

THE Welcome Visitor

"Surely I Come Quickly. Even So, Come, Lord Jesus."

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THE OHIO CONFERENCE.

"The Lord will work in this last work in a manner very much out of the common order of things, and in a way that will be contrary to any human planning. . . . God will use ways and means by which it will be seen that he is taking the reins in his own hands."

Is the time of "this last work," quoted above, here?

Are you prepared to say it is here, and to hold that relation to the work that will aid, not hinder?

Do you realize that one of the most severe sittings ever known among us as a people is now going on, and is increasing in power daily?

WHY does it become necessary for God to work in a manner "very much out of the common order of things," and in a way that will be "contrary to any human planning?"

LISTEN. These words, purposely omitted in the quotation at the head of the column suggest the answer, "There will be those among us who will always want to control the work of God, to dictate even what movements shall be made when the work goes forward under the direction of the angel who joins the third angel in the message to be given to all the world."

IS it not evident, then, that because the worker becomes either self-sufficient or over zealous to carry out his own plans, that the Lord is obliged to use strong and uncommon measures to save his work from delay, and his people from loss? Have we not many illustrations of just this thing recorded in the Word for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world have come?

BUT present evidences are even more convincing than records of the past, and we have but to recount the experiences of a few months in our own work and time to see how God has worked in a manner "very much out of the common order of things." And no less has it been "contrary to any human planning," for even after it had

all taken place, and men had been plainly instructed by the Lord that it was his work and his way, human will has still refused to acknowledge and obey. As a result, confusion is brought upon the people, uncertainty and doubt have taken the rightful place of trust and faith. But such is always the outgrowth of disobedience to God, and the following of human plans instead.

BUT when God works, we may expect righteousness to triumph, and order to come even out of confusion. That the Lord has taken the "reins in his own hands," and has set his hand to finish the work, is evidenced by the laying in ruins of the Sanitarium and Review office in Battle Creek, and the subsequent appointment of Washington, D. C., as the place for re-establishing the publishing work, and headquarters for the denomination. Let there be rejoicing everywhere in our ranks as we see the manifest leadings of Providence, and as we remember that the Message is onward in spite of all the hindrances of the last days. The pillar of cloud is rising, and the trumpet is sounding "Go forward." Let no one linger now. Keep sight of the cloud, and on the side of its light; for he that followeth Jesus shall "not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life."

AGAIN we quote: "The workers will be surprised by the simple means that he will use to bring about and perfect his work of righteousness. Those who are accounted good workers will need to draw nigh to God, they will need the divine touch. They will need to drink more deeply and continuously at the fountain of living water, in order that they may discern God's work at every point." Here the workers are particularly addressed, and the counsel of God is in it. And all his counsels are given in love for the salvation of souls. This one is to save men from trusting in men, and particularly to save "those who are accounted good workers" from trusting in their own good works, or in their own shrewd plans. Just now, when God is taking the work in his own hands, the best men may expect surprises.

And not only may they expect surprises, but in order to save their own souls in such surprises, there must be a constant drawing nigh to God, and in humility of soul, a continual drinking at the fountain of life. It is now very essential that we be able to "discern God's work at every point," for we are living in the time that the devil, if possible, will deceive the very elect. We need to study every movement in our work, discerning the spirit behind it, in it, and going before it, and follow faithfully only that that is manifestly of God and in accord with his Spirit. And let no man, however high he may stand in the eyes of the people, feel secure only in submission to God's will at all times. There must be a personal laying hold of God by this people lest many become sifted out. "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." But "draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."

MOUNT VERNON ACADEMY.

IT was in the spring of the year 1893 that the General Conference recommended the opening of a school at Mount Vernon, O., and steps were taken to secure the buildings then used as a sanitarium. The intent was to place the new institution under the direction of the General Conference, much as the colleges at Lincoln, Neb., and Walla Walla, Wash., were held. But circumstances arose in such a form as to seem to justify a change from the original plan of making it a General Conference school, and then the enterprise was turned over to the Ohio Conference to be conducted according to the laws of this State.

Thus the movement was begun under circumstances which favored the freest inquiry and most complete understanding on the part of the representative men of the denomination. And not only did they favor the move, but the entire project was undertaken through the direct counsel of the servant of God, for Sister White had sent a message respecting this very thing, and in this communication she made use of the following language: "In regard to the Mount Vernon institution, I would say, let the build-

ings be converted into a seminary to educate our youth;" and "I have been shown that there should be located school buildings in Ohio, which would give character to the work."

