

INDIA UNION TIDINGS

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No. 19

Signs of the Times

THE MOVING FINGER

*For Nation shall rise against Nation,
And Kingdom against Kingdom, And
there shall be Famines, and Pestilences,
and Earthquakes in divers Places*

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The Magazine With a Definite Message

Some of the Work it is Doing

Upon our English churches devolves the duty of giving the Message to the European community of India. We know it as well as we know anything in this world and above all, God knows it too, and He will hold us responsible if that task is not completed soon. It is time to go about that duty in a systematic way.

It is perhaps known by all the readers of TIDINGS that the Indian *Signs of the Times* is a soul-winner. Some of the staunchest lay members of our Mission are with us today because of reading this well-known magazine. What it has done for them it will do for others, *and it is doing it too*. There is not a more simple and effective way of reaching the English-speaking population than by putting *Signs of the Times* into their hands. It gives 288 pages of live, up-to-date reading matter each year at the minimum cost. It reminds them month by month of their soul's salvation. It teaches truth. Its arguments are unanswerable. It produces the desired results. "Prove it?" We shall.

The following are testimonials received within the last month of what *Signs of the Times* is doing now.

It is Winning Converts

"One of our brethren in——had accepted practically every point of present truth through reading *Signs of the Times* for a number of years. He came to the services for only a short time and decided to identify himself with the people he called "his people," a people who were seeking to fully walk with "his God." Having accepted the Message two years ago, he is still firm

and loyal in every respect."—*From a Mission Supt.*

Patients Deeply Interested

"Some of my patients have become deeply interested through reading *Signs of the Times* and through reading this paper they have taken to Bible study. I am at present giving readings to a patient who greatly enjoys our papers."—*A Nurse in Our Treatment Rooms.*

Our Doctrines The Topic of the Day Hundreds Interested

"In my work, lately, I visited a city in Eastern Bengal where I thought we would be little known, but instead I found that our doctrines were the topic of the day. This seemed strange as we had held no public effort. There had been an effort though and that was through that silent messenger, *The Signs of the Times*. Nearly every place I visited, the people either were taking it or had heard of it. This is the same in every place. Hundreds of people are becoming interested in India through this paper. I believe it is one of the greatest factors we have of spreading this Message."—*A Colporteur.*

It Convinces A Business Man

"One of our present enquirers has for a long while been a reader of our Indian *Signs of the Times*. We learned of his interest under very interesting circumstances. Brother——was one day in business conversation with a Hindu and had occasion to tell him that he strictly observed the seventh-day Sabbath. 'Then,' said the Hindu, 'You are of the same religion as Mr.——of——& Co. He declines to discuss business on Saturday.' Brother

"I can heartily recommend the Indian edition of 'The Signs of the Times' as one of the best means through which to reach the people with the Third Angel's Message."

L. J. B.

"I cannot recommend the paper too highly. It is the right thing for the people in India and would keep them constantly informed concerning the signs of the times."
W. H. S.

— immediately rang up Mr. — on the telephone and learned that the facts were precisely as his Hindu informant had represented."—*From a City Evangelist.*

Not a Stranger in Burma

"Two families are keeping the Sabbath through reading *The Signs* and have become Bible students. They in turn are spreading the truth to others. *The Signs of the Times* is no stranger to Burma and is well spoken of."—*A prominent Lay Member.*

"A Beautiful Paper" "Very Welcome" "Such Good Reading"

"I do enjoy reading *The Signs of the Times*. I look eagerly now for the papers and like the way the S. D. A. people have of explaining the Bible. They are perfectly right that Saturday is the seventh day.

I get *The Signs of the Times* now and there are lots of little things which have been troubling my mind, but I have had them all answered in that beautiful paper. It is very welcome indeed and such good reading which we sadly need for the good of our souls."—*An unsolicited letter from a stranger, to one of our church members.*

Soldiers Become Bible Students

"I know of quite a number of my comrades, who, because of the truths taught in the Indian *Signs of the Times Extras* have been moved from apathy and now are reading the Bible for themselves and have accepted many of its truths. A Lance Corporal because of the *Extras* has accepted many of the truths taught and would, I feel, eventually become a Seventh-day Adventist when opportunity offers itself. I feel that he is not alone in this, and if God offers them the opportunity after this War they will take a stand for the truth."—

From an officer among the Territorials, stationed in India.

