



Vol. 22

Denver, Colorado, Fourth Quarter, 1947

No. 4

California Field Conference Report

Meeting Convenes Sept. 4 to 7, 1947

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O most High . . . O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He hath done marvellous things: His right hand, and His holy arm, hath gotten Him the victory." *Ps.* 92:1; 98:1.

WE have great cause to praise the Lord through these lines. If we look back into the experiences which we were permitted to make during the past weeks, we must proclaim with David: "O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He hath done marvellous things." The Lord has given us the blessed promise that He will finish His work and cut it short in righteousness. We believe firmly that all His promises are "yea and amen," and no earthly power will ever be able to destroy the true cause of God on earth. We have seen with our eyes that God is leading His people, and we know that He will accomplish His work gloriously.

We are happy to report that Elder A. Mueller of Switzerland, and Elder K. Kozel of Argentina, arrived safely in San Francisco by plane on Friday morning, Sept. 5. We thank the Lord that He protected these dear brethren on their long journey, and we were indeed glad to see them face to face. On Sabbath, Sept. 6, we had a special gathering in San Francisco, and to the honor of God we can say that the Lord came very near to us with His Holy Spirit.

Through God's grace, and His divine leading, we were permitted to begin our field conference in Sacramento, Calif. on Sept. the 4th. A long time before this conference, the brethren and sisters had prayed the Lord earnestly that He might

bless this special gathering in a wonderful way, and we give glory to God that He has answered these prayers. A goodly number from near and far came out to the meeting with just one aim in mind, to receive the special blessing which the Lord is so willing to bestow on such occasions.

On Thursday evening we had the first public meeting, and on Friday morning the conference was opened by Elder Doerschler. He read to us several appropriate psalms and admonished all to do their utmost to make the meetings a real success.

Elder Mueller related to us many experiences through which our believers passed during the trying times which are just behind us. It was very encouraging for us to learn that God has given our brethren and sisters strength to stand firm in defense of truth. Many of our dear believers have given their life for the sake of truth, and we pray that their faithfulness may inspire others to take their stand on the side of truth and righteousness. Elder Mueller also told us about the great need for food and clothing in the European countries, and made a special appeal for help. We thank God that our believers have been very willing in the past to help our brethren and sisters who suffer great privation. Many packages with food and clothing were sent across the ocean, and all these packages have been great-

ly appreciated. But we are more happy to know that our believers will now enter upon this relief work more fervently than ever before. It is our prayer that the Lord may richly bless their efforts of soliciting money, food and clothing for this worthy cause. In order that the distribution may be more orderly, we shall here give two addresses to which the packages should be sent:

Mrs. A. Beese,
Ferd. Wallbrechtstr. 40,
Hannover, Germany
(British Zone)

Mr. O. Luft,
Heppaecherstr. 3,
Esslingen a. N.
Wuerttemberg, Germany
(American Zone)

Since some packages have safely arrived also in the Russian Zone, we would like to say that it would be advisable to send a few packages now and then to the following address:

Mr. Kaspar Kissener,
Schoenfelderstr. 7,
Pillnitz, b. Dresden
Germany, (Russian Zone)

Elder Kozel told us how the work of reform is progressing in South America. In all the South American countries faithful souls are standing in this Reform Movement. God has indeed blessed the work down there in a wonderful way. May God do a special work in all the different countries through the Holy Spirit, that His work may soon be finished in righteousness.

After the close of the conference we left with the brethren for Denver, Colo. and the Lord protected us on our journey. We had made arrangements for one evening meeting which was very well attended. The Holy Spirit came also near on this occasion.

On Friday morning, Sept. 12, we left for Shattuck, Oklahoma, where we arrived safely before the Sabbath. Our first meeting there was held Friday evening, and we continued with meetings over Sabbath and Sunday. The believers were indeed very happy of having the privilege to meet the brethren, and all were richly blessed in the meetings that were held.

From Oklahoma the brethren left for Trenton, Michigan, where a special gathering will be held from Sept. 19 to the 21st. May the Lord also bless this special gathering is my prayer.

W. O. Welp.



A Group of Reformers who attended the Field Conference held in Esslingen, Germany

OBEY—Acts 5:30

PRAY—Luke 11:13

TARRY—Luke 24:49

RECEIVE—Acts 2:4

“RECEIVE YE THE HOLY GHOST”

“To us today, as verily as to the first disciples, the promise of the Spirit belongs.”—“Testimonies,” Vol. 8, page 20.

WALK IN THE SPIRIT

By OSCAR KRAMER

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.” Gal. 5:16, 17.

The Voice Within

CHRISTIANITY is not a mere mouth profession, but an actual warfare against deep-seated, ingrown sin. Man is made of the same functional physical design as the lower species of creation in the animal world, his only difference consisting of his higher intellectual powers of reasoning, with which the Creator endowed him when He “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.” (Gen. 2:7). Gifted with a highly sensitive nervous system man walks through life with erect walk, his eyes fixed on things ahead in search of unknown future, and looking upward to the macrocosmic firmament of stars in search of the great I AM, while the lower creatures cling to the ground from whence they came and shall return forever. This power of reasoning and understanding, given to man, is a precious heritage, but it may easily be lost. Even men of high-ranking position in church, social, or political life may be deprived of it, as David says, “Man that is in honor, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.” Ps. 49:20.

Here it is that the still, small voice, which called the prophet of old, speaks to us, “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it.” Isa. 30:21.

Do We Possess It?

The inconsistency of short-sighted materialism is evidenced by the fact that we live much more of invisible things than of the visible food-elements. What is the body without the life-giving galvanic currents that make it move? and what is life with-

out the directing influence of the Holy Spirit? When this gift is absent, man becomes shiftless, tossed about by every wind of doctrine. He cannot discriminate between right and wrong and consequently is always found aiding the wrong side. But with this gift ruling in his life, the beneficial effects can be clearly noticed. He virtually seems to be continually tuned-in to a continual broadcast from heaven and he cannot but set his affections on high and thus he is weaned more and more away from this sin-sick world.

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” 1. Cor. 3:16.

A Solemn Injunction

A continual neglect of physical hygiene seriously affects the function of the body. But human beings never stop to consider the grave results of neglecting the cleansing of the spiritual avenues of the soul. As a result the Holy Spirit is kept away from entering-in by the accumulation of evil tendencies and vile traits of character which virtually block the door of the heart.

