

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 2 Cor. 9: 6.

JUNE 22, 1903.

## FORWARD.

The proper thing to do now is to get the whine out of our tone, and to say unto Zion, "Thy God reigneth." When a reformer is heard chanting, "All is vanity and vexation of spirit," he is going backward, not forward. An advance movement sounds like this:—

"For as the rain cometh down and the snow from heaven and returneth not thither but watereth the earth and maketh it to bring forth and bud that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 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 send it."

God could make a field produce a harvest in a minute, but that is not His plan. He is willing to wait. He does not complain because, after sending abundant rain in springtime, the field is not ready for reaping the next day. He sends the showers, the sunshine, and then He waits.

We may learn lessons from the sower. His work is to prepare the soil, to sow the seed. He cannot make a single kernel grow. He can only sow. God gives the harvest.

Brethren, it is time to believe God will do something. We have His promise, "My word shall not return unto Me void" (empty). It will accomplish what God pleases. It "SHALL PROSPER." Think of this as you go out with your seed-basket filled with "Signs." Be faithful sowers. Water the seed with tears. Then expect God will cause it to grow. Perhaps you may not see it grow, but it grows. You may not reap the harvest, but somebody will. Before you "the mountains and the

hills shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." No doubt the reason we have not seen more accomplished in the past is because we have expected nothing. We have "stood trembling." How could we receive when we did not believe? Now let there be a change. Let there be words of courage, songs of victory. "In that day shall the Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue [remnant, Seventh-day Adventists] of His people; . . . and for strength to them that turn the battle in the gate." "Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward."

## RESOLUTIONS OR ACTS.

BY A. W. ANDERSON.

At the recent session of the General Conference, much consideration was given to the important question of the circulation of literature on "the message."

It was resolved to recommend:

1. That our people put forth a vigorous effort in behalf of the circulation of our periodicals.

We believe our brethren and sisters will heartily say, Amen, to this resolution. Years have rolled by, and conferences have come and gone, and the records of those meetings disclose the fact that we have put on paper a number of excellent resolutions on this important branch of our work. But many of these resolutions which have been discussed at conferences so enthusiastically, become a dead letter after the delegates return to their home churches. Brethren, this ought not, so to be.

The book which has been handed down to us as a record of the apostolic church, is entitled the "ACTS." It is not a book of resolutions, but a book of acts. What a glorious record, it is! Under the most trying difficulties, and in the face of the fiercest opposition, the gospel was carried to the whole world. Why?—Because the church was animated by intense enthusiasm and zeal, inspired by the Holy Spirit. The cause today is in need of workers,—acts, not resolutions. We already have sufficient resolutions, what God is calling for now is work—the fulfilment of our resolutions.

Remember the admonition of the Saviour, "Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." Matt. 7: 21.

## HELP ONE ANOTHER.

BY W. W. FLETCHER.

The interest in the work of "Signs" selling is growing, and will continue to grow. In the minds of many there is a desire to engage in this work, but there is also a feeling of nervousness in starting, and a lack of knowledge of how to work successfully. There is one thought that I feel anxious to impress upon the readers of this Supplement, and that is—a responsibility rests upon all those who have had an experience in this work to help and encourage others to become efficient workers in the same line. This is what Paul taught when he said, "Look not every man upon his own things,

but every man also on the things of others." It is not sufficient that we should strive to become efficient ourselves, but, "looking every man upon the things of others," we should give our brother the benefit of our experience, and thus multiply workers for the cause of God.

For three years and a half the Saviour taught His disciples how to labour for Him, He Himself directing their efforts, labouring with them continually, that they might learn to work as He worked. Just before closing His earthly ministry He exhorted Peter to work on the same lines. "When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

Those who are willing to hold out a helping hand to others in the "Signs" work will find that the best results can be obtained by having a personal talk with those whom they desire to help. Ask them to come out with you and make a start. Do not be content with merely "giving them a start," but work with them, and have a watchcare over them until you can see that they have a good hold of the work. This is a line of helpful ministry that will bring refreshing to your own soul as well as to the souls of others.

