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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.

IN THE HIGHWAYS AND HEDGES.

We all understand that the last call of the message is now going to those who are spoken of in Luke 14:23, as being in the highways and hedges. Through the city mission work, by the efforts of the Christian Help bands, and in various other ways, the poor, the outcasts, and the desperately wicked, are hearing the good news of the gospel and the soon coming kingdom. But some who are of this class are behind prison bars, and many are in our poorhouses. In some way these precious souls must receive the light.

With the idea of filling this hitherto unoccupied field, the Iowa Tract Society has begun a systematic effort to place our literature in the jails and poorhouses in each of the ninety-nine counties of the State. The sum of money required for this, and the amount of work to be done in order to carry it through, seemed at first to make the whole plan impossible; but the Lord has so abundantly blessed, and the response from our brethren and sisters has been so prompt and hearty, that the success of it seems now assured. As this work has been carried on wholly by correspondence, it may be well to give an outline of the plan for the benefit of the BULLETIN readers.

The papers chosen for this work are the *Life Boat*, which seems particularly adapted to work of this kind; the *Instructor*, with its variety of reading

suitable for the old and young; and of course, the *Signs*, our pioneer paper. The correspondence and mailing of the papers is done by the State Society, and the local societies are asked to pay for the supply of papers. By taking such large clubs of these papers, they are furnished at very low rates; so that the cost of sending the papers to one jail and one poorhouse in a county is but \$2.60 for the year. We have now heard from eighty societies, each assuming the responsibility of paying for one county, so that these papers are now going regularly each week into the jails and poorhouses of eighty counties in Iowa.

We have taken every possible precaution against the papers being destroyed or used carelessly. The names of the jailers, and the stewards of the poor farms, have been secured, and we have their permission to send the papers, and their assurance that they will be properly cared for. We can not but believe that the Lord has opened the way for this work to be done; for we have received more than a hundred letters from persons in charge of these institutions, and not a single unfavorable reply. The following extracts give a fair idea of them all:—

I shall be pleased to receive religious literature from the Iowa Tract Society, and will distribute the same among the inmates of our jail. I hope to receive literature from you from time to time.

Your papers have been received and placed in our jail. You can depend upon it that they will receive attention. I hope that you will be rewarded for your good work to the unfortunate.

I shall be glad to see such papers as you send placed in the hands of our prisoners; for I believe such reading matter will be productive of great good among them.

You ask me to place in the hands of the inmates of the poorhouse your reading matter. As long as it is as pure as the samples you send, I shall feel free to do so, and believe that in so doing I will be doing God's service. Let me assure you that they will do much good here in this humble home.

I shall be pleased to give the prisoners any reading matter you may see fit to send, and I think that they will be glad to receive it, as we do not have a library in connection with our jail, and the Board will not furnish anything in that line.

I shall be glad to give you all the assistance I can. Yours is a good work, and it is certainly a work that has been neglected. While our churches contribute liberally toward the betterment of the condition of the heathen abroad, they seem to forget the poor unfortunates confined in our jails, shut out from both the light of the sun and of the gospel.

Your papers are very welcome, and we will comply with your wishes.

The people in the poorhouse gladly receive the papers, and seem to enjoy reading them.

There are many old people here, and they like to read the papers.

We receive your papers each week, and our readers enjoy them. One week we received a German paper. We gave it to an old man we have here, and he said it was very good. He asked us to get him some more copies. If not too much trouble, will you please send one once in a while for him?

Can not some of our German brethren send us a donation that will enable us to add the *Hausfreund* to the package of papers that goes to that poorhouse each week?

As stated above, we now have eighty counties provided for, but the perplexing question is, What shall we do for the nineteen that are yet unsupplied? Every time we think of these counties, a statement in one of the latest published Testimonies comes to our mind: "No district is to be neglected. Any region that is left in darkness testifies to our unfaithfulness." We are sure that some have done all that they should in contributing to this work, but have all done so? In the light of the above quotation we feel that we should not be clear if we did not place this matter before our people, and we believe the Lord will move upon hearts so that "no district" shall be neglected in this work. We shall be glad to receive the amount for one county from churches, societies, or individuals; but if that seems too large a sum, send the dimes,

nickels, and pennies, stating what it is for, and the Lord will surely accept it as given unto him.

