

The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald

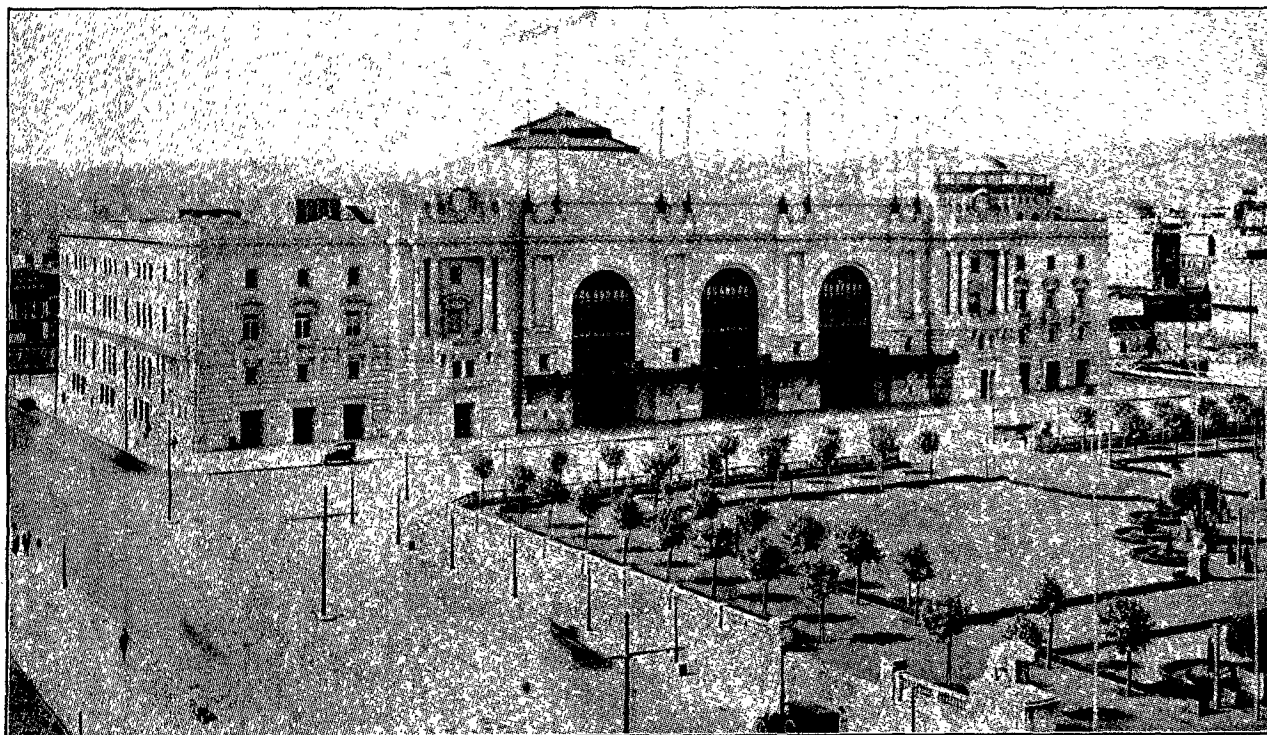


Vol. 95

Takoma Park Station, Washington, D. C., Thursday, April 4, 1918

No. 14

THE GOSPEL TO ALL NATIONS



THE EXPOSITION MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM, SAN FRANCISCO

The Exposition Memorial Auditorium occupies the entire block, bounded by Grove, Larkin, Hayes, and Polk Streets, forming a part of the Civic Center, with the city hall and other monumental public buildings grouped around an impressive area. This Civic Center group is located at a central point in the city, easily accessible from all sections, and directly adjacent to Market Street, the wide thoroughfare leading to the gateways of the city—the ferry and steamship terminals on the water front. The Auditorium was erected by the Exposition for the special use of the congresses and conventions to meet in San Francisco in 1915. The building, with equipment, cost \$1,250,000. The lot on which the Auditorium stands was provided by the city at an additional expense of \$701,000. Following the close of the Exposition on Dec. 4, 1915, the Auditorium was given to the city of San Francisco as a permanent memorial of the Exposition. The Auditorium has eleven halls, each with a seating capacity of from 400 to 10,000 people. In addition to the eleven halls there are nineteen rooms suitable for committee meetings or meetings of small convention sections, each of the nineteen rooms seating from 30 to 125 persons. The building is four stories high, the central portion containing a large auditorium extending through the four stories. Wide corridors surround it on all sides, except at the rear, where there are entrances directly to the street. The seating capacity of the main Auditorium is estimated at 5,000 for the ground floor and 5,000 in the balcony.

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"OVER THE TOP"

BRIEF HISTORY AND MEANING OF THE FEDERAL AMENDMENT FOR NATION-WIDE PROHIBITION

THE foes of national prohibition in Congress have been finally vanquished, and utterly routed, by an overwhelming defeat in the battle of votes. The national defeat of the liquor power was one of the greatest victories gained in American history.

Lloyd George has said that "England is fighting three enemies, Germany, Austria, and the liquor traffic, and the liquor traffic is the greatest of the three." If England goes down in defeat in this war, she will have to lay the cause at the door of the enemy which is "the greatest of the three."

At the outset of our entrance into the war, both the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States passed a bill, making it unlawful to sell liquor to uniformed United States soldiers. Upon reflection, Congress concluded that if alcoholic liquors were injurious to soldiers, and had a tendency to lower their efficiency and impair their physical ability, so as to warrant special legislation, the same principle would apply with equal force to workingmen and citizens at home. So on Aug. 1, 1917, the Senate of the United States passed, by a vote of 65 to 20, the Amendment to the Federal Constitution providing for nationwide prohibition. The House of Representatives, at its earliest opportunity after the recess of Congress, on Dec. 17, 1917, passed the joint resolution for national prohibition by a vote of 282 to 128.

The ratification of this Federal Amendment is now submitted to the State legislatures of the forty-eight States in the Union, and requires a three-fourths majority of all the States for its adoption. The State legislatures are given a period of seven years in which to ratify and adopt this amendment; and the brewers, distillers, and saloon keepers of the country are granted another year in which to wind up their business, in case the amendment should be ratified by three fourths of the States.

If all the State legislatures would take up this Constitutional amendment, and act upon it, as quickly as did the legislature of Mississippi, we should have national prohibition within two years. The legislature of Mississippi convened at twelve o'clock on Jan. 10, 1918, and the same day the lower house of that body, by a vote of 93 to 3, ratified the Constitutional Amendment; on the same afternoon, the Senate likewise ratified the Amendment by a vote of 28 to 5. Thus Mississippi occupies the enviable position not only of being the first State to ratify the Constitutional Prohibition Amendment, but also of having made a speed record which cannot be beaten.

The beneficent influence of State-wide prohibition in Mississippi was the real motive and conviction which led the legislators to make first things first. Such a vital and pressing issue in a time like the present, when the destiny of the nation trembles in the balance, requires that every State legislature should do what Mississippi has done,

and rally its forces to carry the conflict to a speedy and successful victory by "going over the top."

The submission of the national Prohibition Amendment to the States for ratification revives the prohibition question in every State in the Union. The battle must be fought over again in every State where the question has already been settled. The anti-prohibitionists realize that this is their last battle in the open, and that it is unto the death. A number of State legislatures which did not favor State prohibition on account of contingent wet States, are overwhelmingly in favor of national prohibition. The fight, however, promises to be a close one. It will take some effort to win thirty-six States out of forty-eight.

The outcome of the whole issue may depend upon the vote of one man. Suppose thirty-five States vote for national prohibition by a large majority, and that the thirty-sixth State goes wet, with the other twelve States, and the Amendment is lost! Suppose the house of representatives of the thirty-sixth State passed the Prohibition Amendment by a large majority of votes, but the senate in that same State lacked one vote to obtain the majority in favor of this Amendment, then the Amendment for nation-wide prohibition would go down in defeat for lack of one vote. One man, in such a case, would decide the whole issue in favor of twelve States, and against the other thirty-six States.

The enemy is ever watchful; and our only hope of winning in this, the greatest of all battles now confronting us, is to live up to the meaning of the great American maxim: "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Such patriotism and fortitude will enable us to go "over the top."

C. S. LONGAORE.

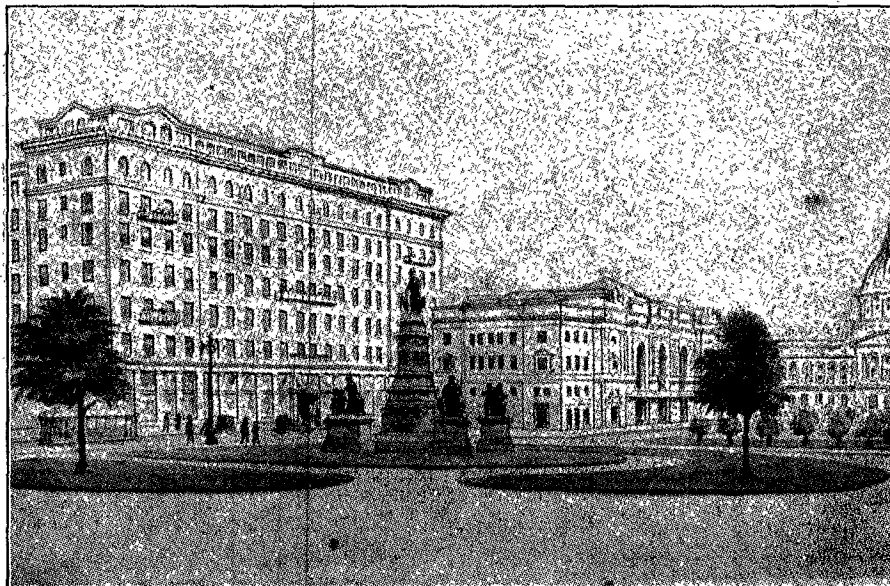
Home Missionary Department

E. M. GRAHAM
F. W. PAAP

General Secretary
N. Am. Div. Secretary

THE HOME MISSIONARY REPORT

THE war plays havoc with our foreign reports, for mails are so slow and intermittent that many are a long time in coming, and others never come at all. There are several missing from the summary on page 22, but we know the people are working faithfully. Because of these missing reports the figures are not so good as they would otherwise be; but even so, there is a large gain in the numbers of papers given away, and books sold and given. More conversions were reported, which shows that the members are becoming more efficient in service, and that the Lord is blessing the seed sown.



Hotel Whitcomb

Exposition Auditorium

New City Hall

CIVIC CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

When so much depends upon the vote of one man in either house of each State legislature which is called upon to ratify the Federal Amendment, every friend of national prohibition can readily see that no chances should be taken on small margins in either house. If a large majority is elected to the lower house of your State legislature favoring national prohibition, but there is a failure to elect a majority of one in the upper house, then your whole State goes into the wet column against the Federal Amendment. The responsibility of this whole question of making the nation dry, after all, rests upon the voters at home. If they fail to elect legislators who favor national prohibition in both houses of their legislatures in at least thirty-six States, the defeat of national prohibition will and must be charged back to the people of the States who failed to do their duty in electing proper representatives to both houses of their legislatures.

It would be well if each reader of the REVIEW would look over the figures of the conference in which he lives and see what is being done there. It would be interesting to compare them with those of some other conference which has about the same number of members. While our aim should not be to see who can outdo the other, we should not be content to fall behind in the service of the Lord, so it is helpful sometimes to compare our work with that of others. If they are going far beyond us, we may well question ourselves to see if we are really doing all we can. Time is short, the King's business requires haste, and we need to provoke one another to love and good works.

Let us all take courage and remember, as we diligently sow the gospel seed, that "so shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

EDITH M. GRAHAM.

The Adventist Review And Sabbath Herald

"Here is the Patience of the Saints: Here are they that keep the Commandments of God, and the Faith of Jesus." Rev. 14: 12.

VOL. 95

TAKOMA PARK STATION, WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 4, 1918

No. 14

JOINT SESSION OF THE GENERAL AND NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION CONFERENCES

MARCH 29 TO APRIL 14, 1918

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

G. B. THOMPSON

ONE of the most important councils the Seventh-day Adventist denomination ever held will be the session of the General and North American Division Conferences which convenes in San Francisco, Cal., March 29 to April 14. I think it is not stating the case too strongly to say that no gathering of God's people since Pentecost has been of greater importance, or has faced more serious and solemn responsibilities, than this session of the Conference. There are special reasons why this is so:

1. The condition in the world. No Christian body assembled in any age of the world's history ever looked out upon such a troubled sea as does this Conference. The world is in ferment. It is convulsed with war. Rulers are dethroned, and nations are in distress. Conditions are becoming so complex that trained statesmen are confused and perplexed, and cannot plan their moves in advance, but must await the outcome of events. Civilization appears to be threatened. The suffering, desolation, and ruin are



JAMES WHITE

General Conference President, May 17, 1865, to May 14, 1867; May 12, 1868, to Dec. 29, 1871; Aug. 10, 1874, to Oct. 6, 1880.

staggering. And in the nations there are mutterings of discontent that reveal a smoldering volcano which threatens an eruption of tremendous and awful consequences.

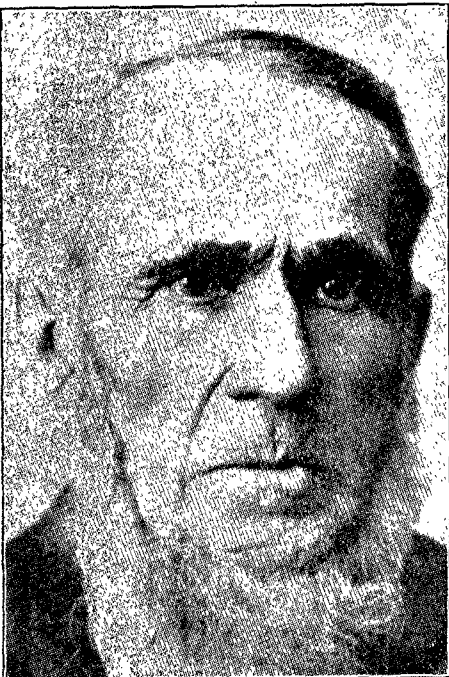
Viewed from any angle, the situation in the world is appalling. Crime is on the increase. Deeds of violence are so terrible that men are stunned. The times of Noah, when violence filled the earth, seem to be repeated. Lawlessness is increasing. Moral fiber seems to be giving way, and men are growing more desperate and committing the most blood-curdling crimes. The bands of social integrity are being torn asunder; the divorce courts are choked with business. Faith in God and his Word is disappearing from the hearts of men. The gospel of the Son of God is bowed out of the pulpit by many of the professed spokesmen of the Most High, and the sayings of men, and speculative philosophy are proclaimed in sanctuaries dedicated to the worship of God.

Those who view these events in the world through the prophetic horizon, know that the conditions about

us herald the approaching consummation of earth's history, and the time when the mystery of God will be finished and probation for the race closed.

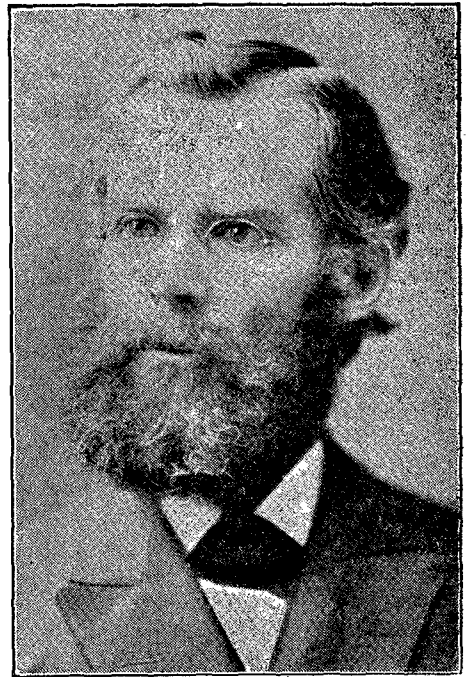
This Conference stands for certain well-defined principles. It is a council of representatives gathered from various parts of the world, to plan how to carry to a doomed race the last message that will fall on human ears before the curtain drops and the drama of sin ends. This is the most stupendous missionary task ever undertaken by the church since the world began. O what a vision is needed for so vast a work, dealing with the eternal destinies of the human race!

2. Conditions in the church. This is the first time in the history of this movement that its representatives have met in a General Conference without the living voice of the Spirit of prophecy in their midst to speak words of counsel and admonition. Again and again we were admonished in our general councils concerning dangers which threatened us. When wrong plans were proposed, and common fire was being mingled with the sacred, we were admonished and the right way pointed out. When our vision was dim, and plans were proposed which, if carried out, would circumscribe and hinder the work, a better



JOHN F. BYINGTON

General Conference President, May 21, 1863, to May 17, 1865.

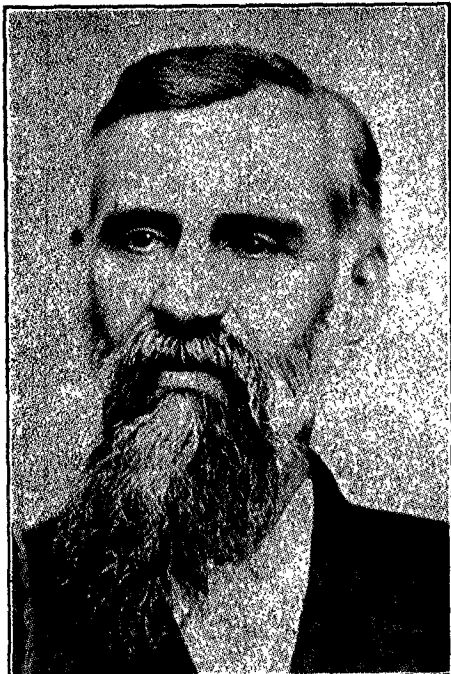


JOHN NEVINS ANDREWS

General Conference President, May 14, 1867, to May 12, 1868.

way was suggested through the prophetic gift. Ofttimes we were kept from the folly of following our own ways and blocking the progress of the work.

Now the worn servant of the Lord has lain down to rest. No words of warning will come to us from her lips. When perplexed, and in doubt as to which course to pursue, we cannot ask



GEORGE IDE BUTLER

General Conference President, Dec. 29, 1871, to Aug. 10, 1874; Oct. 6, 1880, to Oct. 17, 1888.

the divine counsel through her. Unless we cry to God for help, and so relate ourselves to him that we shall be in touch with heaven and experience personally the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we shall fail to meet the mind of God.

