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The West Michigan Herald.

"Watchman, What of the Night."

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THE WEST MICHIGAN HERALD.

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Evangelical.

The Solemnity of the Present Hour.

Another year has passed away. As we stand in the doorway of 1904, what emotions thrill the heart, and what thronging, throbbing queries present themselves for solution? What will 1904 bring to us? What will it bring to us as a people? What will it bring to us as individuals? These are the queries that force themselves upon our attention as we enter the portals of this new division of time. But resolve the problems as we may, no answers can we present as solutions. As in the past, time has worked out its own problems, so must it continue to do for the future. It is for us to stand patiently by and watch the process, committing in faith and trust our ways to Him in whose hands are the adjustment of all questions and the molding of all destinies.

We know this, that we are living in the most solemn, and yet withal the grandest and most inspiring age of the earth's history. Every moment is fraught with solemn emphasis and import. Prophecy is rapidly fulfilling, history is rapidly making. The coming of the Lord for which we have so long watched and waited is now at hand. The horizon, which before was dim and hazy, is now beginning to gleam and brighten with the rising rays of the Sun of Righteousness.

The rapidly shaping events of the past few months are but premonitory of the rapidity with which future history will be made. In

the religious, political, social and physical worlds we see that which indicates the close proximity of the end of all things. Disturbances by sea and land, in earthquakes, tornadoes, shipwreck, and disaster indicate that the old earth is groaning under the curse and that these are but the death-throes of speedy dissolution. The nations are rife for conflict, and every month makes more tense and taut the cords whereby they are held back from actual strife. In the religious world stir and activity are apparant everywhere. "The 'confederacy' of Isa. 8:9-12 embraces in its folds the great mass of professed Christianity. Power from the state is now greedily sought for. In our own nation during the last few months this clamoring has taken a definite form. We find the three departments of our government—the executive, legislative and judicial—committing themselves to religious legislation, and thus severing the links which have bound us to equality and religious rights, and forging the chains which unite the nation to the beast, the papal power of Rome.

When we come to realize that our nation has indeed repudiated its principles of the past, those principles which have upbuilt and given to it its character and stability, and has taken the fatal step foretold by the prophetic seer, the making of an image to the power of Rome, the thought is indeed most startling, and should arouse in every soul such eagerness and energy as were never before manifested. What developments 1904 will bring to us is not ours to predict. We know, however, from the revealings of the Spirit, that startling things are before us.

But while the power of evil has increased, the truth of God is cor-

respondingly moving forward. Light and life and power from above are descending upon God's people. The loud cry of the third angel has begun. The message is sounding, and going with an energy and power never before witnessed. God is fitting His people to stand in the time of trouble just ahead. The watchword now is "Forward." Pass it down the line. Let it ring in clarion tones in the ears of every soldier of Jesus. A fierce battle is just ahead. But thanks to God, victory is already assured through faith.

There should be no wavering or faltering now. Let none hang back in coldness or indifference. Let ease give place to energy, coldness to warmth, hate to love, cowardice to courage. Self must die. Envy and strife must be suppressed. Brotherly love, unity, harmony, faith, courage and zeal must now characterize our every action. The question that confronts us is one of life or death to every soul. From a finite standpoint the outlook is most gloomy, but in God it is all light, victory and triumph.

What will 1904 bring to you, dear reader? Will it bring failure and defeat? In God's grace it may be a year of consecration, a year of victorious achievements. Dedicate your all to him. Live for Him and through Him day by day and moment by moment, and fear not for the outcome. Victory will turn on Zion's side, and a daily walk with Jesus will insure you triumph with the truth of God a little way ahead.

By prayer we invite Jesus into our hearts; by prayer we keep him there; by prayer we close the doors of our hearts against Satan and the world; by prayer we still waves of passion, and woo the angel of peace; by prayer we turn our trials to blessings, and our weakness becomes strength.

Educational.

The Young People's Convention.

Since the first announcement of the Young People's convention, our young people have looked forward with much anticipation to this occasion, and many prayers have ascended to heaven for the progress of the work, which have been heard and abundantly answered. The delegates began to arrive early Thursday morning, December 31, and in the evening the register showed seventy-five names.

