

*A. G. Daniels  
Tacoma Park Sta*

# The West Michigan Herald.

"Watchman, What of the Night."

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THE WEST MICHIGAN HERALD.

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### Parables of Jesus.

I wonder how many of us have read and studied Sister White's book for the good things it contains, and I have wondered if the commercial consideration has not in many minds taken the place of every other; and may it not be that we failed to obtain the blessing in many cases, from the sale of the book for the Relief of Schools, for the reason that we did not first obtain the blessing from a careful study of and acquaintance with the book.

As we think it over now, it seems unfortunate that there was such haste made in the matter of getting into the field to sell the book. If we had taken time to acquaint ourselves with it, and had fallen in love with it for the blessedness there is in it, we no doubt would have had such a longing for our friends and neighbors to have the same blessedness, that it would have solved the commercial question, and the schools would have been relieved. It is not too late even now to begin right and obtain a blessing to our own souls. Read

the chapter on the parable of talents, and we shall at once perceive the value of the book as a spiritual helper; and as we continue to read, we will experience more and more the truth that in the gift of this book for the Relief of Schools, there was the higher and nobler aim to give light and life and power to those who, by tradition, have had their minds darkened regarding the teaching of the blessed Jesus.

ALLEN MOON.

### Be Not Weary in Well-Doing.

MRS. E. G. WHITE.

Our churches are often appealed to for gifts and offerings to aid missionary enterprises in the home field, and to sustain foreign missionary work. Let us not become impatient because we are often asked to give a portion of the means entrusted to us for the up-building of the cause. Just now the work in Washington demands our immediate consideration. Recent developments in Washington show that the removal of the General Conference offices to that city was a right move, and a move made none too soon.

As soon as the sum asked for the work in Washington is made up, other important cities must receive consideration.

Our churches have much liberality, but they have not done all that they are able to do. Some have carried very heavy burdens, but there are others who are not willing to deny self. I appeal to every family of believers in our land to consecrate themselves to the work of soul-saving, pledging themselves to advance the Lord's work by every means within their power. Let the older ones repress

the desire to gratify self, and let the children be taught to save their pennies for the Lord. Let parents take up the cross of self-sacrifice, which lies so plainly in the pathway to holiness. Let the young men and young women who are tempted to expend means to gratify self say, "No! I will not rob the cause of God by spending money for that which is useless.

Let the students in our schools and the children in our Sabbath-schools be diligently trained in liberality. Short, interesting articles should be prepared for their study,—articles that will arouse in them a desire to give to the cause of God. The habit of liberality should grow with their growth and strengthen with their strength. They should early be taught to lay by their pennies, so that they will have something to give when God's servants make a call for help. Let them be taught that they can be the helping hand of the Lord by adding their gifts to the means placed in the treasury. The work to be done in our world should be kept before them, and they should be encouraged and helped to prepare themselves for active service. Let them be dedicated to God's service while the dew of youth is yet upon them.

Let not our church members complain because they are so often called upon to give. What is it that makes the frequent calls a necessity? Is it not the rapid increase of missionary enterprises. Shall we, by refusing to give, retard the growth of these enterprises? Shall we forget that we are laborers together with God? From every church prayers should ascend to God for an increase of devotion and liberality.

Those whose hearts are knit together with the great heart of

Christ will be glad to do what they can to help the cause of God. They will say, "I will do my best. Whatever others may do, my duty is clear." They will rejoice in the continual expansion and advancement that means larger and more frequently-given offerings.

### Go Ye Swift Messengers.

ISA. 18.

Etheopia, definitely considered, is a country with an area of about 4,000 square miles, bounded on the east by the southern half of the Red sea.

The "rivers of Etheopia" are the Blue Nile, White Nile and Athbara. The term "rivers" as used here is in a natural sense, because for the standpoint of Palestine where the prophecy was given, these serve as waymarks to the "land shadowing with wings," or the middle and South Africa, the field of the prophecy itself being clothed in symbols. The people of this country to whom the land rightfully belonged are said to be "terrible" in that they were originally sunken in the lowest condition of savagery. The pitiable condition of the people appealed in weakness (vessels of bulrushes) by the sea (people and nations.) See Rev. 17:15.