3. The shortness of time. The lengthening shadows admonish us that the end is very near. A crisis has been reached in the work of God. We have been telling the world that Jesus is coming; now he is about to appear. We stand amid the concluding events of prophecy. The nearness of the end, with a work of stupendous proportions yet to be done, brings us as a people face to face with a mighty crisis. How can a work so vast be finished in the fragment of time remaining? The problem is a staggering one; yet it is before us for solution at this meeting. Ours is the greatest work ever given to the church, and calls for the greatest power, the deepest consecration, and the most unreserved surrender ever seen in any religious movement since the fall of man.

4. Changes to take place. Years ago we were told, "Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones." The time of purification of the church through persecution is hastening on apace. "In a little while we shall be unable to work with the freedom that we now enjoy.

Terrible scenes are before us, and what we do, we must do quickly."—*"Testimonies for the Church,"* Vol. IX, p. 101.

The old order of things has passed away. We are living in a new world. The work we have failed to do in times of peace must be done under new and strange difficulties. It is no time now to follow plans of human devising. We invite our people everywhere to pray unitedly that God will give largeness of vision to those at this Conference who are called upon to decide questions of far-reaching importance.

Concerning other gatherings of a similar nature we have been told that, while great blessings were waiting for us, we failed to receive them. Let earnest supplications ascend to God from all the people, that this experience may not be repeated at this meeting, but that sins may be confessed, jealousies and evil surmisings put away, and such unity of spirit prevail that God can lead his people on to higher ground; and that such plans may be made for the advancement of the message as will quickly lead to the finishing of the work in all lands, so that the Lord's toiling pilgrims may soon be gathered home.

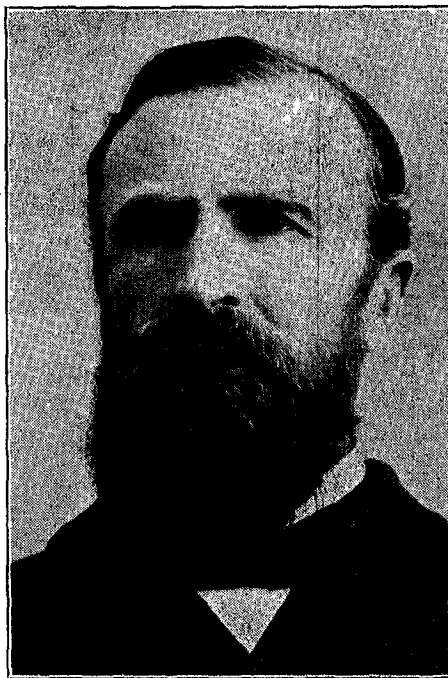


THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

A. G. DANIELLS

To the Delegates and visiting Brethren and Sisters attending the Thirty-ninth Session of the General Conference.

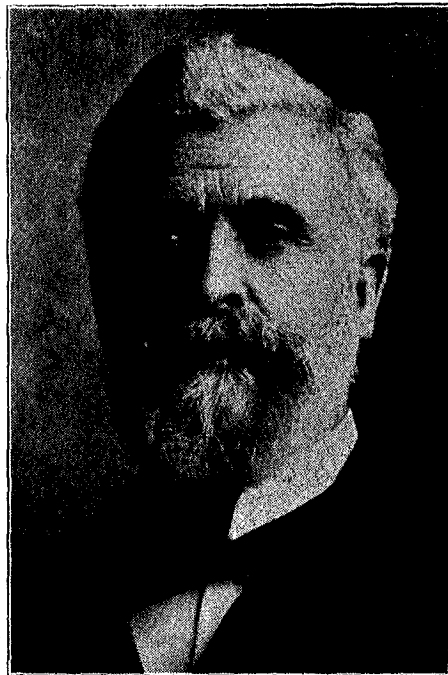
GREETING: We are gathered at this session of the General Conference with mingled feelings of gratitude and re-



OLE A. OLSEN

General Conference President, Oct. 17, 1888, to Feb. 19, 1897.

gret. We are profoundly grateful for the good providence of God that makes it possible for this meeting to



GEORGE A. IRWIN

General Conference President, Feb. 19, 1897, to April 2, 1901.

be held, but we deeply regret the unavoidable absence of many of our representative men in lands outside of North America.

This Conference was to have been held a year ago, but it was postponed with the hope that world conditions would so improve that good delegations could come from all parts of our world field. In this we are sadly disappointed. We feel deeply for our dear fellow workers and all our people located within the storm-center of this great war; we do not cease to pray for them. We who are here, unitedly and heartily assure our brethren who cannot take their seats in this Conference, of our abiding love, and we pledge ourselves to give the interests of their fields most careful, unselfish consideration. This session, though attended largely by North American delegates, will not by any means confine its work to the interests of North America. The world is our field, and its varied conditions and great needs shall receive our sympathetic attention.

Obituary

We shall miss from this gathering the presence and helpful counsel of some of our former fellow laborers who have been laid to rest since the session of 1913. The most prominent among these are Sister E. G. White, Elder O. A. Olsen, Elder G. A. Irwin, and Prof. H. R. Salisbury. This is the first session of the General Conference to be deprived of either the presence of Sister White or written messages from her pen. As the pioneer standard bearers fall, those who survive and are called to bear large responsibilities, must surely walk with all humility of heart, and serve with all true fidelity. To the families of all our fallen comrades we extend the full measure of Christian love and sympathy.

Organization

At the last session of the General Conference we added to our general plan of organization a continental organization known as the "Division Conference." We there launched the North American, European, and Asiatic Division Conferences. At the Loma Linda council, held in 1915, the Asiatic Division Conference was enlarged by the addition of the Australasian and Indian Unions. At the same time we authorized the organization of a division conference in South America. In response to the request of the council, Prof. W. W. Prescott and Elder N. Z. Town visited that field, and in counsel with the brethren there completed the organization of the South American Division.

The Biennial Council

Plans had been laid to hold the 1915 biennial council in Europe, and the brethren were making all arrangements for the largest gathering of our people ever held outside of North America. Delegates were to come from every land all the way from Iceland and Siberia in the north to the Cape of Good Hope in the south. It was expected that four thousand people would be present, speaking at least fifty different languages. But all this was canceled by the great war that came so suddenly in the summer of 1914, and the council was held at Loma Linda, Cal., with only two members from Europe and three or four from Asia.

The Reports

The system of reporting we have developed makes it unnecessary for the president to give an extended survey of the world-field and the progress of the work. The secretary will give a general review of the field; the treasurer will present full detailed reports of the financial interests. The presidents of division conferences will give comprehensive reports of their continental fields, and the secretaries of departments will place before us the progress of their lines of work. The West Indian and South African Unions will be reported by their presidents, and the superintendent of the Northern Latin American territory will tell of the conditions and needs and developments in that difficult field. The report from the European

Division may not be as full and up to date as we could wish.

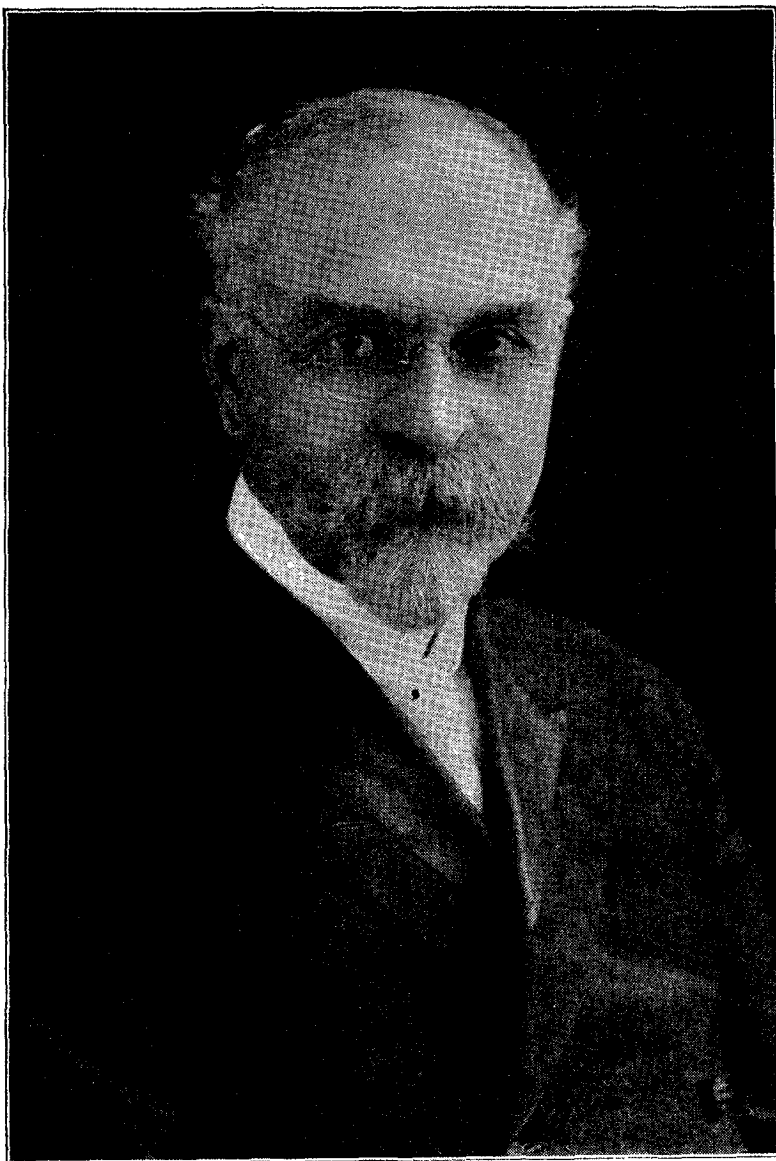
Encouraging Progress

When we consider the general upheaval this world war has brought about, and compare our progress with that of former years, we surely have reason to be of good courage. The message has been forging ahead in all the lands in which we have found it possible to remain and continue our work. Europe has experienced many difficulties, but even there the cause

man who said, "God's methods are men, not statistics," yet we know that reliable statistics serve as guideboards to point out the direction in which we are going, and to record the rate of speed which we are making. But notwithstanding the pleasure and encouragement it gives us to hear reports that tell of past achievements, we are, after all, far more deeply interested in the future. Our great objective is ahead, not behind; we look forward, not backward. We live and work in anticipation.

Our hearts are set on the grand climax, the glorious culmination of the gospel. We can never be fully satisfied until this is reached, and our hearts yearn for the hastening of that glad day.

This consideration gives us the greatest concern regarding the character and results of this conference. What does God want this important gathering to be? What has he in store for us? What personal blessings and victories does he want each one to receive? What great important steps would he have us take that would lead to the speedy finishing of his work? These are the primary questions before this Conference. Reports, recommendations, readjustments in our organization, distribution of laborers,—all these are important, but they are of only secondary importance. But do we not all know that we are prone to give first place to the matters of secondary importance? This is our danger, for it is according to human nature. This is where Israel of old missed the way. It is where we too have



ARTHUR G. DANIELLS

General Conference President since April 2, 1901.

has made very encouraging progress.

The North American Division reports will show substantial and most encouraging gains in membership and funds. This will cheer the hearts of our people all over the world; for in addition to the blessings this brings to the people and the cause in North America, it means a larger and more aggressive program for the foreign missions. The Asiatic and South American Divisions will tell us of great opportunities and marvelous developments in those great mission fields, and the reports from the departments will show a decided advance all along the line.

While we will all agree with the

failed more than once in past times.

Surely the question of first magnitude before this Conference is that of spiritual preparation for the work committed to us. This was the point upon which Christ placed chief emphasis when he handed his work over to his disciples. He told them they were his messengers to carry his message to the uttermost parts of the earth. To qualify them for this great work, Jesus said they should "be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence." Acts 1:5, R. V. Then he gave this command, "Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." Luke 24:49. How simple the record,

A Strong Evangelism

and how evident its meaning! The baptism of the disciples with the Holy Ghost was the most essential, vital thing for the cause of God at the opening of the gospel dispensation. Who will venture to challenge the claim that a similar baptism is the most vital and essential of all things to the ministry and the church in these closing days of the gospel dispensation?

The early disciples believed Christ and obeyed him implicitly, and the promised baptism and power came to them. Then "they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following." Mark 16:20. O that we may believe, obey, and receive now as they did then!

If ever the church saw a day of need, this is the day. Men charged with great administrative responsibilities need cleansed hearts, and illuminated minds, and the divine power which the Holy Ghost alone can give. Preachers of the gospel, especially city evangelists, to whom large numbers of lost souls are flocking, need the inspiration, the persuasive influence, the convincing power, that only the Holy Spirit can put into men. Editors need this enlightening, inspiring presence, that they may be able to send out Spirit-filled messages of divine truth to the millions walking in the valley of the shadow of death. Church elders, deacons, and their associate officers, who come into close personal contact with the masses of our people every Sabbath, need for their guidance the help that the Holy Spirit will surely give when they are filled with it. Indeed, all the people need exactly what has been given to the Holy Spirit to impart to them. Fathers and mothers need it to hold their children. Our boys and girls need it to keep them firm in the message in this hour of supreme test.

Verily, this is the greatest need of the church of God today, and this delegation should sense the need and place itself where the fulness of this blessing may be given in God's own time and way. It will come to us if we set our hearts upon it, forsaking all things of the world, the flesh, and the devil. This priceless gift, we are assured, will bring all other blessings in its train.

With the heart cleansed, the mind illuminated, and the whole life endowed with the Spirit's power, we shall be prepared to meet with courage, and to discharge with success, the great responsibilities that may be laid upon us.

Plans for the Future

As we look into the future, we see some problems that bulk large on the horizon. They are of paramount importance; they are fundamental to the success of our great undertaking, and should therefore receive from us the most earnest, prayerful study we are capable of giving them.

Chief among these problems is a strong, spiritual, efficient evangelism. The preaching of the gospel has always been the most important and successful way of winning men and women to Christ. That is still the most effective method of reaching hearts. Our opportunities in this line of endeavor seem greater today than at any time in our history. This is true of both home and foreign lands. Never have our preachers drawn such large, receptive audiences as at this very hour.

Two features of this line of our work should receive most thorough consideration: One is the work in our cities by our American and European preachers; the other is the work to be done by our native evangelists in our mission fields.

Our Large Cities

We are all acquainted with the stirring messages that came to us through the Spirit of prophecy a few years ago in behalf of the masses gathered in our large cities. When these messages began coming, we had done but little really successful work in these great congested centers. We did not know how to make ourselves known or heard. The task seemed insurmountable. These cities seemed like so many mighty Jerichos whose walls we could neither scale nor throw down. But aroused by oft-repeated and most urgent messages, we applied ourselves to the great undertaking. Our efforts have been blessed of God. We have made good headway. We are getting inside the ramparts, and today the outlook is good.

Whose heart has not been cheered by the experiences of our city evangelists the last two or three years? During the past winter the largest buildings our evangelists have been able to pay for in a number of cities have been well filled, and at times thousands of anxious people have been unable to get seats or standing room. The authorities have been compelled to lock the doors to prevent overcrowding. This has been the experience of our evangelists in New York City, Philadelphia, Detroit, Atlanta, Nashville, and other cities. Not only have thousands come to hear, but they have become deeply interested and have continued to come week after week. Thousands have purchased literature and are reading themselves into the message. Hundreds have taken their stand for the truth and are now members of our churches.

This Conference should give this city work special study. There are still great difficulties in this problem for our evangelists to surmount. It looks as if we must secure larger halls, and organize stronger staffs of helpers. How shall we extend our work to the many classes that need our message? How shall the money and the workers be secured? How can our efforts be kept going throughout the year without loss of time? And

chief of all is the great need of divine power to lead these multitudes to obey God. The access to these masses which God is giving us lays upon us a tremendous responsibility.

Native Evangelism

But equally great with our opportunities for city evangelism, are the great opportunities of our native workers in many of our mission fields. A volume could be written on the marvelous work being done by our native converts who have become efficient preachers of the gospel. Unprecedented opportunities lie before us for the rapid extension of our work in this direction. The training, the direction, and the support of all the native laborers who can be drawn into this phase of our work, are questions of great importance to the men placed in charge of these great mission fields.

The Production and Circulation of Literature

We shall all agree that next in importance to the living preacher in the proclamation of the gospel, is the printed page. We have made marvelous progress in this line of work. In some of its phases perhaps but little improvement can now be made, but there are some features of this problem that demand the best that we can give them. The production of suitable literature for the many races among whom we are working, the training of native converts to circulate the literature, and the follow-up work are questions only partially solved so far. Then the development of editorial ability in both the home and mission fields, needs most careful study. The editing and the circulation of our weekly papers and monthly magazines, also special papers, are features of this work that should be given close study by this conference.

Our Educational Work

Inseparably connected with the ministry and the literature, is the education of our young people for all phases of our comprehensive work. If ever educational methods should be simple, practical, rapid, and efficient, this is the hour. Time is limited and is speeding away. The field is the whole wide world; the phases of work are many and often difficult; the sacrifices called for are great. The education given in our schools should qualify our young people to meet this situation successfully, just as we find it in all the world. We must resolutely reject every false notion of education. It is our privilege to stand in the front ranks of educational reformers. The education we impart to our young people day by day should of itself be transforming and regenerating. It should equip them mentally, morally, and physically for the most useful, practical duties of life wherever they may choose to be placed. We must therefore press on to the highest ideals of a true Christian education.

Removal of Indebtedness

There is great rejoicing throughout our camp over the success that is at-

tending our efforts to clear our organizations and institutions of indebtedness. The plan laid at the General Conference session of 1913 has wrought marvelous changes. The plan is practical and effective. It should be faithfully maintained in all its features until the debts that remain are paid off and we are a free people.

Great Foreign Mission Movement

Finally, this Conference should plan for a far stronger and more extensive foreign mission work than anything we have yet approached. No argument is needed in support of this proposal. The very character of our message demands it. The present world situation calls for it. Our experience in every land we have entered is wholly in its favor. The only limit to successful soul-winning work in nearly every land we have entered is the limit to the number of our workers and our facilities for carrying on the work.

