

# THE HOME MISSIONARY EXTRA.

BATTLE CREEK, MICH., NOVEMBER, 1889.

## ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY.

At the last meeting of the late session of the International Tract Society, held at Battle Creek, Mich., it was voted that the Chair appoint a committee of three to prepare an abstract of the proceedings of the entire session, together with some plans by which the recommendations made for the future work of the Society could best be carried into immediate effect by the workers; said matter to be published in an Extra of the HOME MISSIONARY. The Chairman subsequently announced as said Committee, L. C. Chadwick, Dan. T. Jones, and Mrs. F. H. Sisley. This Committee has carefully examined the proceedings of the Society, and after formulating some plans, submitted them to the Executive Board of the Society for criticism and revision. This Extra to the HOME MISSIONARY is issued to furnish this matter to those who are believed to be specially interested in the future work of the Society.

More complete reports of the proceedings of the Society will appear in the *Review* and the next Year Book. We have selected only such portions for the Extra as specially relate to future work, and plans by which it may be carried forward.

### FIRST MEETING.

The first meeting of the Society was held Friday, October 18. Seventy-two delegates were present, and this number was considerably increased at other meetings during the session. As the President, Elder S. N. Haskell, was absent, the meetings were conducted by the Vice-President, Elder W. C. White.

Seven meetings were held; the last one being November 5.

During the session, the following committees were appointed:—

*On Nominations*—S. H. Lane, W. B. White, E. E. Miles.

*On Resolutions*—E. J. Waggoner, H. W. Miller, L. Dyo Chambers.

*On Constitution and Work*—L. C. Chadwick, Dan. T. Jones, D. A.

Robinson, C. H. Jones, C. Eldridge, J. P. Gardiner, L. McCoy, J. O. Corliss, E. H. Gates, C. A. Hall, W. B. White.

*On New Books*—L. T. Nicola, R. S. Donnell, S. S. Shrock, H. W.

Pierce, J. H. Durland, W. R. Smith, O. A. Johnson, Emil Johnson, Rodney S. Owen, A. T. Jones, John Vuilleumier.

*To examine the Constitution and suggest such changes as may seem necessary at the next session, also to suggest to the State societies a*

*Constitution for their adoption*—L. C. Chadwick, Dan. T. Jones, C. Eldridge, L. Dyo Chambers, A. O. Tait.

*To consider the advisability of issuing a canvassers' journal*—C. Eldridge, L. C. Chadwick, E. E. Miles, S. N. Curtiss, F. E. Belden.

### VICE-PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

At the first meeting, the Vice-President read an address, reviewing the work of the past year, and outlining the matters that should receive attention in the future, from which we make the following quotations:—

“The amount of labor performed by members of this Society during the last twelve months, compares favorably with that of previous years; there has been increased activity all along the line, and in nearly every branch of its work. The Society has not confined its efforts to the usual lines of labor, but it has thrown its energies into the conflict against religious legislation with such energy that its influence has been manifest from Maine to California, and from Michigan to Texas.

“Soon after the close of our last annual meeting, the Society was called upon to engage in the cir-

ulation of the anti-Sunday-law petitions, and the distribution and sale of tracts, pamphlets, and periodicals opposing religious legislation. It was a new move, a work we were not accustomed to, and some questioned its efficiency; but most of our working members took hold of it with a hearty good-will, and pushed it with such energy that in the first ten weeks there were two hundred and fifty thousand signatures obtained to the petition.

"Had this work been continued with the same energy with which it was begun, we should now have had several millions of autograph signatures to this petition, ready to present to the next Congress; but Congress adjourned, the Blair bills died, the spring work came on, making it difficult for some to spend more time with the petitions, and in many places too much weight was given to the arguments of those opposed to the work, that, now that the Blair bills were dead, there was no prospect of the passage of a national Sunday law, and therefore there was no more call for the circulation of our petition. But we shall yet see, as we advance with this work, that the greatest danger to the liberty which we hold so dear, lies in the *indifference* of our fellow-citizens as to the nature and purpose of this Sunday-law movement, and that our work is to overcome this indifference by repeated warnings.

