

The West Michigan Herald.

"Watchman, What of the Night."

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The Book of Books.

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All would pronounce the Bible the most interesting book they ever perused if their imagination had not become perverted by exciting stories of a fictitious character.

If we study the word of God with interest, and pray to understand it, new beauties will be seen in every line. God will reveal precious truths so clearly that the mind will derive sincere pleasure and have a continual feast as its comforting and sublime truths are unfolded.

To the diligent Bible student new light, new ideas, new gems of truth will constantly appear and be eagerly grasped, for it is impossible for any mind to comprehend all the richness and greatness of even one promise of God. One catches the glory from one point of view, and another the beauty and grace from another point, and the soul is filled with the heavenly light.

After the first acquaintance with the Bible the interest of the earnest seeker grows rapidly. The disci-

pline gained by a regular study of the word of God enables him to see a freshness and beauty in truth that he never before discerned.

The Bible may be studied as a branch of human science would be; but its beauty, the evidence of its power to save souls that believe, is a lesson that is never thus learned. It is a leaf from the tree of life, and by eating it, by receiving it into our minds, we grow strong to do the will of God.

Those who bring to the investigation of the word a spirit of which it does not approve, will take away from the search a spirit which it has not imparted. We should take up the study of God's word with humble hearts. All selfishness, all love of originality, should be laid aside. Long cherished opinions must not be regarded as infallible.

Those who study the Bible simply to find texts to prove their theory or vindicate their opinion, will not be enlightened by the Spirit of God. Not through controversy and discussion is the soul enlightened. We must look and live. We must search the scriptures in order to receive life for the soul.

When the heart is brought into harmony with the word, a new life will spring up within, a new light will shine upon every line of the word, and it will become the voice of God to the soul. Then the truth of God's word will be regarded with new interest, and will be explored as if it were a revelation just from the courts above. Every declaration of inspiration concerning Christ will take hold of the inmost soul of those who love Him. Envy, jealousy and evil surmising will cease. The Bible will be regarded as a character from heaven. Its study will absorb the mind, and its truths will feast the soul.

Several times each day, precious

golden moments should be consecrated to prayer and the study of the scriptures, if it is only to commit a text to memory, that spiritual life may exist in the soul. We should take one verse and concentrate the mind on the task of ascertaining the thought which God has put in that verse for us until it becomes our own, and we know 'what saith the Lord.'

The mind must be restrained and not allowed to wander. It should be trained to dwell upon the scriptures; even whole chapters may be committed to memory, to be repeated when Satan comes with his temptations. Even while you are walking on the streets, you may read a passage and meditate upon it, thus fixing it in your mind, and God will flash the knowledge obtained into the memory at the very time when it is needed.

We should open the scriptures with reverence, and never allow one expression of lightness and trifling to escape our lips when quoting scripture. As we take our Bible into our hands let us remember that we are on holy ground.

There is little benefit derived from hasty reading of the scriptures. One may read the whole Bible through, and yet fail to see its beauty or comprehend its deep hidden meaning. One passage studied until its significance is clear to the mind, and its relation to the plan of salvation is evident, is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained.

If Christians would earnestly search the scriptures more hearts would burn with the vivid truths therein revealed. Their hopes would brighten with the precious promises strewn like pearls all along through the sacred writings.

In contemplating the history of patriarchs and prophets, the men who loved and feared God and walked with Him, hearts will glow with the spirit that animated these worthies. As the mind dwells on the virtue and piety of holy men of old, the spirit which inspired them will kindle a flame of love and holy fervor in the hearts of those who would be like them in character, and as they gather the golden truths from the word, the heavenly Instructor is close by their side.

In the word is poetry, wisdom, history, biography and the most profound philosophy. Here is a study that quickens the mind into a vigorous and healthy life, and awakens it to the highest exercise. Studied and obeyed, the word of God would give to the world men of stronger and more active intellect than will the closest application to all the subjects which human philosophy embraces. It would give men of strength and solidity of character, of keen perception and sound judgment: men who would be an honor to God and a blessing to the world, for it enlarges the mind, expands, elevates and endows it with new vigor, by bringing its faculties in contact with stupendous truths.

