

THE WORKERS' BULLETIN

VOLUME 8.

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Workers' Bulletin.

ISSUED WEEKLY BY THE

IOWA TRACT AND MISSIONARY SOCIETY,
DES MOINES, IOWA.

MRS. L. FLORA PLUMMER, } EDITORS.
JESSIE V. BOSWORTH, }

TERMS: 25 CENTS A YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

PERILOUS TIMES.

As I read the terrible account of the derailment of a train in Alabama by robbers, which went down with its innocent victims more than one hundred feet, to be crushed on the rocks, and then burned with the wounded who were unable to get away from the flames, I am reminded of some statements by Sister White, recently sent me. She has been shown that "passage from place to place to disseminate the truth will be made extremely difficult and dangerous." It is stated farther that leading men will try to devise various means for improving the times, only to find that their plans are all futile.

We have now left the hopeful times behind, and are entering the short time of trouble just before probation's close, spoken of in "Early Writings," Supplement, pp. 1, 2. "At that time, while the work of salvation is closing, trouble will be coming on the earth, and the nations will be angry, yet held in check so as not to prevent the work of the third angel. At that time the 'latter rain,' or refreshing from the presence of the Lord, will come to give power to the loud voice of the third angel, and prepare the saints to stand in the period when the seven last plagues shall be poured out."

Time is swiftly closing. It is a good time, with the beginning of the new year, to renew our covenant with God to be faithful in every duty. The reward for faithfulness is sure.

CLARENCE SANTEE.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

VIEWING past ages through the *lenses* of history, each generation seems to have striven for something greater than the preceding one. Towers, pyramids, and the ruins of the Pantheon, all bear witness to this principle of human nature. The ancient alchemist spent a lifetime over the crucible, hoping to place his name foremost in the ranks of the great. The astrologer of the Middle Ages, scanning the heavens for the horoscope of some prince, sought royal favor, spending long nights in viewing the innumerable worlds of space, yet forgetting the mighty hand of the Creator. The cruel wars and brutal triumphs of the Roman emperors in dragging their royal captives through the streets of Rome, all bear witness to this desire for precedence.

Actuated by this spirit, a small party of Greeks, in the year 667 B. C., hardly a hundred years after the founding of Rome, sailed up the then unexplored Mediterranean Sea, and founded a city which they called Byzantium. This city grew in power. It submitted to the Persians for a time, but gained its liberty after the defeat of Xerxes. It was an ally of Athens in the days of Philip of Macedon. In A. D. 330, Constantine, then sole Emperor of Rome, with this spirit still extant, sought a new capital. Marking the commercial advantages of the location of Byzantium, he chose that place, and it was called the city of Constantine, now Constantinople. Millions were spent in the erection of palaces and public buildings. Works of art from all parts of the civilized world were brought to beautify it. From A. D. 330 until A. D. 1453, Constantinople was the capital of the Roman Empire of the East.

In 1453 the Turks under Mohammed II took the city. Since that time, it has been the center of the Ottoman power, and its history is but a record of assassin-

ations and intrigues. From the walls of that city, many a victim has found a grave in the Bosphorus. For centuries that empire has been ruled by a dynasty of tyrants, and it is now under the dominion of a madman and an assassin. Can we fail to see the hand of God in its history? Well may we think with awe of the retribution drawing so steadily and silently on. Weary traveler, when thy heart is heavy with trials, and thy life overshadowed with the mistakes of the past and with the cares of the future, let thy hymns ring loud and clear to the Throne above; for the end draweth nigh. Receive thou with joy the last message,—He that overcometh shall all things inherit.

JOSIE E. TATE.

FROM THE BATTLE CREEK COLLEGE EARNEST ENDEAVOR SOCIETY.

THIS society will be recognized by former students as the College Missionary Society; and as Iowa has always had a good representation here, we think our friends in that State will be glad to hear concerning our work. During the fall term it has been of a very practical nature. Having solicited clothing and school books from the people of this city we sent a large quantity to the school for colored children in Huntsville, Alabama. We have also been carrying on an extensive correspondence in missionary lines. We have always been in the habit of sending out papers. Last year we took a club of five hundred copies of the *Signs* and *Sentinel*, and a large number of tracts were also sent out. This year the students find it a hard matter to pay their way in school, and consequently cannot help the society much by private donations. This necessitates reducing our club to three hundred. Many of our members have been canvassers, and know just where the papers will be likely to do good; and we are continually receiving letters calling for our literature.

