

Union Conference Record

"Be strong all ye people, saith the Lord, and work; for I am with you."

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Our Privilege in Service.

GOD'S people should no longer fail to comprehend the needs of the present time. Every hour has its importance. They should see the need of standing in their lot and place, and of putting their powers to the stretch in doing their appointed work. Why are there so many idlers among those professedly engaged in the Lord's service? Every soul may catch the divine fervor. How can these idlers afford to hoard their wealth of knowledge and experience while precious souls are out of the fold?

My brother, my sister, all your physical and mental and spiritual powers are God's gifts. Use them wisely. Develop the capabilities that the Lord has given you. Let every power of body and mind be used in earnest, willing service for God.

We need the deep moving of the Holy Spirit. All along the way we see souls dropping out of the ranks. Why?—Because they are not yoked up with Christ. United with him, we are safe in any peril. Faith cleaves to Him, twining about Him. The promise is fulfilled, "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me."

Divine wisdom is at our command. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering." The Lord Jesus is waiting for His people to feel their need of His grace. When they draw near to Him, He will draw near to them, by His power supplying all their needs. As they become one with Him, they receive the riches of His grace. They follow in His footsteps, helping those who need help, lifting up the hands that hang down, strengthening the feeble knees, and directing the gaze to Him who gave His life for the life of the world.

PERILS IN THE CLOSING WORK.

The coming of the Lord is nearer than when we first believed. What a wonderful thought it is that the great controversy is nearing its end! In the closing work we shall meet with perils that we know not how to deal with; but let us not forget that the three great powers of heaven are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring His purposes to pass. He will gather from the world a people who will serve Him in righteousness.

Fearful perils are before those who bear responsibilities in the Lord's work,—perils the thought of which makes me tremble. But the Word comes, "My hand is on the wheel, and in My providence I will carry out the divine plan."

WHOM HE CHOOSES.

The Lord will call young men from the humble walks of life into His service, just as He did when living

in person on this earth. He passed by the learned rabbis, to choose as His first disciples humble, unlearned fishermen. He has workers whom He will call forth from poverty and obscurity. Engaged in the common duties of life, and clothed with coarse raiment, they are looked upon by men as of little worth. But they will become precious jewels, to shine brightly for the Lord. "They shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels."

Christ's perfect knowledge of human nature fits Him to deal with minds. He knows just how to treat each soul. He judges not as man judges. He knows the real value of the material upon which He is working. He will give wisdom and knowledge to those who are willing to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, willing to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, willing to uplift Christ before the world.

On the Saviour's coronation day He will not acknowledge as His any who bear spot or wrinkle. But to His faithful ones He will give crowns of immortal glory. Those who would not that He should reign over them will see Him surrounded by the army of the redeemed, each bearing the sign, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**. They will see the head once crowned with thorns crowned with a diadem of glory.

In that day the redeemed will shine forth in the glory of the Father and the Son. The angels of heaven, touching their golden harps, will welcome the King and His trophies of victory—those who have been washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. A song of triumph will peal forth, filling all heaven. Christ has conquered. He enters the heavenly courts accompanied by His redeemed ones,—the witnesses that His mission of suffering and sacrifice has not been in vain.

WILL YOU ACCEPT HIS OFFER?

You may be weak, erring, sinful, but the Lord holds out to you the offer of partnership with Himself. He wants you to come under divine instruction. Uniting with Christ, you can work the works of God. It is His righteousness that goes before us, and the glory of the Lord that is our rearward. Ye churches of the living God, study this promise, and think how your lack of faith, of spirituality, of divine power, is hindering the coming of the kingdom of God. If you should go forth to do Christ's work, the angels of heaven would go before you, preparing hearts to receive the gospel. Were every one of you a living missionary, the message for this time would speedily be proclaimed in all countries, to every people and nation and tongue. This is the work that must be done before Christ shall come in power and great glory. Are you individually workers together with God? If not, why not? When do you mean to do your heaven-appointed work?

MRS. E. G. WHITE.

Where Did it Come From?

Yes, somebody told you, then you told somebody else, and that somebody else repeated the story! So the fair fame of a brother was tarnished, his reputation blighted, and his character placed under a shadow that may only be removed after many days.

Now think of it! Satan is the "father of lies," but falsehood has an infinite number of steps, fathers who assist the enemy in his unholy work. He who designedly or even thoughtlessly casts a reflection over the character of another holds a relationship to Satan that is not complimentary to any son of humanity.

Satan is known in the Scriptures as "the accuser of the brethren." He is the prime mover in all such unchristlike work. Envious thoughts, unholy ideas, ambitious revilery, self-important bearing, and all disparagement of others flow naturally from the mind of that fallen being who once proposed to exalt his throne above the throne of God. But why should the followers of Jesus Christ consent to perpetuate the envious and ambitious whisperings of that fallen accuser who accuses the saints before God day and night?

