

Union Conference Record

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

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NUMBER VIII.

To the Members of the Churches of Australia and New Zealand.

DEAR Brethren and Sisters,—I speak to you with my pen because I cannot reach you with my voice across the broad Pacific Ocean. Remember that though you may have excellent qualifications, if the love of God is not the prevailing sentiment in your hearts, you cannot be laborers together with Him; for He is love.

The Lord desires me to call your attention to the thirteenth chapter of first Corinthians. Read this chapter every day, and from it obtain comfort and strength. Learn from it the value that God places on sanctified, heaven-born love, and let the lesson that it teaches come home to your hearts. Learn that Christ-like love is of heavenly birth, and that without it all other qualifications are worthless.

"If I speak with the tongues of men, and of angels, but have not love," Paul declares, "I am become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains; but have not love, I am nothing. And if I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing."

How beautiful the earth was when it came from the Creator's hand! God presented before the universe a world in which even His all-seeing eye could find no spot or stain, no defect or crookedness. Each part of His creation occupied the place assigned it, and answered the purpose for which it was created. Like the parts of some great machine, part fitted to part, and all was in perfect harmony. Peace and holy joy filled the earth. There was no confusion, no clashing. There was no disease to afflict man or beast, and the vegetable kingdom was without taint of corruption. God looked upon the work of His hands, wrought out by Christ, and pronounced it "very good." He looked upon a perfect world, in which there was no trace of sin, no imperfection.

But a change came. Satan tempted Adam, and he fell. He who in heaven had become disloyal and had been cast out, made lying reports of God to the beings He had created, and they listened to his reports and believed his lie. And sin entered the world, and death by sin. The consequences of our first parents' disloyalty we now have to meet as we work for God, and until the close of this earth's history our labors will become more and more trying.

I entreat the members of our churches not to make the work more trying than it necessarily is by watching one another for a word or an act upon which to comment unfavorably. Let them, if a report is brought to them about some one, make it a rule to do just as Christ has said should be done in such cases. Let them follow the counsel of the great Teacher, who gave His life for the life of the world. His directions are plain. "If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." "Tell him his fault between thee and him alone." Without delay make every effort to heal the wrong that exists. Do not, by speaking unwise words, give the enemy opportunity to arouse suspicion and evil surmising in the mind of your brother. Be determined to do all in your power to make the wrong right. Do not tell to a third person the story of the difficulty. Go directly to the one who has erred, and "tell him his fault between thee and him alone." Go to him, not to condemn, but to ask for reconciliation, because Christ has told you to love one another as He has loved you.

Our gifts, our prayers, are not acceptable to God while we leave this duty undone, and let the poison of envy and evil-surmising take possession of our souls, to destroy our union and happiness. O how much unhappiness would be saved, and how many evil thoughts would be quenched, if believers would take up the work

that Christ has said must be done to prevent evil-speaking. We pray, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us." Do we do our part to answer this prayer? We are to make every effort in our power to remove every stumbling-block from before the feet of our brother. But too often our prayers are hindered by our pride of heart, by our refusal to confess faults and to remove wrong impressions. Let us remember that our prayers are not acceptable to God while we suffer a fellow-worker to misapprehend us. If we are not to blame for the misunderstanding that exists, we can perhaps make an explanation that will remove the misunderstanding. If we are to blame, if we have left a wrong impression on a brother's mind, we are certainly under obligation to do all in our power to remove this impression.

In the churches in Australia and New Zealand there have been many unwise, talkative ones, who through much talking have separated very friends. The churches need to be purged of this element; for where the unruly tongue finds room to do its unholy work, the joy of the Lord can not abide.

Let the suspicious ones, who think and speak evil of their brethren, remember that they are doing the devil's drudgery. Let each member of the church work with earnest determination, and with prayer for help, to cure the diseased member, the tongue. Let every one feel that it is his duty and privilege to pass over little differences and mistakes without comment. Do not magnify the small mistakes made by some one, but think of the good that is in him. Each time these mistakes are thought of and talked about, they grow larger. A mountain is made out of a mole-hill. Ill-feeling and a lack of confidence is the result.

To many these words are applicable: "Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

So great is the intemperance in speech that much instruction has been given on this subject by the greatest Teacher the world has ever seen. He has given special directions for the discipline of the tongue. Study and obey these directions. Check the unwholesome words that if spoken would create differences and alienation. Speak words that will cement hearts, not estrange them,—words that will heal, not wound. When difficulties arise among church-members, let them be cleared away before the Sabbath comes. This should be regarded as a Christian duty by every church-member. "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, and be ye thankful." Are you troubled and perplexed? Sweep away the rubbish that has been accumulating before the door of the heart, and open the door, inviting Jesus to come in and abide as an honored Guest. Bring peace and comfort into your own hearts and the hearts of others. This is most blessed missionary work.

The Lord has instructed me to say to every church in Australia and New Zealand, Work for perfection. Do nothing that will cause disaffection to spring up in hearts. Do not work for the fallen foe. Strive to overcome your inclination to find fault and condemn. Give no place to him whose delight it is to accuse the brethren. Remember, my beloved brethren and sisters, that you are pleasing and helping Satan by every word you utter that discounts your brother.

I greatly desire that you shall follow the directions which Christ has laid down. As you do this, He will certainly help you to adjust the difficulties that exist. He will help you not to make dissension by magnifying little mistakes. The light that the Lord has given me is that He will greatly bless His people if they will not think or speak evil of one another, but go directly to the one they think is in the wrong, and in a kind, compassionate manner point out his mistake. May the Lord help those who have learned to criticize, to learn to think no evil, and to speak only good words,

words of comfort and healing. Then they will rejoice; for they will have evidence that they are laborers together with God.

