

DAILY BULLETIN

— OF THE —

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

VOL. 4.

BATTLE CREEK, MICH., FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1891.

No. 1.

PROGRAM FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE.

MARCH 5-25, 1891.

Thursday, March 5.

- 10:00 A. M. Organization of Conference; address of president; appointment of committees.
- 3:00 P. M. International Tract Society; address of president; appointment of committees.

Friday, March 6.

- 10:30 A. M. General Conference; reports of District superintendents.
- 3:00 P. M. International Sabbath-school Association; address of president; appointment of committees.
- 7:00 P. M. Address by Elder S. N. Haskell, subject, The Claims of India and China upon Us.

Sabbath, March 7.

- 10:45 A. M. Sermon by Elder S. N. Haskell.
- 2:30 P. M. Sermon by Mrs. E. G. White.

Sunday, March 8.

- 9:00 A. M. General Conference; reports of district superintendents continued; report of general canvassing agent.
- 10:30 A. M. General Conference; report of educational secretary.
- 3:00 A. M. International Health and Temperance Association; address of president. Appointment of committees.

Monday, March 9.

- 9:00 A. M. Address by Dr. J. H. Kellogg, subject, Medical Missions.
- 10:30 A. M. General Conference; Foreign Mission secretary's report.
- 3:00 P. M. International Tract Society; reports of corresponding secretaries.

Tuesday, March 10.

- 9:00 A. M. Address by Elder C. L. Boyd, subject, The Work in South Africa.
- 10:30 A. M. General Conference; reports of standing committees.
- 3:00 P. M. General Conference; special demands of home fields.

Wednesday, March 11.

- 9:00 A. M. Address by Elder H. P. Holser, subject, The Work in Europe.
- 10:30 A. M. General Conference; unfinished business.
- 3:00 P. M. International Tract Society; report of canvassing work, district agents, etc.

Thursday, March 12.

- 9:00 A. M. Addresses by Elder S. N. Haskell and Brother Spicer, subject, Our Work in England and the Colonies.
- 10:30 A. M. General Conference; report of Committee on Consolidation of Publishing Interests.
- 3:00 P. M. International Sabbath-school Association.

Friday, March 13.

- 9:00 A. M. Address by Elder A. T. Jones, subject, Religious Liberty.
- 10:30 A. M. General Conference; reports of committees.
- 3:00 P. M. General Conference; report of Religious Liberty work.
- 7:00 P. M. Address by Elder J. N. Longborough, subject, Early Experiences.

Sabbath, March 14.

- 10:45 A. M. Sermon by Elder U. Smith, subject, The Spirit of Prophecy, and Our Relation to It.
- 2:30 P. M. Sermon by Mrs. E. G. White.

Sunday, March 15.

- 9:00 A. M. International Tract Society; reports of committees.
 10:30 A. M. General Conference; report of treasurer, and statistical reports of secretary.
 3:00 P. M. International Health and Temperance Association.

Monday, March 16.

- 9:00 A. M. Address by Dr. J. H. Kellogg; subject, Our Orphans.
 10:30 A. M. General Conference; consideration of finances.
 3:00 P. M. International Tract Society.

Tuesday, March 17.

- 9:00 A. M. Address by Elder S. N. Haskell; subject, Foreign Missions.
 10:30 A. M. General Conference; foreign missions.
 3:00 P. M. International Sabbath-school Association.

Wednesday, March 18.

- 9:00 A. M. International Health and Temperance Association.
 10:30 A. M. General Conference; miscellaneous business.
 3:00 P. M. International Tract Society; miscellaneous business.

Thursday, March 19.

- 9:00 A. M. Address by Elder W. C. White, subject, South America.
 10:30 A. M. General Conference; reports from publishing houses.
 3:00 P. M. International Health and Temperance Association.

Friday, March 20.

- 9:00 A. M. General Conference; reports from health institutions.
 10:30 A. M. General Conference; ministerial study.
 3:00 P. M. (To be filled.)
 7:00 P. M. Address by Prof. W. W. Prescott, subject, the Calling and Work of the Ministry.

Sabbath, March 21.

- 10:45 A. M. Sermon by Elder S. N. Haskell.
 2:30 P. M. Sermon by Elder A. T. Jones.

Sunday, March 22.

- 9:00 A. M. International Sabbath-school Association.
 10:30 A. M. General Conference; miscellaneous business.
 3:00 P. M. International Tract Society.

Monday, March 23.

- 9:00 A. M. Foreign Missions; Educational Enterprises.
 10:30 A. M. General Conference; miscellaneous business.

3:00 P. M. Sermon by Elder J. N. Loughborough, subject, Early Experiences.—No. 2.

Tuesday, March 24.

- 9:00. (To be filled.)
 10:30 A. M. General Conference; miscellaneous business.
 3:00 P. M. General Conference; miscellaneous business.
 7:00 P. M. Address by Elder O. A. Olsen, subject, The Work for the Coming Year.

Wednesday, March 25.

10:30 A. M. General Conference, closing session; miscellaneous business.

A course of Bible study will be conducted each day, except Friday, during the Conference, beginning at 7 P. M.

The meeting at 9 A. M. will continue until 10:10 A. M.; the meeting at 10:30 A. M. will continue until 12:30 P. M. each day; the meeting at 3 P. M. will continue until 5 P. M.

 THE PRESIDENTS' COUNCIL.

The council of presidents of Conferences and tract societies met one week before the General Conference as per appointment. The presidents of nearly all of these organizations were present, and a very precious season of consultation was enjoyed that was certainly profitable to all.

A meeting of two and one half hours' duration was held each forenoon, while the afternoon was spent in the canvassers' convention.

The subjects considered were of deep interest, and related mainly to the proper education of laborers and the mental and spiritual improvement of those who are now in the field. As the urgent calls for help from all parts of the world were mentioned, we were made to sense the great importance of giving careful attention to this work. The Bible work was also considered and called forth some very profitable discussion. A work can be done by this class of laborers that is much needed in the advancement of the cause.

The remarks of Sister White upon this subject were especially good. She dwelt upon the importance of selecting persons for Bible workers who have a deep Christian experience, and who cannot be turned aside into a spirit of lightness and frivolity, that so effectually renders them powerless in leading souls to Christ.

A very encouraging report was presented by Prof. Prescott, in regard to our schools and colleges. Recommendations in regard to these and other important subjects were prepared after careful consideration, to be presented to the Conference, a full

report of which will appear as they come before that body. All the brethren present expressed their hearty appreciation of the benefits of the Council.

GENERAL CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST MEETING.

THE twenty-ninth session of the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference convened in the Tabernacle at Battle Creek, Mich., at 10 A. M., March 5, 1891. Credentials were presented by 102 delegates, representing twenty-nine Conferences and four mission fields as follows:—

DISTRICT NUMBER ONE.—ATLANTIC.

Maine—T. S. Emery, J. B. Goodrich.
New England—O. O. Farnsworth, H. J. Farman.
New York—S. H. Lane, A. E. Place.
N. S., N. B., P. E. I.—H. W. Cottrell.
Canada—R. S. Owen.
Pennsylvania—J. W. Raymond, E. J. Hibbard.
Vermont—T. H. Purdon, F. S. Porter.
Virginia—R. D. Hottel.
W. Virginia— — — — —

DISTRICT NUMBER TWO.—SOUTHERN.

Southern Mission—L. H. Crisler, G. T. Wilson, A. F. Harrison.
Tennessee River—J. H. Dortch.

