

THE GLEANER.

VOL. 2.

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No. 1.

DOING JESUS' WILL.

In Thee, dear Lord, abiding,
One thought shall urge me on,
With patient trust confiding,
Until the crown is won;
Though sometimes sad and lonely,
When tears my eyes shall fill,
This thought shall cheer me only,
I'm doing Jesus' will.

In working, be not weary,
But bravely, firmly stand,
For life can ne'er be dreary
While Jesus holds the hand.
The crown is right before us,
On Zion's holy hill,
We've angels watching o'er us
While doing Jesus' will.

W. R. CARSWELL.

THE PRESENT CRISIS.

The people of Australia are learning that Federation is a great question.

The verdict of the leading men in politics, commerce, and religion is that the proposals regarding the Constitution for the Federal Government involve serious issues.

The one phase of this question that interests Seventh-day Adventists is the religious phase. On this point we hold distinct and peculiar views. Nearly all other denominations are exceedingly anxious that some clause shall be inserted in the Constitution which will formally recognise God.

The majority of the non-professors look upon this desire of the churches as a sentiment that will do but little good and no harm. While they would prefer to see such recognition left out of the document, they will not object to its insertion if it "will be as a soothing balm to earnest people, even earnest people who may be prone to confuse shadow and substance."

But we, as a people, make a decided protest against the insertion of any religious clause, no matter how small or how innocent it may appear. For we know

that ultimately such a clause will prove to be the link that unites church and state. It will prove to be a germ which may, and very likely will, produce religious legislation and persecution in their worst forms.

We have the word of God and the history of many centuries to support this view of the question. The word of God reveals to us the grandest principles conceivable regarding the rights and liberties of the individual in matters of religion. The history of the world places before us the terrible results that have followed when governments have disregarded these principles. An unholy alliance between the church and the state—with the church controlling the state—is to be one of the great evils of the last days. Against this unlawful union God's people are to give an earnest warning. We shall not be able to prevent the union, but we can, and must, blow the trumpet and sound the alarm. In doing this we shall open the eyes of some to the evil and turn them from it, who would otherwise be parties to it.

For this reason we have felt from the first that we should oppose the work of the Council of the Churches. This led us to send a counter-petition to the Federal Convention, and this is why we are now working earnestly to place the principles we have before the people.

At present we are at work interviewing Members of Parliament, editors of newspapers, and business men, securing signatures to petitions to the various colonial Parliaments, circulating literature, and conducting newspaper correspondence. We are meeting with much encouragement in these various branches.

To facilitate the work of securing signatures to the petitions two four-page leaflets were prepared. One entitled, "Petitions to Parliament," the other "Governmental Recognition of God." Of these together 100,000 have been printed, the greater part of which have already been distributed. These have proved a most valuable assistance in getting right principles before the people.

Of the *Southern Sentinel* for this quarter a 10,000 edition has been printed. It is a special number, and well adapted to meet the present issue. Copies of the two leaflets and a circular letter for publication have been sent to nearly 600 newspapers in Australia.

Marked copies of the *Sentinel* have also been sent to them. The *Sentinel* and leaflets have been furnished to Members of Parliament, and the last two *Sentinels* have been sent to the Public Libraries of the various colonies. Copies of the leaflets and the *Sentinel* are being sent to the Wesleyan and Presbyterian ministers of Australia, and to the Anglican and Baptist ministers of Victoria.

This is the most favourable opportunity that we have ever had in the colonies to place right principles on these important issues before the people. The public mind is being agitated upon the subject, and the question is a live one. Many are in the dark, and are working conscientiously for what they believe to be right. The Lord has entrusted to us great truths, and just now is our opportune moment to let light shine upon the people.

AN INTERESTING INCIDENT.

OUR workers in Sydney had a very interesting experience recently in connection with a meeting held by the Council of the Churches, for the purpose of creating a public sentiment in favour of a recognition of God in the Federal Constitution. Some time before the hour for the meeting to open, eighteen of our workers were stationed at the corners of the block in which the meeting hall was located. No one could get to the hall without passing some of these workers who were giving out the religious liberty leaflets. The people accepted them graciously, and passed on to the hall. While waiting for the meeting to open, they improved the opportunity to read the leaflets.

Before the meeting opened the whole congregation, including the speakers and preachers on the stand, were absorbed in the contents of the tracts. One of the ministers read his tract through, turned it over several times and read it again. One of the speakers in his speech called attention to the tracts, stating that he did not know the meaning of this thing. At this the President of the Wesleyan Conference stepped forward and said, "Oh, they are nothing—simply the advertisement of a journal." This caused the congregation to pull the leaflets from their pockets and look for the journal. When the President of the Conference said what he did, a man arose and said, "Mr. Speaker, these tracts are something. They present the right side of this question." And when they called for a vote on the resolution, and the Chairman said, "Carried unanimously," this man said, "It is not carried unanimously, I vote against it."

Two ladies sitting in front of one of our workers, read the tracts. When they came to vote, one voted against the resolution. The other said, "Put your hand down, you are voting on the wrong side." She

held the tract up to her and said, "No, I am not, the whole thing is wrong."

