

NORTH MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

NEWS SHEET

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"No grief can touch us, but it touches Him;
With closest pang it wounds the heart divine.
The pruner's knife, that cuts the branching limb,
Touches with living pain the living vine.
Closer than mother's love for her babe sweet,
Closer than lover's love for one held dear,
Closer than friend's or brother's, more complete
Is Christ's love for His lonely followers here."

--6--

CRITICISING BURDEN - BEARERS.

The church is suffering for want of unselfish Christian workers. Those who live upon the husks of others' failings and deficiencies, and who gather the unwholesome miasma of their neighbors' neglects and shortcomings, make themselves church scavengers, and no advantage to the society of which they form a part, but are an actual burden to the community upon which they inflict themselves.

The church is in need, not burdens, not of fault-finders, but of builders in Zion, men who will be true as steel to preserve the honor of those whom God has placed at the head of his work. The spirit of gossip and tale bearing is one of Satan's special agencies to sow discord and strife, to separate friends, and to undermine the faith of many in the truthfulness of our positions.

The names of God's chosen servants have been handled with disrespect, and in some cases with absolute contempt, by certain persons whose duty it is to uphold them. There are many who find special enjoyment in discoursing and dwelling upon the defects, real or imaginary, of those who bear the heavy responsibilities in connection with God's cause. They overlook the good that has been accomplished, the benefits that have resulted from arduous labor and unflinching devotion to the cause, and fasten their attention on some apparent mistake, when the truth is, had they been left to do the work, they either would have refused to move at all under the attending discouragements of the case, or would have managed more indiscreetly than those who did do the work.

In your blindness you have ventured to handle the servant of God in a cruel manner. "Touch not mine anointed," saith God, "and do my prophets no harm." It is not a small matter to array yourself against men whom God has sent with light and truth for the people. Beware how you influence souls and reiterate insinuations and misrepresentations which have originated in an unsanctified heart. Souls are defiled by this root of bitterness and are, through theses questioning, murmuring ones, placed where the testimony of reproof which God sends will not reach them.

Men's hearts are no softer to-day than when Christ was upon the earth. They will criticise and turn against the servant of God and the very efforts he is leading them to make. They will with their evil surmisings, see fraud and dishonesty where all is right, and where perfect integrity exists. They lay selfish motives to the charge of God's servants, when he himself is leading them, and when they would give even their lives if God required, if by so doing they could advance his cause.

God's word is our standard, but how few follow it! Our religion will be of but little worth to our fellow men if it is only theoretical and not practical. The influence of the world and of selfishness is carried about by many who profess to be following the Bible. They are like a cloud, chilling the atmosphere in which others

move. The religious zeal which is manifested in a raid upon brethren is a zeal not according to knowledge. Christ has nothing to do with such testimony.

Mrs. E. G. White.

THE WORK AT THE CAPITOL.

In a brief letter received from Brother John E. Hanson, we are informed that he closed his work at the Capitol the 14th of June. During his stay at Lansing, Brother Hanson has had an excellent opportunity of mingling with our legislators and keeping in close touch with the legislative bodies. We have been favored with many interesting accounts of experiences that have been met in this work during the past months. On several occasions Brother Hanson has been permitted to stand before committees in "hearings" that were granted on bills that involved in any way the question of religious liberty. On all of these occasions he has been heard gladly, and the friendliness and cordiality shown him throughout have been most gratifying.

Brother Hanson did not pose as a lobbyist having some measure that he was endeavoring to "put through", but his attitude has been that of one desiring to use his influence in favor of vital principles, and as far as we have been able to learn, his position has been regarded in this way by our legislators. It was my privilege to spend a little time with Brother Hanson at the State House, and the warm friendship that seemed to be manifested on the part of all toward him was most noticeable. Every legislator has come to know him, and, as he has passed in and out among them we are certain that no one could fail to think of the vital principles for which he stood and labored. Brother Hanson's congenial ways and that smile that will not come off, won for him many friends at Lansing.

We have reasonable evidence that the presence of our representative at Lansing during this term, has done much for the cause of liberty by way of educating those who should know of these vital principles. During the devotional exercises, at which Brother Hanson officiated a large share of the time, as well as at their various hearings, and by personal conversation, the vital principles of liberty were presented in a way to enlighten many. We feel that Brother Hanson should be asked to resume his work at Lansing when occasion calls for it.

E. K. Slade.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD.

Gladstone Camp-meeting.

This meeting was well attended. There were eighteen family tents and all occupied but one. There was a spirit of devotion from the first, and many expressed themselves as receiving value for all they had expended in attending.