The Work Begun.

On this foundation and under this warrant the work of preparation was begun, with the result that actual school work was commenced in the fall of 1893. The Academy had to open in a very quiet and humble manner, and, like all new enterprises, it met with many and perplexing questions, not the least of which was the finances, as it had been necessary to incur a debt of \$15,000 in purchasing and equipping the plant. Moreover the expense of conducting the school was far in excess of the income from tuition and board, thus incurring a loss of from one to two thousand dollars per year for the first several years. The outlook was discouraging in the extreme and from the human standpoint it seemed that the task was impossible of accomplishment; but the Lord had spoken good of the school, and believing this word, the work was carried steadily forward until now we can begin to see some of the reasons for the counsel given by the Spirit of Prophecy, and can appreciate the loyalty and faithfulness of the brethren in complying with this instruction.

The Academy has not been advertised as some schools have been and yet it has become known from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Lakes to the Gulf, and our people are looking to this school and are planning to send their youth here, as scores of letters testify. Nor is the knowledge of the school confined to the home field, but our brethren in foreign lands are also looking upon the work here with much favor. In fact there are four now here from far away South Africa, they having been advised by the brethren there and also in Europe that this is the best American school of our denomination.

The attendance has slowly but steadily increased until our utmost limit was reached last year, when it became necessary to advertise that we could receive no more students, and by correspondence advise inquiring ones that they would have to defer coming till a later time. This influx of students has solved the problem of how to meet current expenses, as the income from board and tuition for the last two years has fully met all expenses, including interest, which has amounted to more than \$1,500 during this time.

Results.

An examination of the record shows that more than one hundred and fifty of the students have entered the work

of the Lord, some as ministers, others as Bible workers, canvassers, nurses, physicians, teachers, conference officers, and clerks and stenographers in the various business offices of the denomination. They are found in the local home conferences, in the General Conference, in foreign conferences, and in the mission fields, some having gone to Europe, to Asia, and to Africa, while others are under appointment to go to darkest Africa and heathen China. It would be interesting to know just how many have been converted, baptized and consecrated to God, but these are points on which the records cannot give a complete understanding, although enough has been presented to reveal something of the mighty power for good the Lord has been pleased to make of the school. And in these days when men's hearts are failing them for fear and when doubt and perplexity are seen in the denomination, it is doubly pleasing to receive the ringing testimony from our denominational leaders to the effect that our students have two marked characteristics, namely, a love and zeal for the truth of this Message, and an abiding confidence in and loyalty to the Spirit of Prophecy.

Present Situation.

The knowledge of these facts ought to inspire the heart of every true believer with faith and courage, for the Lord means to save our children and to make them men and women after his own heart, whom he can use as workers together with him in the great work for these days; and who will dare to attempt to measure the good already done through this instrumentality? But while much has been done, much more remains to be done and we should all bend every energy of our being to its accomplishment. We stand face to face with the solemn and inspiring fact that this is a place where the Spirit of God abides; and because of this sacred Presence, influences are here brought into the lives of our youth which if followed will bring them into perfect harmony with God, and will lead them forward into the kingdom of heaven.

Perhaps enough has been said to show why the Academy was established and to outline its subsequent growth and development, together with the possibilities now before it. We believe the Lord called it into being and rejoice that our brethren at that time moved out through faith in the special message from the Lord's servant, as otherwise the splendid results already seen would not have been accomplished. But while we rejoice in what the Lord has been pleased to do for his people, we should not lose sight of the fact that a message is now

sounding which calls for faith and action from us. The Lord has told us that he would be pleased to have all his institutions free from debt; and strenuous effort has already been put forth for the accomplishment of this end. On the first of July of the present year, the debt still resting on the Academy amounted to \$11,994.39. At the recent camp-meeting a little more than \$5,000 was given in cash and pledges, leaving nearly \$7,000 still unprovided for; and to meet this the members of the Board and the Conference Committee have devised a plan so broad that every man, woman and child can have a part in this blessed work if they so desire.

