

The Central Advance

"Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward"

Vol. I

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Missionary Readings

SABBATH and Sunday, November 21 and 22, have been set apart by the General Conference as a time for the commencement of a grand missionary campaign in all our churches. Appropriate readings have been prepared for the occasion, and it is to be hoped that all our people everywhere will take a lively interest in the meetings. The readings will be on different lines of missionary work as follows:—

1. "A Call to Service." This will certainly prove a timely article as there is a great dearth of consecrated workers everywhere, and Macedonian calls are coming in from fields far and near. Everything indicates that the fields are ripe already to harvest. O, that we might lift up our eyes and look on the fields, and realize the importance of earnest, active labor that souls may be warned of the evil that is coming on the earth, and be prepared to stand blameless at the coming of the Lord.

2. "Value and Use of Tracts." If, as a people, we sensed as we should the value of tracts and the importance of their being placed in the hands of the people, a great impetus would be given to our work, and many souls would be converted to God. The Lord wants our tracts, containing present truth, scattered like the leaves of autumn, and we cannot afford to have Him disappointed.

3. "Our Periodicals a Continual Blessing." Many a hungry soul has feasted on our periodicals. Their visits to our homes are seasons of enjoyment and soul encouragement. They have also brought salvation to many a sin-sick, hungry soul.

4. "Home Workers With Small Books." We have been informed that it would be pleasing to the Lord if there were one hundred canvassers where there is now but one; in other words, all our people should do something in the line of selling our publications. While it is not possible for all to enter the field as regular canvassers, yet it is possible for all to sell our small books, and many who are not doing so, can sell the larger ones. By so doing we would place the precious light which they contain before others, and also bring a blessing to ourselves.

5. "The Missionary Follow-up System." It is to be hoped that during the missionary meetings such a spirit of labor will be begotten in the hearts of the people as will lead them to formulate plans for systematic labor. It is also hoped that as a result of these meetings, such a spirit of energy will take hold of our people that they will be impelled through the Spirit to place the truth before those that are unsaved.

6. "Mission and Results of Christ's Object Lesson Work." This work has proved a blessing to the church in a great many ways. It has proved a blessing to the schools in that their indebtedness has been reduced, and it has also proved a great blessing to the readers. By reading the book prejudice has been removed from the hearts of many, and they have been led to rejoice in the light of the present truth.

I sincerely hope that our people everywhere will make the most possible of the missionary work, and that the good work will be followed up, so the Lord may say to all, "Well and faithfully done." E. T. RUSSELL.

A Working Church

A LIVING church is a working church. The precious light of Bible truth, like a lamp that is burning, is to shine forth from every church-member. God will use His believing ones as His instrumentalities: through them He will minister to souls fainting for the bread of life. Words of hope and cheer falling from lips that have been touched with a live coal from God's altar, will revive and comfort those who are weary and distressed.

Time is precious. The destiny of souls is in the balance. At infinite cost a way of salvation has been provided. Shall Christ's great sacrifice be in vain? Shall the earth be entirely controlled by Satanic agencies? The salvation of souls is dependant upon the consecration and activity of God's church. The Lord calls all who believe in Him to be workers together with Him. While their life shall last, they are not to feel that their work is done. Until the time comes when Christ shall say, "It is finished," His work for the saving of souls shall not decrease, but is to grow in extent and importance.

The mercy of God is shown by His long forbearance. He is holding back His judgments, waiting for the message of warning to be sounded to all. There are many who have not yet heard the testing truths for this time. The last call of mercy is to be given more fully to our world.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Many more of the lay-members, if consecrated to God's service, could give the warning message of mercy to the multitudes who are not acquainted with the truth for this time. All around us there are souls perishing in sin. Every day there is something to do for the Master.

Every Christian is to let his light shine forth in good works. His words are to magnify our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of waiting for great opportunities before doing anything, he is to do the work lying nearest him. Thus he will increase his talents and gain a preparation for wider service. Wherever he is, there is his field, in which he is earnestly to show forth in word and deed the saving power of truth. He is not to wait to see what others do. He has a personality of his own, and he is responsible to Christ, whose servant he is, for every word and act.

God's people would put on joy and gladness as a garment if they would only receive that which He is waiting to give them,—that which would make them strong to help those in need of help. Our people need the breath of spiritual life breathed into them, that they may arouse to spiritual action. Many have lost their vital energy, and are sluggish, dead, as it were. Let those who have been receiving the grace of Christ help these souls to rouse to action. Let us keep in the current of life that comes from Christ, that we may impart to others. Healthy, happy action is what is needed in the church today.