Promptly at 7 p. m. all met in the Tabernacle vestries where the members of the Battle Creek Young People's Society had the pleasure of meeting and giving the friendly hand shake to the visiting delegates. At 8 o'clock all assembled in the Auditorium for the evening program. All enjoyed the music and listened with interest to the addresses of welcome given by O. R. Staines in behalf of the Battle Creek Young People's Society, R. A. Hart in behalf of the Battle Creek church, and D. W. Reavis in behalf of the Conference Committee. Responses were made by J. B. Blosser, J. H. Haughey, E. K. Slade of the East Michigan Conference, and J. J. Irwin of the North Michigan Conference. Elder Luther Warren then gave a few timely remarks and sounded very earnestly the "key-note" of the convention, "Time is Short."

New Year's morning dawned bright and clear and all participated heartily in the exercises of the day. We were glad to welcome others who were not able to reach the city Thursday, which increased our roll of visiting delegates to one hundred and twelve. At 9 o'clock Elder Luther Warren conducted the bible study. After a short recess the educational work received consideration. "The Need of a Training," "The Way to Obtain It," "Our Many Advantages," and "The Call to the Youth," are topics which were carefully discussed by Dr. J. H. Waggoner, Elder Luther Warren, Elder E. K.

Slade, Prof. J. G. Lamson and others.

Early in the afternoon the visiting delegates were very heartily received at the Haskell Home, American Medical Missionary College and the Sanitarium. At the beginning of the Sabbath all assembled in the Sanitarium gymnasium for "Vespers." W. S. Saddler occupied the early evening hour, making a very practical application of that familiar expression "Consecration." The chairman, H. E. Osborne, then gave opportunity for expression from any who found it in their hearts to make this consecration of their all to the Master's service, which met with a very hearty response. It was a pleasing sight that presented itself to our view at the close of the discourse as we saw about one hundred and fifty anxious willing souls gathered in the east vestry, seeking for victory and power over sin and the enemy. Hearts weighted with care and bound by the snares of the enemy found peace as they consecrated their lives for service, and the sweet spirit of God came very near to strengthen.

Sabbath morning the visiting delegates met with the Battle Creek Sabbath School, participating in the exercises of the hour. At 11 o'clock Prof. J. G. Lamson gave a very impressive sermon on "The Pioneers." At 3 o'clock p. m. the Tabernacle was again well filled to listen to Elder Luther Warren. The Spirit of God witnessed in a rich measure the word spoken, and as they heard the call of "Volunteers for Service" hearts were consecrated to the work, willing to follow God's voice wherever he may call.

Sunday was also a busy day in the work of the Convention. After the early morning Bible study, conducted by Elder Warren, the Educational and Medical work was taken up by Prof. E. A. Sutherland, Elder S. M. Butler, Elder Warren, Prof. J. G. Lamson, Dr. J. F. Morse and others.

Sunday noon the Sanitarium family entertained the visiting delegates at East Hall as their guests. The afternoon was very profitably spent in the consideration of the "Near-by Fields." The work of "The Silent Messengers" as presented by D. W. Reavis and J. B. Blosser; and the "Living Ministers" by Prof. P. T. Magan and Elder A. T. Jones, offered very profitable suggestions for our future efforts. The evening hour was occupied by Elder I. H. Evans in the consideration of "The Distant Fields," and it is believed that some strong, brave young hearts will answer the call "Who will go for us?"

The work of the convention closed Monday morning. At 9 o'clock the delegates met to say "Farewell." As these young people go out to their several homes which are scattered throughout our conference, it is our prayer that God may water the seed sown in their hearts with the dews of his own grace, and place within a desire to labor for souls as never before. "Time is short," and if we would reign with Him, we must also suffer with Him.—Hattie E. Allee.

Education and Religion.

Both education and religion are promoters of civilization, and just in proportion as these things receive attention from the State, just in that proportion will the State advance in civilization; but there is a difference of opinion in regard to the manner in which the state should bestow its attention upon these things. Some have thought that because compulsory education has been so satisfactory, that compulsory religion would produce equally good results. Others have maintained that "religion is not in the purview of human government, and that a connection between them is injurious to both."

