

The West Michigan Herald.

"Watchman, What of the Night."

VOL. II.

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No. 5

THE WEST MICHIGAN HERALD.
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Evangelical.

The Future Use of "Object Lessons." *

The use which should be made of "Object Lessons" in the future has been made clear to me, and I must write to my brethren in regard to it. Letters have been received from our canvassing agents, in which they say they think it would be a good plan for "Object Lessons" to be handled as a regular subscription book, as soon as the relief-of-schools campaign is finished. They believe that this book would have as ready sale in the hands of a regular canvasser as any that could be produced.

As my son read one of these letters, the thought came to me, "Here is an opportunity for me to get out of debt. Is not this the right thing to do?" I told my son that I thought perhaps it would be best to do as the letter suggested. Then I sent to heaven the prayer, "Lord, teach me to speak right words." Quickly the answer came. In an instant the light given me at first regarding "Object Lessons" flashed into my mind, and the instruction then given was repeated. I seemed to hear the words, "God signified that this book should be given to our schools, to be to them a continual blessing. Would you exchange His plan for one of human devising? This book is to be treated as a sacred offering, made to God; and as His plan regarding it is unselfishly carried out, the result will be wholly satisfactory."

I immediately told my son that I would make no change in regard

to the handling of "Object Lessons" unless God gave me plain instruction that this should be done. As I told him this I felt the blessing of God resting upon me.

The plan for the circulation of "Object Lessons" is not of human devising; it is God's plan. He signified that this book should be a gift to our schools. Thus far it has done its work, and God has set His approval on the self-sacrificing efforts of His people. Shall we mar His plan? No, no! Until the Lord shall come, and our present school work shall be ended by our entering the higher school, "Christ's Object Lessons" is to stand as a gift to our educational institutions.

The Result Of Unselfish Service.

In the work for the relief of our schools, the Lord has bestowed upon us a gift of great value, and has marked out for us the path-way of blessing. He called upon me to give our schools the manuscript of the book, "Christ's Object Lessons." He called upon our publishing houses to make liberal gifts of labor in preparing the book for sale. In response to this call, they acted their part nobly. Our people contributed generously to raise a material fund, and then went forth willingly to sell the book for the help of the schools.

As a result of this effort, far more has been accomplished than at first we dared expect. Angels of God co-operated with those who went out to circulate the book. Men, women, and children took part in the effort, and labored earnestly and unselfishly. The Lord gave them His approval, and with it His grace and joy and peace. Read in our papers the result of their work. Testimony after testimony has been borne witnessing to the blessing found in selling this book. How

good these testimonies are! As we read them, refreshing streams of salvation seem to flow from the very throne of God into our hearts.

I have been shown many praying to God for help as they have gone forth to sell "Christ's Object Lessons." They have asked the Lord to give them success. Then, as they have succeeded, they have felt that they received evidence that the Lord had answered their prayers.

Thus they have obtained a deeper experience in heavenly things; for they have felt that they are following in the steps of Christ.

With many, to go out and sell "Object Lessons" meant to take up a heavy cross, but they have been rewarded by God's approval. The thought, "We are doing something for the Master," has filled their hearts with peace and gladness. Church members who never before had courage to sell books took hold of this work. Very timidly they began. But they did not turn back; and, as they labored on, courage came, and success attended their efforts. Many gained an experience more valuable than gold or silver.

The hearts of God's people have been made light and joyful as they have offered Him the sweet incense of unselfish service. Many of our churches have been quickened and refreshed as some of their number have engaged in this work.

Our brethren and sisters are just as surely in the service of the Lord when selling this book as when bearing testimony for Him in meeting. They receive the refreshing grace of God; for they are carrying out His purpose, and He bestows on them His commendation. Their minds are freed from the malaria of selfishness and complaint and discouragement.

