

Australasian

Supplement

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself; for then shall the Lord go out before thee. 2 Sam. 5:24.

AUGUST 3, 1903.

DO YOU HEAR IT?

David was fighting the Philistines. He inquired of God how to obtain the victory. The words of our text motto were his answer.

We have thought of them as we have seen the stir made by our Capital and Labour issue of the "Signs." Orders kept coming in. To the different States the papers have gone in thousands. Willing hands have taken them into the streets and lanes of the cities. The postbags have been loaded with them. Almost 1,000,000 pages of present truth went out in one week. What a "going" there has been! What a rustling has been caused by the thousands of pages as they have been prepared and sent forth on their mission!

And angels of God have wrought with men in this movement. "They fought from heaven." "Praise ye the Lord for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves." "We give thanks to God always for you all, brethren beloved, making mention of you in our prayers; remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labour of love, and patience of hope." "Awake, awake! put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem." "Courage in the Lord, brethren! The Lord is coming, and His work will soon be finished. Now let every one "bestir" himself, and God will give us still greater victories.

This Supplement has been delayed on account of the Capital and Labour number of the "Signs."

AT THE TELEPHONE.

BY L. M. GREGG.

"Yes, who is speaking please?"

"Mr. Blank. Are you sending us the 'Signs of the Times?' We are receiving a copy each week."

"Do you still desire to receive the paper?"

"Well, we have many others, but this one is read by every person in our house; even the servant wants it. I have some friends I would like the paper sent to."

"All right sir, send us their names, and we will see they receive it."

"Good! I will send them along in a day or two. Good-bye."

The above is a conversation in brief over the telephone at our office.

The gentleman is being supplied with the "Signs" by an isolated Sabbath keeper, who sent his name with others, asking us to forward the paper each week.

Who else will forward us names and cash with which to continue this work?

"OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES."

When the first angel's message was sounding through the earth, in countries where the messengers were thrown into prison, thus silencing the voice of warning, God proclaimed the truth through little children. Because they were under age the State could not interfere, and they were permitted to speak. In "Great Controversy" we read:—

"The child preachers themselves were mostly poor cottagers. Some of them

were not more than six or eight years of age, and while their lives testified that they loved the Saviour, and were trying to live in obedience to God's holy requirements, they ordinarily manifested only the intelligence and ability usually seen in children of that age. . . . They reproved the sins of the people, not only condemning immorality and vice, but rebuking worldliness and backsliding, and warning their hearers to flee from the wrath to come.

Many will recall this statement found in one of our recent Week of Prayer readings:—

"God's purpose for the children growing up beside our hearths is wider, deeper, higher than our restricted vision has comprehended. From the humblest lot, those whom He has seen faithful have in times past been called to witness for Him in the world's highest places. And many a lad of to-day, growing up as did Daniel in his Judean home, studying God's word and His works, and learning the lessons of faithful service, will yet stand in legislative assemblies, in halls of justice, or in royal courts, as a witness for the King of kings. Multitudes will be called to a wider ministry."

These statements have been remembered as we have received letters relating the experience of children in connection with the "Signs" in Queensland, New Zealand, and West Australia. In places so remote from each other the Spirit of God has impressed even the children to work for the paper. "This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes."

We quote first from a letter written by the Secretary of the Queensland Tract Society:—

"Not long ago a ten year old orphan girl, one of the State children, living with one of our sisters, asked me to let her have some tracts. I gave her a dozen, 'What do These Things Mean.' She only met with one refusal, and felt sad at this. One person asked her what the tracts were about. The child hardly knew how to reply, and said, 'About God.' Last week she begged

for some papers to sell, and all she could get were some 'Good Health's' three years old, and some 'Echoes' two years old. One lady came to the door with a baby in her arms, and said she did not want any. Bessie replied, 'Why, suppose your baby was ill, this would tell you what to do to help make it well, and it is only 2d.' The lady replied, 'Will it?' and she took one. A gentleman told Bessie to go up to the house, and his wife would buy one. The wife refused, so the child returned to the husband, who went with her to his wife, and told her to give her 2d. for the paper. She spent only three half hours during her school lunch hour at this work. One day she went without her dinner, and in that time she earned 2/1¹/₂, and brought it as her annual week of prayer thank offering. Her testimony of prayer and thanksgiving accompanied it at the Sabbath service."