"We have no doubt but that the introduction of another bill for a national Sunday law, will call out a new and much stronger effort on our part to defeat it; but why should we wait till the danger is just upon us, before putting forth our best efforts? Why should we not work as earnestly and as unceasingly as the advocates of this national Sunday law do to secure their desired ends? Rather, why should not we work with tenfold greater energy than they do, because we see clearly, both from history and from prophecy, that their work, if successful, will not bring the peace that they anticipate, but that it will bring ruin to both the church and the State?

"Elder Haskell, the father of the Society, has often said that the International Tract and Missionary Society should stand ready to act promptly in any emergency, where principles of justice and truth were at stake.

"The experience of this Society during the last twelve months, has given us new and enlarged views as to its work and its fields of operation. The organization and successful operation of the National Religious Liberty Association, instead of lessening the labors of this Society, will greatly augment its work; for wherever its lecturers go, arousing public interest in the questions at issue between those favoring national religion, and those protesting against it, there also should the agents of this Society be sent to sell publications treating upon the same issues. There should be some system of work organized at this meeting, by which every school district in the United States shall be visited during the year by canvassers and colporters selling our literature, and securing the assistance of teachers and others in the circulation of petitions and the religious liberty tracts and pamphlets.

"As we study the field in which the Society is

called to labor, we find that in its relation to the State societies, it should encourage and assist them to organize their forces for a thorough canvass of their respective territories. This can be accomplished only by impressing upon the officers and members of the local branches, the fact that they are responsible for the work in and around their locality, and that it is their duty to study both the literature and the sentiments of the people of their community; it is their work to select and encourage discreet persons to engage in a thorough canvass both of business men and of families, for signatures to the anti-Sunday-law petition, and also to find interested readers for our literature upon this and kindred subjects.

"When the branch societies shall faithfully undertake their part of the work, the State officers will have time to plan for those parts of their field that cannot be reached by the local branches. Those portions of the field covered by the State societies have heretofore been practically neglected, except by the field canvassers, whose noble and self-sacrificing labors have carried the message to thousands, many of whom are longing to have the way of truth explained to them more perfectly.

"As regards the internal workings of the State societies, I think there are a few changes in the management of local branches, which would add greatly to their strength. Each local branch should be allowed to deal directly with the State Secretary, and should receive instruction and advice direct from the State Secretary's office."

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

At the fifth meeting, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

*For President*—L. C. Chadwick.

*Vice-President*—D. T. Jones.

*Recording Secretary*—T. A. Kilgore.

*Foreign Corresponding Secretary*—M. L. Huntley.

*Home Corresponding Secretary*—Mrs. F. H. Sisley.

*Treasurer*—W. H. Edwards.

*Assistant Secretaries*—Mrs. D. T. Jones, Eliza T. Palmer, Addie S. Bowen, Anna L. Ingels, H. P. Holser, W. A. Spicer, Mary Heilesen, Mrs. N. H. Druillard, Josie L. Baker, Mrs. M. H. Tuxford.

*Executive Board*—L. C. Chadwick, D. T. Jones, O. A. Olsen, S. N. Haskell, W. C. White, D. A. Robinson, W. C. Sisley, C. Eldridge, A. T. Robinson.

#### THE HOME MISSIONARY FOR 1890.

The following resolutions in regard to the HOME MISSIONARY, were presented by the Committee and adopted:—

*Resolved*, That we recognize the fact that the HOME MISSIONARY has done a good work during the past year, and that we recommend its continued publication.

*Resolved*, That the English edition thereof be enlarged to sixteen pages of the same size as heretofore; and that the price be twenty-five cents per year.

*Resolved*, That the HOME MISSIONARY contain series of questions, notes of information, references, etc., on the following lines;

namely, Foreign Missions, Religious Liberty, Health and Temperance, and the Home Missionary Work ; one lesson on each subject to appear every month.

#### AN ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP.

A resolution which contemplates the enlistment of the entire membership of our tract societies in some line of aggressive work, was adopted as follows :—

*Whereas*, There is much unused talent in the denomination, and there are open fields that invite every member to active work in some line ; therefore, —

*Resolved*, That we recommend that the President and Vice-President of the International Tract Society, in connection with such persons as may be chosen in the various State societies, give special attention to the work of instructing the members of the branch societies in the several lines of work ; namely, amateur canvassing, conducting Bible readings, circulating petitions, laboring by correspondence, etc., and thus secure the development of a strong corps of workers in all parts of the field.