The doors of the nations are open, and the people are receptive and responsive. The latter rain is preparing all people for the message God is sending to the world. That message is mighty in its transforming, saving power. It is working marvelous changes in the hearts of heathen in all lands, with their evil superstitions and false religions. These converts make good Christians among their neighbors and good gospel workers to reach their fellow men. This great, glorious work can be pushed on to any limit we choose. We aim at nothing less than the whole world. This Conference should lay plans for more rapid strides and for mightier achievements.

Assurance of Victory

Knowing the source of our message, and the infinite wisdom, love, and power of its Author, we know there can be no failure in this undertaking. Individuals may fail, plans may fail, this Conference may fail to rise to the full heights of God's purpose, but the movement will not fail. God will overrule man's mistakes and failures, and finish his work gloriously. But for us personally, he will do better than that. He will illuminate our minds so that we may with him see his great purpose and mysterious ways. He will inspire us with courage to do great things for him. He will be our shield and exceeding great reward as we go forward to the ends of the earth. And at last he will cause us to triumph with his glorious work and give us a full reward.

THE MISSION-FIELD OUTLOOK

W. A. SPICER

OUR custom calls for a report from the departments in which the secretaries work. This report, however, must keep within a limited compass, on the one hand avoiding repetition

of the facts of world progress set forth in the president's address, and on the other hand resisting the temptation to tell the interesting stories of the missionary advance which the delegates from the far fields are only waiting opportunity to pour into our willing ears.

The story that our brethren have to tell us is as stirring a tale of the workings of the power and providence of God in mission fields as ever the church has listened to since those apostolic missionaries came back to Antioch and "rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles." Acts 14: 27.

We shall listen with glowing hearts as the representatives of our missionaries tell us what God has done with them these years in regions beyond. With thanks to the great Lord of the harvest we greet them; and as we look into their faces here, our minds see, visioned beyond them, a sea of faces turned toward this meeting from the four quarters of the earth, the countenances of the army of missionaries left behind at the task in the far fields. To those fellow workers, every one, we also send greetings today.

New Converts

More than ever at a General Conference we can speak of fruitage in the darkest fields. On former occasions we have seemed to be emphasizing rather the opening of the doors of access; we have rejoiced over the entering in, the sowing of the seed, and reported the cheering first fruits. This Conference term has been marked by most abundant harvests in fields so lately lying waste. And the same marked blessing in the ingathering of souls has attended the preaching of the message in older fields.

Every year, save one, of this Conference term, has been a year of raging war, yet everywhere souls have been won to Christ and his truth. Never for an instant has the closing gospel message of Revelation 14 halted in its flight toward all peoples and tongues. As the message of the prophecy is preached, upspringing from all the four quarters of the earth come the people of the prophecy, who keep "the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Rev. 14: 12.

That is what the sure word of prophecy foretold of this generation. We see it fulfilling before our eyes. Year by year, during this Conference term, we have welcomed the new believers as they have come, of many tribes and tongues,—12,000 in a year, 14,000 in a year; yes, and 17,000 in one year,—newly converted souls, hearing the call of God in the message of the judgment hour, and sweeping into our ranks to join in lifting to a yet higher note the loud cry of the third angel's message.

While it is nearly five years since the last Conference, our world sta-

tistics are as yet complete only for the regular quadrennial term, the four years closing with 1916. In these four years the record shows 55,626 new believers baptized. And this is short of the full number by several thousand, as the report for the European Division for 1916 is not included.

This means that during the four years more people were baptized into the faith than we had in our entire world membership in 1897, fifty-three years after 1844. The blessing and power of God are attending the proclamation of the message of Revelation 14.

Of these multitudes baptized, more than half were in the North American Division, the oldest field in our work, a cheering token of the fruitfulness of the older fields. There were 26,193 baptisms reported in lands abroad. If we had the complete report, this number baptized abroad would doubtless equal, if not exceed, the record of North America's accessions to the faith.

Outgoing Missionaries

At the last General Conference we told of "nearly one hundred missionaries a year" having been sent out. The total for that four-year period was 372, the largest, of course, in our short history. Now with the war for three years shutting off missionary departures from the great European Division, we have to report 483 new missionaries sent forth during the four years—well above the hundred a year. In the full five years of this prolonged Conference term, 542 of our brethren and sisters have gone out to carry the message into regions beyond. We include in this list those going from the colonial bases of supply in Australasia and South Africa; but the larger part of these new recruits have come from the North American Division. With the Atlantic routes unsafe, a large proportion of these missionaries made their departure from the city where this Conference meets, sailing westward through the Golden Gate to carry to all lands the Saviour's invitation to a home in the City of Gold above.

It really is a marvelous thing we are seeing—these large numbers going out year after year from so small a constituency. The like has not been seen, we judge, since apostolic days. How is it done? The treasurer's report will show how the gifts have kept coming in from believers and churches, conferences, unions, and divisions, to make possible the upkeep of these ever-increasing oversea forces; but only the Lord above knows how it is done. It is not of men to inspire such unwavering confidence and devotion to missionary giving and going. It is the Lord of the harvest sending forth laborers at the sunset hour.

We at the home bases have felt our hearts going along with the new recruits, as ever our hearts go out to

the whole missionary band in every clime. As we strengthen the stakes by building strongly at the bases of supply, and lengthen the cords, we cheer the missionaries on. We hail them as true successors of the pioneering missionaries of New Testament days, who in one generation carried the gospel message to all the known world.

"Out from the doomed Jerusalem, in the days of long ago

By two and two they sallied forth to lands of sun or snow."

And "they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." Acts 8:4.

"Beside the slim, tall temples, where the tawny rivers run,
They set their tents where shining stars looked down on Babylon.
Their bare feet pressed the beaten shore beneath dark Nubia's cliffs;
They ate their corn from out their scrips by Karnak's hieroglyphs."

As in that time of the early rain, the first missionaries went out under the great commission, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature," so now, in the time of the latter rain, the commission is to be finished under the promise, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." In this assurance our missionaries have gone forth from home and fatherland to do the work in the uttermost parts foretold in the ancient prophecies of this closing hour.

"And still o'er all the earth they fare,
where'er a soul has need;
My heart leaps up and calls to them; O
brothers mine, Godspeed!
What time within the jungle deep ye watch
the daylight die,
Or on some lonely Indian steep see dawn
flush all the sky.

"Far is the cry from here to there, yet
hearken when we say:
Ye are the brethren of the Book; in Khar-
tum or Cathay,
'Tis ye who make the record good; 'tis
ye, O royal souls,
Who justify the chronicles, writ in the
ancient scrolls.

"O missionaries of the blood! ambassadors
of God!
Our souls aflame in us when we see where
ye have fearless trod;
At break of day your dauntless faith our
slackened valor shames,
And every eve our joyful prayers are jew-
eled with your names."

A World-wide Work

A score of new languages appear in our list. They were silent in this Advent Movement at the time of the last General Conference. Now they have learned to speak the third angel's message.

New countries are on our permanently occupied list. Four Spanish lands have been added in Latin America. When French Guiana is entered, not a country will be silent in the roll call of Pan-America. Two great African colonies and five populous island fields have been entered, among them Mauritius, away south in the Indian

Ocean. The Asiatic Division will report vast new provinces brought within our missionary frontiers.

It is a world-wide work. Years ago the leading Methodist organ of the country, in a kindly, jovial way, exclaimed of the Seventh-day Adventists: "Small though the denomination is, its missionaries are found in every corner of the world. Their aim is to run the earth." Far from it; but by the enabling grace given, we do aim at a world-wide work. Every conference term registers the message as reaching nearer to the world's uttermost parts.

A letter came in but a few days ago from Sister A. G. Nelson, from the world's southernmost city, Punta Arenas, on the Straits of Magellan. She told how she had watched, till it passed out of sight in a storm, the boat bearing Brother Nelson and his coach and team over the straits to make an evangelistic tour among the Indians and settlers of Tierra del Fuego (the "island of fire"), at the southernmost limit of the inhabited earth. A year ago, at the Scandinavian Union council, the colporteur leader won the committee to his plan of placing two or three resident bookmen in the coast provinces skirting the Arctic Sea and the White Sea, to spread there in all seasons the books that our Scandinavian publishing houses are turning out in volumes never before equaled. Doubtless by this time the men of the printed page are at the task, making literally true those lines of a colporteur classic:

"Now, where the wintry sun doth disap-
pear
For full three months of every passing
year,
In icebound lands he joyful wends his way
To sell his books that tell of endless day."

We hear the voice of the Lord calling to us from all the points of the compass:

"Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth." Isa. 43:5, 6.

These sons and daughters of the gathering time are one family. The fruitage of the message is the same everywhere. It is the same kind of people, "our people," "our folk," the world over.

Even the names that the world hits upon to describe the commandment-keeping people, oftentimes express this openness and similarity. Remember that the prophecy says that the very lives of those who follow the law and the testimony were to be "for signs" to the world. Isa. 8:18. In Fiji, we are told, the people have named us the *lotu savasava*, or the "clean church." In the early times of our mission in Honan, the pagan Chinese looked up the fourth commandment, and called us the *djen-dao hwei*, "the true doctrine church." African natives gave

to one of our missionaries a name meaning "The-man-who-goes-alone;" because, regardless of custom, he followed the Word of God. It was said of one of our evangelists in Spain: "When he passes through the streets, some call him 'Signs of the Times,' and others, 'The End of the World.'" So in all lands, as the remnant church is gathered out, their lives are preaching everywhere the same message of reformation and preparation to meet the Lord, in terms that even the pagan or the thoughtless unbeliever cannot fail to understand.

In 1908 it was stated by the Spirit of prophecy:

"In carrying forward the Lord's work at home and abroad, those in positions of responsibility must plan wisely, so as to make the best possible use of men and of means. The burden of sustaining the work in many of the foreign fields must be largely borne by our conferences in the homeland. These conferences should have means with which to assist in opening new fields, where the testing truths of the third angel's message have never yet penetrated. Within the past few years, doors have been thrown open as if by magic; and men and women are needed to enter these doors, and begin earnest work for the salvation of souls."—*Review and Herald*, Aug. 20, 1908.

Loyally the conferences have responded, sharing their tithe, and promoting the weekly offerings throughout the churches as a very part of the work of every conference laborer. Fifteen or twenty years ago the agitation for missions was largely from the General Conference office. Now go into any union or local conference committee session, and you find that the fostering and promoting of the interests and gifts for missions is a matter of regular conference work, into which the laborers put all their hearts and souls. It has revolutionized our foreign missionary enterprise. Not means only, but men, too, are needed, young men and young women, tried and trained in conference service, to enter the open doors abroad. This burden also the conferences are carrying. Every conference is coming to be more and more a foreign mission training ground, to develop and pass on to other lands evangelists and other laborers, tried out in the work of winning souls. It is a wonderful system Providence has developed among us for doing the work. That message of 1908 said:

"Within the past few years, doors have been thrown open as if by magic."

It was in that same year that Secretary Patton, of the Congregational Board of Missions, said that within the previous five years "the missionary situation of the world had been transformed." He added, "We are in a new fulness of time." We too have seen it, and felt it. Not by magic, but "as if by magic," has come the clearing of the way. It is the hand of God's providence; and as the changes come quickly, we must be quick to act.

Days of Destiny

Things are done quickly in these days of destiny. No longer do missionaries wait long years for the first convert, as did Carey in India and Morrison in China. In China, in 1847, after thirty-three years of Protestant effort, there were nine Protestant converts. Since then the new time has come. Our delegates from the East will tell us of a larger membership in the Asiatic Division today than we had in all the denomination when our first foreign missionary, Elder J. N. Andrews, was sent to Europe, in 1874.

Truly, "as if by magic" describes some of the transformation seen. For instance, at the last General Conference Elder and Mrs. G. F. Jones were with us. They went out from that Conference to a field in utter darkness. Now from that island of cannibal head-hunters they send to this Conference the greetings of baptized believers, changed from savagery into earnest, praying brethren of ours, intent on carrying the light of truth to others. "Miraculously changed!" exclaims Brother Jones, writing to us of scores of these people, among whom he has been but three years. Australasia's report must tell the real story, but our brother adds, "Who dare say that the gospel of apostolic days is not in existence today?"

Indeed it is. The same everlasting gospel of redeeming power is being preached now, in the setting of the definite message of the judgment hour. Paul and Barnabas, Peter and Philip, John Mark and Timothy, and all those missionaries of the book of Acts, are dead. But where are the angels who were with them in their labors? Alive, thank God! and with the gospel laborers today, the same angels in the same blessed companionship of service as in the days of old. I see sitting with us here brethren from distant fields who would not be in this Conference but for direct deliverance from peril in the wilds, manifestly by the same angelic ministry that we see blending with human need and effort throughout the book of Acts. The Lord is writing the closing chapters of the new book of Acts in the progress and triumphs of his cause today. We read it in the reports from home and foreign fields. We hear it in the testimony of brethren and sisters amid upheavals and scenes of war indescribable. We hear that of a truth there is refuge under the shadow of the Almighty, and the angel of the Lord still encampeth round about those that fear him.

Nothing can halt the work of God, nor frustrate his purpose to send the light of his truth through all the earth. We face the great unfinished task with confidence in the mighty power of God.

"Above the voices of many waters,
The mighty breakers of the sea,
The Lord on high is mighty."

Ps. 93: 4, R. V.

God can turn world-shattering events into agencies for the opening of doors and the hastening on of his work. Things that in themselves seem to hinder and delay at local points, are to be recognized as only incidents in the larger movements that in his overruling providence are hastening on his plans. These detail hindrances, the apparent reverses here and there, are only like the receding, retreating waves on the crest of an inflowing, irresistible tide. Many mighty evangelizing agencies are at work in furtherance of God's plan to flood the earth in the last days with gospel light as the waters cover the sea. The mighty tide is flowing.

It was a discriminating message that was sent out at the New Year from the Edinburgh headquarters of the World Missionary Conference organization. In this review of the situation it was said:

"Not only a new Europe but a new Asia and in many respects a new Africa will emerge from the war. . . . It is not easy to see where in the immediate future men are to be found to enter the open doors and to meet the great and urgent needs that have arisen in consequence of the war. But we are in a region in which numbers and material resources have ceased to be of the first importance, if we were ever tempted to think that they were. Energies are at work in the world more potent than individual effort or human organization. New creative forces are breaking down age-long barriers, and making men's minds receptive to new ideas."—*International Review of Missions, January, 1918.*

We see everywhere the waking up of the peoples. Regions stereotyped for ages in the mold of antiquity, are stirring with the influences of the latest things of modern life. As but a suggestive symbol of this contact of new and old, we may note the fact reported that the ruined pile of the traditional Tower of Babel now serves as a wireless station in these eventful times in the old Mesopotamian valley. Truly new and old are commingling as the world passes from crisis to crisis. It is the same suffering world that God has watched over through the ages since the days of Babel and the dispersion of the race. And the same God who called Abraham out from Mesopotamia and gave to him and his heirs in Christ the promise of the eternal inheritance in the earth made new, is surely shaping events for the closing gospel work and the ushering in of the everlasting kingdom. With all our hearts we repeat the assurance:

"The world is not without a ruler. The program of coming events is in the hands of the Lord. The Majesty of heaven has the destiny of nations, as well as the concerns of his church, in his own charge."—"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. V, p. 753.

Our eyes are upon him, no matter what darkness covers the earth, or what gross darkness the peoples. Beyond the finished work we see by faith the light of the eternal day. And it

is God himself who promises to finish the work and cut it short in righteousness. The prospects are as bright as the promises of God.

"We are toiling through the darkness, but
our eyes behold the light
That is mounting up the eastern sky and
beating back the night.
Soon with joy we'll hail the morning when
our Lord will come in might,
For Truth is marching on.

"He will come in glorious majesty to sweep
away all wrong;
He will heal the broken-hearted and will
make the people strong;
He will teach our souls his righteousness,
our hearts a glad new song,
For Truth is marching on.

"Let us fight against the evils with our
faces toward the light;
God is looking through the darkness and
he watches o'er the fight,
And his joy will be our recompense, his
triumph crown the right,
For Truth is marching on."

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

I. H. EVANS

*To the Delegates of the First Session of the
North American Division Conference.*

BRETHREN AND SISTERS: You do not need to have the importance of this gathering set before you. The march of events that fill the world with unspeakable fear and dread; the intense pressure in every land, and in nearly every home, because of the great world war; the draft upon men and resources in all countries; the opening doors in heathen lands, where every opportunity for preaching the gospel is offered to the missionary; the growth and progress of our work in the homeland,—all these things lead you to appreciate the importance of the present hour, and serve to emphasize the solemnity and responsibility resting upon this Conference.

Never before have such problems confronted us. Never before have conditions so compelled the attention of thinking men and women to search for the meaning of current events. Never before have the open doors in other lands made such demands upon us. Never, since William Miller toured the cities of the New England States in that never-to-be-forgotten summer of 1844, when thousands flocked to hear his exposition of prophecy, have such numbers assembled weekly to hear the advent message proclaimed, as at the present time.

If this interest were manifested in only one or two places, we might conclude it to be local; but it seems to be general. In almost every place where our men begin a course of lectures and properly advertise the meetings, the public seem anxious to attend and to hear the truth. In many of our cities, especially in the East, notwithstanding all their hurry and greed for money; with all their social

obligations, church activities, and philanthropic work; with all the avenues for amusement and pleasure diverting their interest, thousands have attended the lectures of our evangelists. Nearly every building, however ample its seating capacity, has proved inadequate to accommodate those who regularly attend the services. The willingness of the people to read our literature, and to study prophecy as related to current events, indicates that the Lord has prepared minds to investigate the truths of the third angel's message.

In all the success that has attended the work of the North American Division Conference since its organization, we would reverently acknowledge the overruling hand of God. And because of the success that has attended our work, because of the deepening of the spiritual life of the church, and the opportunities for doing aggressive work in winning souls to Christ, we believe that we are entering upon the loud cry of the message.

The Present Meeting

The constitution of the North American Division Conference provided that the first session of the conference after its organization should be held in 1915. However, the executive committee, in consultation with the General Conference Executive Committee, advised the postponement of the first session for two years, that it might be held in conjunction with the General Conference session. In 1915 we hoped that the war would soon end, and that the division conference might be held in 1917, at the regular time for the General Conference. When the year 1916 had come to its close, with the great war still continuing and with no certain prospect of its termination, it was thought advisable to postpone the holding of the session of the General Conference and of the North American Division Conference till 1918.

