

THE Canadian Union Messenger.

"As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger."

VOLUME 5.

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DECISION.

Lose this day loitering,—'twill be the same story
To-morrow, and the next more dilatory;
The indecision brings its own delays,
And days are lost lamenting over days.
Are you in earnest? Seize this very minute,
What you can do, or dream you can, begin it.
Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.
Only engage, and then the mind grows heated,—
Begin, and then the work will be completed.

—Sel.

THE EVERLASTING COVENANT.

What, then, it may be asked, is meant by calling circumcision the covenant in the scriptures quoted above?— We think that the explanation is found in the eleventh verse of Gen. 17, where circumcision is called "a token of the covenant". The token is put for the covenant itself and called the covenant; and this is a figure very common in language. But this is made plain in another scripture in the New Testament. "For what saith the Scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision or uncircumcision? Not in circumcision but in uncircumcision. And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had being yet uncircumcised." Rom. 4:11.

From this passage it is apparent that circumcision was not the covenant itself, but that it was simply intended as a sign or token of the covenant. No doubt there is much in the subject of circumcision which would be interesting to notice, but it does not lie within the scope of this treatise, and therefore we shall content ourselves with the brief notice of the subject herein made.

God made the promise to Abraham that in his seed all kindreds of the earth should be blessed, but Abraham was ninety-nine years old when this promise was made, and to all human appearances, from the standpoint of nature, it could never be fulfilled. But Abraham believed God, and his belief in an apparent natural impossibility was reckoned unto him for righteousness. Rom. 4:20-22. Practically, his own body, as well as that of Sarah, his wife, was dead; verse 19.

See also Heb. 11:11,12. Therefore his belief in the promise was really a belief in the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead; and that Abraham really believed in the resurrection, is shown in the record of his offering up Isaac. "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac; and that he that had received the promises, offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called; accounting that God was able to raise him up even from the dead." Heb. 11:17-19.

Abraham's belief in the resurrection is also shown in the way that he looked for the fulfillment of the promise. He did not expect it to be fulfilled during his lifetime, but "he sojourned in the land of promise as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God". Heb. 11:8-10.

"These all died in faith not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims in the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly if they had been mindful of that country from which they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly; wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for he hath prepared for them a city." Heb. 11:13-16.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

On the 29th of November, after careful consideration of the situation and needs of the work in Newfoundland, the writer left home for that part of the Canadian Union Conference. Dec. 3, at 4:30 P. M. he arrived at St. John's and was met at the depot by Elder F. A. Tracy, and taken to his hospitable home, where he was entertained during the time of his sojourn in that place, which was extended to the 20th.

Newfoundland is the oldest of the British colonies, and is frequently called the "Norway of the New World" from its striking resemblance to that country which is becoming so favored a resort for tourists from all parts of the world. The numerous fiords which indent its shores guarded by rocky cliffs, to-

gether with its population of fishermen, are some of the features which justify this comparison.

The "present truth" was presented on this island several years ago, first by canvassers, and afterward by ministerial labor and Bible work. A company was raised up and a church organized at St. John's. This we regard as favorable, as St. John's is not only the largest city on the island, but it is also the commercial centre, and the place where most of the supplies necessary for the inhabitants are procured. The population of the island is nearly 200,000, and a large proportion of the inhabitants depend on fishing, including whale and seal fisheries, for a livelihood. Large numbers of the people of the island live in "out-ports", and being engaged in the fishing industry, find a market for their "catch" in St. John's and make semi-annual visits to the metropolis, spending from one to three weeks in the city, disposing of the result of their summer's work, and laying in a supply of provisions and needful articles.

These visits to the city afford an excellent means for them to become acquainted with the truth held by Seventh-day Adventists, if those in charge of the work there make the most of the opportunity by distributing literature, and in making an effort to get the visitors to attend meetings. This seems to be a very favorable way, and those in charge of the work at the present time are laboring to that end. The church at St. John's has recently been furnished with new pews, a furnace has been installed at very moderate price, and the place has been made attractive. An effort has been made to interest not only the citizens of the city, but the people from the out-ports in attending a course of lectures on the prophecies. The results are good, large numbers attending each service.

Another spring especial efforts should be made to extend the work, and the church at St. John's should be a training school where the members should become qualified to go out to the out-ports, and follow up, through the winter, interest created in the city at the time of the visits of the fishermen and their families. This can only be done in the winter while the whole out-port is locked in by the frost and snow. More anon. S. D. HARTWELL.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK.

We now have in the Union Conference three Young People's Societies,—at St. John's, Nfd.; Halifax, N. S.; and South Stukely, Que.