OPEN DOORS

In the service of God there is work of many kinds to be performed. In the service of the temple there were hewers of wood, as well as priests of various orders bearing various degrees of responsibilities. Our church-members are to arise and shine because their light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon them. Let those who know the truth arouse out of sleep, and make every effort to reach the people where they are. The work of the Lord must no longer be neglected by us and made secondary to worldly interests. We have no time to be idle or discouraged. The gospel is to be proclaimed to all the world. The publications containing the light of the present truth are to go forth to all places. Canvassing campaigns are to be organized for the sale of our literature, that the world may be enlightened as to what is just before us.

In many States there are settlements of industrious, well-to-do farmers, who have never heard the truth for this time. Such places should be worked. Let our lay-members take this line of service. By loaning or selling books, by distributing papers, and by holding Bible readings, our lay-members could do much in their own neighborhoods. Filled with love for souls, they could proclaim the message of present truth with such power that many would be converted. Let us remember that it is as important to carry the message to those in the home field who have not heard the truth, as it is to go as missionaries to foreign countries.

There is abundant work for all who know the truth. Approach the people in a persuasive, kindly manner, full of cheerfulness and love for Christ. The Saviour is ever near with grace and power to enable you to present the

gospel of salvation, which will bring souls out of the darkness of unbelief into His marvelous light. Reach out after those who are ready to perish. Call attention to the "Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world."

I wish that all our people could see the many doors that are open before them. Beside all waters we are to sow the seeds of truth. O, how my soul is drawn out for sinners, that they may be won for Christ! If those who have received the truth would exercise a living faith in Christ, if they could realize that they are to be His workers, wholly consecrated to His service, what a work might be done! When God's people surrender themselves unreservedly to Christ, they will use every power of mind and body to His name's glory; and His work will make rapid advancement.

WHOLE-HEARTED DEVOTION

The things of this world are soon to pass away. This is not discerned by those who have not been divinely enlightened, who have not kept pace with the work of God. Consecrated men and women must go forth to sound the warning in the highways and the byways.

I urge my brethren and sisters not to engage in work that will hinder them from proclaiming the gospel of Christ. You are God's spokesmen. You are to speak the truth in love to the perishing souls. Remember that some day you will stand before the Lord of all the earth, to give an account of the deeds done in the body. Then your work will appear as it really is. The vineyard is large, and the Lord is calling for laborers. Allow nothing to keep you from the work of soul-saving. By earnest prayer obtain power that will make your influence a savor of life unto life. The Master-Worker will put His spirit upon all who labor for Him with whole-hearted devotion.

Christ's interests are the first and the highest of all interests. He has a property in this world that He wishes secured, saved for His everlasting kingdom. It is for His Father's glory and His own glory that His messengers shall go forth in His name, for they and He are one. They are to reveal Him to the world. His interests are their interests. If they will be co-laborers with Him, they shall be made heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ to an immortal inheritance.

MRS. E. G. WHITE.

Manner of Conducting Family Worship

THE manner in which the family worship is conducted is very important. It should be made so pleasant as to be looked forward to with gladness even by the youngest children. Too often it is made tedious, monotonous or burdensome. Men fall into a stereotyped order which they never vary. Long passages are read, and the prayers offered are not only long, but are the same every day from year to year, with no adaptation to the home-life or to the capacities of the children. There is no reason why the family worship should not be the most delightful exercise in the home life. It should be the continual study of heads of households to make it bright, interesting and profitable. To make it dull and irksome is treason to true religion.

It is impossible to give more than the merest suggestions and hints as to methods. A part in the service should be given to each child. Questions may be asked each day on the passage read the day before. Incidents may be introduced to illustrate the lesson. Hard words may be explained. One practical thought at least may be selected from the Scripture read which will bear upon the day's life. Cheerful songs may be sung.

Then in the prayer some part should be given to the little ones. Sometimes it is good to have all follow in the prayer, repeating it phrase after phrase. And all may unite in the Lord's prayer at the close.

When there are quite young children in the family, it may not be best to read the Bible in course, but to select portions in which they will be easily interested.

For an exercise so sacred and fraught with such influences it is not too much to say that the most careful preparation should be made. It is probable that there are few duties for which so little preparation is actually made. If thought were given to this matter beforehand, the exercise need never be dull or wearisome. The passage may not only be selected but studied, and some point fixed upon for practical enforcement. A bright incident or little story may be ready to help fix the lesson. The prayer may be thought over or even written out. A few minutes given every day to preparation for family worship will serve to make it as it should be, the most pleasant and attractive incident of the day.—*J. R. Miller, D. D., in "Week Day Religion."*

He Killed His Wife

SO HE said. He told it in a prayer meeting and there was an involuntary shudder and several "Oh's!" in the congregation. "Yes, I killed her," said the old man solemnly.