#### WHY NEEDED.

We have now reached a time when a well-organized and thoroughly instructed company of workers is needed for immediate action.

During the last session of Congress, while a powerful effort was being made to secure the passage of the Blair Sunday bill, there was considerable activity among those who opposed it ; but since Congress has adjourned, and that particular bill is dead, many have seemed to feel that there was less necessity for earnest and untiring opposition to National Reform principles. But this is not the case. The advocates of National Reform are working untiringly to influence public opinion.

We quote the following from an article from Mrs. J. C. Bateham, the National Superintendent of the Sabbath Observance department of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, which appeared in the *Union Signal* of Oct. 24, 1889 :—

"The Sabbath question is at the front, at the bar of public opinion, and in the councils of the nation ; and we must use our whole influence to see that it is settled right. A new Congress convenes this winter, and from the day it is organized we must again lay siege to the members for a national Sunday-rest law. We did not get the law from the last Congress, even with ten millions of petitions. Shall we therefore cease our efforts ? It would be unlike and unworthy our noble organization. We must repeat the work, redouble our exertions — *and succeed !*"

We cannot mistake the sound of such notes of warning. Are we putting forth as much effort in the defense of religious liberty as its opposers are against it ? — No indeed ! How, then, shall we carry out the resolution above mentioned, that has just been adopted by the International Society ?

#### NEED OF EARNEST PERSONAL EFFORT.

We wish to outline briefly a plan which we have seen tried in some States with good results, and urge all who receive this Extra to commence *at once* an organized effort in this direction. In the most of our Conferences, persons have already been selected to give their special attention to the work of lecturing on the subject of religious liberty ; but this is not enough. Every one should be doing something to advance this work.

Each librarian should see that his society is furnished with a liberal supply of petitions, *Sentinel* tracts, copies of the *Sentinel*, and the new pamphlets which treat upon this issue. The librarian should also study diligently to be familiar with the situation in his locality, and be prepared to assist the director in the selection and instruction of persons needed to do special work.

The present crisis demands that every member shall be prepared to do earnest, intelligent work for the Master. To this end familiarity with the principles of National Reform ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> needful. Consecrated individuality is demanded now as never before. Each member should study the plans recommended by the leaders of the Society, that he may act in harmony with his fellow-laborers. And in addition to this, he must study the opportunities and demands of the cause in his own neighborhood, as no other one can study it for him. There is earnest work to be done at once, that our friends and neighbors may be prepared to understand the issues ~~that will arise~~ <sup>that will arise</sup> during the coming Congress. If we neglect our present duty, we can expect but limited success in the coming crisis. This is the time when we should be placing the *Sentinel*, the *Sentinel* tracts, and other literature of this character, in the hands of our neighbors and fellow-citizens. This is the time when our prayers should follow our labors, and our weakness give place to strength.

Our Tract Society has a great work before it. Its membership is nearly fifteen thousand, of whom perhaps one-third can be depended upon for active service in the work of distributing religious liberty literature, and in securing numerous signers to the petitions opposing Sunday legislation. A much larger number will help occasionally as they have special opportunity, but we ought, during the present season, to be able to depend upon five thousand of our members for regular systematic work. To these we will say that the first requisite to success is an appreciation of the importance of the work, which will necessarily lead to a desire for a —

## SPECIAL PREPARATION.

Those who labor should feel their dependence upon divine wisdom, and should seek to be closely connected with him who has said, "Without me ye can do nothing." Earnest study should also be given the publications to be used, that there may be a familiarity with the vital truths which they contain, thus enabling those who go forth, to labor intelligently for others in the cause of religious liberty and other kindred truths of God.

It is of great importance that we have a consistent and well-defined plan. This is necessary, that the efforts of various workers may harmonize; so that each step in the work will prepare the way for the one which is to follow.

## PLANS FOR THE CANVASS.

The following recommendations are not intended to preclude individual planning, and the adoption of other methods which may be better suited to individual circumstances; but they are given with the hope that they may be helpful to all, and especially to those whose opportunity of study and experience in this line of work may have been limited.