The Librarian of a church in New Zealand writes:—

"We were short of the Religious Liberty number of the 'Signs,' and could not obtain the number we ordered, so we have ordered more of the Capital and Labour number. We expect to use three thousand copies. Various ones are having good success in selling the papers. One lad about fourteen sold ninety in a short time. A Baptist lady who attends our meetings sold forty-five one evening and fifty another. My little boy is out this afternoon distributing 'Signs' to the houses near by. He enjoys this work very much. Although only four years old he speaks to people about the Sabbath, and about drinking tea and eating meat. Through his talking to one gentleman, his wife visited me, and had a long talk about health reform and keeping the Sabbath. He is listened to where I am not permitted to speak."

A sister in West Australia sends these good words:—

"I hope you will send the extra number of 'Signs' we have ordered, as we use them in missionary work. My little boy, aged ten years, has disposed of a good number. My little girl and three other children here are working with the papers. The 'Signs' is a very welcome visitor to our home each week."

The Secretary of the West Australian Tract Society writes of the experience of one sister as follows:—

"During the week of prayer and work, one mother took her little lad, and after training him well by getting him to canvass her in proper style, raising objections which she explained to him how to answer, she sent him out with papers and tracts. The first day he sold thirty, and got eight regular subscribers. He has now decided to take a club, each week, of twelve to sell. He is only six years old. God bless the children! They can work when trained for the Master. One woman he went to, and to whom he sold a paper, was quite broken up at the sight of so small a child trying to do something for the Lord. No one can tell what recollections he may have awakened. She said to him, 'Oh, I am such a wicked, wicked woman. I want to be converted.' She broke down and wept. Do you see the

opening? The mother could then step right in and speak some word to comfort and direct this dear lost soul. Oh, if those only knew who do not go out, or in some way do missionary work for the Master, what they lose, they would soon get to work; for in watering others we ourselves are watered. It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Do you see any indications while reading these experiences that the Spirit of God has gone out before us? Can you see that the Lord is preparing the children to do the very work He has said they would do? Fathers, mothers, are you training your children for a part in this work? Please note how the mother mentioned above prepared her child so the Lord might use him. O how much we need mothers like Hannah who will send out their children as a gleaner band, to gather sheaves for the Master. We pray that God will stir every soul to the very depths as they read these letters.

"All can do something. In an effort to excuse themselves, some say, 'My home duties, my children, claim my time and my means.' Parents, your children should be your helping hand, increasing your power and ability to work for the Master. Children are the younger members of the Lord's family. They should be led to consecrate themselves to God. They should be trained to help in various lines of unselfish service. By helping others they increase their own happiness and usefulness."

Can you not send for from three to a dozen copies of the "Signs," and let your children sell them to your neighbours? Try it.

FROM WEST AUSTRALIA.

When the Religious Liberty number of the "Signs" was issued we had received no orders from West Australia, so we ventured to send them 1,500 copies without an order. The brethren might have grumbled at such treatment, but instead they went to work with as much enthusiasm as though they had expected the papers. We will give their experience as related by the Secretary of the Tract Society:—

"Evening after the Sabbath four of us went to Fremantle, and in four hours we sold 500 'Signs.' They fell like autumn leaves. Praise the Lord. Next week quite a company are going out to see how many they can sell. We intend to sell the 1,500. O that our folk would only get out and work. The night is far spent, and Jesus is coming very soon. The good experiences we had in meeting

the people paid us as we went along. I could fill pages in telling of the good things."

In a later letter she writes:—

"Now let me tell you what we have been up to the past few weeks. You say in your letter that you hope we were not offended because you sent us 1,500 of the Religious Liberty number of the 'Signs' without our ordering them. Well, it was a surprise, but I will tell you what we did. You will see that after selling 500 we still had one thousand left, so after we told the other folk of what a good time we had, it caught fire, and last evening after the Sabbath eight of us went out and bombarded Perth. We sold over seven hundred that evening. Within fifteen minutes' walk, and in less than two hours, I sold 100 copies, and got 1/6 more than their value. One brother sold 150, another 100, and six other brethren sold the remainder. I can tell you we all got a blessing. I was tired after the good day's work I had already done before starting, but I forgot all about it before I got five yards. This week I have had several in the office inquiring for the 'Signs,' and I think this is the result of the work done. I am looking forward to clearing off the remainder next evening after the Sabbath in a suburban town.

"I have written to our country brethren asking how many they will take of the next special number, and have already received orders for between three and four thousand. Our Perth church intends to take 1,500. God bless the 'Signs.' It should be in every home, for its pages are full of spiritual food.

