



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.

GOD'S LOVE AND CARE.

Like a cradle, rocking, rocking,
Silent, peaceful, to and fro,
Like a mother's sweet looks dropping
On the little face below,—
Hangs the great earth, swinging, turning,
Jarless, noiseless, safe and slow;
Falls the light of God's face bending
Down, and watching us below.
And as feeble babes that suffer,
Toss and cry, and will not rest,
Are the ones the tender mother
Holds the closest, loves the best,—
So when we are weak and wretched,
By our sins weighed down, distressed,
Then it is that God's great patience
Holds us closest, loves us best.

—Saxe Holm.

OUR THOUGHTS.

"FINALLY, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Phil. 4:8.

The themes set before us in the above text, cover the realm of holy thought. Here is a field of meditation that is attractive to those who love the way of holiness and purity. Thoughts are such unreal, fanciful things to many people, that they are not taken very seriously. There is reason to believe that a large number of persons do not hold themselves responsible for the character of their thoughts. A careful examination of the Word of God, however, will convince anyone of the serious importance of our thoughts. It is through the grace of God that our thoughts may be disciplined to flow in the right channel, "that the words we utter may be the

right words, and that our passions and appetites may be subject to the control of reason, and the tongue be bridled against levity, and unbalanced censure, and fault-finding."

Our characters are the result of our thoughts. The great pillars in the monster caverns of earth are formed by the continual dropping of water from the roof of the cavern, and men marvel at the splendid masonry of solid rock that has been formed by the slow and silent process of nature. A single drop of water, finding its way from the surface down through the rock, deposits its sediment, and another follows it, and another, and still another, each adding its imperceptible contribution, until the icicle of stone begins to grow, ultimately reaching the rock beneath, and becomes a massive pillar.

There is a process like that going on in every one of our hearts. Each thought that stirs our emotions even for a moment, and is comparable in its insignificance to a single drop of water and its limestone deposit from the roof of the cavern, sinks into the soul, and all unconsciously makes its deposit. Other thoughts follow, and still others, until a habit of thought along a given line of reasoning arousing similar emotions, is formed, thus erecting within our hearts monuments of purpose, or pillars of ambition, that have to do with our characters forever.

Thus it happens that many individuals who have been reared under the influence of Christian society, and still retain the outward form of religion by yielding their hearts to the invasion of worldly thoughts, have permitted the soul to be built up into a fortress of worldliness, with worldly tastes, desires, and purposes. Yet this has come about unconsciously to themselves. The thoughts which we give the right of way in our hearts, very

soon come to master the will. It is the office of our thoughts to suggest, while the will is the executioner of the purpose which has already been suggested by, and meditated upon, in the thought. Jesus Christ, who knew perfectly the human heart, says: "Out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, theft, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness." You will notice that evil thoughts are at the beginning of this list; then the Saviour goes on to name the awful catalogue of evils associated with them, among which is blasphemy,—the most evil expression the tongue can utter,—and other dark sins follow.

But some will say, I cannot help evil thoughts coming into my mind. No man can build a fence around his field that will be high enough to keep the birds from flying over it, and into it; and no matter how I set myself to think about right and pure things, evil thoughts, like vagrant birds, find their way over the fence of my purpose, and annoy and trouble me.

There is truth in that, and we are not responsible for the evil thoughts that may come our way, if we do not welcome them and harbor them. As some one has said, the best Christian hearts in this world are like Solomon's ships which brought home from their foreign voyage not only silver and gold, but monkeys and peacocks. So our minds and hearts, while claiming for their cargo spiritual and heavenly meditations and purposes, will sometimes find on board, to our sorrow and regret, vain and foolish thoughts. We are responsible only for the way we treat these evil suggestions. Thoughts are like guests, they will not come often if they are not wanted. We are as much responsible for the guests

that sit down regularly at our intellectual fireside as we are for the guests who habitually come to our table, and feel at home in our family circle. The surest way of bolting the door against evil thoughts is to store the mind with meditations that are pure and good. An empty mind is a constant invitation to evil thoughts, and the mind will prey upon itself and generate evil thoughts just because it is empty. "Satan is ever ready to employ him who does not employ himself."