By the effort to sell "Object Lessons" much has been accomplished

to bring the precious light of present truth to those in darkness. Thus many have been saved from sin. For every spring of influence touched, for every train of thought set in motion with a sincere desire to glorify God, the Holy Spirit has worked on hearts, bringing wisdom, courage, and strength. Those who have bought the book bear testimony to the blessing they have received in reading it. Many will shine in the kingdom of God whose conversion was the result of the efforts of our brethren and sisters to sell "Object Lessons."

The men who have taken a leading part in this enterprise have done a good work. Their labors have brought about most excellent results. They are not to become discouraged, but to look up to God in faith, and go forward, walking humbly before Him. Our brethren connected with the school at Berrien Springs should be encouraged to advance as the way may open before them. We are to help them all we can. Christ stands at the helm, and to Him is to be ascribed the praise and glory for the work accomplished by "Object Lessons." This work bears the stamp of unselfishness, and it will produce good fruit.

Mrs. E. G. White.

* From advance sheets of Testimonies, Vol. VIII.

"A general movement for Christ's Object Lessons" is needed, and this must begin with individual movements. In every church let every member of every family make determined efforts to deny self and to help forward the work. Let the children act a part. LET ALL CO-OPERATE. Let us do our best at this time to render to God our offering, to carry out his specified will, and thus make an occasion for witnessing for him and His truth in a world of darkness. The lamp is in our hands. Let its light shine forth brightly."

Educational.

To the Young People of the West Michigan Conference.

Greeting: By the action of the last session of the West Michigan Conference at Charlotte, the writer was asked to take the superintendency of the Educational Department of the Conference. As our work is organized in the different conferences at present, this means the supervision of the work of the young people,—whether organized into societies or not,—the work of the Church Schools, the churches along the line of Christian Education and the Sabbath Schools.

Mrs. Hattie E. Allee was re-elected corresponding secretary of the department, and her work will necessarily be confined largely to the correspondence in connection with the Sabbath Schools, inasmuch as, connected with this work, she will have the editorship of the Conference Paper.

We are glad at this time to greet those who compose these different elements in the Conference. To every young man, to every young woman, I would say I extend to you my hand, and ask, "Are you a Christian?" If not, why not?" If you are, will you join me in a hand to hand, earnest, open heart to heart free work for every young person within the borders of the conference?

You can readily see that it will be impossible for me in some months to visit the different localities where we have companies at work. I must depend to a large extent upon correspondence. The Lord being my helper, I expect to become acquainted, by letter or otherwise, with every young person in the Conference. Are you willing to aid me in this undertaking? Are you willing to furnish information that I shall call for from time to time? Are you willing to put yourself out, perhaps, at times in order to obtain for me answers to the questions which I shall send you?

You may know of conditions in your immediate neighborhood which would be of great value to me to know. You may know of circumstances or incidents, which, if I could be placed in touch with them, would enable me to help you in the spreading of the gospel and the bringing of souls to Christ.

If you are interested in this work and are willing to aid, willing to join in a crusade for the Master, will you not write me at your earliest convenience at the address given elsewhere in this article, and give me assurance that you are heart and soul in the work of the young people?

TO THE CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS.

To those who are engaged in the Master's work as teachers in our Church Schools, I extend my hand.

With the exception of one year, when I was practicing law, I have been in school, at least a portion of the year, since 1875. I began teaching as assistant when I was a senior at Hillsdale High school in 1884. My experience has extended over the years since in district school, graded school, private school, business college, high school, our own Industrial academy and for a short time in the old Battle Creek College. I tell you not this to boast; but if I have learned anything, if experience has taught me anything, I place all that I know and all the ability that I have at the disposal of the Lord for this work.

I began my work as principal in 1890. I know what it is to stand by teachers, to encourage them in their work, and I am saying these words about myself to inspire courage in the hearts of all the teachers of this Conference.

Teachers, you exert a mighty influence! It is yours to train children that have been born into the message for this time. To you is given one of the most solemn responsibilities ever committed to human beings. You should joy and rejoice in the privilege God has given you of assisting to carry on this work. Shall we not join

hand in hand in an effort to make this year the best one yet?