What share have you had in this unholy business? How much time and talent have you invested in Satan's character-destroying company? How many blossoms in the life and reputation of another has the poison from your tongue caused to wither? How many seeds have you cast to be gathered in the reaping of the harvest of lies?

It may be that you have thought the unkind remarks of little moment, or you supposed that the suspicious reflections cast into the mind of another would die out. But these things will not die while the devil lives. He is anxious to propagate all such seeds, for he knows what the harvest will bring.

That suspicion, whispered in the holy name of friendship, may yet bear a harvest of thorns. That slander, spoken in confidence—you will not tell another—may stain a life so deeply that the grave itself cannot hide the wound. We read that "the words of a talebearer are as wounds," but of course you did not intend to be such a thing as a "talebearer." You only told what somebody told to you. Still you formed one link in the chain of death.

Anciently God prohibited the talebearer from going up and down among His people. Lev. 19:16. Then is it possible that He should permit such work to-day?—No, God does not permit it, and His sentence is, "All liars shall have their part in the lake of fire."

Satan often gets into the church under the guise of a tattling tongue when he could not succeed in the form of a visible devil. Certain it is that the great majority of people talk too much, but why should the followers of Christ lend their tongues, wherewith they bless God, to the work of defiling the reputation of the children of God? Words are often cheap, but the consequence of their expression is often most disastrous.

Christ prayed for His murderers! Can you pray for those whose reputation you are thoughtlessly spoiling? God's method of putting wrongs right is that you should go to the brother alone, and there tell him his fault. But the method most frequently adopted is to go and tell the fault to everybody else but the one most concerned.

Let us adopt God's method, and give no place in either heart or life for the "accuser of the brethren."

R. HARB.

Luther Believed It.

SAID Luther, "The dead count neither days nor years." "All souls lie and sleep till doomsday." "When awakened" they "will seem to themselves to have slept scarcely a moment." In the "Historical View of the Controversy Concerning an Intermediate State," pp. 64 and 65, Mr. Blackburne says: "Luther espoused the doctrine of the sleep of the dead upon a scriptural foundation, . . . and continued in that belief to the last moment of his life." "Luther was clearly and indisputably on the side of those who maintain the sleep of the dead." It is also stated that in this "opinion he followed many fathers of the ancient church."—*Ibid.*, p. 348. In the same work we read, "The doctrine [of the sleep of the dead] was held by the first reformers." Fear-dentius called Lutherans "New Sadducees," because they held to the teaching of Luther, "that the dead so sleep as to know and feel nothing."

In his defence Luther said, "They affirm that I bring forth novelties, but I affirm that they are not novelties, but truths which have been lost sight of. I am accused of rejecting the doctors of the church. I reject them not, but test their writings by the Bible. The majority are always on the side of falsehood." Luther's great motto was, "The Word of God, the whole Word of God, and nothing but the Word of God."—*Messiah's Advocate*.

A Whistling Minister.

A SUCCESSFUL pastor must possess the grace of human sympathy and brotherly love, as well as the gifts of oratory and eloquence. During a late conference in New York, the question of increasing church membership came under discussion, and the pastor of a prominent Presbyterian Church in a neighboring city was asked to give his opinion. With a humorous twinkle in his eyes, he related in reply the following episode of his own experience:—

While taking a morning stroll in the suburbs of Buffalo, he came across a bright-faced little boy of about five years, who returned his good-morning greeting by taking his hand and chatting with the innocent candor of trusting childhood. He narrated, among other matters, that he had almost lost his pet dog the day before, because when it had gone out of sight he did not know how to whistle it back.

"Not know how to whistle, my little man!" said the minister. "Why, how does that happen?"

"'Cause nobody hain't had the time to teach me," was the answer, given with quivering lips.

"Well, well; I shall take the time to teach you," and in a few minutes the little fellow was seated on his kind friend's knee, solemnly engaged in mastering the mysteries of the great art of whistling, both teacher and pupil too much engrossed to notice that they were the centre of an admiring audience.

"I had intended to use strong moral persuasion," said the pastor in conclusion, "to bring the godless residents of that portion of the city under the influence of the church, but that simple act of kindness, through the grace of God, worked out a highly favorable result. I was dubbed the whistling parson, and under the protecting shelter of that sobriquet was allowed the freedom of many homes which would otherwise have been closed to me and to the message I was bound to deliver."—*N. Y. Observer*.

A Complete Gospel.