## DIVISION OF LABOR.

Wherever there are several persons to engage in the work, there should be a careful division of labor, giving to each one that part which he is best fitted to perform. For instance, in a village of three or four thousand inhabitants, there may be four or five persons whom the Society would select as being qualified for the work. One of these should be chosen to work especially with the officials, the editors, lawyers, and professional men of the town, another to work with the business men. To the others could be assigned the house-to-house canvass of the place. Where several are to work together, one should be appointed leader, as is done in other canvassing companies.

## PLAN FOR WORK WITH BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN.

Secure a sufficient number of *American Sentinels* so that one may be placed in the hands of the men whom you will afterward call upon to solicit their subscription. Let each *Sentinel* be accompanied by a circular, setting forth in a brief and pointed manner the objects of the *Sentinel*, the facts relative to the efforts being made in behalf of a national Sunday law, with a brief history of the "fourteen-million petition," and of our counter-petition, with a statement that you will call in a few days to request their signature to the petition, and

that you would then be pleased to receive their subscription to the *American Sentinel*. Distribute these a few days before you intend to call upon them with the petition and to solicit their subscription.

When the canvass is begun, secure, if possible, of the most prominent men of the place, not only the signature to the petition, but the subscription for both the *Sentinel* and the pamphlet. Conduct the canvass in such a way that all can see that your desire to obtain subscribers is secondary to, and the result of, your desire that they shall understand the gravity of the controversy, and the *animus* of the Sunday movement. Leave with each one who will not subscribe, a few of the *Sentinel* tracts, with such passages marked as you think will specially interest him.

## THE HOUSE-TO-HOUSE CANVASS.

As in many cases we shall meet at their homes the wives and daughters of the business men to whom we have presented the *Sentinel* with "Civil Government and Religion," we recommend for the house-to-house canvass an entirely different plan. For this, the worker should take the petition, the *Sentinel* tracts, "Views of National Reform," and the "National Sunday Law." The petition should be introduced first, and while it is being signed, the worker can decide whether to present next the "National Sunday Law," or the "Views of National Reform." In cases where there is great indifference or poverty, it may be best to introduce "Views of National Reform" only. In all other cases, make an earnest effort to sell the larger pamphlet, or both pamphlets together; and wherever it seems advisable, introduce the *Sentinel*, and solicit a subscription for it also.

In this work, leave no just cause for any one to think that your chief anxiety is for the money you receive from the pamphlets and the *Sentinel*. In cases where you sell nothing, leave at least one good tract with some passages marked, and always be hearty in expressing your thanks for their signature to the petition, and your appreciation for the courtesy shown in listening to the presentation of this subject which you consider of such vital importance. We must never show annoyance at indifference, impatience, or rudeness. Few understand the importance of the issue, and for this reason few will understand our earnestness in this work.

## THE EXPENSE OF THE CANVASS.

How shall the expense of this special canvass with the religious liberty literature be met?

Wherever there is a local branch of a State tract society, there should be no delay on account of ex-

pense. The blank petitions are furnished free on application. The sale of the pamphlets and tracts will be a source of profit, rather than expense, and if the Society has a good sized club of the *Sentinel*, its numbers, reserved for a few weeks, will go far toward furnishing the sample copies needed.

If there are any societies that have no clubs of *Sentinels*, they should consider the matter at the first opportunity, and supply themselves with a sufficient number for their work.

Where a larger number of *Sentinels* are needed than are taken in clubs, they may be obtained of the State secretary.

But what can be done for the large cities, and the many places where we have no societies?—A special fund should be raised by those interested in this work, for the purchase of *Sentinels* and *Sentinel* tracts, and to meet other expenses of the canvass in such places

#### PLAN FOR CANVASS WHERE PETITIONS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED.

In those places where the petitions have been previously circulated, the canvass with the pamphlets and the *Sentinel*, though just as important and necessary, will usually be much easier and more pleasant than where none of this work has been done; for this is a subject in which those who have given it the most thought will be most interested. Many of those who have been solicited to sign the petitions against religious legislation, have since that time been watching the movement, and we can very properly approach them with questions as to how they regard the prospects of the movement, and the probability of our having another Sunday bill, early in the next Congress.