Perhaps someone will say, "I know so little myself about selling 'Signs' that I cannot see how I can help anyone else." My dear friends, your knowledge will begin to increase as soon as you pass on what you do know to someone else.

A short time ago two lads with whom I am acquainted made a start at selling "Signs," going out in the evening between six o'clock and dark. One of them was fairly successful, but the other managed to sell only one paper, and, of course, did not feel of very good courage. The following week, however, they decided to go out together, both waiting at the doors of the houses, and canvassing in turn. Working in this way they sold nineteen copies in the short time that was at their disposal. The result was that both were greatly encouraged, and are continuing to meet with success. Remember that the Lord's blessing is upon all who unite their efforts in this way of mutual encouragement. When we go out in twos or threes with the object of helping one another the

Lord says, "There am I in the midst of them;" and those who do this will be rewarded by seeing the Lord work mightily in their favour.

What is it that has been instrumental in bringing the book canvassing work to where it stands to-day? Is it not that the state agent gives all of his time and thought to seeking out new workers, going out with them, and canvassing with them from door to door until they gain confidence? Now, friends, we want a regiment of "state agents" in every church throughout the land, that the same principle may be applied to the "Signs" work. I trust that these lines will come under the notice of at least one person in every church, who will be willing to enter this work.

If every "Signs" seller in Australia would encourage some one else to engage in the same work we would double the circulation of the journal at once, and then we could double it again.

Let us continue to sow the seed, trusting to the Lord for the increase. O that our army of seed-sowers was ten times larger than it is at the present time. Brothers and sisters, can you not do something to bring more labourers into the vineyard?

#### LETTERS RECEIVED.

Our correspondence has been more than usually interesting the past month.

A librarian in Queensland writes:—

The church membership which I represent is only small, but we have learned that spiritual blessings do not depend upon numbers, but the faithfulness of each member. The Lord has told us that the more we work for Him, the less weariness will there be. We shall be strengthened thereby for further service. Our line of work is chiefly in the sale and distribution of papers and tracts. The full price of each paper is handed to the treasurer, and used in various lines of work.

A dear sister writes of her experience with the "Signs" in Maitland, N.S.W., as follows:—

For a long time my sister and I sold between three and four dozen copies of "Signs" every Saturday night, and believe it is doing a good work. We had many encouraging experiences. One gentleman told me he read the paper all through every week, and then posted it to his father, who, after reading it, posted it to his brother, and he did not know where it was sent next.

We always visited two butcher shops. At the first the proprietor told us he did not want the paper, and he should only give it away if he bought it. We told him that would be all right, that someone might get a blessing from it, and from that time he bought a copy every week, and gave it away to his customers who were often surprised and pleased to get such a nice paper.

At the other butcher shop one of the partners told me that his brother got his nose into that paper Sunday morning, and they could not get him to eat his dinner. I replied that I was glad to hear it, that he was getting food for his mind, to which the brother assented.

Last Saturday night I called at a shop where my sister had previously sold a copy of the "Signs." Not that he wanted the paper, he said, but she had such a nice manner, and he liked what she said, so he bought the paper and had read it all through. He thought he noticed an absence of Christ in it, and after a few remarks he invited me in, and we had a visit of about half an hour on Christ and the law. When I left they invited me to come again, and the gentleman said he understood our position better than he had before.

The Librarian of the Palmerston North, N.Z., church says:—

The 144 "Signs" that we took extra all went by the members taking one dozen and two dozen each. We intend to try, with the Lord's help, to place a paper in the hands of all clergymen and leading citizens. There were only two out selling "Signs" Saturday eve, but though we had about seven dozen to get out we got through before nine o'clock. Praise the Lord! I think it is one of the best works our people are doing, as it will give all who try it a confidence to approach people, and speak of Christ and His love in other ways besides selling "Signs." May the Lord hasten the work.