We feel that the Lord is blessing our work; and as a good per cent of our papers go to Iowa, we thought some of our friends there would be glad to help us increase our supply of papers. Any donations, however small, will be gladly received. They may be sent to the College Earnest Endeavor Society, Battle Creek, Mich., in care of the writer.

H. A. HENDERSON, *Pres.*

FIELD REPORTS.

RETROSPECTIVE.

As the old year, 1896, is now in the past, and the new year, 1897, has already commenced, it is quite natural for us to take a review of the past, as well as to anticipate the future. The past year has made its record of destructive storms and tempests; perhaps in that respect it is hard to find its equal, in the Western States at least. The excitement in politics over the presidential election has run high in some places, during the past summer and early autumn. The Lord has given us a bountiful harvest, but the prices of some products are very low. Perhaps some of these things may have had something to do in impeding the progress of the work the past season. Two of our field tents have been torn to pieces by fierce winds and rain storms. Our labor in the tent field the past season, has been rather unusually hard and difficult.

At Redding, Ringgold Co., our field tent was torn so badly in a storm that it was unfit for field work. There were a few interested ones at Redding for whom we still have hope, that they may embrace the message and find a shelter from the coming storm. We obtained one yearly subscription for the *Review* at that place.

Our tent sent from Des Moines was next pitched at Kellerton, Ringgold Co. At this place our attendance and prospects were good till the cold evenings and fall rains nearly broke up the meetings. The few brethren and sisters at Kellerton worked nobly for the success of the meeting in assisting to bear the running expenses of the tent, and otherwise bearing burdens in the work. At this place one earnest brother in middle life embraced the message, and has since joined the Benton church. A few others were convinced, but were inclined to take a little more time to consider. Bro. C. A. Hansen obtained five yearly subscriptions for the *Review* and one for six months.

Bro. H. M. J. Richards and C. A. Hansen were associated with me in tent labor throughout the tent season. Bro. Han-

sen's wife joined her husband in tent labor at Kellerton, and was a cheerful, earnest helper in the tent work. My association with the above named laborers, the past tent season, has been pleasant. May the Lord bless them wherever their lot may be cast.

C. A. WASHBURN.

Jan. 7.

ADEL.

ELD. SANTEE was with us Jan. 1-3. Although the weather was stormy, we had a good attendance, and some outside interest. As the solemn truths were spoken, the Spirit of the Lord impressed upon our hearts our need of a thorough consecration to God. On Sabbath, as we celebrated the ordinances of the Lord's house, his blessing rested upon us in a large measure. At the close of the meeting Sunday evening a short time was given for testimonies, when nearly every one present responded, testifying that they had been greatly blessed. We appreciate help from God's servants.

L. M. SCHÖBERG.

BENTON.

ELD. J. S. HART arrived here Jan. 7, and held eight meetings. The outside attendance was not large, but most of our own people were present at all the meetings. The preaching was of a practical nature, and just what we needed. In the first sermon the central thought was that many are called but few chosen. Two pointed sermons were devoted to the subject of answering our own prayers. The missionary work received some attention, work about our own homes being recommended. We are of good courage, and hope our little company may be remembered in your prayers.

MARY E. FERTIG, *Clerk.*

EXIRA.

ABOUT four weeks ago, Bro. N. C. Bergersen and the writer began meetings with the Exira church. For some time we have realized the need of a special revival effort among our Scandinavian churches, and the way has opened for this kind of work this winter. This church has a fine building about five miles west of the town of Exira, and their membership is between fifty and sixty. Our meetings were begun in the form of lectures, those not of our faith attending from the first. The interest increased until the close. The Lord greatly blessed the church with a revival of his Holy Spirit. Many received a fresh experience of God's saving power. I think there are between fifteen and twenty who entered the service of the Lord for the first time. This caused great rejoicing in the church.

All points of the faith received atten-

tion, and were heartily received by the people. About \$83.00 was subscribed for the circulation of our Scandinavian periodicals. The educational work was also considered. We hope that ere long these dear young people may find their way to our colleges, where they may prepare for usefulness in the work of God. We now go to Elk Horn to begin a series of meetings, trusting that the Lord will be with us. We hope to be remembered at the throne of grace.

E. G. OLSEN.

Jan. 14.

OSCEOLA.

On Sabbath, Jan. 9, we were favored with the presence of C. W. Neal, who spoke to us words of encouragement, taking for his subject "Faith in God." He was also present at our missionary meeting held Sunday. He spoke to us of the eternal home and the part we have to act in preparing for it. The words spoken were indeed "meat in due season." Plans were laid for missionary work. All seemed alive to this good work, and anxious to have a part in helping to spread the message.

