

THE Welcome Visitor

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

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ACADEMIA, OHIO, FEBRUARY 17, 1904.

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THE OHIO CONFERENCE.

AN URGENT AND EARNEST APPEAL.

To all Members of the Ohio Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, at Home and Scattered Abroad.

THE dear brethren of Cleveland, Ohio, inspired by the great need of the people in that great and wicked city, and by the special testimonies contained in the following historical sketch of the rise and progress of the work in Cleveland, have, at great sacrifice on their part, set to work to build a house of worship, which is now completed. We have had a formal opening of the house and are now holding a series of meetings for the people of the city.

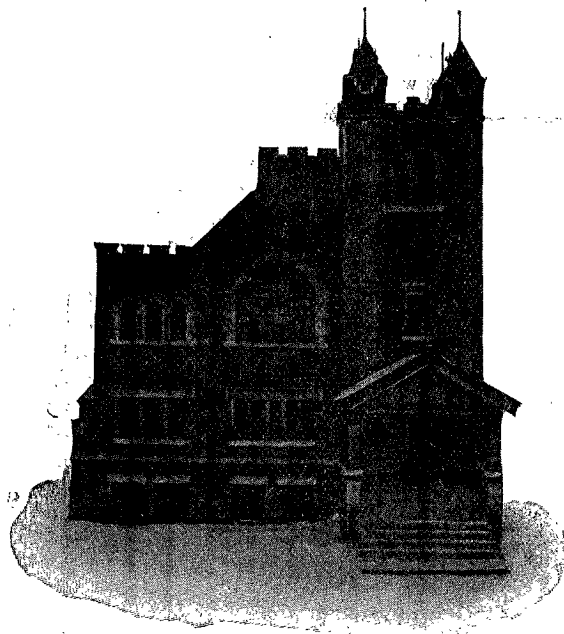
On account of unavoidable delays, advance in prices of labor and material, we find ourselves indebted some \$4,000. As you may see by the accompanying cut of the house, the brethren have builded well and the property is worth about \$15,000. The Conference Committee assembled, passed a resolution to interest you, our dear co-workers, in the matter, and ask for immediate help. Your corresponding secretary was authorized to make the appeal through the WELCOME VISITOR.

We therefore urge upon the attention of every Conference worker, and all elders of churches, to give this appeal their most earnest attention. Please take cash donations, or subscriptions, on the Sabbath, February 27. Send all money and subscriptions to C. V. Hamer, Academia, Ohio, Knox Co. Brother Hamer will forward to the treasurer of the Cleveland Church.

We are in immediate need, and trust the dear Lord will give us all largeness of heart in this enterprise.

Historical Sketch.*

As we rejoice in what the Lord has enabled his people to accomplish, and look forward with eagerness to the work yet to be done, thus on to the final home gathering, a glance back to the beginning of the work in this city may be taken with profit, if it serves to encourage for future effort. As we think of those early days when life was more simple, personal wants fewer, and faith perhaps stronger, with a truer devotion, a work, with whose history the names of William Miller, Charles Fitch, Joseph Litch, Joseph V. Himes, and others have been written, presses into and fills the mind.



THE CLEVELAND CHURCH.

In a Presbyterian church near where the court house now stands, William Miller and his associates with the eloquence of strong conviction proclaimed "the hour of his judgment is come," and gave the soul stirring invitation, "Fear God and give glory to him." This building was removed to Erie Street where a few years ago it was pointed out to me. Later, those that esteemed it a privilege to "worship him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters,"

*Read by Elder A. C. Shannon at the District Meeting at Cleveland.

had the pleasure of erecting for themselves a church in the form of an octagon, on Wood Street near Superior.