A Whole Family Stirred

"I hope you will receive this letter safely for I want you to know that there are quite a few people here who would like to make the acquaintance of the Seventh-day Sabbath-keeping people. Bertie wishes to belong to the church and if he does Harry is sure to follow. One of his teachers at the Polytechnic is quite interested and has had some talks with Bertie. Also an elderly lady who sits in the same pew with Bertie at—Church, who has taken a great liking to him and has invited him to tea with her several times, is very interested and I have lent her some of your books. As soon as possible I shall take Bertie and Harry over to—and try to find the Mission Hall there, and will see about being baptised." This is the result of literature which the son in India has sent to his mother at home.

Converts a Railway Inspector

"My own case is one in point of what the Indian *Signs of the Times* does towards winning souls. In the large district over which I have to travel, I have met many dear people, who, though not yet numbered with us, strongly advocate our truths which they have learned from the paper."—*A Railway Inspector.*

Dies as a Sabbath-Keeper Daughter a Faithful Member

"A lady living in — subscribed for the *Signs of the Times* when it was first published as *Oriental Watchman*. She was a careful reader for several years and died a Sabbath keeper, not knowing of a church which observed the same day. Later, her eldest daughter attended lectures on the

"It is one of the best means I know of to give the Message to the people. 'The Signs of the Times' contains a definite Message and is therefore a splendid weapon to use as an entering wedge in order to get into the homes to do personal work and find readers for Bible studies. It can be used alike by the laity and the Minister or Bible worker. I strongly recommend its use in every church and by the isolated church member."

G. W. P.

Third Angel's Message, recognized the same truth her mother loved and is to-day a faithful member of the S. D. A. church at this place."

"Another regular attendant at our church subscribed for the *Oriental Watchman* when it first came out, and has several years of it bound into book form. While he has not yet been baptised, he keeps the

Sabbath and pays his tithe into the treasury regularly."—*A Pastor of a Church*

Many more testimonials might be given, but these are living proofs of what *The Signs of the Times* can do.

The moral is obvious: Give the Truth to your friends, neighbourhood, and community through

THE SIGNS.

The Past and the Future

Before me on the desk lies a bound volume of the first numbers of *The Oriental Watchman*. The date line of the first copy reads:

"Vol. 1. Calcutta, May, 1898. Two Annas." Above the date line appears:

"Watchman, What of the night? The Watchman said, The morning cometh."

The first article exalts the Word of God as our only foundation. The second is by Mrs. E. G. White on the Love of God. The third presents the second chapter of Daniel. Another article speaks of the universal preparation for war. The remainder of the paper is devoted to short articles under "Beacon Lights," "Home," "Health Hints," "Light for Little Feet," and "This and That."

As I look at the instruction contained in this beginning of our publishing work in India, the unity and grandeur of the Third Angel's Message seem very clear. In that first number the very same subjects are dwelt upon as we find in all our denominational publications to-day. It prophesied the present war while other religious

periodicals prophesied peace. It has proclaimed for 19 years the same truths of God's Word with a unity and consistency that are not found in any other paper in India. A good record, isn't it?

Pastor W. A. Spicer, the present secretary of the General Conference, we believe, was the first editor. Brethren D. A. Robinson, J. L. Shaw and J. C. Little followed.

It was printed first at the "Law Publishing Press," 57, Bow Bazaar St., Calcutta; then moved to our own "Watchman Press" at 38, Free School Street, and published under the imprint of Brother A. G. Watson. In 1905, it moved to Karmatar where it remained until 1909.

During the first few years the paper contained sixteen pages, 9 by 12 inches in size, without a special cover. In 1907, a coloured cover was added, and at the beginning of 1910 it was reduced to the present size, containing 24 pages; increased to 32 pages in 1912, and again reduced in 1915.

We wish we might tell some of the inte-

resting experiences through which it passed in those days gone by but its old friends have mostly passed away and the volumes, worn by many years of monsoons and Indian summers, tell me nothing of the tears, the prayers or the joys of its early companions.