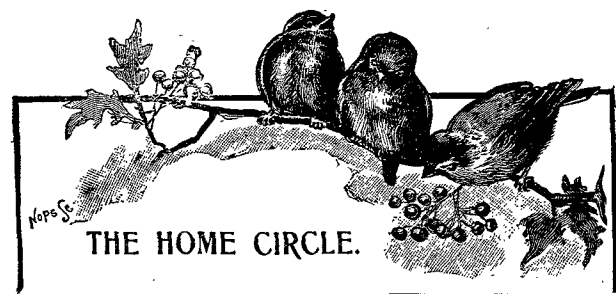
A COMPLETE gospel brings health to the body as well as to the soul. To the seventy that were sent out by the Saviour it was said, "Into whatsoever city ye enter, heal their sick and say the kingdom of God is come nigh." Healing of the sick was to be the evidence that the kingdom of God had come nigh to men. Wherever Christ went, the sick were restored to health because the kingdom of God was nigh them.

To convince the Pharisees of His power to forgive sin, He said, "That ye may know that the Son of man has power on earth to forgive sins, He said unto the sick of the palsy, Rise, take up thy bed and walk." The Creator alone can heal; for healing is a creative art; "who healeth all our diseases." Healing of our physical ills is designed to give us confidence in the Creator as our Redeemer, or Saviour from sin.

To the query of the disciples sent by John to Christ, "Art Thou He that should come, or look we for another?" He said, "Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard." The record says, "In that hour He cured many diseases, and plagues, and evil spirits, and on many that were blind He bestowed sight." These were the evidences of His divinity. These are the evidences the church of Christ must present to the world to-day, that the kingdom of God abides with her, and through her, has come nigh to the world. A gospel shorn of this is deprived of its legitimate power to convince the world. Healing of body and healing of soul go together. D. H. KRESS.

HUME once said that when he thought of his mother he believed in immortality. There are many to whom God seems afar off; they do not doubt Him, but they can not lay hold of Him as a companion in the hour of need. To such natures it is a blessed providence when some human soul becomes a translator and revealer of that divine Helper who has not yet become a divine Father in the thought and feeling of a weak and sinning child. Human love becomes in this way the prelude to the divine love; for we hold fast to the mother or wife whom we love; we long to gain and hold her confidence; we do the things that please her, and we leave undone the things that distress her. We square our life by her life, out of pure love for her. A beautiful human soul always suggests God, as the shining in the still waters at night makes us instantly aware that a star is above us. We do not need to look at it; we know that it is there. Whoever in this confused world has the supreme blessedness of living close to a beautiful human soul, can not look into the pure depths of that soul, day after day, without a constant vision of God.—*The Outlook*.

YOUR first step in the direction of God is not taken when you put on your Sabbath clothes and walk demurely into your pew. No; but it is taken when you put humility upon your proud heart, and fill your hot heart full of meekness, resignation, and quietness, and contrition, and a broken, heavenly, holy heart. To hold your peace when you are reproved is a direct and sure step toward God. To be silent when you suffer wrong—God takes at that great moment a great step of His toward you. To let a slight, an insult, a blow, a scoff, a sneer, fall on your head like an excellent oil, and on your heart like your true desert—"with that man will I dwell," says the God of Israel by His prophet.—*Rev. Andrew Whyte, D. D.*



"I Have Finished My Course."

"I AM eighty years old to-day. I have exceeded the allotted span, threescore and ten, by ten years. Much of it has been labor and sorrow. A few moments more and all will have passed, and I shall be gone—gone the way of all the earth." One of God's aged servants thus with solemn pathos began his address to those whom kinship had made most dear, who had gathered around his couch.

"I remember," he continues, "it seems as but yesterday, though sixty years ago, when I reached that point of my school life justifying that happy and ambitiously toiled-for exclamation, 'I have finished my course!' I felt like a man unskilled in the art of swimming, who had plunged from one shore of the river determined to reach the other; and with all the inabilities and obstacles that antagonised my efforts I reached it—much exercised but the happier for it. I was a graduate, and no monarch was prouder of his title than I of mine. The scene presents itself vividly to my mind's eye: A group of forty students, all aglow with evident but unspeakable ecstasy, sit on a platform before an admiring assembly. There are floral adornments, arranged with artistic skill, all around the stand and over our heads. In our hands are wreaths, fragrant and beautiful. Laudatory words are eloquently spoken to us, and with a happy satisfaction we receive our diplomas.

"The orchestra starts a strain—and oh, how I seem to hear the echo swiftly coming back from that distant occasion! The music vibrates from wall to wall, from floor to ceiling, and my whole being already attuned, answered to the sweet concert of sounds. I thought that I was happy that night, but to-night"—and he paused for a moment—"I am too happy for words.

"Yes, I have finished my course, but the diploma is not to be a perishable parchment, nor the laurels, fading flowers, but a golden crown bejewelled with precious stones, brilliant forever and ever. Ah, the echoes of yonder days are hushed, for even now methinks I hear harpers harping with their golden instruments music which no language on earth can describe!"

His face lighted up with a rapture of joy. For a while he seemed lost to all earthly surroundings. He gazed steadfastly upwards. His lips parted, and he smiled as he murmured, "Oh, the joys that await me there! In His presence there is fulness of joy!"