The North American Division Conference is now in session. The work handled by its executive committee during the interim is hereby handed back to the delegates. And while we are in session, the duty of laying proper plans for the advancement of the work, and of handling all matters that need attention, rests with you.

At a joint session of the General and the North American Division Conference Executive Committees, held in the autumn of 1917 at Minneapolis, Minn., resolutions were adopted affecting the future policy of this division conference. It was agreed to recommend to this Conference that the organization known as the North American Division Conference terminate at this time, and that its work and territory be absorbed by the General Conference. This recommendation reads as follows:

"In order that the unity of our worldwide work may be preserved; that economy

of administration may best be served; that the largest possible amount of funds may be made available for the prosecution of our work, both at home and abroad; that the believers everywhere may be constant contributors of their means to the regions beyond; that the General Conference may have direct control and management of its chief base of supplies, both of men and of means;

"We recommend, That the General and North American Division Conferences, at their next session, arrange for eliminating the North American Division Conference, and that the territory comprised in the North American Division Conference be hereafter under the direct administration of the General Conference."

The carrying out of this recommendation should command the early attention of the delegates. If the organization is discontinued, the North American Division Conference will not need the usual committees, and the business which it otherwise would do will be merged into that of the General Conference, whose committees will offer such plans and bring back to you such recommendations as they think should be adopted to promote the work in what is now known as the North American Division territory.

The Home Missionary Department

Soon after the organization of the North American Division Conference, it became apparent to many that a Home Missionary Department would greatly facilitate the work that should be done by our lay brethren in bringing the truth before the public. The executive committee, therefore, in the autumn of 1914, organized its Home Missionary Department, and called Elder F. W. Paap to take charge of it, with Miss Edith M. Graham as assistant secretary.

From its organization, the department has shown vigorous activity, and has demonstrated beyond question that our people, when properly led and instructed, are ready and willing to do strong campaign work. When the secretary presents his report, it will show one of the largest growths made by any of our departments. For two years the Home Missionary Department has conducted the Harvest Ingathering work, with the results of which you are already familiar. Its success in soul-winning has been most encouraging, its corps of workers is rapidly increasing, and it bids fair to become a most potent factor in helping to finish the work of proclaiming the third angel's message.

The Foreign Department

This department was reorganized at the time of the organization of the North American Division Conference. The German work and the Scandinavian work in the territory were made departments of the division conference, and their secretaries were made members of the executive committee. All the other foreign languages represented in this country were organized into what is known as the For-

eign Department. Elder O. A. Olsen was elected secretary of this department, which office he filled ably till the time of his death. When he was taken from us, the committee asked Brother Steen Rasmussen to take this department, and from his report you will learn of the continual growth of the work among the foreigners in America. Excellent progress has been made in the production of literature, in the training and appointment of suitable workers for the various nationalities represented, and in the number of persons brought into the truth.

The International Publishing Association

For some years the International Publishing Association has been giving special attention to the production of literature for foreigners in the division conference. Its printing plant, together with most of its machinery, was consumed by fire in the winter of 1914. The Pacific Press Publishing Association, which had previously taken over the International and made it a branch of the Pacific Press Association, at once undertook to relocate and rebuild the printing plant. A suitable location was found at Brookfield, a suburb of Chicago, and the Pacific Press Association has erected a very commodious, well-lighted building for the carrying on of the foreign work. The Pacific Press has put a good deal of money into this enterprise, and is working earnestly in every possible way in bringing out new literature, and in publishing such leaflets, tracts, books, etc., as seem necessary to carry on the work among these various peoples. The work of the International Branch is rapidly growing; and as new fields are entered and people accept the truth, the demand for its output and, let us hope, its efficiency will increase more and more. There is still a great work before us in the division territory, and it must be carefully fostered and built up. Millions of foreigners in our country must yet have the privilege of hearing the truth.

The Sabbath School Department

I wish to call special attention to the splendid work done by the Sabbath School Department in the division territory, and when the secretary makes her report, I should like to have you observe particularly the increase in the membership of our Sabbath schools. Up to the year 1911, our church membership exceeded the Sabbath school membership; but beginning with 1912 the membership of the Sabbath schools increased to more than that of the church. During the life of the division conference, the Sabbath school membership has increased 23,400, making the membership 91,001 at the close of 1917, and giving the Sabbath schools at the close of 1917 a membership in excess of that of the church of 3,779. We think this a phenomenal growth.

The Sabbath school has also been an important factor in raising funds for the mission fields. During the life of the division conference, the Sabbath schools have raised \$1,647,122.97. This has been a wonderful help in the support of our foreign mission work.

And who can estimate the value of the Sabbath schools to the children and young people of our denomination, as well as to those of more mature years? In taking account of the notable service of the Sabbath schools in raising money for missions, we sometimes lose sight of the still greater service that they render to the homeland. For every dollar that is given to the needy fields beyond, we have received a blessing in our homes and in our churches. All the good done by this great organization can never be told in dollars and cents, or in records of membership and attendance; it will be known only when the faithful workers, from the humblest to the greatest, shall have finished their labors and entered into their reward.

The Publishing Work

It is difficult for one in my position, speaking before my secretaries make their reports, to refrain from saying more than should be said concerning the work done in the departments which they represent. I can hardly resist the temptation to tell the results of the rapid growth of the circulation of our literature. Each year during the life of the division conference has been a record breaker in itself.

The year 1917, of course, is the banner year, literature sales aggregating in our territory more than two million dollars. At the beginning of each new year, Brother W. W. Eastman has asked, "Can we hold the record of the past year for the incoming year?" Who today dare set the goal for 1918! Under the strong and spiritual leadership of Elder Eastman, with his fine corps of coworkers reaching throughout the union and local conferences, our book sales have reached the high-water mark.

It is no easy task which these men have accomplished. This you will better realize when you remember that scarcely without exception the \$2,040,000 representing the total literature sales for 1917 was gathered in sums of less than six dollars. But dollars and cents are not all we must look to. Any people who set a monetary standard as the basis of their success, are on the way to failure. Our men have undertaken to sell our literature from the spiritual, soul-winning point of view. They have eliminated all questionable methods, and have undertaken to sell the printed page with the same high ideals before them that we find in our ministry. Each year the department is trying to elevate the standard of its workers, and more and more they are urging the necessity for those who distribute our literature to work with the same object, and lead the same high moral life, that is

required of our regular conference paid workers. Many have accepted the truth through the ministry of this department.

The Young People's Missionary Volunteer Department

The Missionary Volunteer Department has done hard, persistent work during the past five years. The department has suffered much because of sickness among its workers. Miss Matilda Erickson was elected secretary of the department at the time of the organization of the division conference. She carried this work for nearly two years, when her health failed, and she was compelled to take a prolonged rest. Prof. M. E. Kern was then asked to take the department, which he has carried from that time until now.

The results of the work of this department must be measured in the training, the inspiration, and the uplifting of our young people generally. It works, in co-operation with our schools, for the young who are already seeking a training, and for those who are not in touch with our schools. Its worth can be measured only in the young people that it helps to save and stimulate to seek a training for their life work. We think no other department in our organization has striven harder to foster and encourage every ideal and every aspiration of our young people than this. It should command the respect and the hearty co-operation of every union and local conference and of all our workers.

The Missionary Volunteer Department has before it a field of very great importance, and it is far from having reached the limit of its possibilities. It needs strengthening, that it may do more field work. We hope that this department will continue to increase in efficiency and in usefulness, and that it will be the means of reaching and saving to this work many who might otherwise drift out of the church, and be lost to the cause of God.

Our Educational Work

Our Educational Department occupies a very sacred place in the hearts of us all. This department has a field of activity second to none in importance, and more and more its leaders must strengthen this department, that it may accomplish the work assigned to it.

The constant shortage of workers, and the many unanswered calls for well-trained men and women, both in the homeland and in foreign fields, constitute an appeal to this Conference that the activities of this all-important branch of our work be enlarged.

At the time of the organization of the division conference, Prof. H. R. Salisbury was elected secretary of the Educational Department, and Prof. W. E. Howell, assistant secretary. Soon after the close of the Conference, Professor Salisbury was invited by

the General Conference to take charge of our work in India, and Professor J. L. Shaw carried the work of the department until the close of the school term in 1914, when Prof. Frederick Griggs was asked to connect with the department as secretary. This he did, resigning his position as president of Union College. From that time until the present, Professor Griggs, Professor Howell, and Prof. Walton C. John have been in the department, doing their best to develop the educational work.

At a council of leading men during the session of the last General Conference, the Educational Department recommended that we dispense with two of our five colleges, leaving one on the Pacific Coast, one in the Central States, and one on the Atlantic Coast. This suggestion did not meet with hearty approval, and it was agreed that we should continue for a time as we were.

It was soon evident that our schools were not turning out as many workers as were needed properly to man the home field and supply workers for the regions beyond. A campaign was therefore inaugurated to increase the attendance in all grades of our schools. This met with a hearty response on the part of our people, and during the school year closing in May, 1917, we had 18,830 students in our denominational schools in the division territory. This is an increase over what we had for the preceding five years of 4,010, making a net gain of 27.05 per cent.

It would perhaps be too much to expect that all should agree on the educational policy of the denomination, and we are not surprised that there has been some criticism. However, it is well to remember that criticism is helpful only when given in the right spirit, and with a design to remedy existing evils and to increase efficiency.

Special pains were taken to check up the output of three of our colleges for the year 1916-17. These schools report that every student graduated from the academic and higher courses either entered the work, applied for work in the denomination, or continued in school to seek further preparation. Every graduate from the college courses was an applicant for service in the cause. Surely this fact is a testimony to the faithfulness of the men at the head of our schools, the faculties connected with them, and the Educational Department.

The remedy for shortage in qualified workers must be found in bringing to our people a compelling message to educate their children. Had the denomination realized this need years ago as we see it now, we should be in a far different condition. With the increase of 23,000 in church membership, which is more than one third net gain during the last five years, it is evident that the school facilities which would accommodate a constitu-

ency of 63,000 in 1913 will not equally well accommodate a membership of over 87,000 at the present time.

There is a still larger work that we must do in order to fill our schools. Fifty per cent of our young people of school age are either not in school at all or are not in our own schools. It is self-evident that the world, however qualified to conduct a strong educational system, will not train our young people to become workers in our cause. A campaign should be set on foot at this session that will reach every member of the constituency in the North American Division Conference, with the objective of persuading every child of school age to take training in one of our denominational schools. Means should be made available by which children whose parents are too poor to send them to school can be trained by the church.

The proposition for manning our work is of such magnitude that something very definite and decisive must be done, or we shall find ourselves paralyzed by our lack of preparation. The future looks bright with promise if we only rise to the call of the hour, agree on a policy that will provide training for our young people, and bring all our constituency to realize and appreciate the importance of educating their children. The hour has come when the denomination should rally to the support of our educational work.

The Medical Department

Our medical work has made good growth during the last five years. At the organization of the division conference, Dr. H. W. Miller was made medical secretary of the department. He had scarcely consented to accept this position when the Washington Sanitarium elected him as head of that institution. The work of the sanitarium has grown rapidly, and has been so heavy that it has occupied the principal part of Dr. Miller's time and energies. He has had associated with him Brother L. A. Hansen and Dr. G. H. Heald, engaged in office and editorial work.

The Medical Department has done its best to encourage our sanitariums to adopt the policy of not running in debt. Eliminating the increased liabilities of the Loma Linda medical institution and school, we have a fairly good showing from our sanitariums, though not so good as we could wish. One thing is encouraging—they have not increased their liabilities. Since 1912 they have increased their assets \$87,425.41, and have reduced their liabilities \$1,116.19; bettering their present worth \$88,541.60. The method of reporting, however, makes the gain even more than it appears here. The entire returns of the Iowa Sanitarium appear in the figures for 1912, while for 1916 most of the assets of that institution are included under the Iowa Conference Associa-

tion, thus making a further increase in net worth of \$50,867.73 more than the amount shown.

During the year 1917 our sanitariums enjoyed the largest patronage in their history. Most of them have passed from the experience of an annual deficit to earning their operating expenses, plus interest and depreciation.

On the whole, our medical men have lined up splendidly with the policies of the organization, have worked in close sympathy and co-operation with us and with our conferences, and we believe there has never been a time in our history when our sanitarium men were more loyal to our cause and work than at the present time.

The Religious Liberty Department

The past five years have been very strenuous from the standpoint of our Religious Liberty Department. Elder C. S. Longacre has been secretary of this department, and has done splendid service. During the past five years twenty-four bills affecting the religious liberties of the people have been introduced into Congress, and five hundred forty-seven in State legislatures. The Religious Liberty Department has ever stood ready at all times to throw its strength in opposition to such legislation, and has the satisfaction of knowing that so far no bill affecting the religious liberties of the people of the United States has been passed, either by Congress or by a State legislature. Two cases have been contested in the State supreme courts, and in one prominent case victory was scored in favor of the Constitutional rights of our people.

The Religious Liberty Department has taken a very active part in championing the cause of prohibition. Our secretary has conducted campaigns against the sale of intoxicating liquors in ten States, contributing his share in influencing eight States to vote dry.

The *Liberty Magazine* has also been edited by the secretary of this department, and during the past year its average sales have exceeded 40,000 copies of each issue. We have a right to rejoice in the victories that this department has won in its various fields of activity.

The Press Bureau

This department has carried on a strong campaign throughout the division territory during the last five years. Through its secretary, W. L. Burgan, the department has co-operated with our ministry and leading church officers in preparing matter for the public press. It has rendered invaluable assistance in several of the large public efforts in the East, and has also helped at many of our leading camp-meetings. The success attending the work of this department has demonstrated that much more could be done if we would fully arouse to its possibilities, and secure trained men to promote its activities.

The Treasury Department

Our Treasury Department has kept pace with the progress of the work in other lines, and when the treasurer makes his report you will be pleased to note the increase in funds made available for the advancement of the work both at home and abroad.

You will recall that at the time of the organization of this division conference, no treasurer was elected, but that the General Conference treasurer, Elder W. T. Knox, was asked to carry the work for a time. At the fall council in 1913, Brother Knox was asked by the executive committee to continue to act as treasurer. This he has done, to the satisfaction of all.

Our union and local conference officers have done everything in their power to co-operate with the division officers and secretaries in making the work a success. It would have been impossible to make the growth the North American Division Conference has made, had these responsible men not helped in every way possible. Under God, they have done what has been accomplished. More and more must we realize that success comes through unity of effort.

Our union men will report the growth of the work in their respective fields. Through the help of these men and their conference workers, with the blessing of God, a good record has been made in the funds raised, for both home and foreign work. In the territory of the North American Division Conference, the tithe for the five years preceding the organization aggregated \$4,860,648.23. During the five years of the organization, the tithe received aggregated \$7,608,537.51, making a net gain of \$2,747,889.28, the per cent of gain being 56.54. The contributions to foreign missions for the five years preceding the organization of the division conference were \$1,771,653.89, and for the last five years \$3,613,596.62. Of this amount, \$854,733.52 was for institutional relief, making the net amount for foreign missions \$2,758,863.10, and a consequent gain of \$987,209.21, or 55.72 per cent over the preceding five years.

The organization of the division conference released funds otherwise used in its territory, so that during the last five years the General Conference has been able to appropriate for work in foreign lands, \$3,428,722.56. Comparing this sum with the appropriations of the preceding five years, — \$2,167,311.62, — we find a gain in favor of the last five years of \$1,261,410.94, or 58.20 per cent.

The indebtedness of the institutions and conferences within the division territory at the close of 1912 aggregated \$3,881,118.84. At the close of 1916 our liabilities had been reduced to \$3,381,732.18, showing a decrease in liabilities of \$499,386.66. During the same period our assets increased \$1,149,815.56, making an actual improvement of \$1,649,202.22. To this should be added the returns

of 1917,—\$369,225.97,—making an improvement of \$2,018,428.19. This improvement will be shown in detail by the statistical secretary's report.

Increased Membership

But the true test of growth does not lie in material gains. The gospel is not money, it is not buildings, it is not material things; but it is the good news of salvation from sin through faith in Christ. We can never make success depend on the amount of money we can raise, be it for ever so good a purpose. Tithes and offerings fluctuate, according to existing conditions, oftentimes beyond the control of the church or the individual. True success for the church of Christ lies in the spiritual condition of its membership, and the true sign of progress lies in the winning of souls to Christ, which is enlarging the kingdom of God on earth.

When we apply this standard of gain and growth to the division conference, it does not measure up to what we might reasonably expect. Could we all have realized five years ago what we can now more fully appreciate, we should at this meeting be far in advance of where we are, and be able to present a far more encouraging report.

During the last five years we have increased the net membership of our constituency by 23,357. This means that we have made the same gain in membership in the North American Division territory during the past five years as was made during the previous eighteen years in the same territory. In other words, during the life of the organization—from the beginning of 1913 up to the present time—it has increased its membership practically the same as it was increased during the period between the beginning of 1895 and the beginning of 1913. Had we been able to prevent the excessive losses, our membership at this time would have reached the hundred thousand mark.

Our union and local conference officers deserve special mention for the strong, efficient sympathy extended to the organized work, and the hearty co-operation which they have given to those at the head of departments and carrying official responsibilities. No new policy has been launched, no advance step has been taken, that has not commanded the united support of every union and, as far as I know, of every local conference official. I do not know how men could possibly have co-operated more heartily, regardless of their local interests, than these men; and they deserve the esteem and appreciation of those who love our work.

Suggestions Regarding the Future

Each department has prepared recommendations covering its particular line of work, which will be submitted to the proper committees. The secretaries have prepared these recommendations with the idea that having them

carefully drafted before the Conference would expedite the business here. If the North American Division Conference is eliminated, we shall appoint no committees; all matters pertaining to the work in the territory of the division conference will be covered by actions of the General Conference Committee; and the division conference will close its operations at this time, after receiving the reports of the respective secretaries and union presidents.

I wish to suggest a few things that I believe we should plan for in the future, if success is to attend our work:

1. We must make the territory occupied by the North American Division Conference the base of supplies for both men and means, in carrying on our great world-wide mission work. There is no limit to the needs of the General Conference in both men and money. Every advance step in a mission field generally means a larger investment to follow. There is no such thing as closing up the work in any place. It cannot be closed. It must enlarge more and more till the end; and this field must carry the load and furnish the supplies.

