

# The Indicator.

"ARISE, SHINE ; FOR THY LIGHT IS COME, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD IS RISEN UPON THEE."

VOL. V.

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No. 17.

## THE BEST GIFT.

A SIMPLE strong faith in Jesus helps men to do their appointed work in the best way. It forbids artifice and all manner of falsenesses. It strives after such things as are pure and of a good report. Declension from it means decadence in the quality of wares placed in the common market. It is related by Mr. Ruskin that the degenerate religion of the corrupted Papacy of the fifteenth century "so injuriously affected the art world, that from that time there was a serious decline in all the arts of painting and sculpture and architecture. The degradation of religion first touched public morality, and then spread to all the arts." That work is accomplished most satisfactorily in any walk of life which is done, as "unto the Lord," by one who has determined to conscientiously remember and obey Divine laws in all his ways. A God-given and God-aided purpose of living the higher life is the great need of every young man going out into the world's arena of strange mixed strife. This will ennoble every task, and touch with a silver edging every dark cloud of sorrow and chagrin.

And this alone can be the soul's assurance of complete victory in

"Those solemn nights when voices call,  
And Life stands near its mystic home.  
When spirit lifts the purple pall  
Of what is past, and what to come."

It is but plain prudence even in making a beginning to be obedient to the motto of the ring found on Magus Moor where Archbishop Sharp was murdered, "Remember upon Deth." The coming of the end is the one thing that is sure from the start. When it seems far off, it is sometimes very near. It may be in every case an event prepared for, and holding only such terrors as are inseparable from frail human bodies. When the relics of Sir John Franklin's expedition were at last found in the icy North, almost the only printed matter that came

to light was a leaf from Todd's *Student's Manual*, with this suggestive dialogue upon it: "Are you afraid to die?" "No." "Why does the uncertainty of another state give you no concern?" "Because God has said, 'Fear not; when thou passest through the waters I will be with thee.'"

The best gift will equip heart and will with the best purpose. This is not the welfare of self, but the welfare of others. The object of life is gained oftentimes in the great renunciation. Says a writer: "One of the first things a young man should do in entering actively upon life is to ascertain what he can do to make things better around him." Sydney Smith had a favorite newspaper cutting which began, "When you rise in the morning, say that you will make the day blessed to a fellow-creature. It is easily done; if you are young, depend upon it it will tell when you are old, rest assured it will send you gently and happily down the stream of time to eternity."

Savonarola, a youth not twenty, was refused by the girl he loved. The episode turned his thoughts decisively to the meaning of life. He had been destined to a secular profession; a voice in his heart called him to a sacred one. His daily prayer became, "Lord, teach me the way my soul must walk." When he was twenty-two he heard a sermon that seemed to supply the answer to that earnest petition. He became first a monk, and ultimately a reformer and martyr. His concern was not self, but others. Doubtless when Savonarola perished in the flames, many Florentine spectators thought and said that he had sadly failed. But history knows that this was not so. The words of Christ are, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whosoever shall save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it."

In personal religion, then, is the true secret

of character. The gift is from above, and it depends on faith. There are those who say that faith in spiritual things is out of date. Let no young man listen to the voice of the tempter. The strong evidences of Christianity lie in its absolute fitness to human need, in its marvelous moral beauty, far transcending the unaided wisdom of man to conceive, and in its fruits. To the first, social movements are beginning to bear strange and weighty testimony. Every right cure for a proved wrong is found to be indicated, not obscurely but with plain distinctness, in the teachings of the Bible—*par excellence* the Book of Straight Lines. If the reconstruction of society is not wholly an Utopian vision, it must come on the pattern of the new heavens and the new earth, whose law shall be righteousness and its life, love. To the second the mind bows where the heart in its pride refuses to yield. To the sweet majesty of the gospel of Christ, with its promises of peace, pardon, and immortality, even the lips of unbelief have borne witness. And is it a fact without significance that the ages and men which had the gifts of intellect at their apparent highest should have been abandoned morally to darkness and often despair; and that through the medium of a people oppressed and backward deliverance came? Does it not say that though the vessel was earthen, the treasure was heavenly? To the third evidence it ought to be only necessary to call attention. The world's philosophies have never had heart in them, however sublime in theory and soaring in phrase. They have never considered the poor, the suffering, the outcast. Says Robert Hall: "You might have traversed the Roman empire in the zenith of its power, from the Euphrates to the Atlantic, without meeting with a single charitable asylum for the sick." Modern philanthropy is the Creation of Christianity.