Christ loved the church, "and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy, and without blemish."

My brethren and sisters, I beseech you to give diligent heed to these words, because the day of the Lord is right upon us. You have no time to lose. Do not neglect the Word of God to you.

"We, then, as workers together with Him, beseech you that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. (For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation *have I succored thee.*)"

Will you not, as servants of the most high God, give heed to these words? Will you not respond to God's mercy and compassion and love toward you by loving one another as Christ has loved you?

"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. Giving no offence in anything, that the ministry be not blamed." Remember that when you speak words that disparage one another, the ministry is blamed. The lack of power in the church is charged to the ministry, when often it is directly chargeable to the members, because they do not mix faith with their hearing of the Word.

The ministers are to be men of faith, men who give expression to the pure love of God. And the members are to give no offence in anything, "that the ministry be not blamed." No unkind dealing or harsh words are to find a place in their experience.

"In all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings." We should be preparing for these things; for they will come. Those who share in Christ's glory must share in His sufferings.

"By pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing all things."

Read these words carefully, and ask yourselves if you have not been leaving undone much that God expects you to do, much that you should do as those who have the light of truth. Will you not be thoroughly converted, that you may shine brightly for the Lord amidst the moral darkness of the world?

May the Lord lead every minister and every lay-member to turn to Him with full purpose of heart, and make diligent work for repentance. Thus only can they obtain the sanctification of the Spirit. How true are the words of Paul: "Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your bowels." Many complain of others because their own hearts are not in unity with the Spirit of God. When self is crucified, Christ will take possession of the soul-temple.

"Now for a recompense in the same (I speak as unto my children), Be ye also enlarged." It is narrow, contracted spiritual devising that causes dearth of soul.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? and what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh, and of the spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." Let every one humble his heart before God, and make a surrender of body, soul, and spirit to Him, that He may give His people His rich grace abundantly. Let the heart be closed against all sin and selfishness. Let us follow the example of Christ. If we fail of doing this, we shall fail of receiving a welcome into the city of God. He who continues to be a transgressor of the law of God, even though he break but one precept, can have no place in the royal family.

I entreat those who have given so much time to talking of the faults of others, to cease this cruel work, and obey the words, "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life." The divine directory, God's holy Word, is in our hands. Amidst the toil of business and the unceasing activity of daily life, this

Word is to be our guide. This Word is appreciated by him who is striving to overcome. It is to him a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

Let the Lord's people set a perfect example, honoring Christ in every place, in every difficulty following His directions. Then at last a crown of life will be given them, and they will be received into the family of the redeemed.

MRS. E. G. WHITE.

"Elmhaven," Sanitarium, California, January 25, 1903.

Closing the Campaign for "Christ's Object Lessons."

I VENTURE the assertion, without fear of successful contradiction, that there is not a volume extant in all the productions of the human mind that comes anywhere near reaching the clear, beautiful, luminous explanations given through the author, of these wondrous parables given by Him of whom it was said, "Never man spake like this man." These expositions are simply marvellous in their clearness. I have been a Bible student for fifty years, and have read and reread with delight these parables, and carefully pondered their meaning. I have often studied for hours the meaning of some of them, and failed to comprehend their full import. But in reading "Christ's Object Lessons," beautiful and precious thoughts were brought to light, and my soul was thrilled with the beauty and intrinsic excellence of the deep spiritual lessons expressed. Of all the precious books of the author, there is none better than "Christ's Object Lessons" to remove prejudice concerning her and her work.

Will not our people sense at once the importance of fully completing this great canvass?

Brethren and sisters throughout the great field, let us do rapid and lively work before the close of the next Union Conference, and make it a memorable epoch in the history of this work, so that we can shout the song of victory all along the line.

This result I long to see. It will gladden the heart of every lover of this cause. This result can be accomplished easily if all will enter upon it in earnest. No mortal mind can realise the important consequences to the cause of truth of such a consummation.

GEO. I. BUTLER.

Victory—What Is It?

WHEN you are forgotten, or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you smile inwardly, glorying in the insult or oversight,—that is victory.

When your good is evil spoken of; when your wishes are crossed, your taste offended, your advice is disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you take it all in patient, loving silence,—that is victory.

When you are content with simple food, plain raiment, any climate, any solitude, any interruption,—that is victory.

When you can bear any discord, any annoyance, any irregularity or unpunctuality [of which you are not the cause],—that is victory.

When you can stand face to face with folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility, contradiction of sinners, persecution, and endure it all as Jesus endured it,—that is victory.

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation, nor to seek after commendation, when you can truly "love to be unknown,"—that is victory.—*Selected.*

"Behold, He Cometh!"

STARTLING announcement! It is the coming of Him whose advent has long been foretold, and it is no illusion. It is no false alarm, for "every eye shall see Him;" not only His friends, who will hail His advent with delight, but His enemies also, who will "wail because of Him." Not the living only, but also those whose eyes have been closed in death, will awake to behold Him. Not a mortal hero, warrior, potentate, or king, but the Son of God, who was once "wounded for our transgressions" and "bruised for our iniquities." He comes in royal majesty, not as a silent lamb led to the slaughter, but in kingly power and glory. We shall see Him in all His royalty. "Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty: they shall behold a far-stretching land," or land of very wide extent. Such scenes no mortal eyes ever beheld before; only a picture of these glories had passed before the vision of the loving disciples; but this is the reality. It is the very Christ, His real glory, the broad plains and the beautiful scenery of the renewed earth, and the gathered hosts of the glorified saints. All this for His admirers; but what a scene



for those who have despised and rejected Him! The solemn mandate is heard, "Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." No marvel that they should wail when they see Him coming.