This is a forcible illustration of the influence that may be exerted by our literature. We rejoice to say that nearly 100,000 copies of these leaflets, "Petitions to Parliament," and "Governmental Recognition of God," have been placed in the hands of the people within the past few weeks. We cannot estimate the good that may result therefrom.

GOOD WORDS.

In the April number we published a letter from Walter Edwards of Cobur, Victoria, in which he tells of his and his mother's interest in our literature. A letter was written to him from the office, to which he has replied. We feel sure that our readers will be interested to learn more of him. It is interesting to know how their attention was first called to the truth. Here is the letter:—

"I received your kind letter, and read it with much interest. You ask how we became acquainted with your literature. Now I will tell you. One of my brothers went to Western Australia. He got the typhoid fever. Mrs. Burrows was the name of the lady he boarded with. She nursed him through his illness, and she wrote a very kind and comforting letter to my mother, and although a perfect stranger to us, sent us your *Bible Echo*, and paid for it for six months. She also sent us some tracts on the Sabbath. This was the first we heard about it.

"I have three sisters and two brothers at home now. My mother, three sisters and one brother are converted, and believe that the seventh day is the Sabbath. But my father and one brother are not converted, and we find it very hard to keep the Sabbath. But if it is God's commandment, we would rather obey Him than man. I am only seventeen years of age.

"I believe that the coming of our Lord is near. May He help each one of us to prepare for that great day.

"The book I got from the Tract Society, called 'Here and Hereafter,' convinces me that the dead sleep until the resurrection, and that we do not possess immortality till it is bestowed upon us by Jesus our Life when He comes in power and glory.

"There is another lady in Cobur who thinks that Saturday is the Sabbath and that our Saviour's coming is near."

ARRANGEMENTS have been made with some of the leading news agencies in Melbourne to keep the *Southern Sentinel* on sale. Large posters have been printed and put up in various parts of the city calling special attention to the subject matter of this number.

NOTES.

BROTHER PALMER left on the 19th inst. for Tasmania, where he expects to labour for several weeks. He will visit the various churches and companies, giving special attention to the religious liberty work.

BROTHER DOWNS called at the office on the 20th inst., having just completed his delivery in Lancefield and vicinity. He had taken 101 orders, and delivered 100 books.

THE subscription book sales throughout the world during 1896, as reported by F. L. Mead, the General Canvassing Agent, were £68,202 11s. 11d. The sales in Australia were £8,575 2s., which is about one-eighth of the whole amount.

BROTHER N. A. Davis has been called to Sydney to assist in the religious liberty work for a few weeks. He is very busy interviewing Members of Parliament, editors, and other public men, circulating reading matter, and securing signatures to the petition. He is meeting with good success in his work.

BRETHREN J. H. Woods, C. P. Michaels, W. H. J. Willson, R. S. Bell, and Sister Blunden are devoting their time exclusively to religious liberty work in Melbourne and suburbs during the present crisis. An excellent work is being done by these labourers and our brethren and sisters in the churches. 5,648 signatures have been presented to the Victorian Parliament, and several hundred additional names are being secured daily.

THE religious liberty agitation is running high in Adelaide. On the 13th inst. a deputation of about fifty ministers called upon the Premier, presenting their request for a religious clause in the Federal Constitution. The members of the Adelaide church are working hard to meet this issue. Bro. Starr is superintending the work. Petitions are being presented to that Parliament, and large numbers of the leaflets are being circulated.

AS OUR workers approach Members of Parliament in the various colonies with reference to the present agitation for church and state union, they not infrequently find those who are acquainted with the *Southern Sentinel*. The acting-Premier of one of the colonies said that he had received it regularly, that he liked its position on religion in the state schools, and its tone generally. While a worker was talking with a Member of Parliament in Sydney, the Member drew a copy of the previous quarter's *Sentinel* from his pocket,

and told him how much he thought of it. Upon seeing Members of the Victorian Parliament with reference to presenting our petitions, several at once recognised the petition as the one referred to in the leaflets received and read a few days previous. One Member has read and much appreciated the "Rights of the People."

RESULTS OF MISSIONARY EFFORT.

FOR the encouragement of those who are sending literature to their friends in England, we glean the following items from the *Field Tidings* of London. One of the agents in writing to the paper from Coventry says:—

"Another customer who has Sabbath-keeping relations in Australia receives the *Bible Echo* regularly; she is much agitated and desires to learn more of the truth. We trust her friends may yet have the pleasure of knowing that she is rejoicing in like precious faith with them."

Doubtless some of our readers will recognise this as their effort to get the truth before the "home" folk. They certainly have reason to praise God that the seed thus sown is taking root.

Another worker in writing to the same paper says:—
"As Sister Read was about to leave Newcastle, and was selling out her last lot of papers, she fell in with a family who had been acquainted with our literature for about five years, first having received papers from New Zealand. When visited later these people seemed to be well instructed in present truth and on the point of obeying fully. The gentleman has since agreed to look after a small paper list which was left behind by Sister Read. This same worker also found a lady who had some of our books which she had brought all the way from China, and prized them very highly."

"In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either his or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

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