"It is no time now for lightness, vanity, or trifling. The scenes of this earth's history are soon to close. Minds that have been left to loose thoughts need change." "Gird up the loins of the mind." Our thoughts must be centered upon God. "Gird up." The loose dress was drawn around the body by a girdle whenever any exertion or labor was required. Hence the act of girding came to represent earnest preparation for duty, or to enter resolutely upon a thing. Faith says: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind (margin, thought or imagination) is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

L. F. STARR.

MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

The Conference Committee met in connection with the State meeting at Osceola. In planning for the winter's work a number of suggestions were made, but the carrying out of some of these will depend largely upon circumstances. Upon the distribution of labor the following recommendations were made, to be carried out as far as practicable:—

That Eld. C. A. Washburn labor in the vicinity of his home church, in Henry Co.

That Eld. E. G. Olsen labor in the vicinity of Irwin or Anita.

That Eld. J. S. Hart visit Afton and Thayer, and if the way opens, continue the work near the latter place.

That Eld. H. R. Johnson superintend the mission work at Sioux City.

That Eld. J. W. Adams return to Glenwood, and labor there and in that vicinity.

That Elds. W. B. Everhart and E. E. Gardner fulfill a promise made some time in the past, to hold meetings at Bentonsport.

That Eld. L. F. Starr remain at Osceola a short time, to follow up the interest created by the State meeting.

That Eld. H. M. J. Richards visit the Benton church.

That Eld. D. P. Gaede attend to the interest among the Germans near Olin.

That Eld. L. F. Trubey labor in the northern part of the State, probably beginning work at Bailey, Mitchell Co.

That Brn. Frank A. Washburn and Martin Henriksen continue the work at Russell and vicinity.

That F. L. Moody return to his late field of labor near Kilbourn, Van Buren Co.

That B. L. Dieffenbacher, after visiting Sandyville, hold a series of meetings at Liberty Center.

That Bro. Henry Johnson and Wm. Johnson continue the work at Perry and vicinity.

That Bro. B. E. Nicola assist in the work at Liberty Center, then hold meetings at Buck Creek, near Atlantic.

That Eld. Wm. Guthrie visit Bladensburg and Libertyville, and later hold a series of meetings at Martinsburg.

That W. E. Frederick go to Arispe, and perhaps labor for a time near Hedrick, possibly joining in the work at Martinsburg later.

That C. W. Neal visit Sharpsburg.

That Willis M. Adams follow up the interest at New London.

That J. O. Beard labor at Sac City and vicinity.

That C. A. Hansen continue his work at Council Bluffs.

That P. P. Adams labor near Glenwood.

That C. T. Adams work among the churches in Western Iowa, encouraging the sale of "Steps to Christ," and the circulation of the *Signs*.

That C. J. Buhalts and U. P. Long return to their former field of labor near Volga.

That J. W. Dorcas labor in the eastern part of the State.

That N. L. McClintock continue the colporteur work.

That N. M. Jorgensen and wife continue their work at Clinton.

That Carl Jensen, and wife return to Burlington, and later go to Ottumwa if the way opens.

That G. R. Hawkins and wife, and Minnie Beaman continue their work at Dubuque.

That Minnie Johnson return to Davenport, to be joined later by Nellie E. Knapp.

That J. C. Clemens and wife, and Lizzie Carter continue their work at Keokuk.

That Peter Lindahl connect with the mission at Sioux City.

That Thos. H. Jeys hold meetings in the vicinity of Magnolia or Albaton.

That H. L. Stenburg continue his work among the Swedes at Des Moines.

It was also voted that F. H. Chapman and John Anderson be granted a colporteur's license.

IOWA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

THE MAN AND THE HABIT.

In Two Articles.—First Article.

THERE was a man who had a habit. The habit was a pleasant, amusing creature, who, when the man's soul was weary within him, would sing, or cheer him with lively chat. It was small, of the figure of a manikin, an inch or two high; and if the man grew tired of its tricks, he would take the little creature in his hand and put it away in a small box, and resume his toil. Now, the life of the man grew more somber, and he took the manikin oftener from its resting place, and bade it amuse him. And at length so pleasant was the company of the habit that the man no longer banished it to its casket, but placed it in his bosom. The warmth of the man's bosom fostered the little creature so that it grew larger, but still the man did not find it irksome to have the habit in his bosom. But the manikin continued to grow until its height was doubled, and each day, being often exercised to please its master, its strength increased and it became more daring, coming out not alone at its master's call, but even if his mind so much as dwelt on it for a moment. Often he bade it return into his bosom, and the habit obeyed; at other times he laughed at the readiness of its appearance, and watched its antics with amusement, saying to himself, "This is my servant; if I command, the habit will surely obey."