We hope that these outlined suggestions will be considered at once, and adapted as fully as possible to the different circumstances under which different individuals and churches have to labor. Competent persons have been selected to take the oversight of the circulation of religious liberty literature from the office of the International Tract Society, at Battle Creek, Mich., and any correspondence directed to that office will receive prompt attention. It is expected that some of the details of the work will be presented through the officers of the State societies, but we wished to reach the rank and file of our brethren and sisters with the matter contained in this Extra quicker than could be done through this agency.

#### THE CANVASSING WORK.

The canvassing work received its share of attention, both in the meetings of the International Tract Society and the General Conference.

We select the following quotations from the address of the General Canvassing Agent:—

“When we look upon the canvassing work in its present flourishing condition, and contemplate its gradual rise until it has assumed such magnificent proportions that it commands the admiration of our own people, and favorable comment from other publishers, we are apt to accord too much credit to those who are closely connected with it at the present time, without giving due thought and credit to the pioneers of this branch of the work. When we meet a man who can readily calculate eclipses of the sun and moon, and describe their paths in the heavens, and by a scientific manipulation of figures ascertain the orbit and period of a comet that occasionally visits our system, we applaud him, and render him the honor which is due; yet the name of the man who first predicted an eclipse of the moon is lost in oblivion.

“We look upon the large ships of to-day, well-equipped and manned, with wonder and admiration, and credit the modern navigator with superior skill, without a thought of the pioneers of navigation, like Vasco da Gama, with his poorly manned ships, who was obliged, as he sailed around Cape of Good Hope, to go ashore and raise a crop before he could proceed on his voyage. All honor to the pioneers, for the bravery and sacrifices of such intrepid men as those who made the present condition of things possible.

“Imitators are many; originators are few. Yet we do well to imitate; it is our duty. But when we produce an original idea, the world is the richer, and it becomes common property. We do not deserve such a vast amount of credit for picking up what others have dug out for us; but we shall certainly deserve censure if we do not keep pace with the times, and fail to appropriate common property to our own use, adding what originality we may have in the way of interest to increase the capital stock. We deserve no credit as imitators; but we deserve censure for failure to imitate what is good. We will apply this principle to the canvassing work.

“Years ago George A. King engaged in the canvassing work. At that time we had no books especially adapted to the purpose; yet he believed that books could be sold by solicitation, and had courage to carry out his convictions. The publication which this pioneer used was the *Health Reformer* (*Good Health*), which for quality and attractiveness was much inferior to the popular journal of to-day. Brother King received from others his idea of canvassing, but added to it the original idea of canvassing for our own books, thus making himself pioneer of this branch, and the *Health Reformer* the pioneer work. He appropriated to himself what others had learned, for which he deserves no censure, but for adding his original ideas, he deserves much credit.

“The commission he received did not provide him with the necessities of life; and when his clothing wore out, and he could no longer make a presentable appearance, he left his book business to enter the

harvest field, where he might earn money enough to enable him again to resume his work.

"When the two books, 'Thoughts on Daniel' and 'Thoughts on the Revelation' were published, no one thought of them as subscription books, or that they would circulate anywhere but among our own people. Brother King suggested that the two volumes be bound together and sold by subscription; another original idea. His plan was adopted, and that admirable book has reached a sale of many thousands, with a continually increasing sale, bringing more people into the truth than any other subscription book published.

"Great Controversy' was brought out in due time, and has had a sale of 75,000. The judgment alone will reveal the good that this book has accomplished. Others became interested, and engaged in the work. Our leading laborers took it up, and by voice and pen proclaimed the practicability of selling books to the world by subscription, and making our missionary work self-supporting. God has revealed to us through the Testimonies the importance of getting our publications before the world. Elders Butler, Haskell, White, and others have aided in the good work. Their efforts gave it an impetus that is felt in a marked degree at the present time.

"The idea that our books could be sold by agents was original with one man; others added what they had until the book sales were largely increased, and reached their maximum in the year 1884, and then, though the work should have increased, it began to fall off. There certainly was a cause for this. What was the matter? — We were behind the times. We had failed to appropriate to ourselves common property, which others had dug up at the expense of many years' hard labor and the expenditure of much money. Others had a systematic plan of work. We had none. We had entirely disregarded the first principle of success — method.