We live in the last days, such days of haste and nervous activity! Man seems to fit himself like a wheel into the machine which turns fast and faster at a nerve-wrecking pace. It is a cunning device of the enemy to completely occupy man's mind with the pursuits of life for it acts like an intoxicant on the minds of millions, benumbing their senses completely.

“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting,

and drunkenness, and cares of this life." Luke 21:34.

Who Is At Fault?

We bewail the astounding lack of greater spiritual blessings, but we will not meet the requirements. We complain that the truth has no greater influence upon others, but we make no room for the Spirit. We say, Why are the gifts absent among us? but we will not reform our ill habits in health and otherwise. We feel sad over the lack of the spirit of love, but we will not cease talking about our fellow brother. Why does the Lord in a high measure withhold from us all these blessings? because we make no room in our lives to receive them. The fault is all ours, yours and mine, dear brother and sister.

"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear." Isa: 59:2.

Walk In The Spirit

"Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" Gal. 3:3.

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Rom. 8:13, 14.

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof:" 1. John 2:16, 17.

Make this a personal message to yourself: Open the door wide by crucifying dear self daily. Then the Spirit will enter into your heart and only then. Will you start today? God bless you?

"O gift of gifts! O grace of grace!
That God should condescend
To make thy heart His dwelling place
And be thy daily friend!
For not in far-off realms of space
The Spirit hath its throne;
In ev'ry heart it findeth place
And waited to be known.

F.L.H.

God's Righteousness Like The Great Mountains

By F. WILLIAMSON

"Thy righteousness is like the great mountains"
Ps. 36:6.

THE foregoing text came into my mind while traveling through the mountainous province of British Columbia, located in the western part of Canada. As I beheld these great mountains, my mind was greatly impressed both by their grandeur and stupendous height. Words fail to describe adequately these gigantic, geological protuberances that rise above all the earth.

Whilst we were journeying across these mountains, my mind was meditating upon this striking Scripture text used by the sweet singer of Israel. How could I harmonize this great thought of David when he said, "Thy righteousness is like the great mountains." The more I considered this text, there began to develop some beautiful thoughts descriptive of God's righteousness compared to the mountains.

Great Mountains Are Unchangeable

Most of us no doubt have heard of the Alps, a great mountainous range in the central part of

continental Europe. All around the Alps, revolutions has been the normal state for centuries. Thrones have tottered, governments have changed, monarchs have been deposed; but Mont Blanc has stood unmoved amid it all. Everywhere the great mountains "mock the eternities of history," and the permanence of human institutions.

It is even so with God's righteousness, nay, infinitely more so. Infatuation has even attempted to alter it; infidelity has tried to impair its foundations and subvert it: human philosophy has called it in question: but such attempts are as futile as a man trying to move the Alps. God's righteousness, like Himself, is "without variableness or shadow of turning." The Lord never changes, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever."

It is interesting to note the type of people God is rallying to the standard to fight the battles of the Lord.

"God calls for men and women of stability, of firm purpose, who can be relied upon in seasons of danger and trial, who are as firmly rooted and grounded in the truth as the eternal hills, who cannot be swayed to the right or to the left, but who

move straight onward and are always found on the right side."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 4, p. 75.

Great Mountains Are Conspicuous

The northern part of India is covered by lofty and rugged mountains. Of these the highest are the Himalayas, which contain some peaks having an altitude of over four miles. Travellers tell us that these great mountains may be seen two hundred and fifty miles off. The same applies to a lesser extent to the Rockies which can be seen one hundred miles off. Where ever there are mountains their pre-eminent height stands above all the surrounding country.

And so with the righteousness of God. How conspicuous! In the history of the children of Israel there is nothing more prominent; in all the great episodes of God's dealing with them, it is first to arrest our attention.

One of the first admonitions of Jesus was, "seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." Matt. 6:33. Here then is the prime requisite of our calling. That we seek for the righteousness of God. This is the outstanding characteristic that will make the children of God most conspicuous. According to the Spirit of prophecy, those who are recognized as the people of God, "are exalting the standard of righteousness in these last days." *Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 58.

Great Mountains Are Obscurable

Again we look at the mountains and all is bright and sunny; anon all is dark and gloomy. The intelligent person knows these obscurations are from beneath; indeed, we see the vapor rising rapidly from the valley to thicken the canopy over our heads.

So with the righteousness of God. It too can become obscured, but the obscurations are from beneath the mists of distrust will hide it; the dark thick murky atmosphere of scepticism, bordering on the very darkness of despair; will conceal it altogether. Dear reader, are you discouraged, thinking all is lost? Is sinful unbelief marring the face of your soul? Do the clouds of doubt envelope you and all is dark? If so, please read the following comforting words,

"You should not give up in despair, thinking you must live and die in the bondage of doubt and unbelief. In the Lord we have righteousness and strength. Lean upon Him; and through His power you may quench all the fiery darts of the adversary, and come off more than conqueror . . . or you may, if you choose, walk in the darkness of unbelief, lose Heaven, and lose all.—*Testimonies*, Vol 4, pp. 213, 214.

Often we think we are in the enemy's land, and the Lord is afar off; but just behind the clouds,

like the mountain, the Lord is always there. Like David we need often to cry, "Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I."

Great Mountains Are Dangerous To Explore Without A Guide

Some have foolishly attempted it, and valuable lives have been sacrificed in the attempt. And alas, what a perilous position and what a painful end have men come to, by essaying the exploration of God's righteousness without a guide! "To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." We are directed to the Scriptures as our only safeguard against the influence of false teachers. Satan employs every possible means to prevent men from having a knowledge of the truth.

Jesus tells us to "search the Scriptures." Paul and Silas praised the Bereans for "searching the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so." In one of His last talks with the disciples, the Lord promised a new teacher that would educate them in all the things of God. "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26.

The following inspired words should encourage us to seek more earnestly, with the aid of the Holy Spirit as our guide, to explore the great truths of God's word.

"It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light, and encourage others to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought, and comparing scripture with scripture. With divine help, we are to form our opinions for ourselves, as we are to answer for ourselves before God."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 598.