Dear reader, that event is impending. The coming of the Lord "draweth nigh." The day will come suddenly, as the gleaming lightning flashes athwart the sky. Startling will be the cry, "Behold, He cometh!" Are you ready to meet Him? That He is your friend we do not question, for He laid down His life for you, but are you *His friend*? Are you striving to honor Him in all things? Are His demands upon you a pleasure, or do you revolt from them? He said, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." If we are thus submissive to His will, we can then say, "This is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."—*E. A. Stockman.*

A LITTLE four-year-old was almost ready to start for church one Sunday morning, when his mamma, who was too sick to go with him, called him to her.

"Charley," said she, "I hope you will be a good boy in church, and listen to what the minister says, so you can tell mamma about it when you come home."

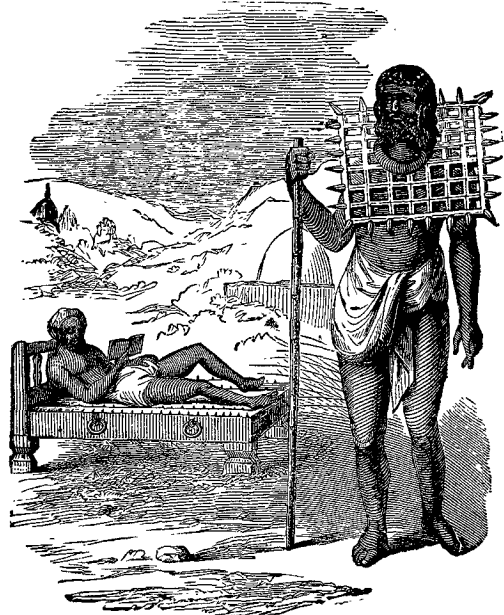
Charley looked up into her face earnestly, and after a moment he answered, very gravely, "Yes, mamma; and I hope Mr. S. will say something easy!"

No doubt many another child wishes the same, and that is the reason I have told about Charley. Not long ago a little girl who sat in the pew back of me was quite restless, and I could hear her mother bidding her sit still, and listen to the sermon. My heart went out to the little maid when I heard her whispered reply, "But, mamma, I can't understand a word he says."—*Selected.*

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD.

AN APPEAL FROM INDIA.

THERE are as many people in India who speak the English language as comprise the whole population of Australia. Is not this an evidence that God is opening



Natives of India who are seeking righteousness through afflicting their bodies. Let us give earnest effort in developing a liberal fund through our Sabbath-schools this quarter so that we may teach some of them the better way.

the door for the entrance of His Word in this land? and can we not see Him going out before us, and hear in the wide diffusion of English education in India the voice of God saying, Now, just now, is the time to take hold in earnest in the East?

Come along, then, brethren and sisters in the home land, you who have heard the call to India ringing in your ears. Delay no longer. Twenty people die every minute in this land. As the second-hand moves around, every third second some one dies who never learned to love our Lord. Every year more than eight million die not knowing that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Think not of home and country while issues so great are at stake, and souls are dying whom you might help to save. There are trials and perplexities to be met, but there are victories to be gained, and men and women to be saved. Some people get suddenly frightened when India is mentioned. They think of the bubonic plague, the excessive heat, the cholera, and the snakes, but if such things as these hold us from doing our duty, what shall we do in the swellings of Jordan? There are three thousand foreign missionaries in India, and some have lived here fifty years. Any one who is young and of reasonable health should be able to work in India. We say to you, "Come;" if God bids you "come," come on.

There are the unentered fields of Africa and China, with their cry of human woe ascending to God. What shall we do? What can we give? These are questions this denomination must answer, and answer soon. Our

faith demands a consecration no less than *all*. "Who-soever he be of you that forsaketh not *all* that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

J. L. SHAW.

Calcutta, India.

THE MESSAGE ONWARD—CHEERING TIDINGS.

WHILE in Philadelphia, I was informed that a large congregation of colored people in the city had recently accepted the Sabbath truth, and believed a number of the truths held by our people. In company with Elder Fitzgerald and one or two other workers, I attended the place of their meeting, which is in the Old Quaker Hall, a little off Broad Street, in the southern part of the city. Upon entering the hall, I was surprised to see about four hundred colored people eagerly engaged in the study of the Bible. In conversation with their leading minister, I learned that there are over a thousand Sabbath-keepers among the colored people in Philadelphia, that they believe in the soon coming of Christ, in the unconscious state of the dead, in spiritual gifts, and other truths which Seventh-day Adventists hold. They believe in trine immersion, for the Lord's supper use bread and water, and in a few other things are somewhat different from our people. Elder Fitzgerald and myself had the privilege of speaking to this congregation on this occasion for a few minutes. I was impressed with the earnestness with which they were all studying the Scriptures, committing the Bible to memory. The minister who had been the one to lead this people into the Sabbath truth, said that less than six years ago he was employed in the West on a railroad, and knew nothing of the truth he is now proclaiming; also that he has raised up several other congregations among the colored people, and all are now keeping the Sabbath. The colored people have a happy faculty of expressing their ideas of the truth in song. I was pleased to hear them express in song the truths proving that the seventh day is the Sabbath, giving the chapter and verse, and quoting in song the Scripture. In the same song they would answer most of the objections urged against the Sabbath truth by Protestants, both white and black. Whenever one of their ministers or Elder Fitzgerald and I would give an expression or quote a Scripture which touched upon some point of truth which we held in common, many voices would ring out in the congregation, "That is what it says." R. A. UNDERWOOD.