January, 1909, the machinery, the type, and all the rest of this pioneer printing office were moved to Lucknow, 19, Banks Road. The March number bears for the first time the name of G. F. Enoch as editor, and W. E. Perrin as printer.

In March of the next year, Pastor S. A. Wellman succeeded to the editorial chair and Pastor Enoch took up other duties. Brother Perrin left for America in 1915, and Brother E. Parkinson of Australia became sponsor for the paper's appearance for a time. In 1916, Brother W. S. Mead took charge of the printing office and under his efficient management it remains at the present.

At the beginning of 1916 the familiar name of "Oriental Watchman," was changed to "The Signs of the Times." Many have felt that the change was not for the best. Its thousands of old friends do not recognise it under the new title, resulting in a corresponding decrease in circulation.

Within the last 19 years, over half a million of these white-winged messengers have been scattered in every part of India. Thanks to the trusty colporteurs, the *Oriental Watchman* is known in every city and district town from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. From the many letters

received from its patrons, we know it has an unblemished record and an unexcelled reputation.

In this connection we must mention some of those who have been responsible for its wide-spread circulation. Brethren Baasch, Mattison, Poley, Raymond and Rick are among the most well known of recent years. Misses Haegert, Orr, King and Jewett might also be mentioned. Of this band only faithful Brother Raymond is left, all the others being called to other duties. The good done by these labourers cannot be estimated; it cannot be reckoned by rupees or pounds sterling, but God has the record and is preparing the reward.

The foregoing is a short history of the past. But we live in the ever-momentous present. The past has been a record of triumph, but the coming months, we believe, will be still more glorious for our "best evangelist in India."

Some pessimists have predicted a dark future because no more canvassers can be obtained for regular effort with the paper, because of the War.

We look to you, friends and church members, to give them an answer. What our loyal laity are doing in England and Australia and other countries with their respective missionary agencies, we know you will do when told of the need. We are depending on you. What are you going to do to help your old friend,

THE ORIENTAL WATCHMAN
and THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES
R. B.

"The circulation should be ten times more than it is."

J. C.

"I like the last few issues especially. I wish to see it placed in the hands of every English-speaking Indian."

E. D. T.

'The Signs of the Times' is making a large circle of friends in India, and is a great pioneer missionary for the living preacher." J. M. C.

Facing a Crisis

For nineteen years our Indian magazine, *The Signs of the Times*, either in its present form or as *The Oriental Watchman*, has gone out month by month with its message of cheer, of warning, or of general instruction; and as we look through our ranks to-day, we find many who have been brought to a knowledge of Present Truth through its instrumentality. To the faithful canvassers of the past, both those devoting their whole time to the work and those who have cheerfully added this service to

"I am much pleased with the efforts being made to produce a real, live magazine, true to its name."

F. O. R.

their other activities. we render grateful tribute: and we rejoice that their efforts have not gone unrewarded, but that even now they may behold the fruits of their labour.

Our little magazine is confronted with a crisis. Owing to the war we have been unable to secure new canvassers to replace those who have been called to other lines of work or have gone on furlough, and our subscription lists are suffering accordingly. The continued existence of the *Signs* is therefore problematical. Shall we cease to publish our paper? This would mean that those hundreds of regular subscribers who have month by month received their copy of the *Signs* with its timely messages, would be bereft of their old friend; and too, this tried and proved assistant would be removed from the hands of those who go out to break new ground.

In this extremity we turn to our church in India. The task of warning India in this generation is ours, yours. Let us so improve our time, employ our talents, that we may near the judgement bar of heaven without one wasted opportunity to account

for. This little paper, *The Signs of the Times*, is your paper. It is not prepared that colporteurs may have something to sell; but it is prepared that the work of warning India may be facilitated. It is a tool prepared to aid you in accepting and discharging the responsibility which God has placed upon you. Many avail themselves of its usefulness, and are faithful in endeavouring to increase its circulation. What are you doing in this respect? We earnestly invite one and all to approach their friends and acquaintances and endeavour to secure their names as subscribers that they may hear the warning message for these times. Those who have the time to spare, let them go out and canvass in their neighbourhood. Do not be disappointed if some rebuke you, but go on working as he who digs for precious jewels. "Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame."

