



The Coming Conflict

The Need of Preparation

AS the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old. . . .

The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress described by the prophet as the time of Jacob's trouble. "Thus saith the Lord:

We have heard a voice of trembling; of fear, and not of peace." "All faces are turned into paleness. Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it; it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it."

Jacob's night of anguish, when he wrestled in prayer for deliverance from the hand of Esau, represents the experience of God's people in the time of trouble. . . .

Though God's people will be surrounded by enemies who are bent upon their destruction, yet the anguish which they suffer is not a dread of persecution for the truth's sake; they fear that every sin has not been repented of, and that through some fault in themselves they shall fail to realise the fulfilment of the Saviour's promise, "I will keep thee from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world." If they could have the assurance of pardon, they would not shrink from torture or death; but should they prove unworthy, and lose their lives because of their own defects of character, then God's holy name would be reproached. . . .

They afflict their souls before God, pointing to their past repentance of their many sins, and pleading the Saviour's promise, "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me: and he shall make

peace with Me." Their faith does not fail because their prayers are not immediately answered. Though suffering the keenest anxiety, terror, and distress, they do not cease their intercessions. They lay hold of the strength of God as Jacob laid hold of the Angel; and the language of their souls is, "I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me."

Had not Jacob previously repented of his sin in

obtaining the birthright by fraud, God would not have heard his prayer and mercifully preserved his life. So, in the time of trouble, if the people of God had unconfessed sins to appear before them while tortured with fear and anguish, they would be overwhelmed; despair would cut off their faith, and they could not have confidence to plead with God for deliverance. But while they have a deep sense of their unworthiness, they have no concealed wrongs to reveal. Their sins have gone beforehand to Judgment,

and have been blotted out; and they cannot bring them to remembrance.

Satan leads many to believe that God will overlook their unfaithfulness in the minor affairs of life; but the Lord shows in His dealings with Jacob that He will in nowise sanction or tolerate evil. All who endeavour to excuse or conceal their sins, and permit them to remain upon the books of Heaven, unconfessed and unforgiven, will be overcome by Satan. The more exalted their profession, and the more honourable the position which they hold, the more grievous is their course in the sight of God, and the more sure the triumph of their great adversary. Those who delay a preparation for the day of God cannot obtain it in the time of trouble, or at

Supplication

Come, let us pray! the burning brow,
The heart oppressed with care,
And all the woes that throng us now,
Will be relieved by prayer;
Our God will chase our griefs away!
O glorious thought! come, let us pray.

Come, let us pray! the mercy seat
Invites the fervent prayer;
A Heavenly Father waits to greet
The contrite spirit there.
O loiter not, nor longer stay
From Him who loves us; let us pray.
—Anon.

any subsequent time. The case of all such is hopeless.

Those professed Christians who come up to that last fearful conflict unprepared, will, in their despair, confess their sins in words of burning anguish, while the wicked exult over their distress. These confessions are of the same character as was that of Esau or Judas. Those who make them lament the result of transgression, but not its guilt. They feel no true contrition, no abhorrence of evil. They acknowledge their sin, through fear of punishment; but, like Pharaoh of old, they would return to their defiance of Heaven, should the judgments be removed.

Jacob's history is also an assurance that God will not cast off those who have been deceived, and tempted, and betrayed into sin, but who have returned unto Him with true repentance. While Satan seeks to destroy this class, God will send His angels to comfort and protect them in the time of peril. The assaults of Satan are fierce and determined, his delusions are terrible; but the Lord's eye is upon His people, and His ear listens to their cries. Their affliction is great, the flames of the furnace seem about to consume them; but the Refiner will bring them forth as gold tried in the fire. God's love for His children during the period of their severest trial is as strong and tender as in the days of their sunniest prosperity; but it is needful for them to be placed in the furnace fire; their earthliness must be consumed that the image of Christ may be perfectly reflected.

Greater Earnestness in Prayer Needed

The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger,—a faith that will not faint, though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonise before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God.

Learning Lessons of Trust

Those who exercise but little faith now, are in the greatest danger of falling under the power of Satanic delusions and the decree to compel the conscience. And even if they endure the test, they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble, because they have never made it a habit to trust in God. The lessons of faith which they have neglected, they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement.

We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving His promises. Angels record every prayer that is earnest and sincere. We should rather dispense with selfish gratifications than neglect com-

munion with God. The deepest poverty, the greatest self-denial, with His approval, is better than riches, honours, ease, and friendship without it. We must take time to pray. If we allow our minds to be absorbed by worldly interests, the Lord may give us time by removing from us our idols of gold, of houses, or of fertile lands.

How to Obtain Power

The young would not be seduced into sin if they would refuse to enter any path, save that upon which they could ask God's blessing. If the messengers who bear the last solemn warning to the world would pray for the blessing of God, not in a cold, listless, lazy manner, but fervently and in faith, as did Jacob, they would find many places where they could say, "I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." They would be accounted of Heaven as princes, having power to prevail with God and with men.

The "time of trouble such as never was," is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which we do not now possess, and which many are too indolent to obtain. It is often the case the trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality; but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal. In that time of trial, every soul must stand for himself before God. Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in the land, "as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness." Eze. 14: 20.

Now, while our great High Priest is making the atonement for us, we should seek to become perfect in Christ. Not even by a thought could our Saviour be brought to yield to the power of temptation. Satan finds in human hearts some point where he can gain a foothold; some sinful desire is cherished, by means of which his temptations assert their power. But Christ declared of Himself, "The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me." Satan could find nothing in the Son of God that would enable him to gain the victory. He kept His Father's commandments, and there was no sin in Him that Satan could use to his advantage. This is the condition in which those must be found who shall stand in the time of trouble.

