

NORTH MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

NEWS SHEET.

VOL. 4. NO. 2.

PETOSKEY, MICH., JANUARY 28, 1908.

25¢ PER YEAR.

-:-:-:-:-

"Harvesters needed. The ripening grain
Waits to welcome the reapers' cry.
The Lord of the harvest calls again;
Who among us shall first reply,
'Who is wanted, Lord- is it I?'"

"The Master calls, but the servants wait,
Fields gleam white 'neath a cloudless sky,
Will none seize the sickle before, too late
Winds of winter come sweeping by!
'Who is delaying, Lord- is it I?'"

--o--

A SAD DEATH.

Died of consumption at the city of Laodicea, State of Neglect, in the fifteenth year of her age, Sister Prayer-meeting, eldest daughter of Brother and Sister Church. The health of Sister Prayer-meeting was quite poor most of last year, and she gradually grew weaker till her life was despaired of. For several weeks a few of her dearest friends, by their personal visits and efforts, kept her alive, and at times she would revive and give promise of health and strength once more. But even her truest friends neglected her, and in discouragement she died. Several lived close by, and a large circle of professed Christians were within a radius of one mile; but not one was present at the sad death.

Had only two been present, our sister's life might have been saved; for when two are agreed as touching anything they shall ask, it shall be done for them. Probably two-thirds of her friends might have been present if they had been disposed, but they were not and a blessed sister and daughter died in solitude from sheer neglect. As there were no mourners, there was no funeral held.

In closing this sad statement of facts we can do no less than add a sincere prayer that at least the hearts of Brother and Sister Church may be so tendered as to mourn the loss of their daughter, which will lead them to study the subject of the resurrection and pray that it may speedily come about that they shall be once more united with the blessings of the departed one.--Selected.

BIBLE NAME FOR THE LOCOMOTIVE.

Among Oriental Jews there is a widespread belief that the recent opening of the railroad from Joppa to Jerusalem is a sure precursor of the coming of the Messiah.

The foundation for the opinion is said to be Isa. 66:20. "They shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the Lord out of all nations, upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the Lord."

The Hebrew word which is translated "swift beasts" is Kirkaroth. The roots of this word are found in 2 Sam. 6:14, in connection with David's peculiar swaying dance, and also in the common Hebrew word for furnace. Hence the derived meaning, "a swaying furnace."

As the prophet in holy vision was permitted to look down the stream of time and view the ingathering of the Israel of faith, among the many different vehicles used by God to bring people into contact with the truth was a very strange and rapid conveyance, the forepart of which swayed and carried fire. So he called it "a swaying furnace". What a picturesque expression for a locomotive in rapid motion! H. E. A. Minchin, in Caribbean Watchman.

ORGANIZATION.

ALLEN MOON.

When these rulers, or judges, as they were sometimes called, were appointed and the organization was so far completed, the Lord said to Moses that he should number the people by their tribes; or, in other words, he should poll the people to ascertain the tribe to which they belonged. When this was completed, the Lord said, "And with you (Moses and Aaron) there shall be a man of every tribe; every one head of the house of his fathers." Num. 1:4. These men were to be over the rulers of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens, and were to occupy a position next to Moses and Aaron; and the Lord was so particular in this matter that in speaking to Moses, he named the twelve men that were to stand between Moses and Aaron and the judges before chosen. Num. 1:5:15. These men were termed princes of Israel, and we shall see the importance of the position they were to occupy, as we pursue the study.

This does not complete the officering of the congregation of Israel; but a little later in the history of the people of God, it was found necessary to select another company of men to take a part in the responsibility of caring for the church in the wilderness. It is recorded that the people lusted after flesh, and murmured against Moses, and he took the matter to the Lord and complained that his burdens were still too great. "And the Lord said unto Moses' Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee; and I will come down and talk with thee there; and I will take of the spirit that is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone." Num. 11:16,17.

Thus was completed the appointment of men to occupy the positions of twelve princes, seventy elders, composing the sanhedrin, the rulers of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. When this work was completed, the next in order was the organization of the camp. The poll of the camp was taken as above mentioned, and the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, "Thou shalt appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over all the vessels thereof; and they shall minister unto it, and shall encamp round the tabernacle; and the children of Israel shall pitch their tents, every man by his own camp, and every man by his own standard throughout their host." This command to Moses was delivered to Aaron and through him, to all the officers now in position, and through them, to the people. "And the children of Israel did according to all that the Lord commanded Moses, so did they." Num. 1:50-54.