You who are rejoicing in the knowledge of your Lord's soon-coming, have you no care for those who know Him not? Does not their plight, without God and without

"I would heartily recommend that a greater effort should be put forth for its circulation. I believe that the present circulation could be doubled."

R. T.

hope, arouse you to activity? Let us awake and do the work of God, and so join in hastening His return.

A. H. WILLIAMS
Sec. and Treas., I. T. Society.

All the resources of heaven are at the command of those who are seeking to save the lost.

Our Duty

Selections from the Testimonies

The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers.—Vol. IX, 117.*

What Can We Do?

Just now, when people are thinking seriously, literature on the meaning of the signs of the times, wisely circulated, will have a telling effect in behalf of the truth.

—*A Call to Service.*

The Lord is soon to come. In fire and flood and earthquake He is warning the inhabitants of this earth of His soon approach. O, that the people might know the time of their visitation. We must make more determined efforts to lead the people of the world to see that the day of judgment is near at hand. *Carefully prepared literature on the significance of the scenes we are now witnessing, is to be circulated everywhere.*—Id.

The Most Important Work

If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures.—IV, 390.

There is no higher work than evangelistic canvassing; for it involves the performance of the highest moral duties.—VI, 331.

Churches in every place should feel the deepest interest in the tract and missionary work.—IV, 390.

As the Leaves of Autumn

The work in these last days extends to the entire world. The message of truth is to go to all nations, tongues, and peoples; its publications, printed in many different languages, *are to be scattered abroad like the leaves of autumn.*—IV, 79.

*Roman numerals indicate the volume of "Testimonies to the Church," Arabic numerals indicate pages.

The end is near. Already much time has been lost, when these books should have been in circulation. Sell them far and near. *Scatter them like the leaves of autumn.*—IX, 72.

Objects of Our Literature

The great object of our publications is to exalt God, to call men's attention to the living truths of His word. God calls upon us to lift up, not our own standard, not the standard of the world, but His standard of truth.—VII, 151.

Papers and books are the Lord's means of keeping the message for this time continually before the people. In enlightening and confirming souls in the truth, the publications will do a far greater work than can be accomplished by the ministry of the word alone.—VI, 316.

All to Take Part

Let every one professing the name of Christ act a part in sending forth the message, "The end of all things is at hand;" "Prepare to meet thy God." *Our publications should go everywhere. The circulation of our periodicals should be greatly increased.*—*A Call to Service.*

How to Distribute

Let literature be distributed judiciously, on the trains, in the street, on the great ships that ply the sea, and through the mails.—IX, 123.

By lending or selling books, by distributing papers, and by holding Bible readings, our lay members could do much in their own neighbourhoods. Filled with love for souls, they could proclaim the message with such power that many would be converted.—IX, 35.

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The Reward

When the members of the church of God do their appointed work in the needy fields at home and abroad, in fulfillment of the gospel commission, the whole world will soon be warned, and the Lord Jesus will return to this earth with power and great glory.—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 111.

A report of the recent general meeting in Burma has just come. It will be published in the next issue, D. V. By the way, brethren, we need more "copy."

One of our earnest lay members has sold more than 100 single copies of *Signs* during the last few months and taken more than 50 yearly subscriptions for the same paper. This person is not only doing faithful missionary work but is earning a neat sum of money in commissions. Perhaps some others would like to have spending money of their own. This is one of the best ways of earning it.

As will be seen from the contents, this number of *TIDINGS* is devoted entirely to the interests of our missionary paper, *The Signs*. The first page is a facsimile of the October *Signs*. The testimonials and recommendations are all *bona fide* communications received from our people in India during the last few weeks. You know after reading these what the paper has done and what it is doing. Will it not be worth the effort to give it a good, strong start for the New Year? What will *you* do to help us?

Wanted

Two Hundred Church Members

With the love of God and a zeal for souls in their hearts, to introduce, as they have opportunity and time,

THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

to their neighbours, friends and communities.

The Campaign starts next month.

Write for prospectus of next year's subjects and contributors, and special prices to agents and church missionary societies.

INTERNATIONAL TRACT SOCIETY,

17, Abbott Road, Lucknow