



An Exposition on Revelation. 18:1-14

INTRODUCTION:—

Many a Christian's mind has been troubled over this other or fourth angel's message of Revelation 18. The Seventh Day Adventist readily understand the first, second and third angel's message, but the other, who follows them, seems to be wrapped in great mystery, which is Satan's great object to this very end. Satan succeeds very well in his master stroke by keeping the precious rays of heavenly light away from the once chosen people of God, known as the children of Laodicea. For we read of the angel in Revelation, 18, when he will come again, how he will be received. "In 1888 in the General Conf. held at Minneapolis, Minn., the angel of Revelation 18, came down to his work and was ridiculed, criticised, AND WHEN THE MESSAGE HE BRINGS AGAIN WILL SWELL INTO A LOUD CRY, IT WILL AGAIN BE RIDICULED, and spoken against, and rejected by the majority." (Entitled Taken Up A Reproach.) Here we see Satan's object is accomplished, his plans have succeeded, and he triumphs. E. W. 121.

PRESENT TRUTH—

There are many precious truths contained in the world of God, but it is

"PRESENT TRUTH" THAT THE FLOCK NEEDS NOW. E. W. 63. I saw that the quick work that God was doing on the earth would soon be cut short in righteousness and that, the messengers must speed swiftly on their way to search out the scattered flock.

An angel said, "Are all messengers?" Another answered, "No; God's messengers have a message." E. W. 50. As I viewed many souls DYING FOR WANT OF THE PRESENT TRUTH, and some who profess to believe the truth were letting them die by withholding the necessary means of carrying forward the work of God. The sight was too painful and I begged of the angel to remove it from me. E. W. 49. I saw that many were neglecting the preparation so needful and were looking to the time of "refreshing" and the "latter rain" to fit them to stand in the day of the Lord, and to live in His sight. Oh, HOW MANY I SAW IN THE TIME OF TROUBLE WITHOUT A SHELTER. They had neglected the needful preparation, therefore, they could not be received in the sight of a holy God. Those who refuse to be HEWED BY THE PROPHETS, and fail to purify their souls in obeying the truth, and who

are willing to believe that their condition is far better than it really is, will come to the time of the falling of the plagues, and then see that they needed to be hewed and squared for the building. But there **WILL BE NO TIME THEN TO DO IT AND NO MEDIATOR TO PLEAD THEIR CAUSE BEFORE THE FATHER.** E. W. 71. Some of us have had time to get the truth, and to advance step by step, and each step we have taken has given us strength to take the next. But now time is almost finished, **AND WHAT WE HAVE BEEN YEARS LEARNING, THEY WILL HAVE TO LEARN IN A FEW MONTHS.** They will also have **MUCH TO UNLEARN, and MUCH TO LEARN AGAIN.** Those who would not receive the mark of the beast and his image when the decree goes forth, **MUST HAVE DECISION NOW AND SAY, NAY, WE WILL NOT REGARD THE INSTITUTION OF THE BEAST.** E. W. 67.

POWERFUL GLORIOUS LIGHT.

And after these things I saw and the angel came down from heaven having great power; and the earth was lighted with his glory. Revelation 18:1. We at once recognized a close comparison between this other, and the three angels spoken of in Revelation 14:6-13. This other angel is not preaching a new gospel, but in the contrary having more light in addi-

tion to his message, and great power assisted by loud cries. As we shall proceed in our study of this lesson under consideration, we will see Satan working in behalf of counterfeiting the very message of this angel whose mission it is to lighten the whole earth with his last and final message for mankind. The same sad experience of ridicule the people of God will go through, as did all those who were waiting for the coming of our saviour in the clouds of heaven, holding up Christ's banner in the midst of corrupt and perverted generation. We shall hear on the right and left. "Lo here, lo there," "We have the truth," "we have the light," "We have the message", and to these very ones the Lord will say, I tell you, "I know you not, whence you are: depart from me, all Ye workers of iniquity. Luke, 13:27. "The Loud Cry will come and pass and the "latter rain" will fall **AND MANY OF OUR PEOPLE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT.**" R. and H. July 21, 1896. "The third angel's message will not be comprehended, the light which will enlighten the earth with its glory, **WILL BE CALLED A FALSE LIGHT BY THOSE WHO REFUSE TO WALK IN ITS ADVANCING GLORY.**" R. and H. May 27, 1890.