A sister who sells the "Signs" in Adelaide, S.A., writes:—

For two weeks I did not have much success, and was feeling just a little discouraged; but the next week the Lord blessed me greatly, and I have had great success in every way ever since. Last week I sold forty-four copies. I had very few refusals, and those who could not take one told me to call again. So I am determined to go on, and if I meet with obstacles—well, I'll climb over them with the Lord's help, or go around some other way, for I cannot afford to miss the blessings I am getting.

On a recent holiday I went to the beach. The people were glad to get something to read. I went to the mothers who were giving their children rides on the merry-go-rounds, and claimed some of their pennies in exchange for papers. During the three hours I was there I sold forty-four copies.

As proof that one never knows where the papers will go I will cite one case. I met a young lady on the seashore travelling with her parents from England all over the world. After talking with her she bought a "Signs," and I saw her reading it most of the afternoon.

Last night when selling papers a man bought one who said he had been nearly all over the world seeking the peace of which the Bible speaks. He said he would give everything to obtain it, and he had asked many people what he must do. While talking with me he said, "Do you know what that peace is?" I replied I was glad to say I did. Then he put question after question to me as to how I received it, where I had learned the truth, and could I tell him what certain things in the Bible meant. If the Lord had not helped me I should have been in despair. At last he thanked me, said he had never received so much light on the question before, and that he should look forward to another talk next Saturday night. I hope he will come into the truth.

We find a great many people read the "Signs" at the Adelaide Institute. One man to whom a sister tried to sell the paper said he had gone to the Institute many months on purpose to read it. Quite a number have been seen reading the paper there.

We call special attention to this last paragraph. How do you know but that in your town, in the reading rooms, public libraries, and hospitals, if papers were sent and kept on file, that they would not be read with interest? There may be those who cannot go out to sell the "Signs," but they could send one or more copies to such places as we have mentioned, and we feel sure good would be done this way.

The Secretary of the New Zealand Tract Society writes:—

We may say that the sale of the "Signs of the Times" is steadily advancing. We expect more to take hold of it, and many more papers to be sold yet than have been; yet already we see an awakening, the readers are becoming interested, and there is no little stir over the Sabbath question in some places where the "Signs" are sold every Saturday night. We have a few good workers here in Wellington, so that here and in Petone an average of 100 papers are sold weekly. In a number of our churches the club of "Signs" is increasing, and this is all good, because it means work, and work means life and growth and a soon-coming harvest.

The church Librarian at Wallsend, N.S.W., writes a long letter containing an account of the rich experiences they are having in that church. She says:—

A sister and I went to a town six miles from here with "Christ's Object Lessons," and we took eighteen copies of "Signs" (back numbers) to sell. We sold all, and could have sold more. We went on one side of only one street, and took ten orders for the book. We are overflowing with joy to see the way God is working with us. All our young people are selling the "Signs" and the book. We are all trying to sell some. I have all the children at work. I shall let each child have three copies a week, and hold their mothers responsible for them. Our missionary meetings will

soon consist of praises to God from each one as they are blessed in their work. We all feel overjoyed every time we go out. We are taking 100 copies of the "Signs" each week.

We were about to write that it must be that the church at Broken Hill, N.S.W., was so busy working they had no time to write, when the following letter was laid on our desk:—

Since writing to you last the little church in Broken Hill has been steadily pressing onward. We have increased our number of "Signs" from nine dozen (108) to 30½ dozen (366), and that is not the stopping point. We are "provoking one another to love and good works."

Your last letter was brought to me during Sabbath-school, and being Superintendent I did not have opportunity to read it until later on when church was over. I gave it to one of the brethren to read, and two or three gathered around him as he read it aloud. When he finished, one brother, who previously had been taking two dozen "Signs," said, "Well, I am going to take twelve dozen." A sister standing by, who had been taking three and one-half dozen, said, "Do you mean that?" He said, "Yes," and she replied, "I will take twelve dozen also." The first lot arrived this week, and the sister disposed of four dozen of hers yesterday. That was only one day's work. I don't know what she has done to-day, and I have not seen the brother, so I don't know how he is progressing.