DISTRICT NUMBER THREE.—LAKE.

Illinois—A. O. Tait, G. B. Starr, G. H. Baber.
Indiana—R. B. Craig, J. M. Rees, Victor Thompson, F. D. Starr.
Michigan—I. D. Van Horn, J. Fargo, L. Mc Coy, J. O. Corliss, R. C. Horton, D. E. Wellman, Dr. H. S. Lay, Wm. Ostrander, E. S. Griggs.
Ohio—Geo. A. Irwin, O. J. Mason, E. J. Van Horn.

DISTRICT NUMBER FOUR.—NORTHWEST.

Iowa—J. H. Morrison, C. F. Stevens, L. T. Nicola, A. P. Heacock, H. Nicola, J. M. Willoughby.
Minnesota—R. C. Porter, C. M. Everest, Allen Moon.
Nebraska—J. N. Loughborough, L. A. Hoopes.
South Dakota—W. B. White, N. P. Nelson, Valentine Leer.
Wisconsin—M. H. Brown, A. J. Breed, F. H. Westphal.

DISTRICT NUMBER FIVE.—SOUTHWEST.

Arkansas—J. G. Wood.
Colorado—Joel R. Palmer, E. R. Jones.
Kansas—C. A. Hall, C. Mc Reynolds, L. Dyo Chambers, O. Hill, N. P. Dixon, J. A. Morrow.
Missouri—R. S. Donnell, N. W. Allee, H. L. Hoover.
Texas—W. S. Hyatt, W. T. Drummond.

DISTRICT NUMBER SIX.—PACIFIC.

California—N. C. McClure, C. H. Jones, J. H. Durland, T. A. Kilgore, M. C. Wilcox, Geo. H. Derrick.
North Pacific—J. E. Graham, Isaac Morrison, J. M. Cole.
Scandinavian work in America—O. A. Johnson.

DISTRICT NUMBER SEVEN.—FOREIGN.

British—W. A. Spicer, Ellery Robinson.
Central Europe—H. P. Holser.
Denmark—O. A. Olsen.
Norway—O. A. Olsen.
South Africa—C. L. Boyd.
Sweden—J. M. Erickson.

DELEGATES AT LARGE.

U. Smith, A. R. Henry, C. Eldridge, W. W. Prescott, H. Lindsay, L. C. Chadwick, A. T. Jones, E. J. Waggoner, O. A. Olsen, S. N. Haskell, D. T. Jones, W. C. White, R. M. Kilgore, R. A. Underwood, A. T. Robinson, F. L. Mead, J. E. Froom, W. R. Smith, E. E. Miles, W. H. Edwards.

After the organization of the Conference prayer was offered by Elder S. N. Haskell, who earnestly invoked the blessing of God on the Conference and on the work of the third angel's message throughout the world.

The following cablegram received from Norway was read by the president:—

CHRISTIANA, NORWAY,

8:12 A. M., March 5, 1891.

Edwards, Battle Creek, Michigan, U. S. A.

Conference. Greeting. Jer. 29:11-13.

(Signed)

SCANDINAVIA.

ADDRESS OF ELDER O. A. OLSEN.

PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

We are again privileged to meet in General Conference. We are happy in greeting so many of our fellow laborers—representatives from all parts of the field. We extend to all a most hearty welcome. We have looked forward to this gathering with much interest. The evidences that we have been led by God to our present position and work, were never clearer than now; the last events in the great lines of prophecy are fulfilling before our eyes. The providence of God is opening the way in a remarkable manner for the truth to go to the different nations and tongues of the earth. We have been very desirous that we might see much of God's blessings, and share in a large outpouring of his spirit during this Conference, which will enable us to properly understand the nature of our work, and give wisdom to deal with every question that may come up, and lead us to right conclusions in all our deliberations.

During the interval since our last General Conference, your committee has labored with faithfulness to discharge the duties and responsibilities connected with the work. We cannot hope that our work has been without fault, still we have seen many evidences of God's favor, and have realized his presence with us in our councils and labors, and now as we deliver up our responsibility to the Conference assembled, we pray that God may give wisdom to this body to direct it aright in all that shall be done.

A REVIEW OF THE FIELD.

It may be of interest to take a brief review of the field and of the different lines of work that have been in progress since the last session of the Conference. In doing this we shall meet with some very encouraging features and others not so much so.

The first thought that naturally presents itself is the condition of our workers. While our laborers generally have been in good health, our hearts have been made sad by a number of deaths since our last Conference, at which time we followed the remains of our dear brother, Elder J. E. Swift, to the grave. Since then Elder John Sisley has died in Illinois; Elder Samuel Fulton in Oregon; Elder J. E. Robinson, president of the Atlantic Conference, and my brother, Elder A. D. Olsen, in Colorado; Elder E. A. Briggs in California; and finally Elder E. E. Marvin, president of the Tennessee River Conference, in Tennessee. All these were proved and faithful men, capable of being trusted with important responsibilities. Besides these we mourn the loss of quite a number of less experienced laborers. How sad to have to lay away efficient men at a time when there is such a need of faithful laborers!

Since the season of prayer in October for the raising up of laborers, and for the restoring to health of those who were sick, we have seen some tokens of encouragement. We are very glad to report some improvement in Elder Butler's state of health; but, in addition to his own feebleness, Sister Butler has been severely afflicted, the last year, by a stroke of paralysis. Later intelligences report an improvement in her condition, and give reason to hope that Sister Butler will at least partially recover. May God's special blessing rest upon these old veterans in the work. We commend them to the prayers of those assembled at the Conference, and our people everywhere.

Elder J. G. Matteson, who has been very feeble for some time, has been enabled to continue his work of writing and translating, and reports improvement in his general health. Elder E. W. Whitney, whom we feared would be carried away with consumption, is also much improved, and seems to have a fair prospect for years of usefulness in the cause of God.

For this we feel very thankful. We also extend our sympathy to Elder E. W. Farnsworth, a member of the General Conference Committee, who is prohibited from meeting with us because of the feebleness of Sister Farnsworth. We also commend them to the prayers of our people.

The spiritual condition of our churches and people in general is not what we would desire. Living in such a time as we do, carrying the responsibilities that we are, and in view of the light and truth committed to us, we ought to be a most devoted and consecrated people. We have reasons for encouragement. There seems to be a waking up to the importance of this matter. Our churches are hungering for spiritual food, and Christ says, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."

MINISTERS' SCHOOL.

Two ministers' schools have been held since our last general gathering. The first one commenced immediately after the close of the last General Conference, and continued twenty weeks; the second one of sixteen weeks has just closed, and we are glad to say that they have been a success even beyond our expectations. The number in attendance at the first ministers' school held in the winter of 1888-9, reached a little more than fifty, and in the last one the regular attendance has reached over one hundred and thirty. We can but feel that the increase in attendance and interest in the late school was largely due to the success of the first one. The amount of good accomplished by these schools it is impossible for us to estimate. The blessing of God has been present in a large measure. The students have not only received a better knowledge of the truth, but the converting power of God has been manifested in a marked degree. We feel assured that the influence of the schools will have an excellent effect upon the work wherever it reaches, and in order to give as large a number as possible some of the benefits of such a school, we have arranged to devote one hour each day during the Conference to Bible study, at which all in attendance are cordially invited to be present.

DISTRICT WORK.

