

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

"Arise, for this matter belongeth unto thee; we also will be with thee; be of good courage, and do it."

DECEMBER 28th
1903

WORKERS TOGETHER WITH GOD.

As we come to the close of another year, and, glancing backward, review the experiences connected with the publication of the 'Australasian Signs of the Times,' as we "count the mercies," we are encouraged to greater effort, to more complete consecration in the Lord's service, than ever before. All the success that has attended the paper during the past year has come from God. All the good that has been accomplished has been due to His blessing. We ask all to pray that His prospering hand may still be with our missionary paper, and that He will use it to bring glory to His own name.

The fact that our brethren and sisters, and even the children, have so cheerfully worked to give the paper a wide circulation has been a great inspiration and help to the workers in this office. We are constantly encouraged by hearing and reading the experiences of those who are scattering our literature. We have no other expectation only that, as we begin a new year, as we enter more deeply into the perils and conflicts of the very last of the last days, those who have been at work will constantly endeavour to be more faithful in service, more persevering in effort, thus encouraging those who have not yet begun to labour to begin at once. Thus all will bring nearer the day when God's remnant people shall indeed be "fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners." "Arise, for this matter belongeth unto thee; we also will be with thee; be of good courage, and do it."

ARE WE READY?

Comrades, are we ready for the service of the King?

With a willing, glad surrender, every talent let us bring;

Whatever He appoints us, be our answer prompt and true,—

We are ready now to do.

Comrades, are we ready our allegiance to proclaim?

Do we "run" with joyful "tidings" in the Saviour's precious name?

This sweet story of salvation that we surely love so well,

Are we ready now to tell?

Comrades, are we ready for the coming of the King?

Are we working, watching, praying, while our hallelujahs ring?

Oh, the glory of His kingdom! All His might and majesty,

Are we ready now to see?

—*Young People's Weekly.*

THE "SIGNS" AT A CAMP-MEETING.

One of the workers who attended the West Australian camp-meeting at Perth relates an experience in a letter to a friend, in connection with that meeting, as follows:—

"We had been having meetings so constantly all the week we thought it well to have a change; so we planned to let the brethren go out on the streets the evening after the Sabbath, and sell the 'Signs.' They had about a thousand copies on hand, and when we called for volunteers there were about fifty who wanted to go out. Well, they sold all they had in a little while. I think most of them were gone about an hour, some not as long as that.

"Soon they began to come back, and as I sat in my tent I could hear them talk. There was a perfect buzz all over the ground. The next morning we had a 'social meeting,' and it was a social meeting indeed. Some spoke three or four times, and there was scarcely one in the tent that did not speak. You see many had never tried it before, but they went at it with all the heart, and every-

one sold all the papers they had, and nearly everyone said they could have sold twice as many as they did if they had only had the papers. I believe with all my soul they would have sold 2,500 copies if they had had them. Well, it was a great treat to us all."

EXTRACTS FROM THE "TESTIMONIES."

"Our power and efficiency as Seventh-day Adventists are largely dependent on the literature which comes from our presses."

"If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the public, thus leading them to search the Scriptures."

"Our missionary paper, the 'Signs of the Times,' is doing its work everywhere, and is opening the way for the truth to be more fully presented."

"Our brethren do not all see and realise the importance of this paper; if they did, they would feel greater personal interest to make it intensely interesting, and then to circulate it everywhere."

"This silent preacher, the 'Signs,' enriched with precious matter, should go forth on the wings of prayer, mingled with faith, that it may do its appointed work in shedding the light of truth upon those who are in the darkness of error."

"It is a fact that the circulation of our papers is doing even a greater work than the living preacher can do."

"Our sisters, the youth, the middle-aged, and those of advanced years, may act a part in the closing work for this time."