With these two opinions, how shall we decide the question as to whether religion shall be enforced by civil law? Some have reasoned that if education can be enforced by law against the will of the indi-

vidual, why may not religious practices be enforced in the same way?

We think the fallacy of this reasoning can be shown by a few simple comparisons; and that it can be clearly demonstrated that "religion is essentially distinct from government and exempt from its cognizance." In making these comparisons we shall use the term "education" in its generally accepted significance; viz., that of mental training.

Education has to do with mental development.

Religion has to do with spiritual development.

Education deals with the mind.

Religion deals with the heart.

Education improves a man in this world.

Religion saves a man from sin in this world, and from death in the world to come.

Education can be enforced upon any one.

Religion depends entirely on the will of the individual.

Education may be possessed by any one, regardless of his religious faith.

Religion can be possessed by those only who have been "born again."

Education is wrought by the hand of man.

Religion is wrought by the power of God.

Education is a natural work.

Religion is a miraculus work.

—Selected.

We are endowed of God with reason and ability to learn and know. Many human matters are to be determined by reason alone, but the ultimate issue of all this is in the hands of God alone. Hence we should seek divine guidance in making important choices.

"If we all as Christians were prepared and qualified to direct sinners to Christ, more would inquire the way."

Medical.

How To Live Long.

It is likely that a tendency to longevity is frequently inherited—that it runs in families. We know that a lack of vitality, weakness of constitution, and the tendency to certain diseases are transmissible. Premising that nature never indicates any physiological preference for individuals, we can account for this principle of preservation by the fact that in all large families the weakest and diseased die out, leaving only the healthy and most hearty to propagate. With such sound stock, long life through successive generations is the result. If the truth be plainly told, death is usually but a species of suicide. People seem set upon the very mode of life that will kill them quickest. Too much eating, and too little sleeping, stimulants, excitement, and reckless dissipation, brains overburdened with business, hearts harrowed with the cares and responsibilities of life,—such are some of the things that are taking people off. Worry and nervous excitement kill people faster than work. Steady, honest, hard-handed labor never hurt anybody. The placid, patient plodding person, other conditions being the same, lives the longest. Much depends upon the conservation of the physical force in youth.

The ancient physiologist pointed out the fact that in early life there is a great deal of this force in reserve, as a sort of stock to meet the demands of advancing years. With the increasing cares and strain of sterner duties in later life, this stock is correspondingly diminished. It becomes prematurely exhausted, and existence ends in bankruptcy. So that the proper way to prolong life is to make the body a sort of savings bank for this original stock of strength in youth and early manhood. Nothing so soon destroys the vigor of life as excessive emotions. Worry will waste the most robust body, care will corrode, and even an excess of joy prove deadly.

The wise will avoid everything that overtasks the feelings. The man who can continually maintain his equanimity has the best chance, all things considered, of living a long and happy life. So, from a merely physiological point of view, we should exercise composure under all circumstances: love nothing too passionately, hate nothing too violently, fear nothing too strongly, lament nothing too sorrowfully, and tranquilly and trustfully accept the order of things as we find it. To a person who has preserved himself, the period between forty-five and sixty will be the prime of life. Experience has ripened his judgement, and matured strength of constitution will enable him to withstand an attack of disease. He has triumphed over the storms and struggles that threatened his early manhood, mastered his business, secured a competence and rest from wearing work, and safely crossed the viaduct called the "turn of life," which is usually an entrance upon a prolonged pilgrimage or a short turn to the tomb. He is now at his best, and all his faculties, having attained their fullest expansion either began to gradually close like dahlies at the setting of the sun, or drop as though touched by a destructive frost. If he be spared, he can gird up his loins, get a stouter staff, and trudge on over the bridge that leads to old age. There is no natural death but old age, which, if death may ever be called pleasant, is the only pleasant one. There is a wish for rest, and the tired traveller sinks to slumber in a silent valley at the close of a well-spent day.—S. H. Preston, in *Journal of Health*.

When building a house, be sure to have the cellar well lighted. Beware of dampness above all. A pailful of unslacked lime will obviate this condition. When the lime becomes reduced to a pulverized substance, add a fresh supply.

News and Notes.

The West Michigan Conference Committee met in Battle Creek, Sunday, January 3, to consider important matters in connection with the work of the Conference.