A paper called *The Second Advent of Christ*, edited by Elder Charles Fitch, was published here from the fall of 1840 to 1844. That heaven approved of, and smiled upon this work, we have every reason to believe, not only from the history of those times, but from the following words from an author familiar to us all: "There was wonderful interest there in 1843-1844. Those who accepted the testing truths brought to them were happy in the faith. As they assembled to bear testimony to the truth, many were

made to feel, 'Surely the Lord is in this place, . . . this is none other than the house of God, this is the gate of heaven.' The great disappointment of 1844 was a trying ordeal. They had not the light that would have enabled them to discern the reason of their disappointment. Some gave up the faith, others adhered to their past experiences, but became bewildered in regard to their position after 1844. They were exposed to temptation, and received various errors as Bible truth. But I was shown that the Lord would in his providence, clear away the rubbish of error and reveal to them gems of truth. These would be received gladly by many, and the harps that had been left tuneless

would be taken from the willows, and again give forth sweet music. Many will discover the lost links in the chain of truth, and they will see a beautiful harmony in the whole. They will have a fresh experience, being assured that he whom they trusted has not forsaken them and left them in darkness. 'The Lord will command his lovingkindness in the day time, and in the night his song shall be with me.'"

The years that have come and gone have brought many changes, for in them has been the fulfillment of the promise that "knowledge shall be

increased." The disappointment of those early days led to a further study of the Word, and the light of the sanctuary question was given, followed by the truth that the seventh day of the week is the Sabbath and not the first day. A study of the thirteenth of Revelation brought out the important information that not only have the nations of the past been mentioned, but that the United States *there* has her history traced, describing her rise, showing her principles, and exposing the plot to subvert the government from the foundation principles of civil and religious liberty, to a union of church and state.

The inspired penman traces the carrying out of this plot in spite of warning and opposition, to apparent success, with a view of the persecution that must result; then reveals the final triumph of truth over error, by giving a glimpse of the redeemed, "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God."

Home Efforts.

For several years the Seventh-day Adventist church organized and established here to hold forth this truth, has labored to accomplish the purpose of its existence. It lies not within our power to review her efforts, successes, failures, blessings, disappointments, circumstances favorable and unfavorable, with the idea of determining the extent of her work; for that is still in progress. Her work can only be determined in that great day, when the final victory is won, and by him who weighs the motive as well as the service.

Among the places of worship that have been established may be mentioned the mission on Case Avenue, corner of Scoville; and the mission at 74 Kinsman St. A little later the property at 249 Cedar Avenue was purchased, and fitted up for a place of worship. Soon after, a mission building was erected in the rear of the church. As the years passed by, it became evident that this was not a desirable location, neither was the building suitable. The impression made by the following testimony continued to grow: "The Lord has shown me that if the brethren of the Ohio Conference were consecrated to him, they would put forth earnest efforts to establish a mission in the city of Cleveland. If they would preserve humility and personal piety, a spirit of self denial, and consecration

to God, the Lord would give them wisdom; he would be their counsel, and a house of worship would be erected in that city."

Had the energies been directed to the building of a church in Cleveland and the establishing of a mission properly managed and planned, the movement would have been pleasing to God; it would have given character to the cause of present truth in that city, and very many souls would have been added to the church, of such as should be saved. Satan says, "I will defeat that: there shall be no triumph for the truth in that city."

After several years, through the advice of the Conference officers, the trustees offered the property for sale. In the fall of 1901 the sale was made to the Friends, but the terms of the sale and the delay in payment were such that there was not enough money received to safely begin again to build until late in the fall of 1902. After careful search, advertizing, and considering the different locations, this lot was purchased, and at last the work of building was commenced. But as this was at the beginning of winter, progress was slow; and when the sun in the spring of 1903 smiled on the work of men, and we hoped to speed the work, we found the freezing of nature followed by the freezing of labor difficulties, (strikes, delays for material, and delays by one contractor waiting for another) and the work as a result still moved slowly.

At last in the fall of 1903 the welcome announcement was made that the building could be occupied: and during the week that followed, the finishing touches were made and the building grew more homelike. And now the church rejoices in the privilege of carrying on her work with the advantage of a comfortable house of worship. With a vivid realization of the importance and magnitude of the work yet to do, her prayer is for grace, wisdom, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, that the trumpet may give the certain sound, and that at last she may hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant;" "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Signed,—H. H. BURKHOLDER, *Pres.*

R. R. KENNEDY.

M. C. KIRKENDALL.

R. W. WALTERS.

G. C. QUILLIN.

THOMAS THORNTON.

D. E. LINDSEY, *Con. Sec.*

FROM THE WORKERS.

Elgin.