Brethren and sisters, let us take an hour of New Year's day to go alone to the Lord, and consecrate ourselves anew to His service for the new year. Let us tell Him we will be what He will have us be, will do what He will have us do, will go where He will have us go. We are fully persuaded that our time to work is very short, and soon our way will be made very difficult. This may be our last year to labour. Do not let it pass unimproved, for "the great day of the Lord is near, it is NEAR, and hasteth greatly."

HERE IS THE MAN.

A teacher in a Sabbath-school was once called to the bedside of a dying boy who had been a member of his Sabbath-school class. The boy said,—

"I want to thank you for what you have done for me. When you get to heaven, I will meet you and take you by the hand, and lead you to Jesus, and say, 'Here is the man who put me on the way to heaven.'"

If those who are selling the "Signs" can have it said of them, "Here is the one who brought the truth to me, and helped me to gain a home in heaven," they will feel amply repaid for all their labour and self-denial.

WHAT THE POSTMAN BROUGHT US.

From Townsville, Queensland:

"One of my 'Signs' readers wants us to go to her house to-morrow, as her husband wishes to hear more concerning this wonderful truth. I believe the Lord is working with both husband and wife. I do enjoy my work with the 'Signs.' I have such nice talks with the people, I could not give it up. If I am a day behind they all get quite anxious to see me come along with the little paper. There are several who manifest great interest. One man sits up till after twelve at night reading and studying these truths, and he is coming to our meetings."

From a student in Avondale School, Cooranbong, N.S.W. :—

"Last Friday week I went up to Newcastle. On the Saturday night I endeavoured to sell a few papers, and the Lord blessed me in my efforts. Sunday morning was engaged in distributing bouquets of flowers to the patients at the Newcastle hospital. These flowers were grown at the school; and to each bouquet was attached a card, bearing the compliments of the Avondale School, also the text of Scripture which reads, 'Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow,' etc. The patients appreciated the flowers very much; and I know that the experience one gains in engaging in such grand and noble work is well worth the trouble it takes. In all, I suppose there would be about one hundred and fifty papers sold and distributed. I hope to be able to go again shortly."

From a brother in Victoria :—

"There are people in two villages near us who are always pleased to get the 'Signs.' My wife especially meets with people eager to get them, and wishing to know more about what they contain. There is one old lady who has been keeping the Sabbath since she had the papers. I have often had to talk with her for half an hour, telling her things she wanted to know."

From a sister in West Maitland, N.S.W. :—

"We need more 'Signs.' Three dozen

is not sufficient, and we would like four dozen this week. The paper is much appreciated by those who read it. One man told me he reads it on Sunday. He said: 'I read every word of it, and it is real good.' Two others who take it send it, after reading it, to friends, who, in turn, post it to their friends, and so the seed is multiplied."

From a worker in New Zealand :—

"The Lord is blessing our churches in Hawkes Bay. We feel very hopeful when we see so many of our members taking hold and selling the 'Signs' and 'Christ's Object Lessons.'"

"One of our sisters at the Napier church started out among her neighbours with six papers, and was successful in selling them all. The next week she sold nine, and then increased her club by a dozen a week, until at the present time she is selling ten dozen a week, and these she disposes of in three mornings. The sister is about fifty years of age, and is very thankful that she can have a part in the closing message. Others are having some good experiences in selling the 'Signs' evening after the Sabbath. Our brethren and sisters at Gisborne are doing good work among the shopkeepers with the 'Signs' after the Sabbath."

From an aged sister in New Zealand :—

"One of our sisters and I went out on Saturday evening to sell what we could. I sold seven. It is not an easy matter to sell them here, as there are few people. I sold them in the shops. It is so different here to what it is in the cities. While selling the special number, I had to walk nine miles at one time, six another, and so on. The farms are scattered in all directions, but all I called on bought one except some few who had no money, to whom I gave one. Three places they gave me 3d. Some places I sold two, and was offered food in many places. I came across one gentleman who had one posted to him. He said it was all true that he read from it. I asked if I could come again. He said I was welcome, but I have not been able. I had sold six dozen when my eyes got so bad that I could not go out. There are not many more to go to, and I will, by the help of the Lord, soon finish them all. One of our brethren, who is seventy-five years of age, has sold over three dozen. Another sister also has sold some, so that nearly every house has had them."