"A long time ago a man came into the office, and after some conversation, subscribed for both the 'Signs' and 'Good Health.' I used to write him, and send anything I thought might interest him. At the end of the year, he sent in a money order for £4 10s., first to pay for his renewal to both papers, and the balance to be used in sending them to other people. Some of those to whom we send the 'Signs' free, write thanking me for it, and inclose payment. Only yesterday a gentleman came to the office, and insisted on paying for the paper, so now I can send it to someone else.

"Another gentleman to whom I have been writing for a long time, sends in every few months from £3 to £5 donation, to be used as we think best. He gets our papers, and I sent him 'Christ's Object Lessons,' but it was not long before he paid us well for it. He has offered a home to any of our canvassers free if they are working in that place. He has said he will pay for 1,000 copies of the Capital and Labour number. He knows and admits that we have the truth."

A sister writes that she went out to sell the "Signs" one Saturday night, but, "it was like pulling teeth to go." No doubt others have had the same experience. Well, the tooth-pulling process is sometimes a very necessary one. By it we get rid of offending members which are of no use, and which only give us pain. So, if selling the "Signs" enables us to get rid of some of our pride and selfishness, if by it we overcome our

laziness in God's service, let us thank Him for the means by which this desirable end is accomplished. Never mind the pain caused by the operation. You will have your reward in the relief and blessing that follows. Keep at work till it becomes pleasure, not a painful duty.

LETTERS THIS MONTH.

As we read the good letters which come to us each week, we thank God and take courage. That which encourages us most is the fact that the blessing of the Lord rests upon the efforts of His people as they circulate literature containing present truth, and it is evident that everyone who is working is blessed.

The first letter from which we quote is from a librarian in Queensland. She reports as follows:—

"The last week of prayer proved a great blessing to our church. The Spirit of God met with us in a marked manner, and inspired us to work. The article 'Saved to Serve' was impressed upon us with great power. A few of us have decided to take from three to six 'Signs' each week for posting to friends. Missionary letter writing is also done in connection with the 'Signs.' The opportunity was taken in one letter to introduce 'Christ's Object Lessons,' which proved very successful. The response brought the good news that the 'Signs' was much appreciated, and contained what they termed sterling doctrine; also that they would become subscribers. When it has been read in that home, it is passed along to a fellow-workman. The letter also was passed along, and as the result both parties ordered 'Christ's Object Lessons,' also a small book advertised in the 'Signs.'

"In conversing with the person to whom the letter was sent, we learned that they had read the 'Echo' years ago, and that they believe the truth. I have faith to believe that this family will obey before long. Another family also to whom the 'Signs' is sent each week I expect to see take their stand sometime.

A minister in Victoria, in a letter addressed to the church at North Fitzroy, writes:—

"The good work done by the North Fitzroy church in sending out the 'Signs' is bearing fruit. Several in the Creswick District have been receiving the papers, and one lady told me last week that she was going to keep the Sabbath."

The Secretary of the South Australian Tract Society says:—

"It is some time since I wrote you concerning our work here with the 'Signs.' Sometimes it seems as though nothing could be done with them, for the workers meet nothing but refusals. It seems as if the Lord permits Satan to show what he would like to do all the time, but when the workers persevere, and if they fail one night, just go at it the next as if they had met

with no disappointment, then He works for them, and Satan retires defeated. Last Saturday night it seemed as if the people were longing for the papers. Several sisters went to the market. Two sold eighteen each, another seventeen, another eleven, and another sold none because she had none to sell. A brother who is taking up the work was in the same locality, but we have not heard how many he sold. So you see the work is onward, and all who engage in it seem to enjoy it very much, and to receive a great blessing in it. Up to the present our orders for the Capital and Labour number amount to 3,000. We have one worker who not only works herself, but is teaching others to work."

The President of the West Australian Conference sends these good words:—

"I had a good letter from the Secretary of the Tract Society stating that four workers sold 500 copies of the Religious Liberty number of the 'Signs' in four hours at Fremantle. Do you not feel like saying, HALLELUJAH? I have written to all the churches urging them to subscribe largely for the Capital and Labour edition. I trust we shall have good responses. I am alive to our great need of warning the people of the great crisis which is just upon us. O that God would raise up men and women who will place themselves on the altar of self-sacrifice and service! Well, I am glad to know that the 'Signs' is on the up grade, and may it ever be so is my prayer."

Yes, we not only feel like saying Hallelujah, but we actually "say so," as we see how the Lord is leading those willing to be led by His Holy Spirit. He shall have all the glory for what is done.