ROUND ABOUT SAMOA.

DURING the last few days of my stay in Samoa, we had quite a heavy storm. It really had the appearance of one of the hurricanes that sometimes sweep over these tropical islands. For nearly a week the wind was very strong, and rain fell in torrents. The seas rolled into the bay of Apia, reminding the people of the time, thirteen years ago, when a hurricane wrecked five or six war ships and many other crafts, with a terrible loss of life, in this same harbor.

At the close of the storm the little steamer *Maori* came back to Apia, and I bade farewell to our brethren and sisters, and went aboard. The seas were still high, the steamer was long and narrow, and all night long she rolled like a log, effectually preventing any sleep. About six o'clock the next morning, we entered the beautiful, land-locked harbor of Pago Pago, where we expected to see the steamer *Sonoma*, which carried our delegates to the General Conference. But no steamer had come, and so after eating a lunch from my valise, I started to look over the island.

Many changes have taken place here since I visited the place twelve years ago. The island is now under the control of the United States, and the laws are administered under the direction of a governor. A government wharf has been built, and a man-of-war is in the harbor most of the time. A small company of natives have

enlisted as soldiers, who strut around with immense ideas of their importance. A large hotel and a number of stores have been built. At the hotel, guests may, for the modest sum of 16/8 per day, get entertainment. Though nature has done much to make this spot a beautiful one, it is one of the vilest spots it has been my misfortune to visit.

As soon as possible after landing I went on shore, expecting every minute to hear the cannon announcing the arrival of the steamer. I wanted to escape the sight of liquor drinking, and the sounds of swearing and vile talking in which every one seemed to indulge. Before our steamer came, the captain was so helplessly drunk that he was carried on board in an unconscious condition, and did not get on deck till late the next day. These are the men who have charge of the lives and property of others on the ocean. On shore there was the same condition of things as on the ship, vileness, vileness, everywhere. Tired and sick of the wickedness everywhere prevalent, I went and sat down under the trees to wait. But the steamer was delayed. Then I hunted up a half-caste lady whom we had met twelve years ago, and whose brother is a Sabbath-keeper in Tahiti. She had some of our books, which she liked to read.

It was now 5.40 P.M., and I was about to go and arrange for a bed at the hotel, fearing that the steamer would not come until the next day, and had just opened my mouth to remark to a man that we would have to stay over night here, when boom went the cannon on the man-of-war, indicating that the steamer was entering the harbor. This was answered by the whistle of the little steamer and yells from everybody that had a throat; for all were waiting for the steamer. In a few minutes the harbor was covered with boats from every side, and a few minutes later, the *Sonoma* steamed majestically into the harbor, and anchored. It took but a short time to get aboard, where I was overjoyed to meet seven (including children) of our people going to America. I cannot describe the happiness of meeting in these out-of-the-way places, in the middle of the broad Pacific, those of like precious faith. It must be experienced to be understood.

Our trip thus far has been exceptionally pleasant. As we are all vegetarians, we have a table to ourselves, and are furnished with a very good quality of food. We have eggs once a day, and also have apples, bananas, some plums, nuts, and also stewed fruit. We thank God for all the tokens of His favor. E. H. GATES.

PLAN FOR WORK WITH "CHRIST'S OBJECT LESSONS."

SOME little time ago a special meeting was convened of the N. S. W. Conference laborers, at which Elder Farnsworth was present, for the purpose of considering our relation and duty toward the work of selling "Christ's Object Lessons."

The deliberations resulted in the writer being invited to take charge of this work among the Sydney and suburban churches, associating with him Brother McGowan and the different Bible workers.

Quite a little has been said and written upon this plan, but there are certainly phases still unexplored, especially from the standpoint of its vital importance to each and every one of our people.

The weighty responsibility and importance of this plan, we are persuaded, will never be fully realised by a soul until they have put on the armor and done their part in vindicating the cause of God which is now at stake.

Our first consideration was a plan by which we could work to a successful issue. We felt confident that a well organised plan faithfully and prayerfully adhered to would be a great help. Testimonies, Vol. 7, p. 21, furnished us the basis of this plan: "The formation of small companies as the basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err."

With this, we began work with the Stanmore church. We first got a list of the names of those in the church, then divided them into companies of from seven to twelve in a company, with two leaders for each division. These companies are formed for Christian service both for church members and unbelievers.

Company after company has been thus dealt with, and, we are thankful to say, with gratifying results. After effecting an organisation as above stated, our plan was to study "Christ's Object Lessons," the book itself, acquainting ourselves with it in such a way that we could handle it intelligently. It contains food sufficient to fatten any hungry soul. A knowledge of its beauties gives courage and strength—qualifications which every one must have in order to be successful in securing orders for it. Our next step was to go out into the field from door to door with the different leaders, giving them a start and a practical insight into the work, they in turn to do the same with those of their division.

This is a heaven born plan. It bears the impress of the One who never errs. We write concerning it because we are persuaded it can be employed to good advantage by all our companies.