From a brother in New Zealand :—

"I am glad to hear how the Lord is blessing the 'Signs.' We are very grateful that our boys have been able to assist in this work. They seem to enjoy it, and take to it as naturally as ducks to water. They do not need any urging to go out, though we encourage them all we can, and especially when they come home and tell us that some of their customers have 'knocked them off.' We tell them the Lord will raise up others, and so they find it. I urge the boys to not take too much notice of this 'knocking off,' as sometimes people might have had a dinner that had dis-

agreed with them, and the next week might feel better; or they might have had a quarrel with somebody just before they called. 'Leave them a week, and go again,' we urged. 'They will miss the paper, and find they cannot do without it.' And it is a curious fact that, whereas a few weeks ago one of the boys' list of customers was diminishing, he has not only obtained new ones, but the old ones are taking the paper again.

"I don't think it pays for our 'Signs' sellers to take a 'No' as decisive, even when it is repeated twice. Last week my eldest boy sold 150 papers, which is the best he has done yet."

From a sister in New South Wales :—

"The Lord is blessing me. I was out last Saturday night, and had a real good time, and the people were asking all kinds of questions. I often meet people I can pray with. Some of them take three or four 'Signs' at once, so you see there is quite an interest. I found one woman keeping the Sabbath from reading the 'Signs.' She receives it from Melbourne each week.

"I tell you I am praying often for more faith, and I am getting it. One day I gave a Bible reading to a poor woman, and she gave herself to the Lord at once. I did feel glad all day, for that is my first convert. She was just being carried away with that dreadful doctrine of Spiritualism in which the truth found me. I sent for some tracts for her, and she was so pleased to get them, and said, 'I am so glad you came here.' She has since taken the tracts to her sister who was under the same influence, and she said she would have nothing more to do with Spiritualism."

"This is the report of work done by our little church the past quarter, though three of the sisters forgot to keep count of what they did. We have held eleven Bible readings, sold eight tracts, loaned 117 pages, wrote six letters, gave away forty-nine papers, sold 150 copies of 'Good Health,' delivered thirty-seven 'Christ Object Lessons,' sold 1,780 copies of 'Signs,' posted twenty-two copies, and made thirteen visits to the sick."

From a worker in Wollongong, N.S.W. :—

"I thank the Lord I have some good news to tell you. About fourteen months ago a brother gave a man who was looking for work a tract. About three months ago another brother came in contact with the same man, and supplied him with the 'Signs' and other tracts. The result is that the man, his wife, and the whole family have taken their stand on the word of God. He is now carrying literature to others, and tells them what God has done for him. As the people see the change in him, many are being awakened. This brother has such a burden for souls that he and another brother are thinking of starting self-supporting missionary work in the back blocks among those who have never heard the message, and they seem willing to endure any hardship if they can warn the people of their danger. I am so glad to tell you that though we have much opposition, the gospel is being

carried by the silent messengers week by week, and I am sure our Father owns and blesses our feeble efforts."

A PRACTICAL PLAN.

BY E. H. GATES.

Those who were present at the closing missionary meeting of the Union Conference probably remember that Brother A. W. Anderson, of the Echo Office, spoke of a plan by which he proposed to help the island missions, and at the same time work for home mission fields. He agreed to get at least one yearly subscription each month either for the "Signs" or "Good Health," and give commission, one shilling, to the Island Mission Fund; or, failing to secure the subscription, give to the fund a sum equivalent to the commission on the papers.

Now, why should not all our people in Australasia adopt this plan of work? Look at its advantages. If adopted by all, it would, within a year, bring in 30,000 new subscriptions to our two papers; the subscribers, while getting the full equivalent of their money, would, at the same time, contribute the sum of £1,500 to the island missions; the two best papers, in the Southern Hemisphere would be placed in the hands of many thousands of readers besides the regular subscribers, and souls would be brought into the truth; while our own people, as the result of this personal missionary work, will receive the greatest blessing of all.