Even unconsciously we imitate that with which we are familiar. By having a knowledge of Christ—His words—and His Lessons of instruction, we instinctively borrow the virtues of the character which we have so closely studied and become imbued with the spirit which we have so much admired.

“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be ye therefore as wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a high-way for our God.—Isaiah.

“Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days.”

News From the Field.

BATTLE CREEK.

Report of Services Held in Tabernacle Oct. 22, 1904.

As last Sabbath was the 60th anniversary of the time of the disappointment in 1844, a short memorial service was held in the tabernacle on Sabbath morning.

The program was divided into four parts and responded to by four different speakers, who occupied about fifteen minutes each. After some introductory remarks by Elder Miller, Elder VanHorn spoke during the first 15 minutes on “THE EVIDENCES WHICH WE AS A PEOPLE HAD OF THE SOON COMING OF CHRIST.” He chose for a text 2 Pet. 6:19, 20, 21, “We have also a more sure word of prophecy,” etc. He then spoke briefly of the life and work of Wm. Miller,—of his infidelity, and his conversion and subsequent preaching of the message of the soon coming of the Lord. Also of the work of Joseph Bates, and Joshua V. Himes in connection with this movement and a little later that of Brother and Sister White.

Elder VanHorn stated that he was converted in this message, had been faithful to it all these sixty years,—did not know any other religion, and that his faith was never stronger than now, in the soon coming of Christ.

The choir then sang that old Adventist Hymn beginning, “Hear the Glorious Proclamation, The Glad Tidings of Salvation,” The second part of the program was then taken up, under the subject “EXPERIENCES OF THE PEOPLE ENGAGED IN THAT PROCLAMATION.” The pastor called for those in the church who had a part in that movement to stand, and only two out of the entire audience arose, upon which Elder Miller remarked, that if only two out of this number remained it certainly showed the solemnity of the time in which we are living, very near the time of Christ’s coming.

Mr. Wm. K. Loughborough then

stated his experience in the time of 1844, and this was followed by that of Brother A. C. Bordeau. Both of these brethren spoke with much feeling of the time when the people of God really believed that on Oct. 22, the Lord would surely come. They said it was a time of such solemnity that few business men or any one in fact, was then living, who did not believe in the coming of the Lord. Many feared he would come, and others HOPED he would. After the time had passed, those who had been afraid of His coming turned scoffers, and were the originators of the expression “gone up,” which we use to this day, Brother Loughborough said in closing his remarks, “I am looking for the Lord to-day; I fully expect by and by to have a home in the Kingdom of God.” Brother Bordeau said “I am watching and praying that I may enter into that Home, that I may endure faithful unto the end and finally enter into the Kingdom of God.”

Brother Miller then stated that Brethren Loughborough and Bordeau had given us only an inkling of what we might read for ourselves in the LIFE OF JOSEPH BATES, LIFE OF WM. MILLER, and others who took part in this movement. Also spoke of the great interest shown in this movement. How the people had to be dismissed from the meeting several times, and fairly urged to go, before they were willing to leave even a prayer meeting. Compared the great zeal of that time with that of to-day, and thought if we as a people were as humble before the Lord now as then, we would hasten the Lord’s coming greatly.

The choir again sang No. 1165 “Oh hail happy day, that speaks our trials ended.”

Elder Tenney then took up the third part of the program and spoke on “THE EVIDENCES THAT BROUGHT LIGHT AND SALVATION TO THE PEOPLE THAT WERE SO GREATLY DISAPPOINTED.” He said that which aroused the people in 1844 to a

sense of the situation was their disappointment. So we when we make mistakes should arouse to a sense of our situation, and do that which shall lead us away from making the same mistakes again. There is no reproach attached to people for making mistakes in life. He said that of the experiences and scenes of that time there could be no adequate description given also "imagine ourselves come up to the very time when we know positively that the Lord will come." And then he drew a picture of the passing of the time and the bitter disappointment which must have followed, but showed that it is through the discovery of our mistakes that the Lord is able to develop His truth, for it is by our correcting our positions that we are led to make advanced steps from time to time. He believed that there is still more light for the people of God which we shall receive when we are in a position where we can be trusted with it.