As a result of the effort based on this plan we have had good success. Quite a good many books have been sold. All engaged in this work are enjoying better Christian experiences. God is good. Let us yoke up with Him and push the battle to the very gates. God is blessing the school. He is richly blessing all who stand in their lot and place. Let us each do our part in the fear of God, and it will not be long till we shall sing the song of freedom from school indebtedness.

F. W. PAAP.

CANVASSING BY FAITH.

HAVE faith in God. This is a necessity in God's work, for without faith it is impossible to please God. Just before starting out on my tour, I thought it wise and advisable to counsel with one or two of my older brethren in this field of labor. Both brethren said they worked by faith, and this encouraged me. I got the following answer to the question, "How do you finish up your canvass?" said one to me, "I sometimes show them the list of subscribers, and then take out my order book, and state we give a guarantee in black and white, at the same time trying to close my business by asking, 'Which binding will you take.'" I know God has blessed this brother and given him some rich experiences, so I felt it was right to get this chapter of my brother's book, and make it mine. So in fear and trembling I started, but like all God's ways it worked well. The first week on these lines of working together with God has given me a rich experience in an increase of faith, and established in my soul the principle that I am to be diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. For the sake of the timid who like myself have often dallied round about the bush, I wish to add that I have gained financially; for the promise of the riches of the Gentiles has by simple faith and works been given me. Praise the Lord.

L. CURROW.

COULD NOT STAND SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS.

ONE place where I called, the lady not knowing anything of the connection of either canvasser or book, said, "There is a class of people I can't stand at all, and that is Seventh-day Adventists." I looked at her questionably with, "No? there are some at Palmerston." To this she replied, "I do not know about that;" and said she, "I knew one person in Blenheim who held such and such views." However, I canvassed on, but could obtain no decision without her husband's sanction. They were of Plymouth Brethren connection. She

offered to put me up over night. I gladly accepted, thinking to canvass the husband, but whilst waiting on the husband coming in to tea, said she, "If it's a fair question, what church do you belong to?" I replied point blank, "Well, I am a Seventh-day Adventist." Quite a take back it was. Of course I endeavored to set her mind at ease. We chatted away, and she said, "Well, Seventh-day Adventists are a different people to what I thought, from what you say." After tea I canvassed the husband. He said he would decide in the morning.

In the morning he said, "No," but before leaving I had the sanction of both, secured the order and consent to subscribe to the *Australasian Good Health*. Praise the Lord for all His providences. A CANVASSER.

FROM TUALEVU, VANUA BALAVU.

WE are stationed 200 miles from Suva. Our work here moves slowly. Prejudice is not so great as when we arrived. We are still in the little native house on the beach, surrounded by bush and coconut trees, near a large native town. This island is fifteen miles long, and three miles wide. There are ten towns. Other islands are about us, both near and far away.

The weather is very hot at present, and the burning sand and reflecting water make the heat more trying. We have sudden and frequent changes from calm, delightful, beautiful days, to adverse winds, with the sea like a boiling pot. It was such a time when we started on a previously arranged journey to a near island. A head wind and a high sea made us six hours in going twelve miles. It rained, and with the sea washing over us, we were soon drenched. This is one phase of life in Fiji. We spent a week with our brethren at that island, Cikobia. The joy of service together quite eclipsed the roughness of the journey, although I was never so seasick before. Our brethren there are of good courage in the Lord and faithful in their services. We sold a few books, and started them in carrying on a Sabbath-school. This branch of the work is very difficult for the natives, unless some one can be with them and teach them for a time.

At Cikobia there is a strange water source. Only one spot on the island affords fresh water. This is on the beach. The water comes up out of the rock. At low tide a hole is made in the sand, and the water dipped out until quite fresh. They bathe and wash here also. Truly this is the Lord's doings. "O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!" Everywhere we see His love manifested.

The ocean was very rough the week we were away, but the Lord permitted the *Buli*, chief of the district, to go over on business. He kindly gave us passage back to our town. A hard rain stilled the tempestuous waves, and favoring winds brought us home in an hour. We were home just in time to save the roof of the native house from blowing apart. A gale set in, and the rain fell in torrents. The roof was secured with large coconut leaves, a turtle-net, and ropes.

We rejoice every day that we are permitted to be here. The Lord is our rock and our fortress.

MYRTLE G. PARKER.

February 19, 1903.

"DO THE duty that comes first; you know not into what beautiful experiences it may blossom."

A UNION MEETING.

ON Sunday, February 15, an all-day meeting was held in the Parramatta Church, the members of Prospect, Kellyville, Epping, and Auburn churches, meeting with us. At the morning meeting, which opened at 10.30 with devotional exercises, addresses were given by the elders of the different churches, the same subject being dealt with by each one, as all had selected the same text for the subject of their remarks, not knowing that the others had done likewise, the text being Phil. 2:5, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Before the close of this meeting, a social meeting was held, in which nearly all present took part. Then followed an intermission for lunch, which was partaken of in picnic fashion, in family groups, in the church grounds.

The afternoon meeting began at 2.30. This was essentially the children's meeting. The building was well filled. A profitable and entertaining programme was carried out by the children. Recitations, dialogues, duets, quartettes, were rendered by the scholars of the different Sabbath-schools, a special feature being a recitation of Scripture texts on trust in God, given by the members of the Auburn Sabbath-school.

At the evening meeting, which took the form of a regular preaching service, Pastor Snyder gave a stirring address on progression. During this service excellent music was furnished by members of the different choirs. This being Pastor Snyder's last visit to this district prior to his departure for America, the meeting closed with the hymn, "God be with you till we meet again."