IN following the instructions of our Conference president I was privileged to spend the week of prayer with the church in this place. My being sent here afforded me an extra amount of pleasure, as this is my home church and the place where I first worshipped after renouncing the world.

There was a freedom manifested and an interest expressed which is not always seen on such occasions, doubtless due to the mutual acquaintance and friendship between this church body and the writer. Many expressed the sentiment that this was the best prayer season they had enjoyed for many years. Personally I was much strengthened by the association with those who have been as fathers and mothers to me.

Two services were held daily, one in the afternoon, the other in the evening. As the week advanced, the impression that the meeting should be continued strengthened, and a heavy burden for souls was felt by all.

In harmony with this impression the work was carried forward and an appeal for help was made. Elder W. W. Miller and wife came and carried the main burden of the work until compelled to leave to fill appointments at our late meeting in Cleveland. Previous to their departure, Mrs. Votaw joined me and has been rendering valuable assistance in visiting and holding Bible readings.

During the latter part of our services, the Methodist church has been engaged in a protracted effort. This has diverted the merely curious, but God has blessed us with the attendance of the earnest seekers for truth. Notwithstanding the inclement weather of part of the month of January, our numbers, like the widow's oil, did not fail. As a result of the work done, five adults, heads of families, are observing the Sabbath.

At our closing service held last night, the covenant was presented. Many, who have been keeping the Sabbath previous to this time, and those just beginning, desired that they might covenant together before God, to keep all the commandments, and to walk in all the revealed light.

Several souls are in the valley of decision. Men who have never been constrained to worship God have heard his call and are wrestling. Hearts have been melted and souls touched by the Spirit of God, as the standard of truth has been upheld.

H. H. VOTAW.

REMEMBER, brethren, that in this age the Lord expects every one of his followers to fulfil his appointed duty.

Waterford.

WELCOME VISITOR. Since my last report I have enjoyed many rich blessings from the Lord. I might relate a few things that some may be interested in. In a certain place in this neighborhood I conduct a Bible reading once every week. During the week prayers are being sent up to God for the salvation of souls and for God's work to go forward. At our last meeting, we enjoyed many rich things from the Lord. It did my heart good to see every one in the house take part in the social and prayer meeting which we had after the Bible reading. One brother said that he was thankful for the many new thoughts which he had received during the reading. He said that the Bible was a book that had many things in it that he did not know before. He also spoke of the Lord's power to change the heart of stone into a heart of flesh—a heart that could praise God. "Twenty-two years ago the Lord raised me up out of whiskey and out of the sin that is in this world into the marvelous light of his word. Since then I have been trying by the help of God to live a life that I need not be ashamed of in the judgment." He also said that the Lord had taken that fighting spirit that he had against other denominations out of him, and now he is willing to believe the word of God and live up to it.

Others stated their desire to do what God would have them do and accept his word. One lady said that she was determined to press on until she had gained the victory over Satan, and was going to meet Jesus Christ at his second coming, which is soon to take place. Another young lady said that she had not yet served the Lord, and also said that she did not belong to any church; but by his help was going to live a Christian life.

The Lord came very near, and we all enjoyed many good things from his hand. There were about twenty people present in all at the reading, and all determined to serve the Lord.

Brethren and sisters, pray for the Lord's work. We may enjoy the latter rain that God has promised to give us now, if we accept it. We must put on the whole armor, not part of it, and fight as brave soldiers for the word, and for eternal salvation. May God help us all to arise and shine, and to come up on higher ground with him so he can use us in his work, is my prayer.

I am determined to gain a home with God's people, which will be redeemed from this earth without sin unto salvation. Yours in the Lord's work,
F. E. GIBSON.

OHIO TRACT SOCIETY.

21500 S. E. 1011 007

CANVASSERS' REPORTS.

(For week ending Feb. 5, 1904.)

F. E. Wagner, Akron.—Miscellaneous: value of deliveries, \$11.75.

J. O. Young, Cygnet.—Miscellaneous: value of orders, \$21.55; value of deliveries, \$15.45.

THE CANVASSING WORK.

Its Importance.