"The rivers have spoiled," V. 2. Natural rivers do not spoil or ruin a land but symbolic rivers do. See Isa. 8:7, 8; and Jer. 46:7-9. The invading armies of Europe have robbed the African people of their land, and have divided it as a "spoil" among themselves, and have "scattered" the people widely in the world, and "peeled," or stripped, them of their rights and property.

The term "saying" in the second verse is a supplied word, and is misleading. "Go ye swift messengers" is what God says to His people.

It is God who commands to "lift up an ensign" (the gospel of the three messages) and "blow with a trumpet." See Joel 2:1. Verse 4 refers to the investigative judge-

ment. The term harvest of verse 5 is the end of the world. Verse 6 is clearly identical in events described as Rev. 19:17, 18. Verse 7 refers to the triumph of the three-fold message in gathering a few from among the "scattered" sons of Africa to be numbered among the redeemed.

The work for this time admits of no delay. "Go ye SWIFT messengers." Who will go?

A. SMITH.

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### Educational.

#### Duties of Sabbath-school Officers.

(READ AT A CONVENTION.)

"Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord negligently." Jer. 48:10. Some years ago it was my privilege to spend some weeks near a beautiful village in one of our neighboring states. In this village was a Seventh-day Adventist church. It was one of the oldest, and so far as numbers and wealth were concerned, one of the most prosperous in the state, as many owned beautiful, well-kept homes and farms.

During a part of my stay in the locality I stopped at the attractive, well-kept little home of the superintendent of the Sabbath-school, who lived two or more miles from the village. Sabbath came, it was an ideal morning, but the sun was up long before the family was, and when the necessary chores were done, breakfast and worship over, the neglected Sabbath-school lesson studied, and all were ready, there was little time left in which to drive the two miles to the village church in time for Sabbath-school.

The faithful family horse received many blows from the whip to urge him to a sufficient rate of speed so that the superintendent might not be late. When we reached the church the first bell had not been rung, although the janitor lived near by, and the members of the school were leisurely arriving, quite a number being late because

they "had not heard the bell." When the superintendent took his place to open the school he first quoted the above text in the tone of a severe reproof. I have often wondered if it ever occurred to him that the same reproof might be applied to himself.

Instead of the sweet, gentle, teachable spirit of Christ pervading the school, there was a spirit of controversy and rivalry, each seeming to make a special effort to prove his views of the lesson, and it was a relief to the visitor when the Sabbath-school was dismissed. Nearly all seemed to have studied the lesson for the purpose of controversy, rather than to know what God would have them do. The ministers who visited the church said that it was a dead church, and although I had not at that time heard it, I felt that it was indeed so. They came together to study God's word, but not for the purpose of giving the message to others in order that they might be saved.

I remember another Sabbath-school in the same state whose officers seemed to have no definite plan for the hour's service. The songs were not previously selected, and during the singing the superintendent and secretary were talking, sometimes walking to different parts of the room and talking to others, and while prayer was being offered the secretary would be writing or the superintendent rustling the leaves of the hymn book hunting a song. The result was that the children caught the spirit of disorder and irreverence and were so disorderly that it was almost impossible to conduct the school, and very little, if any, good was accomplished. The officers themselves not being good examples of reverence and order could have no influence for good over the school.