The speaker said that soon after his conversion, while a young man, he married a woman who proved to be possessed of an unpleasant temper. A few months passed in comparative quiet, when suddenly he was thrown out of employment. He came home and told his wife, when her pent up feelings broke loose in a storm of scolding and fretting. "Then," said the aged brother, "I began to sing, and after a verse or two I took a stroll in the garden until the atmosphere cleared up a bit."

Returning to the house he found his wife vigorously scrubbing the floor.

"Let me help you scrub," he said.

"You scrub!"

"Yes, I can scrub."

And suiting action to the words he was quickly on all-fours at work. "She was badly wounded then. I repeated the treatment from time to time, and began to pray for her by night and day. This process went on for two and a half years. At the end of that time my scolding, fretting wife died. She was born again, and from that time until her natural death she was a loving faithful, companion." G.C. TENNEY.

From the Field

South Western Nebraska

ON Wednesday evening, October 14, I preached in the Red Cloud Church. There was a good attendance and a deep interest manifested in the word spoken. Brother Walter Rich had his church school in quite successful operation, being in its second week. Much interest is manifested in this enterprise, both on the part of the children and of the brethren and sisters of the church. We believe the earnest manner in which the brethren and sisters of Red Cloud have taken hold of the church school work is pleasing to the Lord, and that His signal blessing is attending the work of the school. Brother Rich's help in the church and Sabbath-school will be appreciated by the company of believers in this place.

I remained at Red Cloud one night only, then

went on to Alma, where I preached on Thursday night. I reached there in the morning, and spent most of the day in visiting the families of our people, who are considerably scattered. The next day I went on to McCook, where I spent the Sabbath, conducting three services during the day and evening. In the afternoon the ordinances of the Lord's house were celebrated. It was a day filled with blessings from the Lord. I was kindly entertained at the hospitable home of Brother and Sister G. H. Smith, and the services were held at the home of Brother Coglizer. I greatly enjoyed this visit with the brethren and sisters. Efforts are being made to erect a church building here, something over \$700 having already been subscribed. The brethren are planning, in connection with their church building, to provide rooms for church school purposes. There is a large demand for a church school at McCook, and is hoped they will be able to speedily provide for this want. At present Bro. Coglizer is arranging to have a teacher come and hold a small school in his family.

After the evening service, following the Sabbath, I went on to Culbertson, where I was met by Brother Blum, who drove me to his good home about four miles out in the country. Sunday evening I spoke in the church at Culbertson to a good audience. Though the brethren and sisters are all Germans, they can understand English. The best interest and attention were manifested on the part of all, and I never had better freedom in speaking. I was greatly pleased to form the acquaintance of this earnest company of believers in the message. They have a good church building, and this is the largest German church in the Conference. Bro. F. W. H. Schroeder is to open a church school here about the middle of November. This, I believe, will be a great help and blessing to the Culbertson church. The message of the Lord now is, "Gather the children." It is high time to gather the dear lambs of the fold out from worldly influences and associations, and bring them together to teach them the holy principles of the message for this time, and thus prepare them to go with us into the kingdom.

Leaving Culbertson Sunday night, I came on to Boulder, Colorado, where I have spent two weeks with my wife and daughter, from whom I had been separated nearly five months. Mrs. Robinson, who has been actively engaged in

Bible work for nearly twenty years, has been compelled to remain in Colorado for a time, on account of having contracted lung trouble in Australia. I had hoped she would have been able to join me in Nebraska before this, but following the advice of physicians and friends, she does not feel free to do so until after the winter is past. Mrs. Robinson is very cheerful, and is hopeful of again being engaged in the work which for years has been dearer to her than her own life. May we ask the prayers of our dear brethren and sisters in Nebraska, that if it is His will, He will speedily restore her to perfect health and soundness.

I expect to be leaving here in a day or two, to visit the company of Sabbath-keepers in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and study the best plan for opening work in that city. I expect to spend the month of November in district No. two, according to appointments elsewhere in this paper. Pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and His name be glorified, His cause built up, and thus His glorious coming hastened.

A. T. ROBINSON.

Boulder, Colo., Nov. 2, 1903.

Iowa, District Five

I JOINED Bro. N. C. Bergerson at Chariton, October 24, and together we visited the following places: Russell, Albia, Darbyville, and Centerville. At Russell three meetings were held, one being a business meeting at which officers were elected for the ensuing year.

We met twice with the company at Albia. We were glad to find the few sisters there of good courage, and ready to stand as witnesses to the fact that God is leading in the work of the Third Angel's Message. We next visited Darbyville where we had some excellent meetings. Quarterly meeting was held at this time, and five persons united with the church, four of whom were baptized. The evening services were attended by those not of our faith. At the last meeting, as Brother Bergerson dwelt on the everlasting love of God, the audience was drawn very near to the Lord. The discourse was followed by a solo, "Only Two Ways" and almost the entire audience were in tears. We felt like praising God for drawing us so near to Him.