MANY in the past have felt that the canvassing work was not as important as other branches of the Lord's work, therefore they would rather enter some other branch, as the ministry, Bible work, or medical missionary work. I am pleased to be able to give some testimonies from God's servant on the importance of the canvassing work, which, if believed by the reader, will forever establish the fact in his mind that the canvassing work is as important as any other and is worthy of our best service. From a recent testimony I quote the following:—

"The importance of the canvassing work is kept ever before me. This work has not of late had the life infused into it which was once given by the agents who made it their specialty. Canvassers have been called from their evangelistic work to engage in other labor. This is not as it should be. Many of our canvassers, if truly converted and consecrated, can accomplish more in this line than in any other in bringing the truth for this time before the people."

"There is no higher work than evangelistic canvassing; for it involves the performance of the highest moral duties."

"The canvassing work is more important than many regarded it. If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the people, thus leading them to search the Scriptures."

To show that God looks upon the canvassing work as being as honorable a work as the ministry, let us consider the following quotation:—

"Let none think that it belittles a minister of the gospel to engage in canvassing as a means of carrying truth to the people. In doing this work he is laboring in the same manner as did the apostle Paul. . . . The eloquent Paul, to whom God manifested himself in a wonderful manner, went from house to house in all humility of mind, and with many tears and temptations."

We see by the above quotation that Paul recognized any kind of missionary work that would gain a soul from Satan's grasp, and set it right with God.

Our blessed Saviour went about doing good, utilizing every honorable means in saving souls from ruin; and at this late hour gives us the following for our careful consideration:—

"We are in the shaking time, the time when everything that can be shaken will be shaken. The Lord will not excuse those who know the truth if they do not in word and deed obey his commands. If we make no effort to win souls to Christ, we shall be held responsible for the work we might have done but did not do because of our spiritual indolence. Those who belong to the Lord's kingdom must work earnestly for the saving of souls."

It is my earnest prayer that all who read the above quotations will more carefully consider the canvassing work, and pray earnestly to God to show them what their relation to it should be. It is certainly very important that every one should have a part in God's great work somewhere, and we know there are many in Ohio, who have ability in this line, and whom God would have engage in the work this spring. Pray earnestly, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

You may ask, "How am I to know that I will succeed if I go into the canvassing work?" If you council with God and he directs you to the canvassing work, then you may be encouraged by the following words which I quote from another testimony:—

"Every canvasser has positive and constant need of angelic ministrations; for he has an important work to do, a work that he cannot do in his own strength. Those who are born again, who are willing to be guided by the Holy Spirit, doing in Christ's way that which they can do, those who will work as if they could see the heavenly universe watching them, will be accompanied and instructed by holy angels, who will go before them to the dwellings of the people, preparing the way for them."

I am glad to say that some of the old canvassers are coming back to their work and others are writing us desiring to go into the work. I desire to hear from everyone at an early date, who wishes to have a part in spreading the printed page. Don't delay writing, for we want to start out early in the spring with a good force of workers. Address Academia, Ohio, Box 33.

I. D. RICHARDSON, Field Sec.

The
Welcome Visitor

ISSUED WEEKLY BY THE

Ohio Conference of Seventh-day
Adventists

Price, 25 Cents a Year in Advance.

N. W. LAWRENCE - Editor.

Academia, Ohio. - February 17, 1904.

Sabbath begins Feb. 19 at 5:30 P. M.

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

PROF. C. E. WELCH has been at home a few days. He reports progress in the educational work of the State.

SISTER ALMEDA HAUGHEY returned to Cleveland Monday, having spent a few days with her invalid mother, and family at Academia.

SENATOR MARK HANNA, of this State, died of typhoid fever Monday forenoon at about eleven o'clock. Death is no respecter of persons.

A CARD just received from Elder W. H. Wakeham says, "We are all well as usual, and of good cheer. Please mention in the WELCOME VISITOR that my address till further notice is No. 35, Sharia Dawaween, Cairo, Egypt. This is also the address of the Egyptian Mission of Seventh-day Adventists."

IN a note from Elder Lindsey, our attention is called to an error in the description of the Cleveland church as given last week. Under the sub-heading "The Building," in second paragraph the statement, "The aisles, rostrum, and study room *are nearly completed.*" should have been, "*are nearly carpeted,*" instead.