Recalling his attention to those around him, he continued, "This world is a great schoolhouse. Hard are the lessons, difficult the problems. Disappointments, trials, vexations, are some of the disciplinarians under whom you have to be tutored. Thank God I have learned my lessons. Many are the errors I made, but with a patience that bespoke a heart of unflinching love,

my Teacher, Christ, bore and forbore until I had mastered the difficulty. It was inward pride sometimes, it was outward misconduct at others, but over the misdone or undone task, he gently led me back, and in His grace and with His help I mastered.

"'They shall all be taught of God.' Let Him be your Teacher. Let duty, under whatever form it comes, be your lesson, and so when life's tasks are over, and you arrive at this point whereat, in the presence of God"—and his voice broke, and the dam of their tears broke through, and streams coursed down the cheeks of all. "Let us not cry," he resumed; "this is a solemn but a glad occasion. I was saying, when you arrived at this point, 'having studied to show yourselves approved of God,' you too may say, 'I have finished my course.'

"And now farewell, my kinsfolk, farewell. It is needless, on this my death bed, to lecture. I have endeavored to do so, by the help of God, by my life's actions, and this occasion closes and ratifies it all. I have endeavored to write my life's essay by a godly life. It is done, thank God, and now I am just dotting the full stop with my death. God has helped me to show others—and He will show you—how a Christian might live, and now I die—and this too may you—to show how a Christian dies. In it all to Him be the praise. Farewell, farewell. 'O death, where is thy sting?' he triumphantly exclaimed. 'I have finished my course: . . . henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.'"

Then, raising his head to heaven, he chanted in softest melody, the tune "Dimittus"—"Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace," and bowing his head, he whispered sweetly, "Good-night!" and fell asleep.

May the writer and reader so order their daily walk and conversation as to have their prayer answered: "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."—*P. Giddings.*

Do You Despise the Despised?

I MET a woman the other day who said that she did not see how a woman who had any refinement at all could be induced to do gospel work for the intemperate. She knew that she could not do it, and she was thankful that there was a better class which she could work for.

A few days later she missed her little boy, and a neighbor said he saw him go into a public house. Then she fairly ran there. But she went there for "her boy." That made quite a difference. When it is "our boy" or "our brother" going astray, it is easy enough to go after them. It is harder not to do it, but God is "our Father," and we are all ONE family.

My heart is made sad when I meet a mother who never had sympathy in rescue work for women until after her own daughter had gone astray; wrecks of humanity she would not stoop to speak to until she saw how empty her own home was, and what it meant to lose her own girl. Then she could sympathise with some other poor child who perhaps never had a mother's love and careful home training.

One woman said to me that she could not assist in the jail service, for she could not endure the smell, but the day came when her own son wrote to her from a prison cell, and then she went to him.—*Mary F. Smith.*

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO SYDNEY.

(Concluded.)

IN the Society Islands we have four organized churches, nearly 100 Sabbath-keepers, an annual tithe of about £80, and £11 Sabbath-school offerings.

One of the interesting features of our late meeting was the dedication of the new church house at Paia, Tahiti, sixteen miles from Papeete. This house is a neat but plainly finished structure, 18 x 30 feet, and out of debt with the exception of a few shillings. A good number of our brethren from the other churches were in attendance at the dedication. This company is composed wholly of natives. Some outsiders, both whites and natives, were present at the service. The dedicatory sermon was delivered by Elder Cady, who was assisted by Brother Dean and the writer.

Another interesting service was the ordination of Brother G. F. Jones. This brother and his wife have been laboring for more than a year in Pitcairn and in the Gambier group, 300 miles north-west of Pitcairn. At the latter place one of the leading business men (white) has accepted the truth in all its phases. As Brother Jones has given proof of his fitness for the gospel ministry, and as he is soon to go to the Cook Islands, it was the unanimous voice of the delegates present that he receive ordination. No one present doubted that the Holy Spirit was present to place his seal of approval upon what was done.

Our Pitcairn brethren have been deprived for years of the privilege of attending such a meeting, and those who were present were greatly encouraged. Now, as they have a vessel of their own, we hope they may be able to attend many such gatherings. Hereafter their tithes will be turned over to the Eastern Polynesian Mission. Since my latest visit to Pitcairn these brethren have been bringing in a tithe of all their produce into a storehouse. As bananas cannot be marketed fresh, the tithe of them is dried and put up in little packages. A few tons of them are now on hand, and will be placed on the market as soon as they can be moved. Every tenth cocoa-nut tree is marked with an L. X. (Lord's tenth), and every tenth fowl has a mark to indicate that it is the Lord's. The treasurer has on hand a few tons of tithed arrowroot flour which will be moved soon. It is hoped that the tithes on hand will bring into the Polynesian treasury something like £150. This will be a great help to the work, as well as being a blessing to our Pitcairn brethren.