Great Mountains Are Protective

It is pleasing to see a town or a village nestling in happy peaceful security, in the valley between the mountains. Not only are they protected from the raw easterly winds and northern blasts; but this advantage often defended the town from the enemy. History has proven this, that a town located in the mountains was more easily guarded than one on the plains.

This thought suggests to us that God's righteousness, like the mountains, is protective and defensive. It guarantees our present salvation and future security. All those who put their trust in God are sure to have safety from the attacks of the enemy. Quite often David uses the hills and the mountains as a synonym of God's mighty power to protect His people. "As the mountains are

around about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about His people from henceforth even forever." "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth."

There is a time coming, when those who have rejected the security of God's righteousness, and put their trust in idols of gold, and who have exalted humanity above divinity, will in terror seek to be hidden by the rocks and the mountains. Dear reader, let us not be numbered among that group who raise an agonizing prayer to the mountains, to hide them from the sight of Him whose presence brings destruction. For then, it is too late. The rocks and the caverns that have so long been a means of protection cannot conceal or defend the guilty from the long delayed vengeance of God.

Blessed is the one that makes Christ, "the strong tower from the enemy," "a hiding place," a mountain of defence, "before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord."

Great Mountains Command The Most Glorious Views

Views your imagination cannot picture. The varied tints of the sunlight upon the pinnacles of snow. The distant ranges, so illusively near. The spreading valleys and the calm blue lake. The harmony of the landscape, light and shade blending marvelously together. So from the mount of God's righteousness, most powerful views are obtained.

Aspects of the Divine character, which cannot be possibly seen from the flats of worldly reason and science. Views of holiness, mercy, grace, long suffering, goodness and truth.

A glorious view of the goodly land, where the faithful will spend eternity, is ours to behold by faith. Only those who have the robe of purity and righteousness will have an inheritance in the heavenly land. The good things of this land are all yours if you yield full and complete allegiance. They are yours if you yield. Why not make the present moment the time when you say, "all to Jesus I surrender all to Him I freely give." Yes, give Him all—all the dismal failures, the scarlet sins, the wasted years, - all. Then He will give to you all the resources of heaven. Oh, wonderful exchange! Our rags of sin for His robe of righteousness. Oh, delay no longer! The time is short.

From his lonely abode upon the isle of Patmos, John had his attention called to scenes that were marvellous to behold. The King in His beauty, surrounded by a company that have, "gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name."

"And I looked, and, lo, a lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father's name written in their foreheads." Rev. 14:1

May the Lord grant unto each one of us a place in that throng who are standing on God's holy mountain.

The Seven Churches in the Light of the Sure Word of Prophecy

By W. O. WELP

WE are living in a very solemn time, and we are told by the word of God that in this time—the time of the end—many shall arise with strange doctrines teaching the opinions of mere men, and their only object will be to unsettle the established faith of the people of God. All those who fall a prey and accept the teachings of men have not been sanctified in the *truth*. God, the Creator of the Universe, has Himself laid one foundation at the beginning, and no man can lay a foundation other than what has been laid. "To the law and to the testimony," is our only safeguard; and "if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." The following testimony will prove sufficiently that God's message for our time is build upon the solid Rock Jesus Christ.

"I saw a company who stood well guarded and firm, giving *no* countenance to those who would unsettle the *established faith* of the body. God looked upon them with approbation. I was shown three steps,—the first, second, and third angels' messages. Said my accompanying angel, 'Woe to him who shall move a block or stir a pin of these messages. The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received.' I was again brought down through these messages, and saw how dearly the people of God had purchased their experience. It had been obtained through much suffering and severe conflict. God had led them along step by step, until He had placed them upon a *solid, immovable platform*. I saw individuals approach the platform and exam-

ine the foundation. Some with rejoicing immediately stepped upon it. Others commenced to find fault with the foundation. They wished improvements made, and then the platform would be more perfect, and the people much happier. Some stepped off the platform to examine it, and declared it to be laid wrong. But I saw that nearly all stood firm upon the platform, and exhorted those who had stepped off to cease their complaints; for God was the Master-builder, and they were fighting against Him."—*Early Writings*, pp. 258, 259.

This testimony needs no explanation. Every one who loves truth will thereby understand that God has laid a *solid, immovable platform* for our time—"the first, second, and third angel's messages." The infallible One has divinely foretold that those who find fault with this platform, and wish to improve it, are fighting against God, and unless they thoroughly repent, they will lose eternal life.

Good Counsel for Us

At various times in the Bible history, men have arisen with strange doctrines, and the messages given of God to His people at these times are also of vital importance to us. We will here cite only one occasion where the apostle Paul admonished the believers in the following words:—

"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace." Heb. 13:9.

If this solemn counsel would be more heeded by the people of God at our time, we would come all into the unity of *faith*, and the prayer of Christ would thus be answered, "that they all may be one." It is the will of God that our hearts are *established* in the *truth*, and that we stand firm, unmovable upon the solid platform, and give no heed whatsoever to strange doctrines, but rather reprove them.

The Seven Churches

We shall now in a brief way study the seven churches and their history, and we will thus be led to see clearly in which church period we are living today.

Ephesus

The first church named in the Revelation is Ephesus. The words addressed to this Church picture the condition of the church in the apostolic age. The definition of the word Ephesus is desirable, which may well be taken as a good descriptive term of the character and condition of the church in its first state. Those early Christians had received the doctrine of Christ in its purity. They enjoyed the benefits and blessings of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They were noted for

works, labor, and patience. The Spirit of prophecy describes this church in the following language:

"In the days of the apostles the Christian believers were filled with earnestness and enthusiasm. So untiringly did they labor for their Master that in a comparatively short time, notwithstanding fierce opposition, the gospel of the kingdom was sounded to all the inhabited parts of the earth. The zeal manifested at this time by the followers of Jesus has been recorded by the pen of inspiration for the encouragement of believers in every age. Of the church at Ephesus, which the Lord Jesus used as a symbol of the entire Christian church in the apostolic age, the Faithful and True Witness declared: 'I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars; and hast borne, and hast patience, and for My name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted.'"—*The Acts of the Apostles*," p. 587.

The above testimony depicts clearly the condition of the first church, and it is thereby fully understood that this church existed in the apostolic time, and was named Ephesus.