(To be continued)

Your Brother in Christ,
FELIX KIESSLING

EDUCATION

FAMILY RELIGION

III. END

The powers of darkness gather about the soul and shut Jesus from our

sight, and at times we can only wait in sorrow and amazement until the

(to be continued on page 9)

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS.

LESSON 1 — THE FULFILLING OF GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE NATIONS

June 5, 1926.

Questions

1. What was God's purpose for the nations in the separation of Israel as announced to Abraham? Gen. 12:2, 3; 22:17, 18.

2. When Israel was slow in extending the gospel blessings to the surrounding nations, how was she reminded of this purpose? Ps. 102:15, 18-22. Note 1.

3. After the recovery of Hezekiah, what opportunity came to him to make known the goodness and power of God? Isa. 39:1, 2. Note 2.

4. How did he fail to discern God's providential call? 2 Chron. 32:31, 24-26.

5. Because of this failure, what change in the Lord's plan was announced to him through the prophet? Isa. 39:5-7.

6. Who of the royal descendants are named among those whom God allowed to be carried to Babylon to proclaim His gospel? Dan. 1:3, 6, 7. Note 3.

7. Whose resources did the Lord employ in giving training to these young men? Verses 3-5.

8. How did Daniel manifest his heart's purpose to be loyal to the God of his fathers? Verses 8-13. Note 4.

9. What was God's response to the faith of His servants? Verses 14-16.

10. In what way did God show that these young witnesses had communion with Him? Verses 17-20. Note 5.

11. In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, what occurred that showed to the Babylonians the worthlessness of their religion? Dan 2:1-11. Note 6.

12. Where did Daniel instinctively turn for help? Verses 17-19.

13. How was Daniel's consciousness of his dependence on God shown? Verses 20-23.

14. By what answer did Daniel magnify Jehovah? Verses 27-30.

15. What testimony was borne by the king concerning the power and wisdom of the God of Israel? Verse 47.

Notes

1. "Had Israel been true to her trust, all the nations of earth would have shared in her blessing. But the hearts of those to whom had been entrusted a knowledge of saving truth, were untouched by the needs of those around them. As God's purpose was lost sight of, the heathen came to be looked upon as beyond the pale of His mercy. The light of truth was withheld, and darkness prevailed. The nations were overspread with a veil of ignorance; the love of God was little known; error and superstition flourished."—"The Story of Prophets and Kings," pages 370, 371.

2. "Their king, Merodach baladan, upon learning that this miracle had been wrought as a sign to the king of Judah that the God of heaven had granted him a new lease of life, sent ambassadors to Hezekiah to congra-

tulate him on his recovery, and to learn, if possible, more of the God who was able to perform so great a wonder.

"The visit of the messengers from the ruler of a faraway land gave Hezekiah an opportunity to extol the living God. How easy it would have been for him to tell them of God, the upholder of all created things, through whose favor his own life had been spared when all other hope had fled! What momentous transformations might have taken place had these seekers after truth from the plains of Chaldea been led to acknowledge the supreme sovereignty of the living God!"—Id., page 344.

"The story of Hezekiah's failure to prove true to his trust at the time of the visit of the ambassadors, is fraught with an important lesson for all. Far more than we do, we need to speak of the precious chapters in our experience, of the mercy and loving-kindness of God, of the matchless depths of the Saviour's love. When mind and heart are filled with the love of God, it will not be difficult to impart that which enters into the spiritual life. Great thoughts, noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth, unselfish purpose, yearnings for piety and holiness, will find expression in words that reveal the character of the heart treasure."—Id. pages 347, 348.

