

# MISSIONARY

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No. 7

## Backbone.

When you see a fellow-mortal  
Without fixed or fearless views,  
Hanging on the skirts of others,  
Walking in their cast-off shoes,  
Bowing low to wealth or favour,  
With abject, uncovered head,  
Ready to retreat or waver,  
Willing to be drove or led,  
Walk yourself with firmer bearing,  
Throw your moral shoulders back,  
Show your spine has nerve and marrow,  
Just the things which his must lack.  
A stronger word  
Was never heard  
In sense and tone  
Than this—BACKBONE.

## “Hard Times”

As men reject light and truth, they will drift into great darkness and will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. The Spirit of God will no longer exercise its restraining influence, and the powers of darkness will control the minds of men. Then the natural instincts of sinful man will be fully manifest. Selfishness, greed, oppression and fraud will rule the world. It will be difficult to conduct business honestly, on Christian principles.

God's people will feel the pressure, and suffer the oppression, but we are exhorted to be patient unto the coming of the Lord. James 5. We know these things, and should therefore be getting ready for the worst. Men are suffering reverses of fortune in every land. Through depression in trade, rich men have become poor, and poor men have become paupers. The spirit of greed is taking possession of all classes, however, and the jealousy and hatred of those that are failing towards those that are succeeding are daily becoming more bitter.

I need not enlarge upon the situation. But while we are in the world we will have to do more or less with the world; and there is great danger

that we may partake of the spirit of the world. It is of the greatest importance therefore that we as a people stand in just the right attitude before the world at this time. But what shall determine the right attitude? Our only answer can be, the light of the third angel's message. This light is our only safe guide amid the perils of these last days.

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” “Looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.” If we truly belong to this class, or company, the things of this world will have no attraction for us. Our minds will be occupied with the preparation for our future home. The interests of the gospel will be first in all our thoughts and in all our plans.

If hard times come to us, and we have to cut down expenses, we will still consider the Lord's work more important than our own, and will show ourselves trustworthy stewards of His goods. Hard times try men's faith, and love, and sincerity as Christians. When we have less money than usual, we sometimes curtail our Sabbath-school donations, or missionary offerings; and some even excuse themselves from paying a full tithe. This shows that they consider these things of minor importance. Others, however, considering the Lord's work of primary importance, are even more faithful in tithes and offerings, willing rather to sacrifice personal comforts and conveniences, than to hinder or retard the progress of the gospel.

Have you ever thought of the money saved every year by our people through the light given us on health and other reforms? We spend nothing for intoxicants, tobacco, tea, coffee, and many harmful and expensive

articles of diet. Theatres, operas, circuses, horse-races, and other similar amusements get none of our money. Our health is better in consequence, and so we lose but little time from work, and spend very little in doctor's bills. If the money we used to spend for these harmful things were now turned into the Lord's treasury, it would be no mean thank-offering. “Why spend money for that which is not bread?” But even in essentials some may practice greater economy. A few shillings may repair, and clean, and renew a suit for months' wear, which otherwise would have to be replaced by a new one, at a cost of several pounds. A little patient ingenuity would enable mothers to make over garments for themselves and for their children, and thus save no small sum every year. Sometimes, too, we can save money in being satisfied with less expensive furniture in our homes or by cutting off the more expensive articles of diet from our tables. The wearing of jewelry, or costly apparel, for the decoration of our bodies, is unbecoming the followers of the meek and lowly Saviour at any time, but especially at this time when we should be putting on the garments of righteousness in preparation for the coming of our Lord.

Health of body, vigour of mind, and spiritual life and power come as the sure results of obeying the Word of God. If every one who professes the truth were conscientiously doing this, we would have no financial crisis in the Lord's work; for a full tithe would then be turned into the treasury, and the Lord would be honoured with the first fruits of all our increase. This would be sufficient to meet the needs of the cause; and at the same time the actual needs of every member would also have been satis-

fied, and thus the promise would be verified. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

If every one were diligently working for the Lord, in his daily vocation (farming, carpentering, dressmaking, painting, & etc.), when a "hard times" crisis comes, all would meet it together, and the cause, being first in mind of every one, would receive the benefit of the united sacrifice of the entire body and so would make progress in spite of hard times.