MRS. L. F. P.

MT. PLEASANT CHURCH SCHOOL.

I NOTICED an item in a recent number of the WORKERS' BULLETIN stating that Mt. Pleasant had started a church school. This school is now on its fourth week, and was moved Feb. 6 to a new place, where we can have more room.

Last summer while engaged in tent labor I read a tract called "Home, Church, and State Schools," and since that time have been studying this question. Not having an opportunity to talk much with the members of the church about this matter till after returning home from tent labor, we were late in commencing this line of work. We had correspondence with Prof. E. A. Sutherland, of Battle Creek, Mich., also with the President of the Iowa Conference, and very soon decided to start the school, providing Bro. Sutherland could send us a teacher capable of teaching high school studies, as well as common-school branches. Bro. Sutherland arranged with Prof. J. J. Thomas, from Battle Creek, Mich. (formerly from Ohio), to come to Mt. Pleasant and take charge of our church school for the remainder of this school year. Bro. Thomas started in with about twenty, but the attendance has increased to twenty-eight, with a prospect of others coming in to join in the school work before very long.

It seems good to have a school where the Bible can be used as an important study, and brought into all the school work, with no one to find fault, or to be displeased about it. Already good fruits are seen as a result, with the added blessing of the Lord. A few days ago, during school hours, several who had never started in the service of the Lord before, expressed themselves as desirous to live a Christian life.

Parents who live not far from us who have children whom they would like to send to this school, should correspond with us about it. Address as below.

C. A. WASHBURN,

Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

FIELD REPORTS.

MCINTIRE.

As stated in last week's BULLETIN, Eld. Trubey and myself began meetings in McIntire on Sunday evening, Feb. 12. The attendance has averaged one hundred or more, and the best of attention has been given to the spoken word. This place is only two miles from Bailey, and some of those who attended the Bailey meetings are present each evening. A meeting is held each Sabbath at Bailey, and in addition to that Eld. Trubey preaches there on each alternate Sunday. We are asking the Lord to help us sow the precious seed with all diligence, and to water it with care, so that he can add his blessing and cause it to grow. We ask you to remember the work at McIntire and Bailey in your prayers.

J. O. BEARD.

Feb. 17.

THE GERMAN WORK.

AFTER our good State meeting at Osceola, I went to Muscatine and staid through the week of prayer, and continued the work there for two weeks. I visited from house to house, and tried to work up an interest in active missionary work. As the members are scattered in all parts of the city, we organized the church into three bands, each holding weekly prayer-meetings. Some sheep had strayed from the fold, but by the grace of God we were privileged to see them come back. The Spirit of the Lord was with us in a marked manner. Sins were confessed, and we all felt that this was a good place to be.

It was decided for Bro. Schnepfer and me to go to Olin, but the Lord's ways are different from ours. The example of our German brethren living at Middletown, and the tent meetings held there by Eld. Washburn and Bro. Adams, had awakened an interest to hear the truth, in the minds of the Germans there. From Dec. 8, 1898, to Jan. 20, 1899, I held meetings at a place five miles south-west of Middletown. In spite of all the existing prejudice, the like of which I have hardly seen before, the Lord opened schoolhouses and private houses in which to present the truth. I have not seen much visible results as yet, but I am sure the Lord is working mightily. Some are at the deciding point, but as the Germans are slow to act, we will need to have patience. Public sentiment in regard

to the truth has changed decidedly in that vicinity.

Jan. 23, I began meetings four miles north of Middletown. The Lord was graciously pleased to open up a way for me here. I was successful in getting the use of the Union church, which is located right in the center of the German settlement. In spite of all the cold weather, I have had a fair congregation every night. The first night I hardly expected any one out, on account of the snow storm we had that day; but I was surprised to see about one hundred fifty people present. The next night a larger number were present, and some evenings there have been two hundred in attendance. The interest is very good. Bro. George Ebel is helping me. We cannot accept all the invitations we have to visit the people. It is now three weeks since we began here, and we have reached the testing truths. We ask the prayers of all the BULLETIN friends. Our hope and courage in the Lord are good.