(To be concluded.)

### Field Reports.

#### THE GERMAN WORK.

WHEN I first came to the State of New York, I learned that there were many German people living here. This is true especially in the western part, there being nearly one hundred thousand living around the city of Buffalo. Some

two years since, after the Conference and Tract Society paid off the large debt which had rested upon them for a long time, we, as a Conference committee, felt that the time had come when we should put forth efforts for the introduction of the truth among said people. They are a fine class of citizens. Several years ago Brother Samuel Winkley, of Randolph, an earnest German brother, embraced the truth and through his efforts two or three German families did so. He also distributed some reading matter among these people in the western part of the State. Aside from the efforts of these earnest families, but little had been done to introduce the truth to the notice of these people.

Two years ago we secured the services of Brother J. P. Lorenz, then a student at College View, Neb., as a canvasser to sell German works. He made his headquarters at Buffalo, and sold many books among his people. He soon found some interest among them to hear the word preached. A short time before the arrival of Brother Lorenz, through the efforts of the missionary workers at Buffalo, several Germans in the city embraced the truth. Among them was a young by the name of George Lesch. He felt it his duty to work for his people, so last spring the committee sent a tent to Brethren Lorenz and Lesch, and they held meetings in it last season, and have been laboring in the vicinity of Buffalo during the winter and spring. As the result some twenty-five are now keeping the Sabbath. Twelve of these have been baptized, four by Elder Raymond and eight last week by Elder Place. It is now expected that a church will be organized among them in a short time.

We are very glad that the work has been so successful thus far, and we feel sure that with the sweet blessing of the Lord accompanying the future labors that many among that people will be brought into the truth. The brethren named will continue to labor in the interest of this people. We are thankful that the work has been a success so far. To the Lord be all the glory.

S. H. LANE.

#### SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCHES IN NEW YORK STATE.

THE dedication of another new Seventh-day Adventist church in the Empire State is in the past, and the readers of the INDICATOR will

## The Canvassing Work.

Report for the Week Ending April 19.

County.	Agent.	Hours.	Days.	Ords.	Value.	Miscel.	Deliv.	Value
Bible Readings.								
Monroe,	J. S. Fritts,	4	1				3	\$8.00
Monroe,	O. E. Tuttle,						38	95.00
Erie,	J. S. Delano,	4	1	2	\$6.25		2	5.00
Niagara,	Chas. H. Harris,	2	2	2	4.00		5	7.00
Montgomery,	Wm. Seewald,	38	5	10	21.00	\$1.25		
Otsego,	J. R. Mc Alister,	15	2	6	13.00			
Otsego,	Fred G. Mc Alister,	13	2	5	12.25	.50		
Otsego,	James F. Wait,	13	2	4	8.50	.25		
Lewis,	A. R. Hyatt,		2	12	27.00	1.25		
Lewis,	M. A. Vroman,	16	2	9	20.50	2.00		
Oneida,	Norfan Kling,	9	1			.50	1	2.50
Great Controversy.								
Ulster,	J. E. Frazee,	37	5	40	102.00		11	26.25
Chenango.	E. S. Popoff,	25	4	6	17.50	.25		
Broome,	I. Deeley,	36	5	2	4.50			
Patriarchs and Prophets.								
Broome,	J. Deeley,	58	9	8	20.75	1.75	2	7.50
Miscellaneous sales,					7.75			
Totals,	15. Canvassers,	270	43	106	\$265.00	\$7.75	62	\$151.25

notice in the next number a report from Elder Lane of the meetings held here in connection with the dedication of the building. For six years Elder Lane and I have worked, much of the time side by side, in this Conference. We have been permitted to be associated together in the dedicatory services of six new church buildings. This as you see makes average of one for each year during the time. Another building is about completed and we had hoped to have had it also dedicated ere he left the State, but time did not allow us to do so.

