

The Reformer

WORLD WIDE REFORMATION

"He That Winneth Souls Is Wise"



THE BANNER

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J. B. MOSLEY.....Editor
MRS. L. L. JOHNSON.....Associate Editor
E. C. CHATMAN.....Contributing Editor

General Assembly Directory
Office Address.....610 W. 36th Street
Telegraphic Address.....610 W. 36th Street
Cable Address.....Adventist, Savannah, Ga.

Executive Committee
(Office Address: 610 W. 36th Street)
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HOUSE TO HOUSE WORK

No chosen laborer of God is above house-to-house work. The great apostle to the gentiles said in his final charge to the elders of the church of Ephesus, "I have kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord and Jesus Christ." House-to-house work stands on an equality with laboring in public. To labor publicly and not engage in house-to-house work would be doing the work of the Lord negligently. He not only labored from house to house, but taught the elders how to do it. This was not the theory merely, but showed them how to do it. Every public laborer should do this. There are many who can do this who can not labor publicly. Women can do this successfully. It was in this way the women labored with the apostle. There are thousands of both men and women who can do this successfully who can not labor publicly. It is the social talk by the fireside that wins hearts.

"And if our hands are strengthened,

And if our lips can speak,
'Twere well if with them we might help

Our brothers who are weak;
And well if we remember

God's love is never grudged,
And never sit in judgment,
If we would not be judged."

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERINGS \$1.00 PER CAPITA

Our Thirteenth Sabbath will take place September 30. We hope each member of our Sabbath Schools has his dollar ready. If not, try and raise it by the time appointed, and let us make this Thirteenth Sabbath a Dollar Day.

All our Sabbath Schools throughout the denomination should make special effort to reach the goal. Calls for help are coming from various parts of the harvest fields. A dollar from you will help answer some of these calls.

Sabbath School superintendents should press the need of the Thirteenth Sabbath offerings upon their classes, and unitedly labor for the success of the Thirteenth Sabbath offerings.

We are at present called upon to show our allegiance to God and to His glorious cause. Therefore, He expects each member to perform his duty in making the Thirteenth Sabbath offerings what they ought to be. Strenuous effort is needed on our part if we are to reach the zenith. And, we can only achieve success by pressing together.

It is anticipated that many of our Sabbath Schools will reach their goal with an overflow. Let us make this Thirteenth Sabbath offering the best in our history, and endeavor to reach the one hundred percent goal.

SABBATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**NOTICE**

To my many friends and the readers of the BANNER, your wishes to me, that I would have a safe arrival to my destination—Savannah, is fully realized. I had a most pleasant trip through the mountainous part of the country.

The weather is much more agreeable here than we had expected. Wishing each of you the same blessing that I am now enjoying,

M. L. IVORY.

Prophecy is history in advance.

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

In studying this book we trust all will remember that "the things that has been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is THAT which shall be done." Satan has lost none of his power in the earth.

Esther 3:7. Haman spent some time casting lots and working up public sentiment before the decree was really issued.

For years petitions have been prepared and presented to the various governments requesting Sunday legislation. The one object is a law that will compel all to observe the first day of the week as a Sabbath. This work is not confined to America, but extends all over the earth, and is similar to the work of Haman in Esther 3:7. Ahasuerus' decree reached every province and every people. Verse 12.

Rev. 13:14, 15. The decree of death for all who will not worship the beast and its image will reach all the world.

Position and wealth will not shield any one. All who like Mordecai, will neither bow nor reverence the beast and its image, will be condemned to death. Verse 15.

No one will be allowed to sell them food or clothing. All protection from the civil law will be removed. Verse 17.

"When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof."

Esther 3:13. Ahasuerus' decree provided for a "simultaneous movement" in all lands, upon one certain day.

As Haman joined in revelry, thinking the work accomplished, so Satan will rejoice when the nations of earth unanimously join in passing the decree of Rev. 13:15.

"You find yourself refreshed by the presence of cheerful people; why not make earnest efforts to confer that pleasure on others?"