ELDER LINDSEY reports the series of meetings now being held in the new church at Cleveland to be well attended, and an excellent interest manifested. Of himself he says, "I am laboring under the difficulty of being on the verge of sickness all the time, having to sit in my chair several nights while speaking." Of course the enemy would if possible hinder the advancement of the work in Cleveland: but, brethren, remember Brother Lindsey in prayer, and plan for a good strong offering to the Cleveland Church on February 28.

Feb. 28 for the Cleveland Church.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS.

Toledo.

THE Toledo church met as usual on Sabbath, February 13, when they gladly welcomed their new Pastor, Brother W. H. Granger, who, with Sister Granger, was able to be with us for the first time.

Brother Granger reviewed the Sabbath-school lesson, making the subject of the Heavenly Sanctuary very clear to the school. For the service hour, he read from 2 Cor. 10, and spoke with much power upon the question of personal preparation, for the vast work that is now ours to do, and that quickly. The thunders of the great "World War" are already heard, while disasters and calamities of national importance follow each other with increasing rapidity, while a world, dead in trespasses and sins, goes on in its indifference in fulfillment of the prophetic word.

ANNA M. NICHOLAS, *Clerk.*

Columbus.

DEAR WELCOME VISITOR: As we have enjoyed reading the good reports of our fellow-laborers, we felt impressed to report how the Lord is blessing the work at Columbus.

We are both busily engaged in house to house Bible work. I usually canvass during the day and hold readings in the evening. We have now more calls for readings than we can fill. One family has recently accepted this blessed truth and is keeping the Sabbath, others are in the valley of decision.

It is certainly encouraging to see how the people are hungering for a knowledge of the truth. Some tell us that they gladly look forward for the readings from one week to another. We have quite a good interest in our own neighborhood, and we believe that a tent effort in this community would bring forth much fruit. We hope that this may be considered when the tents are sent out in the spring.

We are of good courage and want to keep continually before us this thought, "The Third Angel's Message to the World in this Generation." Yours in the Message.

MR. and MRS. C. G. CLYMER.

A WORTHY REPORT.

DEAR BRETHREN: You will find inclosed tithing which amounts to fifteen dollars. We are isolated Sabbath keepers. Remember us in your prayers.

SPECIAL.

"The time in which we live is a time of intense excitement. Ambition and war, pleasure and money-making, absorb the minds of men. Satan sees that his time is short, and he has set all his agencies at work, that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied, and entranced, until probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut."

NOTICE

WE are requested to announce in regard to the Hygienic Cooking Oil mentioned in these columns recently that it can be procured hereafter at the same prices from The Ohio Health Food Co., Academia, O. Also all the select health foods that are manufactured are for sale by them. For further particulars call on or address as above. When writing enclose stamp for reply.

AN OLD FRIEND HAS RETURNED.

WHEN a dear friend returns after a long absence, how gladly we welcome him: what satisfaction his very presence brings: perhaps he has helped us over some hard place, or encouraged us in some trial—has in fact proven himself a friend indeed.

Just as gladly do the Sabbath-school officers and teachers welcome the return of the *Sabbath-school Worker*. Its familiar face brings encouragement to all. It was a *help* in the past, and we have missed it so sadly during its absence that it now seems doubly welcome.

We are not disappointed on a closer acquaintance either, for although smaller in size than before, it still has just the helpful suggestions, the reports from other schools, the instruction for teachers and officers, which we all need. Its "Helps on the Sabbath-school Lessons" for each week and for every division of the school are more valuable than ever, and contain just the information for which every earnest teacher feels the need.

The price, too, is so low that all can now afford to have it—35 cents per copy to individual addresses, or 25 cents per copy where two or more copies are sent to one name and address. You will surely need the *Worker* for 1904.

OBITUARY.

RAYLE.—Nancy Rayle d'ed Jan. 31, 1904, at the home of her son, Jackson Rayle, at Hamler, Ohio, aged 97 years, 2 months, and 18 days. She was born in the year of 1807, in Washington County, Penn. She moved to Ohio in 1846. Here is where she heard the Third Angel's Message, and which faith she held till death. She leaves two sisters and one brother. Her husband died 37 years ago. She was the mother of ten children. JOHN P. GAEBE.