The visitors expressed their satisfaction and pleasure, and hoped another meeting of the same kind would soon be held in some of the other churches. S. MASON.

A LETTER FROM PASTOR IRWIN.

TAKEN as a whole our voyage was rather a rough one; we encountered bad weather and heavy seas between Sydney and Auckland, although it quieted down the day we arrived. We spent about six hours in the city very enjoyably. Brother Tenney and wife met us at the boat and took us over the city in the new tram car line.

At the conclusion of the ride they took us to our health food cafe managed by Brother Hadfield, where they had provided a very bountiful dinner for us, at which fully thirty of the members of the Auckland and Ponsonby Churches sat down. It was a very pleasant and agreeable surprise to us, and one which we enjoyed very much, since it breathed a spirit of brotherly love that should be a characteristic of the remnant people of God. Brother and Sister Tenney are of good courage, and report an increased interest in the work of the message in the city.

The weather was very pleasant when we left Auckland, and the sea was calm for the first day and a half, when the sky clouded over and the wind began to blow, and it soon became apparent to all that we were entering into a storm. The storm continued with unabated severity for two days and nights. It became so strong towards the last that our vessel had to head directly into the storm, and lay to for twelve hours. Many times it seemed as though the angry waves were about to swallow the vessel up, but a divine providence watched over us for good, and we came safely through the experience and reached harbor at Pago Pago, although nearly a day late. There we learned that the storm had reached the fury of a hurricane, and had done considerable damage on the Islands. It was so severe at Pago Pago that the Ventura, on her south-bound voyage, could not enter the harbor. We remained three hours at Pago Pago; just long enough to discharge what cargo we had for that port and take on some supplies. The natives in large numbers gathered around our vessel and swarmed over its sides on to the deck, exposing their various products and productions for sale. Very little change is noticeable in the buildings around the harbor since two years ago. The natural scenery, however, appeared more beautiful, or perhaps it might have seemed so in contrast with the dullness of the sea. The beautiful green foliage of the trees that extend from the water's edge to the tops of the highest mountains, was very refreshing. The short rest and the fresh fruits that we obtained, such as pine-apples, oranges, and bananas, revived our

spirits and strengthened us to brave the sea once more with better courage. Elder Gates joined our party here, having come over from Apia in a local boat.

From Pago Pago the north-bound vessels go direct to Fanning Island, where they are obliged to stop for a short time to leave the mails. Fanning Island is situated about four days' sail directly south of Honolulu, and sixty miles east of the vessel's regular course from Pago Pago to Honolulu. The island is very small, being only nine miles in length, and three to four miles in width, the highest point being only eight feet above sea level.

From this point to Honolulu we again encountered some very rough weather. We passed safely through this, however, and arrived in Honolulu the evening of February 24, several hours late of our regular time. We were only permitted to land under the quarantine flag and quarantine regulations, which excluded all people from going aboard the vessel, but did not prohibit the passengers from going ashore. Elder Behrens, Professor Colcord, and Brother Burgess were at the wharf to meet us; they had been in waiting for some time. Directly after our arrival we were called in to partake of an elegant supper that they had prepared for us. Anyone who has taken a sea voyage can readily believe that we did ample justice to the meal. It seemed as though food never tasted so good before in our lives. Such experiences as we had at Auckland and Honolulu in this line, are real oases in the great desert waste of water that lies between Australia and America. After supper we went to the schoolroom, where Brother Colcord had called the boys together to greet us and sing some songs for our edification. After the singing, Brother Robinson led in an earnest season of prayer, and I made some general remarks. We then went over the school building from room to room, examining the work of the students, and their methods of living and keeping their rooms. Judging from what we saw it would seem as though the brethren were doing good work, although laboring under rather disadvantageous circumstances.

From Honolulu to San Francisco our voyage was quite pleasant, the sea being quite calm most of the time. Owing to the loss of time occasioned by the storms encountered, we failed to reach San Francisco in time on Monday to enter the wharf, so we had to anchor in the bay until Tuesday morning. It was not long before Brethren Knox, Jones, Bordeaux, and others put in an appearance, gave us a hearty welcome and took us in charge, giving us first a good dinner at the Vegetarian Cafe, and then assigning us to different places for the night. Next morning Sister Shannon left for her father's home in Iowa; Brother and Sister Robinson went to Dr. Maxon's home in Oakland; Brother Gates remained with friends in Oakland, and Sister Graham and I came up to St. Helena, she stopping with Sister White, and I with W. C. White. It was very gratifying to us after such a long and tedious voyage to greet these dear friends once more, and to enjoy the hospitality of their homes. We will make this our headquarters until the assembly of the General Conference Committee in Oakland on the twenty-second instant.

We have spoken publicly several times upon the work in Australia; expect to visit a number of the churches before the opening of the Conference. I am glad to report that Sister White's health is rapidly improving, so that she now expects to attend the General Conference.

The many friends of Brother E. R. Palmer will be sorry to learn of the sudden death of his wife, in Battle Creek, occasioned by pneumonia. News came to hand yesterday of the death of Elder Uriah Smith, which occurred the sixth of the month in Battle Creek, the cause being apoplexy.

As this communication is already quite long, I will stop here with the promise of continuance the next mail.

Sanitarium, California, U. S. A.

GEO. A. IRWIN.

CANVASSING IN VICTORIA.