Now shall we not adopt this plan? Even though a subscription is not obtained each month, it means but three-pence per week from each one to make up the £1,500 per year. Will we do it?

CHILDREN AT WORK.

Two boys, brothers, in New Zealand, spend their spare time selling the "Signs."

Wilfred writes:—

"I am glad to do something for the Lord. I do not think there is anything better than going to the houses and selling the papers. The people are very glad to get them, and we do not know what will be the result. It may be many precious souls saved in God's glorious kingdom. One lady told me she would give up some of the daily papers she was taking, and take the 'Signs' instead. Several took the paper very readily."

Harold says:—

"I feel glad that I have got a start with the 'Signs.' I go out every afternoon after school as far as I can. On Friday I spent all day at the work. I rode out six miles, and the Lord helped me to sell forty-two. It is good to be out again, but one always feels best when he sells the most papers. One lady told me that I was just the boy she wanted, and that I was to come every

week with the paper. I think I shall have quite a few customers who will take it regularly. I must close now by wishing much success to all the 'Signs' sellers."

The Secretary of the New Zealand Tract Society writes:—

"I have often smiled at the answers made by the children to people who have some hesitancy about taking the paper. A customer of one little lad said to him on one occasion, 'But there is no picture this time!' The reply was that 'it was the children who wanted the pictures.' Of course the gentleman took the paper as usual.

"Another gentleman told him, as he was feeling around in his pockets, that he did not know as he had a penny. The child suggested that two halfpennies would be the same."

Brother F. E. Lyndon gives this interesting experience:—

"Nearly all our members at Hastings have lately begun selling the 'Signs' from house to house. One of our ten-year-old boys there, seeing the interest manifested by the family to sell 'Signs,' thought he would like to try too; so he seized the dozen his father had ordered to sell, and started out with them. He soon returned with twelve pennies and orders for two more papers next week.

"Truly the Lord is making His people 'willing in the day of His power.' If all our church people will now seize this golden opportunity while the doors are open to us, and flood the whole Australasian field with this silent messenger, how glorious will be the result! The Lord is calling, 'My son, go work today in My vineyard.'"

AN INTERESTING LETTER.

In the "Missionary Worker" we read of a brother who was formerly an elder of the church in Southampton, England, but who left there and went to New Zealand. This brother became discouraged and gave up the Sabbath. He began attending meetings in other churches, "but there was no light or help." He says:—

"I got work, and then I looked for lodgings. I secured a bedroom at a private house, went into it, and there staring me in the face, was 'The Signs of the Times,' the Australian Adventist paper. The people were not Adventists, but that paper was sent there by the Lord for me."

He soon found some Seventh-day Adventists, and began keeping the Sabbath again. His experience may be helpful to others. He continues:—

"I heard how nice it was to be free, but it's bondage to Satan. When you give up the Sabbath you give up the main thing, and then one thing goes, and then another, and something else creeps in. Some bad and left-off habits seek to gain the ascendancy over you. Cling to the Sabbath, not that the Sabbath will save you; for you are not saved by works, but the Sabbath is an undeniable proof that you are living by

faith in Christ. Oh, I know what I am talking about. I am in my right senses now. I have had an experience that I would not go over again. Cling to the Sabbath. Set your face as a flint that you will not be moved about by every wind of strange doctrine."

We would be glad to quote more at length from this good letter. Scatter the literature, brethren, which may, as in this case, prove as a life-buoy to the sinking mariner.

DOES IT PAY?