Smyrna

The second church mentioned in the Revelation is Smyrna and signifies myrrh, which is a fit appellation for the church of God while passing through the fiery furnace of persecution, and proving herself a "sweet smelling savor" unto Him. The words addressed to this church are:—

"I know thy works, and tribulations, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer; behold, the devil shall cast some of you in prison, that ye may be tried: and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." *Rev.* 2:9, 10.

These verses show that tribulation and persecution were the lot of the church Smyrna. The prophecy also declares: "Ye shall have tribulation ten days." As this message is prophetic, the time mentioned must also be prophetic ten years. It is a noticeable fact that the most bloody of what is commonly known as "the ten persecutions" continued just ten years, beginning under Diocletian, from A. D. 303 to A. D. 313. Against this church no word of condemnation was uttered. Persecution is ever calculated to keep the church pure, and incite its members to piety and godliness.

Pergamos

In Revelation 2:12-17, we find the third state of the church, and the words addressed to this

church reveal the condition of that church. The word Pergamos signifies height, elevation, and fitly represents that period of the Christian church. It may be located from the days of Constantine, or perhaps, rather, from his professed conversion to Christianity, A. D. 323, to the establishment of the papacy, A. D. 538. It was a period in which the true servants of God had to struggle against a spirit of worldly policy, pride, and popularity among the professed followers of Christ, and against the virulent workings of the mystery of iniquity, which finally resulted in the full development of the papal man of sin.

Thyatira

The fourth state of the church in the Christian era is Thyatira which signifies "sweet savor of labor," or "sacrifice of contrition." This would well describe the state of the church of Jesus Christ during the long period of papal triumph and persecution. During the 1260 year period of this church millions gave up their life for the truth. Christ referred to this time in His wonderful prophecy recorded in Matthew 24, in these words: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." The tribulation of the 1260 years was cut short through the influence of the Reformation. Precious and wonderful promises are given to those who remained faithful during this time of persecution.

Sardis

Sardis signifies "prince or song of joy," or "that which remains." We then have before us, as constituting this church, the reformed churches, from the date of 1798 to the great movement which marked another era in the history of the people of God.

"And unto the angel of the church of Sardis write: These things saith He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars: I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die; for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.' We are seeing the fulfillment of these warnings. Never have scriptures been more strictly fulfilled than these have been."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, pp. 98, 99.

The Spirit of prophecy in commenting on the above scriptures declares: "We are seeing the ful-

fillment of these warnings." This does not mean of course, that we are living in the time period of the church Sardis, but that the message given to this church is being fulfilled in our day the same as when that church was actually in existence. The following words of the Spirit of prophecy are also of vital importance: "The messages to the church of Ephesus and to the church of Sardis have been often repeated to me by the One who gives me instruction for His people." (*Test.* Vol. 8, p. 98). This testimony proves clearly that the messages given to those churches have been repeated for us, and so it is with the messages given to other churches including the Philadelphia church. But because these messages find their fulfillment in our day would not mean that we are living in the time period of one of the preceding churches: We will now study the state of the sixth church mentioned in the Revelation which is:

Philadelphia

"The word Philadelphia signifies brotherly love, and expresses the position and spirit of those who received the Advent message up to the autumn of 1844. As they came out of the sectarian churches, they left party names and party feelings behind; and every heart beat in union, as they gave the alarm to the churches and to the world, and pointed to the coming of the Son of man as the believer's true hope. Selfishness and covetousness were laid aside, and a spirit of consecration and sacrifice was cherished. The Spirit of God was with every true believer, and His praise upon every tongue. Those who were not in that movement know nothing of the deep searching of heart, consecration of all to God, peace, joy in the Holy Spirit, and pure, fervent love for one another, which true believers then enjoyed. Those who were in that movement are aware that language would fail to describe that holy happy state."—*Daniel and the Revelation*, pp. 395, 396.

What a blessed state was enjoyed by this church. The Philadelphia church and the church of Smyrna are the only ones against whom no word of condemnation was uttered. It would be well for us to study more deeply the blessed characteristics attained by these churches, for the promises and blessings given to them are also repeated for us if we only fulfill the conditions. We all know that the 144,000, or the true remnant church, will reach the highest state ever attained, for they will stand without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing before the throne of God. To the Philadelphia church the promise was also given: "I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." Regarding this prophecy the Spirit of prophecy has declared:

"While it was true that that door of hope and mercy by which men had for eighteen hundred years found access to God, was closed, another

door was opened, and forgiveness of sin was offered to men through the intercession of Christ in the most holy. One part of His ministration had closed, only to give place to another. There was still an 'open door' to the heavenly sanctuary, where Christ was ministering in the sinner's behalf. Now was seen the application of those words of Christ in the revelation, addressed to the church at this time: 'These things saith He that is Holy, He that shutteth, and no man openeth; I know thy works; behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it.'—*Great Controversy*, pp. 429, 430.

Thank God that this door of mercy is still open. But we know that Jesus will soon leave the most holy place, and then His work will be finished and mercy shall be no longer. We are living in the time when the door of probation will be shut, let us therefore work very earnestly for sinners that they might find mercy before it is too late.

Laodicea

Laodicea, or the seventh state of the church is the last church in the Christian era, and the message given to this church is the final message to the churches ere the close of probation.

"The names of the seven churches are symbolic of the church in *different periods* of the Christian era. The number seven indicates completeness, and is symbolic of the fact that the messages extend to the end of time, while the symbols used reveal the condition of the church at different periods in the history of the world."—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 585.

This testimony proves conclusively that throughout the Christian era God had always one church which He recognized as His own, and the names of the seven churches are only a symbol of the church of God at different periods in the Christian era. It is also thereby understood that the symbols used reveal the condition of the church at different periods in the history of the world. "The number seven indicates completeness, and is symbolic of the fact that the *messages* extend to the end of time." The following testimony needs also careful consideration.

"The solemn messages that have been *given in their order* in the Revelation are to occupy the first place in the minds of God's people. Nothing else is to be allowed to engross our attention."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 8, p. 302.

The messages given in the book of Revelation are "*given in their order*," the Spirit of prophecy has declared, and no one has a right to reverse the order in which God has given these solemn messages. God has not left this work of arranging to the hands of any man, but He Himself arranged the "*order*" in which they should be given. All those who wish to improve the work of God will

surely bring His disfavor upon themselves. We shall now present a few testimonies which shall endeavor to set forth the fact that the message given to the church of Laodicea is applicable to the people of God at the present time.