Elders A. C. Bourdeau, S. M. Butler, and Brother J. B. Blosser were with us and their instruction was appreciated by all. I cannot tell the readers of the NEWS SHEET of the good influence we all felt in this meeting. The Lord certainly visited his people.

Elder Bourdeau held two meetings each day in the French language. This part of the program pleased those who were English speaking because the French brethren and sisters have been so long alone with no help in their own tongue. In social meeting when the camp was all together Elder Bourdeau would interpret so all had the benefit of the testimonies.

After the preaching Sunday evening June 30th a short closing service was held in which several took part. Several of the brethren helped to clean the camp so we were able to finish at six P. M., Monday July 1st.

S. E. Wight.

On my way to Norway I went to Pentoga to spend Sabbath and Sunday June 22 and 23, with a Swedish family who have lately accepted the truth there. They live all alone in the woods about one mile from the railroad station. After giving them all the necessary instruction I could in the time there the husband and wife, Brother and Sister Ole Johnson, followed their Saviour in baptism on Sunday forenoon. It was a very pleasant occasion and the Lord seemed very near.

We pitched our tent in Norway and begun our meetings Sunday afternoon, June 30. There is one sister here who keeps the Sabbath. Thus far we have held eight meetings. All of these meetings have been well attended, and a few are steady attendants. We have a question box every Saturday night. We ask the people to write out questions on slips of paper and drop them in our question box and the questions of a proper kind are answered. These meetings are of special interest to the people. We find very much opposition here among the Swedish people, but we believe that God has true souls even in this place that will come out and accept truth. So we are encouraged to work on faithfully and pray that God may bless.

We have a table in front of the pulpit spread with Swedish tracts, small books, and pamphlets, and we invite the people to come and select what they want. A few have bought. We are endeavoring by God's grace to "push the battle to the gate."

Geo. G. Johnson.

WILDWOOD.

Our quarterly meeting July 6th was one long to be remembered. The Holy Spirit was with us in a marked degree. Confessions were made and the spirit of forgiveness was manifest in all. Wrongs were made right and a feeling of love and unity prevailed throughout. It was one of those meetings not soon to be forgotten. Some who were on the point of giving up received new courage and altogether we have much to praise and thank God for.

L. S. Winne.

THE FOOT THAT GETS TIRED.

The potter stood at his daily work.
One patient foot on the ground;
The other with never slackening speed,
Turning his swift wheel round.
Silent we stood beside him there,
Watching the restless knee,
Till my friend said low, in pitying tones,
"How tired his foot must be."

The potter never paused in his work,
Shaping the wondrous thing;
'Twas only a common flower pot,
But perfect in fashioning.
Then slowly raising his patient eyes
With homely truth inspired,
"No, ma'am, it isn't the foot that works
But the one that stands gets tired."
--Selected.

NOTICE!

Will those who return books to the Tract Society please see that the books are well wrapped and securely tied. Frequently books reach us with the wrappers nearly torn off and the books considerably damaged. When shipping books in a box see that the nails are not driven in the box so as to damage the books. Also pack the books snugly so they cannot shift about in the box.

E. A. Bristol.

"It is a great deal better to live a holy life than to talk about it. Light-houses do not ring bells and fire cannon to call attention to their shining-- they just shine."

WHO SHOULD ATTEND CAMP-MEETING.

It is important that the members of our churches should attend our camp-meetings. The enemies of truth are many; and because our numbers are few, we should present as strong a front as possible. Individually, you need the benefits of the meetings, and God calls upon you to number one in the ranks of truth.

Some will say, "It is expensive to travel, and it would be better for us to save the money, and give it for the advancement of the work where it is so much needed." Do not reason in this way. God calls upon you to take your place among the rank and file of His people. Strengthen the meeting all you possibly can by being present with your families. Put forth extra exertion to attend the gathering of God's people.

Brethren and sisters, it would be far better for you to let your business suffer than to neglect the opportunity of hearing the message God has for you. Make no excuse that will keep you from gaining every spiritual advantage possible. You need to become qualified to give a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. You can not afford to lose one such privilege.

Anciently the Lord instructed His people to assemble three times a year for His worship. To these holy convocations the children of Israel came, bringing to the house of God their tithes, their sin-offerings, and their offerings of gratitude. They met to recount God's mercies, to make known his wonderful works, and to offer praise and thanksgiving to His name. And they were to unite in the sacrificial service which pointed to Christ as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Thus they were to be preserved from the corrupting power of worldliness and idolatry. Faith and love and gratitude were to be kept alive in their hearts, and through their association together in this sacred service, they were to be bound closer to God and to one another.

In the days of Christ these feasts were attended by vast multitudes of people from all lands; and had they been kept as God intended, in the spirit of true worship, the light of truth might through them have been given to all the nations of the world.