Not long ago a letter came to this office from a young lady in South Australia with whom we had corresponded, saying that she and two others had begun the observance of the Sabbath. We wrote to inquire more particularly concerning these friends, and give the following from a letter received in reply:—

"I received your very welcome letter, and was pleased to get one so soon. I need encouragement, especially just now when everyone is against us. It is hard to think I am displeasing them at home, but I know I cannot please them without displeasing my Lord, and I do want to please Him. I am so glad to think I do please Him when I try to do His will and keep His commandments. I know though all the world should be against me, the Lord will never forsake me as long as I walk in His ways, striving to do His will.

"I am glad to tell you about the others who are keeping the Sabbath with me. Mrs. A. and I have been keeping it over three months, and Mr. A. has kept it about ten weeks. We have a little Sabbath-school each Sabbath. Mrs. A. has been reading the 'Signs' for some time, and it was she who first lent the papers to me to read. It was partly through reading them that we began keeping the Sabbath, for they drove us to the Bible, made us study it more earnestly, and the more we read the plainer we could see that the seventh day was the Sabbath, that there was no other besides it, till at last we could hold back no longer, and we have been greatly blessed in keeping it.

Pastor E. H. Gates sends this encouraging experience, which we quote as an answer to the question at the head of this article:—

"As our people will all remember, just before the last Union Conference, a special effort was made to circulate a large number of the mid-winter number of the 'Signs of the Times.'

"A few days before the conference began, a young man was walking on the railroad near Sydney, making his way northward, expecting to get a job of work.

"A copy of this special 'Signs,' which some one had probably thrown away, attracted his attention. Picking it up he became interested in an article that threw light on a certain Bible subject. At that time he knew nothing

whatever of our existence as a people. Reaching Dora Creek he happened to see one of the students of the Avondale School, and being attracted by his appearance, asked if he was engaged in mission work. This led to a conversation, from which the young man learned of our institutions at Cooranbong. He decided to visit the place, and was invited by one of our brethren to stay at his house and work till the Union Conference.

"During the conference he attended all the meetings, and, as a result, accepted all points of the truth.

"Next year he expects to attend the Avondale School, after which he will enter the canvassing work.

"He was educated a Roman Catholic, but some time ago renounced that faith.

"Who can tell the far-reaching results of the reading of that cast-away copy of the 'Signs'? Does it pay to circulate our literature?—It certainly does."

PROSPECTUS FOR 1904.

BY W. W. FLETCHER.

Those who are interested in the circulation of the "Signs of the Times" will be glad to know that we are issuing a prospectus for the volume that commences in January next. This prospectus is especially designed to assist in obtaining annual subscriptions. It outlines the different departments, and gives a summary of the principal topics to be considered in each. During the year we plan to publish a special series of articles in some of the departments, and in our prospectus we tell our subscribers something about the good things that await them. All who are working with the "Signs" in any way will find this a valuable help in gaining the interest of the people. Do not fail to obtain one of them at once if you have not already been supplied. They will be sent free upon application by your State tract society or this office. This prospectus is nicely printed on heavy, calendered paper, and contains sixteen pages, five inches by seven inches.

AVONDALE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP.

The Echo Publishing Company is now offering a scholarship of one year at the Avondale School for 250 annual subscriptions to the "Signs of the Times." This offer is open to all. Any number of persons may unite to obtain subscriptions for any one person whom they may select, provided they signify clearly to this office and to their tract society, to whose credit such subscriptions are to be placed. There is no time specified in which the subscriptions must be obtained. Any person or company of persons who commence in January next and take one subscription per day (five per week) during the year, will have earned a complete scholarship by the end of the year.

The school year is made up of three terms of three months each. A scholarship for one term (three months) can be obtained for ninety, and two terms (six months) for one hundred and seventy-five annual subscriptions to the "Signs."