This debt, the origin of which has been briefly stated, has been a great hindrance to the work, as money which should have been used for the complete equipment of the school has been used in paying interest. This has placed the teachers at a great disadvantage and has made it impossible in some respects to do what a school of this grade should do for its students, yet the condition has been borne patiently and uncomplainingly in the hope that sometime a change for the better would be possible. Another consideration which is worthy of most careful thought is the fact that it sometimes happens that most worthy young men and women find themselves so situated as to need a small loan for a short time; and were the school free from debt, it would be possible for the Trustees to set apart a small sum from time to time to be used for this purpose, thus enabling young people of good promise to gain a better preparation for the Lord's work.

There is more, much more, that might be said on any one of these points, but time and space both forbid a lengthy discussion of this subject, our object being simply to present a brief outline of facts and conditions as they actually exist, so that any who are unacquainted with the school may better understand the situation.

In Conclusion.

To the mind of the writer there are three special reasons why the debt should be lifted; and while either one taken alone and separately is amply sufficient for undertaking the work, yet the three taken together form a trinity whose force is irresistible. The first of these is the statement that a school should be established in Ohio to give character to the work. To give the right character to the work means to place therein young men and women of consecration who have had the very best kind of intellectual training possible to be given, but this cannot be done in a poorly equipped

school. Therefore equip the Academy properly that it may fulfil its high and holy mission. The second reason is the fact that outstanding notes of ten or twelve thousand dollars, almost all of which is past due, create a condition which might be used by evil disposed persons to seriously embarrass or even close the school. But the chief of all reasons lies in the fact that the counsel of the Holy Spirit is to now free from debt *all* the institutions of the Lord's planting. It therefore becomes to us each simply a test of our faith in the guidance of God and of our willingness to be guided when such guidance costs a sacrifice.

This, in brief, is the situation, these are the facts, and now, dear brethren and sisters, we leave the question with you, praying that God may touch each heart and make us all faithful and obedient in following his guidance in this and all other questions, that we may be able to fully meet his will here and be united with him in the hereafter.

J. W. LOUGHHEAD.

Sept. 3, 1903.

THE OUTLOOK IN CHINA.

BROTHER ERICH PILQUIST entered China in January, 1891, as a representative of the Swedish Alliance, in company with thirty-four other missionaries sent out by the same organization in response to J. Hudson Taylor's call for one thousand workers for that land. After several years of labor for that body, he connected with the British and Foreign Bible Society (Swedish), under whose auspices he acted as a colporter until Dec. 31, 1903, when he resigned to connect with our work. During these twelve years he has labored in no less than the six provinces — Kansu, Shansi, Shensi, Chili, Honan, and Shantung — and in his travels has passed through several others. His knowledge of China is both varied and extensive.

Sister Pilquist, his wife, who went to China as a missionary of the Christian Alliance, has a good knowledge of the Mandaren language, and with her ten years experience, is both able and glad to second her husband's effort to give the Message to this people.

Since last June they have been located in the province of Honan, at Sin Iang Cheo. Their work until the beginning of the new year was to sell Bibles, Testaments, gospels, and portions of the word of God; yet along with this work they have been able to sow much seed by teaching and preaching, so that in February there were six believers to whom Brother Anderson administered the ordinance of

baptism. These together with Brother and Sister Pilquist constituted the first Seventh-day Adventist church in China, the first fruits of a large spiritual harvest in the land of Sinim.

The following letter, addressed to Dr. Selmon, one of our company, has just come: —

SIN IANG CHEO, HONAN, CHINA,
July 26, 1903.

DR. A. C. SELMON,

DEAR BROTHER: Your kind letter of June 15 is at hand. I was made glad to hear the good tidings of more missionaries coming out to China. When I read your letter, I said it was too good to be true. Are you really coming out so soon? But not too soon. I wish that I could in my letter show you some of what God is doing for us here in the heart of heathen China. I have been in China over twelve years, but I never saw the work of God so manifest before as I do now.

We have now four stations where missionary work is going on quite well, and we have urgent calls from four or five other places to come and teach about the second coming of our Redeemer. We were invited to a city called Sin-tsai where we had meetings for more than a week. A good interest was created, and a good number of noble friends took a stand for the truth. After a few days stay in Sin-tsai the friends said: "You must not go from here but stay with us and teach us the whole truth." "Yes," I said, "If God wants me to stay, I will be here as your teacher." All the friends exclaimed: "Surely, God wishes you to stay here." I asked them for proof that God wished me to stay, and they all said: "We are the proof that we want the truth, and you must give it to us." "Well," I said, "But I have no house." Then two of the leading brethren said: "You want a house, and you shall have a house before the sun goes too far west." My two friends went out like quick, active Americans. They met a son of a military officer, one of our best friends while we were up in the northwest of China, in the city of Ninghsiafu, Kansu. The son of the officer said: "You may have my house in the city Sin-tsai, I will tell those who stay in the house to clear off the first of August." My friends asked the rent to be paid, the owner of the house said 65,000 cash, or \$34, per year. "But," he said, "my father knew Pastor Pilquist in Ninghsiafu and then we all want to hear of Jesus, so for his sake you may have the house for 55,000 cash or \$28.19 for one year." Here you see the hand of God.