2. The home base, therefore, must be kept strong. Its institutions must be maintained in an efficient condition, that more and more we may qualify to do a larger work abroad. It would be a mistaken policy for us to believe that we can abandon the home field to carry on its own activities as best it may, and give our entire force of workers and resources to heathen lands. This great world-wide work abroad must be carried in a stronger way year by year; but in order to do this we must increase in strength in the homeland by increasing our constituency, by maintaining our institutions in a high degree of efficiency, by liquidating our liabilities, and by training more workers.

3. We must resolve not to increase our liabilities, even to make improvements, before we raise the money with which to meet the expense they will incur. A few more years like the past will entirely wipe out this accursed thing, indebtedness, which certainly is a reproach to the cause of God. If our leading men in General, division, union, and local conferences will refuse to undertake any enterprise till the money is forthcoming, the temptation to increase our liabilities will be eliminated.

4. We must qualify for, and carry on, a stronger and more efficient evangelical work. This means a closer supervision by, and more thoughtful helpfulness on the part of, committees, and a continual emphasizing of the importance of soul-winning. Union and local conference presidents must realize that it is a part of their administrative work to help every minister, licentiate, Bible worker, and church member to become a real soul-winner. Better and stronger church

discipline must be maintained, so that men and women who are not living the truth shall not hinder the growth of our work by their indifference. This would also mean a careful study of our losses in church membership. When you realize that we are losing annually almost as many souls as the net increase in our church membership, so that half of all we do is consumed by our losses, you can readily comprehend what a gain would be made if we were able to eliminate a large per cent of these losses. I hope that our brethren at this meeting will find time to study carefully how we can save these souls, and hold what we gain.

5. Our educational policy should reach a larger number of our young people, and plans should be laid at this meeting to inaugurate a campaign that will greatly increase the attendance at our schools. We are unable to man the fields at home and abroad, and unless we can increase the output from our schools, the future manning of our field will be greatly embarrassed. Our leading schools and their support should be carefully considered at this Conference. No one of them can operate on the present rate of tuition. What shall we do—increase our tuition charges, or raise funds by donations to keep these schools from loss? Expert study should be given to this question, and a solution reached before the Conference closes.

6. Our local conferences should undertake to strengthen the evangelical work in their territory by a suitable organization and training of their church membership. Our churches are far from doing all they could do. They must be trained and drilled for service. Institutes should be held, where men and women can study and qualify to do local evangelical work. The time must come when there will be hundreds of our people who have received short courses of training, who will give lectures, conduct Bible studies, hold cottage meetings, and engage in medical missionary work, as well as in the distribution of our literature, thus greatly multiplying throughout the entire field the work that is now done by our regularly employed laborers.

7. Should we not arrange for each college to conduct a short course of special training, separate from the regular college class work, giving drills in the correct use of English, public speaking, spelling, and penmanship; having lectures on church history, studies in the Testimonies; and instruction in holding Bible readings, conducting meetings, and singing? This course might cover one school year, or be conducted during six months of two years. Call to this short course men and women of good character, with sufficient education to read and speak well, and train them as workers who can hold meetings in rural communities and small towns,

hold Bible readings, sell our magazines and small books, and help to lead our churches in a vigorous missionary campaign.

8. We should also consider what can be done to eliminate nonproductive workers. Shall more effective measures be followed in the future than heretofore, concerning those who are not successful in soul-winning, to set them at self-supporting work?

9. The distribution of the Sustentation Fund should receive consideration from this delegation. Shall some definite regulations be laid down governing the distributing board? and who shall constitute the board? At the present time, it is very embarrassing to the Sustentation Committee, without instructions and with meager regulations, to know to whom to grant support from the Sustentation Fund.

10. I strongly urge adopting and putting into effect the plan that each union conference employ a financial man whose duty, in addition to assisting the president in his many fields of activity, shall be to help build up the finances of the union and local institutions, raise the mission offerings, increase the tithe, etc., thus relieving the union conference president, and permitting him to give closer attention to evangelical work, and to encourage and assist the workers in winning souls and building up the spiritual interests of the churches. There must come a spiritual revival among us. This can be brought about only as our leaders see and appreciate the need, and take time to pray and work for the people. The officers of the North American Division Conference would hereby express to all their collaborators their appreciation of the hearty co-operation extended to them during the past five years. The delegates now in Conference session must take the responsibility, and unitedly lay such plans for developing the work as seem best to them. In all planning for the future, the unity of our work must be preserved. If we will lay aside every weight, put down all differences, see eye to eye, and work as one man for the advancement of this mighty message in the earth, God is ready to lead us into larger fields, and give us a spiritual endowment of which we only faintly dream.

"A LITTLE more silent, please," thundered the sage of Chelsea. Probably most of us talk too much of generalities, and too little about the things best worth speaking of. Less gossip and more godliness; less fault-finding and more encouraging; less timidity and more real thought-born speech,—is not this a good resolution for our conversations?—*Great Thoughts.*

WHAT do we live for if not to make the world less difficult for others?—*Elliott.*



EDITORIAL



THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST'S COMING

EVENTS are preaching loudly to the dumbest ears. The way is prepared among all peoples for the message of Christ's soon coming.

At a large meeting in Europe, believers were reconsecrating their lives and bearing glad testimony for Christ. On the outskirts of the meeting a Roman Catholic bystander watched the consecration service, his own heart evidently strongly moved upon. As others were testifying, he stepped closer into the body of the congregation and said:

"I am a Roman Catholic. I cannot say much here; but I say this, that I believe the Lord will soon come."

It suggests how the doctrine of Christ's second coming—the very heart of the message for the hour—has become itself an entering wedge for the whole gospel, the truth that catches and holds attention.

Whether people are Protestant or Catholic, believers in Christianity or heathen, the events that proclaim the coming of the Lord are speaking to hearts of some great change impending. The way is prepared for giving to all peoples the definite gospel message for the last days.

"The return of Christ to our world will not be long delayed. Let this be the keynote of every message."—*Mrs. E. G. White.*

W. A. S.

THE INCREASING NUMBER OF OUR COLLEGE GRADUATES

HAVE you been praying the Lord of the harvest to send forth reapers into his harvest? God is answering that prayer. A little consideration of how he is answering it may be of real encouragement to us all.

In the providence of God this denomination was early led to establish a college where young men and women could be thoroughly trained as workers in this closing gospel message to all the world. And now a large number of the leaders in our work are men and women who received more or less training in the early days of that school.

Just now, when rapidly opening doors are inviting a host of new workers, and when God is about to do a quick work in the earth, shall we not turn to our own schools to find these workers? And may we not expect that God will make provision for the increasing demand for workers by an increasing supply?

Let us consider the present situation. Where at first we had only one college, we now have five colleges and one medical school, besides a large

number of fourteen-, twelve-, and ten-grade schools. While the schools of these different classes have all been doing, and are doing, their part toward supplying the needed workers, our available statistics allow us to present here only the number of graduates from the collegiate course in our five colleges during the last three years. The figures (which have been sent to the schools named to be verified) are as follows:

	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17
Emmanuel Missionary	6	9	13
Pacific Union	14	17	17
Union	14	19	19
Walla Walla	4	6	11
Washington Missionary	5	20	36
Total	43	71	96

Thus the total number of college graduates in the spring of 1917 was more than double the number of graduates in 1915. Another interesting fact which this table discloses, is that the number of graduates has been increasing in every one of the colleges. Truly God is answering our prayer for reapers, not only in this large increase in college graduates, but also in the large number of other earnest young people who have been going out from the schools of all grades to enter the work with consecration equal to that of the number listed above.

Let us thank God for what he is doing for us as a people, and pray with renewed earnestness for even greater achievements in the future.

L. L. C.

"IN THE WORK"

THE call of the hour is for activity in service,—speaking a word for Christ and his truth, spreading the message by periodicals and tracts and books, seeking in a variety of ways and in every way to win souls to Christ.

We do not in this article suggest any place for relaxing vigilance, or taking it out in merely "being good." It is no time merely to be good; one must be good for something. But sometimes this phrase, "in the work," may convey a wrong idea.

At one of our meetings in Europe a brother spoke of a good sister held at home by domestic cares. She longed to get out into the field missionary work, to be really "in the work," as she saw others engaged in it. But she could not go.

However, she had a class of six young men in the Sabbath school. She taught with a heart longing to help her class; and she prayed that the Sabbath school might establish these young men in the truth. Thus

she taught, and prayed, and worked at her home duties.

The result: "Today," said our brother, in speaking of it, "all six of those young men are in the work; one of them is a preacher."

Six times over that sister was truly "in the work."

No human judgment can tell just what service counts as of the highest value in Heaven's estimation. In one place in the Testimonies the more conspicuous work of the missionary in the field is compared with the work of his wife, held at home by home-keeping duties:

"Although one is in the missionary field, the other is a home missionary, whose cares and anxieties and burdens frequently far exceed those of the husband and father. Her work is a solemn and important one,—to mold the minds and fashion the characters of her children, to train them for usefulness here, and fit them for the future, immortal life. The husband in the open missionary field may receive the honors of men, while the home-toiler may receive no earthly credit for her labor. But if she works for the best interest of her family, seeking to fashion their characters after the divine Model, the recording angel writes her name as one of the greatest missionaries in the world."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. V, p. 594.

Let us not restrict the meaning of that common phrase, "in the work," to some form of professional work. What is the work?—"This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." John :29. Wherever there is a loyal, loving, believing heart, that soul is "in the work." The most of the time may be taken up with ordinary household duties, or with mechanical work in shop or on the farm; but if it is done as unto the Lord and for his sake, it is a part of his work, and the worker is "in the work." Old George Herbert sang truly of the blessedness of even drudgery "for his sake" who loved us:

"Teach me, my God and King,
In all things thee to see;
And what I do in anything,
To do it as for thee.

"All may of thee partake;
Nothing can be so mean
Which with this tincture—for thy sake—
Will not grow bright and clean.

"A servant with this clause
Makes drudgery divine;
Who sweeps a room as for thy laws,
Makes that and the action fine.

"This is the famous stone
Which turneth all to gold;
For that which God doth touch and own
Cannot for less be told."

We need not be surprised if in the day of God many loving souls who scarcely dared think they were "in the work," but who loved Jesus and did what they could in a quiet, homely way, receive rewards equally glorious

with those whose large spheres of service they had almost coveted. The first shall be last, and the last first. We are all "in the work" if we love God and allow his overcoming grace to work in our hearts, doing with our might what our hands find to do.

W. A. S.

THE HOME OF THE NATION

I ONCE heard a noted evangelist say that when he first saw the capitol at Washington he asked what building it was. A friend said, "That is the home of the nation." But he said as he thought it over he concluded that it was not the home of the nation; but that the real home of the nation was that home where morning and evening the children are gathered around the altar, and where, after reading a selection from the Bible, prayer and supplication are offered to God. When prayer departs from the homes of a nation, that nation is doomed.

What an anchor to the soul is family worship! How can any professed Christian omit it from his home? We never forget the time when in childhood we gathered around the family altar, and heard our names mentioned by father and mother in prayer. Other things may fade from the memory, but this will not. We may wander amid arctic snows, but these do not chill the memory of mother's prayers. We may languish under a tropic sun, but the thought of these seasons of prayer remains fresh and green. Evil companions may lead us astray, yet in the haunts of sin, like an oasis in a desert, memory recalls the season of prayer in the family circle.

The power of family prayer is well illustrated by the following touching incident:

"Ten years ago I boarded in the family of a pious woman whose husband was not a Christian. There was a daughter of nineteen, another of fourteen, and a son of ten. Every morning I heard that humble woman gather her family in the kitchen, and read with them a chapter, verse about, in the Bible. Then, as I could not help listening, there was a peculiarity of service that mystified me.

"At last I asked one day if I might remain. She hesitated; her daughter blushed, but she said I could do so if I really desired it. So I sat down with the rest. They gave me a Testament, and we read a verse in turn. Then kneeling, the mother began her prayer audibly for her dear ones there, her husband, and herself; and then pausing a moment, as if to gather energy or wing her faith, uttered a tender, affectionate supplication for me.

"She closed, and her daughter began to pray. Poor girl; she was afraid of me. I was from college; I was her teacher; but she tremulously asked for a blessing as usual. Then came the other daughter, and at last the son, the youngest of that circle, who only repeated the Lord's Prayer, with one petition of his own.

"His 'amen' was said, but no one arose. I knew on the instant they were waiting for me. And I, poor prayerless I, had no word to say. It almost broke my heart. I hurried from the room, desolate and guilty.

"Only a few weeks had passed when I asked their permission to come in once more; and then I prayed, too, and thanked my dear, patient Saviour for the hope in my heart and the new song on my lips."

Dear reader, is there a family altar in your home? If not, why not? Was it once reared and allowed to fall into decay? Are you a father, sending forth your children into the world in these evil days without giving them the privilege of hearing you pray for them? Are you a Christian wife, whose husband has never known a change of heart? and have you feared to rear the family altar alone? Take courage from the foregoing personal experience, and set up the altar of the Lord in your home. Angels will draw near. The Holy Spirit will overshadow your home, and the blessing of the Lord, that maketh rich and addeth no sorrow, will be vouchsafed unto you.

G. B. T.

THE TONES AND THE COUNTENANCE

MRS. D. A. FITCH

My neighbors do not need to understand the words I am using in order to decide whether I am scolding, retorting, joking, or entreating. The tone of voice readily betrays the spirit actuating the words of the lips.

The expression of the countenance tells volumes as to what is passing in the heart. Is it malice and hatred, or envy and jealousy, or has the Holy Spirit been permitted to fill the being with that love and charity which irradiates every feature; thus telling the story of his redeeming love? Neighbors judge of our religion more by what they see and hear than by what we profess to believe.

WE were made for God. No work, no engrossment, or culture of natural powers, will satisfy a man who has once awakened to his heart need. Only a faith like that expressed in the great words of St. Augustine can satisfy: "Thou hast made us for thyself, and our heart is restless till it finds rest in thee."—*Hugh Black*.

I do believe the common man's work is the hardest. The hero has the hero's aspiration that lifts him to his labor. All great duties are easier than the little ones, though they cost far more blood and agony.—*Phillips Brooks*.



BIBLE STUDIES

THE COMING OF THE LORD — NO. 6

THE NEW EARTH

GEORGE B. THOMPSON

"I SAW a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." Rev. 21: 1-3.

The promise of God to make all things new, even the earth itself, is a most cheering promise to the worn, storm-tossed soldier of the cross, bivouacked on the stern battle field of life.

As we look about us in the earth, upon all that we behold we see weakness and decay written. Kingdoms disintegrate and pass away. Kings, on whose brow once rested a jeweled crown, die, and other hands hold for a time the scepter of power. Monuments reared in memory of noted men or great events, crumble beneath the ravages of time. Magnificent temples, in which speechless gods once sat and were worshiped, perish. Great cathedrals, whose lofty spires flash and sparkle beneath the rays of the sun, fall into ruins. Fond fathers and loving mothers die. Sin has filled the world with suffering, trouble, and sorrow that beggar description; and for nearly six millenniums creation has groaned, shrouded in darkness, waiting for the deliverance of her children. The promise, "Behold, I make all things new," pierces the gloom and brings to sin-stricken humanity who will believe, a ray of hope.

As we look about us, we are led to wonder what was the purpose of the Lord in creating the world. Was it that it might be a theater for war and bloodshed and exhibitions of sin? — Never. An ancient prophet has told us the purpose of the Creator in making the world:

"Thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else." Isa. 45: 18.

When man was made, the Lord said to him, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it," Gen. 1: 28. The "earth hath he given to the children of men." Ps. 115: 16. Man was made to have dominion over the works of God's hands, and all things were put under his feet. Ps. 8: 6.

This sets forth the original design of the Creator concerning the earth. It was that it might be inhabited, not by a race of sinners and rebels against

his government, but by holy, sinless beings, such as Adam and Eve were when they came from the hand of their Maker on creation's morn. God has not changed; neither has sin thwarted his purpose. Nor do we believe that the fall of man has delayed the purpose of God laid in the councils of eternity. Though many of the sons and daughters of Adam will be eternally lost, the earth will be peopled with righteous beings, saved by faith, and washed in the blood of the Crucified One, even as if transgression had never occurred. The rebellion of Lucifer and the fall of man did not take God by surprise, neither was the plan of redemption an afterthought. Sin, it is true, has marred the fair creation of the world, but the promise is that the face of the earth will be renewed.

"Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." Isa. 65: 17.

Believing this blessed promise, God's people "look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." 2 Peter 3: 13. It is in this new earth that the righteous will be recompensed. Prov. 11: 31. The home of the redeemed is not to be in some distant unknown realm "beyond the bounds of time and space," but in this earth made new. "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." Matt. 5: 5. Blessed inheritance! In harmony with this, a prophet has said:

"The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him." Dan. 7: 27.

The great and mighty monarchies of earth will then be swept away like the chaff from a threshing floor, and no place be found for them; and in their stead will be established the universal and everlasting kingdom of God, which will fill the whole earth, and God's people will reign as kings and priests on the earth made new, safe forever in their everlasting home. Dan. 2: 44, 45.

The apostle Paul writes:

"If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Gal. 3: 29.

What is this wonderful promise here mentioned? Evidently one made to faithful Abraham and to his seed:

"The Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall

thy seed also be numbered." Gen. 13: 14-16.

This promise was renewed to Isaac:

"Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father. And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." Gen. 26: 3, 4.

And later it was renewed to Jacob:

"He dreamed, and beheld a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and beheld the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed." Gen. 28: 12-14.

As to what was included in this promise to Abraham and his seed, we are told by the apostle Paul:

"The promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith." Rom. 4: 13.

Here is a promise made to Abraham and his seed, or those who are Christ's, that they should *inherit the world*. Wonderful promise! And, according to his promise, we, as strangers and pilgrims in this present world, look for a new heaven and a new earth, and for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Abraham did not receive this inheritance; no, not so much as to set his foot on. Acts 7: 2-5. He looked for the fulfilment of the promise. Heb. 11: 8-10. And the promise is sure to him and to his seed.

The inheritance of God's people is something real, something material. Their eternal home will be on this earth. If Adam had never sinned, he and his posterity would have lived here on this earth forever. Sin has not changed the plan of the Lord. That which was lost by sin has been restored through Christ. He not only redeemed man, but he paid as well the mortgage held by Satan on his home, and all will be restored as in the beginning.