"Flattered by the success attending a few agents in an entirely new field, the early canvassers did not foresee the confusion which must necessarily follow when their numbers increased and the territory was burned over, without any record of what had been or was being worked. The canvasser could not receive the guarantee of protection, or feel assured that the field assigned him had not been worked or burned over by some other agent. There had been from time to time special efforts put forth to push the work, notably the canvass for 'Sunshine at Home' and the 'Marvel of Nations;' but these efforts were spasmodic in their nature, and soon died a natural death. These experiments were in their natural order, and were necessary to the perfection of the general canvassing work.

"We had the impression that an entering wedge must first be inserted, and that we must use the wisdom of the serpent. An entering wedge is a small affair, and is used for various purposes. It splits the softest wood and hardest rock. It has had that effect upon our canvassing work wherever it has been used. I do not like the name. We would better pick up the log whole, use it for a battering-ram, make a breach in the wall, and call that an entering

wedge, without spending much time preparing kindling wood. Wherever the so-called wisdom of the serpent has been practiced, it has resulted in great harm, and our canvassers have found that it is not necessary to give evasive answers to honest questions in order to sell books.

"Any one entering upon the stage of action at this time could certainly profit by the experience of others; and carefully avoiding the mistakes of the past, treasuring all that was good, and again borrowing from the common stock, adding thereto some original ideas, receiving contributions from others, could certainly organize a better system than had existed before. This is exactly what has been done, and was made possible only through the efforts of the pioneers.

"At the annual session of the International Tract and Missionary Society of 1886, resolutions governing the canvassing work were passed, which have been the rule and guide of the canvassers up to the present time. These rules can be found on page 146 of the Year Book for 1889. Our plan of organization is too well known to need any mention here. Following the principles laid down, we have endeavored to keep up with the times. Drawing largely upon the common stock, we have tried to repay in the way of interest. If we have given to the world a more perfect system of canvassing, we received the original idea from it.

"The present year has been one of marked success throughout the whole territory. The organization has become more general, and our Conferences have entered more earnestly into the work. New England, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Illinois have shown by their work what can be done when efforts are put forth in the right direction.

"With our canvassing work covering such a vast territory, it is impossible for any drought or dire calamity, affecting a portion, to severely impair the work of the whole field, as was the case when our work was confined to a few Western States. Two years ago our canvassing work was completely broken up, owing to the severe drought in Kansas and the adjoining States. While the result of such a calamity in any portion of the field might now be felt, it would not completely break up the work.

"Take into consideration the amount of work done the present year, in comparison with books sold in the past, and you will be able partially to comprehend the possibilities of this work; add to this the fact that most of the work has been done by five or six Conferences, and that these Conferences have doubled their work the present year, and you will be able more fully to appreciate the situation. We have twenty State Conferences that in the future will be able to do as good work as the Conferences referred to above, when their organization is perfected.

"With all the work that has been done, we have scarcely entered the field. We are doing a little pioneer work on the outside, sending out a few sample copies to see if the people want them. The demand for samples at the rate of forty tons per month, is evidence that they like the goods, and they certainly should be supplied. This is the

condition of the work at the present time, which naturally calls attention to —

#### “THE FUTURE.

“Who can predict it? and how can we plan to accomplish the largest amount of work in the least possible time, and with the smallest expenditure of means? We do not fully realize the fact that half a million dollars' worth of publications has been sold during the past year, through the efforts of the sacrificing, and not wholly appreciated, canvasser. This vast amount of money comes from people outside of our ranks, which not only supports the laborers directly engaged in the work, but leaves a large margin to aid in other branches, thus solving the vexed question (with the canvasser) of capital and labor, the canvasser furnishing the labor, and those purchasing the books the capital, giving perfect satisfaction to all concerned.

“We have undertaken a great work, actually accomplishing that which has never been accomplished by any other denomination on the face of the earth, the selling of our denominational literature (books containing the fundamental principles of our doctrines) to representatives of every denomination within the limits of our labors. A work of such vast importance demands most careful study. In laying plans for the future, we must take into consideration what must be for the best interest of the general cause. The success of the general plans already adopted, would indicate that they should be continued at least until better ones can be devised; but we should watch carefully that we do not become stereotyped in our ways, and fail to keep abreast with the times. We must draw from the common stock, seek for original ideas, encourage contributions from others, and be ever on the alert for improvement, which will better serve the common cause.

