



# Key Note

Volume 1

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No. 12

## A U T U M N   S C E N E

By Edgar A. Guest

Upon the hills the giant trees with color were ablaze,  
Like smoke from smouldering embers rose the late October haze.  
All silent and magnificent I fancied I could see  
The Master Artist touching up some solitary tree,  
But the glory of the landscape was a flash of crimson flame  
At the bottom of the picture where the painter signs his name.

Now I cannot speak the language of the men who paint and draw,  
And with technical precision can't describe the scene I saw.  
All I know is that a picture was unrolled for me to see  
And the high lights and the shadows seemed just what they ought  
to be,

But that gorgeous burst of color in the foreground caught my eye,  
And I knew it made the landscape, though I couldn't say just why.

It struck me as peculiar, where an earthly painter signs,  
The Master Artist splashed His name in tangled shrubs and vines.  
And as I stepped up closer I discovered and was glad  
He had given that touch of splendor to the poorest stuff He had.  
To the common things in summer which man scarcely sees at all  
He had given the place of honor and the glory of the fall.

## HOW I BECAME A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

I was not a Seventh-day Adventist when I came to the General Conference to work, just thirty-five years ago this September. My father brought me much against my wishes, and my plans were, as soon as he returned home, to find employment elsewhere. Fortunately for me I was put to work for Mrs. Plummer. How she ever endured me I don't know, for as Elder Daniells sometimes told folks when he introduced me, "I remember when her father brought her to us, just a slip of a girl as 'green as a gourd.'"

May it be said to the credit of those with whom I worked that the longer I stayed the less I rebelled in my heart against being here. How thankful I am that I was placed in the hands of one so wise and good as Mrs. Plummer, with such infinite patience and understanding! And I must not forget the interest of the girls in the office to see that I got to Sabbath school and church.

While I was living a rather worldly life outside the office, the beauty of the Christian life as it was presented to me, both in the things I heard and in the lives of those with whom I was daily associated, began to grip me. Then at the end of a year came the Week of Prayer--a never-to-be-forgotten occasion--when Elders Spicer, Daniells, Luther Warren and others pled with us to give our hearts unreservedly to God. The struggle was a bitter one, but, oh, how sweet the surrender!

While I have not always lived up to my highest privileges, yet I am glad to say I have never been tempted to turn back, nor have I ever again considered seriously taking up work elsewhere.

--Irene Walters.

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"There are no friends like old friends, to help us with the load  
That all must bear who journey o'er life's uneven road;  
And when unconquered sorrows, the weary hours invest,  
The kindly words of old friends are always found the best."

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"No one ever succeeded in running another down except the elevator boy, and he is running himself down at the same time."

# MY HOBBY ——— FLOWERS

## I F

(With apologies to Kipling)



If I can keep my head when all about me  
The weeds are growing fast and tall,  
If I can spend hours in back-breaking labor  
In pulling up weeds from early spring to fall,  
If I can force my heart and nerve and efforts  
The obnoxious weeds from my garden to chase,  
Though spite of all my efforts to destroy  
They crowd my cherished flowers out of place;

If I can spend hours to loosen up hard soil,  
And get my hands right down in good old earth  
If I can see huge worms twist, turn, and coil  
And make some allowance for their worth,  
If I can wait, and not be tired of waiting  
For tiny seeds I've planted to come up,  
And not forget each day to keep them watered  
And get a thrill from e'en a buttercup;

If I can dream of a garden of flowers,  
And not stop with dreaming of them,  
If I will to spend my leisure hours  
At work until my back no more will bend,  
If I can gather much enjoyment  
When Mr. Weatherman predicts "No rain,"  
In lugging a snake-like hose about,  
Until I'm sure I've drained the water main;

If I can wait and find joy in waiting  
For flowers I've tended long to bloom,  
And thrill to see the blue ageratums,  
Marigolds, peonies, and sweet petunes,  
And pleasure take in their smiling faces,  
From early spring till summer's end,  
If Joy in doing this is called a HOBBY,  
Then I have a HOBBY, my Friend.



--Matilda Wyatt.



# THE SPONSOR

## HIKING

Ladies, these are the days to get out the brogues and develop your talents as hikers along the highways. No time you say? How about a brisk walk to and from your place of toil, a little saunter at noon, or a nice stroll around the block before turning in? And Rock Creek Park welcomes the trampers any Sabbath afternoon. Try it these crisp autumn days. Your dividends? Pep, sparkle, and well-being.--Irma Lee Hewett (Hiking).



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H is for HEALTH as we travel life's sea,  
— May it be the lot of each Keeper of  
the Keys.

E is for EATS, and plenty of water,  
— Take just the foods that make for life-  
giving mortar.

A is for AIR, with sunshine added also;  
— Be fair with yourself; you'll be glad  
on the morrow.

L is for 'LAXING,—just the proper amount;  
— Too much or too little bringeth illness  
about.

T is for TAKING exercise in various ways,  
— Some by hiking, swimming, biking, or  
good tennis plays.

H is for HAPPINESS all the way along  
— When the rules of health are followed  
with a song.

--Dorothy Steinman (Health).

MY HOPE

If it isn't raining in the  
game, did I hear you say? Why  
best exercise, keenest competi-  
of any sport for the time spent

The best routine of settling  
of competition with a good hour  
The clear, early-morning air  
taking on an extra load, and you  
so well before. The game is just  
any time during the day, but I  
day added to it.

I am only a beginner at tennis  
Helen Wills—Moody, but that's  
as much as I possibly can.  
time.-- Harriett Richardson.