Many of the Sabbath School reports have been received, however, a large number of schools have not yet been heard from. Kindly give this matter your immediate attention.

If your paper bore the blue pencil mark last week, your subscription to the Herald has expired. Please send us your subscription at once that no paper shall be missing from your file.

The Lake Odessa church school, consisting of seven members, is actively engaged in home missionary work, and also recently sent \$5.00 to the Mission Board for the regions beyond.

The Battle Creek Young People's Society have sent from their number one missionary to Egypt, and are now supporting him in his work in that field until it shall become self-supporting.

The week of prayer has resulted in much good to the church at Orange. The little company have taken 175 copies of the "Special Signs," and planned a thorough canvass of the entire town for the paper.

Elder R. E. Harter, formerly of West Michigan, writing from Aberdeen, So. Dakota, where he is now actively engaged says that the work is prospering, and that he is of good courage. Mrs. Harter's health is not much improved.

The first meeting of the West Michigan Conference will be held Friday, January 8, at 7:30 p. m. May many earnest prayers ascend to our loving Heavenly Father that his choicest blessings may rest in rich measures upon this important Conference.

Miss Mary Lamson, formerly a teacher in the Battle Creek church school, expects to connect with the work at Cedar Lake Academy this week.

At the meeting of the Young People's Convention held Monday morning, January 4, the following named persons were nominated as a committee to represent the interests of the young people at the conference soon to convene at Charlotte,—Prof. J. G. Lamson, H. E. Osborne, Hattie E. Allie, O. R. Staines and Cora Shaw.

Elder W. C. Hebner recently spent sometime with the churches of Bushnell, Lake Odessa and Orange. At Bushnell three souls were converted, among whom was Elder A. J. Haysmer's father, who has renewed his covenant with the Lord, which brought much joy to the family.

In compliance with the appeal made by the Battle Creek church, the Conference Committee has assigned Elder M. B. Miller to the pastorate of that church for the year 1904. The Committee also voted to retain Elder Henry Nicola in the services of the Battle Creek church for the following year.

Among the visiting friends at the recent Young People's Convention were seen Elder Luther Warren, Dr. David Paulson, Dr. J. H. Waggoner, W. S. Sadler, H. E. Osborne, Elder E. K. Slade, Elder J. J. Irwin, T. B. Lewis, Prof. E. A. Sutherland, Prof. P. T. Magan, Elder S. H. Lane and many of the West Michigan Conference workers.

"At the Door" is a new illustrated booklet, containing 45 impressive engravings, illustrating in consecutive order, the fulfillment of every prophecy in Matt. 24. It is an excellent little seller, and any one can handle it. It is printed in beautiful photo-brown ink, has heavy paper covers, bound with silk cord. Price 25 cts., cheaper paper, 15 cts.

The Young People's Convention closed Monday morning of this week. Many expressions of appreciation for the privilege of attending this Convention were heard from the delegates as they took their departure for their homes. It is our prayer that the blessings here received may continue to inspire hearts to enter into service for the Master which will influence other lives to make the same sacrifice.

The last we heard from the Pacific Press, orders for the special Signs were coming in at the rate of 25,000 to 50,000 daily. With four big presses running constantly, they were able to get out the special Signs about half as fast as the orders were coming in. This is why some do not receive their papers promptly. However we do not think this will continue long, but that all will be supplied in a few days.

We are glad to learn of the numerous orders that are coming to our office for the special Signs. This shows that our people have a mind to work, and are awakening to the importance of giving this special issue a large circulation. This paper will not be out of date for weeks, and we trust that our brethren and sisters will continue the good work. Let all who have not sent in an order for this paper do so at once.

In his "Travel Sketches" now appearing in the Youth's Instructor E. R. Palmer takes his readers through Switzerland, Germany and Italy. Several articles in the series will be devoted to St. Peters and the Vatican at Rome, the headquarters of the Roman Catholic church. Other articles of great interest to the youth are the "Work-Table" series, by Edison Driver, teaching boys how to make things, and "Stories of Missions," by Miss Estella Houser. The subscription price of the Instructor is 75 cents a year. Order of the West Michigan Tract Society, Otsego, Mich.