Now is the time to invest in a safe cause. It is time to abandon this world's treasure even as mariners abandon an old ship which has been condemned as unseaworthy. The recent shaking of cities and the speedy destruction of life and property is but a foretaste of the awful calamity which awaits this world. The only treasure of value in that day will be the treasure transferred by investment in the gospel work, to the banks of heaven. Just now, I repeat, is the time to invest. The needs of the cause should be to every one a strong appeal. The true Christian will feel more deeply the need of the Lord's work in a crisis than his own personal needs, and he will then show himself trustworthy and faithful. In unity there is prosperity and success. The prosperity of the cause in the Cape Conference depends upon the unity of mind and effort of the workers and members composing the Conference. In the storm that is coming every ship but the good old gospel ship will go down, but the Captain of this ship has secured the right of way, and a safe passage into port. Not one of this ship's crew will perish, not a shilling invested will be lost. It will take all to buy the field, but its treasure cannot be estimated. Of the joys of the redeemed, the half has never been told. Who will be there? Matt. 7 : 21. Matt. 25 : 21.

I. J. HANKINS.

### The Cape Colony Conference

The treasurer having called the attention of the Conference Committee to the state of our finances, a meeting was appointed in Cape Town to consider this question. Upon examination we learned that the conference is paying to its labourers, including expenses, about £550 per quarter, or £2250 per year. Our present income amounts to about £400 per quarter, or £1600 per year, thus leaving a deficit of about £700 for the year.

The Committee saw that something would have to be done at once to meet the situation, and set to work to remedy it as quickly as possible. By changing the work of some of the labourers and by reducing the wages paid to others we are able to save fully half of the present deficit. The question then arose what should we do to make up the balance, and it was suggested that we appeal to our people. Accordingly Elder Hankins and the writer were chosen to write up the situation and make the appeal.

It is God's plan that when "one member suffers, all the members suffer with it." This reduction of wages will cause some of our labourers to suffer. I know that some of them were scarcely able to make ends meet before, and now they will be greatly perplexed. We are aware that times are hard and money is difficult to obtain, and we have feared that this may lead some to withhold their tithes from the Lord's treasury.

We are thankful that the most of our brethren are faithful in returning to the Lord His own. But we fear that a few are negligent. To such we say, you can not afford to be negligent at this time. There never has been a time when we could, but now when so near the time of Jesus' coming we must be faithful.

As a reminder of our obligation to God, and our duty towards His cause, we have decided to ask all our churches and people to take up this subject and study it, and suggest

that this be done Sabbath, August 4.

To assist in this study we have prepared readings, also have chosen some extracts from the testimonies which will be found on another page. We ask all our people to prayerfully study this subject. We believe it would be a blessing to our brethren in the Natal-Transvaal Conference to unite with us in this study. All who understand and do their duty will enjoy the study, and all who do not understand it we hope may receive light and walk in and enjoy the blessing promised to those "that do."

W. S. HYATT.

### Personal Missionary Work

Dear MISSIONARY,—

Brother Fortner has asked me to send a short report, and as I enjoy reading the reports of others so much perhaps it is only fair that I should write a few words. When I first came to Fauresmith I wondered what I could do in the way of missionary work, and the thought came that I could gather some children and read a little to them on Sabbath. While visiting a friend I suggested this plan, and she said at once that I could use her front room and that her grandchildren would tell their little friends to come.

We met the first time last October to have a little reading and talk about the Bible. We call it our "Bible Class." The children range from fifteen years of age down to two. The friend in whose room we meet is also present. I am a poor teacher and was so glad when kind friends sent us the *Youth's Instructor* and *Little Friend*, as they have been a help. Although they were used papers, the children were so glad to have them. Thanks to the young friends at Union College, we now have a club of *Little Friends* direct from the publishers. We study the lessons as well as we can, take up the collection (although that is very small) and you will see by the Sabbath-school report that we are enrolled as a Sabbath-school. I should like to

say that we would still be glad of any papers, even if they are old. So many hands go up for them, and it is hard to divide five between twenty.