A more beautiful picture "hangs in memory's hall." I see a large Sabbath-school in a city in the same state, in which is represented all the various departments. The superintendent is a man of God

with the burden of souls resting upon him. He feels the need of seeking God in prayer and wisdom in selecting teachers who love God, and who will labor for the salvation of precious souls. As he stands before the school and attends to his various duties, his manner impresses all with the fact that they are in the house of God, and that he realizes that he is standing in the presence of Jehovah. He has made all preparations for the exercises, each knows the part he is to perform, and there is a spirit of love, peace and harmony throughout. The secretary is familiar with the lesson taught in each department, and having visited each department the previous Sabbath, is able to give in the minutes some interesting report from each, and all feel when the minutes are read, that no one is being neglected. The secretary spends several hours each week in a prayerful preparation of the minutes, and when they are read all listen attentively, and frequently there are hearty "Amens" heard from the school. The influence growing out of this school improved and enlarged the church. There were conversions and additions to the church even from the children's and youth's departments, and they came into the church with reverence for the house of God and its services.

Much depends upon the superintendent. He should be a true educator, one who can carry the minds of his hearers with him. His words should be few, but earnest, coming from the heart. He should not always be blaming others, but his heart should be filled with pity. He, with the other officers, should study and plan how to secure a well-organized, well-disciplined school. They should not be satisfied with following a certain dry order of going through a round, for if they do they will miss the mark and fail of the work that should be done by the Sabbath-school.

Forms and ceremonies which

will eclipse the real object for which we are laboring should ever be guarded against. Nothing can be done without order and regulation, but these should be arranged so as not to shut out greater and more important duties. The simplicity of the gospel must be kept in view. Cold formality should be excluded by earnest zeal and energy. "The love of Jesus should be so manifest in the whole school that the pupils will regard this as the highest education.

Most important of all is the duty of the officers to seek God earnestly for the guidance and instruction of the Holy Spirit, that they may be true educators, able to inspire thought and to bring to remembrance the things that they have taught their pupils.

"It is not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts." "If any man lacks wisdom let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not, and IT SHALL BE GIVEN HIM."

He who is guided and controlled by the Holy Spirit will surely learn all the duties that God requires of him, and will have grace and power to perform them to the glory and honor of Him whom he loves and serves.

KATHERINE NUDING,  
Berrien Springs,  
Mich.

Some of our schools report the conversion of many of the children who are attending, and other schools show a lack of interest in spiritual things on the part of the pupils. Perhaps this is because right methods are not understood and practiced by the teachers. We wish our teachers might discuss through the "Herald" the question, "How shall church school pupils be won to Christ." Are there not some of our teachers who can offer suggestions that might be of value to other teachers? There are several of our teachers from whom we would very much like to hear,

as we know they have been giving the matter earnest thought. We hope to hear from Wright, Grand Rapids, Paw Paw and other schools.

W. E. VIDETO.

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### From the Field.

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ALLEGAN.

Brother M. N. Campbell was with us about ten days holding a canvassers' institute and we trust that those who are engaged in the canvassing work received much benefit. But that which most interested the Allegan church and their friends was the evening meetings.

The truth was presented in a clear and forcible manner and some of our neighbors manifested a good interest and they are troubled over these things and want to hear more. We regret that Brother Campbell could not remain and follow up the interest. So much is lost by leaving when an interest is awakened.

EZRA BRACKETT.

HOWARD CITY.

I met with the church at Howard City, Sabbath, April 1st. The ordinances of the Lord's house were celebrated. The spirit of the Lord was present and melted some to tears of repentance. When the roll was called all members who were present responded by praising God for the privilege of being witnesses for Him.

Hearts were impressed for good in the meeting. There was a man present who was not of our faith and he told me afterward that he now believed in the ordinance of humility. We held a public meeting with them the evening after the Sabbath and the attendance and interest was good. May the dear Lord continue to bless this church.

A. L. EVANS.

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### Obituary.

Sister J. L. Edgar quietly fell asleep Monday morning, April 3,

1905, after a brief illness, as calmly and peacefully as one taking their rest in natural sleep. She was taken with bronchial pneumonia little over a week previous to her death, during which time she suffered much, but without a murmur. All those who knew Sister Edgar are aware of her strong faith and bright hope in the triumph of present truth. This hope grew brighter and brighter until she was overtaken by the unconsciousness of death.