Our Saviour's Invitation

It is in this life that we are to separate sin from us, through faith in the atoning blood of Christ. Our precious Saviour invites us to join ourselves to Him, to unite our weakness to His strength, our ignorance to His wisdom, our unworthiness to His merits. God's providence is the school in which we are to learn the meekness and the lowliness of Jesus. The Lord is ever setting before us, not the way we would choose, which seems easier and pleasanter to us, but the true aims of life. It rests with us to co-operate with the agencies which Heaven employs, in the work of conforming our characters to the divine model. None can neglect or defer this work but at the most fearful peril to their souls.

MRS. E. G. WHITE.

"It is faith that brings us strength for coping with the powers of darkness."



A Remarkable Answer to Prayer

AFTER visiting our believers in Ahuachapan, El Salvador, I took a motor car for Santa Ana. On arriving in Santa Ana, I missed my hand bag. It contained my Spanish and English Bibles, and some valuable note books which represented years of careful work. The Bibles could be replaced, but the note books, never. On the road were hundreds of ox carts, and hundreds of people, on their way to market. The hand bag could not remain two minutes in that road without some one picking it up.

I felt my dependence on God. Without His special help our search would be vain. My simple silent prayer ascended to God, "O Lord, Thou knowest how for many years I have served Thee to the best of my ability. I have tried to be faithful to all Thy biddings. And now am not I in Thy service and on an errand for Thee? Thou knowest just where my hand bag is, and I have great need for it in Thy service. Help me, O Lord, to find it speedily for Jesus' sake. Amen." My anxiety left me, and I had the assurance that it would be found. After inviting the police to search for it, I returned to the mission where Sister Bodle had breakfast waiting. The meal over, we started by car to search for the bag. Soon we overtook the four policemen who were walking, and invited them to ride. We had not gone far, and had passed only one or two carts after meeting the policemen, when suddenly I ordered the car to stop and asked one of the officers to make search in the covered cart opposite. I said, "I believe you will find my hand bag in that cart." They looked at me in amazement, but did not hesitate. When the police stopped the cart, the owner was speechless. Under the canvas on the front of the waggon his hand came in contact with my hand bag. The cartman proceeded, and we went back rejoicing. Not a thing had been lost.

The Lord wonderfully answered my prayer, pointing out to me the right cart in the stream of carts and people. God is so good and kind to us—always better than we deserve. His promises never fail, but we must do our part to fulfil the conditions given. When we know that constantly we have done our best to do God's will in all things, then in time of special need we shall have confidence that God will hear us and answer for our best good.

ELLIS P. HOWARD,
Supt. Guatemala Salvador Mission,
Central America.

"A CHRISTLIKE life is the most powerful argument that can be advanced in favour of Christianity. A cheap Christian character works more harm than the character of a worldling."

Our Mission Field

Visiting Three Islands in the Solomon Group

WE have just returned to Batuna from a trip to the eastern portion of the Solomon Island field.

Guadalcanar

Our first place of call was Guadalcanar. Here we stayed a week to help Jugha in his work and to place six new teachers. The work is developing nicely in this large island, and some of the people are starting to take hold of the message in all its fullness. I was touched with the testimony of one old man, who loved the Lord. As he took me by the hand he said:

"We are so glad that you have brought teachers among my people. The Government has been here for many years, but it has not taught us to stay good. Other missions have come, but they did not teach us to stay good. But now that you people have come, you are telling us the things that are true and we are becoming new people."

He did not say these things as it were to flatter us, but one could see that he was sincere and meant what he said. Our opposers are putting out all kinds of stories to frighten the people away from us, but they are coming just the same and the truth is winning its way among these tribes. Jugha was pleased with the six new teachers that we gave him. No doubt when we see him again he will be asking for more help. I visited a trader in that locality and he said: "They are fine boys that you people send out as teachers, and we are pleased to have them among the people." He also told me that if he could be of any help to them in that place, he would willingly do what he could.

San Cristobal

The next place we visited was San Cristobal, where some of the people have been calling us for some time. It was a dangerous place to anchor, but fortunately the wind was in the right direction; even then there was a strong roll coming in and we had difficulty in keeping our feet. The people that had called the mission were away, and the folk that were there were not at all definite about having a missionary; so we were at the time unable to start the work. The people told us that they would talk over the situation when the others returned, and if they decided to call a Seventh-day Adventist missionary they would send a messenger to the Marovo Lagoon, and we would then know to take them one. Leaving this place at 3.30 next morning, we again called at Guadalcanar to see some of the teachers before proceeding to Malaita.

Wonderful Development on Malaita

How glad we were to see our workers on Malaita, and they to see us! The trouble on this island was almost over, as all but two of the murderers

had been captured, and things were getting back to normal again. The Government, on the whole, has handled the situation very well, and I think it is to be complimented on terminating the trouble as well as it has. Brother and Sister J. D. Anderson and family were well. Although they have had a very anxious time, they have kept their work going with the help of their loyal native teachers. Our work around that centre has developed in a wonderful way since the trouble started, and many definite calls for missionaries are now coming in from folk that we never heard of before. The prospects for Malaita look very bright, and we think this is the beginning of a big work down there. The workers there certainly need our prayers that God will care for the good work that has already begun.

We visited the mission where, on the previous visit, we were used of God to deliver a woman from the hands of Satan. Previously the woman and her husband would not have anything to do with the mission, but now they have turned completely around and are attending the meetings. The husband said to me, "It would be good if you would take my boy away with you, and teach him the things of God that he may some day be a missionary for some folk who do not know the true way."

We were sorry to leave these interesting people, but as our presence was needed in other places, we said good-bye to the Malaita people and after a run of twenty-six hours were back at Batuna.

School had started when we arrived, and about eighty young people were enrolled to train as missionaries to go out and fill the many calls that are coming from the field. Brother Barrett and his co-workers are looking forward to a successful school year.

Brother Gray is doing well at Ughela, and the people are co-operating with him in a splendid way.

G. PEACOCK.

Niue Island

THE hurricane season is nearly over, and we thank God for His protection; so far no harm has come to our island. We heard of the severe hurricane in the Tongan Group and Samoa, but it has not touched us. We are all well, and the Lord's blessing is with us. Our Sabbath school number is increasing. I have eighty-four on my roll, and there are ten at Avatele.