The Lord is moving in this place, and those going out with the papers have varied experiences. There are a few thorns, but, thank the Lord, the roses are so plentiful, and so beautiful, that the thorns are not noticed. Truly we are "saved to serve," and most of the church members are beginning to realise it. We are determined to place the truth before the people of Broken Hill, that they may have the opportunity to accept or reject God's last message to the world, and that their blood will not be upon our heads.

The elder of the church at Christchurch writes of an experience that other elders may study with profit. The letter was written to the Secretary of the New Zealand Tract Society:—

I must write you a few lines to let you know what was done in regard to your last two letters; the one about "Signs of the Times," and the other about "Christ's Object Lessons." I had been waiting for the tract society to take the initiative, and it seems you had been expecting us to see and act for ourselves. I expect it would be far more pleasing to the Lord for each church and company and individual to "Watch" and give the people "their meat in DUE season." However, it is better to do something than to lament the fact that we are late. Last Sabbath the meeting was turned into a kind of missionary meeting. We had quite a good attendance. First we had an earnest season of prayer. Then I read to them portions of your letter and of the last Supplement to the "Signs." Then they were urged to say what they would do in re-

gard to the Religious Liberty number of the "Signs." Soon one said, "I will take a hundred." Then others from all parts of the church responded in similar terms till one thousand was reached. The number continued till 1,700 was reached. Then others responded with fifties and twenty-fives. Then the children took up the matter, and brought the total up to two thousand.

The next question was, What shall we do about the next special number of the "Signs." Quite a large number agreed to duplicate their order for this issue too. The total of the Capital and Labour number was 1,350. Besides this fifteen annual subscriptions were promised. Then the letter about "Object Lessons" was read. I was very doubtful about presenting this matter after what had already been done. But everybody seemed to be enjoying the meeting very much, so on we went. After the letter was read, it was stated that there were about fifty copies unsold. So one and another said they wanted various numbers, till it had been decided to sell fifty-six. That more than covers the number we have on hand. I fancy that if Brother Baker had been at the meeting, his face would have been wreathed with broad smiles of thankfulness all the time. Someone said that if Brother Farnsworth had been there he would have felt like throwing up his hat. It was a blessed meeting, and everybody's face showed that they had enjoyed coming up to the help of the Lord. We closed with "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Some reckoned it the best meeting they had ever attended.

I hope that the people will have a good time in selling the papers, and that they will be even more ready next time.

I am glad to say that some more are taking hold of selling it in the streets on Saturday nights. I hope these experiences will be the beginnings of good things for our church. What a grand thing if they would agree to take 1,000 copies a week! I trust this will prove to be only a forerunner of many blessed experiences, leading up to the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit on a willing people. I hope these special issues of the "Signs" will be continued. Perhaps quarterly is as often as the people can handle them at present; but as they learn how to feed the hungry I hope they will be able to give their neighbours a fresh meal every month. From that they will feel like supplying them weekly, till in heaven it shall be said, "It is done."

Such good letters encourage us. We want to hear from others before our next Supplement is issued. Of this fact we are fully persuaded, God is in earnest with His people. There is a forward movement extending to all lands. Our time for work is growing short. Now, just NOW, we may carry the light before the way is hedged up by difficulties. The message will triumph. We must wake up and become workers or be left behind. Which shall it be?

## REPORT OF NORTH FITZROY "SIGNS" WORK.

BY W. W. FLETCHER.

Our efforts to extend the knowledge of the present truth by circulating the "Signs of the Times" have not slackened but rather increased, and we now feel encouraged to attempt still greater things in this work. Good success is being met with by those who are selling the paper on Saturday nights. We are planning to follow up this work of canvassing the business streets until we reach the heart of the city. Commencing at North Fitzroy, we have been able to extend our lines gradually into Fitzroy, Collingwood, and Abbotsford. After working Carlton, we hope to be able to commence work in the city of Melbourne proper. Every member who enlists his services in this work enables us to push forward into some new street.