At the close of our good meeting, I sailed for New Zealand, accompanied as far as Rarotonga by Brother Piper and the native family. Our first stop was at Huahine. The next day, Sabbath, we had the pleasure of spending a few hours with the Sabbath-keepers at Raiatea. On account of lack of time we could not visit the school, which is located five miles from the landing place. But we know the Lord is blessing this enterprise, for we saw some of the work done in the school in the person of some of the students. Brother and Sister Beckner have charge of the school farm, and Miss Anna Nelson is teacher. Students who are willing to work hard can get an education here without money and without price. The farm produces copra (dried cocoanut), vanilla, and manioc. An apparatus for making sugar has been purchased, and will be in operation soon.

Our third stop was at Aitutaki in the Cook Islands. We have no Sabbath-keepers here, but many friends. One boy from here has been to our Rarotongan school, and another was secured during our stay. This island must be worked soon, and I believe will be a fruitful field.

Our stop at Rarotonga was a very pleasant one. Here I found Sister Piper and Sister Gooding at work "holding the fort" during Brother Piper's absence. Besides the matter of the Christian training that is being given each day to the native students, which is of the highest importance, these workers have been gladdened by seeing the conversion of two young men from the school. There are nearly fifty Sabbath-keepers in this island, though all are not yet connected with the church organisation. A church house is in process of erection, and it is hoped will be dedicated before the close of the year.

The next stop was at Mangaia, followed six days later by a four days' stay at Auckland, New Zealand, then the pleasant home coming, June 21. During all this voyage of 15,000 miles, and covering over five months' time, I experienced not more than two stormy days. For this I am thankful. E. H. GATES.

Daniel was next brought in. "Daniel, what have you been doing?"

"Helping Zeke, sir."

Now I cannot believe that our workers are idle, nor that they are "helping" others to be so; but if they are working, and God is blessing their efforts, why do they not take a little time now and then and tell us about it, for our encouragement and to stimulate others? Were it not that our paper goes to so many who would not understand why it was done, we would send out a paper occasionally with one or two blank pages, on which would be printed in large letters, THE PLACE WHERE YOUR REPORT OUGHT TO BE.

The worst wish I have for any minister or worker is that they may some time be editors, and be obliged to make up two pages of field news for *just one week*, and have no reports with which to fill them. No, I do not wish that, but rather that every laborer may be so strengthened from above for service, and baptised with the Holy Spirit and with power, that they will exclaim, "Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what He hath done for my soul." May that day be hastened.

Yours in the message,

V. J. FARNSWORTH.

WHAT A FIJIAN TRACT DID.

THE first literature we had in the Fijian language was a very small edition of a Sabbath tract, printed at Pacific Press, Oakland, Cal. A torn portion of one of these tracts fell under the notice of a half-caste Fijian while he was sailing on a cutter. He was at once struck with the argument. He made inquiry for the full tract, and after obtaining it, read it and re-read it until he became fully convinced of the truth. He then commenced to obey. His wife and daughter joined him, and later his son and his son's wife accepted the Sabbath. And this same man visited a town on one of the islands some distance from his home, and through talking, reading, and scattering literature a number of natives accepted the truth. This shows what our literature can do. We are very much in need of means to advance in this line of work. Now as the Sabbath-school contributions are to go this quarter to the island literature, we are sure, as you see the great good that can be done in this line, that you will make liberal donations. J. E. FULTON.

A LETTER.

DEAR BROTHER EDITOR: Do you have any difficulty in obtaining reports from our laborers for the RECORD? If not, would you kindly tell us how to obtain them for the *Australasian Signs of the Times*? As you know, we have a field department in that paper, but sometimes we feel ashamed that we can give our readers so little from our own country. If you know any method by which good, readable reports can be obtained, we wish you would forward us instructions.

You have no doubt heard the story concerning the experience of the father of Daniel Webster of dictionary fame. There were two sons in his family, Ezekiel and Daniel. One day the father left home after telling the boys what work they should do during his absence. When he returned, not finding the work finished, he called them to account. He first summoned Ezekiel.

"Zeke, what have you been doing while I was gone?"

"Nothing, sir," was the reply.

WEEK OF PRAYER AT WAIKATO, N. Z.

THIS year was the first time we have met together during the season set apart. We were fortunate in having Brethren Pascoe and Bathgate with us. Their help and presence amongst us was a great source of joy, Brother Pascoe being very helpful in the meetings, doing all he could to make them a time of spiritual refreshing. The Lord was with us in a blessed manner. May the divine presence be a lasting comfort to each of us. Our oldest member walked about two miles each night to the meetings, notwithstanding the roads are not very good at this time of the year. Her husband would sometimes come and carry her home. We met at Brother Anderson's house. One sister told me she had laid aside threepence per week for almost two years, for the week of prayer offering. So when the time came, she was ready with the money. When I said her action was worthy of imitation and others should hear of it, she at first demurred, but finally gave way, thinking it might be a help to someone. Though the amount was small weekly, yet it brought up her offering to nineteen shillings. May God bless the work and workers.

