

The Indicator.

“ARISE, SHINE; FOR THY LIGHT IS COME, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD IS RISEN UPON THEE.”

VOL. IV.

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The Indicator,

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S. H. LANE, President.
A. E. PLACE, Vice-President.
E. N. WASHBOND, Secretary and Treasurer.
J. R. CALKINS, State Agent.

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THE CHURCH AND CONSTITUTION.

THE attempt of certain ministers to secure an amendment to the constitution by which that instrument will be given a religious tone is questionable in wisdom. Their desire is to have inserted this or some similar phrase, “In God’s appointed way through Jesus Christ,” with a purpose to have the constitution recognize the influence of the Christian faith in government. A great deal might be said in support of the proposition in a purely religious way, but the precedent of giving to this instrument any religious significance whatever might justify proceedings in future that would give a distinct denominational drift to a principle of nationalism the virtue of which now is that it gives equal shelter and security and equality to all religious sentiment and belief.

It surely cannot be contended that the introduction of the name of God into the constitution would tend to the better establishment of religion, for such a contention would be equivalent to the admission that religion needs a constitu-

tional recognition and support. It should not be contended either that the Christian faith requires any such bulwark, for that would be to admit the dependence of the Christian faith for its life and propagation upon legislative provisions, a confession of weakness that the Christian church should be slow to make. The zeal that attempts now, at this late day, to change the national basis from a purely secular to a constructively religious character reflects more credit upon the spiritual enthusiasm than upon the patriotic judgement of those who are actuated by it.

The church should not seek re-enforcement from the government. The wisdom of the fathers of the Republic in making a distinct separation of church and state was the result of experience with a contrary state of affairs, and their determination to avoid in the new experiment of government the conditions that had been productive of so much friction and so many evils in the government from which they had divorced this country should not now be lightly estimated, the more particularly when there is something of a religious contention impending.

If the constitution may be amended to take account of the Christian faith or church why may it not with equal propriety be amended in some future time to recognize specifically some branch or division of the Christian church? If now may be inserted the phrase, “In God’s appointed way through Jesus Christ,” after a time there may be a future amendment so that the declaration shall read: “In God’s appointed way through Jesus Christ and his vice regent on earth, the holy Roman Pontiff.” It is a dangerous thing our zealous preachers propose, and our legislators in Congress should be made to understand that the sentiment of the American people is opposed emphatically to any religious interference whatever with a constitution

the great glory of which is its absolute equity toward all humanity irrespective of race or creed or lack of creed.—*Chicago Inter Ocean.*

Field Reports.

CLEVELAND.

ACCORDING to appointment, the Institute commenced Thursday evening with a fair attendance, which has increased till our company at the time of writing (Monday morning) numbers twenty-one adults.

While there were some unexpected difficulties encountered in the preparations, yet the Lord overruled, and we were quite well settled in more comfortable quarters than last year by the commencement of the Sabbath.

The preaching thus far has been mainly of a practical character. The attendance of residents has been fully as large as we expected, although not large, which no doubt will be increased when Brethren Lane and Place arrive this evening.

The prayer and social meetings have been excellent, but not characterized by an emotional demonstration. It is apparent that those who are present came for the purpose of consecrating themselves to the work of the Lord, and obtaining a preparation to do the work in a more successful manner; this is as it should be.

We expect that the attendance will be increased during the week, and trust that there will be a general attendance of those engaged in this branch of the work; hoping that none thus employed will feel that they have graduated, and hence decide that there is nothing further that they can learn; for the facts are, that in all probability, as the financial stringency increases, new methods must be adopted; but if not that, it is quite certain that we shall need more of the blessing of God to succeed in the work, under such unfavorable circumstances.

P. Z. KINNE,
J. R. CALKINS.

MIDDLETOWN AND SOUTH RUSSELL, N. Y.

ON Tuesday of last week, March 13, I left New York City and went to Middletown, where Elder H. G. Thurston and wife have been labor-

ing the past winter. At night I spoke to a good sized audience in the rooms of a man who is interested in the truth.