If there are any others, I should be pleased to hear from them. It would give me pleasure to correspond with any church in the Union, and assist in any way that I can in organizing and carrying on the Young People's Work.

Why not organize now, take up the work systematically, become burden-bearers, and gain an experience in actual service. A direct call has been given to our young people to do a certain work. It is a call to activity, a call to service.

The following is the form of the membership card.

No:..... MEMBERSHIP CARD.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY OF SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTISTS.

Motto.—"For the love of Christ constraineth us."

Aim.—"The Advent Message, to the world
in this generation."

Loving the Lord Jesus, and desiring to be of service in his cause, I associate myself with the Young People's Society, to take an active part in its work, and by the grace of Christ, to do what I can to help others, and to send the gospel of the kingdom to all peoples, at home and abroad.

.....
Name.

Date.....
Address.

Who of our young people would not sign this card and enjoy the privileges and blessings of service?

W. H. THURSTON.

PARRY SOUND, ONT.

Another year has gone with its golden opportunities. No doubt many of us who profess to hold the truth for these times, can look back and say "Oh how many opportunities I have let pass, where I might have made the truth known to some one who is still in ignorance of the fact that there is a special truth for God's people to-day!" No doubt such as have this experience will make determined resolutions this year. I trust those resolutions will not be broken like the ones made a year ago; but all the good resolutions in the world will not carry the message to a single soul unless we step right out in the strength which God has promised to those who go forth to sow the precious seed.

Now, I do not think that God requires us to get so full of enthusiasm that we will tell how much we are going to do for a whole year, but He wants us to go forth in the morning sowing the seed. He says, "In the evening with-hold not thy hand"; and again He says, "Go work to-day in my vineyard." So we see it is a daily task all the year round. Thus we do not need strength to-day for the whole year, for the command is: "Go work to-day"; and as thy day so shall thy strength be.

Personally speaking, many times in the past year in looking forward with human eyes, we have seen what seemed insurmountable difficulties, but, as it

was when the Israelites were crossing the Jordan, as soon as the feet of the priests touched the water it parted, and they all went through dry shod; so we have found many of our difficulties vanish when we came to the place where it seemed we should not be able to pass. The Lord still gives us a place in spreading the message by means of the printed page. In December we delivered 167 books amounting to \$146.80. While this may seem a small amount, we praise the Lord for giving us a humble part in making known the Everlasting Gospel. We hope that many more of our people who are making good resolutions will put on the armor and spend the year 1905, a day at a time, in the canvassing work.

We may go forth in the midst of trials, perhaps with weeping; but, bearing the precious seed, we shall without doubt come again with rejoicing, bringing our sheaves with us.

G. W. and ETTA SOWLER.

A LETTER.

LINDSAY, ONT.

JAN. 9, 1905.

TO THE "MESSENGER",—

We are glad to report a good time during the week of prayer. Our little church has enjoyed the Sabbath-school lessons during the last quarter, and have profited by the lessons learned. The last lesson impresses very vividly upon the mind of every Seventh-day Adventist the importance of paying tithes. Our membership here is fourteen and all are paying tithe. Another sister, who has been keeping the Sabbath for the past five months, said the other day that she was going to pay tithe, because she thought it right to do so. It gives us joy to know that all our brethren and sisters see this lesson so well.

Our treatment rooms will soon be ready for work. Elder Burrill has been with us for a few days helping to get things in order. The doctors seem to encourage our work to the extent that some of them are sending us patients. We have been kept quite busy, and others are waiting for the rooms to become ready so that they can come. A number of patients are rejoicing in finding their health improving, and are telling others about it.

We are of good courage in the Lord, and ask your prayers.

Yours in His service,
SARIE BAKER.

SELTON, ONT.

It was the privilege of this church to have Elder A. O. Burrill with us again, after an absence of nearly seven years.

On Sabbath, Dec. 15, we celebrated the ordinances of the Lord's House.

There were but nine members of the church present, but several others sent letters assuring us of their faith and courage in the Lord.

We thought a few extracts from these letters might be interesting to the readers of the MESSENGER.

A brother and his wife, lately removed to Michigan, write: "We can truly say the Lord is good, and his mercy endureth forever."

A brother actively engaged in rescue work at the Chicago Life Boat Mission, says: "I am thankful that God can use me as a vessel to carry a morsel of the true bread and living water to perishing souls."

We were glad to note this from a young brother who is a student at Battle Creek:—

"I hope and pray that God will keep me true to Him until I am prepared to enter that field, and thus be able to help spread the gospel among my own people."