At the close of the last General Conference, the home field was divided into six General Conference districts, and a member of the General Conference Committee was placed in charge of each, as general superintendent. The plan has worked well; and as far as we have learned, the arrangement is very satisfactory to the State Conferences, and should be continued. In some cases, sickness and other unavoidable circumstances, have hindered the superin-

tendents from giving as much of their time to their districts as would have been desirable.

CAMP-MEETINGS.

Forty-eight camp-meetings have been held, besides a number of State and general meetings, also ministerial and canvassers' institutes in various places. As the superintendents will report the work in their districts, we will leave it for them to give further particulars. Four camp-meetings have been held in Europe, one in Central Europe, and one in each of the following countries, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

THE CIRCULATION OF LITERATURE.

The better organization of the canvassing work all through our Conferences has resulted in a large increase in the circulation of our literature. Then in connection with this comes the work of our State and International Tract Societies; by the united efforts of all these agencies a very large amount of reading-matter has been circulated, and all this with the Spirit of God working on the hearts of the people has opened the way for the truth in a very marked manner.

AGITATION FOR RELIGIOUS LEGISLATION.

The agitation for religious legislation has continued since our last General Conference. The Breckenridge bill in the House of Representatives last winter, created considerable interest, but this only opened the way for the circulation of a large amount of reading-matter bearing on this important subject. The indictment and trial of Brother R. M. King of Tennessee has also created a good deal of interest and comment. The carrying up of this case from one court to another has given great publicity to our work, and we feel to heartily commend the National Religious Liberty Association for the noble work it has done in agitating and bringing before the citizens of this country the principles of Religious Liberty, and for its efforts to maintain the United States Constitution as it is.

EDUCATIONAL INTEREST.

We can report an increased interest in education among our people in every part of the field. All of our schools are in a prosperous condition. Battle Creek College has been full for some time and remains so. The Healdsburg College has a larger attendance than last year. South Lancaster Academy is crowded to its utmost capacity, and the outlook for the future of that institution is most encouraging indeed. Besides the schools mentioned, we have Conference schools in Minnesota, Kansas, and Upper Columbia, all of which are well patronized.

At its last session the General Conference voted to build a college in the West. This was afterwards

located in Lincoln, Neb. The school buildings are now well under way, and will be ready to open September next. Our business agent, Brother A. R. Henry, will present a report of this enterprise, therefore we shall not enter into particulars here, but we will only add that the enterprise could have been further along, if the money had come in more promptly.

At present there is a call for a school in District No. 2, also in the northern part of District No. 6; the Upper Columbia and North Pacific Conferences have each had a Conference school in the past. At present there is one at Milton, Ore., with an attendance of about 150 students. A movement is now on foot to locate a union school at some central point in this part of the country.

The educational interest is also extending to other countries. Australia and New Zealand are earnestly calling for a school, and there are good reasons why they should have one. Scandinavia also makes demands for schools. All of these calls should receive such consideration as circumstances may warrant.

FRENCH, GERMAN, AND SCANDINAVIAN SCHOOLS.

In the winter of 1889-90, we had our first French, German, and Scandinavian schools; they were held at Battle Creek, Mich. A French and German school has also been held here the past winter, with increased success.

The Scandinavians are showing a commendable interest in the matter of education; fifty students were in attendance at the school last winter. We have at present an advanced class of twelve students in Copenhagen, Denmark, and four in Stockholm, Sweden. These are studying with a view of directly entering the work. At the Union College we expect to have complete schools in German and Scandinavian, as well as in English. The French school will continue as heretofore in connection with the Battle Creek College. Some of the students now studying in Copenhagen and Stockholm are preparing themselves to teach in their respective languages at the Union College. This is an advanced step in our work. The cause is much in need of laborers in foreign tongues, but we cannot expect to see any large increase in the numbers of laborers, until we get schools established to educate our young people. The same principle and the need of schools applies equally to the other nationalities and tongues, as well as to those here mentioned.

THE PUBLISHING WORK.

The past Conference year has been a successful one in the publishing work. There has been a larger circulation of literature bearing on the present truth than any year before. The Central Publishing

House at Battle Creek is nearing the end of its first charter, but steps have already been taken, and a reorganization perfected enabling the Association to carry the work forward on the same plan, when the present charter expires June next.

The Pacific Press too is now crowded with work. Its branch offices in New York and London are also serving an important purpose. We have very encouraging reports from our foreign offices. Late reports from the "Echo" office at Melbourne show the publishing work there to be in a very satisfactory condition. Our publishing house in Christiana has added a new cylinder press the last year, and the managers report that they could make good use of another, if they had it. For several months they have been so crowded with work that they have found it necessary to run several hours over time every day. Our publishing house in Basel is also doing good work, and as the president is present, he will be able to give us many particulars in regard to the work there.

HEALTH INSTITUTIONS.

Our health institutions are having an increased patronage, the health and temperance principles, which they represent, are steadily gaining favor. I think it is evident to all that for a time in the past we have not appreciated the importance of this branch of the work as we ought to have done. A number have taken a course of instruction at the Sanitarium, and have gone out as instructors in hygienic cooking, etc. Their work has been more favorably received than we at first expected, and it is much appreciated, especially by the more intelligent class of people.

FOREIGN FIELDS.

Up to the time of the last General Conference we had had no Foreign Mission Board to look after the work in foreign fields; previous to that time the General Conference Committee had taken supervision of all the work in the foreign, as well as the home field, but at that Conference a Foreign Mission board was created by adding six members to the General Conference Committee of nine, making a Board of fifteen in all. We think this was a very timely act. The Board has taken a lively interest in all our foreign mission work. They have done much already towards systematizing and organizing the work that is now in progress; they are also taking pains to study the great field, so that they may be more fully acquainted with its various interests and wants.

We are glad to report prosperity in all our foreign mission fields. In some respects the work in foreign countries has gone ahead of the work in the home field. The British Mission has had an increase of laborers. A large number of colporters were sent

there early in the year, and most of them have been doing good work. In Central Europe the work has advanced. Elder Conradi has conducted a successful mission in Hamburg. There are now thirty in attendance from the surrounding countries; such as Russia, Bulgaria, Holland, Austria, and others. In Russia the advancement has been truly marvelous. Four years ago there were only about forty Sabbath-keepers, and now there are over four hundred. Brother Conradi reports ten organized churches. Several number sixty members each. Though there are many hinderances and obstacles in the way, still the truth is making steady headway. In Northern Europe also we have reason for encouragement.

The sale of our books has been unexpectedly large in view of the poverty of the country. The tent meetings and other efforts in new places have resulted in bringing a goodly number into the truth. The work in Australia and New Zealand is very encouraging indeed. We have been greatly cheered by the report of their late Conference and Institute. Three brethren were ordained to the ministry, and several others in Australia received license to preach. They are even going ahead of some of our largest and best established home Conferences. They are also sending more students to our schools in this country, in proportion to their numbers, than are some of our strong Conferences here in America. Their zeal is worthy of emulation. The canvassing work, re-organized by Brother E. M. Morrison, is moving forward most encouragingly.

We also have encouragement from South Africa. As Elder C. L. Boyd is with us he will be able to give us much interesting information from that field.

During the year we have been able to send missionaries to the West Indies. Elder D. A. Ball, from Pennsylvania, in company with Brother Wm. Arnold, started for the West Indies last fall, and we hear good reports from them.

THE MISSIONARY SHIP.