3. "Among the children of Israel who were carried captive to Babylon at the beginning of the seventy years' captivity were Christian patriots, men who were as true as steel to principle, who would not be corrupted by selfishness, but who would honor God at the loss of all things. In the land of their captivity these men were to carry out God's purpose by giving to

heathen nations the blessings that come through a knowledge of Jehovah. They were to be His representatives. Never were they to compromise with idolaters; their faith and their name as worshipers of the living God they were to bear as a high honor. And this they did. In prosperity and adversity they honored God; and God honored them."—Id., page 479.

4. "At the very outset of their career there came to them a decisive test of character. It was provided that they should eat of food and drink of the wine that came from the king's table. In this the king thought to give them an expression of his favor and of his solicitude for their welfare. But a portion having been offered to idols, the food from the king's table was consecrated to idolatry; and one partaking of it would be regarded as offering homage to the gods of Babylon.

In such homage, loyalty to Jehovah forbade Daniel and his companions to join. Even a mere pretense of eating the food or drinking the wine would be a denial of their faith. To do this would be to array themselves with heathenism, and to dishonor the principles of the law of God."—Id., page 481.

5. "As the Lord cooperated with Daniel and his fellows, so He will cooperate with all who strive to do His will. And by the impartation of His Spirit He will strengthen every true purpose, every noble resolution. Those who walk in the path of obedience will encounter many hindrances. Strong, subtle influences may bind them to the world; but the Lord is able to render futile every agency that works for the defeat of His chosen ones; in His strength they may overcome every temptation, conquer eve-

ry difficulty."—Id., page 487.

6. "Soon after Daniel and his companions entered the service of the king of Babylon, events occurred that revealed to an idolatrous nation the power and faithfulness of the God of Israel. Nebuchadnezzar had a re-

markable dream, by which 'his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.' But although the king's mind was deeply impressed, he found it impossible, when he awoke, to recall the particulars."—Id., page 491.

LESSON 2 — THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EVERLASTING KINGDOM FORETOLD

June 12, 1926.

Questions

1. Over whose kingdom had Solomon and his descendants reigned? 1 Chron. 28:5; 29:23.

2. Upon what condition was the house of David to continue to rule over the kingdom of the Lord? 1 Chron. 28:6, 7. Note 1.

3. Why did God permit Babylon to swallow up His own kingdom? 1 Chron. 9:1. Note 2.

4. Because of this, at what conclusion did the Babylonians arrive? Note 3.

5. Amid these seemingly hopeless conditions, what truth was vividly set forth by means of the king's dream interpreted by Daniel? Dan 2:44.

6. In the interpretation of the dream, what is symbolized by the golden head? Verses 37, 38.

7. By what kingdom was Babylon succeeded, and why? Verse 39, first part. Note 4.

8. What is represented by the Brass? Verse 39, last part.

9. What do the legs of iron symbolize? Verse 40. Note 5.

10. What was to befall that empire? Verses 41, 42.

11. What is signified by the mingling of iron and clay? Verse 43. Note 6.

12. By whom will the empire represented by the stone be established, and how long will it continue? Ver-

ses 44, 45.

13. In view of such a kingdom, what exhortations are given us? Heb. 12:28; 2 Peter 3:11-14.

Notes

1. "In His law God has made known the principles that underlie all true prosperity, both of nations and of individuals.

To the Israelites Moses declared of this law: "This is your wisdom and your understanding." It is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life.' The blessings thus assured to Israel are, on the same conditions and in the same degree, assured to every nation and to every individual under the broad heavens."—"The Story of Prophets and Kings," pages 500, 501.

2. When Israel lost her connection with God and became a nation of common sinners, her special privileges were taken from her. This involved the suspension of God's material, visible kingdom that had been committed to her special care.

3. The fact that worshipers of Jehovah were captives in Babylon, and that the vessels of God's house had been placed in the temple of the Babylonish gods, was boastfully cited by the victors as evidence that their religion and customs were superior to the religion and customs of the Hebrews. Yet through the very humili-

ations that Israel's departure from Him had invited, God gave Babylon evidence of His supremacy, of the holiness of His requirements, and of the sure results of obedience. And this testimony He gave, as alone it could be given, through those who were loyal to Him.