ONE canvasser writes,—

Many thanks to the dear Lord for the way He is using me. Tuesday was the devil's carnival, but God blessed me abundantly. I took eight orders in the morning. Most of the people were away at the races, but I worked on, and in the afternoon took five more orders. This was very gratifying, especially as Satan was tempting me, saying it was not worth while working that day. On Wednesday there was a very large cattle sale, and most of the men were away from home, still the Lord helped me again to secure thirteen orders. For eight days' work my record is just £100 worth of orders.

This is good when we consider the difficulties this State is passing through by the drought, etc., and after

the prophecies of some who stated that no more books could be sold in Victoria.

Another reports as follows :—

I am of good courage in the Lord's work. I thank Him that He has enabled me to lay aside all doubts concerning whether it would pay to work in His vineyard. I have not done much so far, but I am gaining an experience that will enable me to work more intelligently and successfully in the future.

Brother Ward writes,—

This report is not all one would desire, but when the Lord does not give me orders, He usually gives me something better. This past week has not been spent in vain. I have enjoyed a blessed experience, and realise God is with me, helping me on. I will tell you of one. I called at a farm house and was asked inside. As soon as I was seated and had stated my business, the lady asked what denomination I represented. I told her I was a Seventh-day Adventist. She was a Presbyterian, and seemed an earnest Christian worker. When I told her this, she rested her face in her hands, and looked very sad. I said that perhaps this was not in harmony with her views, to which she replied, "No, I think they are in terrible darkness." I began to tell her that we took the Bible for all we taught, and endeavored to follow Christ as our example, and in fact that every one who believed in His soon coming was an Adventist. She gladly admitted she was one then, and laughed with tears in her eyes at the new discovery. We had a real heart to heart talk, and I know the Lord spoke through me on this occasion. She seemed amazed as I endeavored to unfold to her the blessed truths of the Bible. After a time I showed her through "Desire of Ages." She was unable to give an order, but earnestly requested that I call on her when making my delivery, and she would endeavor to secure a copy then. I believe the Spirit of God spoke to her, and trust to see results in the kingdom, if I am not permitted here. This is the work in which I rejoice. It is better than taking orders, though probably a book would do a greater and better work. However, it is sweet to see the hand of the Lord in our work.

We are glad a few have responded to the call for workers, but there is room for many more. Who will enlist now?
L. GREGG.

LET not your heart be troubled. "In everything give thanks." Trouble and worry are two of the worst foes with which we have to contend. Our worst enemies are found not on the outside; they abide within. Trouble and worry are destructive to life and health. "My peace I give unto you." This is what we all need,—peace of mind. "Not as the world giveth, give I unto you." The world can only give peace by giving peaceful surroundings, but the peace Christ gives is an abiding peace, not dependent upon externals—a peace that is undisturbed by unpleasant surroundings. "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." The impulses sent forth from the brain control and influence all the vital processes of the body. A depressed condition of mind causes depression of every organ; it destroys digestion, it interferes with the vital pump—the heart. "By sorrow of heart the spirit is broken." But a "merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

D. H. KRESS.

God desires our highest welfare. To please God, therefore, we must do that which is best for ourselves. This means we must be virtuous, pure, self-restrained, temperate. He who lives a pure and upright life takes the course which is best for himself, and he who takes that course pleases God. It is for our sakes that the restraints of virtue are put upon us. The divine commandments are simply the marking out of a path through which we shall reach our highest good. It is for our own well-being that we are to observe those laws, and the attainment of our well-being pleases God. To serve God best we must build up our character and welfare.—*Christian Enquirer.*

THE religion of Jesus is a present blessing. It benefits men even now. It does them good in this life. It helps and consoles and enlightens in this present and evil world. It gives peace, real soul rest, to the troubled ones. But it takes hold of the future as well as being a blessing in the present. It is a religion of hope as well as of faith. We are saved by hope. We are looking for the "blessed hope" in the fullness of the great fruition. As another says, "Christianity is essentially a life of hope. It is founded on living hope. The eye of faith looks out for the glorious revelation of Jesus Christ from heaven, . . . for the heavenly city of peace, for the precious inheritance, for the new heaven and the new earth."—*Selected.*

A SHERIFF in a Western town the other day seized a drug store. But an inventory discovered five beautifully colored show bottles, but not a drug was to be found. That is the way with some folks' religion. You meet with the bottle of blue Presbyterianism, the clear water of Baptism, you see the Methodist jar, the Episcopalian jar, the Congregational jar, at the show window conspicuously displayed. But when you lift the latch and enter, seeking to find a remedy for some ill of life, not a drug is to be found. There might have been some once, but old Satan got a lien on the stock, foreclosed on the property, and left nothing but the colored jars in the shop window. That is the case with some churches, and certainly with individuals too numerous to mention.—*Christian at Work.*

HERE is a lesson from an iron bar: A bar of iron that costs £1, worked into horseshoes is worth £2 10s; made into needles it is worth £70; made into pen-knife blades it is worth £600; made into balance springs for watches it is worth £50,000! What a drilling the poor bar must undergo to reach all that; but hammered and beaten, and pounded, and rolled, and polished, how its value is increased! It might well have quivered and complained under the hard knocks it got, but were they not all necessary to draw out its fine qualities and fit it for higher offices! And so all the drilling and training which you are subject to in youth, and which often seem so hard to you, serve to bring out your nobler and finer qualities, and fit you for more responsible posts and greater usefulness.—*Sunday.*

It is a thought filled with sublime solemnity that we are now living in the time when the divine decree will soon be proclaimed: "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

HOLD communion with heaven wherever you are. Jesus has connected the world of glory with the world of sin. The foot of the ladder is just at your feet; the top of it is just at God's throne. The angels are stirring around you; God is looking down upon you. Your tent is pitched beside the gate of God's great city; you sleep every night where the miry street of earth joins the golden street of heaven. Your couch is spread in the centre of a camp of angels. Blessed Father, how near thy people are to glory, and to thee, and they know it not!—*Selected.*

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Items of General Interest.