The Librarian of the church at Napier says:—

"The interest in our missionary meetings still increases. I think all rejoice in answering the call to active service. In our church this is expressed principally by selling the 'Signs.' One sister sells five dozen each week. Many interesting experiences are related by those who are working for the Lord. All are encouraged to go ahead and prosper.

"One old lady who takes the 'Signs' each week is so delighted with the paper that she posts it to England with directions to loan it about to the best advantage. Another lady is so interested that she loans her paper to many of her friends with the hope of interesting them also. Another was convinced on the subject of baptism the first number of the paper she read, and now wonders why their minister does not baptize properly.

"We are being blessed of God in our 'Signs' selling. We are taking twelve dozen, and this week are ordering three dozen more. We have ordered 1,000 copies of the July special issue, and the week after that will add three dozen more to our regular club. We will then be taking 216 copies. I pray that this number may be doubled, and that God will help us to be faithful workers."

An aged brother writes:—

"We are invited to send in our experiences in reference to sale of the 'Signs.' At one of our missionary meetings last March we agreed to send for a few dozen 'Signs' to sell or give away. From that time I have been deeply impressed with the necessity of consecration for the Master's use, and have earnestly prayed that God would fit and prepare me to help in the work. I may say in passing that our income is seldom more than 20/- per week for myself, wife, and adopted child. I am seventy years of age, still the Spirit seems to suggest that I might be useful in the dissemination of some of our literature. I thereupon set all my energies to work to fit up a book stall. A brother assisted me to rig out a hand-cart with portable cover. I purchased about 30/- worth of books and pamphlets, and sold on Saturday evenings as follows: April 4, 3/6; April 11, 4/7; April 18, 3/-; April 25, 2/-. I am now asking God to bless my endeavour to purchase a few hundred tracts for free distribution. I ask the prayers of the righteous that availeth much.

"I may mention that at last I have a verbal and provisional permit to sell, which may at any time be recalled; but obstacles, ridicule, or insult only fix my trust the more on help from above.

A sister in South Australia writes that the Spirit of the Lord impresses her to go out to sell the "Signs," and she adds:—

"I would like to have you send me a dozen copies each week. I have been out selling the paper, and felt it a very heavy cross to go to the houses at first, but Christ has helped me, and I know He is going to give me the victory over Satan. Many stumbling-blocks were placed in my way, and some unkind things were said to me. I came home very cast down. After thinking it over I thought, What is that to what they did to my blessed Saviour! I will go out more determined than ever in the strength of Christ with the 'Signs.' If a sister had not come time after time through the dust and heat I should not have known the truth; and by God's help I will do the best I can in return for His great love to me."

We give this letter to encourage those who do not always meet with success. We believe the Lord prizes our work according to the measure of love and self-sacrifice we put into it. Some of the most successful workers are not successful at first. Said a canvasser recently, "When I first started I visited sixty houses and did not take a single order." After that he took orders in constantly increasing numbers. Success rewards persistence. There is no cause for discouragement if workers do not sell papers readily when they begin. If this has been your experience, resolve, like this sister, to still continue at work. Pray more. Believe for more.

"God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love."

Our only object in citing these experiences is to encourage and help the labourers everywhere. Evidences multiply that God is working with every soul who will work with Him. When hardship and reproaches come He bears it with His helpers. "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

HOW TO SOW.

BY E. W. FARNSWORTH.

As we look over the vast fields—all white for the harvest; as we witness the distribution of so much literature, the great number of books and periodicals that are sold, and the millions on millions of pages of reading matter distributed, we wonder why it is that no more people embrace the truth as a result. It seems to us that we ought to see more fruit from so much seed sowing.

We read the Lord's promise that "His word shall not return unto Him void." We are encouraged in every way that "our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord;" and we wonder why we see so little accomplished.

There is one element in successful seed sowing that should be carefully noticed: "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." Ps. 126:5. Notice carefully, "They that sow IN TEARS." The sower that labours this way carries the burden on his heart. He does not scatter his seed, and give it no more thought. His earnest prayers follow the pages that he scatters. His tears moisten the cold, dry clods of earth upon which the seed may have fallen. He ceases not to pray and plead till the seed is seen to grow.

Again we read: "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Verse 6. The same condition of mind is here described. As the sower sows he weeps. He carries not only his seed, but a burden for souls.

He who sows carelessly will see but little fruit, while he who goes weeping and praying, because of the solicitude and intense desire that he has that the seed may spring up and grow, will see returns.