At Centerville we held two meetings, and presented the testimonies for the present time as they having been coming to us. We visited

the people at their homes, and were grateful to God to find so many who were standing firmly for the truth. We, too, determined to be more faithful.

A. F. FERGUSON.

Hiawatha, Kansas

SINCE the Kansas camp-meeting our company has been laboring here in the tent work, but since the weather has now become unfavorable for that work, we have, for the most part, resolved ourselves into a band of student-workers. The company is made up of Elder Trubey and family, Sisters Jessie Cornforth, Minnie Wheeler, Jennie Spires, Bro. J. M. Fletcher, and the writer.

As nearly as possible we follow a regular daily program in which a certain amount of time is devoted to study and field work. Under the guidance of Elder Truby, studies are conducted along the following lines: Bible Doctrine, Word and Sentence Study of the Epistles, Bible History, and the Testimonies. Our program is so arranged that the afternoons and evenings are left free to be devoted to Bible readings, house to house visiting, canvassing, or other forms of missionary work.

All are of good courage and are grateful for the privilege of sitting at the feet of Jesus and learning of Him, and then making the lessons practical by immediately putting into practice the truths learned while in class. The Lord is opening the way among all classes of people here, and preparing their hearts for the reception of the truth that will enable them to stand in the day of His wrath. We earnestly solicit the prayers of our brethren that we may be faithful in giving the message.

F. C. CLARK.

The Red Cloud, Nebraska, Church School

BRO. WALTER RICH, in writing from Red Cloud, Neb. says: "The Lord has been with us in getting our school started, and has continued with us. While our school does not have a very large enrolment, it does have the assurance of being visited by the Great Teacher. We have had some obstacles to surmount, but the Lord has been with us in this. The spiritual welfare of our school is good. Already requests have come from many of the children asking me to pray with them, and saying they were going to make a start and lead a different life. When the *Signs* work was pre-

sented to them, each was willing to take a few, and in this way help give the message to others. Our Sabbath-school has undergone quite a change as the result of the school. The attendance has increased from eighteen or twenty to thirty-six. I expect to see a larger attendance in our school the coming month, as several others are talking of entering.

"I am glad that the Conference brethren are taking such an interest in our school here, and that we can send in an encouraging report. I trust that you will all remember the work at Red Cloud in your prayers, and that the work started here may bear fruit to the glory of God."

Hemmingford, Nebraska, School

THE church school* at Hemmingford, Neb. opened October 19 with a good attendance. Speaking of the opening of this school the *Alliance Herald* says:—

People here do not fully realize the importance of the new school established here this year by the denomination of Seventh-day Adventists. It starts with two trained men in charge, Professors Campbell and Kirkle, who, during the first year, will have charge of the school and industrial work respectively. The conference has purchased the land and buildings belonging to Dan'l Mauk, one of the best farms in this neighborhood and the most pleasant location in this vicinity. The buildings are located one mile west and one mile south from town—just the right distance.

It is coming more and more the consensus of opinion among our leading educators that religious instruction should be wholly divorced from the public schools, and that the sphere of the public school should be intellectual and moral training, leaving the religious training to the parents, the church and the Sunday-school. Many parents desire that their children should receive religious instruction daily. This is manifestly impossible under our laws in communities where denominations differ in their beliefs and doctrines. The denominational schools supply the solution to such parents, and might well be patronized by those parents who are not themselves fitted to instruct their children in spiritual and religious matters.

Strictly denominational schools below the rank of Academy are a new departure in the rural districts, but the future is bound to see their number increase because they are needed.

The school of the Adventists will have a splendid region from which to draw material to build up a school—western Nebraska, western South Dakota, and Wyoming. Its founders confidently look forward to the time when the present buildings will be too small and the present teaching force too few to carry on the work as outlined. Our community is fortunate to possess such an institution, and the fact of the school's location here should be one of the things of which we are proud.



Devote a Month to It

NOTHING would give me more joy, and I believe nothing would be more pleasing to the Lord, than to see every laborer in the Nebraska Conference devote a solid month to the sale of the special issue of the *Signs*, and at the same time enlist the services of other church members in this same work. The question with which this paper will deal is one of the greatest questions that has ever agitated the mind of man. Both the lives and fortunes of the men who are arrayed on either side of this bitter conflict are bound up in this issue.

