

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

SUPPLEMENT.

MARCH 28,
—1904—

"They helped every one his neighbour; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage"

HELP ONE ANOTHER.

"So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, and he that smootheneth with the hammer him that smote the anvil, saying, It is ready for the soldering." Isa. 41:7.

Perhaps a modern rendering of this text, made applicable to the Lord's work, might read:—

"So the president of the conference encouraged the secretary of the tract society, and the ministers helped the church members, and the canvassers urged on the isolated brethren and sisters, saying, Let us all take hold together, and the work will soon be done."

Such a spirit will fill every soul with joy and courage in the Lord. This is not a time to contemplate difficulties and obstacles. God has not brought us thus far to leave us to perish. Courage in the Lord, brethren. Look up, not down. Look without, not within. Never be found among those that discourage the hearts of the brethren by describing the perils and hardships of the way. Be first in every good work, and stimulate others to unite with you in any enterprise which will give the people the truth for this time, and prepare them for the great day of the Lord. Let us press closer together, and encourage one another.

THE ONE WHO GETS TIRED.

Strange as it may seem, it is not those who work hardest and longest who complain of weariness and lack of courage. It is those who do little or nothing that fall out by the way, that become dis-

couraged. This is well illustrated in the following verse:—

The potter stood at his daily work,
One patient foot on the ground;
The other with never slackening speed
Turning his swift wheel round.
Silent we stood beside him there,
Watching the restless knee,
Till my friend said low, in pitying tones,
"How tired his foot must be."

The potter never paused in his work,
Shaping the wondrous thing;
'Twas only a common flower-pot,
But perfect in fashioning.
Then slowly raising his patient eyes
With homely truth inspired:
"No, ma'am, it isn't the foot that works,
But the one that stands gets tired."

—Selected.

REPORT YOUR WORK.

If your sales are large, it is not boasting to tell what the Lord is doing through you. If you are accomplishing apparently but little it encourages other workers to know that you are doing something. Without courage we are defeated. The Lord wishes his servants to be of good courage. Twice He told Moses to encourage Joshua, and he did so. The people encouraged him once, and three times the Lord repeated to him the promise, "As I was with Moses so I will be with thee. I will not fail thee nor forsake thee." Workers, take this promise to yourselves.

Paul and Barnabas, reporting their work, "caused great joy unto all the brethren." There are many who have been called to labour in the vineyard of the Lord. They hesitate, fearing if they

undertake the work, it will be a failure. Your report, be it large or small, will encourage such ones.

OUR LETTERS.

The messages of courage, good cheer, and success that come to us from workers in the field are as cold waters to the thirsty soul. For instance, a letter comes from an old pioneer in the message and work in Australia, now living in New South Wales, saying:—

"We have had many great blessings with the paper. I look upon it as the best preacher we have. I am sending them to Leeds, England, and our folks like it. I am looking for great things to be done this year. May the dear Lord bless you all in the office."

From a sister in New Zealand:—

"Several have been quite successful in selling large numbers of the 'Signs.' One sister has sold forty-five, of which twenty-five were sold to very poor people on the deferred payment system, and so the truth goes. A sister who sells eight dozen copies each week sells twenty-four copies to influential men in our town, one doctor being amongst her subscribers."

From a sister in Queensland:—

"The last special 'Signs' was taken hold of with enthusiasm by the members of our church. We are glad to report at least a little increase to the weekly subscription list as the result of this effort. One man was handed one in the street one day which was read with great interest by him and his wife. They searched the town for another copy, but failed to find it until the news mysteriously reached our office, and then the case was at once attended to. They seemed overjoyed to have the privilege of taking the intervening numbers, and receiving it every week from henceforth.

"A brother went into a shop on business one day, and just before leaving presented the 'Signs' to his attendant. He took one

readily, and sent him to another man in the office, who also took one. A few days later these same two men came into our office, one after the other, and asked if we would supply them regularly with the paper. It was delivered to them late one week, and they had begun to wonder if they had been forgotten. They seem to look forward to it each week. This is a stimulus to carry this good work further. Another brother sold one hundred and sixteen in one day.