We have had a sale of work, and took in a good sum of money, considering the hard time. We paid tithes on the money we made. We were able to give food to seventy old and sick people, and to sixteen we gave clothes. This was in Alofi alone. We also had sufficient to feed the needy ones in other villages. Sister Mowlem and some of my friends in New Zealand

sent some old clothes, which were most welcome.

The way is open for me to do a lot of work for the Lord and for the good of my people. I thank God that He sent me away to receive a training at Avondale where I could be fitted for service for Him. My prayer is that I may be kept faithful to Him. I know and feel in my heart that you, my white brethren, are praying for the work and workers in the islands, and that includes me.

The way has opened splendidly before me. I have been asked by the people to go over and visit them so they can hear more of the soon coming of our Lord. Requests have come from everywhere, and I have much to do here in Alofi. My young people's class numbers seventy-five. This meets on Sunday. I also help in the mothers' meetings and other meetings. I have to be prepared, because I never know when I shall be called upon to address a meeting or Sunday school. The well-known text in Luke, that we fear not, because the Lord will put words into our mouths to tell the people, is quite true: I have proved it many times. My only trouble is I have so much to say that I forget to stop, especially when I see the eager eyes opened wide, taking in what I have to tell them. And yet these people do not see the true Sabbath. Some admit that it is right, but stop their ears when spoken to about it.

VAIOLA KERISOME HEAD.

Little Helpers at Buresala

"WHO would like to do some work this morning for Sabbath school offerings?" "I would!" "I would!" "I would!" came back a chorus of eager answers. "All right, I want you all to bring some fertiliser from the paddock for my garden." "Sa vinaka, saka," and off scampered six little members of the Buresala Sabbath school to find the wherewithal to carry out their task. In a few minutes they returned, armed with a divers collection of old rusty tins, ranging from a kerosene tin down to a two-pound jam tin. A little maid of about three years had brought the jam tin in which to carry her load.

"Now, remember," I warned them, "you will be paid only for the amount of work done, and not according to time." For I knew that, by and by, the tempting shade of the big mango trees would appeal to some of them.

Soon the harmonious strains of "On Jordan's Stormy Banks" came floating up the hill. These little Fijian children are very fond of singing, and often, on a Sabbath afternoon, they sit and sing together for hours at a time, each singing his part harmoniously.

By and by the singing ceased, for all their breath was needed to carry their loads up the two steep hills to the house. Back and forth they toiled, practically all day, not even stopping for their midday meal, except for some lemons, which they found in the paddock where they were working. (They eat and enjoy a ripe lemon as we would a rosy apple.) Should one sit down for a few minutes to take a breath, he would be quickly reminded by the words, "You know the *marama* won't pay you for sitting down."

When they had finished their task, we gave them their pennies, and a little sur-

prise in the form of a big 14-lb. pineapple, which one of the bigger girls peeled, and they sat down on the grass and began their "feast," as they called it.

Suddenly a little girl of six years called out, "Oh, wait awhile, we did not ask a blessing." Each dropped his half-eaten piece to the ground, and bowed his head while a blessing was asked of the Lord.

And do you not think, dear reader, that the Lord blessed that pineapple, that it should impart strength to those six tired little bodies that had worked so hard and so willingly, that they might have an offering to return to Him?

Next morning, on hearing a babel of voices, I looked out of the window, and saw five of the children coming along the path. The thought passed through my mind that, probably, they were coming for more pennies and pineapple, but on inquiring, I found that they had brought along their tithe of the money earned the day before: and how happy their faces looked when I gave them their receipts. Presently the missing one of the party came running along, evidently curious to know why the others had come, for he had not brought his tithe. I did not say anything, for his little face looked rather downcast when the others chided him for not bringing his tithe. I remembered, too, that his parents are not faithful tithe-payers, and probably he had not received instruction as had the others.

We had cleaned the pennies just a little on one side, so that we could trace them in the Sabbath school offerings. Every penny paid to five of the children came back, and I concluded that the little fellow who had not paid his tithe had also withheld his offerings. The Week of Prayer came around, and among the offering envelopes I found one containing all the pennies that this little boy had earned that day. Although he had not paid the tithe, he had given it all as his Week of Prayer offering. How glad I was to know that he, too, had been faithful.

"A little child shall lead them." May the faithfulness of these little Fijian children lead us all to a greater faithfulness in returning to the Lord His own, who gave so much for us, even His own life.

MARIE E. SPRENGEL.

*Buresala, Ovalau,
Fiji.*

O, let us sing, my comrades,

Of blessings by the way;

Each cloud's a silver lining,

There's blue beyond the gray.

Ah! as we sing about it,

The shadows break apart,

And all the world's in sunshine

Because we're light of heart.

—Eben E. Rexford.

IT was at the Spring Council in 1908 that the General Conference Committee first took action inaugurating a Harvest Ingathering programme, fixing the time for November 22-28 of that year. This marked the beginning of a definite plan for the denomination. From this small beginning it has grown until today more than one million dollars annually is received in this one channel for our missionary work.

NORTH NEW SOUTH WALES

PRESIDENT: H. A. HILL

SECRETARY: P. G. FOSTER

North New South Wales Conference

IN the Lambton Park, Newcastle, the seventh annual session of the North N.S.W. Conference was held from February 29 to March 11, 1928, in conjunction with our annual camp-meeting. The civic authorities not only very readily granted to us the use of these beautiful grounds, but they also extended to us many kindnesses during our encampment. With the exception of two heavy showers of rain which fell towards the end, perfect weather conditions prevailed throughout, and it was good to see a large number of listeners sitting on the green grass on the outside of the large pavilion every evening as the different subjects, which appeared to be of intense interest to the majority, were presented.

One hundred and fifteen dwelling tents were occupied, and in addition to our own local workers we were privileged to have the help of several Union Conference representatives.