MRS. D. C. MCGEE, *Lib.*

HANLEY, MADISON COUNTY.

THE attendance and interest at this place are still good. Three more have decided to obey, and are keeping the Sabbath. Others are in the valley of decision. We have begun to hold regular Sabbath meetings at 2 o'clock, and hope to organize a Sabbath school soon. The people are very kind and hospitable. We ask our brethren and sisters living near enough, to remember the work here by their frequent attendance, and those living at a distance, to remember us in their prayers.

H. M. J. RICHARDS.

C. A. HANSEN.

OBITUARY.

SCHNEPPER.—Died Jan. 2, 1897, at Parkersburg Iowa, of whooping cough in complication with bowel trouble, Otto Fred, aged 1 year, 6 months and 24 days.

Little Otto was a very bright child, and was the life of our family. Since he has gone, the house seems empty. He was sick for three weeks, but was very patient and lay quietly in his bed. On New Year's morning he became worse, and we could but pray for his deliverance. He did not suffer much, for he was unconscious during severe spasms. At other times he would notice us, and his bright eyes would follow our movements. We laid him to rest, knowing that when Jesus comes, he will bring our dear one with him.

H. J. AND MARY SCHNEPPER.

THE BOOK WORK.

WHO WILL RESPOND?

We feel much encouraged by the results thus far as reported by those who have undertaken the sale of our small books. The librarian of the Centerville Society, Mrs. S. J. Wentworth, wrote us as follows before Christmas: "This is a mining town, and the miners have had no work for two weeks, and very little for a month or six weeks. It is wonderful how many orders we have taken when dozens of agents with other books have given up the field, after a few days' work. One lady told me she had counted twenty-six agents, and I know of ten more who have started since then." Later she writes: "I never before made so successful a delivery. The Lord has blessed us wonderfully in working with us all the way. What an honor, what an exalted privilege, to be in his company, and share in his work of love" Can any one fail to understand the secret of the success attending the efforts of these sisters?

Another sister who can only spend a few hours at the work each week writes: "I love the work, and it is a *real pleasure* to me to know that I am carrying truth to my neighbors and friends. Of course I hear the cry of hard times, but the truth is bound to prosper in spite of all that, with God's blessing." We might add the testimonies of others to these showing that the blessing of the Lord has attended those who have unselfishly in his name gone forth bearing the printed page.

Some may get the idea that now, since the holiday season is past, not much more can be accomplished until the winter is over. But while it is true that the people will buy books more readily before Christmas, there are always more outside agents in the field then than at any other time. On this point Bro C. A. Pedicord says in a recent number of the *Review*:—

I speak both from experience and observation when I say that good work can be done during the winter months. The only reason why more is not done is because of the scarcity of canvassers. What an army of strong men would be canvassing this winter if all those in our ranks who are accustomed to do a little would take up this work. Farmers could canvass their own and adjoining townships, and farm hands and others out of employment could take up this work, at least until the spring work opens.

We feel that this is especially true in farming communities. We know that there are those who now have spare time who might realize a blessing such as they have never before experienced if they would go forward, improving the present opportunity of getting our publications before the people. Some may never have a better chance. Never before has there

been such a large selection of small books from which to choose, attractive and interesting, and at the same time bearing saving truths to the people. Let us hear from those who can engage in this work. State what towns or townships you will take. We will send catalogues of our publications to those who wish them. Address either S. A Hill or Iowa Tract Society, 603 E. 12th St., Des Moines Iowa. J. V. B.

FROM THE CANVASSERS.

NETTIE LARSON, WAUKON: "I have finished the canvass of Waukon, and have made my delivery. All seemed pleased to get their books. One Catholic lady who did not have the money went out and borrowed the money of her neighbors. I truly believe that there are many honest souls here, and I hope that God will bless the seed sown."

H. F. LAMB writes from Onawa: "The Lord blessed me in delivering my books. I only lost three orders, and easily sold the books to other parties. There are several families here who are interested as a result of the camp-meeting, and through other efforts that have been made." Aside from his work in the canvassing field, Bro. Lamb reports 1000 pages reading matter given away, 6,926 loaned, and 115 periodicals distributed, last quarter. This is new work for him, as it is not many months since he learned to love the truths he is now so earnestly trying to get before the people.

CANVASSING REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING JAN. 8, 1897.

MISCELLANEOUS.