Another brother, a nurse, writes from Fairbury, Ill.,— "I have had trials and troubles since I made my first stand for the truth; but I believe it was the Lord's doing, to bring me nearer Him, and make me a more faithful worker."

The good spirit of the Lord was present throughout the meeting.

We are glad to have Elder Burrill with us again, and our hearts thrill with joy and praise as we review together the good things first preached to us by himself and Elder P. M. Howe, some ten years ago.

"We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll;
Fastened to the rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love."

Remember us in your prayers.

IDA WATT, Clerk.

The second term of the school year 1904-05, at Lornedale Academy, opened on Wednesday, Jan. 11, with an attendance of eighteen. All the old students returned bringing others with them. From this company of young people we expect a goodly number of workers to go out into the field as soon as the school closes. This is as it should be; for in a few short years at the most, the burden of the Third Angel's Message will rest upon the young people, and they should be preparing for the responsibility.

WANTED.— One or two stoves, medium size, coal or wood, for Lornedale Academy. Who will contribute such? Address A. O. Burrill, Galt, Ont.

The students of the Lornedale Academy will visit the Toronto church on Sabbath, Jan. 21. Elder Burrill and Brother Hartwell will also be present.

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EUGENE LELAND, Editor.

TO OUR READERS:—

When requesting change of address, be sure to give both old and new address.

In case the paper is not received promptly, notify us and another copy will be sent.

Entered as Second-class matter.

GORE BAY, ONT.

Three years ago last July the writer returned to Gore Bay, after having been away more than four years. During that time I accepted present truth. My heart was filled with the love of the Message, and I at once began to tell my old associates of the light which God had shown me; but they said that I had gone crazy studying the Bible, and consequently I was not able to sell many books. So I took the train for Emmanuel Missionary College, feeling that I had made an utter failure.

I was away about two years, but never forgot to pray for the people here, and that God would raise up some one to go and tell them of the Third Angel's Message. The Lord answered my prayers; but, contrary to my plans, he called upon me to go. After a hard struggle, I consented.

On Sept. 4, 1903, I arrived at Gore Bay, and began to scatter the printed page. Since that time the Lord has used me to sell about \$1000 worth of books. I have learned to love the people, and have many friends among them. Last week I sold and took orders for \$57 worth on old territory; and many others promised to take a book later.

I believe that God would have resident canvassers who would come in close touch with the people, and be as lights that are set on a hill. I will relate one instance: I called to see one person who on a previous visit was very bitter. This time I spent an hour and a half with him. We had a glorious time. I sold him a copy of "Christ's Object Lessons". I had tried to sell him one three years before but failed.

Shall we not all help to give this message with a loud cry?

H. D. CARR.

HALIFAX, N. S.

During the week of prayer I visited the churches of Tantallon and Indian Harbor, spending two days in each place; the remainder of the week I was in Halifax. There was manifested in each place a spirit of love and earnestness. The evidence of the hastening of the message to the world was glad news to us. We are encouraged to press forward.

The first Sabbath of the year was a precious season in the Halifax church. Every member, young and old, and some not yet united with us as members, yielded themselves to the Lord. It was a day to be remembered.

A large amount of literature has been sold this winter by the church members.

Our public services are fairly well attended. We have begun a series of health lectures which I hope will be the means of bringing some to a knowledge of the truth.

Pray for us and the work here.

J. GREER HANNA.

TORONTO OFFICE NOTES.

Brother John McEachern, of Manitoulin Island, came down to attend the Academy about the time of the winter vacation, and has been spending the time in canvassing and other labor.

Bro. G. W. Sowler reports good courage in the work at Parry Sound.

Mrs. W. H. Thurston, who with her children has been spending some time visiting relatives in Wisconsin, has returned to Canada, and spent several days in Toronto, at the home of S. D. Hartwell.

Miss Violet Patchett has been visiting friends in the city, returning to her home on the 10th inst.

Elder Wm. Guthrie of the Maritime conference spent a day in Toronto on his return from Iowa and Missouri and made the office a pleasant call.

The sale of books during December was quite good, while canvassers were nearing their holiday deliveries.

Elder Burrill recently spent a few days in Toronto, making his headquarters at the office on Dundas St.

Mrs. J. H. Hammond, treasurer of the South Stukely (Quebec) church, reports an encouraging increase in the amount of annual offering, the past year, and also an increase in tithes.

NOTICE.

Will some one send us a copy of Vol. 4, Number 9, of the MESSENGER for our office file. Address Canadian Publishing Association,

167 Dundas St., Toronto.