4. "In the history of nations the student of God's word may behold the literal fulfillment of divine prophecy. Babylon, shattered and broken at last, passed away because in prosperity its rulers had regarded themselves as independent of God, and had ascribed the glory of their kingdom to human achievement. The Medo-Persian realm was visited by the wrath of Heaven because in it God's law had been trampled underfoot. The fear of the Lord had found no place in the hearts of the vast majority of the people. Wickedness, blasphemy, and corruption prevailed. The kingdoms that followed were even more base and corrupt; and these sank lower and still lower in the scale

of moral worth."—Id., pages 501, 502.

5. Persia was subdued in 331 B. C. by the Grecian or Macedonian empire. This, after its time of testing, was followed by Rome, the mighty empire of the Caesars, which between the years 168 and 30 B. C., absorbed all the parts of the Macedonian empire. Rome, in turn, was divided by the barbarians into lesser kingdoms, out of which have grown the nations of western Europe.

6. Many have been the attempts, and various the means employed, to unite the fragments of the old Roman empire into a permanent whole. Charles V is said to have attempted it; but he failed. Napoleon had an idea of building an empire of military might to cover all western Europe. He ended his days on the island of St. Helena, his purposes brought to naught. The prophecy had said that the kingdom would be divided, and that the parts would never cleave together again.

LESSON 3 — THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

June 19, 1926.

Questions

1. What was preached by Jesus? Matt. 4:23.
2. For what purpose is time being continued? Matt. 24:14.
3. What is said of the preaching of the gospel in Abraham's time? Gen. 12:1-3; Gal. 3:8.
4. To what degree did Israel fail of meeting God's purpose? Hosea 1:9, 10.
5. In the time of Israel's punishment for her failure, what glad tidings were proclaimed by God? Dan. 2:44.
6. Through whom will this promise

be fulfilled? Luke 1:31, 33.

7. Before this promise could be fulfilled, what did the Son of God become? John 1:1, 2, 14. Note 1.

8. What name is given to this divine-human union? 1 Tim. 3:16.

9. What did Jesus call this same mystery? Mark 4:11.

10. What shows that the wise men of Babylon did not understand this blessed, mysterious union? Dan. 2:11. Note 2.

11. How did Daniel's experience show that the true God does dwell with flesh? Verse 19.

12. In what words did King Nebuc-

hadnezzar acknowledge Daniel's fellowship with God? Verse 47.

13. How personal is this union for us? Col. 1:26, 27.

14. What does this mystery accomplish for the believer? Verse 28. Note 3.

15. What invitation will the King extend to those who have experienced the mystery of the kingdom? Matt. 25:31-34.

Notes

1. "In taking upon Himself humanity, our Saviour unites His interests with those of the fallen sons and daughters of Adam, while through His divinity He grasps the throne of God. And thus Christ is the medium of communication of men with God, and of God with men."—"The Desire of Ages," page 143.

2. "The union of the divine and human in the person of Christ is "the mystery of godliness," or "the mystery of the kingdom of God." In the case of the seed which is sown in the field, this same principle is illustrated by the union of the reproducing power with the material form. As the seed is thus capable of multiplying itself, so Christ reproduces His own character in believers, by making them partakers of the divine nature. At His coming He bestows upon

the subjects of the kingdom the gift of immortality (1 Cor. 15:51-53), and so the kingdom will stand forever. It is quite likely that the wise men of Babylon did not understand about the incarnation of God in the flesh in the coming Messiah; but in their statement that the dwelling of the gods was not with flesh, they announced the fundamental error of Babylon both ancient and modern, and really denied the vital principle of Christianity. This was the essential secret, or mystery, of the kingdom of God which needed to be known in Babylon, and which is still to be proclaimed throughout the world."—"Bible Readings," page 211.

3. "Only as they were united with Christ, could the disciples hope to have the accompanying power of the Holy Spirit, and cooperation of angels of heaven. With the help of these divine agencies, they would be victorious in the conflict they were compelled to wage unceasingly against the powers of darkness. As they should continue to labor unitedly, heavenly messengers would go before them, opening the way; hearts would be prepared for the reception of truth, and many would be won to Christ."—"Acts of the Apostles," pages 90, 91.

LESSON 4 — A TEST OF FAITH

June 26, 1926.