A few weeks ago a gentleman in Omaha told me that he had recently been in Chicago, and that if two men began to discuss this question on the street corner, in a few minutes there would be a blockade, and the mounted police would have to disperse the crowd. This paper will put into our hands one of the best means of giving the Third Angel's Message that has ever been offered to any people at any time of giving God's message of salvation to men. Shall not all our laborers and our people now, as one man, arise in the name and strength of Israel's God, and give this message to the world.

The Nebraska Conference should dispose of not less than 30,000 copies of this paper, and we feel sure we can do it if we try.

Speaking of the entire number to be published Bro. C. H. Jones says: "We have set our mark at one million copies, and have ordered paper for that number. We confidently believe they will be called for. The one question in my mind is, Will this be enough? Considering the importance of the question with which this number treats, and the intense agitation on this subject in all parts of the world, we ought to dispose of two million copies or more." We hope Nebraska will do her share of this work.

"When the Lord begins to pour out His holy Spirit, who can begin to measure the blessed results that will follow? All that the apostles did every church member to-day is to do. A similar work to that which the Lord did through His delegated messenger after the day of Pentecost, He is waiting to do to-day."

A. T. ROBINSON.

Holding the Ropes

AS ONE with Christ, we are called to share in His work till it closes. The calls will come thicker and faster from this time on; but as we catch His highest thought for this dark world, to answer these appeals will be our chief pleasure.

The preaching of the gospel of the kingdom in all the world for a witness in this generation will not be performed in any miraculous manner. But as God's servants in the strength of His word, "Lo, I am with you," go to every part of the world with this gospel message, souls will be converted.

We who remain at home are to bear just as active a part in this work as the few who go to the front. We are to share in the joys and in the sacrifices of such service; joy when souls accept the precious Saviour, and sacrifice that nothing may hinder the onward progress of the message. When William Carey, the Father of Modern Missions, had been able to arouse a few friends to a sense of the great need of the world, and a society had been organized, he was the first one to volunteer for service. The secretary spoke of India in her need as a gold mine, as deep as the center of the earth, and asked who would venture to explore it. "I will venture to go down," was the instant reply of Carey, "but remember that you must hold the ropes."

And this must be done until the work closes. The work of the few who are called to venture down into the dark mine of heathenism and sin would soon be thwarted, if we at home failed to hold the ropes. And dare we believe in this closing hour that God requires greater sacrifice from those who leave the home land to do personal service in the field, than from those who remain behind to supply their needs?

Besides our weekly offerings, larger gifts are called for at this crisis in our work. Although the offerings of 1902 were larger than those of any previous year, the appropriations alone for 1903 reached that amount, with nothing left for aggressive work.

Unless the offerings for November and December exceed these of the same months of any previous year, we shall not be able to pay our appropriations for the year 1903. What are we to do, brethren and sisters? Will we allow the cause of God to languish in these, the closing days of the conflict? If each one will make

an effort to increase his own offering just a little, even though it may mean some sacrifice, and those who have not given will close the year with a good thank offering, we believe the funds needed for this year will be received. Will we not rise to this emergency, and in the strength of our Leader, place his work on vantage ground?
ESTELLA HOUSER.

Not the Most Needy Field

NOT long ago I was in a church at a time when they were circulating their "Quarterlies" for the Sabbath-school. I held out a nickel, and said, "I should like a book, please;" but they said, "Oh, you needn't pay for this; none of us pay for them; they are paid for out of the contributions." Pointing to the line of print on the margin of the lesson pamphlet, I said, "The contributions this quarter are for the most needy fields;" and then I said, "I beg to state that I am not the 'most needy field.'"

J. N. LOUGHBOROUGH.

Educational

Conducted by L. B. Hoopes

A Heart Song

OUR of my heart I sing a song,
O world so great and grand!
But hearts are weak, and hands reach out,
For the touch of a kindly hand.

O song, that I sing, I pray you bring
To some sad soul its balm;
Fall soft, I pray, like the breath of May,
Or the touch of a loving hand.

I sing for hearts that ache and break,
I sing for the hearts that are true;
O world so vast, O world so wide,
I sing my song for you. —Selected.

The Ministry and Value of Song

"THE history of the songs of the Bible is full of suggestions as to the uses and benefits of music and song. Music is often perverted to serve purposes of evil, and it thus becomes one of the most alluring of temptations. But, rightly employed, it is a precious gift of God, designed to uplift the thoughts to high and noble themes, to inspire and elevate the soul.

As the children of Israel, journeying through the wilderness, cheered their way by the music of sacred song, so God bids His children of today gladden their pilgrim life. There are few means more effective for fixing His word in the

memory than repeating them in song. And song has wonderful power. It has power to subdue rude and uncultivated nature; power to quicken thought and to awaken sympathy, to promote harmony of action, and to banish the gloom and foreboding that destroy courage and weaken effort.