"I was shown that the testimony to the Laodiceans *applies to God's people at the present time*."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 1, p. 186.

"The message to the church of the Laodiceans is a startling denunciation, and is *applicable to the people of God at the present time*."—*Testimonies* Vol. 3, p. 252.

"The Laodicean message *applies to the people of God who profess to believe present truth*."—*Testimonies*. Vol. 4, p. 87.

Through the above testimonies every true child of God will acknowledge that we are living at the *present time* in the Laodicean state of the church of God. It is thereby fully revealed that the message addressed to the Laodicean church is applicable to the people of God at the *present time*. Laodicea signifies judging of the people. The message given to this church brings us down to the closing scenes of probation. It reveals a period of judgment. It is the *last stage of the church*. It consequently must apply to believers of the third angel's message, or those who profess to believe *present truth*.

What Will the Laodicean Message Do

The message given to the church of Laodicea proves in itself that the whole church will never accept the straight testimony of the True Witness, and this message is bound to bring a shaking among the people of God. On one hand we see the rejection of those who remain in the lukewarm state and feel rich, increased with goods, and have need of nothing, and on the other hand we see the wonderful blessings bestowed upon those who accept Jesus whole-heartedly. Let us now consider a few testimonies which will prove that a shaking will be caused among Laodicea, and we will see that a remnant is left in this church which will finally triumph in the end.

"The mighty shaking has commenced and will go on, and all will be shaken out who are not willing to take a bold and unyielding stand for the *truth*, and to sacrifice for God and His cause."—*Early Writings*, p. 50.

"I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people. I saw that the testimony of the True Witness has

not been half heeded. The solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; and *all who truly receive it will obey it, and be purified*"—*Early Writings*, p. 270.

"We are in the shaking time, when everything that can be shaken will be shaken."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 6, p. 332.

These testimonies leave no doubt to the fact that we are living in the shaking time, and it is revealed that all will be shaken out who do not take a bold and unyielding stand for the *truth*. The fact that a shaking is caused by the straight testimony of the True Witness among Laodicea, is also proof in itself that there is a remnant in Laodicea, for if this was not the case it would not be necessary to cause a shaking among them. But we find that throughout the ages there was always a remnant left when great apostasy prevailed in the church, and this remnant, or those who remain faithful to God's given principles, constitute the church of God.

We are told by God's servant many times that Israel today is repeating the history of ancient Israel. When we study the history of ancient Israel we find that after God had done for them all that He could do, a final rejection took place; but even at that time there was left a remnant of Israel who were faithful, and they were accepted by God as His people. The apostle Paul speaks concerning this in the following words.

"I say then, Hath God cast away His people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew. Wot ye not what the Scripture saith of Elias? How he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed Thy prophets, and digged down Thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to Myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this *present time* also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." Rom. 1:1-5.

These verses make it clear that although God had rejected Israel who had been unfaithful, there was a remnant left in Israel who had proven faithful to God, and the apostle Paul classified himself among this remnant. He therefore made the remark: "Hath God cast away His people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite." The same question may be asked today: hath God cast away His people in our time? God forbid, for there is a remnant at this time according to the election of His grace.

In the year 1914 the people of God were mightily shaken. All those who were not ready at that time to take a firm stand for the truth were

shaken out. There was only a little company of faithful believers at that time who proved faithful to their trust, and they were willing rather to give up their life for the truth than to forsake the precious principles of the third angel's message. This small remnant—or those who obeyed the will of God—were also recognized of Him as His people, for it is not the name which makes us the church of God but the truth. We know that the shaking among God's people will go on, and when this work of purification is finished, the "latter rain" will be a blessed reality.

A Thorough Reformation

In the year of 1901 the Lord declared: "The time has come for a through reformation to take place." (Test. Vol. 8, p. 251.) Warnings and reproofs had been sent to the church time and again, but no change for the better was seen. It was God's desire that the church as a whole would come up on higher ground; but finally the Spirit of prophecy declared, "that time will never come." The work of a thorough reformation was designated to exalt the standard and bring about a separation from dead heartless professors. We praise God that He, in His own time, has begun this blessed work of reformation through the Holy Spirit, and all those who have heeded the counsel of the True Witness pour forth the *straight truth*.

Dear reader, are you realizing the solemn time in which we live? Do you feel the need of "a spiritual revival and a spiritual reformation?" Are you heeding the straight testimony borne to Laodicea, or do you rise up against it? Remember that only those who receive it and are purified will receive the "latter rain," and they will also be fitted for translation. Let us now make our calling and election sure; let us fight the good fight of faith, for God has promised that those who remain faithful to the end shall be saved. Let us become firmly established in present truth, and not give heed to every wind of doctrine which is blowing. Let us remember that the Spirit of prophecy has foretold: "Heresies will come in *among us* and will separate the chaff from the wheat." It is those that are not firmly established in the truth who will accept heresies, and will thus be separated from the people of God who are going on to victory. May God help us one and all to see the truth as it is in Jesus.

"Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up, After two days He will revive us: in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth." Hosea 6:1-3.

Our Homes and Our Health

Home And Its Meaning

By RUTH STABEL

JUST what home means to you we do not know. What it should mean we do know. If you can re-echo the words of the Earl of Orrery, "One day passed under our roof with our friends and our family, is worth a thousand in another place," you have fully sensed the true meaning of home. A place with four square walls, a roof and a room, though it be gilded with pictures and artificials, is but a house. But a place where the heart is, where the loved ones are—husband, wife, father, mother, brothers, sisters, united in sympathy, fellowship and worship, is home. It is more than a residence, a place of abode, however attractive its surroundings; however richly adorned with art and beauty.

It may be humble, unpretentious, exhibiting no signs of material wealth; but there is wealth of mutual affection, which fire cannot consume, and no commercial disaster alienate or destroy. This is home. The home of the heart, the home of childhood, the elysium or ripper years and the refuge of age.

To better understand its real meaning, to better appreciate the Christian home that God has given you, if so it be, a home of comfort, refinement that rocked the cradle of your infancy, consider the vast multitude of our fallen race that really have no home; that is, no home in the Christian sense that antedate heaven in peace, refinement and mutual love.