Still the habit grew in stature and wilfulness; but so charming was its behavior, and so delightful its song, that the man grew less authoritative, saying, "It is a good creature, and would vainly cheer me, its friend and master."

Once the man said, "Thou growest a great creature, sweet habit." But the manikin drew itself up, "habit," it echoed, "I am no longer a habit, I am now a passion." Then the man grew angry at its presumption, thrust away the puppet roughly, saying, "I will not endure thy boasting."

Yet he afterward relented, and thought lovingly of the passion. "It is a kind creature," he said, "though self-willed; but I am a man and its master."—*The Vegetarian*.

FIELD REPORTS.

SIoux CITY.

We are very busy arranging the mission building here for the Master's work. Bru. Topliff and Lindahl are at present with me in the work. Bro. Rorholm has been in College View a few days, and will return this week. We have several times been asked if we were prepared to take in lodgers. We hope to be able to do so in a very few days.

We wish to acknowledge the receipt of a large box of very fine bedclothing, and other articles of clothing from the Council Bluffs church. All is very highly appreciated. May God bless the donors. Have also received one bushel of beautiful white navy beans from Bro. F. Barnes, of Sergeant Bluffs. More of the same kind of "fruit" from anyone would be a gift very much needed. Freight all goods to Sioux City, Iowa, and notify me by letter at 4037 Jefferson Ave.

H. R. JOHNSON.

THE BOOK WORK.

COURAGE.

It has been some time since I have written for the BULLETIN, and believing that all love to hear of the advancement of the message, and how the Spirit of God is working on the hearts of individuals, I want to tell you of an instance that has just come to my notice. Surely the promise of Isaiah 55:11 is a true one: "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

A few days since in my missionary correspondence, I received a letter from a lady isolated from our people, in a distant State, asking the privilege of selling a package of the missionary goods, and she stated that she was brought up in our county. So my curiosity was aroused to know how she received the truth, and to-day I have the desired information, as follows:—

When I was sixteen years old my father gave me \$1.00 for a birthday present, and said he would leave it to my own judgment as to what to buy with it. I went to teaching school in the spring that I was 18 years old, and did not spend it. I taught school for five years, and married a Mr. W. of this State. I kept house, had two little boys, and still had my dollar, holding it to buy something I admired, and also something that I could keep for a keepsake. Who should come along one day but a book agent selling 'Bible Readings.' I admired the book from what

I saw of it, and put my dollar I had kept for ten years into it. Imagine my surprise to discover it to be an Adventist book. I was raised a Presbyterian. I kept the book put away most of the time, till four years ago, when I got lonesome and felt a little discouraged on having to move to a strange neighborhood. I got out the book and commenced to read. This was in December, and on February 23 I kept my first Sabbath Praise God for his silent ways of working. My people are all Presbyterians. I stand all alone in my father's family.

Wishing you much success and the blessing of God, I remain,

Your Sister,
MRS. G. WEBB.

From this we can see that the Lord will in his own good time search out the honest in heart, and prepare them for an abiding place in his everlasting kingdom. So, brother canvasser, take courage, courage. God will bless the seed you sow, abundantly.

C. W. SMOUSE.

CANVASSING REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOV. 18, 1898.

PROPHECIES OF JESUS.			
	Hrs.	Ord.	Val.
Lewis Hilliard, Spencer.....	24	7	\$12.25
Burton Church, Cedar Falls.....	24	2	3.50
THE COMING KING.			
H. B. Tilden, Eddyville.....	47	24	\$24.00
Pearl D. Bascom, Cedar Rapids..	21	6	6.50
Sarah Duerksen, ".....	15	8	8.00
Anna Duerksen, ".....	18	2	2.00
Cathinka Henriksen, Spirit Lake, 6	5	5	5.00
Lula French, Afton.....	13	0	0
P. W. Atkinson, Laurens.....	28	8	8.00
Carl Rasmussen, Mason City....	34	7	7.25
S. B. Kephart, Stuart.....	26	6	7.50
DESIRE OF AGES.			
H. F. Lamb, Onawa.....	20	5	\$21.00
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Elsie Fulton, Bladensburg.....	3	7	\$3.50
DELIVERIES.			
	Books.	Value.	Lost.
Carl Rasmussen.....	1	\$1.75	0
P. W. Atkinson.....	1	1.00	0
Sarah Duerksen.....	4	4.00	2
Pearl D. Bascom.....	2	2.00	0
Ethan A. Brown.....	5	8.50	0
SUMMARY.			
No. of agents.....			14
" " orders.....			87
Value of ".....			\$108.50
" " helps sold.....			\$18.10
Total value.....			\$126.60
Value of deliveries.....			\$17.25