It is one of the most effective means of impressing the heart with spiritual truth. How often to the soul hard-pressed and ready to despair, memory recalls some words of God's,—the long-forgotten burden of a childhood song,—and temptations lose their power, life takes on a new meaning and a new purpose, and courage and gladness are imparted to other souls!

The value of song as a means of education should never be lost sight of. Let there be singing in the home, of songs that are sweet and pure, and there will be fewer words of censure, and more of cheerfulness and hope and joy. Let there be singing in the school, and the pupils will be drawn closer to God, to their teachers, and to one another. As a part of religious service, singing is as much an act of worship as is prayer. Indeed many a song is a prayer. If the child is taught to realize this, he will think more of the meaning of the words he sings, and will be more susceptible to their power.

As our Redeemer leads us to the threshold of the Infinite, flushed with the glory of God, we may catch the themes of praise and thanksgiving from the heavenly choir round about the throne; and as the echo of the angels' song is awakened in our earthly homes, hearts will be drawn closer to the heavenly singers. Heaven's communion begins on earth. We learn here the key-note of its praise."—*Education*.

The Evils of Modern Education

IN a sermon delivered March 26, 1900, to the young men in Harvard College, Connecticut, Dr. Lyman Abbott gave, in a few words, a good illustration of how directly antagonistic to the Bible and how undermining to faith is the teaching of the colleges, universities, and theological seminaries of to-day. Dealing with the "practical and personal" side of his theme—text Mark 4:26, 27—he pictured a young man of his congregation coming to him for help and saying,—

"I was brought up in an orthodox circle. My mother was a devout believer. I learned

from her the Christian creed and the Christian Bible. I learned to pray; I had no doubts. I began my studies, and soon came to the conclusion that the world was not made in six days. Presently I discovered that man had been on the earth more than six thousand years. Then I reached the conclusion that he had come from a lower order of animals. Then I discovered that language was not broken up at the tower of Babel. I found reason to doubt one after another the so-called miracles of the Bible, until, at last, my faith is all gone. I do not know what I believe, or whether I believe anything. I do not know what I believe about the Bible, about Christ, about myself. I do not even know whether I have a soul or whether there is a God. O, that I could go back to the simple faith of my childhood! But I cannot."

Certainly there is crying need for schools where faith shall be cultivated and not killed, where those who attend may grow in grace and the knowledge of the truth as revealed in the Word, and come away, not with their faith all gone, but with the simple, confiding trust of their childhood days. May the people of God everywhere arouse to the importance of this subject.

Special Training Course for Workers

It has been customary for the last few years to conduct a special course for workers during the winter weeks when it is difficult for them to be in the field on account of inclement weather. A course of instruction has been arranged each year to meet the immediate demands. This course of study would include studies in the English, German, and Scandinavian languages. Studies in Bible, arithmetic, history, reading, speaking, singing, hydrotherapy, drawing, writing, manual training, canvassing, Bible work, and any class that can be organized to profit the largest number who attend.

In addition to the regular teachers in the College Faculty, leading ministers in the Central Union Conference, together with those who occupy prominent positions in the foreign languages, have been the instructors.

A similar course has been provided for this year, beginning about the first week in January and closing the first week in March. Special announcements will be prepared and sent out to all interested parties in the near future. We call your attention to it thus early that you may be making preparations for it.

L. A. HOOPES.

Sabbath=School Dep't.

Sabbath School Lesson Notes. Lesson VIII

GOD, the great king, above all other kings, had chosen the nation of Israel to be His own peculiar people in this world; to represent the principles of His government and His character in the midst of the wicked nations of earth, which were ruled by the prince of darkness. Here, amid the great sea of moral darkness, God had set the nation of Israel as a lighthouse, pointing the way to the only true God.

Israel's failure was in refusing to hearken to the voice of God. "O, that my people had hearkened to me, and Israel had walked in my ways," the Lord says concerning that people, after they had mocked His messengers, misused His prophets, until "the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy." Then the only means left to bring that people back to the Lord was to send them down to Babylon and let affliction do its scourging work upon them.

But the Lord did not utterly cast off that people, even when they formally rejected Him from being their king. After the Babylonian captivity that people were still given a period of four hundred and ninety years in which to learn the lesson which their captivity was designed to teach them. Their rejection of the Son of God and His crucifixion, at their demand, filled up the cup of that nation's wrong-doing. The Lord then pronounced desolate the earthly house in which He had chosen to establish the symbol of His government in this world. While professing to believe the prophets, they slew the One who sent the prophets whom their fathers had slain. They did even worse than their fathers had done, and thus they took upon themselves all the guilt that had been accumulating down to their own time. Matt. 23: 31, 32, 35, 36. Their refusal to hearken to the voice of God, through His prophets, was responsible for that sad fact. So, when Israel to-day reject the word of the Lord, in the warnings and instruction that comes through His chosen messenger, they do not know to what lengths they will go in opposition to God. It led Israel then to reject the Son of God in person. It will lead Israel now to reject Him, in the person of His remnant followers, and in the

message of salvation for this time. Luke 17: 24-26. God is still warning men against the rejection of the King of kings, of the only way wherein salvation lies. Individuals now who take the same course that Israel took will go down to everlasting destruction. There is no safety or hope in allegiance to any other than in Israel's true and only king, no safety outside His ways.