"As the ransomed ones are welcomed to the city of God, there rings out upon the air an exultant cry of adoration. The two Adams are about to meet. The Son of God is standing with outstretched arms to receive the father of our race,—the being whom he created, who sinned against his Maker, and for whose sin the marks of the crucifixion are borne upon the Saviour's form. As Adam discerns the prints of the cruel nails, he does not fall upon the bosom of his Lord, but in humiliation casts himself at his feet, crying, 'Worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain!' Tenderly the Saviour lifts him up, and bids him look once more upon the Eden home from which he has so long been exiled.

"After his expulsion from Eden, Adam's life on earth was filled with sorrow. Every dying leaf, every victim of sacrifice, every blight upon the fair face of nature, every stain upon man's purity, was a fresh reminder of his sin. Terrible was the agony of remorse as he beheld iniquity abounding, and, in answer to his warnings, met the reproaches cast upon himself as the cause of sin. With patient humility he bore, for nearly a thousand years, the penalty of transgression. Faithfully did he repent of his sin, and trust in the merits of the promised Saviour, and he died in the hope of a resurrection. The Son of God redeemed man's failure and fall; and now, through the work of the atonement, Adam is reinstated in his first dominion.

"Transported with joy, he beholds the trees that were once his delight,—the very trees whose fruit he himself had gathered in the days of his innocence and joy. He sees the vines that his own hands have trained, the very flowers that he once loved to care for. His mind grasps the reality of the scene; he comprehends that this is indeed Eden restored, more lovely now than when he was banished from it. The Saviour leads him to the tree of life, and plucks the glorious fruit, and bids him eat. He looks about him, and beholds a multitude of his family redeemed, standing in the Paradise of God. Then he casts his glittering crown at the feet of Jesus, and falling upon his breast, embraces the Redeemer. He touches the golden harp, and the vaults of heaven echo the triumphant song, 'Worthy, worthy, worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and lives again!' The family of Adam take up the strain, and cast their crowns at the Saviour's feet as they bow before him in adoration.

"This reunion is witnessed by the angels who wept at the fall of Adam, and rejoiced when Jesus, after his resurrection, ascended to heaven, having opened the grave for all who should believe on his name. Now they behold the work of redemption accomplished, and they unite their voices in the song of praise."—*"The Great Controversy," pp. 647, 648.*

The earth will not be then as now. All the results of sin will be gone. "There shall be no more curse." Rev. 22:3.

"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful." Rev. 21:4, 5.

What a glorious hope is this! The blessings of joy and immortality for all the redeemed forevermore! May this glorious hope soon be realized.

QUESTIONS

1. What promise has the Lord made concerning the earth?
2. What can you say regarding the certainty of things about us in this world?
3. What was the purpose of the Lord in making the earth?
4. What command regarding the earth was given to man at creation?
5. What prophecy can you cite in which a new earth is foretold?
6. What promise did the Saviour make when on earth?
7. Name some predictions of the prophets that have a bearing on this question.

8. What promise was made to Abraham concerning the earth?

9. To whom was this renewed?

10. How much was included in this promise?

11. Give a synopsis of the description taken from the Spirit of prophecy.

A BOOT-STRAP EXPERIENCE

O. MONTGOMERY

I CAN remember well when, a small boy, my father bought me my first pair of red-topped, copper-toed boots. How proud I was! How big and manly I felt! After a little, father said to me, "Son, if you will lift yourself off the ground by your boot straps, I'll give you a quarter." That was more money than I had ever possessed in my life, and I was quite sure the thing could easily and quickly be done, and I would soon have the much-coveted quarter.

For a long time I tugged and pulled, but it was of no use. When I got one foot up, the other stuck fast to earth. I could not understand why I did not rise when I was lifting so hard. Finally father said, "Let me show you, son, how it is done," and placing his hands under my elbows, he lifted me high from the ground, saying as he did so, "See how easy it is!"

I learned even at that early age that a man cannot lift himself by taking hold of himself. Yet this is the experience many are having in their efforts to live the Christian life. They see the prize of victory, and they want it, oh, so much! They try with all their might, "lifting so hard," only to fail. They say, "Now, today I will not give way to temptation," but before night they have fallen. The natural tendency of the human heart, the "sin which doth so easily beset," holds them down. Their purposes are good; their desires are strong; their resolutions are new every morning; but their best efforts bring only failure and defeat. They cannot lift themselves. They are having a "boot-strap experience."

After repeated efforts, and as many failures, each growing more dismal, many become discouraged and give up, saying, "It is of no use; I cannot reach the higher levels; I cannot be a Christian." Others struggle on in the gloomy shadows of doubt and uncertainty, half hoping that in some way God will finally save them in his kingdom, because they have shed so many tears and made so many failures.

About the only satisfaction that comes to the heart from such an experience is the feeling that one has tried. It brings but little comfort, though, or joy into the life. "The peace of God, which passeth all understanding," but which is experienced only by him whose mind is stayed on God, is a comparative stranger to such a heart. The sweet, abiding trust is only an occasional blessing. Broken and scattered rays

of light break through at times, bringing a little glimpse of glory to the soul. A camp-meeting, a revival, or maybe some trial or sorrow, stirs them up, and they seize their "boot straps" and begin to pull. They may succeed in getting one foot off the ground for a little time, but it is the same old experience; soon they find that they are no higher than they were before. As I failed in securing the quarter because I could not lift myself, so many will fail in securing the eternal prize because they have trusted too much to their own lifting powers.

When we have learned the lesson of the "boot-strap experience," we shall know in more than a theoretical way that it is "not by might, nor by power," not by any "lifting" ability that we may have, that the victory is won.

There is a hand reached down from the battlements of glory to lift and save,—a great, loving, tender hand, strong and true,—our Father's hand, reaching to lift his child, oh, so easily! out of sin. "Submit yourselves therefore to God." "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." James 4:10. Submission, surrender, giving ourselves up, is our part; the lifting up is of God. He will "uplift" (Rotherham) you.

We are—

Saved by grace	The gift of God
Through faith	The gift of God
Upon repentance	The gift of God

Jesus does not trifle with the soul. He saves; "he giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength." Isa. 40:29.

Groping in uncertainty and doubting our acceptance by him is not the experience that the Lord would have us know. He says to every longing, trembling soul:

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Isa. 41:10.

"I know that the Lord is very nigh you, to give you victory, and I say to you, Be helped, be strengthened, be lifted out of and away from the dark dungeon of unbelief. . . . God is waiting to bestow the blessing of forgiveness, of pardon for iniquity, of the gifts of righteousness, upon all who will believe in his love and accept of the salvation he offers.

"It is your privilege to trust in the love of Jesus for salvation, in the fullest, surest, noblest manner; to say he loves me, he receives me; I will trust him; for he gave his life for me."

For all true words that have been spoken,
For all brave deeds that have been done,
For every loaf in kindness broken,
For every race in valor run,
For martyr lips that have not failed
To give God praise and smile to rest,
For knightly souls that have not quailed
At stubborn strife or lonesome quest;
Lord, unto whom we stand in thrall,
We give thee thanks for all, for all.

—Margaret E. Sangster.

STUDIES IN THE TESTIMONIES

THE SABBATH—HOW IT SHOULD BE KEPT

EDITH M. GRAHAM

1. WHEN was the Sabbath instituted?

"The great Jehovah had laid the foundations of the earth; he had dressed the whole world in the garb of beauty, and had filled it with things useful to man, he had created all the wonders of the land and of the sea. In six days the great work of creation had been accomplished. And God rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it; because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." God looked with satisfaction upon the work of his hands. All was perfect, worthy of its divine Author, and he rested, not as one weary, but as well pleased with the fruits of his wisdom and goodness and the manifestations of his glory."—*"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 47.*

2. For whom was it set apart as a day of rest?

"After resting upon the seventh day, God sanctified it, or set it apart, as a day of rest for man. Following the example of the Creator, man was to rest upon this sacred day, that as he should look upon the heavens and the earth, he might reflect upon God's great work of creation; and that as he should behold the evidences of God's wisdom and goodness, his heart might be filled with love and reverence for his Maker."—*"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 47.*

3. For what purpose was the Sabbath instituted?

"Its observance was to be an act of grateful acknowledgment, on the part of all who should dwell upon the earth, that God was their Creator and their rightful sovereign; that they were the work of his hands, and the subjects of his authority. Thus the institution was wholly commemorative, and given to all mankind. There was nothing in it shadowy, or of restricted application to any people. God saw that a Sabbath was essential for man, even in Paradise. He needed to lay aside his own interests and pursuits for one day of the seven, that he might more fully contemplate the works of God, and meditate upon his power and goodness. He needed a Sabbath to remind him more vividly of God; and to awaken gratitude because all that he enjoyed and possessed came from the beneficent hand of the Creator."—*"Patriarchs and Prophets," p. 48.*

4. What would have been the result had the Sabbath always been kept?

"The true ground of divine worship, not of that on the seventh day merely, but of all worship, is found in the distinction between the Creator and his creatures. This great fact can never become obsolete, and must never be forgotten." It was to keep this truth ever before the minds of men, that God instituted the Sabbath in Eden; and so long as the fact that he is our Creator continues to be a reason why we should worship him, so long the Sabbath will continue as its sign and memorial. Had the

Sabbath been universally kept, man's thoughts and affections would have been led to the Creator as the object of reverence and worship, and there would never have been an idolater, an atheist, or an infidel."—*"The Great Controversy," p. 438.*

5. Besides being a memorial of creation, of what is the Sabbath a sign?

"Wherefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath." These words are full of instruction and comfort. Because the Sabbath was made for man, it is the Lord's day. It belongs to Christ. For 'all things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.' Since he made all things, he made the Sabbath. By him it was set apart as a memorial of the work of creation. It points to him as both the Creator and the Sanctifier. It declares that he who created all things in heaven and in earth, and by whom all things hold together, is the head of the church, and that by his power we are reconciled to God. For, speaking of Israel, he said, 'I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them,'—make them holy. Then the Sabbath is a sign of Christ's power to make us holy. And it is given to all whom Christ makes holy. As a sign of his sanctifying power, the Sabbath is given to all who through Christ become a part of the Israel of God."—*"The Desire of Ages," p. 288.*

6. What work is it proper to do on the Sabbath?

"Jesus stated to them that the work of relieving the afflicted was in harmony with the Sabbath law. It was in harmony with the work of God's angels, who are ever descending and ascending between heaven and earth to minister to suffering humanity. Jesus declared, 'My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.' All days are God's, in which to carry out his plans for the human race. If the Jews' interpretation of the law was correct, then Jehovah was at fault, whose work has quickened and upheld every living thing since first he laid the foundations of the earth; then he who pronounced his work good, and instituted the Sabbath to commemorate its completion, must put a period to his labor, and stop the never-ending routine of the universe."—*"The Desire of Ages," p. 206.*

7. What work does man have to perform on the Sabbath day?

"Nature must continue her unvarying course. God could not for a moment stay his hand, or man would faint and die. And man also has a work to perform on this day. The necessities of life must be attended to, the sick must be cared for, the wants of the needy must be supplied. He will not be held guiltless who neglects to relieve suffering on the Sabbath. God's holy rest day was made for man, and acts of mercy are in perfect harmony with its intent. God does not desire his creatures to suffer an hour's pain that may be relieved upon the Sabbath or any other day."—*"The Desire of Ages," p. 207.*

8. To what are the sacred hours of the Sabbath to be devoted?

"The Sabbath is not intended to be a period of useless inactivity. The law forbids secular labor on the rest day of the

Lord; the toil that gains a livelihood must cease; no labor for worldly pleasure or profit is lawful upon that day, but as God ceased his labor of creating, and rested upon the Sabbath and blessed it, so man is to leave the occupations of his daily life, and devote those sacred hours to healthful rest, to worship, and to holy deeds."—*"The Desire of Ages," p. 207.*

9. Should the whole Sabbath day be spent in meetings?

"In order to keep the Sabbath holy, it is not necessary that we inclose ourselves in walls, shut away from the beautiful scenes of nature and from the free, invigorating air of heaven. We should in no case allow burdens and business transactions to divert our minds upon the Sabbath of the Lord, which he has sanctified. We should not allow our minds to dwell upon things of a worldly character even. But the mind cannot be refreshed, enlivened, and elevated by being confined nearly all the Sabbath hours within walls, listening to long sermons and tedious, formal prayers. The Sabbath of the Lord is put to a wrong use if thus celebrated. The object for which it was instituted is not attained. The Sabbath was made for man, to be a blessing to him by calling his mind from secular labor to contemplate the goodness and glory of God. It is necessary that the people of God assemble to talk of him, to interchange thoughts and ideas in regard to the truths contained in his word, and to devote a portion of time to appropriate prayer. But these seasons, even upon the Sabbath, should not be made tedious by their length and lack of interest."—*"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. II, p. 583.*

10. What should the Sabbath be made?

"All who love God should do what they can to make the Sabbath a delight, holy and honorable. They cannot do this by seeking their own pleasure in sinful, forbidden amusements. Yet they can do much to exalt the Sabbath in their families, and make it the most interesting day of the week. We should devote time to interesting our children. A change will have a happy influence upon them. We can walk out with them in the open air; we can sit with them in the groves and in the bright sunshine, and give their restless minds something to feed upon by conversing with them upon the works of God, and can inspire them with love and reverence by calling their attention to the beautiful objects in nature. The Sabbath should be made so interesting to our families that its weekly return will be hailed with joy."—*"Testimonies for the Church," Vol. II, pp. 584, 585.*

11. In preparing for the Sabbath, what attention should be paid to the clothing?

"Many need instruction as to how they should appear in the assembly for worship on the Sabbath. They are not to enter the presence of God in the common clothing worn during the week. All should have a special Sabbath suit, to be worn when attending service in God's house. While we should not conform to worldly fashions, we are not to be indifferent in regard to our outward appearance. We are to be neat and trim, though without adornment. The children of God should be pure within and without. On Friday let the preparation for the Sabbath be completed. See that all the clothing is in readiness, and that all the cooking is done. Let the boots be blacked, and the baths be taken. It is possible to do this. If you make it a rule, you can do it.

The Sabbath is not to be given to the repairing of garments, to the cooking of food, to pleasure seeking, or to any other worldly employment. Before the setting of the sun let all secular work be laid aside, and all secular papers be put out of sight. Parents, explain your work and its purpose to your children, and let them share in your preparation to keep the Sabbath according to the commandment."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. VI, pp. 355, 356.

12. What kind of food should be provided for the Sabbath?

"We should not provide for the Sabbath a more liberal supply or a greater variety of foods than for other days. Instead of this the food should be more simple, and less should be eaten, in order that the mind may be clear and vigorous to comprehend spiritual things. Overeating befores the brain. The most precious words may be heard and not appreciated, because the mind is confused by an improper diet. By overeating on the Sabbath, many have done more than they think to dishonor God. While cooking upon the Sabbath should be avoided, it is not necessary to eat cold food. In cold weather let the food prepared the day before be heated. And let the meals, though simple, be palatable and attractive. Provide something that will be regarded as a treat, something the family do not have every day."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. VI, p. 357.

13. What portions of the Sabbath need especially to be guarded by believers?

"We should jealously guard the edges of the Sabbath. Remember that every moment is consecrated, holy time. Whenever it is possible, employers should give their workers the hours from Friday noon until the beginning of the Sabbath. Give them time for preparation, that they may welcome the Lord's day with quietness of mind. By such a course you will suffer no loss, even in temporal things."—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. VI, p. 356.

14. Is it proper to give attention on the Sabbath to the soul-winning work of the church?

"Christ would teach his disciples and his enemies, that the service of God is first of all. The object of God's work in this world is the redemption of man; therefore that which is necessary to be done on the Sabbath in the accomplishment of this work, is in accord with the Sabbath law."—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 285.

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

THERE is nothing that makes us love a man so much as praying for him; and when you can do this sincerely for any man, you have fitted your soul for the performance of everything that is kind and civil toward him. . . . Be daily on your knees in a solemn, deliberate performance of this devotion, praying for others in such form, with such length, importunity, and earnestness as you use for yourself; and you will find all little, ill-natured passions die away, your heart grow great and generous, delighting in the common happiness of others as you used only to delight in your own.—*William Law, in the Serious Call*.

IN MISSION LANDS

EXPERIENCES AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA

(Concluded)

W. F. MAYERS

THE paper currency here is nearly always very dirty. Many of the bills are patched with paper and mucilage; sometimes one finds them pieced out with several bills. This dirty money passes through the hands of the women who handle bread and other foods, hence is the source of much disease.

Although Retalhuleu is well situated for drainage, I found pools of water in which innumerable mosquitoes bred. These conditions make malaria extremely prevalent. It is so hot in these countries that it takes the energy out of the people; consequently there is a notable lack of progress.

Book sales were good in this place. In two days I was able to deliver sixteen copies of "Coming King," and go on to Pajapita. This is only a small place, and the street lighting consisted of torches hung at each corner. The light was very dim compared with that of our modern systems of lighting, and might be said to typify the mental and spiritual condition of the people.

In very few of these towns are there any evangelical churches; the only work done has been by the faithful Bible colporteur, who places copies of the Sacred Scriptures in the hands of a few of the people.

While walking down a street one day, I saw a soldier reading a copy of Mark's Gospel. I had a talk with him. As it was Sabbath evening, I invited him to come to my room the next day. He came with a companion, and we had a Bible study. I showed them the prophetic chart, which interested them very much. As they expected to be relieved from military duty in a few months and return to their homes, they gave me their addresses. I turned them over to the superintendent of the mission, who will follow up the interest created.

The need for pioneer workers is great. The canvassing work offers opportunity for many to engage in self-supporting missionary effort.

In a field like Guatemala, where the Roman Catholic Church dominates and is interwoven with the whole social life of the people from the cradle to the grave, it is no easy task to introduce other religious literature. At times the way seems hopelessly hedged up. But as the walls of Jericho went down before the faith and united efforts of the Israelites, so these barriers will be surmounted, and the remnant people will go in and possess the land.

It is our work now to let the light of present truth shine into these dark places of the earth.

I had planned to pass over the river into Chiapas, Mexico, but was unable to get my passport viséd by the local government, so I had to turn back, believing the disappointment was the Lord's appointment.

Sunday morning I took the train for Cuyotenango, a small place. I canvassed it between trains, and in the afternoon went to San Antonio, a small town in the foothills. Nearly all the inhabitants there were Indians, but I managed to sell a few copies of "Coming King." As I was leaving, one man came down to the station before daylight with the book he had bought, wanting to return it. He said he had a Bible, and did not want my book. I tried to encourage him to read it, telling him that the chapter on earthquakes at least would interest him.