With those who lived at a distance from the tabernacle, more than a month of every year must have been occupied in attendance upon these holy convocations. The Lord saw that these gatherings were necessary for the spiritual life of His people. They needed to turn away from their worldly cares, to commune with God, and to contemplate unseen realities.

If the children of Israel needed the benefit of these holy convocations in their time, how much more do we need them in these last days of peril and conflict! And if the people of the world then needed the light which God had committed to His church, how much more do they need it now!

This is a time for everyone to come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty. The forces of the enemy are strengthening, and as a people we are misrepresented. We desire the people to become acquainted with our doctrines and work. We want them to know what we are, and what we believe. We must find our way to their hearts. Let the army of the Lord be on the ground to represent the work and the cause of God. Do not plead an excuse. The Lord has need of you. He does not do His work without the co-operation of the human agent. Go to the camp-meeting, even tho you have to make a sacrifice to do so. Go with a will to work. And make every effort to induce your friends to go, not in your place, but to go with you, to stand on the Lord's side, and obey His commandments. Help those who are interested to attend, if ne cessary providing them with food and lodging. Angels who are commissioned to minister to those who are heirs of salvation will accompany you. God will do great things for His people. He will bless every effort to honor His cause and advance His work.

Mrs. E. G. White.

EAST JORDAN CAMP-MEETING.

August 29 to September 9, 1907.

The railroads will grant no special rates this year as the regular rate, as regulated by the legislature, is the same as the excursion rate last year.

The first meeting of the conference will be held Thursday Aug. 29 at

7 P. M. The plan is to get the conference work out of the way as much as possible so the camp-meeting will begin on Monday Sept. 2nd. Friday Aug. 30th will be mostly devoted to conference work.

In the past the tents have been floored by workman and it has been very expensive and exceedingly difficult. This year the tents will be staked down and all who wish floors can put them in. This plan will save many dollars to the cause. Some tents will be occupied by sisters and in such cases there will be plenty of volunteer help. This is the plan followed in most conferences.

Tents will rent for \$2.50; stoves, \$1.00; chairs, 10¢; bed springs, 50¢; tables, 25¢; bedsteads, 35¢. Order your tent of the North Michigan Tract Society, Petoskey, Mich.

There will be a lunch counter in the dining tent if there is sufficient patronage.

There will be no grocery but a few articles in the grocery line will be kept in the Tract Society.

Elder G. A. Irwin, Vice-president of the General Conference and Elder G. B. Thompson expect to be with us, one at the first and the other at the last of the meeting. We also have the promise of Dr. S. P. S. Edwards.

We would like to get ten good strong men to attend the worker's meeting which will begin Tuesday Aug. 20. I should be pleased to correspond with any who think of attending.

S. E. Wight.

TITHE RECEIPTS FOR JUNE, 1907.

Alpena - - - - -	\$ 1.33	Eastport - - - - -	\$ 6.91	Menominee - - - - -	\$28.40
Baldwin - - - - -	2.50	Escanaba - - - - -	6.09	Onaway - - - - -	43.17
Bear Lake - - - - -	17.50	Gaylord - - - - -	23.27	Omer - - - - -	67.01
Cedar Run - - - - -	2.88	Grant - - - - -	67.10	Rose City - - - - -	17.88
Cadillac - - - - -	13.35	Hancock - - - - -	44.48	Sault Ste. Marie -	4.00
Clare - - - - -	5.00	Iron River - - - - -	37.10	Scottville - - - - -	4.87
Clarence - - - - -	4.46	Leetsville - - - - -	26.75	Traverse City - - -	8.75
Colfax - - - - -	9.00	Mosick - - - - -	54.64	Wildwood - - - - -	27.43
Emsign - - - - -	2.10	Miscellaneous - - - - -	1.00	West Branch - - - -	5.50
				Total - - - - -	\$537.38

NEWS AND NOTES.

A General Conference Sabbath-school and Young People's Convention is now being held at Mt. Vernon Ohio. We learn that they are having an excellent convention and that at one of their meetings over fifty gave themselves to the work in foreign fields.

Elder S. E. Wight left Petoskey the 7th for Mt. Vernon to attend the meeting of the Lake Union Conference Committee.

Brother H. W. Johnson is working with "Practical Lessons" at Greenland.

Mrs. S. E. Wight and daughter Leta are visiting the former's father,

Brother H. M. Hayes at Bedford.

What is your Y. P. S. doing with the Christian Endeavor number of the

LIBERTY?

We are glad to report that Brother K. V. Bjork who was severely injured by a fall from his bicycle recently is able to take up work again in the field.

We hope to have reports from the rest of our tent companies for our next paper.