The membership of the 24 organised churches of the conference as at December 31, 1927, stood at 1,215, an increase of 365 for the seven years since the division of New South Wales into two conferences, but a decrease of 24 for the year. One hundred and one new members have been received by baptism during the twelve months, and fourteen have been laid to rest to await the call of the Life-giver. Mainly because of members moving to other parts, thus leaving a constituency insufficiently strong to officer some churches, action was taken disbanding six organisations in this conference, the churches thus concerned being Delungra, Half-way Creek, Kempsey, Tamworth, Glen Innes, and Gunnedah. Thus our list of churches will be reduced to 18.

The very healthy financial standing of the conference was clearly revealed in the balance sheet and report presented by the treasurer; and the steady growth in tithes and offerings was shown by the charts presented, the total received into the treasury being £15,118. This does not include the amount raised in the Appeal for Missions campaign. Our tithe fund now stands at £1,000, in addition to a tithe reserve of £2,000. The present worth of the conference has increased during the year from £4,936 to £5,762; and through the profits on the Tract Society Department amounting to £202 the Book Department Operating Fund has grown to £503. The per capita in tithes and offerings, not including the Appeal for Missions, amounted to £11 3s. 6d. for 1927.

The report on the Australasian Conference Association Ltd., banking system showed that £7,859 had passed through the office books during the year. This is an evidence that our members are becoming more impressed with the importance of placing their money, not only where it can be used for the advancement of God's cause, and can be withdrawn at will, but also where there is no danger of banks

closing up and all being lost. We would be glad to furnish full particulars to any who may not yet be acquainted with this method.

There are at present 35 organised Sabbath schools, with a total membership of 1,689, this being an increase of one school and 57 members for the year. The offerings amounted to £3,037, or £290 in excess of 1926.

In the missionary activities of our senior members, fourteen lines out of the twenty-one in the report showed an increase over that of the previous year, and in the M.V. Department, there were increases in five lines. The secretary of these departments stated that a fine spirit had prevailed among the members in connection with the 1927 Appeal for Missions campaign, when £1,426 was raised in this conference, this being £226 above the aim.

Difficulties confronted our force of ten evangelistic colporteurs as they carried on their God-appointed work. In the northern districts the drought caused great consternation, after which havoc was wrought by the devastating floods. Strikes and other industrial troubles very naturally affected the southern portion. Nevertheless this faithful band, by the help of the Lord, distributed large books to a total retail value of about £1,680, in addition to £200 worth of smaller books. We very much appreciate the good work done by our colporteurs, knowing as we do the very trying conditions with which they have to contend.

Election of Officers

The report of the committee on nominations was unanimously adopted as follows:

PRESIDENT: H. A. Hill.

SECRETARY-TREASURER: P. G. Foster.

FIELD MISSIONARY SECRETARY: D. A. Speck.

HOME MISSIONARY SECRETARY: J. L. Smith.

SABBATH SCHOOL SECRETARY: Miss A. E. Douglass.

MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER SECRETARY: Miss A. E. Douglass.

EDUCATIONAL SECRETARY: H. A. Hill.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SECRETARY: A. W. Anderson.

ASST. RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SECRETARY: J. L. Smith.

PRESS BUREAU SECRETARY: J. L. Smith.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: H. A. Hill, W. H. Pascoe, W. F. Martin, G. S. Fisher, W. Gale, C. J. Reynolds, A. R. Robinson.

Credentials and Licenses

The committee on credentials and licenses brought forward the following report, which was adopted unanimously:

ORDAINED MINISTERS: H. A. Hill, W. H. PASCOE, M. H. Whittaker, C. J. Reynolds, B. Cormack.

LICENSED MINISTERS: J. L. Smith, P. G. Foster, J. S. Jackson.

LICENSED MISSIONARIES: D. A. Speck, A. F. Parker, A. S. Atkins, Miss A. E. Douglass, Miss E. Heise.

LICENSED TEACHERS: Mrs. N. D. Faulkhead, Miss M. Dawkins, Miss W. Niebuhr, Miss E. Brittain.

BOOK AND PERIODICAL WORKERS: F. L. Taylor, J. H. Matthews, H. E. James, E. N. Koch, Mrs. Koch, O. G. Smith, W. C. J. Watson, P. Ford, J. S. Trim, Miss E. Robinson, Miss S. Ryan.

We give a brief *resumé* of the plans and recommendations adopted: The first was an expression of deep gratitude to God for His manifold blessings and watchcare over the flock, and a reconsecration of ourselves to Him for further soul-winning service. The second encouraged the use of *Life and Health* in regular missionary work, and the third stressed the importance of the RECORD going into every home. While these two recommendations were under consideration, appeals were made on behalf of each of these periodicals, with the result that nineteen annual subscriptions for *Life and Health* were booked. It was pleasing to notice that almost every family attending was subscribing to our official organ. Fourteen who were already taking the RECORD had their names placed on the standing order list. On No. 4 a healthy discussion took place regarding our weekly paper, the *Signs*. No. 5 spoke of the benefits derived from our banking system, already referred to in this report. No. 6 was on the efforts of the Home Commission to improve home conditions. No. 7 was the hearty acceptance of the £1,200 aim for our 1928 Appeal for Missions to commence March 17. No. 8, that we do all we can to encourage earnest, consecrated men and women to use their God-given faculties in our colporteur work. Nos. 9 and 10 set in operation the Fireside Correspondence School, and the Bible Study League. No. 11 was an expression of appreciation to the Lambton Borough Council for the use of their beautiful park. No. 12 recommended the adoption by this conference of the Union Conference policy governing church schools. No. 13 changed our trading name to the old style of Tract Society. No. 14 dealt with the method of electing church officers. Only eight meetings were necessary to complete the business for the year, thus enabling more time to be given to spiritual topics. From the spirit of unity which prevailed throughout, we are confident that as those who were privileged to attend this gathering returned to their homes, it was with a richer indwelling of the Spirit of God, and a greater determination than ever to press on to victory and to finally have an entrance through those pearly gates.