In preparing our prospectus we endeavoured to make it especially helpful to those who will make the effort to earn this scholarship. On the front page is a picture of the Echo Publishing House, in the Health department, the Wahroonga Sanitarium, and at the back, the Avondale School. Our object in including these illustrations is to enable the canvasser to fully explain his plan for obtaining a training as a missionary worker. If he uses these illustrations wisely, explaining that he is not gaining any monetary advantage by his canvass, but that his sole object is to get fitted up as a Christian worker, he will gain the interest and sympathy of a great many people who might not otherwise subscribe to the paper: We find many who will buy "Christ's Object Lessons" to help our school who would not do so were it not for that object, and the same missionary spirit will prompt others to subscribe for the "Signs" if the plan is rightly placed before them.

If you desire to earn a scholarship in this way write at once to this office, and we will gladly furnish you with further instruction. We may be able to suggest some ideas to your mind that will help you in obtaining subscriptions. Plan to make a good start at the beginning of the New Year. Send at once for a prospectus and order book.

OUR ISLAND MISSIONS.

Those who are obtaining subscriptions to the "Signs" with the object of helping in the mission work, will find the prospectus a great help to them. It is a great advantage to be able to give the people definite information about the articles that will appear in the paper during the year. The illustrations of our institutions can be used to interest the people in our missionary work in a similar way as suggested above to those canvassing for a scholarship. Lose no time in making a start. Let us push this enterprise, and thus, while spreading a knowledge of the truth at home, we will be helping to carry the message to the regions beyond.

"WHERE ARE THE OTHER CHURCH MEMBERS?"

A sister in Adelaide, while selling the "Signs" sold one to an intelligent-looking gentleman who made several inquiries in reference to the papers.

"How many are engaged in this work with you?" he queried.

She replied that there were six or seven.

"And are you paid for doing it?"

"No, we want to do the people good, and that is our only motive in circulating the papers.

"Have you an organised church in the city?"

"Yes."

With great earnestness he then said,—

"Where are the other members of the church, and why are they not working as you do?"

What answer could be given to such a question? We leave it with the members in every church who are not actively engaged in some service for the Lord to answer.

All will be glad to know our subscription list now stands at over 11,000. Shall we not make it 20,000 by the close of 1904? What do you say?

We are requested to ask all subscribers to the "Signs" to be faithful in taking their papers during the holidays, and not leave them to be forwarded by the librarian.

We trust those who are working with the "Signs" will continue to send us items of experience, for they will encourage others. Please let us know how your work is prospering.

A letter inclosing a large number of subscriptions, states that "they are being paid for by the missionary spirit of a friend." That is good revenue, for, someway, it usually brings the gold.

An unknown lady at the Grand Hotel, Melbourne, recently sent us £1 to pay for five annual subscriptions to the "Signs." It means something when unbelievers manifest such interest.

We are glad to know that a brother in West Australia will devote his time to selling the "Signs" in the mining town of Kalgoorlie. A club of 408 copies is being sent to his address. We feel sure God will bless this effort.

A gentleman who is not a Sabbath-keeper shows his interest in the circulation of the "Signs" by sending sixteen subscriptions for six months, and thirty-seven for three months, fifty-three in all, and by paying for them all himself. This seems remarkable to us. How does it appear to you?

We wish every worker tenfold greater blessings during 1904 than they have had during 1903, and for those who have not yet begun working for the Lord, we wish the joy which comes from such experience. We sincerely wish for every one a happy New Year.

Monday, December 7, was another record day in the number of subscriptions it brought us,—over four hundred being added to clubs, and nearly seventy single subscriptions, or about 500 in all. Keep them rolling in, brethren and sisters, and we, on our part, will try to send out papers brimful of present truth.

"The Saviour's joy is in seeing, in the kingdom of glory, the souls that have been saved by His agony and humiliation. And the redeemed will be sharers in this joy, as they behold, among the blessed, those who have been won to Christ through their prayers, their labours, and loving sacrifice. As they gather about the great white throne, gladness unspeakable will fill their hearts, when they behold those whom they have won for Christ, and see that one has gained others, and these still others, all brought into the haven of rest, there to lay their crowns at Jesus' feet, and praise Him through the endless cycles of eternity."—*Great Controversy*.