The congregation of Israel being now equipped with officers, and the various tribes assigned their places in the line of march and ready to go forward when the command should come from heaven, the Lord said to Moses, "Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them; that thou mayest use them for calling the assembly and for the journeying of the camps. And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow with the trumpets."

There was given a code of signals, one to assemble the congregation about the tabernacle, another to indicate that the east side of the camp should move, another for the south side to move, and still another for an alarm; and the princes were instructed as to the meaning, so that they might know just how to move. And as they journeyed, Moses and Aaron preceded the ark, and the sons of Aaron accompanied them with the Levites about the ark of God. And as it is written, "And at the command of the Lord they journeyed: they kept the charge of the Lord by the hand of Moses." (ninth and tenth chapters of Numbers.) So the command was given through Moses to Aaron and his sons, who blew the trumpets, and the princes gave the command to the people; and perfect order was maintained.

Since all this arrangement was brought about either directly or indirectly by the Lord himself, and since this was known by all the congregation of Israel to be true, it would be only natural to expect profoundest respect would be manifest on the part of every individual for the offices created and the people chosen to fill them; and it may be said that true organization consists as really in recognition of the offices and officers of the church, by the rank and file, as in faithfulness on the part of those chosen to fill responsible positions. In God's plan also each person chosen to fill an office of trust is required to show due respect toward all others, whether occupying a higher or lower position than himself.

(To be continued.)

WHAT ABOUT THAT "RING" ?

Now and then we find a Sabbath keeper wearing a ring. What does it mean? Why do they wear it? This is no small question and while it is true that some have never been instructed on this one, yet I'm convinced that ninety-nine per cent of Adventists who wear finger rings do it because they love to wear them and because their spirituality is so low that they love to be like the world and to do as the world does. Let us ask and answer a few questions in regard to this?

What does the Bible say? Ans. The Bible injunction is "In like manner also that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel ----not with plated hair or gold, or pearls or costly array." 1 Tim. 2:9. Thus to spend money for needless articles and to wear gold merely to adorn is forbidden.

Where shall we draw the line between rings and other jewelry? Ans. All jewelry that is necessary and modest is not objectionable, but finger rings are in the way, costly, and entirely unnecessary.

But should I not wear this ring to please my husband, or to please my mother or friend that is dead? Ans. You can surely never please the dead for they know not anything. A wedding ring to-day in America does not prove that a woman is married, because nearly every young girl wears them, and if the wife would use the same determination in this matter that she does in keeping the Sabbath the matter would soon be settled permanently. But so many love the excuse and pet it--they love the ring and wear it.

What is the influence? Ans. It is bad. Children at once say, "If Sister _____ can wear a ring, I can wear one, too," and I'd like to know why they could not. When I travel about the country and see a person wearing a ring, I say at once, "That is not a Sabbath keeper, or if it is, it is someone just coming into the truth, or some one that is weak in the faith. It is also pure mockery to heaven to take off a ring while being baptised and then put it right on again as soon as out of the water. Such "goodness is as the morning cloud and as the early dew it goeth away." Hos. 6:4.

What do the Testimonies say? "That ring encircling your finger may be very plain, but it is useless and the wearing of it has a wrong influence upon others." Vol. 4, Page 630.

The heathen wear rings in the nose, ears, toes, fingers, ankles, and any other place they can hang on. Their use is a relic of sun worship, something Christians would be ashamed even to mention, therefore let us seek to have something for people to see that shines brighter than an insignificant finger ring. Let it be a bright, smiling face, portraying a happy heart and a consecrated mind, waiting for a bright reward at Christ's coming, and that in this generation.

C. A. Hansen.

--6--

THE 1908 COLLECTION FOR THE GENERAL RELIGIOUS LIBERTY DEPARTMENT.

The annual Religious Liberty collection for the General Religious Department will be taken Sabbath, February 1, 1908, in all of our churches. There will be a special religious liberty program that will be carried out that day in our churches in the United States. This program will be published in the REVIEW of January 16, 1908.

It will be remembered that this annual collection is the only resource of the general department, hence it is important that the offering shall be a liberal one. The rapidly increasing efforts of those who are seeking for Sunday legislation should arouse the most indifferent to take hold of this work as they never have before.

We are far behind already in our work of enlightening the people. Already three Sunday bills have been introduced into the present session of Congress. A special campaign has been started here in Washington by the Protestant ministers and the Roman Catholic clergy to secure a Sunday law for the District of Columbia.

We are planning a most vigorous counter-campaign to the one referred to above for the purpose of placing literature concerning the Third Angel's Message in the homes of the citizens of Washington, D. C.