I think the first of these dedications was held at Ellicottville, Cattaraugus County; the second was at South Russell, St. Lawrence County; the third at North Creek, Warren County; the fourth at Schroon Lake, Essex County; the fifth at Dickinson Center, Franklin County; and the last at Jamestown, Chautauqua County. The prospects seem good to dedicate two more this year, one at Keene, Essex County, and the other at West Valley, Cattaraugus County.

In none of these buildings have pride or extravagance been permitted. Economy and the best interests of the cause of God have been carefully studied, and the result is that the Lord has blessed his people, and in each of the above named places there is a neat and tasty altar erected to the God of Present Truth, and a beacon lighted, which we believe will guide some careworn mariner into the haven of eternal rest. In the erection of these buildings

there has been manifested a spirit of sacrifice and devotion. This has been necessary, for it means something to build a good church; but I believe that in each case it has proved to be a blessing to our people and to the work. These buildings form a pleasant and proper place for our brethren and sisters to meet for their worship; and, though few ever come in to worship with us, the very fact that the church stands in the midst of the people, and Sabbath after Sabbath, instead of Sunday, its doors are open and "a peculiar people" steadily carry forward their worship of the Creator, will be in His hands a means of proclaiming the message and bringing conviction to some hearts. We must not, however, think that the building is to do all the work in our village or neighborhood. Seek God for his spirit, and go out to your neighbors with a kind invitation. It may require many prayers and many invitations, but the Lord will reward the faithful son or daughter.

A. E. PLACE.

### APPOINTMENT.

I EXPECT to meet with our German and sisters at Spring Brook next Sabbath and Sunday, and expect to organize a church at that meeting.

A. E. PLACE.

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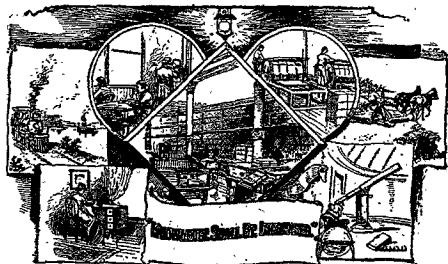
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## THE INCREASE OF KNOWLEDGE.

"THIS is a remarkable fulfillment of prophecy." Isn't it wonderful that all the great inventions have been brought out within the present century?



Increase of Knowledge.

ACCORDING to the words of the angel to Daniel, when might the world look for an increase of knowledge?  
"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, *even to the time of the end*; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Dan. 12:4. It could not be shut up till the end itself; for then no time would be left in which to develop knowledge. The "time of the end," as spoken of in the text, refers to a period just prior to the end, in which a wonderful increase of knowledge was anticipated.  
a. When were some of the principal inventions brought out?

The daily paper says: "Mr. Chancey Depew is a good authority upon the progress mankind is making, and when he says that during the past twenty-five years greater developments and discoveries of every kind have been made than were dreamed of during the twenty-five

hundred years that preceded that period, we may well believe it is so. Mr. Depew is of the opinion that in a few years steam will give place to electricity. He expects to ride on the first electric engine that draws a train on his road."

The above was printed two years ago. Now they are preparing to use electricity on his road, the New York Central.

Talking with a Y. M. C. A. general secretary about the second coming of Christ, he said: "I can't see anything that shows His coming is near." I replied, "I think I can tell you of one thing." "What is that?" "The increase of knowledge. Daniel said that in the time of the end knowledge should be increased." "Well," he said thoughtfully, "that is so. I didn't think of that."

J. R. CALKINS.

## THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

THE readers of the INDICATOR have noticed before this that the *Signs* has been cut down in price to \$1.00 per year. It seems as though all should have it. And not only our people, but many others should read it. Some of our people could go into the cities now with the *Signs*, and sell it as the Salvation Army do their paper, and also take subscriptions for it. Who will volunteer? I can guarantee that any wide-awake person can get their living in this way, if they will follow directions. Young or old can do this work. We have several large cities where this work can be done to good advantage.

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J. R. CALKINS.

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