Leaving this place, I arrived at a junction, and while waiting there for a train, sold one copy of "Coming King," and one of "The World War."

At another place I succeeded in getting six orders; two were from Chinese, one of whom I found ready to hear the truth. I have since sent him some Chinese *Signs*. Later I received a letter thanking me for them and asking for more reading matter. This is encouraging. I hope some day he will be numbered among the believers in present truth.

Here I met a lady who was working for another denomination. She visits this town each week and preaches to a small congregation. I am always pleased to meet these workers who are laboring systematically to enlighten the people.

From here I went to Escuintla. While waiting for the train going up to Guatemala City, I met the superintendent of the station and sold him a copy of "Coming King." His daughter is in our Washington Missionary College, at Washington, D. C. I was glad to make his acquaintance and leave this good book in his hands.

In the afternoon we began to ascend the mountains, and at an altitude of 2,500 feet, I needed to put on a sweater and a heavier coat on account of the cold. It was very agreeable however, after enduring the terrible heat of the lowlands.

On arriving at Guatemala City, I found that the earthquake of the week before had cracked many buildings. The day after I arrived there was another shock, but much lighter. Some of the people were camping in tents, fearing more shocks. These light

shocks are very frequent, and the people become accustomed to them.

I left Guatemala December 1, and since then the two earthquakes came that laid the city in ruins.

These calamities will no doubt forcibly impress the people concerning the fulfilment of the Bible prophecy which speaks of earthquakes in many places. "When thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness." Isa. 26:9.

Sanitarium, Cal.

OPENING THE WORK IN HOKKAIDO, JAPAN

S. E. JACQUES

LAST summer a tent company of five foreigners and two Japanese workers was sent to Sapporo, the capital of Hokkaido [Yezo], to hold a tent effort preparatory to beginning permanent work on the island. Hokkaido is the northernmost large island of the Japanese Empire, and is a promising field of labor. Our Japanese Bible worker, who had already been in the city about a year, was able to secure for us a fine location in the large parkway running through the center of the city. This was the first time that this ground had ever been used for Christian purposes. It is a sort of recreation ground and community center, where are held wrestling matches, bicycle races, lantern processions, and heathen religious ceremonies.

Our meetings were progressing nicely when one morning the promoter of wrestling matches appeared and said that the wrestlers wanted the grounds upon which the tent stood, and that if we would move the tent they would help us and pay for the trouble. As a clean grassy plot just back was available and more desirable, we agreed to move, although not compelled to by the terms of our agreement. By hustling, we were able to proceed with our meetings without missing a night. But all the time the wrestlers were there it rained, and they had very poor attendance at their matches. Some of the people of Sapporo believe that their god does not like wrestlers, because every time they come to town it rains during all their stay.

As the matches were in the daytime only, they did not interfere with the lectures in the tent during the evening, but on the contrary many of the wrestlers attended our services. The workers were thus able to have some good talks with them; so that these modern replicas of the old Roman gladiators have heard the gospel story, even as many a gladiator of olden times heard it.

The attendance was large, especially on the nights when stereopticon lectures illustrating Old and New Testament stories, were given. Among people whose written language is made up of characters, illustrated lectures are always appreciated and un-

derstood, because to them ideas are easily conveyed by means of pictures. Attention was given to making the children's hour each evening interesting. All the children in the neighborhood (and there were not a few, either) were on hand promptly, and learned to sing the gospel hymns with lusty vigor and quite a little melody. The children learn the tunes of the English hymns very readily, and it is a common thing for them to put Japanese words to the tunes and sing them at play.

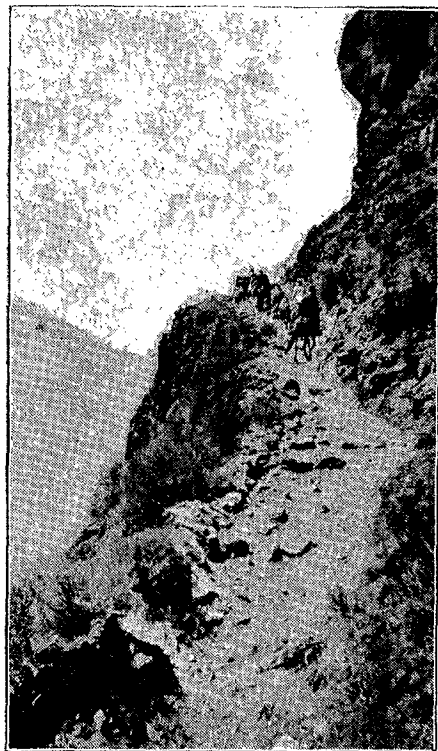
As a result of the summer's work, some are keeping the Sabbath, and many are interested and are studying with our Japanese worker.

Sapporo, Japan.

THE JOYS OF A CANVASSER IN PERU

E. H. WILCOX

IN Peru we have many difficulties to contend with, yet it is quite interesting to note the way in which God works for the advancement of his cause. Traveling is very difficult, as



AN ORDINARY PERUVIAN ROAD IN THE ANDES OF SOUTH AMERICA

there are few railroads, and most of the traveling must be done on mule-back or horseback, over very dangerous mountain paths. On a trip I made in September, 1917, one evening while going around the corner of a big rock on one of these roads (if I may call them roads), my horse stumbled over a rock, and fell with his front feet on the very edge of the precipice. If he had gone over, we should have landed about a thousand feet below. Only a few months ago, one of our colporteurs, in going over one of these roads with his books, had a burro slide off with his boxes of books. He crawled down to the place

where he supposed the burro had landed, but all he could find was just little pieces of books and burro meat scattered all along the way. While the difficulties are great, yet it is interesting to see how the work grows. When making the above-mentioned trip, Elder E. L. Maxwell and I visited four little villages; and to me it was interesting to learn just how the work had begun in each.

Our first visit was at a little place called Lanca. In 1909 a sister who was then living in Lima, sent some tracts over to this place by a man named Maximo Espiritu. As a result, this man accepted the truth. He soon succeeded in getting others interested, and today we have a church of forty members at this place. These people, although not rich in this world's goods, have erected a neat two-story church building, the first Protestant church building to be erected in Peru and paid for entirely by natives.

These people, after working for some time among their neighbors, became interested in others outside of their borders, and in 1912 Brother W. D. Flores saddled his horse and climbed the great mountain back of his house and went over into the valley on the other side, to the little village of Huachupampa. There he distributed tracts and papers. The seed sown sprang up and bore fruit. The next year Elder W. R. Pohle visited this place and baptized three persons. On this visit Elder Maxwell baptized three more.

Brother V. Torres, of this place, after he had been baptized by Brother Pohle, became interested in the salvation of souls in a village a day's journey from his own, and over a very dangerous road. He distributed some papers in this little village, one of which fell into the hands of a man named Julio Zarate. He became interested in the study of his Bible, and soon began keeping the commandments of God. On our visit to this place Elder Maxwell baptized this man and his wife. Eight others had just begun to keep the Sabbath, and were anxious to be baptized, but because of certain conditions we were obliged to ask them to wait till a little later. Brother Julio Zarate in 1914 took some papers and tracts up over the mountain to another village, a good day's journey from his village, and distributed them. We visited this little town of La Chaqui, and witnessed the baptism of two there, the first fruits of that place to stand as witnesses for their Master. Six more were desirous of being baptized, and had been keeping the Sabbath for about two years, but were compelled to wait.

Very little preaching has ever been done in any of these places. Practically all this work has been done through the printed page, and that by what we would call home missionary work. A colporteur could hardly

make enough to pay expenses visiting these places. The people are very poor, and but very few of them can read or write. Those who accept the truth are generally the best of the city; that is, the ones who can read. In fact, there are a good many people in Peru who cannot read, but in the rural districts only five or six in a village can read.

While the road to these places is difficult, yet the God who rules above cares for all, and these souls are precious in his sight. When we started out to make this journey, we hardly knew at times whether we should be able to make it or not. I had a horse that was better at stumbling than at traveling, and a Peruvian saddle, which is but little more than a saddle tree, with only one stirrup, that broke off before the day was half gone. However, with perseverance we were able to make the journey and scatter some more pages of message-filled literature among them, and also to see souls rejoice in the hope of a soon-coming Saviour.

Appointments and Notices

TO THOSE HAVING FRIENDS IN THE BRITISH ISLES

A biweekly, sixteen-page missionary paper is published by our people in England entitled **Present Truth**. During the coming twelve months this journal will run a series of special articles in each issue bearing on the leading points of our faith, and the believers in the British Isles are working hard to increase its circulation among those not of our faith. It was felt that many of our people in the United States and Canada who have friends and relatives in the British Isles would be glad to take advantage of the opportunity thus offered of getting the truth before these people by having the paper sent to their friends from the English office of publication. A year's subscription is \$1.04; half year, 52 cents. Send postal order to M. N. Campbell, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, and the orders will be sent on to England. Do it now!

M. N. Campbell,
President British Union Conference.

CALLING FOR THE "TEMPERANCE INSTRUCTOR"

A secretary of one of our largest tract societies writes: "We have been holding up our work in the temperance line until we could get a little ammunition to work with. We have been straining our eyes for the last three weeks, watching for sample copies of the new **Temperance Instructor**, and have even been dreaming how we were going to work to give this a good circulation and help to make our State dry. But still we fail to get the sample copy. The people have been asking for the paper for weeks."

We are glad the **Instructor** is being anxiously awaited. We hope every State is stretching out its arms for this paper, eager to send it forth on its mission of education and vote-making.

The servant of the Lord has told us that there should be "no compromise, and no cessation of our efforts till victory is gained." While prohibition victory apparently hovers over the nation, we shall not be sure that it has come to abide with us until the American Congress speaks the word of welcome.

The 1918 Temperance Annual is now ready. With this efficient weapon at our command, we can all have a part in the nation-wide ratification campaign. Let us bestir ourselves as never before, and scatter the **Temperance Instructor** throughout the land. Now is our opportunity. Let us prove true to our trust. The people will buy the **Instructor** better than ever this year, because the temperance issue is brought prominently before the public through the State ratification of the prohibition amendment.

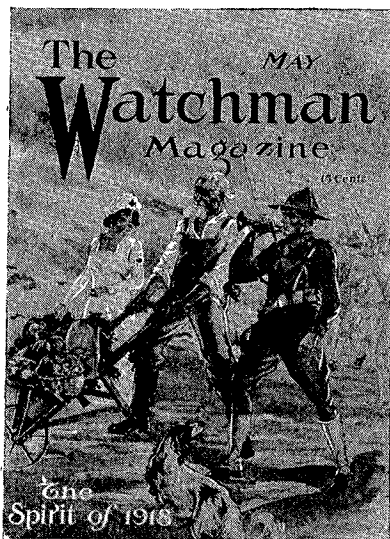
SPECIAL CONSERVATION NUMBER

The May Watchman, now ready, is devoted to a presentation of the third angel's message from the standpoint of conservation, and should have a wide circulation in our cities. It is brimful of the message, but so beautifully presented amid an abundance of charming illustrations that it will be gladly received by all classes of people. Some of the special articles are as follows:

"**Conservation a Moral Issue.**"—In one of the most forceful articles ever written, the Food Administration shows why it has become imperative for every American to practice conservation. Few realize what the actual conditions are that we as individuals are facing. Every man, woman, and young person will be intensely interested in this appealing article by the United States Food Administration.

"**The Invaders.**"—Floyd A. Bralliar brings home to us in "The Invaders" the fact that we are already at grips with foes not four thousand miles away, but at our doors, in our fields,—foes who are wasting our substance and threatening death by starvation, and he shows that all this was a matter of prophecy three thousand years ago. And the prophecy does not close with that; it has a glorious end.

"**Out of the Cities—A Message for Today.**"—It is not a pleasure excursion, it is an imperative call to the people of this country—a land that is steadily increasing its city popu-



lation at the expense of the farming communities, thereby boosting the number of consumers and thinning the ranks of producers. What do you think will be the end of that course? How do you think it can be remedied? Where do you think you ought to stand? Dr. Sutherland shows the way out.

"**Mother Earth.**"—Some children are educated by billboards and Sunday supplements and moving picture shows and gutter games. Are they your children? The Sabbath school alone is not powerful enough to combat all these schools of vice. People who want to attend God's college in the New Earth will want to attend his kindergarten here and now. Read A. W. Spaulding's article.

"**The Fight for Food.**"—The Government is fighting to conserve the food supply; the farmer is fighting to produce it; the householder is fighting to get enough to live on. It has been said that "food will win the war." How will it end, and what does it mean?

Here is a partial list of the feature illustrations:

Aristocracy in the Bean Patch.
Boring for Sugar.
Header Harvesting.
Rice to the Rescue.
The Bees are Swarming.
The Grower of Things That People Must Eat and Wear.
The School Garden.
"The Hills of God" (poem).
The Patriot of the Plow.
Women Students Digging Potatoes.
The Morning Work (team harrowing).
Spraying in Apple-Blossom Time.
Boys in the Pepper Patch.
Raspberries for Dinner.
Where the Luscious Banana Grows (full page in colors).

Also four pages of Pictorial Section, with nineteen illustrations.

The cover design, entitled "The Spirit of 1918," is most striking, and in keeping with the whole.

This special issue will contain thirty-six pages and will be printed in four colors. The edition will be limited to 100,000. Please order early through your local tract society.

CAMP-MEETINGS FOR 1918

Columbia Union Conference

Virginia	May 24 to June 2
West Virginia	June 6-16
Eastern Pennsylvania	June 18-22
West Pennsylvania	June 20-30
New Jersey	June 27 to July 7
Ohio	Aug. 15-25
Chesapeake	Sept. 7-17
District of Columbia	Sept. 18-21

Western Canadian Union Conference

British Columbia	June 6-10
Manitoba	June 20-30
Saskatchewan	July 4-14
Alberta	July 11-21

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COLLEGE OF MEDICAL EVANGELISTS

The annual session of the constituency of the College of Medical Evangelists will be adjourned March 27, 1918, and will convene at Loma Linda, San Bernardino County, Cal., Monday, April 22, 1918, at 2 P. M., for the purpose of electing seven members of the board of trustees for the ensuing term, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

E. E. Andross, President.
S. S. Merrill, Secretary.

MISSIONARY NURSES' TRAINING COURSE, NEW ENGLAND SANITARIUM

There is opportunity for thirty young women and six young men to enter the training course for missionary nurses of the New England Sanitarium, Melrose, Mass. The next class opens October 1. Only consecrated, mature young people are desired. A thorough training in both didactic and practical work is offered. Medical missionary field work receives special attention. Write for calendar containing full particulars and for application blank.

W. A. Ruble, M. D.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

Though widely separated from one another, the followers of our Lord and Master can meet in spirit daily at the throne of grace. In our devotions let us remember our brethren and sisters who are in affliction. Says the apostle: "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body." We ourselves shall share in the blessings we seek for others. "The Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends." We suggest the noon hour as an appropriate time for remembering these special requests.

"Please join me in prayer for the conversion of my two sons, who are in the army and navy, and for my husband, who is an unbeliever," writes a mother in the Atlantic Union.

A sister writing from Pennsylvania, asks special prayer for those of her family who are outside the ark of safety.

PUBLICATIONS WANTED

The persons named below desire late, clean copies of our publications, sent postpaid, for use in missionary work. In sending publications care should be exercised to select only such as are free from soil and disfigurement. We have been credibly informed that some who oppose this movement and the truths which it represents, answer these requests for literature, and are sending to our brethren and sisters in various parts of the country tracts and papers representing their opposition. Our workers should be careful not to confound this literature with our denominational publications, and thus unwittingly become agents in sending out matter not printed in the interests of the cause of truth.

Mrs. R. I. Jeffords, Box 724, Miami, Fla.

Mrs. J. E. Sutton, Pine Hill Farm, Egg Harbor City, N. J. Especially Our Little Friend.

Mrs. Ella Johnson, Box 307 Mound Bayou, Miss. Signs weekly and monthly, and Watchman.

Mrs. George H. Durrie (not Davison, as previously printed), Wisconsin Veterans' Home, Wis.

A. H. Downs, 1210 Twelfth St., N. W., Washington, D. C. Watchman, Signs monthly and weekly.

Mrs. Margaret Locke, Zurich, Mont. Continuous supply of Watchman, Signs monthly and weekly, and Life and Health.