You are without doubt aware of the almost universal demand for the enforcement of Sunday laws that is now prevailing all over the country. We certainly need

--4--

your earnest prayers and free will offerings, in order to make the work effective. Please begin to plan for this offering at once.

K. C. Russell,
CH'r. Religious Liberty Bureau.

--0--

LOOK OUT !

When the people say, "Our church treasurer is an excellent worker. When our church needs painting, papering, or repairing in any way, he always comes right forward with the money. We are not rich, so his willingness in this makes him a valuable man for our church." Look out for the tithe, foreign mission offerings, and Tract Society funds placed in his hands.

A certain story runs like this: A boy in the presence of a miller said, that there was one thing he did know and one thing he did not know. The grist mill man said, "What is the one thing you know and the one thing you do not know?" "O," answered the boy, "I know a miller's pigs are always fat but I don't know where the feed comes from." --Selected.

If the above selection is remembered by all the readers of the NEWS SHEET many dollars will be saved to the cause in some places.

--0--

AN ENCOURAGING LETTER.

Colfax, Mich., Jan. 23, 1908.

Dear Brethren in Christ,-

I thought I would drop you a few lines, through the NEWS SHEET, to let you know that, through the mercy of God, we are still holding on to the truth of the Third Angel's Message which I endorsed almost fifty years ago. I can never doubt, and when I see the firm stand our people have taken, it rejoices my heart. It will be sounded to the last, just as it was sounded fifty years ago.

I will tell how the Lord heard my feeble voice when a youth, and as my friends supposed, I could not recover from a bed of sickness. I prayed to the good Lord and told Him if He would spare my life, I would serve Him as long as I lived. I believed He heard my prayer and raised me up, altho a wicked boy.

It was sometime after, when I was called to pay my vow. When the Third Angel's Message was being preached in our neighborhood, I was impressed to go and I received it as truth, and was baptised. That night someone spoke to me, as plain as I ever heard anyone speak, in my sleep, "This is the right way." I shall always believe it was the good Lord or an angel. I have never doubted from that day to this. To others this may seem an idle tale, but to me, always a comfort and a truth. When I see parties leave the truth, it causes me sorrow.

So I say, brethren, don't get discouraged in the Third Angel's Message. I have seen many fall out by the way, but the truth will stand and God will have men to cry it to the world. So let us go on and know the Lord more perfectly, and the Lord will be with us to the end of the world.

We had our quarterly meeting last Sabbath, all bright in the truth.

J. M. Remington, Cadillac, Mich.

--0--

"In all the universe of God there are no two souls alike. There are no two souls with the same work to do. There are no two whose talents are rivals, or whose gifts conflict or interfere. How this thought ought to put an end at once to all the envy of life, grieving at another's good."

--0--

Let all pray earnestly that more laborers be sent into the vineyard.

TRACT SOCIETY NOTES.

Hereafter Sabbath-school Quarterlies will be mailed from the Tract Society office the last Tuesday preceding the last Sabbath of the old quarter. All orders should be in a week before that time. Librarians and Sabbath-school Secretaries should bear this mind.

Thus far in January there has been reported in North Michigan over \$175.00 of book sales.

Every church in the conference should do all in their power to encourage suitable persons to enter the canvassing work.

There will be a Canvassers' Institute held Apr. 22 to May 1, 1908. All who are thinking of entering the work should plan on attending this meeting.

The years of 1890 and 1891 have been looked upon by our bookmen as wonderful years in the book work but 1906 records the largest Subscription book business in all the history of the denomination. It is predicted that 1907 will show a great increase over the book sales of 1906. The subscription book sales of 1891 amounted to \$819,000 while it is estimated that book sales amounting to \$1,200,000 will be the record for 1907.

Brother H. H. Hall, Mgr. of the Pacific Press Book Department, says: "As has already been intimated, much of this work (canvassing) has been done by our young people. What has been the effect upon them? To ask such a question as this is almost like answering it, because everyone who has observed at all carefully knows full well that meeting the public sharpens the perceptions, broadens the mind, and strengthens the character of the successful canvasser." He also writes, "The Lord who has promised 'to pour out My Spirit upon all flesh' in the last days has been at work. By terrible storms, by destructive earthquakes, by disastrous fires, by appalling accidents and wrecks, He is calling the attention of men to the truths of the Third Angel's Message. At the same time He has been turning the hearts of His people toward the message and to the necessity of their carrying it quickly through our publications and otherwise to those who are waiting for it. This Spirit has taken farmers from their farms, workmen from our publishing factories, clerks from their desks, stenographers from their notes, bookkeepers from their accounts, and hurried them to the front. The meaning of it all, dear brethren and sisters is that this message is going to all the world in this generation. It is in direct fulfilment of the Lord's sworn statement 'that there shall be delay no longer.'"