Towards the close, several were heard to say that it was without doubt the best camp they had ever attended. And now we look forward to our next gathering, and above all, to the greatest of all gatherings, when we shall have the privilege of meeting around that great white throne.

H. A. HILL, *President*.
P. G. FOSTER, *Secretary*.

For Sale.—Farm of 55 acres, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Dalmore railway station; 50 acres in potatoes, now digging seven tons per acre. Four-roomed house; four stall stables, etc. £40 per acre. £400 deposit, balance term of years. Apply A. D. FOWLER, Dalmore, Victoria.

To Let.—Warrawee, W.B. cottage, five rooms and kitchen; bath heater, gas and fuel stoves, electric light. Good area of land and about 35 fruit trees. Seven min. Warrawee station, one mile from Sanitarium and church school. Partly furnished. Rent 35s. per week. For further particulars ring Wahroonga 1141, or address "TO LET," Mizpah, Wahroonga.

WEST AUSTRALIA

PRESIDENT: H. C. WHITE
SECRETARY: S. C. BUTLER

In "the Golden West"

LEAVING Sydney February 11, with my wife and daughter, we journeyed on the S.S. *Katoomba*, over a tranquil sea to Melbourne. Here two days passed and the opportunity was afforded of meeting with the workers at the café and also at the Health Food depot. Converse with kind friends shortened the days, and then we journeyed on again over another kindly sea to Adelaide.

Nearly two days more measured our rest here, and again friendships were renewed and converse played its part in life's drama. Starting once more, with the waves still peaceful, we crossed the Bight and spent one day at Albany. Then, sailing for the last stage of our journey, we reached Fremantle on February 22. Here friends were waiting with cars, and we soon reached our quiet tabernacle on the camp-ground at South Perth.

West Australia carries a history of nearly one hundred years. It was first colonised in 1829. It is sometimes called "the Golden West," but its poetic name is "The Land of the Black Swan." It is at once the farthest west and the most extensive of the Commonwealth States. It has an area of 975,920 square miles, comprising 624,588,800 acres. And its population now stands at 384,878. It has a large range of mineral wealth. Gold to the value of £156,000,000 has been won from its mines. The cultivation of wool produces £3,500,000 annually. Timber to the value of £23,000,000 has been exported, while the sandalwood export has brought £4,180,000 additional. Its railways measure 3,918 miles and new lines are under construction. The wheat harvest for last year yielded 30,041,000 bushels.

The camp-meeting proved to be both interesting and inspiring. Three days after its close we spent the night on the train in a journey of 341 miles to Albany, the farthest south-eastern town of West Australia. This is a bright little town situated between two hills and running down with frontage to the waters of King George's Sound. This town with now about 5,000 inhabitants, was the first part of the State colonised. The harbour has an attractive appearance as it is shut in by rock crags and lofty steeps.

Eight days were spent with the church here. They have a neat little building not far from the centre of the town. We were given a very quiet resting place at the home of Sister Anderson. Our time was taken up in visiting and holding meetings. On our second Sabbath several persons from out-districts attended. Two came in from Mount Barker, thirty miles distant, and one from Elleker, ten miles away. All the Sabbath services proved helpful, and our meetings closed on Sunday night.

Journeying from Albany we reached Narrogin at 3 a.m. and found Brother Borgas at the station waiting for us. Here we remained for seven days and held a number of meetings. Sabbath proved a good day with two services and Sabbath school. The church was well

filled at the closing meeting on Sunday night. It was very enjoyable to meet with these warm-hearted brethren. On the evening after the Sabbath quite a number of the members met at the home of Brother Borgas, and sweet hymns and converse continued till 10 p.m.

Leaving Narrogin by rail we went on sixty miles to Beverley, and found Brother Davey at the station. Brother and Sister Davey have a quiet, sweet home at this place, and here two evening meetings were held. This is a wheat-growing district and great stacks of harvested grain were piled up at the station. Here a few friends and isolated Sabbath-keepers were visited, and again the hours passed were surely pleasant ones. Brother Davey lent both his time and his car to our work.

From this point we journeyed on to Perth, and thus concluded our first circuit in the West.

All along we found warm hearts and kindly hands and we pray that the Lord of the harvest will bless them all. No mistrust or disloyalty to the message was found.

R. HARE.

OBITUARIES

McMellen.—In the evening of Wednesday, March 14, 1928, Brother Joseph McMellen died at the age of forty-one at his home in Hills Rd., St. Martins, Christchurch, N.Z. He accepted the truths of the third angel's message some years ago and was baptised by Pastor Cozens, uniting with the Barbadoes Street city church. He died trusting in Jesus. With the hope of his being called forth at the resurrection of the just, we laid him to rest in the Bromley Cemetery in the presence of many relatives and friends. Our sincere sympathy goes out to Sister McMellen and her boys, who are left to mourn the loss of a husband and father. Words of comfort were spoken at the home and graveside by Pastor H. E. Piper, the writer assisting in the services.

T. HOWSE.

Gardiner.—After an extended and distressing illness, through which he manifested great patience and much Christian fortitude, Herbert Cecil Gardiner, aged thirty-seven years, passed to his rest at the home of his parents, "Hill View," Karragullen, W.A., on January 15, and was borne to his last resting place on the following day. Brother Gardiner was the beloved husband of Sister Rosalind Gardiner, sister of Pastors A. H. and H. C. White, and was always esteemed by all who knew him for his earnest devotion to duty, his deep love for God, and his kindly sympathy for those around him. Sympathising with those who have lost a devoted husband, a beloved son, a fond brother, and a kind friend, we laid him to rest with the glad assurance that some day the voice now hushed will ring in triumph from the rent tomb, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" Words of comfort were spoken at the graveside by the writer.

ERWIN E. ROENFELT.

Wanted at Once.—First-class motor mechanic. Apply C. FISHER, Austral Garage, Cooranbong, N.S.W.



Ingathering Experiences

A VERY interesting feature of our Appeal work has ever been the interest and enthusiasm displayed by the new Sabbath-keepers,—and this year is no exception.