"Although the weather has been oppressive here the last week or two, making one feel that it would be better to stay in doors, the dear Lord has wonderfully blessed us with encouraging experiences.

"One day when I presented the 'Signs' to a lady she told me she was being supplied with it each week in Bundaberg. She spoke very highly of it, and asked permission to show it to her sister who was inside. The sister looked at it, said it seemed a nice little paper, asked the price, and if she could have one every week. The next time I called she was delighted with the first copy, and expressed her pleasure at receiving another. Then I presented the 'Good Health.' This she decided to take regularly also.

"As I was coming out of a gate, a short time after a girl stopped me and asked if I had some papers again this week. It happened that I called at her house the week before, but her mother was out working. Having learned that she was interested in reading of this kind, and seeing that they were in poor circumstances, I left a paper for her to read, intending to call the following week to hear the result. The girl told me that her mother enjoyed reading the 'Signs' very much, and wished to be supplied with one every week. Several regular customers look forward to my coming, and wish me success in this work. Sometimes I am encouraged by being told that the 'Signs' preaches a truth of the Bible that the churches fail to teach, just because it suits them best to keep quiet on such subjects—that of the near coming of our blessed Lord and Master.

"A few days ago I heard that one of my customers first read the 'Signs,' then sent it up to the blind institution where it is read to the blind people a little each day either before commencing work or at dinner time. It seems to be appreciated there also, for they asked for it each week. Others forward them to the hospitals. Still another person whom I have supplied regularly was quite upset because I passed her by on one occasion. She thought she was not going to get her paper. Another person, although a Roman Catholic, would not pay less than three-pence for a copy.

"Truly God is good, and shows His appreciation of our few humble efforts by giving such encouraging experiences as well as the pleasure of seeing others take hold of the word of God. I thank God that He has given me a desire to spread His truth rather than to engage in any other worldly occupation. I have experienced that 'as long as we make no effort to give to others the light given us, great spiritual feebleness results.' This is sealed with a prayer that God will bless you in your work, and make you a blessing to others."

From a brother in New Zealand:—

"Just a few lines to say that during these troublous times we in this church are holding on as best we can. There is much besetting us before and behind, and those whose house is not builded on the Rock are being

shaken and falling down. The worldly-minded are banding themselves together in many ways. Those who do not join them will soon be marked. Things are so shaping that there will soon be no place for the half-and-half believer. The battle grows fierce, but it makes no difference to those who trust in God. 'Let the hurricane roar.' We are doing what we can to hasten the Saviour's coming by visiting, loaning papers, and talking to the people. I am sure the time will soon come when we shall be kept only as we have used our opportunities aright."

A lady in Victoria who is blind and also so deal that it is very difficult to read to her, writes:—

"Your letter and weekly paper reached me last week, but I have not yet decided to whom I should send the paper. You don't know what a trouble it is to get anything read to me. A person might read for any length of time in clear tones without my being able to distinguish a word.

"I think you asked me what I thought of the interpretation of the prophecies. Perhaps I am not prepared to say very much on the subject just now. Mr. Moody once said in a sermon on the second coming of Christ that if God did not mean us to study the prophecies, He would not have put them in the Bible. Some are fulfilled, and He is at work fulfilling the rest. I was reading Nahum 1st chapter, and thought it beautiful. There must be some hidden meaning behind those prophetic verses. . . .

"P.S.—Since concluding my letter, I have heard some things read from your very stirring paper, the 'Signs of the Times.' To my mind it is a thing to be coveted, but probably many of those who would appreciate it will allow their limited means to prevent its coming to them. I thank you very much for it, and will see what I can do to promote it, for I believe it has a special part to perform in the gathering together of God's people, who, according to the apostle's injunction, ought to be perfectly joined together in the same spirit and in the same mind. Will you send some of the 'Signs' to ———."

