rangitikei...	1	1	10	0	
E. Smith, Christchurch....	1	1	10	0	

Ladies' Guide—

M. Masters, Wellington	35	38	7	6	
E. Smith, Ch. Ch.....	6	6	0	0	

Patriarchs and Prophets—

W. Ward, Rangitikei	1	12	6		
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Man the Masterpiece—

D. M. Adams, Wellington	7	7	7	6	
G. Hansford, Palmerston N.	4	4	0	0	

H. of the Morning—

C. E. Reynolds, Canterb'y	16	5	12	0	
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263 £236 18 0

Good Health subscriptions..... 321

Echo sales, Miss Owen

" " Miss Williams..... 792

Total for January, not previously reported, 114 orders; value, £98 9 6.

Subscriptions in January,

Good Health,

Echo sales.....1920

Queensland

JANUARY, 1903

Ladies' Guide— Orders. Value.

J. Hewitt, Indooroopilly...	8	£	8	0	0
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Coming King—

Emma Hebbel, S. Brisbane	2	1	3	0	
Elsie Hebbel,	10	3	14	0	
Queens. Tract Society—	6	2	13	9	

Desire of Ages—

Queens. Tract Society—	4	4	16	6	
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30 £20 7 3

Tasmania.

FEBRUARY, 1903.

Ladies' Guide— Orders. Value.

Miss E. Adcock.....	13	£	16	15	0
Miss F. Horne.....	12	13	7	0	

Home Hand Book—

Miss E. Adcock.....	1	1	10	0	
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26 £31 12 0

Natal, South Africa.

JANUARY, 1903.

Home Hand Book— Orders. Value.

Mrs. Howard, Johannesburg	60	£	107	10	0
<i>Great Controversy</i> —					
S. S. Barnard, Johannesburg	29	24	18	0	
Miss A. Smith	9	8	17	0	

98 £141 5 0

Totals for December, 1902, 148 orders; value, £160 1 0.

Totals for February, 1903.

Orders. Value.

New South Wales.....	268	£	230	2	6
South Australia.....	84	91	17	0	
West Australia.....	127	130	16	6	
Victoria.....	205	222	6	0	
New Zealand.....	263	236	18	0	
Queensland (January)	30	20	7	3	
Tasmania	26	31	12	0	
Natal, (January).....	98	141	5	0	
Grand Totals,	1107	£	1105	4	3

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Items of General Interest.

REMEMBER the General Conference is now in session. The united prayers of God's people should ascend as sweet incense in behalf of this important assembly.

A HEALTH FOOD STORE has just been opened in a fine central location in Elizabeth Street, Hobart. Mrs. T. House is in charge of this worthy enterprise.

GENERAL CONFERENCE BULLETIN.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made to issue a daily *Bulletin* during the thirty-fifth session of the General Conference to be held in Oakland, California, March 27 to April 13. It will contain complete statistical and general reports from our various conferences and mission fields, information regarding our organisations and institutions, as well as full stenographic reports of all conference proceedings, and of the Bible studies. The *Bulletin* should be carefully studied by all our people who desire full information with reference to our work in all parts of the world, as brought out in the Conference. The subscription price will be 3/6 for the daily issues covering the time of meeting. Cash should accompany the orders, and they may be sent direct to the Union Conference, 56 George Street W., Sydney, N. S. W., or through your local or State tract society. We trust that the number coming in bulk to the Union Conference office will be sufficiently large to supply all subscribers, but we would urge all who are desirous of being supplied from the first shipment that arrives to send in their orders at once.

Seething China.—A strong, anti-foreign sentiment prevails throughout China. Rumors are prevalent of another contemplated uprising of the Boxer element. Foreigners are largely under the protection of Chinese troops who may turn Boxers at any time. The Lord will have His work done in China, however, and notwithstanding the dangers and discomforts of the field, is raising up workers of strong faith and courage. Now is the time to work for China.

The World's Monopolies.—In ancient times the principal monopoly was that of political position and influence. Afterwards there developed mercantile monopoly, manufacturing monopoly, shipping monopoly, railroad monopoly, the monopoly of public necessities, and monopolies of various commodities. The climax of trouble comes with the monopoly of labor. When designing men unite to control the poor man's means of support, suffering is inevitable for those who are left out of the union. These are the days of judgment. Not only are men being tried in the furnace of strife and contention and greed on earth, but they are being tried in the courts of heaven, and "who shall be able to stand?"

The Spirit of Trusts.—During the past two years there has a great change come over the world. Centralisation and consolidation of the various industries of the world have brought us face to face with many perplexing problems. Corporations of kindred nature have been uniting their interests with a view of developing sufficient power to crush opposition and eventually control prices, thus increasing their income. Selfishness is the evident root of the trust and as the root is evil, so are the branches. While the perplexities of the poor consumers are increased by the advance in prices, the rich are hastening the day of their own sorrows by bringing the conditions depicted in the fifth chapter of James to a climax. The increase of riches among the few, and the increase of poverty among the masses are conditions which forebode only trouble. This is but one of the many evidences that the end of all things is at hand.

Where Are We?

WE are living now in times that are even more momentous than those days when Christ was upon earth in person. We are just a little time from the day when He will come the second time in the clouds of heaven. We are living, even now, in the very last of the last days. The whole world is charged with the evidence that shows it. Fulfilling prophecies are emblazoned all around us. The wonders and perplexities of this time have never before been seen in all of this world's history. And just as Christ when on earth in person spake, and lived as never man had spoken and lived, even so now are prophecies being fulfilled with a significant impressiveness, the like of which the world has never seen.

Do you discern the signs of these our times? It is very easy to see where past generations have failed in not discerning the signs of *their* times. And it is just as easy to see the signs of our own times if we will only look at the present in the same unbiased way that we look at the past. You have observed that in every generation there are men who seem to read the signs of their times perfectly. They seem to be clear in their accurate interpretation of the meaning of the issues and events of their day. "Why is this?" I hear you ask. It is simply because they ardently sought for the simple, plain truth, and when they found it, they took it, no matter whether it looked just as they had expected it would or not.

Your mind has been impressed by the stirring scenes of our days. You have been awed and impressed before the great social and political problems, dilemmas, and evils that stare our whole world in the face. Do you honestly ask for the meaning of it all? Then turn to your Bibles and you will surely read the signs of these times in the words of inspired apostles and prophets. But when you hear the still small voice of God speaking to you in His Word, do not spurn it. Do not be like the Pharisees of old and seek for signs that God has not given. Be content with the plain Word of God. Its great prophetic truths are perfectly clear. We could not ask for more.

Will you discern the signs of this our time? If you do, and heed them, it will only be just a little while until Jesus will have you fitted for a place in His everlasting kingdom, and then come in person to take you to His blissful home. These are momentous hours. Do not idle them away.

O. A. TAIT.