

ELDER MANNS' VISIT TO THE PACIFIC COAST

Before leaving for Cuba last May to attend the Cuban Assembly Session, Elder Manns promised the brethren of Los Angeles, California, that as soon as he returned from Cuba, he would visit them if they would help to meet the expenses. To this they gladly responded, and early in August he left Savannah for that City of the Golden West.

En route to Los Angeles I visited our little company in Omaha, Nebraska. Here I met Brother and Sister Harris, our workers, Brother Rice and Sister Fox, with others of the Sabbath school. All seem to be full of faith, and determined to push the work to its finish.

Brother and Sister Harris, it will be remembered, were asked by the Executive Committee to labour in Omaha, and since last September one year ago, they have located in that city. I was more than pleased to note the interest manifested in the work by Brother Harris and wife. A nice building had been rented and prepared very neatly, and made a real good and an attractive appearance, in which they are conducting Gospel meetings. Interesting meetings were held Sabbath and Sunday, August 29th and 30th, with very good attendance.

Monday, August 31st, I left Omaha for Los Angeles, Calif., arriving Thursday, Sept. 3rd. Here I found the little Berean Church of Free Seventh-day Adventists greatly decreased in membership. Many of the readers of this article will remember that in 1920 I visited Los Angeles, and this same church voted to connect with the General Assembly. Elder J. W. Ownes was left as pastor of the church. Trouble soon commenced, and as the church property was not property of the General Assembly, the members voted to sever their connection, and for quite a long time they did not report. This brought all the more dissatisfaction to many of the members, and so caused many of them to scatter, some giving up the truth, while others joined the conference church. This left but few in the Berean Church, yes, less than ten mem-

bers. However, these were determined to remain on the outside of the conference church, and are to be commended for such firmness in standing for the right in this respect.

When asked if they wanted to unite with the General Assembly whole-heartedly, or as they did before, the reply was very quick and prompt, "We want to go all the way." A business meeting was held, and the church voted to unite with the Assembly, property and all. An attorney was secured, and the Berean Church property was conveyed by deed to the General Assembly of Free Seventh-day Adventists, headquarters at Savannah, Georgia.

While I had not planned to conduct tent meetings in Los Angeles, the brethren rather urged that I should do so. A large tent fully equipped at a cost of a little less than \$500.00, all of which and more, was raised by the members and friends of the Berean Church. On Sept. 20th the Chautauqua Gospel Tent Meetings began, the tent being located on Central Ave., near Pico Street.

While this meeting was not as largely attended as other meetings I have conducted, nevertheless, it was an interesting meeting. Several, I am glad to report, took their stand for the truth, and rejoicing in the Lord and in the light of the Third Angel's Message. The membership of the Berean Church was increased from about seven members to about twenty-five. I am sure others will soon unite with Free Seventh-day Adventists, if they will remain faithful and loyal to their grand principles of freedom.

Among those who connected with the Berean Church of Los Angeles was Sister Elizabeth Smith, formerly of Brunswick, Georgia, and who was also connected with the "Beacon Light Gospel Tent Meetings" conducted here in Savannah, in 1912. Many will no doubt remember Sister Smith and those most touching prayers she made which helped to win souls to the cause of Christ. We are glad to have Sister Smith united with Free S. D. A., and trust that she will bring many more from the bondage of sin as well as from

the bondage of our leading brethren of the conference organization. Mrs. E. G. White, quoting from Jer. 34:15, says: "Ye were now turned and had done right in proclaiming liberty every man to his neighbor." "What should man do? What should we not allow? Allow no one to be brain for you, allow no one to do your thinking, your investigating and your praying. This is the instruction that we need to take to heart today." Special Testimonies on Education, page 193. She further asked: "What belongs to every individual? There are rights which belong to every individual. We have an individuality and an identity that is our own. No man can submerge his identity into that of any other. All must act for themselves, according to the dictates of their own conscience." Special Testimonies to Ministers and Workers, page 59, No. 9.

"Many minds are in bondage through laziness, others through fear of men. . . . IN THIS WORLD? there are but few who think for themselves."

"It is the privilege of all men to be FREE from the fear of their fellow men." Isa. 8:12, 13. Isa. 51:12, 13. The Church Officers Gazetteer, No. 2, Vol. 3, page 5, Issue of February, 1916.

How strikingly these words of Sister White and the blessed old Bible remind me of the actions and doings of a certain S. D. A. Conference Negro minister of Los Angeles, who in very loud tones, declares that he is no "JELLY-FISH," and yet there has never been a bigger jelly-fish in the sea, than this Negro Evangelist proves to be on land. Only men with steel backbones can escape the dope meted out by our leading white brethren of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

Sister Smith with others in Los Angeles have broken the SHACKLES, and we feel sure that they have been stirred by the Spirit of God to so do. We are praying that others will break the shackles of our leading brethren and assert the liberty in Christ Jesus.

During the tent meetings in Los Angeles I received many questions from the public in regard to Free Seventh-day Ad-