It was voted at our last General Conference that we build or buy a ship of suitable size, and have it fitted out for labor among the islands of the Pacific. The ship was built on the Pacific Coast, and was fitted up with great care for safety and convenience. She is named "Pitcairn" after the remarkable island of the same name. She was dedicated September 30, and sailed from San Francisco Oct. 20, 1890. We have just received the glad news of her safe arrival at Pitcairn, November 25. She remained there three weeks, then sailed for Tahiti, where she arrived December 24.

Letters from Elder E. H. Gates and others give a very thrilling report of their voyage, and express the fullest confidence in the belief that God has blessed

and guided them in a very signal manner. Their meeting with the brethren, on the arrival at Pitcairn Island, was a most touching one. They remained at Pitcairn three weeks. Baptized 82 (all the adults and some of the youth). They organized a church with the same number of members. We feel greatly gratified over these results; and we know that the good news will cheer the hearts of the members of our Sabbath-schools, and our brethren everywhere. We feel greatly cheered by the prospect that this will prove very successful means of bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to thousands of the South Sea islanders.

We also mention with great interest the missionary tour of Elder Haskell; he has just returned, and we are all made to rejoice at meeting him once more, and extend to him a most hearty welcome. We have already been cheered by the interesting reports of his travels and experiences, and the wonderful manner in which God's providence has gone out before us everywhere, and before the Conference closes, we may expect to hear much more in the same line, therefore we will not take time to mention any particulars. We will only say in a word, that the field is open everywhere, and the Macedonian cry is coming from every country; that time is short, and the end is near, must be evident to all. It stands us in hand to carefully consider our relation and duty to these people that are so much in need of help.

FINANCES.

The question of funds with which to carry on the work is very closely connected with every enterprise. We cannot go very far in any enterprise but that it takes means. The enlargement of the work in every direction will call for a corresponding increase in contributions with which to carry it forward. Our financial report will show that the annual contributions to the foreign missions for 1890 fell a good deal below the amount contributed the year before. There was also a falling off in the first-day offerings, taking all the contributions together including the Sabbath-school offerings, there is even then a shortage over the previous year. This with the increased demands for funds has brought us into a very straight place.

Among the new enterprises requiring a large outlay of means was the the mission ship, which cost nearly \$18,000. Also the building of the Union College, to which we voted \$20,000, half of which amount has been paid. Besides these there have been other large enterprises in behalf of the home work, such as paying the district canvassing agents and district Sabbath-school superintendents. Considering all these things, we have reason for great thankfulness that we have got along as well as we

have. Since the organization of our foreign mission board, we have been enabled to expend the means to the best advantage in every respect, so that though the work has enlarged in every place, yet the money expended has been less than in former years; all must realize that the General Conference Committee and the Foreign Mission Board are only the servants of the General Conference for carrying into effect the plans that you here decide upon, but these committees cannot do more than you furnish them means to do with.

We are glad to be able to say that while we have been in great perplexities at times, and hardly knew what to do, yet when we came to the point where something had to be done, God's Spirit would so move upon his people that his providence could be seen to open the way to help us through the emergency. At one time we could not send any money to central Europe or to Scandinavia for three months, and our work there was brought into a very great straight; but just then, when they had to have help or disaster would follow, we were able to render it. We feel it our duty to place these things before our people in their true light.

We are much encouraged over the last contributions to the foreign missions, for the present year. There has been a large increase over the previous year, more than \$24,000 has been received up to the present date. Our brothers and sisters who have come forward so nobly in this time of need to help with their contributions have our sincere thanks. Our people have always been a liberal people, and have shown a willingness to help in every time of need, and we are sure that when the wants of the cause are properly set before them, they will respond both cheerfully and liberally. The question of finances is an important one, and should receive careful attention from the General Conference.

We also mention with gratitude the substantial assistance the General Conference has received in the donations made by several of the State Conferences, since the last General Conference. Michigan has donated \$13,000, \$5,000 at its Conference in 1889, and \$8,000 in 1890. The North Pacific Conference donated \$2,500, California \$2,200, and Colorado \$500. If it had not been for this timely help, I do not know what we could have done. This help has been greatly appreciated.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

Having taken a brief survey of the work and noted a few of its interesting features, we will submit a few thoughts in reference to future plans and lines of work. Among the first and most important is—

THE DEVELOPMENT OF LABORERS.

This question has not received all the care its importance deserves. Our licentiates should receive more attention. In the past they have been left altogether too much to themselves; and as a result, many of them have become discouraged and failed, and others have not developed the efficiency that might have been expected. At a time when there are so many urgent calls for help, and such a demand for faithful laborers, we cannot be indifferent to this important subject.

The question of the ministers' schools and institutes should receive attention from this body. We are of the firm conviction that there should be a regular plan of study arranged for our ministers, and that there ought to be ministers' institutes or brief periods of instruction in each District every year, which all our laborers could attend. While the ministers' schools before mentioned have been a success, and will result in much good, such schools cannot meet all the necessities, from the fact that but a comparatively small number of our ministers can attend them, and yet all stand in need of just such help, therefore we recommend that this body consider this matter, and take such steps as will secure for all our ministers the opportunity of attending ministers' institutes or schools from two to six weeks every year. We believe that such a measure would bring about much more efficiency in our ministry, and through it to the work everywhere.

BIBLE WORK.

Some years ago the Bible work received much attention, and city missions were established in quite a number of our large cities, but more recently this branch of the work has not been pushed so energetically. From the experience of the past it is manifest, that Bible work conducted by persons of proper experience and age has resulted in much good, also that it many times reaches a class of people that is not so readily reached by any other means. In view of this and the demand for this line of work in many places, we recommend that more attention be given to this subject. It would be our mind that the greatest care should be taken in selecting persons for this kind of work, also that a more liberal and thorough course of instruction be arranged for those who are engaged in Bible work.

The subject of medical missionaries and medical Bible workers might with profit be considered in the same connection. It would add very much to the efficiency of Bible workers if they had a knowledge of hygienic nursing, which they could combine with their Bible work.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF LABORERS.

This will be one of the most perplexing matters

that will come before this body. Much prayer and careful thought has already been given this subject by your committee. It is the scarcity of proper persons fitted for important and responsible positions that makes this subject so perplexing. We favor just as few changes as circumstances will allow, but you will find that to make certain changes will in turn necessitate other changes. At present there are men that have more lines of work than they can do justice to, and therefore the work is suffering.

Then here are the foreign fields. This message is to go to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. The way is open now as never before to send laborers to many of the foreign lands. The time has come when we should advance into regions beyond. What we need everywhere is consecrated talent—money and men wholly devoted to God. If we relate ourselves properly to God, he will work for us, for he has gone out before us.

DISTRICT CANVASSING AGENTS AND DISTRICT SABBATH-SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS.

The district canvassing agents appointed at the close of the last General Conference have served an important purpose, and have added much to the success of the canvassing work; we therefore recommend that this line of work be continued.

But we can hardly say the same of the district Sabbath-school superintendents. Not because we in the least undervalue the importance of the Sabbath-school; no, no; but in view of the scarcity of laborers, we cannot find the proper men that can devote the necessary time to this work. We therefore suggest,—

1. That the president or the vice-president of the Sabbath-school Association, give his entire time to this line of work.

2. That the presidents of the State Sabbath-school Associations give more attention to this work, and to planning and laboring for the children and youth in their respective States.