Questions

1. What had been revealed to Nebuchadnezzar concerning God's plan for the world? Dan. 2:33, 45.

2. By what words had the king acknowledged the power of God? Verse 47.

3. After some years had elapsed,

what did Nebuchadnezzar do? Dan. 3:1. Note 1.

4. What was his reason for making his image all of gold? Note 2. Compare Dan. 2:32, 37, 38.

5. At the dedication of the image, what command was given the assembled multitude? Dan. 3:2-6. Note 3.

6. By whom was this command disregarded? Verses 8-12.

7. What defiance was offered to the God of Israel? Verses 13-15.

8. By what noble words did the young men show their trust and loyalty? Verses 16-18.

9. What did the king do? How was the command fulfilled? Verses 19-22.

10. Why was the king astonished by what he saw? Verses 24, 25.

11. How was he able to recognize the fourth one as Jesus? Note 4.

12. How complete had been the protection of God over the young men? Verses 26, 27.

13. What conviction came upon the king? Verse 28.

14. By what command did the king show his excess of zeal? Verse 29. Note 5.

15. How were the young men rewarded for their fidelity? Verse 30. Note 6.

Notes

1. "The words "Thou art this head of gold," had made a deep impression upon the ruler's mind. The wise men of his realm, taking advantage of this and of his return to idolatry, proposed that he make an image similar to the one seen in his dream and set it up where all might behold the head of gold, which had been interpreted as representing his kingdom."—"The Story of Prophets and Kings," page 504.

2. "Pleased with the flattering suggestion, he determined to carry it out, and to go even farther. Instead of reproducing the image as he had seen it, he would excel the original. His image should not deteriorate in value from the head to the feet, but should be entirely of gold,—symbolic throughout of Babylon as an eternal,

indestructible, all powerful kingdom, which should break in pieces all other kingdoms, and stand forever."—Id., page 504.

3. "The appointed day came, and a vast concourse from all "people, nations, and languages," assembled on the plain of Dura. In harmony with the king's command, when the sound of music was heard, the whole company "fell down and worshiped the golden image." On that eventful day the powers of darkness seemed to be gaining a signal triumph; the worship of the golden image bade fair to become connected permanently with the established forms of idolatry recognized as the state religion of the land. Satan hoped thereby to defeat God's purpose of making the presence of captive Israel in Babylon a means of blessing to all the nations of heathendom."—Id., page 506.

4. "How did that heathen king know what the Son of God was like? The Hebrew captives filling positions of trust in Babylon had in life and character represented before him the truth. When asked for a reason of their faith, they had given it without hesitation. Plainly and simply they had presented the principles of righteousness, thus teaching those around them of the God whom they worshiped. They had told of Christ, the Redeemer to come; and in the form of the fourth in the midst of the fire the king recognized the Son of God."—Id., page 509.

5. "It was right for the king to make public confession, and to seek to exalt the God of heaven above all other gods; but in endeavoring to force his subjects to make a similar confession of faith and to show similar reverence, Nebuchadnezzar was exceeding his right as a temporal so-

vereign. He had no more right, either civil or moral, to threaten men with death for not worshiping God, than he had to make the decree for not worshiping God, than he had to make the decree consigning to the flames all who refused to worship the golden image. God never compels the obedience of man. He leaves all free to choose whom they will serve."—Id., pages 510, 511.

6. "The three Hebrews declared to the whole nation of Babylon their faith in Him whom they worshiped. They relied on God. In the hour of their trial they remembered the promise, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." And in a marvelous manner their faith in the living Word had been honored in the sight of all. The tidings of their wonderful deliverance were carried to many coun-

tries by the representatives of the different nations that had been invited by Nebuchadnezzar to the dedication. Through the faithfulness of His children, God was glorified in all the earth."—Id., page 512.