Report of Home Missionary Work of the General Conference for Quarter Ending June 30, 1917

CONFERENCES AND MISSIONS	Membership	No. Reporting	Letters Written	Letters Received	Missionary Visits	Bible Readings or Cottage Meetings Held	Subscriptions Taken for Periodicals	Papers Sold	Papers Mailed, Lent, or Given Away	Books Sold	Books Lent or Given Away	Tracts Sold	Tracts Lent or Given Away	Hours of Christian Help Work	Articles of Clothing Given Away	No. of Meals Provided	Treatments Given	Signers to Temperance Pledge	Offerings to Home Missionary Work	No. of Conversions
ATLANTIC UNION																				
Eastern New York	972	601	658	201	825	346	26	3464	16178	1659	297	467	3694	721	858	417	20	9	148.81	5
Greater New York	1834	534	385	168	3232	920	66	32647	7673	674	614	6417	31420	583½	474	320	133	6	63.85	46
Maine	693	123	348	52	764	258	429	8435	2930	172	161	561	850	566	214	215	6	1	58.98	5
Massachusetts	1658	299	712	293	1499	750	57	7331	19995	905	328	90	3579	1330	516	209	301	1	126.60	11
N. New England	559	79	158	41	353	123	10	491	2846	318	201	58	676	349	134	49	10	1	11.99	2
S. New England	606	341	469	227	1221	1056	121	3708	6267	8395	474	594	6040	3662	1003	723	1027	1	109.71	87
Western New York	901	267	570	177	1325	350	114	1901	9319	729	583	422	7868	2098	496	389	90	1	413.56	—
CENTRAL UNION																				
Colorado	2349	802	1042	582	1668	678	171	2302	15595	1768	409	857	7533	12163	766	1452	189	2	134.31	—
Kansas	2656	614	827	464	2915	1032	471	1640	12494	926	840	189	6925	2265	512	930	352	2	95.85	67
Missouri	1522	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nebraska	2333	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wyoming	620	40	41	22	93	48	53	24	591	96	22	—	83	190	98	150	23	2	—	2
COLUMBIA UNION																				
Chesapeake	829	235	352	130	972	317	131	11571	5538	876	263	443	6538	752	317	341	77	8	2235.71	53
District of Columbia	1102	330	2016	224	2610	733	116	7372	24662	501	507	411	3419	2480	1220	354	191	—	312.62	10
Eastern Pennsylvania	1444	144	254	123	544	254	155	2822	6186	789	191	578	3335	862½	151	358	24	—	38.34	23
New Jersey	1214	472	560	278	2034	664	90	4268	10689	429	419	240	11149	1417	493	134	177	13	152.39	—
Ohio	2397	840	953	348	3236	781	247	7521	23937	1740	582	423	10606	2398	1002	821	264	22	894.87	41
Virginia	642	106	173	86	334	138	27	1062	1369	321	114	667	970	638	191	109	67	25	41.45	2
West Pennsylvania	1020	311	522	155	1129	302	63	2490	8981	696	133	139	2016	857	224	162	257	4	27.75	21
West Virginia	306	109	219	77	637	284	17	1130	3122	461	203	134	1481	469	123	100	133	—	98.80	18
EASTERN CANADIAN UNION																				
Maritime	238	9	—	—	11	—	8	1169	232	—	4	—	307	14	11	—	—	—	—	—
Ontario	687	117	71	72	257	64	27	259	3524	128	31	—	1809	804	84	55	7	—	—	7
Quebec	210	60	177	125	686	95	1	10	797	1112	65	3	4216	324	77	137	49	6	18.06	—
Newfoundland	67	30	50	30	292	35	18	20	300	50	12	—	600	40	40	25	—	—	20.00	—
LAKE UNION																				
East Michigan	1766	355	526	204	660	252	140	3455	12926	822	494	258	4316	784	427	349	25	—	60.15	45
Indiana	1709	367	574	168	1278	415	79	1856	5022	2217	521	130	11305	995	647	329	72	17	370.55	15
Northern Illinois	2012	287	1037	417	4233	1467	122	2988	23256	235	391	861	7095	3514	1713	228	327	22	202.21	9
North Michigan	1077	119	178	91	617	82	40	47	3717	704	204	8	521	466	71	125	63	—	47.92	1
North Wisconsin	812	65	115	53	75	22	27	22	1785	49	45	46	363	176	92	70	18	1	13.25	9
Southern Illinois	762	281	365	150	1155	230	54	826	8661	628	795	40	2408	529½	516	205	98	—	41.16	15
South Wisconsin	1933	390	789	510	1961	574	208	863	11032	616	406	1508	4363	3169	531	109	140	45	133.97	27
West Michigan	2715	973	6381	445	3635	773	180	750	27224	1271	934	48	8328	1587	1153	541	190	5	203.41	70
NORTHERN UNION																				
Iowa	2820	725	836	385	1548	519	545	5142	18151	2329	499	681	5411	3563	1059	1242	251	2	884.87	29
Minnesota	2032	498	966	390	1535	369	326	8551	16794	856	481	8310	17030	1099	516	413	79	9	199.31	11
North Dakota	1596	73	96	42	99	63	106	505	3959	39	57	39	3319	106	61	369	41	—	106.68	13
South Dakota	1187	249	526	239	878	231	572	1033	4649	424	188	413	1254	1015	318	276	64	4	143.24	6
NORTH PACIFIC UNION																				
Montana	768	49	373	136	218	110	10	172	2188	49	55	20	162	318	279	27	5	—	—	—
Southern Idaho	1166	57	221	97	156	84	20	—	7476	25	138	30	571	851	353	96	5	8	47.00	—
Southern Oregon	843	103	166	47	150	47	133	46	1961	253	74	109	1033	339	51	111	12	—	11.25	—
Upper Columbia	2656	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Western Oregon	2368	57	220	74	1011	324	48	115	3637	104	167	171	1034	336	93	247	24	—	35.32	16
Western Washington	2836	165	278	115	969	140	101	71	8051	295	370	14	1561	387	375	198	36	16	302.57	15
PACIFIC UNION																				
Arizona	531	123	251	95	577	244	70	1569	9952	275	126	5	3668	452	72	45	23	—	84.25	—
California	1892	186	668	330	2479	602	325	1136	35262	1597	2712	1097	14050	901	736	640	87	17	266.11	43
Central California	1955	197	267	81	949	318	120	631	12432	412	289	32	2172	423	329	216	56	20	139.69	40
Inter-Mountain	752	199	651	59	457	276	76	60	4102	19	270	—	2977	392	79	78	7	—	19.67	2
Northern California	1687	849	177	70	810	313	215	10	11557	93	278	144	684	366	461	161	32	4	36.46	18
N. W. California	1479	168	357	118	715	113	178	471	9088	264	233	18	2219	1052½	327	252	7	—	210.30	26
S. E. California	1777	186	439	157	1292	333	410	2132	7797	996	435	83	1571	417	379	485	23	—	83.75	4
Southern California	2446	619	891	249	2981	1840	47	2031	32862	1141	2507	690	14724	2504	1463	516	103	35	251.27	9
Nevada Mission	291	64	112	37	588	119	7	84	1011	20	107	—	695	262½	101	50	18	—	2.45	—
SOUTHEASTERN UNION																				
Cumberland	631	140	307	169	1009	207	298	5466	2922	517	184	99	1593	979	382	371	132	18	1316.64	8
Florida	1102	443	1321	716	4237	1132	268	11705	29244	942	729	243	9878	2278	993	975	375	35	372.07	69
Georgia	714	231	1040	600	4625	953	18	6932	6310	1203	332	121	3891	2351	922	748	390	—	109.73	120
North Carolina	633	289	330	494	2325	1019	90	3074	5896	951	305	730	1624	2380	333	724	170	17	99.99	12
South Carolina	447	343	538	410	2031	820	101	1766	3701	362	432	211	2641	1456	425	1613	243	25	85.81	17
SOUTHERN UNION																				
Alabama	723	280	396	618	1936	717	141	3531	6850	447	297	399	1293	2388	588	915	209	10	105.73	30
Kentucky	659	251	191	96	821	545	15	1725	5669	464	713	1	1377	2438	247	206	13	24	3.23	5
Louisiana	534	172	539	230	1412	410	60	1132	3338	534	146	19	470	1104	343	253	86	32	64.70	18
Mississippi	363	16	44	23	49	297	10	129	843	93	10	—	467	67	53	141	37	—	10.68	52
Tennessee River	925	211	493	214	2000	459	91	5206	16433	1400	545	43	5080	1882	655	591	165	1	71.01	3
SOUTHWESTERN UNION																				
Arkansas	366	145	210	103	577	151	118	236	3727	314	167	78	647	629	171	449	30	24	49.67	9
North Texas	1004	337	773	245	1211	310	518	7585	6585	676	265	33	1025	1362	420	133	162	10	35.33	20
Oklahoma	2029	454	621	267	1530	46														

IN NINETEEN HUNDRED EIGHTEEN

The decisive temperance battle is to be fought. This is the year in which the foundation of national prohibition will be laid through the forty-five State elections to be held in November. Upon these elections depends the fate of the Federal prohibition amendment. If temperance men are elected as new members of these forty-five State legislatures, the prohibition amendment will be speedily ratified; but if the people fail to make such men their representatives in the coming elections, their past efforts in temperance reform will be lost, and the country will continue to be scourged by the liquor traffic indefinitely.

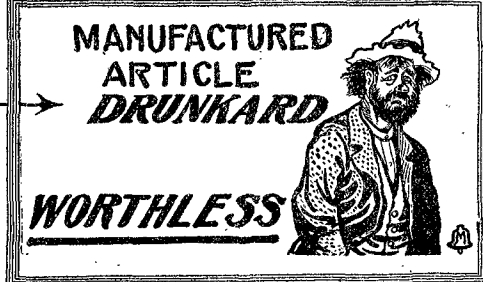
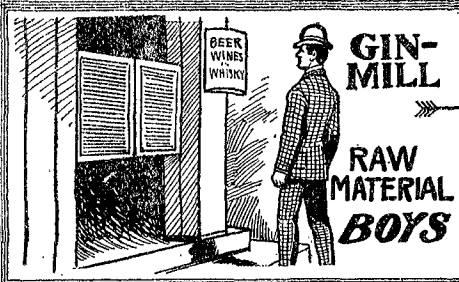
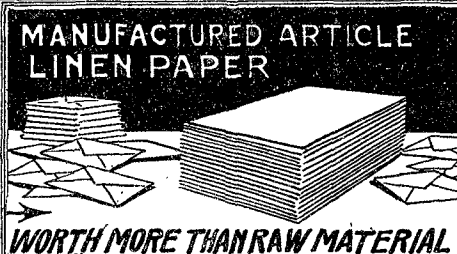
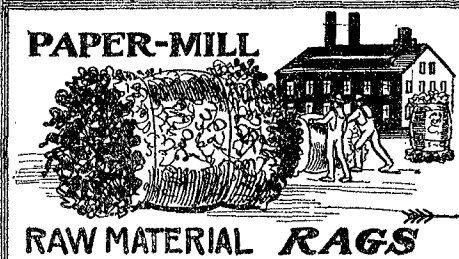
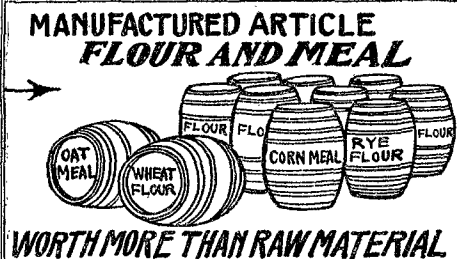
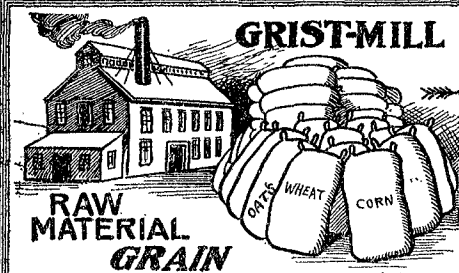
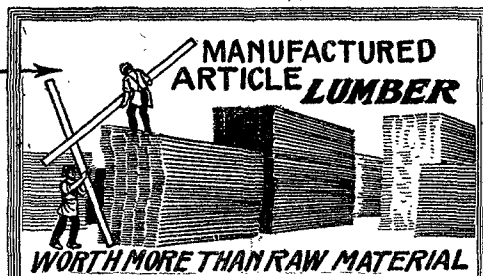
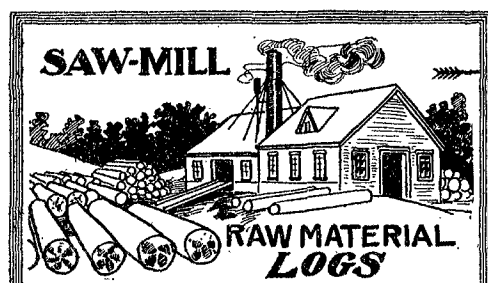
This year, therefore, is the temperance man's opportunity. This is the time to educate the voters. Do it by placing a copy of the

Ratification Number of the INSTRUCTOR TEMPERANCE ANNUAL

in every voter's home before November. Every man, woman, and child can strike a deadly blow to the liquor traffic by circulating this number of the Instructor.

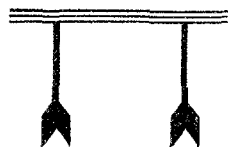
OLD PRICES PREVAIL

Order Through the Conference Tract Societies



The Four Mills

The Instructor Temperance Annual advocates the elimination of the fourth mill because its operating expenses are prohibitive, and its product is wholly undesirable—worthless. Conservation of men and means demands its closing in 1918.





WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 4, 1918

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ALL communications relating to the EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT, and all manuscripts submitted for publication, should be addressed to EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT, Review and Herald, Takoma Park Station, Washington, D. C.

DUE to the nonarrival of the manuscript, it was impossible for us to print the Mission Field Study on Malaysia last week, as we had planned. As the copy has not yet reached us, we must again go to press without this study.

A NIGHT telegram from San Francisco, sent March 23, tells of the arrival of Elder A. G. Daniells in that city. Thirteen delegates from the territory of the Asiatic Division had just arrived, among them Elders J. E. Fulton and W. W. Fletcher. The prospects are good for a very large attendance at the Conference.

THE publication of the General Conference reports in this issue necessitates the omission of some of our usual departments, among which are the General Articles, Our Homes, and the World-Wide Field. It may be necessary to omit one or more departments in several subsequent issues, but the omissions, as far as possible, will not occur in the same departments continuously.

A LETTER from M. G. Conger, of China, tells of the blessing he received in engaging in Harvest Ingathering work in that country. He says: "With another brother, I have left the school for a week in the interest of the Harvest Ingathering campaign, and have come to Peking. We have met some of the highest officials and talked with them about our work and left with them our papers. We have collected about \$500 (Mexican), for which we feel very thankful to the Lord."

At the time of the Asiatic Division Conference last April, Japan, Chosen, and Manchuria were organized into what is known as the East Asian Union Conference. Elder J. M. Johanson, formerly of Australia, is president of this union. He writes: "It was interesting to see how the Japanese brethren related themselves to the new order of things when the Japanese Conference was organized. The Japanese are keen, intelligent people, and when consecrated they make faithful, earnest believers. Prof. W. W. Prescott conducted a short institute. The excellent work accomplished during that time made itself felt for good throughout the session of the conference. Immediately following the Japan meeting, we attended some district meetings in different parts of Chosen. It so happened that there was sufficient time before Brother Prescott was due in Manila to enable him to attend the meeting

in Keizan. We were all much encouraged as we saw how the Spirit of God brought a new experience of his saving grace to our Chosen brethren."

A NEW boys' school building is to be erected at Fu-chau, China, costing \$8,000. The young people in the Central Union Conference have pledged \$6,600 of this amount, and hope to raise the entire \$8,000 during 1918. Two years ago twenty-eight of the 160 Chinese boys attending this school organized a Missionary Volunteer Society, and set their goal to each win one boy during the year. As a result fifty-four boys were won to Christ and united with the church.

FORTY-NINE years ago I united with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I have missed but few copies of this trusty friend, the REVIEW AND HERALD, since that time. I usually read the most of it the night the paper reaches me. As I read the last number (February 14) I remarked to my wife: "What a missions number!" There were reports from all parts of the field. This is in marked contrast to the time when the reports were all from the few Eastern States. The REVIEW is doing a grand work. It unifies the believers. Support it.

O. O. FARNSWORTH.

A WORD FROM THE CONFERENCE

JUST as we are going to press there comes by telegraph word that the Conference is opening auspiciously, with a practically full delegation. The Asiatic Division delegates, including Elders J. E. Fulton, B. P. Hoffman, and O. A. Hall, landed in San Francisco March 23. Delegates from South America, among whom are Elders O. Montgomery and F. A. Stahl, are also present; and there are many visitors from our large churches on the Pacific Coast. The estimated attendance at the Conference is three thousand.

Elder I. H. Evans, president of the North American Division, preached a stirring sermon Friday evening. Sabbath morning Elder A. G. Daniells, General Conference president, made an earnest appeal for the finishing of the work. This was followed in the afternoon by a fervent devotional meeting, led by Elder J. E. Fulton, president of the Asiatic Division, in which a large number took part. Sunday night Elder W. A. Spicer, secretary of the General Conference, spoke to a large audience on the subject of Our World-Wide Work.

The program of the early meetings of the Conference session is as follows:

Departmental	8 to 9 A. M.
Devotional	9:15 to 10 A. M.
Conference	10:30 A. M. to 12:30 P. M.
Departmental	1:30 to 2:30 P. M.
Conference	2:45 to 4:45 P. M.
Departmental	5 to 6 P. M.
Preaching	7:30 to 9 P. M.

Hope and courage fill all hearts, and an abundant measure of the divine blessing is gracing this assembly of God's people. We know that many prayers from all over the world are ascending to God for this meeting, and we are confident that he will hear and answer these prayers by making this Conference session the most fruitful in results of any in the history of the denomination.

ATTENTION, MISSIONARY VOLUNTEER LEADERS!

By an oversight the article, "Over the Top," by C. S. Longacre, written to be used in the Missionary Volunteer temperance program for April 6, was not printed in the REVIEW of March 28, when it was announced that it would appear. However, it is printed in this issue of the REVIEW, on page 2, and we hope it will reach our young people in many States in time to be used in this meeting.

THE following interesting experience is clipped from the *Australian Record* of recent date: "Situated in the fertile south-eastern portion of South Australia is a prosperous little place named Millicent. There we have a company of Sabbath keepers, at present in charge of Elder C. P. Michaels. Quite recently the district was visited by a plague of caterpillars, which destroyed acres of beautiful grain and grass crops. It seemed as if nothing could stop them. One man was the proud possessor of a particularly fine field of grass, soon to be cut for hay. The devastating pest bared his land as if it had been plowed and harrowed. Right beside was a huge field of oats belonging to one of the brethren lately come into the truth. This brother watched the caterpillars, like Attila's hordes, pouring through the fence toward his crop. His workman, who is not a Seventh-day Adventist, standing by, remarked quite seriously, 'You need not fear, they will not touch your oats, because you keep the commandments of God.' Sure enough, our heavenly Father was true to his promise in Malachi 3:11. On visiting there some days afterward, I saw the dead bodies of these devourers lying thick along the edge of the oats, as if the angel of God had allowed them to come to the danger point, then 'breathed in the face of the foe as he passed,' smiting them with death before they touched one blade. The bare acres on one side of the wire fence and the full waving heads of strong healthy oats on the other, were an overwhelming evidence of the reality of God and his fidelity to his promises."

The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald

GENERAL CHURCH PAPER OF
THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Devoted to the Proclamation of "the Faith which was once delivered unto the saints"

Issued Each Thursday by the
Review & Herald Publishing Association

TERMS: IN ADVANCE

One Year..... \$2.50 Six Months..... \$1.50
Two Years..... 4.50 Three Years..... 6.00

No extra postage is charged to countries within the Universal Postal Union.

Make all Post Office Money Orders payable at the WASHINGTON, D. C., post office (not Takoma Park Station). Address all communications and make all Drafts and Express Money Orders payable to

REVIEW AND HERALD

Takoma Park Station - Washington, D. C.

[Entered as second-class matter, August 14, 1903, at the post office at Washington, D. C., under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.]