Perhaps I might mention also that the *Sentinel* and *Zions Wachter* are beginning to be known here. I shall have to take a double number of the *Wachter* next month, so many prefer Dutch reading. I hope when we have another camp-meeting to be able to attend and bring some interested friends with me. The lady who lends me her room is putting by a certain amount each week for camp-meeting. It is not too soon to pray for a blessing on that gathering. What a privilege to be "helping together by prayer." Please remember us in Fauremsmith.

FANNY C. BOURNE.

*Fauremsith, O. R. C.*

#### Quarterly Meetings at the Cape

At the present time the members of the Cape Town church hold their meetings at three different places, and as it is difficult to get together they hold as many quarterly meetings also. The last Sabbath in June the writer met with the members who worship in the church in the city, while Elder Hankins met in Salt River. There was a good attendance of our people at the meeting. After a short exhortation we enjoyed a good social meeting. Then followed the ordinances of the Lord's house. The meeting was one of that quiet, sweet kind that we all enjoy. We recognised the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

On the first Sabbath in July, Elder Hankins went out to Parow and held the ordinances with the company there, while the writer met with the Claremont church. A few words were spoken, showing how Christ's life of service is revealed in the ordinances of feet washing, and how the plan of salvation is clearly brought before us in the emblems of His broken body and spilled blood. Then followed a good spirited social

meeting. Many good testimonies were borne, and several letters were read from absent members, after which the ordinances were celebrated. After dinner a few of us assembled at the home of Sister Wessels, and there we administered the emblems of Christ's broken body to His servant who was unable to be at the meeting. This was a blessed privilege to me.

Sabbath afternoon the church met as usual for the study of the testimonies. These studies are proving a great blessing to the members of the church. There are now five families of our people living in the vicinity of Wellington. These are members of the Claremont and Cape Town churches. We hope soon to see them organised into a company and arrangements made whereby they shall have the ordinances every quarter. Hard times are driving our brethren out to the farms, and two more families have moved out near Stellenbosch. May the Lord make them each missionaries, that they may let the light shine out brightly.

W. S. HYATT.

#### Help from America

(Below we present a letter received from one of our Secretaries of Young People's Work. In that Union Conference the young people are raising the funds necessary to support three of our native teachers. Elder G. W. Reaser has felt a deep interest in the prosperity of this work and has found several individuals who are willing to support a native teacher. We also give extracts from his letter.

W. S. H.)

"We have all been trying to do our best, or so it seemed to us, to interest the young people in this work. Thus far Sister Harrison has sent to the Mission Board thirty-five dollars.

Sister Stone's young people and mine have each contributed thirty-eight dollars which has been sent to the Mission Board. I thought it might be best to give you these figures,

that you may know just what we have done.

Many of the children in this church are raising missionary gardens, chickens, etc., for the work in Africa. The interest they manifest is very pleasing.

MRS. METTIE R. LENKER."

"Enclosed please find \$50.00 which is the offering of J. T. Errington and his wife towards the support of a native worker in Africa, and one in India. Brother Errington intends to keep up their support, not only for one year, but continually if he is kept in touch with the work, and receives encouragement which will justify the outlay.

I think I will suggest that the native worker in Africa be selected in connection with Brother Armitage's Station near Gwelo."

G. W. REASER.

#### Questions on Tithing

What is tithing? Shall we pay tithes on all money that comes into our hands from our business? or first deduct the expenses of the business?

—F. S.

The tithe is a tenth. Gen. 28 : 22; also Num. 18 : 21. We are to pay a tithe (tenth) of all the Lord gives us, and not of what He gives to another. Jacob promised to give the tenth "of all that thou shalt give me." He did not give a tithe of all of Laban's flock because they were in his care, but of that part of the flock which God gave to him. This is all that God asks of us. A canvasser should not pay tithes on the price he receives for the books, but on HIS PROFITS ON THE BOOKS. A business man is not required to pay tithes on his £5000 worth of goods he may sell, but on his profits. With a farmer it is the same. He is to pay tithe on his profits. Hired help and rent are not profits. A man who pays grain rent would not be expected to pay on the owner's part. This is his business. Just as it is with a man who pays cash rent, he would not be expected to tithe the owner's part. He alone is responsible for that. If all will give an honest tithe (and there can be no other), as did Jacob when he gave it on "all that thou shalt give me," they will meet the requirements of the Lord.