Sister Edgar was 78 years old the 20th of last February. She was united in marriage to Eld. J. L. Edgar over 53 years ago. During much of this time she has faithfully toiled with her husband in his work in the ministry, which was the all absorbing purpose of her life to the last. During these many years they have shared the toils and cares and joys of life together, having the advancement of the third angel's message as their supreme object. By her death a tender tie has been broken, which is felt most keenly by Eld. Edgar and his three daughters and a large number of friends. However they mourn not as they who have no hope. As a ripened sheaf she is gathered for the harvest. By request of the friends, words of comfort were spoken by the writer from Rev. 14:13. Eld. Stureman was present to assist in the services.

E. K. SLADE.

### News and Notes.

Elder A. G. Haughey spent Monday in Battle Creek in the interest of the work at that place.

Miss Flossie Hall reports that her school at Horr has closed for the year after a five months term.

The church-school at Cedar Lake taught by Ruth Saxby closed April 4th. There will be no spring term.

Brother and Sister Hutchinson are in Grand Rapids and expect to begin work as soon as they get settled.

A few of our Sabbath-school secretaries have not sent in their reports as yet. We are patiently(?) waiting for them.

Elder A. G. Haughey and M. N. Campbell spent Sabbath at Bauer. A church elder was ordained at that time. Brother Campbell went on to Portland.

Will all the Young People's societies of this conference PLEASE send a report to this office? We desire to know how many societies there are and what they are doing.

Wanted—A bright, strong, healthy lady and gentleman, at once, to take the nurses course. Can work their way through. Address, Michigan Sanitarium, Kalamazoo, Mich.

### Battle Creek.

Dr. A. J. Read spoke at the morning hour at the Sanitarium.

Mrs. McKee and Mrs. Richmond of Grand Rapids occupied the afternoon hour in the tabernacle, speaking in a most interesting way of their work for friendless girls in Grand Rapids. Because of this work, Battle Creek has now three clubs or societies formed to assist along this line. Others are expecting soon to form.

Prof. B. E. Nicola occupied the Tabernacle desk on Sabbath and preached a most interesting and practical sermon along the line of burden bearing. He said we should bear one another's burdens. We have no time to be talking of our brother's faults—should rather be looking after our own, which we are very apt to think not so great as the brother's.

### Sanitarium.

Dr. P. F. Haskell, Supt. of the Keene, Texas, branch was called here on business last week.

Thos. N. Doutney, the noted temperance lecturer of New England, spoke in the main parlor

Sunday evening. This is Mr. Doutney's first appearance here since he lectured in the Hamblin Opera House years ago.

A very interesting study on "Character building" was conducted by Miss Thompson in the parlor on Sunday afternoon. Children from the Haskell Home served as models of the methods used and as example of the results attained in modern child-training.

The regular monthly meeting of the Battle Creek Nurses' Association was held last Thursday evening in the fifth floor parlor. Miss Bertha Gibson read a paper on "Florence Nightengale" followed by Miss North, principal of the Nichol's Hospital Training School. The subject of her paper being "The Rise of the Nurses' Profession." After a short intercourse, the meeting was addressed by Dr. J. H. Kellogg. Light refreshments were served.

### "Brother Hill's Bible Class."

The International Publishing Association has just printed a pamphlet of 72 pages with cover for Eld. W. B. Hill of Nebraska entitled "Brother Hill's Bible Class a Study of Excuses, Fables, Inventions and Dreams."

This is without doubt the spiciest little booklet along its line that has been issued. Elder S. H. Lane, president of the New York Conference, says: "It is certainly an eye-opener. It should be in the hands of every one of our ministers, especially the younger ones who are not experienced in meeting these sophistries as are the older ones."

Price 15c, with a discount of 30%, postpaid, in quantities of ten or more. Order of the publishers, or of your Tract Society.

The bright sun and the April showers remind us of the fact that the time for "seed sowing" has come. We hope that our children will have some missionary gardens.