Very recently a story came to me of a cab driver in the city of New York. He was proud of certain achievements his son had attained in school; however the boy had not told him, but rather the mother, for he had not seen his son for ten years. He had lived, apparently content with his state of affairs, for ten years in the same house with the boy, but had actually not seen him for all these years. Upon further inquiry it was revealed that there was no alienation of affections between husband and wife which made the story all the stranger. It was learned that the drivers hours were such that either he was away when the child was home, or perhaps sleeping or the child in school. To the surprise of the stranger who

reported this story the driver replied, it was nothing unusual for many of his friends had children much older than his and had not seen them for a longer period of time. Could this be home to you, to me? Such is the lot of millions.

I think of the many children born to the heritage of vice, poverty and crime, left to drift upon the tide of circumstances, to be buffed in the wild and angry storm, to be chilled on the desolate moor of life—to wander amid the voids of human sympathy—the solitude and estrangement of society, children of dire misfortune, victims of vice and crime, polluted from infancy. Think of the dwellings of hard handed, wearied and discontent requited labor, where ignorance and dissatisfaction reigns supreme, where there is no recognition of God. Such homes, or rather places of abode, are all over the land, all over the dark wide realm of heathendom, the children of which must be devoted to sacrifice, to the horrors of the Ganges and Nile rivers.

Then there is the other extreme of society, the habitations of the millionaires, adorned with all the luxuries of wealth, appliances of art and material beauty. These children are trained to worship at the shrine of Mammon, to exclude from their minds all thought of God and the hereafter. They are led to live only for this world, to feel that there is no society worth cultivating except that of the wealthy, the elite, the would-be fashionable. They believe all enjoyments are material, sensuous, worldly, and that the chief end of man is to eat, drink and be merry. Such a household could not possibly be the best school in which to educate a child to wrestle with misfortune and sin and to do the great work of restoration the Creator intended.

There cannot possibly be a well-regulated home without piety, without the fear and love of God. The old patriarchs understood the secret, even under the former dispensation, long before the dawn of the Christian era. God testified of Abraham, of Moses, of Samuel and Job, how truly they comprehended the nature of that family institu-

tion, around which cluster all the associations of the first period of human life.

Only through the light of Christian revelation, through acknowledgement of Jesus as a sin-pardoning Savior, can the highest type of household be produced and preserved. It is upon the application of Christian principles alone, that the structure of the Christian family, the Christian home and the Christian church can stand.

A place where a godly family works, plays, sings and prays, that is home. Where joys and sorrows are mutual, where the love of God reigns supreme and Christ is honored and exalted in every deed and action. Such a home, such a family has its divine origin and God has instituted laws for its regulation and perpetuity and these laws must be scrupulously observed and obeyed or it ceases to be a training school for the un-ending kingdom of God. If these laws are not observed the home cannot possibly serve as an ornamental blessing, nor as a training school for either the church or state, for it is not a type of heaven. Obedience to these moral physical laws promote good health, and only as we have that health can we serve as a blessing to others. Health, physically and spiritually is necessary that we may be able to successfully carry on the work God has entrusted to us. If we but remember the following impressive words from the Spirit of prophecy we can better understand the importance of health, both physically and spiritually.

"Transgression of physical law is transgression of the moral law; for God is as truly the author of physical laws as He is the author of moral law. His law is written with His own finger upon every nerve, every muscle, every faculty, which has been entrusted to man. And every misuse of any part of our organism is a violation of that law." *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 347, 348.

Ministry of the Home

"The Savior's early years are more than an example to the youth. They are a lesson, and should be an encouragement, to every parent. The circle of family and neighborhood duties is the very first field of effort for those who would work for the uplifting of their fellow men. There is no more important field of effort than that committed to the founders and guardians of the home. No work entrusted to human beings involves greater or more far-reaching results than does the work of fathers and mothers.

It is by the youth and children of to-day that the future of society is to be determined, and what these youth and children shall be depends upon the home. To the lack of right home training may be traced the larger share of the disease and misery and crime that curse humanity. If the home life were pure and true, if the children who went forth from its care were prepared to meet life's res-

ponsibilities and dangers, what a change would be seen in the world!

Great efforts are put forth, time and money and labor almost without limit are expended, in enterprises and institutions for reforming the victims of evil habits. And even these efforts are inadequate to meet the great necessity. Yet how small is the result! How few are permanently reclaimed!

Multitudes long for a better life, but they lack courage and resolution to break away from the power of habit. They shrink from the efforts and struggle and sacrifice demanded, and their lives are wrecked and ruined. Thus even men of the brightest minds, men of high aspirations and noble powers, otherwise fitted by nature and education to fill positions of trust and responsibility, are degraded and lost for this life and for the life to come.

For those who do reform, how bitter the struggle to regain their manhood! And all their life long, in a shattered constitution, a wavering will, impaired intellect, and weakened soul-power, many reap the harvest of their sowing. How much more might be accomplished if the evil were dealt with at the beginning!

This work rests, in great degree, with parents. In the efforts put forth to stay the progress of intemperance and of other evils that are eating like a cancer in the social body, if more attention were given to teaching parents how to form the habits and character of their children, a hundred-fold more good would result. Habit, which is so terrible a force for evil, it is in their power to make a force for good. They have to do with the stream at its source, and it rests with them to direct it rightly.

Parents may lay for their children the foundation for a healthy, happy, life. They may send them forth from their homes with moral stamina to resist temptation, and courage and strength to wrestle successfully with life's problems. They may inspire in them the purpose and develop the power to make their lives an honor to God and a blessing to the world. They may make straight paths for their feet, through sunshine and shadow, to the glorious heights above." *The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 351, 352.

'Tis whispered in the ear of God,
'Tis murmured through our tears;
'Tis linked with happy childhood days,
And blessed in riper years.

That hallowed word is ne'er forgot,
No matter where we roam,
The purest feelings of the heart,
Still cluster round our home.

Dear resting-place, where weary thought,
May dream away its care,
Love's gentle star unveils her light,
And shines in beauty there.

Fanny J. Crosby.

True Conversion the Only Way of Redemption

By A. W. DOERSCHLER

THE innumerable signs of the times which are to be seen all about us, declare that we are living in the final hours of "the time of the end." We believe, and that rightly, that probation is soon to close, and that the terrible time of trouble, predicted by both Daniel and Zephaniah, God's faithful prophets of old,—but which no man is capable of truly describing,—is just before us.