Through the efforts of Brother and Sister Thurston, twelve have embraced the truth. They were at the meetings which we held, not only Tuesday night but also on Wednesday night. They induced neighbors to attend the meetings, so all that were present were deeply interested and appreciated the discourses given. They hold regular Sabbath meetings and have a flourishing Sabbath-school. Brother Thurston has succeeded in getting nearly every one to subscribe for one or more of our papers and to purchase some of our books. He now expects to open up the work in some new field near Middletown.

On Friday, March 16, in connection with Elder Place, I reached South Russell. At night Elder Place spoke in the new meeting-house.

The house is a beautiful one, and a real ornament to the locality. It is 24 x 36; has a corner entrance and tower. The three windows of the tower and front gable are center ground trimmed with colored glass, which in connection with the plain windows of the building constitute a nice contrast. The pulpit and organ stand and aisles are carpeted. The wainscoting and window casing is of bass wood, cherry, red cherry, birch, and oak, so blended that the rich grain of these woods, nicely varnished, presents an effect very pleasing to the eye. The building cost, all told, \$1500.

The work was mostly donated, and some of the lumber; so the money expense was not great. At the hour of dedication there was a debt of some \$184. At the close of the meeting in which the house was dedicated, we raised in money and pledges some \$60, mostly from those not of our faith. The rest of the debt was assumed by responsible parties.

The attendance of our people on Sabbath was good. They came from Norfolk, Buck's Bridge, West Pierpont, Fine, and Gouverneur. The writer spoke Sabbath forenoon, and gave the dedicatory sermon; while Elder Place spoke evenings. South Russell is the home of Elder S. M. Cobb, C. O. Taylor, H. H. Wilcox. Place and Cobb assisted in the services at the dedication. We start this morning, Monday, March 19, for the Cleveland Institute, stopping

The Canvassing Work.

Report for the Week Ending March 16.

Place.	Agent.	Hours.	Days.	Orders.	Value.	Miscel.	Delivered.	Value.
Bible Readings.								
Hebron,	A. P. Bump	21	4	9	\$20.00	\$.17	1	\$2.00
Springwater,	Perry Tufts	36	8	26	57.00	4.70	4	10.00
Alden,	O. E. Tuttle						32	79.25
Ithaca,	J. S. Fritts	30	5	18	43.00			
South Columbia,	Fred McAlister					7.00		
Bolton,	Walter H. Cowles	33	3	10	26.25			
Ashford,	Mrs. R. Scotland	20	2	2	4.50	.75		
Perry,	O. G. Parmele	2	1	1	2.00	3.50		
Great Controversy.								
Poughkeepsie,	J. E. Frazee	29	5	23	41.25			
Patriarchs and Prophets.								
Oxford,	J. Deeley					5.50	16	31.00
Miscellaneous sales,					21.61			
Totals, 10 Canvassers		171	28	89	\$215.62	\$21.62	55	\$122.25

off at Adams to fill an appointment to-night. The work is onward, and we rejoice.

S. H. LANE.

ERIE COUNTY.

I HAVE not reported for quite a long time. The reason for this was that I have had nothing to report. I spent nine weeks at home sick with La Grippe.

Sabbath, March 3, I met with the brethren and sisters at Conewango Valley. I found them all of good courage. They have a very interesting Sabbath-school. Brother Claude Russell was elected superintendent.

Tuesday, March 6, I went to North Collins, and found the three there who embraced the truth one year ago, firm and rejoicing in the blessed hope of the soon coming of the Lord. Through the earnest work of Brother Leslie Manchester, a man, who is said to be the best educated man in North Collins, has become very much interested in the message. He is talking the truth to nearly every one he meets. We hope he will become thoroughly converted and be a worker in some branch of the cause.

I met with the friends at Collins Center Sabbath, March 10. This company has been having some severe trials of late; but we are happy to note the fact that there are a number who

are thoroughly converted; and we believe that they will be found among the wheat when the tares are gathered and burned. They were much pleased with Brother Ball's visit. Come again, Brother Ball. I commenced meetings in Brant, Thursday evening, March 15. Our congregations thus far have averaged from seventy-five to one hundred. The people seem interested to hear. We hold meetings in a pleasant hall, paying one dollar a week for the use of it. My wife is with me. Our address is Brant, Erie Co., N. Y.

J. B. STOW.

THE CLEVELAND INSTITUTE.