M. CUDWORTH.

WHAT A CANVASSER SAYS.

"I CALLED at one home, and a young woman came to the door. I made myself known, and told what I represented. She knew I expected to come inside, and said firmly, 'No, thank you.' These are familiar words to the canvasser. I asked, 'Are you not interested in good things?' She replied slowly, 'Oh yes,' but her eyes dropped, and I understood I had touched a weak spot. So I began to show her the book at the door, and then she told me how the Bible contradicted itself, etc. She said she had once enjoyed a Christian experience, and told me her father tried to bring her up a Roman Catholic. However, I dealt with her soul, got my Bible and read some 'strong meats' that she could not understand so she could see her own ignorance, then I showed her the beauty of them and the wonderful meaning they contained. She was astonished, and soon

dropped her objections and became humble and teachable; and I know by the tear in her eye, the warm shake of the hand, and a promise 'I will try,' that the Lord spoke conviction to this poor soul, and that she would be glad to embrace Christianity.

"Another interesting case was a woman who asked me inside, and it being a cold morning we sat by the fire and had a real good talk. She said she would give the world to be a Christian, and I had much the same experience here as at the other place. I hope to see this dear woman in the kingdom. She gave me an order; and while I was talking with her, her next door neighbor came in and gave me another. She too, I understand, would like to be a Christian. Show me the Christian who does not like this kind of work, and I will show you one who has not the mind of Christ."

How many there are who need the help it is our privilege to give them. Are there not others who wish to join the ranks of those who are trying to "win souls" for the Master?
L. M. GREGG.

VICTORIAN QUARTERLY MEETINGS, JUNE 4.

THE Ballarat Church clerk writes, "We had a blessed time yesterday at quarterly meeting. God was very near, richly blessing every waiting soul. We were sorry all could not attend on account of the inclemency of the weather. We were very pleased to have some of the dear ones from Creswick. Others intended to be present, but could not get in. Those present took part in the ordinances of humility and the Lord's supper. We do pray that God will richly bless that little corner of His vineyard, and that the seed sown will take root and bring forth fruit to His honor and glory."

At North Fitzroy the blessing of the Lord was realised in a marked manner. After the opening exercises the thirty-fourth Psalm was read responsively, and a large number of testimonies were borne by the various members of the church, expressing gratitude for the many blessings received from the Lord during the quarter. A large number of young people spoke of blessings received in labor for others. After the ordinances had been celebrated, the congregation joined in singing the doxology as a token of gratitude for the presence of the Spirit of God in the meeting.

The Windsor Church reports: "Although the weather was damp and cold, there was a fairly good attendance. After a short address an opportunity was given for all to 'exalt the Lord in the congregation of the people,' and many responded. It was good to hear the many testimonies to the Lord's goodness. We especially felt grateful to God during the ordinances which followed to see several of the young members who have lately united with the church, join in this celebration for the first time. There was a spirit of love and unity manifested right through the meeting."

L. M. GREGG.

LITERATURE OUR POWER IN FIJI.

OUR literature is our power in Fiji, and yet we have little in comparison to what we have in English. God has used our little paper and our tracts. Souls have been brought into the truth that never saw the living preacher. Much of our time has been spent in writing and printing. In this way we have preached many more sermons than if we had gone out to preach from town to

town. This we did to some extent as circumstances would permit. We have quite a number of Sabbath-keepers in one of the islands of the Fiji group who accepted the truth almost wholly through reading our literature. Do natives appreciate the books and tracts we print?—Yes, they are calling loudly for them. We have just finished translating "Great Controversy." This will be a most interesting book to the Fijian. We want to print some health tracts and tracts on various subjects. Make the donations in our Sabbath-schools large during the present quarter, so that this work of printing island literature may be carried rapidly forward. The outlay will be productive of a good harvest. J. E. FULTON.

FROM A NEW ZEALAND CANVASSER.

THE Lord has come specially near, and that to bless, during the last few months. I know from personal experience how he can use the canvasser to carry sunshine and blessing into every home which he enters.

A prominent business man, an earnest Christian worker, purchased a copy of the book, "Rights of Man." After having read it he was fully convinced that union of church and State was not right. Recently at a Sunday-school convention, a paper was read pointing out the fact of Sabbath (Sunday) desecration by the public, and urging that laws should be made to prevent it.

Our friend who had bought "The Rights of Man" rose to his feet, and refuted the above statement by presenting some of the truths which he had so recently learned. By taking this position he soon found he had voiced the opinion of some, and aroused the opposition of others in the meeting. One gentleman came up to him after, and shook him heartily by the hand, saying, "I admire your courage. You have voiced an opinion I have held for a long time."