#### AMATEUR CANVASSING.

“The denomination should be organized to do systematic work, something after the general canvassing plan. This we will call amateur, to designate it from the regular canvassing work. Every member of the denomination must be trained for thorough work. The work that will be given them will not interfere with the work of the field canvasser. Their work will be of a different character. As amateurs, they will not sell our regular subscription books, but will handle such publications as *Good Health*, “National Sunday Law,” “Civil Government and Religion,” and other books of a like nature, which may be brought out from time to time, and will be given work in the way of circulating petitions, and if fully organized and instructed, will be able to do as much work in one week as can now be accomplished in months. If there is any branch of our work that is not receiving proper attention, it is not the fault of any existing plans, but rather indicates that other plans should be adopted to meet such demands. The plan of amateur canvassing will obviate all such difficulties by providing workers enough to give each department of the work its proper attention.

“Our country should be divided into districts, to correspond with those already decided upon by the General Conference, each district to be presided over by a district agent in addition to the regular State agents, the whole work to be under the control of the General Agent.

“The canvassing work never was more general or in a more prosperous condition than at the present time. Our book sales no longer depend upon a few localities where a drought might completely break them up; but are extended over so vast a territory that a local calamity is scarcely felt in the general work.

“It is not necessary for me to tell you what the work will be in the future. A careful examination of the present in comparison with the past, will give you some idea of what we may expect.

“Four years ago I did venture to predict some things in regard to the work, but my faith was so weak, as has been shown by the actual work performed, that I will not again play the role of a prophet.”

#### DISTRICT CANVASSING AGENTS.

The Constitution of the International Tract Society was changed to make the General Canvassing Agent a member of its Executive Board, and to provide for the appointment of a district canvassing agent in each of the six districts of the General Conference territory in this country, which has been done. C. Eldridge was chosen as General Canvassing Agent for another year, and the following persons were appointed as district agents: —

Dist. No. 1, E. E. Miles; Dist. No. 2, A. F. Harrison; Dist. No. 3, J. E. Froom; Dist. No. 4, F. L. Mead; Dist. No. 5, W. R. Smith; Dist. No. 6, S. N. Curtiss.

These district agents will have the oversight of the canvassing work in their districts under the direction of the General Agent.

#### AGENTS FOR HEALTH PUBLICATIONS.

The following resolutions were adopted: —

*Resolved*, That we recommend that an assistant to the State Agent be chosen for the health and temperance work, in the same manner as the State Agent is appointed, who shall labor under the direction of the latter in appointing and instructing agents for this line of work.

*Resolved*, That we approve the proposition of the Sanitarium to pay one-half the salary of the State Agent's assistant while engaged in this work, and that we recommend the prosecution of this work as far as can be done without taking workers from the canvass for religious books, or detracting in any way from the interest of that work.

You will readily see that these resolutions when carried out in the various States, open the way for a grand work to be accomplished in vigorously pushing forward the circulation of our excellent health and temperance publications. We confidently ex-

pect that scores of our own people who are not now doing anything at all in the line of field work will soon be engaged in canvassing for *Good Health*, "Sunbeams," and other works of this kind, with profit to themselves and to the cause, and to those for whom and with whom they labor. Not only this, but a vast field is opened before the State Agent's assistant, in encouraging worthy people outside of our denomination who are interested in the circulation of temperance literature, to take agencies for these works.

#### VARIOUS PLANS OF LABOR.

The plan of conducting Bible readings by those who are thought by the church officers to be fitted for that work, should also receive careful attention in the counsels of every church. Others, who cannot engage in any of the lines thus far mentioned, can give special attention to correspondence with the hundreds and thousands of names which the field canvassers and amateur workers are constantly gathering, and to whom reading matter should be judiciously sent and followed by correspondence. In these and other ways which will be devised, every church and company of our people may be placed in some department, and each member have a special line of work to which he will give special attention; and in this way the plan which has been recommended by Captain Eldridge may be carried out; namely, "to organize the denomination, and canvass the world." Until we do this, we cannot be said to be carrying out the great commission of Christ.