At the close of these remarks and a few more by Elder Bordeau, Elder Miller stated that it was time to close the meeting without the fourth part of the program which had been arranged upon which he was to speak, "OUR PRESENT STANDING AS A PEOPLE." The choir then rendered that good old Adventist hymn, "Then Bear Me On To Mt. Zion" after which the meeting closed with benediction from Elder VanHorn, in which he earnestly invoked the Spirit of God to arouse the people to a sense of our times, and fit them for a home in the soon-coming kingdom.

MRS. MINNIE HARNDEN.

GRAND RAPIDS.

Sunday, October 9th, we had baptismal services. Three candidates were "buried with their Lord by baptism unto death," in the full assurance of faith that they would receive the "gift of the Holy Ghost," and have power to live a "new life."

It was a very impressive scene, to see these earnest souls, with holy joy upon each countenance entering the watery grave, knowing that that grave was to forever stand between them and the world; that henceforth they were to "reckon themselves dead to the world, but alive in God." Victory! Victory! Victory in the name of the Lord and by the power of His might! Praise His Holy name!

W. D. PARKHURST.

Missionary.

Another Word About Christ's Object Lessons.

Not long ago a call was made through the columns of this paper for those who felt so disposed to donate what copies of "Christ's Object Lessons" they could—for which they had previously paid, and which they had not sold—for the benefit of the new school to be established near Nashville, Tenn. Quite a large number of brethren and sisters have kindly responded to this call and have sent us a good many copies of this book, which we are selling over again for the benefit of this school. The reception of these books has been a source of great encouragement to our workers, as it puts the means in their hands to obtain some money for the starting of the work.

We have thought that possibly there were a large number of brethren still who might have copies of this book that they would be willing to give us. If there are such we would greatly appreciate it if they will send them, charges prepaid, to Prof. E. A. Sutherland, care Nashville Agricultural & Normal School, Madison, Tenn.

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.—Christ.

"Blessed are they that sow beside all waters."

Educational.

The Otsego Church School.

An important meeting from an educational standpoint was held at Otsego, Oct. 22. The writer spoke briefly upon the importance of the educational work, and urged that a church school be started. Several members spoke in favor of a school, and the whole church seemed to enter heartily into the idea. A school board of five was elected, with Elder A. G. Haughey as chairman. Thus one more school is to be added to our list of West Michigan church schools, and new evidence is given that the work is growing.

W. E. VIDETO.

KALAMAZOO.

Sabbath Oct. 22 I visited the Sabbath-school at Kalamazoo. Although the weather was very stormy there was quite a good attendance at the Sabbath-school and at the service which followed.

I was glad to see the young people have a part in the work and manifest such a willingness to learn all they could that would be a help to them in making the Sabbath-school more interesting.

We hope to see the work prosper in Kalamazoo and the Lord "add to the church such as shall be saved."

MARGARET HAUGHEY.

SHELBY.

We held our "Harvest Ingathering" October 16. We had a very interesting program. While we sang the song entitled "They brought their gifts to Jesus" the offering was taken up which amounted to \$8.75. Other things were given such as apples, potatoes, beans etc. It was voted to send these things to the "Haskell Home."

We praise God for the success of our "Ingathering Service" and may his blessing attend the offerings that were made.

MRS. EMMA MONTGOMERY,
S. S. Supt.

Items of Interest.

Elder A. G. Haughey was in Battle Creek one day last week looking after some conference interests.

Miss Vo Wyla Aikin is teaching the church school at Bauer. She writes that she is well pleased with her school.