Have you considered the amount of work there is to be done in your neighborhood to prepare the people for the coming of the Lord? After you have, the next thing to be taken into consideration is how you can best warn them, aside from living an exemplary life.

All cannot hold personal Bible studies, neither can all act as regular canvassers, but all can act as ambassadors and regular missionaries, and in order for us to be able to give a reason for the hope within us, we must have a thorough knowledge of the truth and be able to point out to others the application of the many articles as they appear in our periodicals and the daily papers of the world.

Those who have known the Third Angel's Message have been pointing out the truths revealed in prophecy concerning the steps that would be taken by the Protestant churches in uniting with the Papacy. There was a time when we accepted these prophecies by faith, but when we read in such statements as were made by Rev. Newman Smith, D. D., of New Haven Conn., we not only see where we are standing in this world's history, but the importance of meeting the people where they are and show them how the public press is reflecting the outcome of these things spoken of in the Scriptures. In a recent sermon the minister referred to, said that the age of Protestantism was past and that it was no longer needed. He said that the churches were split up and were becoming more so every day. He said that the time for a new Catholicism was at hand and that the sooner the people realized it the better."

When these things are pointed out to the people in an intelligent way then they will gladly purchase literature containing truths for this time. Let us

all work earnestly to warn those about us of the soon coming Saviour.

We trust all will notice the new subscription prices of LIFE AND HEALTH and YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR. The LIFE AND HEALTH is now 75¢ per year. The INSTRUCTOR is \$1.00 per year. Five or more copies sent to one address, 65¢ each.

Hereafter six month's subscriptions for LIFE AND HEALTH and LIBERTY will not be accepted.

E. A. Bristol.

--0--

AMONG THE CANVASSEERS.

Jan. 8th I left Petoskey for Traverse City where Brother Beeler is canvassing for Home and Health. His wife has since started to work with Coming King. Both are of good courage and doing good work and meeting with excellent success considering the time of year.

At Evart I found a sister planning on taking up active work as she is able.

At Clare I spent a day with Brother Lowry. There had been a severe snow-storm and the drifts were hard to get through in places, but we had a good experience and it was a great pleasure to me to show people the precious truths contained in Great Controversy.

I also visited Chase, Reed City, Clarence, Cadillac, Frankfort, Moorestown, and Leetsville in the interests of the canvassing work and was glad to find that God is moving on hearts to take up this work.

I believe the time has come when the church should unite in praying God to send workers into His vineyard that the pruned page may be scattered like autumn leaves.

Perhaps there are some in the conference who want a part in this work who cannot themselves engage in it but who would be willing to entertain a canvasser if one could come to their neighborhood. Some have already told me of their willingness to do this and I would be glad to hear from others who would like a part in the work in this way.

In the next NEWS SHEET we will try and report the work done by the canvassers during the month of January.

Let all remember that the Institute will be held Apr. 22 to May 1, 1908. The place will be announced later.

H. W. Johnson.

--0--

TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES AND THE ISOLATED YOUNG
PEOPLE OF THE NORTH MICHIGAN CONFERENCE,

My dear Young Friends,-

It is with words of good cheer that I greet you at this the beginning of another New Year. The young people of our denomination are doing a noble work in promoting the work of God in the earth. And the opportunities are multiplying whereby they may obtain a training for definite service.

Some of our societies have not reported as yet, and many of the isolated young people have failed to answer the personal letters that have been sent out.

Now whether your work be much or little, I would be glad to hear from you. It cheers our hearts to hear that others are interested in this Great Work; and faithfulness in reporting is just as commendable as faithfulness in any other line of work. So send in your reports that the work be not hindered by your delay.

Here at Petoskey there are quite a company of young people and we have very good meetings, and are trying to do something to advance the Lord's work in the earth. We are now trying to raise money to buy a bell for our church. We thought that would be a good way to proclaim the Sabbath truth--to ring the bell at the going down of the sun Friday evening, and also the evening after the Sabbath, at the setting of the sun. Some of us went out canvassing and had very good success and gave the proceeds to the

bell fund.

Have you heard the good news about the Finnish Fund? There has been raised on that fund \$919.26 and the money is still coming in. Brother Graham, manager of the N. Y. branch of the Review and Herald, after reading the account in the NEWS SHEET, of the work done in this state for these people, writes to send him two copies of that number of the NEWS SHEET as he wants one, and Brother Bottcher who is in this country as a General Conference Representative from the Old Country would like one for his work. Thus we see how the Lord is blessing our efforts here in this country, till the influence will be felt among the nations across the sea. So as young people, let us take hold of the work with a renewed energy,--an energy that knows not despair, and lift till the work is finished.