A cab proprietor writes a very interesting letter from Queensland. He says:—

"I am renewing my subscription to the 'Signs.' I cannot afford to let it go. It is invaluable to my spiritual good in a place like this where we have so little instruction, and I would rather go without my meals than the paper. Don't let me miss a number. It has been a blessing to me. I am taking the American 'Signs of the Times,' 'Present Truth,' the 'Sentinel,' and have sent for the 'Review and Herald.' All these are most excellent papers. Every Monday I am anxious to get my papers. I don't wait till I go home, but start reading them on the cab. If any special papers are issued I don't want to miss them. Mrs. White is undoubtedly one of the ablest writers of this age. She seems to bring out the deep, spiritual meaning of the word of God. The paper has a very high spiritual tone. It seems to satisfy the longing of the soul. It is always welcome to my home."

From a sister in New South Wales:—

"I noticed in the last 'Supplement' that we are not to give up going with the 'Signs' even if people refuse it two or three times.

I have proved that to be true, for I have been to two houses where they had refused the paper three times, and now they take it again.

"At one house where I had been refused several times the man took one, and another man who was there also took one. They asked several questions about capital and labour, and I sold them a copy of the special on that subject, as I happened to have one with me, and told them they would learn about it in that. They sat down at once to read it.

"It is wonderful how words have been given me to answer all the questions I am asked, for I am no scholar; but God tells us if we open our mouth He will fill it; so it is not our own words we speak.

"One place the people took the paper twice and then left it off. I left them a few weeks, then went back and they took it again. One day my little girl took it to them, and the husband sent word to her to not bring any more. I called the next week to see how the poor wife was, for she had been ill several months. I did not ask her to buy the 'Signs,' but held them in my hand. She said her husband was vexed about something the week before, and she was sorry, and said she would take one that day. I told her I had the other two, but she would not take them fearing her husband would think she spent too much money. It is often that way, not that the people have any feeling against the 'Signs.'

"Our church members are all of good courage. At one town where I sell the paper they buy three or four at a time. During the past quarter I have sold fourteen tracts, three books, delivered three 'C.O.L.,' took two subscriptions for 'Good Health,' gave away eighteen 'Signs,' sold and gave away several 'Little Friends,' gave several Bible readings, and sold 288 copies of 'Signs.'"

From a worker in West Australia:—

"How I long and pray for those I visit day by day with the papers that they may accept the light and keep the Sabbath day. They all tell me we are right, but they are afraid of what the world would think, and they would have to part with many friends. I think there are a few who will obey. One lady said to me, 'I am coming over to your people, for they are the only people that teach Bible truth.'

"The paper is greatly prized in the homes. They say it is as good as a sermon every week. The children's corner is read with interest. The mothers tell me the boys and girls are better for the reading. One lady said, 'It is wonderful how bright and fresh the reading keeps from week to week.' Some of these dear ones are unable to go to church very often, and they read the paper in the evenings to their children. I thank God that in many homes they have started family prayer through reading the 'Signs of the Times.'"

A librarian in New Zealand sends these cheering words:—

"We are steadily working along with the 'Signs' here. One person told me that as they go around in some places the people are waiting at the gate to receive their papers. Different ones say that it is the best paper they have ever read. One lady says her son always waits in town every Saturday night for the 'Signs,' and does not like to go home without it. On all sides we hear reports like this."

A brother in Queensland says:—

"We appreciate the club of 'Signs' you are sending us. We use them all to good advantage. The chief draper in town is pleased to get one each week. We have a little fund (in a jam bottle), and when the children or any of us sell a paper, the money goes into that fund. The children (both of them six years old) are very pleased that they can sell something that tells about Jesus, and they are getting quite a number of subscribers who take the paper each week."

From a worker in Adelaide, S. A.:—

"I am still receiving abundant blessings and grand experiences. Wish I could remember them all to write them down for you, but fear my writing paper would soon give out, and I should be ruined buying postage stamps. One gentleman to whom I sell the 'Signs' bought 'The Rights of Man,' and he never tires talking about it. The other night he said: 'You ought to get that book before all the Parliamentary men and rulers of the world.' I said we were doing so by degrees, and he replied, 'Only doing so? I should have thought your church would have seen to a thing of such importance long ago.'

"Our seed-sowers on Saturday nights number four, and sometimes five or six. The last two nights the papers went like hot cakes. I asked a gentleman to buy one, and after searching his pockets for a penny he gave me a shilling. As I was going to hand him the change he said he did not want any. When asked if he would take a dozen papers he said, 'No, you sell them again.'