"As in the days of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, so in the closing period of earth's history the Lord will work mightily in behalf of those who stand steadfastly for the right. He who walked with the Hebrew worthies in the fiery furnace will be with His followers wherever they are. His abiding presence will comfort and sustain. In the midst of the time of trouble,—trouble such as has not been since there was a nation,—His chosen ones will stand unmoved. Satan with all the hosts of evil cannot destroy the weakest of God's saints. Angels that excel in strength will protect them, and in their behalf Jehovah will reveal Himself as a "God of gods"; able to save to the uttermost those who have put their trust in Him."—Id., page 513.

Family Religion continued from
Page 2.

cloud passes over. These seasons are sometimes terrible. Hope seems to fail, and despair seizes upon us. In these dreadful hours we must learn to trust, to depend solely upon the merits of the atonement, and in all our helpless unworthiness cast ourselves upon the merits of the crucified and risen Saviour. We shall never perish while we do this—never! When light shines on our pathway, it is no great thing to be strong in the strength of grace. But to wait patiently in hope when clouds envelop us and all is dark, requires faith and submission which causes our will to be swallowed

up in the will of God. We are too quickly discouraged, and earnestly cry for the trial to be removed from us, when we should plead for patience to endure and grace to overcome.

Without faith it is impossible to please God. We can have the salvation of God in our families, but we must believe for it, live for it, and have a continual, abiding faith and trust in God. We must subdue a hasty temper, and control our words; and in this we shall gain great victories. Unless we control our words and temper, we are slaves to Satan. We are in subjection to him. He leads us captive. All jangling, and unpleasant, impatient, fretful words are an

offering presented to his Satanic majesty. And it is a costly offering, more costly than any sacrifice we can make for God; for it destroys the peace and happiness of whole families, destroys health, and is eventually the cause of forfeiting an eternal life of happiness. The restraint which God's word imposes upon us is for our own interest. It increases the happiness of our families, and of all around us. It refines our taste, sanctifies our judgment, and brings peace of mind,

and in the end, everlasting life. Under this holy restraint we shall increase in grace and humility, and it will become easy to speak right. The natural, passionate temper will be held in subjection. An indwelling Saviour will strengthen us every hour. Ministering angels will linger in our dwellings, and with joy carry Heavenward the tidings of our advance in the divine life, and the recording angel will make a cheerful, happy record.

QUESTION CORNER

"Gather up the rays of light that have been slighted and rejected. Gather them up with meekness, with trembling, and with fear." Vol. 5:94.

All answers will be exclusively quoted from the Scriptures and Testimonies.

Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counselors. Psalm 119:24.

Q. 10. Can we find a positive statement against butter and flesh eating in the testimony?

Ans. We bear positive testimony against tobacco, spirituous liquors, snuff, tea, coffee, flesh-meats, butter, spices, rich cakes, mince pies, a large amount of salt, and all exciting substances used as articles of food. Tes. 3:21.

Q. 11. Is Aspirin and Bromo-Seltzer good for colds and headaches?

Ans. Drugs given to stupefy, whatever they may be, derange the nervous system. H. to L. 57.

Q. 12. Is rough powder, and lipsticks becoming to a Christian to make herself look beautiful?

Ans. "There is no real beauty of person or of character out of Christ." Vol. 2:174. (B.) And burning fever instead of beauty paint. Isaiah 3:24.

Q. 13. Did Christ endorse Drugs?

Ans. Christ did not give countenance to drug medication. M. of H. 233.

Q. 14. Please explain Matthew 5:48. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

Ans. He tells us to be perfect as He is in the same manner. We are to be centers of light and blessing to our little circle, even as He is to the universe. We have nothing of ourselves, but the light of His love shines upon us, and we are to reflect its brightness. "In his borrowed goodness good," we may be perfect in our sphere, even as God is perfect in His. Jesus said, "Be perfect as

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The Children's Friend

for Parents and Children
who would follow Jesus.

Suffer little Children to come unto me.

LUKE 10:6

SECOND YEAR

NUMBER 6

EVENING PRAYER.

Our Father."

The mother's voice was low and tender, and solemn.

"Our Father."

On two sweet voices the tones were borne upward.

It was the innocence of reverent children that gave them utterance.

"Who art in heaven."

"Who art in heaven," repeated the children, one with her eyes bent meekly down, and the other looking upward, as if she would penetrate the heavens into which her heart was aspiring.