D. P. GAEDE.

BUCK CREEK SCHOOLHOUSE.

THIS place is six miles north of Atlantic, I came here first in the autumn of '86 under contract to perform, for my first attempt, the duties of a pedagogue. During my two years' stay in this capacity, I came to feel very much at home among the people of the community, and have regarded them as above the average for a country community. I have always been anxious that the message should be presented to them, and so was pleased to respond to the appointment at the State meeting, to return to this place once more as a teacher,—this time of a message from the Bible. But they seem to have less confidence in their old schoolmaster to teach them eternal truth than to teach them books. Yet all my old friends, I think, paid me the honor of their presence once or twice from courtesy, or curiosity to hear me preach. Two other difficulties made it a hard field. The M. E. church is in an unusually prosperous condition, and the society is congenial, from which it is hard to separate. Then, as the truth has been preached in Atlantic and other places near, the sentiment prevailed that to stay away was the easiest way of keeping from becoming bothered over these things. So our attendance was small; but a few representative ones came regularly,

"BETWEEN a gratitude which sings hymns and a gratitude which does something to lift up a fellow man, there can be no question which is the better."

and of these two families have taken their stand with us to keep the commandments. These, with Bro. Wm. Carter's family, already in the district, make a pleasant Sabbath-school. The work in this place was a source of great encouragement to me, and I enjoyed an unusual degree of the blessing and communion of the Holy Spirit. The assistance of Elds. Olsøn and Richards, who were each present at one service, was appreciated by all.

In company with Bro. C. W. Neal I have just commenced a new series of meetings at Lorah, six miles east of Buck Creek.

B. E. NICOLA.

THE BOOK WORK.

SEEDTIME AND HARVEST.

Ours the seedtime, God alone
Beholds the end of what is sown;
Beyond our vision, weak and dim,
The harvest time is hid with Him.
—Whittier.

"STEPS TO CHRIST."

If the special mission of "Steps to Christ" is to help the inquirer to find not only the people but the person through whom the Spirit of God is speaking, additional importance is attached to its circulation. The nature of the matter it contains, together with the low price asked, gives it a more ready sale than any other of the author's works. How best can the book be sold? To those who can devote their time to this work, we say, Read a few paragraphs from the different headings, to show the nature of the reading in it. Your aim should be to give the people a *taste* of the good it contains, and this can be done in a few minutes. If we approach them in the spirit of the Master, our efforts will not be lost. The sale of a book does not necessarily follow a proper presentation of it. Some do not desire to learn more about Jesus, but those who do, will avail themselves of the opportunity.

I spent about two hours, a few weeks ago, making six calls and selling six "Steps." After I got started, about all I did was to go where those who had bought the book asked me to go, reading a few selections from the book. I am sure that God is opening the way for the introduction of this book in many homes. One of these calls was made at a milliner store. I asked the lady on entering if she could give me just a few moments, which she consented to do. I read to her three or four

paragraphs from the book, after which she gave me her order, saying, "If you had brought around any other kind of a book, I would not have bought it." I called at another home where they already had the book. There I met a minister's wife, who said she didn't "take any stock in Mrs. Ellen G. White's works." To this the lady of the house replied, with emphasis, "'Steps to Christ' is a good book."

Any of our people who have "a mind to work" can place "Steps" in the hands of their friends. One aged sister went out recently, and in a short time sold a dozen books among her neighbors. A very successful way to sell the book, and one that can be used by the busiest people, is to hand it out, kindly asking that it be read. It will speak for itself. May God especially bless those who engage in selling this book.

C. T. ADAMS.

ADDITIONAL cash donations were received for the canvassers' school last week from Soren Christenson, \$5.00; Peter Knudsen, \$1.00. We also acknowledge the receipt of a box of provision from the Osage church, and a box of fruit and beans from the Eddyville church, and "a friend" has sent a sack of flour and one bushel of beans.