"Last evening after the Sabbath it was very hard to sell the papers, and I wondered how the truth was going to reach the people, so, while waiting for customers I laid the case before our Father, and told Him I had four dozen 'Signs' in my basket, that I was doing His work, and asked Him to send someone to buy the papers, so that He might be glorified and Satan vanquished. About ten minutes after that one of our sisters who had come to the market to buy provisions came and asked me for a dozen papers. She asked 'I could let her have two dozen, and I said 'Yes,' and she replied that she had been impressed to go on a certain street and sell the paper so the people could have the message. I take it that was a direct answer to prayer.

"There is such a great blessing when we meet obstacles, for it shows how weak and helpless we are. We cannot move a finger without Christ, yet we start to do His work with the sinful audacity of self-exaltation for the great work we are going to do, until the Saviour, in loving-kindness, reminds us that without Him we can do nothing. I would that many more would work for the Lord by taking the message to those in darkness. They do not know what they are missing.

"I am sure the 'Signs' is to play an important part in this message. We little know where they travel. Both rich and poor get them. The other day as I went to a house where I sell a paper every week, I saw a person coming out with two in her hand. I thought that looked good."

A brother in Tasmania who has sent quite a number of yearly subscriptions for the "Signs" says:—

"I personally believe in the importance of the circulation of the 'Signs,' and feel that the Lord is especially honouring and using this publication. It is read weekly in homes

where our books have lain for years unread, or only partly read, and I believe the latter are frequently taken from the shelf for more careful study through the interest created in some subject by means of the 'Signs.' I am sure that when our conferences take united action and mature plans for the increased circulation of our periodicals, it will be a step in the right direction. The 'Signs' is a good introduction for the Bible worker or minister to any home. It makes an excuse (if one is necessary) for a weekly call, and it also suggests the most profitable subjects for conversation. It is a help in every way."

and paralysis. Unless this paralysis is broken, many of our people will be lost. Our young people are drifting away at an alarming rate. One of the very best means of holding our young people and anchoring them, will be a movement to engage their energies and talents in missionary effort; but this missionary effort must be along the lines of this specific and definite message God has given us. We must lay hold of all the young people of this denomination, and rally them for earnest service. We can do this, and we shall do it."

A SONG OF THE FIGHT.

Fear never won a conquest yet,
Nor overcame a foe;
'Tis courage scales the parapet,
While cowards flee below.
The victory falls to him who fights,
Whose heart with faith is warmed;
Success has fortified the heights—
Her bastions must be stormed.
They climb, as all earth's conquerors must
Achievement's stormiest hill,
With inextinguishable trust,
Indomitable will.
Still upward, then, through cloud and smoke
The last redoubt will yield.
Your heart must be as staunch as oak
If you would win the field.
And when upon life's bloody slope
You fall, though wounded sore,
Arise! apply the salve of hope,
And raise your sword once more!
When duty calls be quick with "Yes,"
Aspire and serve and pray,
And know no language but success,
No future but to-day.

—F. L. Knowles.

"UTTERLY UNACCOUNTABLE.

Pastor A. G. Daniells, in a recent letter, writes some stirring words that will be of interest to his friends in Australasia. He says:—

"The inactivity of this denomination is absolutely unaccountable. How it is possible for a people believing and teaching the most glorious truths held and taught by any body of people on earth—the most wonderful mankind can conceive of—and make so little effort to place them before the minds of the world, is utterly unaccountable. The devil has certainly stolen a march on us. He has paralysed us for the purpose of keeping these truths from men and women who need them, and are perishing because they do not have them.

"I feel thoroughly stirred over this matter. It seems to me we ought to lay ourselves out to break this tremendous spell, and set our people free. They have the intelligence, the health, the time, the means, to do a great work. Furthermore, the truth is written up in clear lines, and is put in splendid form for dissemination. There is nothing in the world to hinder a mighty missionary effort except our deadness

THE KEYNOTE.

BY MRS. E. G. WHITE.