	Hours.	Orders.	Value.
Mrs. M. C. Lee, Henderson,...	8	15	\$9.00
H. C. Carmichael,			
Cedar Rapids,	21	25	13.15
E. A. Mitcheltree, Cincinnati,	52	15	6.30
Lewis Willson, Des Moines,...		1	.60
Chas. Murray,.....		17	7.00
H. G. Miller,.....	33	35	14.25
Peter Lindahl,.....			2.50

PROPHECIES OF JESUS.

Lewis Hilliard, Spencer,.....	11	2	\$3.25
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DELIVERIES.

	Books.	Value.	Lost.
Mrs. A. E. Colvin,.....	6	\$3.65	0
Inez Ginn,.....	2	1.00	0
Myrtle Brown,.....	4	2.25	0
Dora Brown,.....	10	3.80	0
Lewis Hilliard,.....	1	1.75	0
Lewis Willson,.....	6	3.60	0
Mrs. E. A. Mitcheltree,.....	10	5.10	0

SUMMARY.

No. of agents	12
" " orders	107
Value of "	\$56.05
Value of deliveries	\$20.85

To be always intending to lead a new life, but never to find time to set about it, is as if a man should put off eating and drinking from one day to another, till he is starved and destroyed.—*Tillotson.*

THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Question.—Should the superintendent appoint leaders for the children's meetings?

Answer.—Where there is a church organization, this responsibility should rest upon the church officers. Where there is no church organization, the officers of the school may very properly do this.

Question.—Is it designed that the children's monthly meeting should take the place of the weekly meeting for the children?

Answer.—Certainly not. The monthly meeting should not do away with any other service for the children. It should be held at the time of the regular church services, parents and children together taking part. This should not interfere with, nor make unnecessary, any other meetings for the children, although in a certain way it accomplishes that which meetings for the children alone cannot do.

Question.—Is it a good plan to offer picture cards to all who are not absent from the Sabbath school nor tardy during an entire quarter?

Answer.—We could not recommend such a plan. The offering of prizes or rewards of any kind brings only bad results. The members of the school should be led to see something higher in prompt and regular attendance than the securing of a prize. The blessing that comes from faithfulness in this respect is the highest reward that can be given. The following quotation from "Gospel Workers," page 408, is to the point: "We should not seek to imitate Sunday schools, nor keep up the interest by offering prizes. The offering of rewards will create rivalry, envy, and jealousy; and some who are the most diligent and worthy, will receive little credit."

Question.—When, and by what authority, was the change made in electing officers in our Sabbath schools for six months instead of three.

Answer.—At a meeting of the International Sabbath School Association, Feb. 27, 1893, the following recommendation was passed:—

Whereas, Many of our Sabbath school workers believe the present term of office of the Sabbath school officers too short to serve the best interests of the Sabbath school; therefore,—

We recommend. That the term of office in our Sabbath schools be six months instead of three as heretofore.

In harmony with the above, the Iowa State Sabbath School Association at its annual session in June, 1893, adopted the following:—

We recommend. That the schools of our State hold their election of officers once in six months, instead of quarterly as formerly; and that this plan go into effect July 1, 1893.

Workers' Bulletin.

DES MOINES, IOWA, Jan. 19, 1897.

—ELD. C. F. STEVENS has been assisting in the work at Mt. Pleasant during the past week.

—BRO. MARTIN STUCKRATH is holding a series of meetings at Klemme, Hancock county. This is about fifteen miles from the newly organized German church in Wright county.

—THE sad intelligence reaches us of the death of Bro. T. A. Darner, of Woodward, who was accidentally shot last week Monday while out hunting. The fatal wound caused his death the following day.

—MRS. R. D. E. TOPLIFF, of Davis City, spent last Tuesday night at the Home. She was returning from Chicago, having also visited her daughter, Mrs. H. V. Adams, at Prairie City, for two weeks.

—THE Iowa Tract Society has ordered the *American Sentinel* sent to each of the one hundred fifty members of both Houses during the extra session of the Iowa State Legislature, which convenes this week, Jan. 19.

—ELD. J. H. MORRISON was enabled to visit friends at Mt. Pleasant over Sabbath and Sunday last. He will visit his daughter at Fontanelle a few days, before going on to College View, Neb. Eld. Morrison has fully recovered from his recent serious illness.

—To those who have been waiting for *Bible Students' Library* No. 146 and *Religious Liberty Library* No. 42, we will say that the delay has seemed to be unavoidable. We are assured by the publishers that these tracts will now soon be ready. All orders will be filled as soon as possible.

—BRO. S. MOORE and mother, also Sister Whisler, drove from their home at Pulaski to Mt. Pleasant, a distance of sixty miles, to attend the general meeting held at the latter place. Friends from Denmark also drove across the country, and enjoyed the privileges of the meeting. Sisters Ella Caviness and May George were present from Salina.