# RS SPEAK



## NEW BOOKS

A mimeographed, selective list of new books is issued monthly by the public libraries of the District of Columbia. This is called "The Monthly List of Selected Books," and is for free distribution. The books are listed under such headings as Biography, History, Recreation, Health, Nature, Travel, Music, Literature, New Fiction, etc. Look for this list on the table at our Public Library at Fifth and Cedar Streets.

--Mable A. Hinkhouse (Literature).

## TENNIS

ning, how about a game? What  
nist! The game that gives the  
and most wholesome enjoyment  
suing it.

exercises is completely out  
tennis early in the morning.  
ices lagging hemoglobin into  
nder why you never felt quite  
s interesting and fascinating  
or the extra thrill of the new

mo, and never expect to be a  
keep me from enjoying the sport  
like it, come join me some

## LET NATURE TEACH ME

Let Nature give me this --  
The courage of tall trees;  
The silent strength of rocks  
Against the crashing seas;  
The beauty of the dawn;  
The joyousness of spring;  
The power to soar above  
As eagle on the wing.

Let Nature teach me this --  
The peaceful depth of sky;  
The quiet of the stars --  
The gallant way to die.

--Gertrude Grynnes Smith.

There're eleven lines of living  
To one line about dying,  
And the beautiful lesson it's giving  
I'm sure we can take without sighing

--T. Rose Curtis (Nature).

## GENERAL CONFERENCE INSURANCE SERVICE



This service, a branch or unit of the Treasury Department, was organized in 1936, and started its operations in the room now occupied by Attorney Taft. Soon the work outgrew such crowded quarters but there was seemingly no more available office space to be had. Then somebody had a bright idea and presto! The old coal bin was transformed into two lovely office

rooms. A private office for Mr. Benjamin, who has charge of the Insurance Service, and an adjoining office for Clarence Miller, accountant, and Edna Helms and Mayme Higgins, who look after the automobile and fire insurance, respectively.

We have the International Insurance Company, which is owned and controlled by the General Conference. This incorporated company, with a governing board of eleven members, writes fire and windstorm insurance on our colleges, sanitariums, academies, churches, church schools, office buildings, campground properties, etc. The goal is to have all denominationally owned property in the United States and Canada insured through our own General Conference Company, and at the present pace we will ultimately reach that goal.

The other important branch of the Service is automobile insurance for our workers. This service is efficient and dependable, and means a considerable saving to all the workers who avail themselves of it.

Our work is to write insurance and keep everybody happy while we are doing it. We like it.                   --Mayme Higgins.

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" 'Twas the nite before pay-day, when all through my jeans,  
I'd hunted in vain for the ways and the means,  
Not a quarter was stirring, not even a jit,  
The kale was off duty; the greenbacks had quit.  
Forward, turn forward, O time in thy flight,  
And make it to-morrow just for tonite."

## THE KEY NOTE

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## SECRETARIAL SNAPSHOTS

September 5--The monthly meeting of the "Keepers of the Keys" was called at 5 p.m., with Miss Kathryn Jensen as Chairman.

Twenty-one members were present.

A Committee on Flowers and Gifts, also to formulate a policy for guidance in the future, was appointed as follows: Miss Elsie Winders, Chairman; Mrs. LaVerne Case, and Miss Gwyneth Thompson.

It was voted that Miss Esther Benton be asked to serve on the production staff of the Key Note.

A telegram was read from Mrs. William Keith announcing the arrival of a son--William, Jr.

--Katie Farney.

## A MESSAGE FROM HONGKONG

How would you enjoy attending Sabbath school where it is conducted in three languages at the same time? From far-away Hongkong comes this interesting word from a former office worker, Mary Ogle, concerning their Sabbath school:

"A unique Sabbath school service is held in Hongkong every Sabbath at 2:45 p.m. The superintendent is an American. There are two secretaries, both Chinese young people. The young lady reads the report in English, and the young man then reads it, first in Cantonese--the language of the south where we are--and then in Mandarin for the benefit of the Chinese refugees who are here from the north. Two men interpret for the superintendent when he makes his remarks, one in Cantonese and one in Mandarin. The Cantonese sit together in one group and the Mandarin in another, so that both interpretations can be made at the same time. We divide into three groups for the mission study and review, and these exercises are given in the three languages all at once. It sounds somewhat like Babel."

We send greetings to Mary, giving faithful service in a land where there is such sanguinary strife.

# THIS 'N THAT

A restful week, with much enjoyment, at Ocean City, N. J., was spent by Louise Meyer and her family the middle of September.

Olivia Lockwood and her cousin recently motored to the historic town of Williamsburg, Va., on a two days' sightseeing trip. She says the new four-lane highway to Richmond is about completed, and will be open for travel in a few days. Olivia's husband is now in England, seeking restoration of health; he has our best wishes for complete restoration.

Nell Hunter, Mrs. Quinn, and Marion Nyman have been taking part of their vacation at their homes, spending some of the time in beneficial rest, and enjoying doing at their leisure that which otherwise would have been accomplished after work hours.

The announcement came the other day of the arrival of David Franklin, 6½ pounds, August 28, to Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Walther of Collanges sous Salève, France. Mrs. Walther, formerly Louise Olsen, worked for several years in our office; Dr. Walther is principal of the Seminaire Adventiste du Salève.

Miss Gregg and her sister, Mrs. Suter, spent two weeks vacationing at Atlantic City, N. J. the latter part of September, enjoying fresh sea breezes and strolling on the famous board walk.



Our office force on the first floor is to be fairly depleted this month; many girls go to Battle Creek during Autumn Council. Those going early are the Misses Jenson, Fleisher, Paul, Williams, Farnoy, Shadel, Moonoy, Surface, Conard; and later Misses Zoidler, Wells, and Smith.

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