We have been made sad at seeing so much indifference manifested in reference to the salvation of our children and youth; more recently this subject has received some attention at our camp-meetings and other places, but still more interest ought to be taken in our young people. We urge upon our ministers to give this subject more attention, not forgetting the words of our Saviour, "Feed my lambs." Now, if this is done, and we see no reason why it should not be, we think that the wants of the Sabbath-school could be met without the aid of district superintendents, at least for the present, when there is such a scarcity of laborers.

THE CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLISHING INTERESTS.

At the time of our last General Conference we recommended this subject as worthy of consideration by this body. The result was the appointment of a representative committee of twenty-one, to take the matter under advisement, learn what could be done, and if the way was open, to go on and effect such consolidation. This committee has done all that circumstances would permit, and will render its report to this body at the proper time.

Our publishing work is a very important auxiliary, and is in no way a personal enterprise. All that we desire is that in every part and in every respect it may be made to fully meet the demands of the cause, and serve the purpose which its founders and supporters intended from the beginning. The more thoroughly the canvassing work is organized, the greater will be the sale of books, and we fully believe that all the net earnings of our institutions above what is needed to carry on the business should go to the general cause, and be used for the advancement of the work in new fields.

FIELDS NOT YET ENTERED.

We call the attention of this body to such fields as South America and the west coast of Africa, from which earnest appeals for help have been coming. We might go on mentioning any number of countries and peoples where the way is open, and where we ought to organize aggressive work, but we cannot take up your time to speak of them now. The world is open. We ought to begin a work among the Jews, and that subject ought to receive more than a passing notice. But the countries already mentioned ought to receive help soon. There are a number of Sabbath-keepers in each of these countries, but as yet nothing has been done except to correspond with them, and to send them literature.

OUR FINANCES.

We have a standing finance committee which will present at the proper time a report, in which they will show the present standing of our finances, and also that of our several foreign missions and home enterprises. We shall also ask the committee to study this subject with reference to the future. We further suggest that as different lines of work are brought before the meeting, and advance steps are contemplated, that the committee, or whoever may present the same, at the same time present the plan by which it can be carried into effect. To vote that such and such things shall be done, and make no provisions by which to carry them into effect, leaves the committee in extreme embarrassment. We think it would be a good idea for every committee that may wish to report some advance step or new line of work which will require an outlay of money, to

first submit it to the Finance Committee, before bringing it before the General Conference, and then present with the measure the manner in which the means shall be secured to carry it into effect.

THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE.

We shall find that our time will be limited. There will be many and important questions and measures that will come up for consideration. To expedite the work, and to have some of the more important measures better matured, we called a council of the presidents of the Conferences to consider and deliberate on different matters preparatory to bringing them before this Conference.

With reference to the presentation of business we suggest that we follow the plan recommended at our last session; viz., that after business is first presented, it be referred to one or the other of the committees, or laid over before final action, thus giving time for careful thought and investigation by each member of the Conference. In this way much valuable time may be saved, and every measure receive proper consideration.

With this brief review of the field and the work, and with these suggestions, we submit these matters to you. We pray that God's blessing may attend this session of the Conference in a marked manner, and that his Spirit may guide in all we do.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

As the By-laws authorize the Chair to appoint the standing committee, we submit the following:—

On Credentials of Delegates—Allan Moon, W. B. White, C. A. Hall. Meet in the north vestry.

On Nominations—C. H. Jones, J. Fargo, S. H. Lane, H. Nicola, W. S. Hyatt. Meet in the room over the south-west vestibule.

On Resolutions—W. W. Prescott, U. Smith, A. T. Robinson, H. A. St. John, E. J. Waggoner. Meet in the west end of the south vestry.

On Ministerial Credentials and Licenses—R. A. Underwood, I. D. Van Horn, R. S. Donnell. Meet in the east end of the south vestry.

On Auditing of Conference Accounts—J. Fargo, A. R. Henry, M. H. Brown, L. McCoy, C. Eldridge, G. A. Irwin. Meet in the General Conference room.

On Distribution of Laborers, to act with the General Conference Committee—J. N. Loughborough, H. W. Decker, A. R. Henry, H. P. Holser, J. H. Morrison, J. W. Raymond. Meet in the room over the north-west vestibule.

On Finances—D. T. Jones, W. C. White, A. R. Henry, L. C. Chadwick, H. Lindsay. Meet in A. R. Henry's room.

On Education — W. W. Prescott, S. N. Haskell, G. W. Caviness, R. C. Porter, L. H. Crisler, H. P. Holser, O. A. Johnson. Meet over the south-west vestibule.

On Home Missions and Bible Work — R. M. Kilgore, S. N. Haskell, W. H. Wakeham, L. C. Chadwick, N. C. McClure, D. T. Jones, G. B. Starr. Meet in east end of south vestry.

On Foreign Missions — W. C. White, H. P. Holser, C. H. Jones, J. H. Durland, C. L. Boyd. Meet at W. C. White's office.

Judiciary Committee — L. Dyo Chambers, J. B. Goodrich, J. E. Graham, C. F. Stevens, J. P. Gardiner, F. D. Starr. Meet over north-west vestibule.

Pastoral Committee — A. J. Breed, J. G. Wood, T. H. Purdon. Meet in west end of south vestry.

A letter from the Seventh-day Adventist church on Pitcairn Island was read, of which the following is a copy:—

PITCAIRN ISLAND, DEC. 16, 1890.

To the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Assembled in Business Session, greeting.

We, the members of the Seventh-day Adventist church of Pitcairn Island, in the South Pacific Ocean, having been regularly organized by ministers holding credentials from your body, do hereby petition to be taken under the watch care of the Seventh-day Adventist General Conference.

The number of persons on the island is one hundred and twenty-seven, including the little children, and eighty-two of these are members of the church, having been baptized according to the gospel commission. We have thoroughly studied the doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist church, and are fully in harmony with them as far as we understand them now.

Owing to the fact that we seldom have money, and find it difficult to dispose of our products, we are not able to send tithes to you often; but we are in harmony with the tithing system, and will carry it out as far as we are able, and will also make such other donations as we are able, to assist in carrying out the work of the third angel's message. Please to accept of our regards and our love to all the brethren in the Lord.

In behalf of the church.

SIMON YOUNG, *Elder.*

MATTHEW E. McCoy, *Clerk.*

The request was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Elder E. H. Gates reports \$23.12 tithes in his hands from the Pitcairn church, and \$14.70 donations for foreign missions.

INTERNATIONAL TRACT SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST MEETING.

THE first meeting of the fifteenth annual session of the International Tract Society was called according to program Thursday at 3 o'clock, p. m., with the president, L. C. Chadwick, in the chair. The meeting was opened with hymn No. 1057. Prayer was offered by Elder O. A. Olsen. Following is the list of delegates present at this meeting:—

DISTRICT NUMBER ONE. — ATLANTIC.

Atlantic — H. E. Robinson, D. C. Babcock, Chas. F. Parmele, Mrs. E. W. Harris, Mrs. M. D. Counselman, T. A. Kilgore.

Maine — J. B. Goodrich.

Maritime Province — F. W. Morse.

New England — E. E. Miles, A. T. Robinson.

New York — S. H. Lane, A. E. Place, N. Z. Town.

Pennsylvania — E. J. Hibbard, E. W. Snyder.

Province of Quebec — D. Dingman.

Virginia — R. D. Hottel, A. C. Neff, C. D. Zirkle, Amy A. Neff.

Vermont — A. C. Bourdeau, F. S. Porter.

West Virginia — S. F. Reeder.

DISTRICT NUMBER TWO. — SOUTHERN.

Florida — L. H. Crisler.