Especially the great time of trial and distress through which the true children of God will be called upon to pass, is before the door. But the Lord comforts His chosen ones in these words,—

"When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28.

Since we believe that we are witnessing the fulfillment of latter-day prophecies, and that the end is very soon to come, then we know that a thorough preparation must be made for it; and this means, primarily, true conversion. My dear brethren and sisters, let us with this important truth before us seek the Lord earnestly; let us draw nearer and nearer to Him. And while engaging in this solemn experience, let us prevail with the Lord as did Jacob. Only those who do so will overcome, receive the latter rain and pass safely through the time of tribulation just ahead.

Simple Faith Necessary

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen . . . But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Heb. 11:1, 6.

All the promises of God are ours; yet why is it that we do not see them fulfilled? Is it not because we lack faith, that faith which never falters nor fails? We should seek the Lord for this faith; but in what way does He require that we seek Him? He answers us in these words,—

"Call upon Me, . . . and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart." Jer. 29:12, 13.

Only when all the conditions are met, when we in simple faith and great sincerity wait on God, will we receive all the promises.

Experience of First Christian Church

"And being assembled together with them. (Jesus) commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of Me . . . These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brethren." Acts 1:4, 14.

In love toward God, and in faithful preparation for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the first Christian church is a true example for us. How did that primitive church relate itself to the promises of God?—They had absolute faith in them. Viewing the greatness of the work before them, they felt the necessity of special help from Jesus; that is, they sensed their need of the power of the Holy Spirit. And with their faith strong in the promises of God, they tarried together, praying; and the result was that the Pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Ghost came upon them.

The early Christian church knew that the task intrusted to them, without the attending power and direction of the Holy Spirit, would be a failure. They realized that they could not work for the Lord successfully and bring blessings to others until they themselves received a special blessing. Hence after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit they were prepared for their work.

"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved . . . Neither was there any one among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles' feet." Acts. 2:47; 4:34, 35.

The early church did not have the supposed advantages of modern facilities, such as Christian workers have in our day. Yet the gospel was, in that generation, preached to "every creature under heaven," and that with great power, because they believed the promise of Jesus. "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8).

The Last Symbolic Church

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that

the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains." Isaiah 2:2.

The fulfillment of this prophecy is to be witnessed in our day. From other Scriptures, similar to the one just quoted, we learn that the last true church will reach a high standard in their spiritual life. But when one views the professed church of God today, Laodicea, it is seen that His ideal has not been attained therein. Indeed, there is a spiritual deadness throughout Christendom. The call of the Lord today to all who profess to be His people is, "Be ye holy; for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:16). When this call is truly heeded, His children will be ready for the latter rain. But is it not true today that unbelief separates a large class of the professed people of God from Him?

From careful study it is to be seen that the last of the symbolic churches, Laodicea, because she did not heed God's faithful warnings nor stand true to Him in times of trial, but followed after the world, has repeated the history of Israel of old,—

"It was by departure from the Lord and alliance with the heathen, that the Jewish church became a harlot."—*Great Controversy* p. 382.

And regarding modern Israel,—Laodicea,—the Spirit of prophecy says,—

"I have been shown that the spirit of the world is fast leavening the church. You are following the same path as did ancient Israel. There is the same falling away from your holy calling as God's peculiar people."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, pp. 75, 76.

Many warnings had been sounded to the Lord's professed children as they journeyed along their way, but they were unheeded. The Spirit of God had declared,—

"Satan's snares are laid for us as verily as they were laid for the children of Israel just prior to their entrance into the land of Canaan. We are repeating the history of that people."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 160.

"The Remnant of Her Seed"

"But your little ones which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in and they shall know the land which ye have despised." *Num.* 14:31.

"Thank God, all will not be rocked to sleep in the cradle of carnal security. There will be faithful ones who will discern the signs of the times. While a large number professing present truth will deny their faith by their works, there will be some who will endure unto the end."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 5, p. 10.

Yes, thanks be to God, there have always been some who said, like Joshua and Caleb, "We are well able to overcome the land." In the year 1914 there were also some who proved faithful to their

trust, and those faithful few, as in days of old, were persecuted by those who proved themselves unfaithful.

The Remnant Church will never be identified with those who persecute, but she will rather, till the very end, be among those who are persecuted.

The solemnity of the present hour demands that one and all among us make a full surrender—a *real* preparation for the times of greater trial just before us and for the latter rain. If we believe ourselves to be the true remnant of Israel, it is now necessary, as never before, to let the Spirit of the Lord work in us, and necessary, also, for us to continually press forward till we have actually reached the high standard of God in our spiritual life. The last call is,—

"Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." . . . "Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord. For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the Lord will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your reward." . . . "Ask ye of the Lord rain in the time of the latter rain; so the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field. Amos 4:12; Isaiah 52:11, 12; Zech. 10:1.

God's final reformation, we are divinely assured, will be greater than all spiritual movements which have preceded it. Knowing this, we have great cause to thank God for Jesus our Saviour and Leader, and that He has chosen us as co-workers with Him in this blessed cause which He has promised that He will finish, not through the power of men but, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We, like the first disciples need the power from on high; and, praise God, of this last church it is said that it too shall be a house of prayer, composed of a people who will tarry for the promised latter rain,—

"And the habitants of one city shall go to another, saying, let us go speedily to pray before the Lord of hosts; I will go also . . . And I will pour out upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications." Zech. 8:21; 12:10.

The Lord grant that we, as a people, may soon be prepared so that He can give us the fulness of Pentecostal power. Then shall we witness to His glory in this closing work, be able to stand in the last great trials so soon to burst upon us, and be ready to meet Him in peace at last.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you." Acts 3:19, 20.



The Children's Friend

for Parents and Children
who would follow Jesus.

Suffer little Children to come unto me.

LUKE 10:16

Alice's Talent

Alice sat with her Bible on her lap. She had been reading, but now she sat very still, with a troubled look on her face. "Oh dear!" said she, after a while, "I don't believe I have got any talent. Now there's Emma, Miss Wilson says she certainly has a talent for music, and Lou Benson can draw anything she sees, and is going to take painting lessons; but I don't seem to have a talent for anything. Maybe it means only grown people; but then the verse says, 'He called his own servants,' and oh, I do want to be one of the Lord's servants!" And one or two tears fell on Alice's open Bible.