A dear old sister nearing ninety years of age recently heard the message. Notwithstanding her age, she grasps the beauty of the new-found faith, enjoying all its privileges.

She was told about our Ingathering work and immediately wished to have a part in it. Besides being very old, she is totally blind. Nevertheless, she set to work sending her card and magazines to several people whom she knew, and they all responded to her appeal. In addition, she had some one lead her around, and this dear aged soul has collected £3 4s. 2d. because, as she said, she "wished to have part in such a good work."

Another family, just come into the truth, after giving £50 themselves to mission work, took part in gathering from others. The son collected £5 in the week, while the father gathered a like amount. All rejoiced in the privilege of helping on a work that means everything to them now.

Another man took up the work in his engineering shop among his fellows. They responded too, and encouraged the heart of this new brother.

Somehow it is the mission work that is an indication of the love and loyalty we feel for the great cause of God in all the earth. In their zeal and devotion to it, new Sabbath-keepers are not outstanding. The feet of those who have walked the ways of this truth for years are found gladly going in the way of service still, in extending its influence through the Appeal work.

The instances that could be given would keep us busy writing. One comes to mind. A sister in uncertain health, often in pain, travels many miles with her husband to collect each year the amount of their goal. Surely God recognises and blesses, and will some day reward such a service as this.

So the way others take hold of the work encourages our hearts in the good old message.

J. W. KENT.

Personal Experiences

WE quote the following testimony from one who has engaged in the Appeal for Missions every year since 1912. Pastor Frank D. Wells is the president of the New England Conference, U.S.A.:

"The writer has been an active worker in every Harvest Ingathering campaign since 1912, and as a result of his own experiences he is greatly impressed with the wonderful possibilities of the Ingathering work.

"There is much more in it than raising the extra money for foreign missions, for

we have no campaign that does so much toward breaking down the prejudice. Our annual report gives ample evidence that Seventh-day Adventists are really pioneering their way into the darkest places of earth, and when our friends learn that this is true, their opinion of us is naturally changed. They begin to realise that we are indeed missionaries to the world's need.

"The writer has had the privilege of soliciting donations in a number of cities where he has made his home during the past few years, and without an exception the business men have been much more friendly after each campaign, many times going out of the way to meet me on the street.

"The experiences this year in Rochester are not an exception. Brethren, forget your timidity and the Lord will bless you in your work."

"More 'Signs': More Souls"

A Holiday Plus Some "Signs" Plus a Catalogue Plus Some Tracts; Result, a Sabbath-keeper

DURING last year some Sabbath-keepers (from Victoria, we think) enjoyed a little holiday at Coogee, one of Sydney's favourite seaside resorts. As all good members should do, they gave a few copies of the *Signs of the Times* to the landlady, and after their return to their own home continued to forward the silent messenger for a few months. These papers were, in turn, lent by the said landlady to her neighbour, a Miss ——. The latter became interested in the literature to the degree that she sent to the publishing house for a catalogue. Frequently this catalogue has been consulted and an order for tracts despatched to the South New South Wales Tract Society office. One of these orders was received last month (March), which led the secretary, Brother W. S. Renn, to inquire of the writer of this report whether Miss ——, was a member of our Woollahra church which is the nearest church to Coogee. As no such person is known at Woollahra church, it was decided that instead of posting the packet of tracts the writer would deliver the same and ascertain whether an interest was being manifested in the message.

The call was made and the facts elicited as mentioned above. An interesting conversation ensued, in the course of which I was asked to express an opinion on some points involved in proper Sabbath-keeping. "Do you then understand the matter of observing the true Sabbath from sunset Friday evening?" I asked. "Oh, yes, I have been observing the Sabbath for some time," was the response my ears were glad to hear. Further conversation followed, and a copy of the *Signs* and a Sabbath school lesson pamphlet were forthcoming from my bag. This dear soul is leaving for a short holiday in the country and upon her return expects to join us in worship on Jehovah's day. By this experience we are reminded of a statement by the servant of the Lord:

"Let the leaflets and tracts, the papers and books, go in every direction. Carry with you, wherever you go, a package of select tracts, which you can hand out as

you have opportunity. Sell what you can, and lend or give them away as the case may seem to require. Important results will follow."—*Review and Herald*, June 10, 1880.

We rejoice in the continued good work being accomplished through the circulation of our excellent missionary paper, the *Australasian Signs of the Times*.

A. H. WHITE.

Have You Discovered Its Value?

"I THINK some of us do not value as highly as we should Sunday afternoons for collecting. While the afternoon may not be quite so good as the morning in some localities, yet in all my work I have found Sunday afternoon the best afternoon of the week. While some are out at that time, I have found far more out on other afternoons. On Sundays people expect to give to missions and are ready to receive the collector pleasantly, in the great majority of cases.

"It has been my privilege to work five Sundays in this year's effort, and the collections averaged £2 10s. per day. I found myself dreading the Appeal before it began this year, but I have enjoyed the work so much that I am looking forward already to next year's campaign." Thus writes an earnest worker in one of our Sydney suburban churches.

Did You Finish Your Territory?

EVERY pound gathered in the Appeal, above our total aim, means that just that much more advance work can be undertaken in the mission field. For their present work and for advance work during 1928, our missionaries called for £40,188. This was too large a sum when compared with the income expected during this year, and regretfully the Union Conference Committee had to cut out calls amounting to over £4,000. After careful thought and prayer it was decided to allow calls up to £31,506—which is the amount of our expected income for missions—and then, in addition, as much more as our people give or collect in excess of what we expect to receive, up to a total of £35,804. The Appeal is one of the best ways by which we can raise the total. Let us complete any unfinished parts of our territory.