Georgia — C. F. Curtis, Mrs. G. T. Wilson.

North Carolina — C. D. Wolf.

Tennessee — J. H. Dortch.

DISTRICT NUMBER THREE — LAKE.

Indiana — F. D. Starr, R. B. Craig, V. Thompson.

Illinois — J. M. Craig, J. E. Froom, A. J. Olsen, R. M. Kilgore, G. B. Starr, Mrs. G. B. Starr, A. O. Tait, Mrs. W. C. Wales.

Michigan — R. Stewart, H. M. Kenyon, C. H. Knight, T. M. Stewart, J. O. Corliss, Mrs. J. O. Corliss, Wm. Ostrander, H. S. Lay, D. Wellman, M. S. Burnham, Mrs. Wm. Hall, U. Smith, Mrs. F. H. Sisley, Mrs. C. E. L. Jones, Mrs. S. L. Strong, Mrs. ——— Giles, R. C. Horton, J. T. Gowel, Ella Carman, Hattie House, Mamie K. Byington, A. J. Haysmer, S. S. Smith, J. Fargo, L. L. M. Griggs, E. E. Griggs, J. M. Rhodes, H. Miller, Mrs. H. Miller, Mrs. M. Cornell, Mrs. M. C. Ashley, Mrs. M. A. Edwards, Mrs. S. H. Curtiss.

Ohio — E. J. Van Horn, R. A. Underwood, O. J. Mason, M. W. Lewis.

DISTRICT NUMBER FOUR. — NORTHWEST.

Dakota — W. B. White, N. P. Nelson, N. W. Kauble.

Iowa — L. T. Nicola, H. Nicola, Delia Fitch.

Minnesota — Allen Moon, R. C. Porter, F. L. Mead, C. M. Everett, H. Hilliard, Mrs. H. Hilliard.

Nebraska — J. N. Loughborough, L. A. Hoopes.

Wisconsin — M. H. Brown, Paul E. Gros.

DISTRICT NUMBER FIVE. — SOUTHWEST.

Arkansas — D. Nettleton.

Colorado — J. H. Palmer, G. O. States.

Kansas — C. A. Hall, L. D. Chambers, N. P. Dixon, L. M. Crowther.

Missouri — J. S. Hall, N. W. Allee, J. Klostermyer, R. S. Donnell, H. L. Hoover, L. Hildrith.

Texas — W. S. Hyatt, W. T. Drummond, W. A. McEntchen.

DISTRICT NUMBER SIX. — PACIFIC.

California — M. C. Wilcox, C. H. Jones, E. J. Waggoner, J. H. Durland, Mrs. J. Gotzian, Anna L. Ingels.

North Pacific — J. E. Graham, Isaac Morrison, J. M. Cole.

DISTRICT NUMBER SEVEN. — FOREIGN.

Great Britain — W. A. Spicer.

Central Europe — H. P. Holser.

Scandinavia — Z. Sherrig.

South Africa — C. L. Boyd, Mrs. C. L. Boyd.

Australia and New Zealand — S. N. Haskell.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

In presenting some thoughts with reference to the International Tract Society and its work, I shall not attempt to go back into its early history, with which many of the delegates present are familiar; but will confine my address principally to some features of the work which have been undertaken and accomplished by the Society since our last annual session held in November, 1889. As all are aware some change was made at that time in the officers of the Society. On account of the extended absence of Elder Haskell who had been the president of the Society since its first organization, the last session decided to elect your speaker as president for the ensuing year and a vice-president was chosen who was closely connected with the work of our General Conference, and an Executive Board was elected who could meet quite frequently for counsel with reference to all plans and methods of work for the Society. This change in the presidency was entirely unexpected to me, and I was unable to arrange my work in Pennsylvania so as to leave it and assume my new duties till the 10th of January, 1890. Since that time I have tried to give personal attention to the work of the society, and a large portion of time has been spent in actual office work.

During the 16 months since our last annual session of the society, our Executive Board has held 20 meetings, and the many plans which have been devised during this time have been the results of these meetings and the councils of the Executive Board rather than any decisions of the president or vice-president.

About the 1st of December, 1889, the Board decided to open a branch office in the city of Chicago. Sister M. L. Huntley, who had for many years served efficiently as secretary of the society, was put in charge of that office with a competent assistant, and the territory in which the society is working; namely, the world, was divided between the two offices. There were many reasons for opening the Chicago office, which it is not necessary for

me to notice in this connection. Suffice it to say that the results of the work there have been very satisfactory to the president and to the Board.

At the time of our last annual session, the office help of the society consisted of four ladies; Sisters M. L. Huntley, F. H. Sisley, Clara E. L. Jones, and Addie S. Bowen. At the present we have but one of these workers. We cannot find language to express the loss which this society sustained in the death of Sister Maria L. Huntley. She had been connected with the society from the beginning as its secretary, and had a personal supervision of much of its work; and the correspondence, both in home and foreign fields, had been largely conducted by her. Those who had been connected with the society as assistants had depended almost entirely upon her for counsel and advice in plans of work which they were to carry out.

When the news of her death was received, it seemed as though it would be impossible to find anyone to take her place, and indeed it was impossible to find anyone to take up the work which she laid down, and carry it forward in as efficient a manner as she might have done had she been spared; and many excellent plans which she might have carried out must necessarily be left without completion. Perhaps I could not pay a higher tribute to her memory than to say to you that when the little leaflets containing a memorial of her life and death were sent out to our numerous correspondents in different parts of the world, nearly all of whom were strangers to her except as they had become acquainted by correspondence, the responses that were received were without exception filled with expressions of appreciation of her Christian influence and regrets at her death.

Sister Sisley was obliged to resign her position as one of the corresponding secretaries soon after the election of officers, on account of ill health. Thus we lost the benefit of her experience and connection with the society. Sister Bowen, who was with the society in Chicago at the time of Sister Huntley's death, having a burden for the Bible work, and having taken some classes in the Central Bible school, and having been engaged in office work for about twelve years in America and Europe, decided to change her work, and returned to Pennsylvania several months ago, and is now engaged in Bible work in one of the large cities of that Conference.

Thus we have only one of our original workers connected with our office at present. Mrs. C. E. L. Jones, who had been chosen before our last annual session to have charge of the health and temperance work, is still doing efficient service in that department. Notwithstanding these facts, our force of workers has been increased by the selection of new material, till we now have five employed in the

main office at Battle Creek besides the president, and three in the Chicago office. Mrs. S. L. Strong was selected to take the place of general corresponding secretary for the main office, and has the charge of a large proportion of the correspondence both in home and foreign fields. Miss Jenûie Thayer, who has had long experience in tract society work, was selected to take the place in the Chicago office, made vacant by Sister Huntley's death.

Three of the graduates from our College were selected at the close of the last College year, and have since been engaged in the work of this society. Miss M. K. Byington as book-keeper, has charge of our books and mailing lists at the main office, and Miss Alice Bosworth acts in the same capacity in the Chicago office, while Brother C. G. Howel has labored with the president as stenographer, and assists him in his work in many ways. Miss Mary Simkin has been placed in charge of the Religious Liberty department of our work, and Miss Tena Jensen has charge of our Scandiuavian work.

It would be impossible for me to bring into this short address a detailed account of the work done by our different secretaries or the results accomplished; hence we have provided that one entire meeting at this session shall be devoted to reports from the secretaries, which will present as much of an idea of the scope of the work done and the results which have been seen, as possible.