As the end draws near, the work of God is to increase in strength and purity and holiness. The workers are to be filled with love for God and for one another. They are to cherish principles of the strictest integrity. When the true keynote is struck, God will reveal Himself as a God of mercy and love. Angels of heaven will ascend and descend the ladder of shining brightness, co-operating with human workers. The members of the church triumphant—the church in heaven—will be permitted to draw near to the members of the church militant, to aid them in their necessity. Let us ever remember that we are labourers together with God. In this heavenly union, we shall carry forward His work with completeness, with singing and rejoicing. In every soul will be kindled the fire of holy zeal. Company after company will leave the dark standard of the foe to come up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.

God's workers must gain a far deeper experience. If they will surrender all to Him, He will work mightily for them. They will plant the standard of truth upon fortresses till then held by Satan, and with shouts of victory take possession of them. They bear the scars of battle, but there comes to them the comforting message that the Lord is teaching them terrible things in righteousness. He will lead them on, conquering, and to conquer.

When God's servants, with consecrated zeal co-operate with divine instrumentalities, the state of things that exists in this world will be changed, and soon the earth with joy will receive her King. Then they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.

When standing on the banks of a great river like the Mississippi or the Amazon, one is awed by the vast power of the mighty waters as they roll before him. Yet all that mighty power originates in a multitude of tiny rivulets. These keep flowing together until they form the grand river able to float the commerce of a world. Well did the Lord ask, "Who hath despised the day of small things?"

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES.

Sanballat, or his representative, may live in your neighbourhood. If he does he will be wroth when he hears that you are beginning to work among your neighbours. He will mock you and try to make you think you can never accomplish anything. Read the fourth chapter of Nehemiah and you will find his reasonings. Like Nehemiah of old, cry out unto the Lord and He will help you. Remember that when "the people had a mind to work," the wall was built in spite of Sanballat and all his company. Go forward in the name of the Lord, and He will give you the victory.—*Bible Training School.*

SEED IN GOOD GROUND.

Brother H. H. Hall, Missionary Secretary of the Pacific Union Conference, gives this account of what was accomplished by the American "Signs of the Times":—

"I met a brother at the Olympia, Wash., camp-meeting who had travelled two hundred and fifty miles to attend the meeting. After we had become acquainted, he told me something of how he had come into the truth and of his efforts for its advancement since. He is a farmer, living in a very isolated portion of that State, and has but little time to devote to missionary work. He made no profession of religion when he moved to this country, but a friend in the East sent him the 'Signs' and other periodicals. As soon as he learned the character of these, he ceased opening them. However, their continued coming kept them in mind, until eventually he was impressed that he ought to give his heart to the Lord. As he and his wife began to study the Scriptures, they found points which they could not understand, and they joyfully turned to the papers which had been thrown aside. In a short time he accepted the truth fully, travelled two hundred miles for baptism, and returned to his home ready for work. He subscribed for a club of the 'Signs,' and purchased quite a liberal quantity of tracts. These he used in a very careful and systematic manner, with the result that he came to Olympia desiring the services of a minister and a church-school teacher. Six families, or parts of families, had accepted the truth, and enough children were interested in the Bible to make a church-school necessary. He felt sure that a minister could go in there and develop the interest already created, with good results."

A NEEDY FIELD.

From a letter recently sent to some of the workers in Australasia by Pastor G. A. Irwin, we take the following condensed paragraph:—

"Probably before this letter reaches you, you will have seen the call of the General Conference for Brother and Sister Farnsworth to assist in the camp-meetings in the United States during the coming summer, and then

go to England to connect with the South England Conference. We feel sorry to lose these labourers, yet, when we take into consideration the situation in England, we cannot find it in our hearts to oppose the recommendation.

"It was my privilege to meet with the brethren in the British Union Conference, and also in the South England Conference, on my return from the General Conference, and I am somewhat acquainted with the great needs of that field. In a recent letter from Elder O. A. Olsen, the President of the British Union Conference, he gives a description of the present situation in the South England Conference. I cannot here enter into details, but will simply state that there are eight churches, over 400 Sabbath-keepers, and 15,000,000 souls in that conference, and only one ordained minister.—Brother Wm. Knight,—who went to England from Australia. The North England Conference has a population of 15,000,000, while there are 12,000,000 more in Scotland, Wales, and Ireland.