Will the
SAVED WHOSOEVERS
Help send the
GOSPEL
to the
LOST WHOSOEVERS
of the South Seas that
WHOSOEVER WILL
MAY COME

Reports from Conferences to April 7

	Wks.	Amt.	Per Cent of Goal
West Aust.	2	£1,188	108
South N.S.W.	5	2,660	106
South N.Z.	5	950	100
North N.Z.	8	2,277	93
North N.S.W.	3	1,043	87
Victoria	5	2,126	85
Tasmania	4	426	85
Sth. Aust.	1	235	18
Islands		34	8
Union Conf.		£10,939	78

SOUTH New Zealand's report was the first to reach our office this week, with the good news that this, our third conference, is out.

Although South New South Wales passed its goal in four weeks, it is still going strong, reporting another £104 this week, bringing the figures up to £2,660. This is ahead of its final total for last year, and a 'phone message from Brother Head says that more has come in since reporting.

Brother C. J. Griffin, of the South N.S.W. Conference, received as a donation the gift of a new cabinet gramophone of a retail value of £14 14s. This is for sale to the first person who sends along £10.

North New Zealand's report is the only one that is missing for this week. North New South Wales was within £157 of its goal by the end of its third week. This is an excellent report, and would have been still better but for the wet weather.

Victoria collected another £234 for the week ending April 7.

Tasmania has moved up another step, and now needs only £74 to see it through.

South Australia has joined forces with us this week, and its first report adds £235 to the growing total. Brother Masters added to his telegram that they are all of good courage.

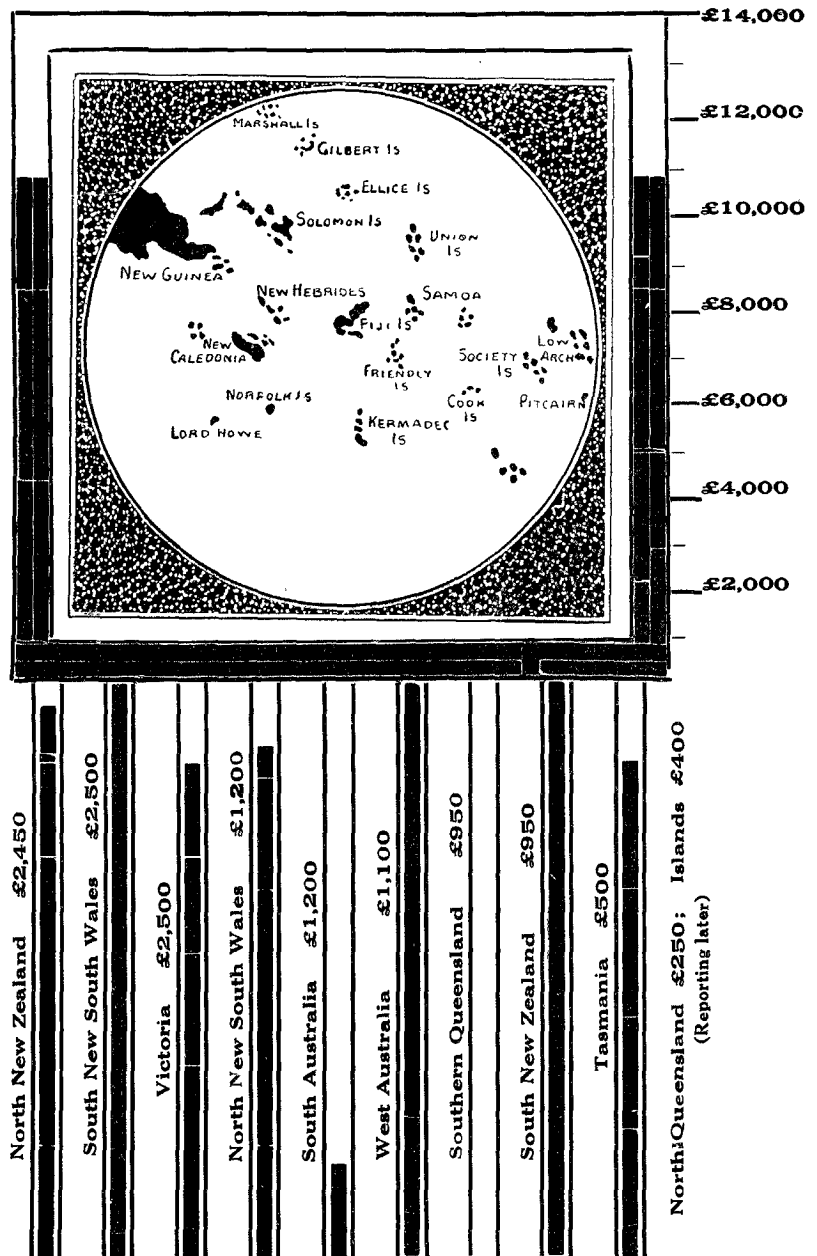
The amount collected for the week ending April 7 was exactly £800, according to the reports received, and the total per cent has come up from 72 to 78.

"WE called upon a Russian Jew in our Appeal work," writes Brother J. L. Smith. "He is in the drapery business and trading under an English name. In his homeland, he told us, he always kept the Sabbath. It was easy for him to keep the Sabbath in Russia; for where he was it was customary. After coming to this country he travelled from door to door for years before he opened a shop. He called at a home in Wallsend one Saturday. The husband, knowing that this man was a Jew, expressed surprise, and said that if his wife knew that he called on Sabbath, she would be disappointed. She was a Seventh-day Adventist. This man said that never in all his life had he felt more rebuked for Sabbath-breaking. He asked us to come and see him again. He speaks Russian, German, Yiddish, and English."

ASKING — TO GIVE

(See Luke 11: 5-13.)

**Our Eleventh Appeal for Missions
Union Conference Goal, £14,000**



"THE WEALTH OF THE NATIONS SHALL COME UNTO THEE."

Australasian Record

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
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OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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"WE do appreciate the after influence of the recent camp-meeting," writes Brother F. J. Butler, the secretary of the Tasmanian Conference. "Many of us have felt definitely the benefit of the meeting, and some of the young people have told me since in their letters that they received very decided help."