Around the city within the distance of a few miles, there are a great number of villages and other cities. The harvest is ripe, and the reapers, together with the needed machinery, will soon come. My house will be your house. Near the street we have a big preaching chapel inside a courtyard for the Chinese. In the second or middle courtyard are good rooms for Dr. Miller and wife; farther in, we have our own humble cottage; and in the third, or inner courtyard, are rooms for Dr. Selmon and wife. In this we see the hand of God.

Two ladies are coming with you, where shall we find quarters for them? Again I must tell you the work of our Almighty God. Three days before I got your letter, some friends came from Sin-tsai to spend the Sabbath with us. One who is well to do said to me, "I will let you have one of my courtyards free of charge. There your wife can have girl's school and meeting for women." I accepted the offer as a gift from heaven. In that courtyard we have splendid rooms for the two nurses who are coming with you. In this you surely see the hand of God. Take the two sisters with you, do not leave them behind. We know the devil's work in these last days. He has hindered us long enough, now we will blow the trumpet right in his face and proclaim the name of the Lord, our King, as Victor.

A few years ago a promising young man was called of God to go to China as a missionary, but it was thought best for him to stay at home for one year more; so he did. While at home disobeying God, the devil was active hunting up a wife for him; and a wife he got, fair as a morning glory, and as dead as a toothpick. The second call came to him to go to China. The answer came, "I have taken a wife and I can not come." To-day he is at home in his native country, an infidel.

You ask me if the houses are fit for Americans to dwell in? This I have done and will do — I have bought lumber and engaged carpenters to make American windows and doors, put in board flooring, plaster and whitewash walls. This is what I will do for you and for those with you. I take it for granted that you are coming this fall, and you may take it for granted that I am going to make ready for you a home.

I must relate this much more about God's work in Honan. We have a fine company of native workers here ready to assist newcomers. We have three good evangelists, two Mandarin teachers, and a native doctor who knows about anything outside of common sense. He knows that when

a donkey gets a sore back, the best remedy is to tie an old shoe to the donkey's tail. Still he is a good man and will be a great help to you in learning the names of diseases in Chinese. Besides, my wife and myself are more than willing to help you with the language, and in anything else. The first year while studying the language you should not be alone. I have been working with the China Inland Mission eight years, and they have it so arranged that new-coming missionaries always stay in the training school or with an older missionary for study of the language. After a few months study we can go out together to see the field and select a place, if we think it is best to move on, but never be alone the first year or until you get the language.

Kindly let the other friends who are coming out with you read the letter that they may be encouraged and strengthened in their work of preparing to come to China. I should be glad if the leading brethren of the Mission Board had the opportunity to know what God hath done for us here in China. Kindly remember us to all friends who love the soon coming King. Sincerely yours,

E. PILQUIST.

God is certainly opening the way for us in heathen China. This country is ripe for the harvest, and as God is going to finish his work in a short time, it is high time that every man, woman, and child that believes this truth should lay themselves and all they have upon the altar. This is but one instance of what God is doing in many places; and may the day soon come when we may have many of our consecrated young men and women in these dark heathen lands.

HARRY W. MILLER, M. D.

FINDLAY.

I LEFT home August 21 for my field of labor in Wood County, Findlay being near my destination, I spent three days with the brethren there. I found some sick and others away. They had a real live Sabbath-school, after which I spoke some thirty minutes. Then we had a good social meeting, in which nearly all took part by giving, in appropriate words, a brief account of their spiritual condition, and trust in God.

We had the privilege of visiting nearly every one in their homes, and while there sold books to the amount of \$1.56, and orders for one each of the *Review* and *VISITOR*.

W. E. BIDWELL.

The Welcome Visitor

ISSUED WEEKLY BY THE

Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Price, 25 Cents a Year in Advance.