The work that has heretofore been done exhibits earnest labor on the part of those who have been carrying the responsibilities; that the Lord has wonderfully wrought for the Educational work in this Conference. But every blessing that He has heretofore given, every blessing that has up until now been granted, should be a stepping stone to greater and grander building.

May I have the assurance of the teachers in this Conference that we shall work together?

For the present my address will be in care of the Review & Herald, Battle Creek, Mich.

J. C. LAMSON.

Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than any body else expects of you. Keep your own standard high. Never excuse yourself. Be a hard master to yourself, but lenient to everybody else.

The book of Proverbs might also be called a treatise on friendship, so full is it of advice about the sort of person a young man should tie to and the sort of person he should avoid. There is possibly no other book in the world which so exalts the idea of friendship, and is so anxious to have it truly and carefully kept.

Disappointment—Good reader, if you and I ever reach the Father's house, we will look back and see that the sharp-tongued, rough-visaged teacher, Disappointment, was one of our best guides to bring us thither. He often took us by thorny paths. He often stripped us of our overload of worldly goods, but that was only to make us travel the freer and faster on our heavenward way. He often led us into the valley of the death-shadow; but never did the promises read so sweetly to us as when read by the light of faith in that very valley.

Missionary Department.

Systematic Offerings for 1904.

Do you read from week to week the stirring reports from our missionaries in foreign fields? Does not the very reading of these fill you with a burning desire to have a part in this great closing work? Although you may not be able to go to these distant fields yourself, you may have a representative there.

God has set his hand to this work, and it will be done. The giving of the closing message to all the world in this generation is the grandest privilege ever extended to human beings. It will not be accomplished by spasmodic effort, but the servants of God, clothed in his armor, must press the battle to the very gates.

Every individual who loves God's truth, and who understands it for this time, has a definite, specified work to do, which will not be finished until probation closes. Let every one consider these facts in all seriousness, and begin at once to make plans for earnest, systematic effort during 1904.

A good way to do this is to adopt and faithfully carry out the ten-cent-a-week plan of contributions to foreign missions. Many rich experiences have come to those who have adopted this plan; and the amount received by the Mission Board during the year just closed from this source alone, has amounted to almost twenty thousand dollars. Now, at the beginning of a new year, is a splendid opportunity for others to join this company of givers.

When every Seventh-day Adventist joins this company to carry the message to all lands, the work will be blessed with an additional fund of more than a quarter of a million dollars. Let your good resolves for 1904 include this one of our weekly offerings, and the Lord will surely bless the results.

W. T. Bland,

Asst. Treas. Mission Board,
222 North Capitol St.,
Washington, D. C.

Publication.

The Year Book For 1904.

We are now prepared to fill orders for the year for 1904. Owing to the discontinuance of the GENERAL CONFERENCE BULLETIN, the directory of our denomination is now issued in the form of a Year Book, the chief features of which may be stated as follows: a complete directory of the General Conference and all its officers, committees, departments, and laborers; complete directories of all Union and State Conferences and Union and local mission fields throughout the world, with the territory, population, membership, and churches thereof specified, as well as the names and addresses of all officers, committees, departments, and laborers given, and church schools in operation therein; full directories of all colleges, academies and intermediate schools, with boards, faculties, and branches taught; directories of all publishing houses, with boards, officers, and departments connected therewith; a complete list of all periodicals published under the auspices of the denomination, with specifications as to frequency of publication, price, size, and editors thereof; a directory of Sanitariums, with boards and faculties; treatment-rooms, resturants, cafes, and benevolent institutions. The work also contains an exhaustive summary of officers, with their addresses, a complete directory of ordained and licensed ministers, and of physicians, together with statistical reports, and the Constitution of the General Conference.

This work will be found very helpful to our people in giving them a correct understanding of our organized work in various parts of the world, and will we believe, lead to a greater interest in extending the message to parts as yet unentered. The book contains a number of features not contained in any previous directory, is issued in the most convenient form, at a very low rate, and should be in the hands of all our people. Price 25

cents. Order of West Michigan Tract Society, Otsego, Mich.