DURING the canvassers' school our regular weekly reports will not appear. Bro. Chas. A. Schultz is still in the field, and reports for week ending Feb. 10: 20 hours' work, 5 orders; value, \$11.75; helps sold, \$1.50.

THE SABBATH-SCHOOL.

CONDUCTED BY MRS. JESSIE L. ADAMS.

*PUNCTUALITY AND REGULARITY.

(Concluded.)

BUT suppose it is impossible to be on time. I should then say, Recognize it as a necessary evil, and do the next best thing. An excellent way, and one which can be commended in the present management of our school, is to have a sentinel stationed at the rear door, and ask all those who are late to step into the room at the rear, which is always warm. But suppose the church has not such facilities? Then ask them to take seats in the back part of the room until the time comes when they may go to their right places without annoying half those who are in attendance.

Our adversary is always on time; with wonderful precision does he meet

all his appointments, and also takes time to go where his presence is not desired. Whoever heard of a soul being saved because Satan was too late to put in his resistance to the Spirit of God? Therefore we should be on time, lest the enemy beat us, and get in his work, which will be hard for us to controvert.

No one desires to rob God. But something might be said which some poor soul needs to cheer and comfort him along this thorny way, and by coming in late you rob this brother of the blessing, and also rob God of the opportunity of giving him the blessing.

When the sons of God presented themselves before the Lord, we have no record of any being absent. When Israel was prompt to obey the teachings of God, behold what unity there was, and how well they prospered.

Our God is a God of order, a God of regularity, a God of promptness. Let us follow his example. Why is it that we trust so implicitly in the prophecies? Is it not because all have been fulfilled regularly and in their appointed time? Has not our God been proved on that point? No one would dare answer in the negative. Although for six thousand years the earth has reeled under the drunkenness of sin, and although man for six thousand years has been in rebellion against God, yet he regularly sends his blessings for the sake of man. Seed time and harvest have come in their appointed time, and so they will until the close of time. The Lord changes not. The God of Adam is the God of to-day, and the God of eternity. He who watches the sparrows, controls the universe. It is his all-controlling power which causes the worlds to move in their infinite majesty. It is He who holds the countless shining suns, and their planetary systems, so as to work so harmoniously, one with the other. Such order, such regularity, such promptness, such exactness, is beyond the human mind to contemplate. Brethren, let us make a little stronger effort to be like our God in regularity and punctuality.

[*A yman Graham at the Convention held in Des Moines.]

"It is sometimes discouraging to tell the truth only to discover that you are not believed. But Time always reveals truth as well as falsehood."

"HE who carries the shield of faith, has the Lord Almighty for his refuge."

Workers' Bulletin.

DES MOINES, IOWA, FEB. 21, 1899.

—"It is not great learning, but a new life, that gives entrance into the kingdom of God."

—BRO. B. L. DIEFFENBACHER began a series of meetings in the S. D. A. church at Algona last Friday evening.

—BRO. CHAS. J. BUHALTS is holding meetings at Osborne, Clayton county, and reports a good attendance and interest.

—BRO. J. M. CARTWRIGHT and his brother, J. A. Cartwright, both of Pilot Mound, came to Des Moines Monday, and are donating a week's work on the new Sanitarium.

—DR. MARY FREDERICK has returned from Hedrick, where she was called by the serious illness of Bro. and Sister W. E. Frederick's child. The little one is now apparently out of danger, and recovering.

—PROF. AND MRS. F. E. PLUMMER left this city last Sunday evening for Columbus, Ohio, to be present at an educational meeting to be held at that place. Sister Plummer will visit her parents at Pennville, Indiana, before returning.

—We are glad to report progress in the work on the new Sanitarium building. During the few pleasant days of last week the brick masons were busy, and the foundation wall of the basement is now completed, and ready for the superstructure. If the weather continues favorable, the framework will soon be in place.

—MARRIED.—On the evening of Feb. 6, at the home of our workers in Dubuque, Bro. Fred Scharf and Sister Christine Fischer were united in marriage, Eld. D. P. Gaede officiating. They have both been engaged in the canvassing field, and now plan to engage unitedly in the circulation of German literature. We wish for them a life of increased usefulness.