A. T. ROBINSON.

Health and Home

A Mother's Duty

TO-DAY there is much said about temperance, and much energy and means expended to bring about a reform in this matter. If a reform from the intemperate habits of life could be accomplished by force, long ere this we would have had a temperate people everywhere; for the zeal of many would cry out into acts most radical. The home and soul-destroying narcotics would all be dumped into the ocean, the saloons demolished, and the bar-keepers working at some other employment.

But temperance is a divine principle; force is not, therefore no good thing can come from it. "But through what force can this evil be stayed, before our youth are all snared?" says many a mother who deplores the intemperance that exists everywhere. Let such, first, look deep enough to see the cause, and strive to remove it, and pleasing results will shine forth. In this, as in all other reforms, it is a matter of *education*.

God intends that the mother should be the chief educator in the home. "She should teach her children from the cradle up, habits of self-denial and self-control. Her time, in a special sense, belongs to her children. . . . Many a mother, even among those who profess to be Christians, is daily setting before her household rich and highly seasoned foods, which tempt the appetite and encourage overeating. . . . When we hear the sad lamentation of Christian men and women over the terrible evils of intemperance, the questions at once arise, Who have educated the youth? Who have fostered in them these unruly appetites?"

Woman should fill the position which God originally designed for her. She should realize the sacredness of her work, and in the strength and fear of God take up her

life mission; she should educate her children for usefulness in this world, and for a home in a better world. Would that the mothers of this generation might feel the sacredness of their mission, and seek to honor God by the faithful performance of duty. If right principles in regard to temperance were implanted in the youth who are to form and mould society, there would be little necessity for temperance crusades. Mothers, shall we not arise to our opportunities? We can train *our* children to bear the stamp of temperance, even in this intemperate age. What mother wishes to come short of her duty?

MRS. BELLE EMERSON.

The Man in His Home

THE seclusion of a home gives to a man a certain freedom and attendant privileges which no other place in the world affords, and it is right that it should. But it is not right that this freedom and those privileges should be abused to the disadvantage of the wife. Too many men seem to have an idea that they can drop into constant disconsolate and churlish moods, at home with their wives, which in any other place and by any other person would not be tolerated. It is when a man is within the walls of his own home that he is himself. Then it is that he should be at his best. When a man gives the best that is within him to those closest to him, his home will be the ideal place he wishes it to be. No man has a right to expect from his wife what he on his part does not give her. If he wants her sympathy, he must give her his consideration. If a man lacks the element of consideration, he should cultivate it; and cultivate it not for his friends, but for those in and of his home. Consideration should begin at home; not in the homes of friends, as it so often does—and ends there, too. The atmosphere which a man creates in his home by example becomes the rule by which his children live. The husband and father strikes the keynote for right and wrong living.—*Ladies' Home Journal*.

"Wouldst thou lead a happy life?
To others happiness impart.
The happiness that we bestow
Returns to dwell within our hearts."
—*Calm*.

Work is the balsam of the blood,
Work is the source and spring of good.
—*Herder*.

Notices

Appointments

GENERAL meetings will be held at the following places:—

Beaver City, Nebraska.....	Nov. 21, 22.
Aurora.....	" 28, 29.
Seward.....	Dec. 5, 6.
Dunbar.....	" 12, 13.
Beatrice.....	" 19, 20.
Shickley.....	" 26, 27.

I hope as far as possible, there may be manifested the old-time spirit, on the part of our brethren and sisters, and that there may be a good attendance at these meetings from surrounding churches and companies. Brethren and sisters, is it not time to awake out of sleep, and to arouse to the importance of the times and the issues that are no longer before us, but actually upon us? The warning comes to us from the Lord that, "If the signs that are thickening on every hand are not sufficient to arouse the sleeping energy of those who know the truth, then darkness proportionate to the light which has been shining will overtake these souls."

We expect to have the help of Elders Wheeler Nettleton, and Kite, and of the Sabbath-school Secretary, in connection with the gatherings, and we hope to see a great revival among the people. Let plans be laid beforehand to spend the two days in each place where meetings are appointed, in seeking the Lord with all our hearts. Plan especially for the youth and children to be in attendance. Elder Kite and Sister Teeple have a special burden to work for the young people and the children. A. T. ROBINSON.