Brother Graham also says that a large quantity of tracts are on the way from the old country, and will soon be here. I'm so glad, for that will be another opening where the young people can work. And, truly there is a great work for them to do! Every young person should be in training for service in the Master's work. If you cannot go away from home to get the required training,--then improve the opportunities you have right at home. Organize a young people's society and take up the work in earnest. Improve your spare moments. Take the Reading Course, and the Standard of Attainment. Pass the examination of the denomination and be able to give a reason for your faith, but with God's help be able to make others see the truthfulness of what you believe. The times in which we live demand earnestness.

Just as truly as in the ages that are past, God brought forth from out of the darkness, lights that startled the world, by their voice of truth, so the needs of the present hour will bring forth young men and women who will grasp and lift the banner of truth so high that every nation, kindred, tongue and people shall hear the Voice of Him who created the heaven, the earth and the sea.

A Greater, than the "one crying in the wilderness" is to herald the second coming of our Saviour and King. The last Epoch in this earth's history is reached; and as the scene was portrayed before the aged Prophet, the only figure he could use to describe what he saw was an angel flying in the midst of heaven. That Greater is here, for as we listen, we hear going to the ends of the earth, the same words of the angel was heard to say:

"Fear God and give glory to Him."

"Worship Him that made heaven and earth and sea."

Listen again, and we hear these solemn words, "The hour of God's judgment is come."

Where are the Daniels, the Luthers, the Melancthons of this generation? Just as truly as we read that one whom God was calling (Saul) was "hidden among the stuff", so now, many of our young people are hiding themselves in a worldly ambition, popular society, and a love of ease. May the Lord send something that will arouse us to a sense of where we are standing, is my prayer.

With much love for you all, and best wishes for your society, I am,

Your Co-worker with Christ,

Mrs. Jennie E. Williamson.

--0--

PAYING DEBTS.

Neglecting to pay debt will ruin anybody's spiritual influence, blind the soul to clear moral distinction, undermine any religious life, and render a person unfit to be used by the Lord in spite of the greatest gifts or the most thrilling experiences in religion.

If any who read this are slack about paying their debts, begin at once to pray earnestly that the Lord will awaken you to its true magnitude and to inspire you with perfect integrity to begin at once the settling up of all your financial matters in perfect righteousness, and you will find God will begin to bless you both inwardly and outwardly.--Selected.

--0--

"Think twice before you speak, and it will do no harm to keep on thinking while you are speaking."

NEWS AND NOTES.

Have you read the first article on page 3? If not, be sure and read it.

Three precious souls were baptised Dec. 23d at Traverse City. Altho it was cold, no one was injured by the exposure, and all hearts were glad to follow the Lord in full fellowship of the Third Angel's Message.

"Sin is that awful thing which looks God in the face and says, 'I won't'".

The North Michigan Conference Association Committee met at Traverse City, Jan. 20th.

"True, loyal heart service is the highest form of worship."

Elder S. M. Wight attended the Southern Illinois Conference held at Dacatur which closed the 27th of Jan.

Miss Inez Lay has gone to Traverse City to take up Bible work.

"Christ is not to be hid away in the heart as a coveted treasure, sacred and sweet, to be enjoyed solely by the possessor. We are to have Christ in us as a well of water, springing up into everl sting life, refreshing all who come in contact with us."--Ministry of Healing.

We are anxiously looking for reports from our church schools to print in the NEWS SHEET.

Brother R. J. Bellows and family made us a short call Jan. 23rd, enroute for Manistâque after a visit in the southern part of the state.

What books are you reading these winter evenings?

The splendid articles on Christian Science now being published in the SIGNS are being put in pamphlet form. The Tract Society has ordered a supply of these. Price 10¢.

"Let none feel at liberty to retain their tithe to use according to their own judgment. They are not to use it for themselves in any emergency, nor to apply it as they see fit, even in what they may regard as the Lord's work."

We learn that the church school at Moorestown is progressing nicely, having an enrollment of forty.

--o--

DOES THIS MEAN YOU?

Several of our Sabbath-schools have failed to send in their reports. As the time is near when the local reports have to go to the General Conference Secretary you will aid your Secretary by giving this matter your early attention.

Sabbath-school Superintendents, Have your Secretaries sent in your report? Please see to it that they are sent in.

Mrs. Jennie M. Willaman.

--o--

"The sun never sees the dark side of anything."