W. S. HYATT.

## South African Missionary

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South African Union Conference  
of Seventh-Day Adventists.

Editor: - - - - O.O.FORTNER.  
Kenilworth, Cape.

A GENTLEMAN living in Basutoland has become sufficiently interested in the *Sentinel* to send for all the back numbers for this year.

SOME of the brethren of the Claremont church are moving out into the country. We believe this is a good sign, as it is what the testimonies have been urging our people to do for a long time.

BROTHER and Sister A. H. White have booked their passage to Australia, and expect to sail in about two weeks. We regret very much to see them leave this field, but at the same time we wish them success and many blessings in the great harvest field of Australasia.

THE editor of this paper is suffering from a most malignant specimen of those unmentionables with which the devil tried the patience of Job. We are thankful, however, for kinder friends and more skilful treatment than the worthy patriarch was favoured with.

BRO. OLMSTED writes that they enjoyed a very good quarterly meeting at Port Elizabeth. All who were present, except one, testified, and two of these for the first time. He then add, "The work here is encouraging."

WE hope that our church societies and isolated members will not become weary in the good work of circulating the *Sentinel*. All who read this paper are certain to become enlightened on the subjects of present truth. All who help to circulate the paper are giving the message to South Africa.

WE call the attention of every one who reads this paragraph to the fact that we are sending the MISSIONARY free to all of our people whose addresses have been furnished to us. To enable us to do this, we are dependent on the donations which interested readers send us. If you have not already sent us something for the paper, you are cordially invited to do so.

THIS is a special tithe number of the MISSIONARY. The tithe is running low in the Cape Conference treasury, and we expect that the Natal-Transvaal Conference treasury is in about the same fix. Let every one read the articles by Elders Hyatt and Hankins, and by Sister White, and then let the tithes flow into the treasuries.

ELD. ARMITAGE writes respecting their health and says that they must of necessity leave Rhodesia for a time. We must do something with Irene, (his little daughter) before another rainy season as she has had the black water fever five times. She is at the head of the list of those having that disease and living. Many of the strongest men have died this year from only one attack."

RECENTLY we received a letter from Eld. Conradi, in which he wrote of the plan of the British Conference opening a mission in British East Africa, and of the Scandinavian Union opening work in Abyssinia, and then added, "You see that we will soon be occupying territory in Africa, clear down to your South African Union, extending, as it does, from Algeria through Egypt and the Soudan to British East Africa, including Abyssinia."

THE Sanitarium is filled to its fullest capacity. It is encouraging to see the institution so well patronised, even during the winter season. By associating with the patients it takes but a short time to find out that they are

most enthusiastic supporters of the principles upon which the Sanitarium is based. In fact, most of the patients who come to the Sanitarium are brought here through the recommendations of former patients who have tested these treatments and principles of health and have proved their worth.

ONE of our church societies has been sending the *Sentinel* to a lady in Kimberly, and in response to a letter which the society wrote to her, the editor of the *Sentinel* received the following reply from the lady's husband: "A letter addressed to Mrs. ———, whom I regret to say is now dead, has been received by me, saying that the *Sentinel* had been sent to her address for some little time past, and asking if she would become a subscriber. I now enclose 2s. 6d. for one year's subscription. You will continue to send it to me as usual, only let it be Mr. ———. I admire the paper very much, and trust that it may do much good."

WE take the following from a letter received from Brother Anderson, of the Barotse Mission; "We are having some strong opposition to meet from the Jesuites. They are doing all they can to draw our boys away from us. They are offering bribes and doing all they can to get them away. One of these Jesuites recently asked one of our boys what he was learning here, and was told that he was learning about God. The Jesuite said, "There is no God. Where is He? Did you ever see Him? It is a lie. There is no God. Come to my school and I will teach you the truth. It is not good for people to read the Bible." The boy answered that if it was a lie, he liked it, and preferred to stay where he was. He said that all he had been taught was found in the Book, and he believes the Book. It is wonderful how the Word presented in its simplicity takes hold of the native mind."