"No gardener's hand protects or cultivates the lily of the field, yet through divine nurture it springs up into a beauty surpassing that of Solomon's kingdom. In all this, care is bestowed upon objects that exist only for a few days. How much more will He care for his children made in His own image, redeemed by the blood of His own Son, and made heirs of immortality?"

"LET others see Christ in you, moving, speaking, and thinking. Your actions will speak of him if he be in you."

THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

CONDUCTED BY MRS. JESSIE L. ADAMS.

OSCEOLA AND STATE MEETING SABBATH-SCHOOL.

Held Nov. 19, 1898.

SCHOOL opened with song, and a fervent prayer was offered by Eld C. A. Washburn. After singing "More to Do," Eld. Starr gave a very interesting talk on our Sabbath-school contributions, and also showed that many are perishing because of our negligence. The work is one. While we sang "Lift Him up, This Precious Saviour," the collection was taken, amounting to \$6.94. This was followed by the general review, conducted by Willis M. Adams. He traced the experience of Jacob from the receiving of the blessing until the days of his son Joseph. Jacob received the blessing through deception, and for twenty years deception was practiced upon him. "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." Jacob's name was changed to Israel, "a prevailer with God." Is our name Israel? The ready response to the questions, revealed the fact that the lessons have been studied.

For convenience, the senior division was in one class during the recitation, Eld. J. O. Corliss acting as teacher. The lesson of Joseph is one of great importance to us. He had a work to do for God, and he chose to serve him even though it brought to him trial and hardship. We will be tried and proven, as were those in times past, and we may be able to do work for God even behind prison bars. We cannot depend upon man, but God will deliver in his own good time. "Though he tarry, wait for him."

Sister Hawkins and Sister Chitty had charge of the children's department, and reported a good interest and a profitable season together. The total number present was 109. After the reading of the secretary's report, school closed with song.

MRS. FLORA V. DORCAS, Supt.

MINNIE BEAMAN, Sec.

CARL LEINBAUM, of Burlington, sends \$1.40 to the India Mission. This is the result of an onion missionary garden that must have been faithfully cared for to yield that amount.

"A WELL-DIRECTED question is like a pebble thrown into a pool. The pebble agitates the stagnant water. The question rouses the stagnant mind."

DES MOINES, IOWA, Nov. 29, 1898.

—MR. AND MRS. B. E. FULLMER attended the general meeting at Atlantic.

—MRS. CARRIE SHEPHERD, of Altoona, attended services in Des Moines last Sabbath.

—BRO. DANIEL FITCH, formerly typesetter on the BULLETIN, is now working in Chicago on *The Life Boat*.

—ELD. CLARENCE SANTEE and Dr. R. H. Habenicht attended the dedicatory services at Atlantic last Sabbath.

—MISS NELLIE E. KNAPP has returned to her work in Davenport, after a vacation of several weeks with friends in Illinois.

—BRO. J. C. CLEMENS, after visiting Traer during the special season of prayer, returned to Keokuk the first of the week.

—MISS EMMA BEAMAN, who is teaching school at Dallas Center, spent her Thanksgiving vacation at Des Moines, attending the week-of-prayer services.

—ELD. H. M. J. RICHARDS was with the Benton company over Sabbath, but attended the dedicatory services at Atlantic on Sunday, and will remain there for a few days.

—ONE of our workers writes that he thinks he can sell 1,000 copies of the Quarter-Centennial edition of the *Signs*. He has ordered that number, and is planning an aggressive campaign for it, in several of our largest interior towns.

—ELD. F. L. MEAD, to whom we have sent the BULLETIN ever since his active labor in our State, writes: "I write to thank you for your continued kindness in sending me your State paper so long, and to ask you in behalf of the Matabele Mission, to continue this favor. If all is well, our company will leave New York, November 30."