A few words with reference to the general work which has been done. The society rendered very valuable assistance in sending out a large amount of reading-matter that was prepared for use during the week of prayer in 1889. It also aided in sending out the maps to the Sabbath schools. In harmony with a vote taken at the last session, the society increased the size of the *Home Missionary*, and made it a twenty-four-page monthly. The paper received a hearty support during the year 1890, and our mailing list reached about 6,500. This paper is being continued this year in the same form; and if we can judge by the words of commendation which come to us from many sources, it is still being well received. I will not take time to explain the scope which the paper is intended to take, or the field it is intended to fill, as this will come in later, in reports of committees.

An effort was made to start a French and German correspondence by placing a secretary in our office who was acquainted with these two languages. But the work was only nicely commenced when the secretary, Miss Marie Roth, was obliged to discontinue it on account of ill health, and nothing has been done since, except that some interesting correspondence which she had begun was continued by Brother

Vuilleumier and others of the French society located in Battle Creek.

Our effort to maintain a Scandinavian department has been more successful, as will be seen when the report of the Scandinavian secretary is presented.

The society has placed in its main office a valuable library which contains samples of all the publications issued by our own publishing houses, and also a valuable line of books upon missionary and other interesting topics, which have been collected from the productions of other publishers. We have placed a similar library, although much smaller, in our Chicago office.

An effort was made several months ago to adopt a regular course of study upon different foreign fields, and the methods of work which have been adopted by different missionary societies which have entered these fields. The results of this study have been very satisfactory indeed, although during the last few weeks, on account of the pressure of office work, we have been unable to maintain the regular study.

We have also tried to make our offices places of instruction and training for secretaries of State societies, and two persons have each spent several weeks with us, gaining a practical experience in office secretarial work. We believe that much more ought to be done in this line in the future.

The society has also tried during the year to examine and select a line of books upon missionary topics and general religious subjects, which have not been handled to any extent by our publishing houses, that might be recommended to our members throughout the field for use in their libraries and homes. We have succeeded in selecting a list which in many respects we deem very valuable, and believe that much good will be accomplished by their circulation.

One feature of our work which may not be especially mentioned in the reports of our secretaries is the ship-work that we have been sustaining in different parts of the field. The principal points that we have supplied with publications are Liverpool, England, New York City, Baltimore, Md., and Hong Kong, China, and have frequently assisted in many other places.

Our publishing houses, especially the Review and Herald, have assisted us very much in our work by making liberal donations of books, some of which were slightly damaged, and others were old editions which had been replaced by new ones; but all of which we have made most excellent use of in our gratuitous work in different parts of the world.

Soon after our last annual session, the International Tract Society was requested to undertake the work of handling the literature of the National

Religious Liberty Association. Our Executive Board held a joint meeting with the Executive Committee of the Association, and arrangements were made by which we could carry out this request. The N. R. L. Association has furnished its literature at the cost of production to the International Society, and the International Society has generously handled this literature without commission, doing the work gratuitously and assuming the responsibility of carrying and collecting all accounts. This plan made it necessary to provide for a Religious Liberty department and choosing some one to have the special oversight of it. The statistical reports which have appeared in the HOME MISSIONARY since the beginning of 1890 and the report of the secretary of the N. R. L. department of our society, which will be presented at our next meeting, will show something of the nature and amount of work we have done in this direction.

The Health and Temperance department of our work, nominally established before our last annual session, has been given more attention during the last year and the secretary of that department has used large quantities of health publications and is seeing some very encouraging results, as her report will show.

There has been a marked increase during the year in the active work done by the society over that of any previous year since its organization. In former years when its secretary work was all done by one person, and it had no regular method for the distribution of literature, its work was done largely by correspondence and furnishing publications to others for distribution. But owing to the increase of our office facilities and force of help and the division of our work into departments and systematizing it, we have not only continued to furnish publications to ship missionaries in different parts of the world who have distributed them to good advantage, but we have been able to do a large amount of actual work in our own office, as the reports of the secretaries will show. There is no limit to the amount of work we might do in the great field which is spread out before us, if we had the means to secure publications, and had the devoted workers to send them out.

Our treasurer's report will cover a period of eighteen months and will show that during the year ending June 30, 1890, the gratuitous work done by our two offices was over \$4,700. During the six months ending Dec. 31, 1890, the gratuitous work has been nearly \$2,900, making a total for the eighteen months of about \$7,600. There is one peculiarity about the work of the International Society; the more it does, the more it loses, as we have no sources of profit from the distribution of our literature, our only income being the receipts from life memberships and such donations as are made to us from time to time.

In addition to the lines of work above mentioned, we have tried to assist our State societies in their work by sending them plans and suggestions from time to time which we have reason to believe have been sources of benefit to them. We have also made an effort to assist our workers in foreign fields both by supplying them with publications and by corresponding with them in reference to their plans of labor.

The principal work of our Chicago office has been to send publications and correspondence into destitute portions of the South. Large quantities of Religious Liberty publications have been sent there, and if we can judge from the extracts from letters that the secretary of that office has furnished at different times, there is a large number of prominent men in the southern field who are accepting and indorsing the correct principles on the subject of religious liberty as a result of our efforts. We have also, through the Chicago office, done what we feel to be a commendable work by supplying publications to a large number of schools in the southern field.

In October last we located our Scandinavian secretary in Chicago to continue the work which had been commenced at our main office, and also to take charge of the two new Scandinavian papers which have been started by the Foreign Publication Committee. I will not attempt to go into the details of the work, as the reports from the secretaries of the Chicago office will give much more complete information than I could possibly do.

As president of the society, I have since our last annual session attended seven general or State meetings and twelve camp-meetings, distributed in the following territory: New England, Atlantic, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas. At all of these meetings I have tried to labor as best I could for the interests of the missionary work both home and foreign, and assist in such other lines of work as I had opportunity. We have tried to present the needs of the foreign mission fields in all these meetings, and are glad to hear of some encouraging results from the efforts put forth in this direction.

During the year, the General Conference Committee has seen fit to recommend that the International Tract Society be more directly connected with the canvassing work by choosing its president as general canvassing agent. At future meetings we shall have reports from the canvassing work in different parts of the world. The State agents' convention which has just closed a very profitable ten days' session, has developed facts in regard to this work which prove conclusively that it is becoming

more and more important, and its importance is becoming recognized more than ever before.

The field in which the International Society does its work is the world. We have borne the name of International for some time, and have been trying with the facilities with which we have had to work to make it international in character. The relation which we sustain to our State tract societies and organized tract societies in foreign fields is simply advisory; but in the vast field where there are no organized tract societies, we have tried to turn our special efforts and do actual missionary work such as our State societies are trying to accomplish in the fields which they occupy.

Last year a standing committee of five was appointed to examine the constitution of our society, and also the constitution of the State societies, and report at this session. This committee has been badly scattered, but has done its work as best it could by correspondence. We have made recommendations to the State societies with reference to their constitutions, which have been adopted in a large number of societies. We have collected much information from the various State societies, bearing upon the question of the constitution; but from the uncertainty of the plans which may be made during the meetings of the General Conference, and the bearing which they may have upon the work of the International Society in the future, we have not thought best to report any definite recommendations at this time. The report of the committee will explain itself with reference to its recommendations.

As to the results of our work since our last session I will undertake to say but little. Our secretaries' reports will show some of the encouraging results which have been seen, and from these we can safely hope that the judgment will reveal much good which at present is unseen. I have thus far referred somewhat to what we have done. I will now call attention to a few things we have not done.