In spite of all opposition, the seeds of truth sown will spring up and bring forth an abundant harvest. For greater is He that is for us, than all the hosts of Satan. The work is God's, and while we are faithful in doing the work as He directs, He becomes responsible for the results.

The canvasser may become God's right hand stretched out to save. He reaches a class that probably could not be reached by other means, and has the precious privilege of knowing that heavenly agencies are set in motion to co-operate with his efforts. Man's needs are God's opportunities to use us as His ambassadors.

J. A. MACKINTOSH.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ANOTHER annual week of prayer has come and gone. Doubtless, to many, it will mark a new era in their Christian experience.

Being on a visit with the church at Mount Gambier, it was my good pleasure to spend this special season with the brethren there. We had specially good times together. The Spirit of the Master came in, hearts were united, and, during the days appointed for the special readings and prayer, all took hold, and all were blessed.

During our visit two dear young women surrendered themselves to the Lord, and expressed a wish to join the church; so, on Sabbath morning, June 13,—the last of the week of prayer,—we buried these precious souls in a "watery grave." May the Lord help them to keep faithful to their baptismal vows. In the afternoon we closed the special meetings by partaking of the privileges of the Lord's house.

Here, in the city and suburbs, meetings were held both afternoons and evenings. Four nights during the week central meetings were held in the Rechabite Hall, and the testimony of those who attended is: "It was good to be there;" "The meetings had a right ring;" "We appreciate the truth of the message more than ever."

The company at Norwood took hold with much earnestness, and expressed regret when the meetings closed. The brethren at Parneroo write of the good times spent together there. All were refreshed.

At this writing we have not had reports from Broken Hill, Wallaroo, and various scattered companies, but we expect to hear the same echo of blessing and praise.

T. H. CRADDOCK.

HIS FIRST AND LAST TESTIMONY.

ONE of the number who have been attending our Monday night prayer meetings was an old man, who had passed the four score mark. After an earnest talk by the leader on the subject of prayer and our duty to God, a call was made for testimonies, and this old man under the convicting power of the Spirit gave us, as we believe, his first testimony. We all remember how his aged form trembled with emotion as he told how good God had been to him, and how he intended to serve Him the balance of his days. He was looking forward to another happy time last Monday evening, but it was not to be, for he did not know what a day would bring forth.

On reaching my office Monday morning, about the first one to speak to me said, "Did you know that old man Bailey was killed by the fast mail train on the Lake Shore this morning?" It was a sad reality.

He had gotten up early to go on an errand of mercy, and in crossing the tracks he was struck and instantly killed by the fast train. But we have hopes of meeting him again at the first resurrection, when the earth shall disclose her blood and no more cover her slain. "And the Lifegiver shall come to break the fetters of the tomb, and call His children forth immortal."

My brother, do not wait till you are eighty years old to give your heart to the Lord, but say with the apostle of old, "Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation."—*J. W. Cummings, in the Life Boat.*

OF the experience of Drs. S. L. and Myrtle L. Lockwood, who went to Japan last fall, the *Bulletin*, of Des Moines, Iowa, says, "They are located at Tokyo, and, having been unable to secure a foreign house, are living in a Japanese cottage,—a paper house with sliding walls. They have to purchase all their furniture at sales or at second-hand stores. However, with many inconveniences to meet, the work seems to be opening up nicely. Because of the difficulty in securing a location in Tokyo they think of settling in Kobe. They have become acquainted with influential people there who are glad to do all they can to assist. It is hoped that a house suitable for sanitarium work can be secured soon."

"NO MAN can avoid his own company, so he had best make it as good as possible."

Statistical Report of Conferences in Australasian Union Conference, Quarter Ending March 31, 1903