—BRO. T. S. JACKSON has been soliciting in Clinton in behalf of the Good Cheer Mission, in that city. The Lord is surely moving upon the hearts of the people of that place, for the first day Bro. Jackson was out he got \$40.00. One of the lumber dealers donated \$5.00 and three loads of wood. His clerk gave \$5.00 unsolicited. The cracker factory gave \$5.00 worth of crackers. There is quite a good attendance at the evening meetings.

—SINCE the announcement of the plan for building a Sanitarium in Des Moines, a number of donations have been made to the enterprise. Almost a sufficient amount has been pledged to warrant the commencement of the work, and this week the first steps will probably be taken toward active work. We feel sure that when the work has been begun, it will not be allowed to lag. What is most needed now is ready means with which to begin the work of building. All who can do so, should send in their donations at once. Some will be able to pay a part of their pledge now. Send all cash for this enterprise to the Iowa Tract Society, 603 E. 12th St., Des Moines, Iowa. We will give credit through the BULLETIN for all amounts received.

—PLANS are laid by which the Quarter-Centennial issue of the *Signs* will be sent to all newspapers published in our State. This is done at considerable cost to the Conference, but it will undoubtedly be the means of securing special press mention of the paper, in the secular newspapers, and it will thus help the sale of it. Let each one who loves the cause put his shoulder to the wheel, and help give Iowa a copious shower of truth by using as many of this 1,000,000 edition of the *Signs* as possible.

—THE friends at Council Bluffs are planning to open up a church school this winter, if possible. The basement of their church affords a very convenient place in which to hold the school, and the members there are intensely in earnest in the matter. Before such determination the obstacles are bound to melt away.

—LAST Friday, orders for 2,495 copies of the Quarter-Centennial number of the *Signs* were sent from this Office to the publishers, and still the orders are coming in. The best time to use these papers is the last of December and first of January, so please do not delay longer, but send in your order at once.

—READ "What God Hath Wrought by Us," in another column. Is your report a part of that? If so, it is simply an offering of praise to "God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

—BRO. T. C. DELYON, who has for some time been laboring among the colored people in Des Moines and Marquisville, goes this week to Missouri, where he will work for a time among his relatives.

—ELD. CLARENCE SANTEE visited College View the first of the week.

—DR. R. H. HABENICHT visited Moadle after the close of the meeting at Atlantic.

—ELD. J. W. ADAMS passed through Des Moines Monday, on his way to State Center.

BEACON LIGHT MISSION.

WITH the coming of the cold weather, the needs of the mission become more manifest, and we are now able to place the needs before the friends of this work. Provisions, etc., are always acceptable, and can now be used to good advantage, but we are more in need of bedding. We are fitting up several more beds to accommodate our increase of lodgers, and we have need of comforts, sheets, and pillowcases. Send articles, prepaid, to Iowa Tract Society, and shipping bill to 603 E. 12th St., Des Moines, Iowa.

B. E. FULLMER.

"WHAT GOD HATH WROUGHT BY US."

Report for Quarter Ending September 30, 1898.

No. of societies.....	122
" " " reporting.....	112
" " members reporting.....	891
" " letters written.....	675
" " letters received.....	405
" " Bible readings held.....	713
" " subscriptions for periodicals.....	228
" " periodicals distributed.....	39,917
" " pp. reading matter distributed.....	391,786
" " missionary visits made.....	2,404
" " hours spent in Christian Help work.....	3,301
" " persons supplied with clothing.....	825
" " " " " food.....	501

The Belmont society was reorganized during the quarter, and the following four new societies added to the list: Floyd, Laurens, Orient, Pella. Fifty-nine reports were received by the State society from isolated individuals and members of small Sabbath-schools. These had written 52 letters, received 39 letters, held 39 Bible readings, took 23 subscriptions for periodicals, distributed 3,221 papers and 31,684 pages of books and tracts, made 112 missionary visits, and supplied 16 persons with food. A number of the societies and members report boxes of food and clothing shipped to different missions.

We are glad to note that our quarterly report still continues to show an increase of work done. 100,000 more pages of reading matter distributed is reported than was reported last quarter. A number of the other items show a marked increase. In presenting this, we only acknowledge the goodness of God in working through us to his honor and glory.

MRS. L. FLORA PLUMMER, Cor. Sec.