The Saturday night work is confined almost entirely to places of business. Another corps of workers is selling the paper at private houses on week days, working mostly in the vicinity of their own homes.

At the beginning of the "Week of Prayer and Work," on Sabbath June 6, our morning meeting was the occasion of another encouraging forward movement in the "Signs" work. As the needs of this great city were laid before us, and it was pointed out that the warning message must be proclaimed throughout its entire borders in the few remaining days of probation, hearts were stirred, and a burden for service was rolled upon those present. A call was made for those who were not already engaged in selling the "Signs of the Times" to volunteer for that work. There was a hearty response, and about 114 copies were added to the club already being taken by the church.

At the present time the circulation stands as follows:—

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Sold by church members   | 465        |
| "    "    "Signs" worker | 168        |
| Sent out by mail, free   | 200        |
| <b>Total weekly</b>      | <b>833</b> |

We feel grateful to the Lord that, the movement has prospered

to this extent, and trust that we shall see it carried forward until the silent messengers find their way into the homes of the people in all parts of the city.

The number sold by church members (465) represents the work of both old and young. The young people are working as energetically as ever, and have increased their sales since our last report. Many of the older members of the church having united their efforts with those of the young people, it seemed best to give our friends a report of the work of the whole church.

### "YE (WE) SHALL HAVE THEM."

Monday morning, June 1, we found that since the Friday before, 670 subscriptions had been received for "Australasian Signs of the Times." When we counted them up and saw the grand total, our feelings can be better imagined than described. We could only say, Praise God, praise God!

When we stated in our last Supplement, that we believed we should have a list of 10,000 before the Union Conference, the thought came, Would it not be well to be a little careful about making such statements? Suppose you do not get them? But faith is stronger than unbelief. It is "the evidence of things NOT SEEN. If we had seen the subscriptions pouring in as they have come, since, there would have been no faith about it. Jesus says, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." We believe before we receive. The measure of our believing determines the measure of our receiving:

May 18, our list was 7,500, June 15, it is 8,600. Now brethren and sisters, we are believing for 1,400 copies more, and as many additional as the Lord will give us. We have not "limited" Him, and we remember He does "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think."

But faith and works go together. Faith does not sit down and do nothing while waiting for answers to prayer. Let us lift once more and all together, and we hope in

our next Supplement to tell you we need five figures to represent our subscribers.

### FOR SABBATH-SCHOOL TEACHERS.

The teacher of a class of lads called on us a short time ago, and in the course of conversation said, "One boy in my class was out selling the Religious Liberty number of the "Signs" last evening, and he sold twenty-eight copies in an hour and a half."

"Was this his first experience?" we inquired.

"Oh, no, he is out every evening after the Sabbath doing the same work."

"It would be a good thing if every member of your class would work the way this one does."

"They do," was the ready reply.

"Perhaps all do not sell the same number of papers, but every boy is a worker."

Is there not a hint for all Sabbath-school teachers in this little dialogue? Enlist your scholars in service, and it will go a long way in helping to develop that Christian experience which will keep them at work till the Master comes.

Eleven hundred new subscriptions since our last Supplement.

The President of the New Zealand Conference says:—"I am getting interested in selling the 'Signs' and Maori books."

Study our text motto this month. It costs money to buy seed. It takes time, strength, and labour to sow. The harvest in spiritual things depends on faithful, plenteous sowing. What will your harvest be?

We are expecting large orders for our Capital and Labour number of the "Signs," which will be dated July 20. We printed 30,000 of the Religious Liberty number, and received orders we could not fill. We would like to receive orders for not less than 50,000 copies of the Capital and Labour number. Shall we have them? What do you say? Send orders so they will reach us before July 10.

There are many churches who might subsidise a person who would devote all his time to selling the "Signs." A gross of papers would cost 8/- per week. These could be easily paid for by members giving 6d. or 3d. a week, and would furnish employment to some who have the desire to do missionary work, but are financially unable to do so. Let our churches think of this, and then read Brother Anderson's article in another column.