THIS Institute opened March 15. We hope to see all the canvassers present that can attend. The instruction given will be of a very interesting nature, and will be such that if you fail to receive it, you will be the loser all the season. The discourses will be such each night that one will get a good idea of the truth as we present it in a new field.

We have placed the board at only \$1.50 a week, which is so reasonable that none will complain. We do this so that all our canvassers can afford to attend. We would be very glad if our brethren and sisters living along the line of the R. W. & O. R. R., and along the

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line of the New York, Ontario, and Western R. R., and the Central R. R., would be so kind as to send us; for the Institute, anything in the line of eatables. Dried fruit of any kind can be used to advantage. Potatoes, honey, and apples will come very acceptable. Butter and canned fruit will be in order. We should have spoken of this before but did not know until a few days since at what date our Institute could be held. Send by freight to the writer at Cleveland, Oswego Co., New York. We will pay freight charges.

S. H. LANE.

CANVASSERS' INSTITUTE.

The Institute has opened here in good shape. The following persons are here: P. Z. Kinne, Jabez Deeley, C. W. Hardesty, N. S. Washbond, Fred McAlister, Wm. Seewald, T. B. Harlan and wife, O. F. Thompson, C. W. Inskeep and wife and daughter, Chas. H. Harris, W. A. Wilcox, Mary Johnson, Mrs. Fred Bartle, Mrs. E. M. Nourse and son, Clara B. Rider, Lizzie Tedd, Lulu Bentley, J. R. Calkins and wife. We expect several more next week.

Elder Kinne has preached evenings, and we have a canvassers' class in the forenoon and afternoon at present. We have good quarters; a large house for the home and for sleeping rooms for the ladies, and a vacant store for sleeping quarters for the men. These are both well warmed, and we have a carpet in the parlor, so we are all comfortable. And best of all the Lord is with us.

The past year the Lord blessed us in our work, and gave us good success. I believe he will help us this year.

J. R. CALKINS.

APPOINTMENTS:

Elder C. O. Taylor will hold quarterly meetings in the churches of St. Lawrence and Franklin counties as follows: Buck's Bridge, March 31, and April 1; West Bangor, April 7, 8; West Pierpont, April 14, 15; South Russell, April 21, 22. Opportunity for baptism will be given.

Elder S. M. Cobb will hold quarterly meeting with the church at Fulton, March 24, 25. Hope to see a general attendance.

Elder S. H. Lane will meet with the Lancaster, Erie

Co., N. Y., church, Sabbath and Sunday, March 31, and April 1. On Monday night, April 2, he will speak in Buffalo. On Sunday night he will speak in one of the meeting-houses at Alden, by request, on the subject of temperance.

No preventing providence, I will meet with the company at Newburgh, Sabbath, March 31, for quarterly meeting. Hope all living near will come praying for God's rich blessing at that time. A few more such gatherings and they will be forever past. Let each avail himself of these privileges while he may.

H. G. THURSTON.

DEAR INDICATOR: I found the roads bad and the times hard to canvass, but surprised myself in the ease with which the orders were secured where it seemed consistent. I believe Bible Readings for the Home Circle to be the best book to make friends with and to win orders for that I ever saw. It seems as though it is pleasing to the Master to have us present it in a winning way.

A. P. BUMP.

DEAR INDICATOR: I want to tell you we have three new Sabbath-keepers here at Otter Creek, and yesterday we held a Sabbath meeting for the first time in years unless a minister was present. We had a good meeting; the Master was present to bless. Brother Howie, one of our new Sabbath-keepers, who has used tobacco for forty years, has given it up, as he said, "for Jesus' sake," and all desire for the filthy weed is gone. To God be all the praise. Personally I am glad to know that the message is rising in power, and I want to keep pace with it, so as not to be left out. We were all glad of the visit of Brother Kinne a few weeks ago; he with God's help started the interest, and we have tried with His help to keep the ball rolling. Yours in hope,—

SARAH PROSPER.

—Conference cash received March 11-17: Rome, \$8.75; Adams Center, \$58.61.

— "Protestantism, True and False" is the title of No. 19 of the Religious Liberty Library. Price 4 cents.

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—Notice to librarians will appear in next issue.

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