Name of Conference or Mission.	Number of Churches.		Number of Sabbath Schools.		Membership of Sabbath Schools.		Average Sabbath School Attendance.		Number of Ministers.		Licensed Preachers.		Bible Workers.		Colporters.		Canvassers.		Tithe Paid.			First-Day Offerings to Foreign Missions.			Sabbath School Donations to MISSIONS.			Annual Contribution to Missions.			Miscellaneous Individual Gifts to Missions.			Donations to School.			Sales of Subscription Books.			Retail Value.			Sales of Trade Books and Tracts.			Retail Value.			Value of Conference Property.			Indebtedness of Conference.		
	Churches.	Members.	Schools.	Members.	Attendance.	Ministers.	Preachers.	Bible Workers.	Colporters.	Canvassers.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.											
Victoria	9	505	17	607	490	24	2	1	12	333	17	1	26	6	1	25	12	0	828	1	0	149	13	0	291	16	3	528	15	9 1/2	344	6	8	256	3	3	150	0	0	136	13	7	186	3	6 1/2									
New South Wales	14	560	19	736	578	3	3	3	19	341	13	9	39	8	2	10	6	0	717	5	6	108	5	6	150	0	0	202	8	6	62	13	6	14	0	0	29	3	9	132	14	11												
New Zealand	15	396	29	506	394	3	4	2	3	361	3	0	107	19	5	15	6	0	74	0	10	74	0	3	35	0	0	193	12	6	14	0	0	29	3	9	132	14	11	122	0	0												
Queensland	6	230	7	197	129	1	1	1	3	74	0	10	10	0	0	20	10	11	10	0	0	20	10	11	10	0	0	20	10	11	10	0	0	20	10	11	10	0	0	20	10	11	10	0	0									
South Australia	4	254	14	344	266	4	1	2	4	202	9	11	16	4	1	24	8	2	193	12	6	14	0	0	29	3	9	132	14	11	122	0	0	29	3	9	132	14	11	122	0	0												
Tasmania	5	190	11	274	207	3	1	1	2	202	9	11	16	4	1	24	8	2	193	12	6	14	0	0	29	3	9	132	14	11	122	0	0	29	3	9	132	14	11	122	0	0												
West Australia	4	210	11	198	165	2	1	2	4	202	9	11	16	4	1	24	8	2	193	12	6	14	0	0	29	3	9	132	14	11	122	0	0	29	3	9	132	14	11	122	0	0												
Totals	57	2345	108	2862	2229	13	13	10	7	66	1622	14	11	15	6	139	1	3	24	8	2	5	0	4	5	0	3494	19	9	468	15	9	1228	4	5	971	2	7																

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News and Notes of Importance.

"Meat and Drink."—A Fijian native student at one of the Wesleyan schools wrote concerning our literature that it was intensely interesting to him, that it was "meat and drink" to his soul. He said that in no other literature did he find the Bible so clearly explained. When famishing souls are calling out for the Word in this way, I am sure the hearts of thousands of God's people respond. Make July, August, and September a banner quarter in Sabbath-school donations.

Slavery in the United States of America.—Recent investigations have brought to light a sad condition of things in the State of Alabama. Slavery was found actually to exist, and that to an alarming extent. Whippings were found to be frequent and severe, while deserters were pursued by hounds as in the days of wholesale tyranny. The poor blacks have been arrested by a scheming constabulary for vagrancy or otherwise, fined and imprisoned, and then turned over to the planter who pays the fine and takes the poor wretch into bondage. By a system of cruel co-operation between magistrate and planter the unfortunate black is reduced to a state of perpetual slavery. This evil principle is not confined to a few individuals or to any one State. Thus prophecy is being fulfilled. "Early Writings," page 146, which was first published in 1858, in speaking of the events occurring at the coming of the Lord, reads as follows:—

"I saw the pious slave rise in victory and triumph, and shake off the chains that bound him, while his wicked master was in confusion and knew not what to do, for the wicked could not understand the voice of God." Skeptics and scoffers have jeered at the statement, and heralded it to the world as convincing evidence that the writings of Sister White were misleading and untrue. We can now see that the statements of the above author regarding the restoration of slavery in the United States are being fulfilled, and that every principle of civil and religious liberty which has made the nation what it is, is being rapidly repudiated.

The Visit of the French President to London, and his reception by King Edward and the British Empire has been indeed a very auspicious occasion. It would be a happy day for the sons of Adam if every old quarrel could in like manner be forgotten and every grudge and ill feeling be wiped away. The past history of the two nations has not been a revelation of the fruits of the Spirit, but wars and bloodshed, jealousy and evil surmising, have had full sway. It is to be hoped that the present pleasant relations may prove lasting, as such conditions enhance the happiness of all and facilitate the evangelisation of the world and the coming of Christ.

The Exodus from Australasia.—Contentment and prosperity are apparently minus quantities with many in these times, or there would not be such a rush as there is now from our shores to Africa, Canada, and other distant countries. Men who are living solely for this world and for what they hope to get out of it, ordinarily find that the service of Satan is very disappointing. How few who see the utter hopelessness of striving for self and temporal blessings, ever think of seeking first the kingdom of heaven and Christ's righteousness. For all such the promise relating to temporal blessings is, "All these things shall be added unto you." David testified, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed

apparatus is attached to the ears, by which, through the instrumentality of electricity, sound waves are conveyed directly to the inner ear. The mechanism for enabling the blind to see has not yet been described by the inventor; but has been satisfactorily tested, according to reports from Paris. The hearing apparatus has been tested in public, and the deaf mutes who heard for the first time were in ecstasy.

THE campaign with "Object Lessons" in Newcastle, N. S. W., is still onward. During the past three weeks orders have been secured for over 300 books. The various companies of students and resident members of the Avondale Church who are engaging in the good work are getting a grand experience. We have not heard of a single individual returning discouraged.

"He who does a good deed is ennobled instantly; he who does a mean deed is, by the action itself, contracted."