THE time appointed for the Week of Prayer this year, May 26 to June 2, is rapidly approaching. The special RECORD bearing date of May 14, containing the readings for this prayer season, has already been posted to all RECORD subscribers. This was none too early for those in the distant parts of our field. All will need to preserve this paper carefully in order that they may have it for study during the Week of Prayer.

FROM Batuna, Solomon Islands, Brother A. R. Barrett passes on this word: "Our school work is progressing well, and we see much improvement already in the class work. There is a good spirit among the students, and all are anxious to learn. Brother Gray was here a few days ago, and brought very good reports of the district meetings on the Duke Coast, Ranonga, and Dovele. It cheered us to hear this good news. Big reports of the Missionary Volunteer work are coming in, and our Sabbath school membership is continually growing. The church membership is growing also, several having been baptised of late."

"I WOULD rather go to a Seventh-day Adventist church than any other, if they could hold their meetings on Sunday," a lady told one of our collectors. "I like the people. They are united, without class distinctions. I am sure, from your members with whom I have come in contact, that the Adventists are genuine Christians. They seem to have a different look in their faces from most in the world today. I believe I could pick out an Adventist. They seem to have a peace within that shows out in their countenances." And she gave her address on the understanding that the collector be sure to let her know where and when the next camp-meeting was to be held, and if there were any mission meetings to be conducted near enough for her to attend.

"DURING the past few weeks while I have been engaged in the Ingathering work," writes Brother C. S. Palmer, Educational and Young People's secretary for North New Zealand, "I have taken the opportunity to bring before the different churches which I have visited, the objects

and plans of the Home Commission work. Some forty subscriptions have already been placed for *Parents' Lessons*. Wherever this feature has been brought before the church people there has been a general appreciation expressed. Many have stated that they have long been waiting for some such help in the important and difficult task that faces them in their homes. I feel myself that we are working from the right end in the young people's work by emphasising the great importance of home training."

A Wonderful Contrast

THE bright-faced, happy native Christian girls in the Solomons do impress one with the difference between them and the heathen girls. It is just heart-breaking to contrast the poor unfortunates on Malaita and up at Bougainville with these young people here in the Marovo Lagoon. A heathen girl has an extremely sad face, and if she laughs there is no real joy in it; and it is practically the same with the other sex. These facts are a constant challenge to us.

If you could only see the changes taking place already on some of the recently formed missions on Malaita, it would astound you. The people are cleaning up wonderfully, as I noticed when on our recent visit there, and when it was my privilege to tell them simply, through two interpreters, a little of "the grand old story of salvation." It is a glorious work to be in—"a good family to belong to." One cannot feel feeling that a black or white true Seventh-day Adventist—wherever you meet him—is your brother.

H. E. BARHAM.

Sydney Sanitarium

THE Sanitarium family is happy to report having reached its Harvest Ingathering goal of two hundred pounds. Because of the shortness of help it was a real effort to arrange for the Sanitarium workers to go out. Our nurses responded in a wonderful way. God gave courage to the faint-hearted, and all came back with light hearts and indications of victory in their faces. Every patient asked by the writer to give responded with an offering varying from five shillings to two guineas. One man sent a cheque for twenty pounds. The last letter received two days ago was from a business man and contained a cheque for three guineas. Last year he spent several weeks at the Sanitarium. The following is taken from his letter:

"Do you remember our little conversation in your office one day, when you asked me if I were a Bible student, and I said I was not, and you told me of your experiences and the faith you had in the Bible? Those remarks sank deep into my mind, and you will be pleased to know that since coming home I have missed only about twelve nights in reading from one to seven chapters of the Bible; in fact, I have read the greater part of the Old Testament, and am now reading the New Testament the second time. I know a great deal more of God's Word and of His mercy and justice than when at the San. I know many of the folk over there prayed for me,—prayed to God that in His mercy He might heal my wounds. God heard and answered those prayers. I

prayed, and still pray every night for His mercy and that He will give me faith and courage and help to fight Satan who, I often think, has such a grip on me that I am hopeless. But I must keep up—I want to get well and walk again and show my appreciation of God's goodness to me. I want to try to please Him in my humble way."

While we try to avoid any discussion which might disturb the peace of those who come to us for mental and physical rest, we endeavour to live the life and speak a word in season to him that is weary. We are "not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation."

C. W. HARRISON, L.R.C.P., Edin.,
Medical Superintendent.

Alone, Without a Shepherd

A Call to Prayer

EN route to the New Hebrides at our first port of call, we were indeed glad to see, standing on the wharf, the good sister whom Pastor G. F. Jones had left to care for the work as best she could which he had begun but had to leave.

Plans were immediately made to conduct a series of meetings while our steamer remained in port. We had three evening studies and full Sabbath services. It was providential that the leading native sister of the little company of Sabbath-keepers in the north of the island, quite an intelligent woman, was visiting at the port at the time of our arrival. Another local native sister and several young people, together with the sister mentioned above, made up our little audience.

Not for years has the writer seen such a desire for Scriptural instruction as this little company evinced. It was indeed a pleasure to go with them over some of the leading features of the message. Had it been possible, they stated, they would have arranged for more of the believers from the north end of the island to be present and enjoy with them the meeting with our workers and the instruction given. It was the same old story, they felt that they belonged to us and we certainly felt that they were one with us. What a wonderful bond of brotherly love there is between believers in the third angel's message, no matter what the colour of the skin or the nationality.

One of the sisters, on behalf of herself and another, gave Pastor A. G. Stewart the sum of £2 16s. for missions.

When the time came to say good-bye, it was hard to leave them alone and without a shepherd. They seemed to cling to us to the very last. Others, like themselves, they told us, were just as eager to know more of present truth. Surely, in some way, they must have it given to them. This message knows no defeat in its onward effort to reach "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." Is not this condition a call to prayer to God that He will, in His own way and time, remove the barriers that at present bar the way of the progress of the message in this island group?

A. H. PIPER.

THE great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving.—O. W. Holmes.