I am sure if we did more earnest praying with our seed sowing, we would see more fruit. If we prayed in secret that God would send an angel to talk to the heart of every reader, and tell them that what they are reading is the truth, God would hear and answer prayer. If in our Sabbath meetings, we would relate our experiences in labour during the week, and then all unite in earnest prayer that God would bless the seed sown, even while we asked we should receive, we should see more sheaves gathered in.

When I think how nobly the brethren and sisters all over Australasia have re-

sponded to the call to circulate the "Signs," and have sent out over 62,000 copies of one issue, I feel anxious now that God should make mighty conviction upon the hearts of the readers. I believe that if we all earnestly pray to God He will hear and answer. He will bring people into the truth. Let us pray that God will give us souls that will keep the Sabbath, souls that will accept the third angel's message.

OUR REGULAR LIST.

While our hearts and hands have been filled with work connected with the Capital and Labour number we have not forgotten that our regular list must be above 10,000 before September 1. We write this to say we have not reached that number yet. We are reminding our Heavenly Father each day of His promises, and we know "the Scripture cannot be broken."

Since our last Supplement the increase has not been as large as the preceding month. Then our list was 8,600. Now it is 9,000. We ask every one to help us reach the 10,000 mark before September. Perhaps each conference will subsidise one more worker. Each one who is now selling the paper might sell one or two extra copies. The hospitals, libraries, and reading rooms are not all supplied yet. Can you not help in this way? Many, very many, might use an extra copy in missionary correspondence. Perhaps you could send it six months or a year to some friend. Which will you do? Be sure that you add at least one copy to our list in some way within the next two weeks. Will you, please?

62,000

More than this number of the Capital and Labour issue of the "Signs" were ordered and printed. We asked for 50,000 copies, and we received over 62,000. The Lord did "exceeding abundantly" above all we asked or thought.

On account of the large number to be printed the pages were stereotyped. It took over a week to print the edition. The supply of paper on hand was too small, but this difficulty was overcome. Employees in the office worked till midnight that the papers might be posted on time. Busy activity was seen in every department until they were sent out. One difficulty experienced was that the blocks wore down, thus making the illustrations poor in the last copies printed, but there was no way this could be prevented. We hope to do better next time.

We have not yet heard reports from other States concerning the sale of this number. In Melbourne the workers sold nearly twice as many as usual. In one building over fifty copies were sold by one worker to business men in one day. We pray that special help may be given those who are doing this work.

We take this opportunity to thank our conferences, tract societies, churches, and brethren and sisters everywhere, for

the way they have taken hold of this work. More than all we thank the Lord that He put it into their hearts to do this. It fills us with courage and joy.

WORK IN MELBOURNE.

BY W. W. FLETCHER.

Those who are working with the "Signs" are having some interesting experiences. We have had a special stir with the Capital and Labour number. Different parties have adopted different methods of work. One who has a regular round made a special point of calling on all non-subscribers the week before the special number came out, telling them all about it. This caused a certain amount of expectancy, and the papers went off rapidly when he called the following week, so that he nearly doubled his ordinary sales.

Two young women went down to Bourke St., and after canvassing a few shops, decided to stand in the Royal Arcade, and sell them to passers-by. During the evening they sold over fifty copies.

One of these sisters went out the following Monday and canvassed some of the offices in the city, selling seventy-five copies, most of them in one building, and on the Wednesday following, fifty-five copies.

We want to make use of these special numbers to gain new subscribers, and several seem to have been successful in doing this.

"The special copies of the 'Signs' are doing good in this way," said a brother in the office the other day; "they help people to pluck up courage and begin work, and when they get a little experience they do not wish to stop."

Circulation of Capital and Labour number in the different States over and above the usual weekly list:—

Victoria	15,307
New South Wales	12,616
New Zealand	9,168
Queensland	6,169
West Australia	5,007
South Australia	3,176
Tasmania	1,360
Total	52,803

The latest letter received from Sister White tells of her experience in working for the soldiers in a Home nine miles from her residence, and also for a camp of wood-choppers fifteen miles distant. If she, at her advanced age, and carrying multiplied burdens, is so tireless in her efforts to carry the light to others, what shall we say of the responsibilities of those younger and comparatively free from care? In concluding her letter Sister White says:—"We are not at liberty to hover over the churches. We must carry the message to regions beyond, where the truth has not been proclaimed. The seeds of truth are to be sown beside all waters. God expects those who claim to be His children to bring others to Him."