"Hallowed be thy name."

Lower fell the voice of the little ones. In a gentle murmur they said,

"Hallowed be thy name."

"Thy kingdom come."

And the burden of the prayer was still taken by the children—

"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," filled the chamber.

And the mother continued—

"Give us this day our daily bread."

"Our daily bread," lingered a moment on the air, as the mother's voice was hushed into silence.

"And forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors."

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

"For thine is the kingdom, and power, and the glory, forever."

"Amen."

All these holy words were said piously and fervently by the little ones, as they knelt with clasped hands beside their mother. Then as their thoughts uplifted on the wings of prayer to their heavenly Father, came back again and rested on their earthly parents, a warmer love came gushing from their hearts.

Pure kisses—tender kisses—the fond "good-night." What a sweet agitation pervaded all their feelings. Then two dear heads were placed side by side on the snowy pillows, the mother's last good-night kiss given, and the shadowy curtains drawn.

What a pulseless stillness reigns without the chamber. Inwardly, the parents' ears are bent. They have given those innocent ones into the keeping of God's angels, and they can almost hear the rustle of their garments as they gather around their sleeping babes. A sigh, deep and tremulous, breaks on the air. Quickly the mother turns to the father of her

children, with a look of earnest inquiry upon her countenance. And he answers thus her silent questions:—

“Far back through many years have my thoughts been wandering. At my mother’s knee thus said I nightly my childhood’s evening prayer. It was that best and holiest of all prayers. ‘Our Father,’ that she taught me. Childhood and my mother passed away. I went forth as a man into the world, strong, confident, and self-seeking. Once I came into great temptation. Had I fallen in that temptation, I should have fallen never to rise again. I was about yielding. All the barriers I could oppose to it in the in-rushing flood, seemed just ready to give way, when, as I sat in my room one evening, there came from an adjoining chamber, now first occupied for many weeks, the murmur of low voices. I listened. At first no articulate sound was heard, and yet something in the tones stirred my heart with new and strong emotions. At length there came to my ears, in the earnest, loving voice of a woman, the words, —

“‘Deliver us from evil.’

“For an instant, it seemed to me as if that voice were that of my mother. Back with a sudden bound, through all the intervening years, went my thoughts, and a child again

I was kneeling at my mother’s knee. Humbly and reverently I said over the words of the holy prayer she had taught me, heart and eye uplifted to heaven. The hour and power of darkness had passed. I was no longer standing in slippery places, with a flood of water ready to sweep me to destruction; but my feet were on a rock. My pious mother’s care had saved her son. In the holy words she had taught me in childhood was a living power to resist evil through all my after life. Ah! that unknown mother, as she taught her child to repeat this evening prayer, how little dreamed she that the holy words were to reach a stranger’s ears, and save him through the memory of his own childhood and his own mother. And yet it was so. What a power there is in God’s word, as it flows into and rests in the minds of innocent childhood.”

Tears were in the eyes of the wife gazed with a subdued tenderness, upon the countenance of her husband. Her heart was too full for utterance. A little while she thus gazed, and then with a trembling joy, laid her hand upon his bosom. Angels were in the chamber where their dear ones slept, and they felt their holy presence.

HALLOWED, ay, hallowed! not alone in prayer,

But in our daily thoughts and daily speech;

At altar and at hearth-stone—everywhere

That temple-priests or home-apostles preach.

Oh, not by words alone, but by our deeds,

And by our faith, and hope, and spirit’s flame.

And by the nature of our private creeds,

We hallow best, and glorify thy Name.

Nature doth hallow it. In every star,

And every flower, and leaf, and leaping wave,

She praises Thee, who, from Thy realm afar,

Such stores of beauty to this fair earth gave.

may carry on the very same work again? There must be a REFORMATION THROUGHOUT OUR RANKS; the people must reach a higher standard before we expect the power of God to be manifested in a marked manner for THE HEALING OF THE SICK....Let me tell you that THE SICK WILL BE HEALED when you have faith to come to God in THE RIGHT WAY. General Conference Bulletin, 1901, pages 25, 26. (C) I understand the text in James is to be carried out when a person is sick upon his bed; if he calls for the elders of the church, and they carry out the directions in James, anointing the sick with oil, in the name of the Lord praying over him the prayer of faithIt cannot be our duty to call for the elders....But the Lord gives the privilege of seeking him individually in earnest prayer. Ms., Feb. 16, 1890.