Not Too Late to Secure the Seven Free Copies.

When announcement was made last November of several series of very important articles which were to appear in the YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR, we then promised that all NEW SUBSCRIBERS who sent 75 cents for a year's subscription, should receive the last seven papers of 1903 FREE.

Anticipating the great demand for these first numbers, we printed large editions, and although we have received many new subscriptions, we are glad to say to those who have not yet subscribed that it is not too late to secure these free copies.

We therefore renew the offer to send FREE, the last seven INSTRUCTORS for 1903, to NEW SUBSCRIBERS for 1904, who send 75 cents at once. This offer is only good so long as our supply of papers hold out.

Please remember that you will thus secure all the articles by Edison Driver, under the general title of "Around the Work Table." These explain and illustrate various things which boys can easily make with the ordinary tools and materials that most of them have or can easily get. In the "Work Table" series, the following articles, fully illustrated, have already appeared or will soon appear in the YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR:

A Climbing Sailor, and How Sailors Make Him.

A Chemical Lecture.

Grandpa Talks on Centrifugal Force.

The Modern Kite—a Cloth Bird.

A Simple Electric Battery.

A Game of States.

Simple Experiments in Science.

Knots and Strings—Sailor's Knots, etc.

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How to Make a Simple Weaving Machine.

How to Make a Hand Bracket Saw.

A Simple Electric Engine.

How to Soldier.

The Enchanted Egg.

Other series of interesting and important articles now appearing in the INSTRUCTOR are:—

Island Missions in the South Seas.

What the Bible Teaches.

Travel Sketches.

History Series.

The Weekly Study.

The Sabbath School Lessons and Notes.

We are also pleased to announce that a series of articles entitled "In and Around the National Capital" will be prepared by the editor, Miss Fannie M. Dickerson. We are sure that our readers will find in this series a rare treat.

Send 75 cents at once and secure the INSTRUCTOR for 59 weeks and ask for our circular telling how you may secure a Bible FREE.

Address

THE YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR,
222 North Capitol Steet,
Washington, D. C.

News and Notes.

—Elder H. W. Miller will be in attendance at the general meeting to be held at Otsego, February 6.

—Elder A. G. Haughey spent Sabbath and Sunday, January 25 and 26 with the church at Grand Rapids.

—We have just received word that Elder W. C. White is enroute to New York where he expects to meet in council with the workers in the Eastern Union Conference, February 5-10.

—February 16 is the date set for the dedication of the new Battle Creek Church School building and grounds. A committee has been appointed to arrange a program for the exercises at that time.

—The canvassing class in Battle Creek is still maintaining its interest, and a large number are taking daily studies in various books, intending to enter that line of work as soon as circumstances will permit.

—We wish to again call your attention to the recommendation passed at the Washington council to take a special offering the first Sabbath in February for the International Publishing Association of College View. This action has been referred to in the Review, also through the columns of the West Michigan Herald, and we trust all will remember this important work with a liberal donation.

—Elder R. C. Horton writing from Kalamazoo says:—"We feel much of the blessing of the Lord in our work in this city. There are honest hearts here who desire to know God and do his will. During the late autumn months we held cottage meetings, in various localities in the city, which were well attended. The interest grew in some instances and several have taken their stand for God and His truth. Many are inquiring after truth and there are more calls for help than we are able to fill. At Casco I baptized six persons willing to walk in the light of God's commandments.

—The sad news from Africa of the death of our dear brother J. H. Watson is another signal to advance. It is one more tie to draw us into service for the Master in the Dark Continent. Only eternity will reveal what his few brief months of labor has accomplished for Africa's sons; and even now while he rests, his works continue. That one has fallen means that others must gather up the standard and press farther into the thick of the battle. We cannot afford to sound the word of retreat, but must hasten until all in that land of heathen darkness have heard the warning message. The ministry of intercession is one in which we all can engage, and in these trying hours our missionaries need to be remembered personally before the Father, that their work may be effectual, and their lives preserved. Let 1904 be a year of prayer for our missionaries and their work.