Will the secretaries who have not sent in their quarterly reports please do so at once?

Miss Mildred Wilson, who is teaching the church school at Maple Grove, writes that she is getting along nicely with her school.

We hope the churches are planning for the missionary conventions which are appointed for October 29th and November 26th.

At the recent General Conference Council it was decided that the time for the week of prayer be set for December 10-17th.

There are many foreigners in the West Michigan Conference who perhaps would like to have the foreign papers. Christlicher Hansfreud, (German), Evangeliets Sendebud, (Danish), and the Sions Vaktare, (Swedish), are published at College View, Neb.

Any one wishing to assist a worthy student through college please address Elder A. G. Haughey, Otsego, Mich.

The Nashville Sanitarium is in need of some trained nurses. If there are any nurses in this conference who desire employment address, L. G. Hansen, Nashville, Tenn.

Brother W. E. Videto, superintendent of the department of education of the West Michigan Conference, has assumed the duties of that office, and all who desire to correspond with him address him at Otsego, Mich.

We hope the church elders, clerks, librarians and Sabbath-school superintendents will make an effort to place the "Review" in

the home of every Seventh Day Adventist in the West Michigan Conference.

The Board of Trustees of the Cedar Lake Academy held a meeting October 26.

Dr. Julia White of the Battle Creek Sanitarium is taking a short vacation at the home of her parents at Lake View near Kalamazoo.

Nothing preventing, Elder A. G. Haughey will be at Bloomingdale Sabbath, October 29. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance, as a church may be organized at that time.

"Save the Boys" is the name of a monthly journal devoted to the purity of the home. Only 30 cents per year. Address H. F. Phelps, 118 W. Minneha Boulevard, Washburn Park, Minneapolis, Minn.

As the result of the labor of Elder R. C. Horton and Brethren Hoffstra and Collier, a church of twenty-two members, all adults, was organized at Bangor, Sabbath, October 22, by Elders R. C. Horton and A. G. Haughey.

Do not forget that Sabbath, November 5, is the day set apart by the General Conference for the November offering for the colored work in the South. The larger the offering, the less will be required from the General Conference treasury to meet the monthly allowance to the Southern work. Hence, a large offering will help in the world-wide work. Let each one share in the offering.

Battle Creek News.

The Battle Creek church is preparing a shipment of clothing for the Huntsville, Ala., school.

Our fruit shower is now all barreled up and ready to go. We have over five hundred quarts, making eight barrels of canned fruit.

Dr. Geisel spoke in the Sanitarium parlor last Thursday to the patients on the subject of "Lung

Expansion." She demonstrated her talk by placing a corset on some mounted ribs and showing how they could be squeezed together by lacing up the corset. All were deeply interested and many orders for health waists in the sewing room was the result.

There is to be a convention of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in Battle Creek this week. It is to be held in the Methodist church down town, and we are invited to go down and represent our church in welcoming the delegates. It begins Wednesday and closes Friday. It seems to be a district affair, for it includes Kalamazoo and a number of neighboring cities.

It has been said that when our older people fail to carry this message, the children will do it instead. We are having a reminder of this when our church school children come in and sell our periodicals for us, with good success. One little fellow to-day (Sunday) has sold twelve copies of "Signs" and returned for the third supply. Others are doing similar work each week. They show great enthusiasm for their work.

A Letter.

438 Selkirk Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Elder A. G. Haughey,
Dear Brother,—

I have just received word from Elder Spicer that the West Michigan Conference has donated 100 Object Lessons to this field and that they would be forwarded at once. Personally I feel very thankful for this generous gift and I wish in behalf of our Conference Committee and our brethren in this field to express to you and your Committee as well as the lay members our heartfelt thanks. We assure you that we shall with new impetus carry the books to our neighbors and friends. Such a spirit of generosity begets generosity.

May God greatly bless you and your Committee in your heavy burdens is our sincere desire, I am,

Your co-laborer,

W. M. ADAMS.