Aunt Bell happened to pass through the room just then, and noticing Alice's downcast face, stopped to ask, "What is the matter with this little girl?"

"Because, oh because—I don't seem to have any talent, Aunt Bell."

"Let us read those verses over together, dear," said Aunt Bell. "It is a good thing to think about what we are reading, Allie, even if we cannot discover at once what our talent may be."

So Alice and Aunt Bell read the parable together.

"Do you notice, Alice, it says 'to every man according to his several ability' What does that mean, do you think?"

"As much as he was able to have, or to do; don't it auntie?"

"Yes; and I do not think the Bible anywhere tells us we must do any more than *we are able to do*. God gives each one of us talents according to our several ability. You are only a little girl and He requires of you only a little girl's work."

"But what can I do auntie? I can't sing in the choir, as Emma does; I can't give to our mission society, as Lizzie Bar does, for her father gives her

more for her monthly spending money than I can have in a whole year; I am not smart about writing compositions, as Nellie Gifford is. So what can I do?"

"All those things are talents, certainly. But, Allie, did you ever think about *opportunities*? There's a great talent given to all!"—

Somebody called Aunt Bell just then, and with a hasty kiss to her little niece she left the room.

"Opportunities!" said Alice, going slowly down stairs, "I believe I'll go over to Nellie Gifford's, and talk with her about it. Maybe we can find some opportunities to do good."

She was taking her hat from the rack when Brother Will came whistling through the hall.

"O Allie!" said he, "you're the very girl I'm looking for. I want these gloves mended, please, and a button on my overcoat, and I'm in a hurry."

Alice was about to say, "I'm in a hurry, too;" but she kept back the disobliging words, and only said, "Wait till I get my basket."

Then she sat down and mended his gloves, replaced the missing button, and neatly sewed a ripped place in the overcoat lining.

"I wonder if this can be called an opportunity," she said aloud as she worked, forgetful of Brother Will's presence; for he had taken up a newspaper, and was half behind it.

"To be sure it can," said Will, laughing, "A very good one for me too. I advise you, Allie, always to make the most of opportunities, when you can help people as nicely as you are doing now."

"I was thinking about the talents," said Alice, simply. "What is yours, Will?"

"It seems to be to make work for a dear little sister. Really, I'm afraid I don't think as much about that as I might—or ought. Is that done? I'm much obliged." And Will kissed her and went off in a quick way, as if he feared she would say more.

The Sabbath Watchman

with The Children's Friend

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
Seventh-Day Adventist Reform Church
(North American Union)

Devoted to the Promulgation and Defense of the Primitive
Principles of the Advent Movement of 1844.

Published Quarterly by
Religious Liberty Publishing Association
P. O. Box 1046
Denver 1, Colo., U. S. A.

Subscription Rate (in advance).....One Year, 60c

Editor.....W. O. Welp

Special Contributors

A. W. DOERSCHLER O. KRAMER
A. T. CHAPMAN E. J. STABEL

Dear little Alice! she did not know she had improved *two* opportunities, and that her words were stirring her brother's conscience, uneasily.

"It's too near lunch-time to go to Nellie's now, thought Alice. "I can read my *Life and Adventures in Japan* until the bell rings." But as she went into the sitting room, where she had left her book, grandma, who was engaged in knitting, said:—

"Can my little girl stop long enough to pick up these stitches for grandma? My old eyes won't let me see to put them on just right."

So Alice patiently took up the dropped stitches in grandma's knitting, and the lunch-bell rang just as she finished. She could not help giving a little sigh as she thought of her book; but grandma stroked the curly hair, and thanked her in a way that made Alice feel that grandma knew of the small self-denial. Somehow grandma always seemed to know about things without any one's telling her. In the afternoon Alice had to go to her drawing-class. When she came home and was laying her wraps in the hall, she heard her mother and Aunt Bell talking in the parlor.

"I was in to see Mrs. Elton this morning," said Aunt Bell; "she has been so shut up all winter; she has no nurse, and cannot leave her baby."

"I have missed her from church and prayer-meeting," said mother; she used to go regularly."

Alice went into the next room and sat down with her book, but some way she kept thinking about Mrs. Elton and prayer-meeting.

"Oh dear!" said she to herself, "this isn't *my* opportunity. I want to go to prayer-meeting myself."

"You could stay *one evening* with Mrs. Elton's baby,—*just one evening*," said a voice in her heart. Alice put away her book, and went to find her mother.

"Mamma," said she very slowly, and coloring a good deal, "would you care if I went over to Mrs. Elton's and took care of her baby, so she could go to prayer-meeting?"

"Certainly not, my dear, I think it would be a very kind, neighborly thing for a little girl to do; but be very careful with baby."

"Indeed it's very good of you Allie," said Mrs. Elton, when Alice made known her errand. "I have wanted to go so much."

Alice took faithful care of her little charge and felt not a little weary when the mother returned. But Mrs. Elton's brightened face and heartfelt thanks were a sweet reward for her hour's work, and her own heart told her it was more blessed to give than receive.

"Has Allie found any opportunities to-day?" asked Aunt Bell, as she told Alice good-night.

"So many, auntie, that I feel almost afraid of such a *great talent*. Though, to be sure, I have done only small things."

"Your Bible says, 'Despise not the day of small things.' There are few of us, dear Allie, who *do* realize what a great talent opportunity is. In the meanwhile, look for it, and try to trade it well, and you may gain even ten talents."—*Selected*

Be indifferent to nothing which has any relation to the welfare of men. Be not afraid of diminishing your own happiness by seeking that of others. Devise liberal things, and let not avarice shut up your hand from giving to him that needeth, and so promote the cause of piety and humanity.

If we would succeed in the work of saving souls, we must secure the help of God.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY S. D. A. REFORM MOVEMENT

North America: DENVER 1, COLO.
P. O. Box 1046

Correspondence intended for the North American Union, also orders for literature, should be addressed as above. Remittances covering tithes, offerings and orders for literature should be forwarded either by bank draft or money order, and should always be made out in favor of the International Missionary Society. (Address as above.)