Obituary

VOSBURG.—Mary Rosetta Vosburg, daughter of brother and sister A. Welton, died at her home in College View, Neb., October 14, 1903, aged thirty-four years, one month, and six days. In early life she gave her heart to the Lord, and was a member of the Christian church for several years. In 1886 she united with the Seventh-day Adventist church at Moravia, Iowa. July 12, 1893, she was married to C. E. Vosburg, and they at once took up the canvassing work. She was a loving companion, and a devoted Christian. She was loved by all who knew her. During her illness she was patient, and was conscious to the last. She expressed a willingness to leave her case in the hands of the Redeemer who does all things well. A husband, father, mother, five sisters, and a large circle of friends are left to mourn their loss.

Funeral services were held in the College View church, conducted by the writer, assisted by Eld. D. Nettleton. Words of comfort were spoken from 1 Thess. 4:13, 14. Rev. 14:13; Isa. 26:17, and kindred texts.

J. S. HART.

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3. Christian Union versus Trade Union.
4. The Great Strife for Power.
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News and Notes

A church building will be erected at once, and a church will soon be organized at Palisades, Colo.

Fifteen hundred and sixty copies of the "Capital and Labor" number of the *Signs* have been ordered by the College View church, and seven hundred copies by the students of Union College.

Bro. J. C. Becker, of Lehigh, Kansas, reached College View last week, and has been invited to remain sometime and assist Brother Valentiner, editor of the *Hausfreund*, in his office work.

"All who consecrate soul, body, and spirit to God will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command."

As a result of the tent meeting, conducted by Eld. J. G. Hanhardt and Bro. N. T. Sutton, at Newton, Kans., following the state camp-meeting, twelve have united with the church, and four others are keeping the Sabbath.

Eld. A. T. Robinson, President of the Nebraska Conference, has been spending some time with his wife and daughter at Boulder, Colo. He writes that Mrs. Robinson is improving in health, and that after the winter is over he thinks she will be able to live in Nebraska.

Eld. A. T. Robinson writes: "Cheering and encouraging words come from all along the line, in reference to making a great move in selling 20,000 copies of the special issue of the *Signs*. While strikes in the various lines of industry are taking place in different parts of the country, let us in Nebraska make the boldest strike we have ever made, to place the great issues of the message of salvation in 20,000 homes of the people.

"In all the meetings I have held for the last few weeks, this great issue has been the principal theme of study, and the Lord has greatly blessed the people as they respond to it, by pledging personal consecration for service in this great movement. 'When we have entire, whole-hearted consecration to the service of Christ, God will recognize the fact by an outpouring of His Spirit without measure.' Shall we make this the occasion when the Lord can begin to pour out His spirit upon our work without measure? How our souls hunger to see the results that will then be seen."

Missionary rally next Sabbath and Sunday. Miss Edith Barnes, of Littleton, Col., will take up church school work in Kansas.

The Lincoln, Neb., church has subscribed for twenty-seven hundred copies of the special *Signs*.

It is expected that the Nebraska Conference will distribute from twenty to thirty thousand copies of the special number of the *Signs*.

The Lincoln church, College View church, and Union College Missionary Society, combined, have subscribed for about five thousand copies of the special number of the *Signs*.

Bro. Howard O. Welty, of Boulder, Col., has gone to Manzanares, Col., where he will take charge of a mission school among the Spanish brethren. A large school is assured him.

As to a definite program for the meetings of our missionary rally, next Sabbath and Sunday, each church will, of course, plan as may best suit its own circumstances. But, as presented in our last number, the plan is to have two meetings on Sabbath, one in the forenoon and one in the afternoon at which all five of the readings, prepared for the occasion, will be read and discussed, and a meeting evening after Sabbath or Sunday night devoted to plans for active and immediate work. This program will doubtless suit the great majority of our churches.

Bro. B. R. Nordyke, who has been for nine years manager of the Kansas City branch of the Pacific Press Publishing Company, left for Oakland, California, November 9. This has been made necessary by the sickness of the manager of one of the important departments in the Oakland office, whose place Bro. Nordyke will fill. Bro. H. H. Hall and W. R. Beatty have just finished auditing his books, and inform us that the accounts were found correct in every particular, and the business in a satisfactory condition. Jas. Cochran, who has been secretary of the Missouri Tract Society for ten years, takes the place thus made vacant in Kansas City. Bro. Hall who is manager of the Book and Periodical Department of the Oakland office, and Bother Beatty, who works in the same department, will spend several weeks in helping Brother Cochran get acquainted with his new work, and in looking after the interests of the Capital and Labor number of the *Signs of the Times*.