By referring to the Year Book for 1890, page 83, resolution No. 4, we find that the Executive Board was requested to secure a boat for use in the ship mission at the New York harbor. A committee was appointed to have charge of this matter and will report at a future meeting, giving the reasons why we have not carried out this request.

Resolution 7 adopted last year was a request to the Executive Board to hasten the work of translating tracts into foreign languages. This matter was placed in the hands of a committee, the majority of which were connected with our work in Europe, thinking that some definite arrangements might be made with the translators and publishers in London for carrying out this request. But owing to the uncertainty of the plans for conducting the publica-

tion of our foreign works, nothing whatever has been accomplished.

Resolution 8 of last year instructed the Board to produce or secure the production of a series of small tracts on practical subjects especially adapted to meet the demand which we find for such literature. But we found that we had no authority to act in this matter, as such work was in the hands of the Book Committee of the denomination. So we did all we could do, and appointed a committee to suggest a list of subjects to the Book Committee with the request that they secure the production of tracts upon such subjects. This committee did its work, but as yet has seen nothing accomplished by the Book Committee.

The last resolution adopted at the last session was to the effect that the next regular session of the society should be held in Dist. No. 1. There were many reasons why we did not carry out this resolution. Among these was the fact that a meeting held in that locality would not be a representative meeting, and but little could be accomplished. Hence the Board postponed the meeting till this time, when it could be held in connection with the General Conference. These are a few of the plans which were made last year that we have not been able to carry out. And I feel that I am safe in making the general statement that we have done only a small part of the work which might have been accomplished in the same length of time in the great field before us, if we had means with which to work, and trained workers to assist us.

A few words in closing, with reference to the work to be done at this session. The General Conference Committee has provided six meetings in its program for this society, and we shall find an abundance of matter to occupy the time thus allotted us. There are many important questions to be settled. The future work of the society should be carefully outlined in a general way. The constitution should be so amended as to be adapted to the future work of the society whenever a definite decision is reached as to what that work shall be. Plans should be made by which the society can be regularly supplied with sufficient funds for carrying on at least a portion of the work which it sees it might accomplish. Personally I can see no reason why the International Tract Society should not receive a regular appropriation from the funds placed in the hands of the Foreign Mission Board, as its work is largely done in foreign fields, and it has been demonstrated by our work in the West Indies that the seed which has been sown with little time and expense by this society, is now commencing to bear an abundant harvest when even a single laborer is sent to develop it.

The canvassers' convention which has just closed, has made several recommendations which should be considered by this society; and as far as consistent, we should support plans which that convention has adopted. We should also consider the relation which this society shall sustain to our publishing work, and whether it ought not to be the publisher of our foreign books, many of which can be sold to much better advantage with the imprint of this society, than if they have the imprint of any local publishing house. I can see what to our minds is an excellent opportunity for encouraging and developing our plans of work and our sphere of usefulness. These and many other questions should receive careful attention.

I would suggest that the society provide at this meeting for the selection of the following committees: 1, a Committee on Nominations; 2, a Committee on Resolutions; 3, a Committee on Constitution and Future Work; 4, a Committee on New Books; 5, a Committee on Finance. There may be special committees which will need to be appointed during the session; but it seems that these should be selected as soon as possible and given an opportunity to prepare their work.

As our work as a denomination expands and develops, we should expand our methods accordingly. My year's connection with the work of the International Society has led me to believe that it has an important sphere of usefulness, and I trust that during the meetings we hold at this session we may have the Spirit of the Lord to direct us in all our deliberations, that such plans may be made as will be attended by his blessing in carrying them out.

After the reading of the president's address, Elder Haskell expressed his thankfulness for what was being accomplished. He had been thinking of the small beginning of the work of the society, in the efforts of a few individuals who had little idea that the work in which they engaged would grow to its present dimension. In his recent journey through foreign fields, he had found many instances in which publications sent out when the work first commenced had left an influence which might still be traced. In India and other points, he found those not of our faith, who were familiar with our publications, and who were taking pains to systematically distribute them. The Lord has prepared the way, and it is for us to walk in that way with zeal and consecration.

On motion, the president, was empowered to appoint the committees for the session. The committees appointed were as follows:—

Nominations—A. T. Robinson, J. N. Loughborough, Geo. A. Irwin.

Resolutions—M. C. Wilcox, C. Eldridge, W. S. Hyatt.

Constitution and Future Work—W. C. White, H. P. Holser, Allen Moon, R. A. Underwood, L. Dyo Chambers, E. E. Miles, E. J. Hibbard.

New Books—J. H. Durland, F. D. Starr, E. J. Waggoner, F. L. Mead, O. A. Johnson, John Vuilleumier, P. W. B. Wessels, G. H. Baber, T. Valentiner.

Application was made for admission into the International Society on behalf of the newly organized Southern and Montana societies, and action in the matter was postponed until the question as to the advisability of organizing tract societies in mission fields could be discussed.

The Chair stated that at the next meeting of the society, reports would be made by secretaries having charge of special lines of works. The meeting then adjourned.

BIBLE STUDY.

A feature which promises to be of much interest during the Conference, is the class organized for Bible study. This was begun Sunday, March 1. At first it was decided to hold this at 9 A. M.; but so much interest was manifested on the part of the Battle Creek church, the students of the College, the helpers at the Sanitarium, and hands in the Review Office, that the time was changed to 7 P. M., in order to accommodate all.

Thus far the study has been conducted by Prof. W. W. Prescott, on the subject of the Bible as the inspired word of God. Only a few of the many excellent thoughts presented during the first four lessons can be more than suggested here. The lessons are given from the standpoint that all present believe the Bible to be true. And believing this, the scriptures themselves should decide for us what is the truth of their inspiration.

2 Tim. 3:16 shows that "*all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable.*" The word "inspired" signifies *God-breathed*. Then the word is the breathing forth of God's own infinite thoughts. There can be no degrees of inspiration. We accept the entire word as coming alike from God.

As soon as we decide that one portion of the Scripture is more inspired than another, we have a man-made Bible, which is really no standard of right and wrong. While we regard certain texts not so fully inspired as others, those texts cannot have the influence on us that they otherwise would. While we doubt portions of Scripture, we have but a doubting faith. But when we accept "*all Scripture*" as being inspired of God, it immediately becomes profitable and a source of strength.

In 2 Pet. 1:21 it is stated that holy men were *moved* by the Holy Ghost to write the prophecy. It came not by the will of man. Then, since all the writings of the Bible were prophetic, or inspired, and were spoken only as the writers were *moved* by the Holy Ghost, every word of the Bible is the exact language of God.

Heb. 1:1, 2 very clearly states that *God spake* in time past by the prophets, and in these last days by his Son. If God spoke, it was not man. *Man* was only the mouth-piece. It was *God* who spoke. Then we should lose sight of the human agency and see in the Bible the *word of God only*.

The object in studying the Bible should not be for information merely, but that the word may be a means of grace to us. The word is *living* and *powerful* (Heb. 4:12; Jer. 23:29); it is *Spirit* and *life* (John 6:03); it is a *living* principle (1 Pet. 1:23). It is thus shown that God puts his own power in his word. And if that word is abiding in us, it will give us strength against temptation.

Christ's use of Scripture in Matt. 4, shows us how to meet temptation. When the Tempter assails us, if we meet him with the word of God, there is a power in the word that will always put him to flight.