—HAVE all the people in your community had the opportunity of reading the quarter-centennial number of the *Signs*? If not, has not some one a duty yet to perform? If all your home territory has been canvassed, can you not enter new territory farther away from home? The matter in this paper is just as interesting to new readers as when first issued. Price 5 cents per copy. Order of Iowa Tract Society.

—THE *Sentinel* of Feb. 16 has been prepared by the publishers, with special care, for general circulation, and they have printed several thousand extra copies. It has for its frontispiece a striking illustration of the present attitude of the United States as related to the Philippines and Hawaii. The statement was made several years ago that this republic would "yet repudiate every principle of republican government." Do we realize how rapidly current events are fulfilling this prophetic utterance? This special number of the *Sentinel* is one of the means offered us to use in calling the attention of the people about us to the crisis that is right upon us. Will you not improve the opportunity? Price one cent per copy. Order of the Iowa Tract Society.

—THIS is what an Iowa paper, the *Lawler Dispatch*, says of the quarter-centennial number of the *Signs*: "We are in receipt of a copy of the quarter-centennial number of the *Signs of the Times*, published by the Pacific Press Publishing Company, of Oakland, Cal. The twenty-fifth milestone in the life of this excellent publication is celebrated by the management by the issue of a thirty-two-page edition, in an illuminated cover, and printed on book paper. As a family paper the *Signs of the Times* stands second to none."

—"THREE SABBATHS" is the title of No. 58 *Apples of Gold Library*. The author, Eld. E. J. Waggoner, explains the above title thus: "One can speak of sabbaths is the plural as one can speak of many gods. 'There is no God but one.'" Its subtitles are: The Lord's Sabbath, The Jewish Sabbath, and the Papal Sabbath, and the distinctions are clearly made. You will enjoy reading it, and gain new thoughts therefrom. Price 1 cent per copy.

—IN the article from Dubuque last week it should have been stated that there were seventeen hundred cases of *la grippe* reported by the doctors at the beginning of the year, instead of seventeen.

—WE quote the following from a private letter received from one of the Dubuque workers: "Our interest is the best we have ever seen in this city. We are all of good courage."

—MISS EMMA BEAMAN, who is teaching school at Dallas Center, again met with the Des Moines church last Sabbath, after a long absence.

—MRS. T. C. DAVIS, of this city, was called to Kansas last week by the death of her aged mother.

—MRS. S. A. NOLAND, of Cedar Falls, visited relatives in Des Moines last week, going from here to Winterset.

—SISTER IDA CHURCH was obliged to leave the canvassers' school on account of the condition of her health. She went home Monday accompanied by her brother Burton.

—SINCE the opening of the canvassers' school the following new students have been enrolled: Arthur French, Arthur Rhoads, C. F. Robinson, Dora Rasmussen, Elmer Cox, George Cox, Nellie Cox, Anna Noland, and A. S. McCutchen. Our State Agent reports an excellent interest in the school, and it is the earnest desire that the Spirit of God may direct in everything.

—THE Des Moines Christian Help Band wishes us to acknowledge the receipt of a box of supplies from Fayette, weighing one hundred thirty pounds. Members of the Mt. Pleasant church also send twenty-seven pounds of dried corn and three comfortables for the Beacon Light Mission. These are all very acceptable, and will be distributed among the needy to the best judgment of those in charge of this work. But new calls for help are coming in each week, and the Band is largely dependent upon our brethren and sisters for still further help in meeting them. So they must still appeal to you for an expression of your sympathy in a material way. All supplies will be very gratefully received, and should be addressed to the Iowa Tract Society.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

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

WANTED.—By a married man, a position among S. D. Adventists as a stationary engineer, or a place on a farm by the month. References furnished. Address box 194, Monroe, Iowa.

WANTED.—By a young man familiar with farm work, a place for the coming season with a Seventh-day Adventist farmer. State wages, etc. Address Ira D. Brockman, Box 97, Anita, Iowa.

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