—BRO. W. H. BOWES wrote in haste last week to tell us that he made a mistake in not ordering a club of *Signs* sufficiently large, asking that his order be doubled. We are always ready to correct such mistakes promptly. We are glad to say that orders for new *Signs* clubs are coming in from the local societies in such a way as to indicate vigorous efforts in the way of increasing the circulation of our good missionary paper.

—FROM the librarian of the Council Bluffs society comes an order for a club of the *Youth's Instructor* to the Christian Home, of that city, two of the lady members having solicited money for the same from the business men and others. This suggests a line of missionary work that might well be followed up by other local societies, where public institutions are located. By consulting the officials in these institutions, permission will usually be obtained to furnish religious reading matter to the inmates. Many honest souls, even in the county jails, may thus be reached in this way. Brethren and sisters, do not permit one copy of any of our papers to be destroyed or lie unused.

—WE urge all to subscribe for the *General Conference Bulletin*, because we feel that none of our people can afford to be without this means of keeping in touch with the message. For 50 cents you will have reports of the sermons and all the business transacted at the General Conference. The studies given during the Bible Institute held two weeks preceding the Conference will also be reported. Those who have not already subscribed must delay no longer. Address Iowa Tract Society.

—BRN. PETER LINDAHL, Burton Church, H. G. Miller, and H. B. Tilden have been assisting in the preparations for the canvassers' school, having come early for that purpose. As we go to press (Monday) the trains are bringing in others who come to attend the school.

—QUITE a number of the church clerks have not yet sent in to the Conference Secretary the report for the quarter ending December 31. We hope to receive reports from all the churches this time. Please be as prompt as possible.

—"THE man goes to bed tired who spends the day looking for an easy place."

ONE WAY OF HELPING.

KIND friends are manifesting an interest in the canvassers' school in a substantial manner. The following donations have been received: From the Afton church, 1 bbl. apples, 2 sacks corn meal, 1 box groceries; S. M. Knox; 1 sack dried apples, 1 sack corn meal, 1 sack Graham flour; J. D. Elliott, Hawleyville, \$1.00; W. A. Lunt, Clearfield, \$3.50; L. G. Pippenger, Garwin, \$5.00. Thus some of our brethren and sisters who cannot attend the school and engage personally in the work are assisting those who can attend and be fitted by the school for better service in this good cause. Are there not others who likewise want a part in this way?

TIMELY DONATIONS.

WE wish to acknowledge through the BULLETIN the receipt of the fruit, clothing, bedding, etc., that came from the churches at Winterset, Centerville, and Moravia, to the Oakwood Industrial School. The bedding came just in time. I had the last quilt in use, and five students were on their way here. Some of the teachers wanted to know what I was going to do. I felt sure that bedding would reach us in time. The money we received from the Des Moines church was a great help to us. Surely, the Lord is in this work. It is our daily prayer that when our work is done it may be well done. There are twenty five students in the Home, and some from outside are attending since Christmas. We are all of good courage in the work. We ask you to pray for this enterprise.

MRS. MARIETT JACOBS.

Huntsville, Alabama.

NOTICE.

OUR brethren and sisters throughout the State are continually paying out money for watch repairs, and in many cases the watch is in a worse condition when returned than when taken away. Bro. A. K. Hathaway, Hawkeye, Iowa, is a practical jeweler, and will do your work at rates that will pay you to send to him. He needs your patronage, and warrants his work. He is a man in whom you can place confidence, and when your work is returned to you, it will be honestly and faithfully done. In these close times it is well to remember "the household of faith."

CLARENCE SANTEE.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

UNDER this head, short business notices will be inserted at twenty-five cents per issue.

WANTED.—A place to work on a farm by an S. D. Adventist. Am a single man. Address A. E. Patrick, Hawkeye, Iowa.

APPOINTMENTS.

AFTON,	Jan. 22—25,	1897,
Creston,	" 26,	"
Corning,	" 27 28,	"
Eureka,	" 29—Feb. 2,	"
J. S. HART.		

If the Lord wills, I will meet with the following churches:—

Audubon,	Jan. 22,	1897,
Harlan,	" 24,	"
Shelby,	" 25,	"
Weston,	" 26,	"
Council Bluffs,	" 27,	"
Glenwood,	" 28,	"
Riverton,	" 30,	"

Meeting at 7 P. M. on each date. A full attendance of the members is desired.
F. L. MOODY.