"With these facts before us, we cannot throw an obstruction in the way of Brother Farnsworth going, should he be inclined to respond to the call, which I understand he is. This will make a connecting link between us and the home-land, and while we bid Brother and Sister Farnsworth God-speed on their journey, and in their new field, I trust that the prayers of all will follow them that they may have divine guidance, and be blessed of God in the building up and extension of the work in that field.

"The present plan is for Brother Farnsworth to attend the South Australian and New South Wales camp-meetings, sailing from Sydney, April 25, and arriving in San Francisco, May 16."

PERSONAL.

In response to the call which has come to us we are expecting soon to leave Australia for England. It is unnecessary to say that to separate from the work and the workers in this country causes us deep regret. We have laboured here for nearly eight years, and had hoped, if it had been the Lord's will, to remain till the Lord comes. We feel that this is "home," that the people are our people. We are attached to the work and to our brethren and sisters in the Commonwealth and New Zealand by ties which are difficult to sever.

But the call for workers comes from England. Think of but one or two ministers for fifteen millions of people! We are soldiers in the war, and expect no discharge till the conflict is ended, or till our work is done. It is not for us to choose what we will do or where we will labour: We wish to be what the Lord will have us to be; we will go where He wants us to go.

Brethren and sisters, will you not close up the ranks as we leave you, and try to do a little more for the Lord that, as workers, we shall not be missed? We think especially of the "Signs of the Times," and shall feel the keenest interest in its future prosperity. It is not going down because we disconnect with it. Brother A. W. Anderson, who has been assistant editor the past year, will edit it for the present, and we ask you to help him and hold up his hands by giving the paper your hearty support. Pray for him that God may inspire his heart and his pen. Work to increase the circulation of the paper, and encourage him in this way. Talk faith and

courage, and thus you will act a noble, Christian part. The success of the paper depends on each of you, and the Lord will hold you responsible for the attitude you assume toward it. Nothing would grieve us more than to know the paper was not prospering. We feel sure you will maintain and increase its present circulation.

On account of the work attendant on making this change, we shall be unable to write as many personal letters as we would be glad to do. If you do not hear from us in this way you will know the reason why. We expect to leave Sydney on the "Sonoma," April 25. We will be glad to hear from our friends in Australasia at any time. Brethren, pray for us.

E. W. FARNSWORTH,
V. J. FARNSWORTH.

"The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into His harvest." Perhaps He would like to send you out with a few copies of the "Signs" each week. Will you go?

The educational number of the "Signs" has been heartily received and widely circulated among teachers in Australia and New Zealand. Up to the present time nearly 40,000 copies have been sent from this office, and orders are still coming in. We thank the conference officers, tract societies, and our brethren and sisters for the assistance they have given us in circulating this number.

On account of the pressing need of someone to take the oversight of the canvassing work in South Australia, Brother W. W. Fletcher was called from his work on the "Signs" to work in South Australia. He has the promise, however, that he will be released in a few months, and that he will then devote his time to working for the "Signs." We are looking forward with anticipation to that time.

A faithful worker in New South Wales says:—

"I have a number of customers scattered over this part of the city, and some are deeply interested in the truth. One prominent young man says: 'I read every word of those papers, and am in harmony with the teaching. When I have read them I send them to my friends.' Another lady who takes three papers pays me in advance that she may be sure to get them should she be away. Another told me she gave them all away to her friends, for they were too precious to destroy. A butcher's wife gave up a paper she had been taking, and has taken the "Signs" ever since. A butcher who takes the paper regularly told me he did not have time to read it, but he gave it to one of his customers, and she became so interested that she inquired for my address, so I could take some to her friends. I could tell many similar experiences, but time will not permit. The work is hard,—walking and talking all day,—and I have had some blisters on my feet the past few days which have not been very pleasant. But I will not complain, and am only so happy that I can have a little part in this closing work. I often wish I could do more."