Dying Without Christ.—A recent report from Calcutta states that nearly 40,000 persons had died from the plague during one week in India. Swiftly yet silently the vast millions of heathen lands are passing away not knowing that they must all appear before the judgment seat of God. There is no time to lose in dealing with the great problem of the evangelisation of India.

A Wonderful Destroyer.—A gun has recently been tested at New York which discharged with deadly effect 800 one pound projectiles per minute. This is considered to be the most wonderful and deadly machine gun in existence. Satan and evil men are busy planning how to destroy. Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost.

The Word of God Being Multiplied.—According to a writer in the *Sun*, the American Bible Society issued 1,500,000 Bibles last year, and the British and Foreign Bible Society 5,000,000. Many other concerns publish Bibles and sell great numbers of them. The Philippines consumed 10,700 of the American Society's Bibles during our first year there, and 58,000 during the second year. Translations of the Bible are now being made into five Filipino dialects. It has already been published in three other dialects by the British Society, so that it will soon be out in eight varieties of Filipino language. Nearly half a million Bibles went into China last year in spite of the effort of the Boxer outbreak, which, for the time being, cut down the demand about one-half.

The Eastern War Cloud.—A condition of turmoil and bloodshed exists throughout Macedonia and Albania. Violent opposition is manifested against some "reforms" which Turkey is endeavoring to institute in these countries. Servia is in a condition of feverish ferment, and a revolution is thought to be inevitable in Bulgaria. Russia is playing an interesting game of diplomacy in this controversy, and understands how to use the minor powers to accomplish her designs. Only recently a considerable quantity of small arms and ammunition was donated to the ruler of Montenegro by Russia. Montenegro has for centuries been a deadly enemy of Turkey.

Radium.—One of the most remarkable, if indeed not the most important, scientific discovery of modern times is that of the almost priceless metal called radium. This wonderful metal which has recently been reduced in price from £200,000 to £180,000 per pound possesses characteristics which upset many time-honored theories regarding light and heat. Radium gives off a light almost as strong as the light of the sun. It is a white crystalline powder, which in the light looks inoffensive and harmless, but when in the dark glows like steel

melted to the highest pitch. So far as is now known it retains its strength perpetually. The rays of its light are so strong and penetrating as to be able to pierce through three feet of solid iron. Doubtless the great and wise God who made all these substances has many elements in His treasure house with which to embellish that better land, and as we obtain through scientific research occasional glimpses of agencies new to us, we should long more and more for a part in that land where will be found everything lovely, and where science will be studied under the greatest of Teachers.

Another Pioneer Fallen.—The sad piece of news mentioned in Pastor G. A. Irwin's letter, regarding the death of Pastor Uriah Smith, will cause sorrow to many hearts. During the past fifty years by voice and pen Brother Smith has proclaimed the Advent message.

The Lord came very near to him and gave to His servant especial wisdom and spiritual discernment in writing that important work, "Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation." Through its extensive circulation in many lands this book has brought light to thousands of hearts. Brother Smith was also the author of several smaller works which have had an extensive circulation. Since 1852 Brother Smith has carried weighty responsibilities in connection with our church paper, the *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*. The vast amount of good which such a long life of faithful service has accomplished, the books of heaven will alone reveal. God giveth His beloved sleep.

THE recent discovery made by some of our brethren that there is a company of several hundred colored people in the city of Philadelphia, U. S. A., who are keeping the Sabbath of the Lord is but another evidence of the divine origin of the truth, and also demonstrates to us how God is quite able to cut His work short in righteousness. Whether we are faithful to our charge or not, the Lord's work will triumph.

ELDER J. H. KRUM has just made a successful tour throughout Asia Minor. The difficulties of laboring in that field are shown by the report that he rode on horseback thirty-one days, often late in the night, sometimes sleeping in the mountains with the heavens as a roof and the earth as a bed. Though called before the magistrates several times, and hindered by them in various ways, he was able to preach thirty-two sermons, hold twenty-nine Bible readings, besides making fifty visits. Sixteen persons, all Armenians, were baptised. Thus the Lord's work moves on in the cities and villages where Paul and his co-laborers preached more than eighteen centuries ago.

THE following good letter will speak for itself:—
Editor, *Australasian Signs of the Times* :

Esteemed Sir,—We feel constrained by the Spirit of God to inform you that during the past twelve months we have been much enlightened through reading many of your publications. New truths have been revealed which have brought us into a closer study of the Word of God, and through obedience we have been led to the acceptance of the Seventh-day Adventist faith and doctrine. In reflecting over the past few years, which have been spent in travelling as teachers and preachers of the Bible, it seems a mystery which we cannot explain, that our eyes were dimmed to the truth. How we rejoice to know that God, in such a wonderful way, has led us to accept these truths, and in obedience to the divine command, we have been led to observe strictly the Seventh-day Sabbath, and at our earliest opportunity (D. V.) we propose being baptised into the advent faith, and in prayers are that God will bless the Seventh-day Adventist cause.

Believe us to be, dear sir, yours in Christ,

ALFRED PIKE AND WIFE.