N. W. LAWRENCE - Editor.

Sabbath begins Sept. 11 at 6:16 P. M.

THE blue pencil mark here means your subscription has expired. Renew at once.

THE paper is necessarily late this week on account of the opening of school at the Academy.

SCHOOL opened at the Academy this week with an attendance of about a hundred, and more coming on almost every train. As we go to press (Thursday) the work of classification is about completed, and the regular routine of school work will resume to-morrow.

A TELEPHONE now connects the residence of Elder E. J. Van Horn with the village of Lake View. Brother Van Horn desires the friends and workers of the State to know that he can be reached without delay either by telegraph or telephone, and that, too, without additional expense for delivery. He also reports good health, and good cheer in the Lord.

THE matter in this week's issue is of special importance, and we bespeak for it a careful reading. The article, "Mount Vernon Academy," was prepared to be read in the churches, Sabbath, September 12, and has been circulated for that purpose, accompanied by proper Pledge Blanks that all may share in the work so well begun at camp-meeting. Dr. H. W. Miller, who furnished the matter for "The Outlook in China," with his wife is now enroute for that field.

CREDENTIALS AND LICENCES.

AT the late Conference held at Academia, O., August 6-17, the following named persons were granted Ministerial Credentials: Elders H. H. Burkholder, D. E. Lindsey, E. J. Van Horn, R. R. Kennedy, J. G. Wood, M. C. Kirkendall, J. O. Miller, C. A. Watkins (to labor in Louisiana), C. C. Webster, Francis M. Fairchild, W. H. Granger, M. S. Babcock (to labor in Virginia), W. W. Miller, Dr. H. W. Miller (to labor in China), A. C. Shannon, N. W. Lawrence, C. A. Smith.

Missionary License was granted

N. S. Miller, W. E. Bidwell, James H. Smith, J. B. Ferciot, Fred M. Fairchild, K. R. Haughey, G. P. Gaede, J. P. Gaede, B. L. House, C. T. Redfield, R. B. Thurber, F. H. Henderson, W. S. Huffaker, Bessie Russell, Ella M. Talmage, Ida M. Walters, Mrs. W. S. Huffaker, Almeda Haughey, Cora Petithory, Mrs. Flora Clymer, Anna Smith, Hortense Howell, Cora Gibson, Ella McIntyre, Mrs. W. W. Miller, Mamie House, Chas. E. Welch, Heber Votaw, Anna Rice. D. E. LINDSEY, Sec.

TITHE RECEIPTS.

AUGUST, 1903.

Akron.....	\$ 3.50
Ashland.....	125.00
Beaver.....	14.84
Bellville.....	2.00
Bowling Green.....	47.00
Brokaw.....	3.70
Camden.....	38.68
Canton.....	10.80
Chagrin Falls.....	13.42
Cincinnati.....	62.69
Cleveland.....	197.89
Columbus.....	86.88
Coshocton.....	37.44
Dayton.....	48.49
Delaware.....	34.25
East Liverpool.....	6.68
Elgin.....	80.59
Green Spring.....	3.16
Grand River.....	2.70
Grape Grove.....	18.25
Killbuck.....	9.15
Lagrange.....	4.42
Laura.....	18.71
Liberty Center.....	12.40
Marion.....	5.60
Marshfield.....	14.10
Meigs.....	8.00
Middlefield.....	4.00
Mount Vernon.....	200.56
Newark.....	45.20
Sherwood.....	9.50
Spencer.....	4.00
Springfield.....	20.85
St. Clairsville.....	6.50
Toledo.....	44.48
Wadsworth.....	6.00
Walnut Grove.....	6.45
Washington C. H.....	127.46
West Mansfield.....	11.10
Wheelersburg.....	32.05
Wilmington.....	17.85
Youngstown.....	4.85
Isolated Sabbath Keepers.....	72.60

Total \$1,522.79

C. V. HAMER, Treas.

TOTAL RECEIPTS, ALL SOURCES,

AUGUST, 1903.

Ohio Tract Society.....	\$ 959.58
Tithe.....	1,522.79
First Day Offering.....	111.11
Sabbath-school Donations.....	88.75
China.....	13.58
Australia.....	9.00
Tent Fund, Egypt.....	10.00
McIntyre Transportation Fund.....	14.00
India.....	5.00
Washington, D. C., church.....	1.00
Review & Herald Removal Fund.....	57.76

Total \$2,792.57

C. V. HAMER, Treas.