#### NEW BOOKS.

The Committee on New Books made an extensive report recommending the following books that had been issued during the year:—

English books, "Civil Government and Religion," "The National Sunday Law," "The Change of the Sabbath," Volume I. of "Great Controversy," "Testimony No. 33," and "The *Sentinel* and Bible Student Libraries." Of the above, they said, "We would urge our State societies to use their influence and organized methods in putting all the above-mentioned books into the hands of the people."

Foreign books, "Prophecies of Jesus," Danish and Swedish; "Civil Government and Religion," Danish and Swedish; "Sunshine at Home," Danish; Volume IV. of "Great Controversy," Danish; "Scripture References," French; "Who Changed the Sabbath?" French; "Le Souveraine Pontiff," French; "From Eden to Eden," French and German.

"Bible Readings for the Home Circle" will be ready in the Danish in a few months.

The last revised edition of "Great Controversy" Vol. I. will soon be translated and published in the Danish language.

"From Eden to Eden" will soon be issued in the English.

#### BOOKS FOR THE CANVASS.

During the past year both of our publishing houses have put forth their best efforts to issue, in popular form, and at such prices as to be entirely satisfactory

to the purchaser, the tracts and pamphlets to be used in this campaign against religious legislation. At the same time they have furnished these publications to the State tract societies at very low prices.

The discount to State tract societies will be 55 per cent. This very liberal discount is given by the publishers with the expectation that the books will be furnished to the faithful canvassers at 50 per cent discount. It will be a convenience for all persons working where there is a local branch of the State tract society to obtain their books of the librarian. Where there is no local branch, they should deal with the State secretary.

Wherever the State society pays all expense of transportation, the librarian can furnish these works to the faithful canvasser at 50 per cent discount without loss. Otherwise the expense of transportation must be added to the price of the book.

Below will be found a list of the latest and most important of the new books and tracts especially suited to our present work.

#### RELIGIOUS LIBERTY PUBLICATIONS.

CIVIL GOVERNMENT AND RELIGION. 176 Octavo pages, 25 cents.

THE NATIONAL SUNDAY LAW. 192 pages, 25 cents.

"THE ABIDING SABBATH" AND THE "LORD'S DAY," a review. 176 pages, 20 cents.

#### THE SENTINEL LIBRARY.

No. 1. The National Reformed Constitution. Price, 3 cents.

No. 2. Religious Liberty. Price, 1 cent.

No. 3. The Evils of Religious Legislation. Price, 1 cent.

No. 4. The Blair Sunday-Rest Bill. Price, 7 cents.

No. 5. The Blair Educational Amendment. Price, 3 cents.

No. 6. The Purity of National Religion. Price, 1 cent.

No. 7. National Reform and Rights of Conscience. Price, 2 cents.

No. 8. The American Papacy. Price, 2 cents.

No. 9. The Salem Witchcraft. Price, 1 cent.

No. 10. National Reform Is Church and State. Price, 2 cents.

No. 11. What Think Ye of Christ? Price, 1 cent.

No. 12. Bold and Base Avowal. Price, 2 cents.

No. 13. The National Reform Movement an Absurdity. Price, 2 cents.

No. 14. The Republic of Israel. Price, 1 cent.

No. 15. National Reformed Presbyterianism. Price, 4 cents.

No. 16. A Lutheran View of the National Reform Movement. Price, 3 cents.

No. 17. Religion and the Public Schools. Price, 4 cents.

No. 18. The National Sunday Law. Price, 25 cents.

Sample copies of the above sent post-paid on receipt of price.

VIEWS OF NATIONAL REFORM. Series 1. This is a pamphlet of 151 pages, and contains all that the package of 13 tracts formerly published under the same name contained. The volume is paged consecutively, has an index, so that any tract may be instantly referred to, and is much more convenient and attractive than when issued as a package of separate tracts. Price, 15 cents. The pamphlet, being a number of The Bible Students' Library, can be forwarded by mail to subscribers at one cent per pound, the same as the *Sentinel* Library. The large page tracts cannot be so forwarded.

VIEWS OF NATIONAL REFORM. The same reading as above, in a package of 13 tracts. Large page, thin paper, 112 pages, 10 cents.

In the case of all the works published as numbers of the *Sentinel* Library and the Bible Students' Library, the matter of expense of transportation does not come in as a consideration, because the publishers will mail as many copies as are desired, post-paid, to the librarians at the order of the State secretary.