Q. 17. What shall we do if a case does not respond to the use of simple remedies?

Ans. Not a poisonous drug should be used. When you have a case that does not respond to the use of simple remedies, take it to the Lord in prayer. Dr. Kress July 16, 1910.

Q. 18. Does God permit operation?

Note: Yes, on account of unbelief, and originally given for relief of unbelievers.

Ans. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. Matthew 5:29-30.

(B) To prevent disease from spread-

ing to the body and destroying life, a man would submit to part even with his right hand. Thought from the Mount of Blessing. 95. (C) The gospel still possesses the same power, and why should we not today witness the result?...For the sick we should use the remedies which God has provided in nature and we should point them to Him who alone can restore. It is our work to present the sick and suffering to Christ in the arms of our faith. We should teach them to believe in the great Healer. We should lay hold on his promise and pray for the manifestation of his power. Now unbelief separates the Church from her divine Helper. Desire of Ages, page 823-825. The church is not now the separate and peculiar people she was when the fires of persecution were kindled against her. How is the gold (faith) become dim! how is the most fine gold (faith in the last and most precious message) changed! I saw that if the church had always retained her peculiar, holy character, the power of the Holy Spirit which was imparted to the disciples would still be with her. The sick would be healed, devils would be rebuked and cast out, and she would be mighty, and a terror to her enemies. E. W. 227.

Note: Please take to heart the following quotations on operations, and its serious performance.

Those who minister to the sick who perform delicate, grave operations, should remember that one slip of the knife, one nervous tremor, may cause a soul to be launched into eternity. They should not be allowed to take so many responsibilities that they have no time for special seasons of prayer. Vol. 6:252. My brother, as a surgeon you have had the most critical cases

to handle, and at times a dread has come upon you. To perform these difficult duties, you knew that rapid work must be done, and that no false moves must be made. Again and again you had to pass swiftly from task to task. Who has been by your side as you performed these critical operations? Who has kept you calm and self-possessed in the crisis, giving you quick, sharp discernment, clear eyesight, steady nerves, and skillful

precision? The Lord Jesus has sent His angel to your side to tell you what to do. A hand has been laid upon your hand. Jesus, and not you, has guided the movements of your instrument. At times you have realized this, and a wonderful calmness has come over you. You dared not hurry and yet you worked rapidly, knowing that there was not a moment to lose. Vol. 8:187-188.

(To be continued).

Announcements.

All our beloved brothers and sisters are hereby given notice, that the through us established Conference in America, will be held at Trenton, N. J. during June.

More specified reports about date, place of meeting etc. will be sent through circulars to the different groups and brothers and sisters. Propositions and reports from all cooperating brothers and sisters in the Message, should be sent before June 5 to the Central office.

Pray with us for a special blessing for this meeting. (The Committee).

We ask all beloved brothers and sisters to send us addresses of souls, who are interested in the Message of

the Reformation, that we may be able to forward to them the Message through our literature.

Herewith we give notice to all brothers and sisters, that J. H. Miller is not connected with the work of the International Reform Movement. We ask therefore all our brothers and sisters not to hear him any more, while his efforts only are to withstand our common labor. (The Committee).

We are looking for a brother or a sister, who has interest to write the Sabbath School Lessons for the Children's Friend. Please, let us, know, if some one is able and willing to do this.

"The Sabbath's Watchman" — with "The Children's Friend"

Monthly Paper of the Seventh Day Adventists Reform, American Union

Issued at Kalamazoo, Mich., every month.

Our Address:

Intern Missionary Society, S. D. A., Reform Movement, Kalamazoo, Mich., P. O. Box 432.

Responsible Editor:—Committee of Literature.

U. S. A.:—P. O. Box 432, Kalamazoo, Mich.
 Germany:—Hannover—Buchholz, Postfach 1.
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