ONWARD TO DUTY AND VICTORY

We must let Christ into our hearts and homes if we would walk in the light. Home should be a little heaven upon earth, a place where the affections are cultivated instead of being studiously repressed. Our happiness depends upon this cultivation of love, sympathy, and true courtesy to one another. The reason there are so many hard-hearted men and women in our world is that true affection has been regarded as weakness, and has been discouraged and repressed. The better part of the nature of persons of this class was perverted and dwarfed in childhood, and unless rays of divine light can melt away their coldness and hard-hearted selfishness, the happiness of such is buried forever. If we would have tender hearts such as Jesus had when He was upon earth, and sanctified sympathy, such as the angels have for sinful mortals, we must cultivate the sympathies of childhood, which are simplicity itself. Then we shall be refined, elevated, and directed by heavenly principles.

A cultivated intellect is a great treasure; but without the softening influence of sympathy and sanctified love, it is not of the highest value. We should have words and deed of tender consideration for others. We can manifest a thousand little attentions in friendly words and pleasant looks, which will be reflected upon us again. Thoughtless Christians manifest by their neglect of others that they are not in union with Christ. It is impossible to be in union with Christ and yet be unkind to others and forgetful of their rights. Many long intensely for friendly sympathy. God has given each of us an identity of our own, which cannot be merged in that of another; but our individual characteristics will be much less prominent if we are indeed Christ's and His will is ours. Our lives should be consecrated to the good and happiness of others, as was our Saviour's. We should be self-forgetful, ever looking out for opportunities, even in little things, to show gratitude for the

favors we have received of others, and watching for opportunities to cheer others, and lighten and relieve their sorrows and burdens by acts of tender kindness and little deeds of love. These thoughtful courtesies that, commencing in our families, extend outside the family circle, help make up the sum of life's happiness; and the neglect of these little things make up the sum of life's bitterness and sorrow.

It is the work that we do or do not do that tells with tremendous power upon our lives and destinies. God requires us to improve every opportunity for usefulness that is offered us. Neglect to do this is perilous to our spiritual growth. We have a great work to do. Let us not pass in idleness the precious hours that God has given us in which to perfect characters for heaven. We must not be inactive or slothful in this work; for we have not a moment to spend without a purpose or object. God will help us to overcome our wrongs, if we will pray, and believe on Him. We can be more than conquerors through Him who has loved us. When the short life in this world is ended, and we see as we are seen and known as we are known, how short in duration and how small the things of this world appear to us in comparison with the glory of the better world. Christ would never have left the royal courts and taken humanity, and become sin for the race, had He not seen that man might, with His help, become infinitely happy, and obtain durable riches, and a life that would run parallel with the life of God. He knew that without His help sinful man could not attain these things.

We should have a spirit of progress. We must guard continually against being fixed in our views, feelings, and actions. The work of God is onward. Reforms must be carried on, and we must take hold and help move on the car of reform. Energy, tempered with patience and ambition, and balanced by wisdom, is now needed by every Christian. The work of saving souls is yet left to us, the disciples of Christ. Not one of us is excused.

Many have become dwarfed and stunted in their Christian

life because of inaction. We should employ our time diligently while in this world. How earnestly should we improve every opportunity of doing good, of bringing others to the knowledge of the truth! Our motto should ever be, "Onward, higher,"—surely, steadily onward to duty and victory.

We are seldom, in all respects, placed in the same circumstances twice. Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Daniel, and many others were all sorely tried, but not in the same way. Every one has his individual tests and trials in the drama of life, but the very same trials seldom come twice. Each has his own experiences, peculiar in its character and circumstances, to accomplish a certain work. God has a work, a purpose, in the life of each of us. Every act, however small, has its place in our life experience. We must have the continual light and experience that came from God. We all need these, and God is more than willing that we should have them if we will take them. He has not closed the windows of heaven to your prayers, but you have felt satisfied to pass on without the divine help you so much need.

Christians will have new scenes and new trials to pass through, where past experience cannot be a sufficient guide. We have greater need to learn of the Divine Teacher now than at any other period of our lives. And the more experience we gain, the nearer we draw toward the pure light of heaven, the more shall we discern in ourselves that which needs reforming. We may all do a good work in blessing others, if we all seek counsel of God, and follow on in obedience and faith. The path of the just is progressive from strength to strength, from grace to grace, from glory to glory. The divine illumination will increase more and more, corresponding with our onward movements, qualifying us to meet the responsibilities and emergencies before us.

God has in a wonderful manner endowed man with reasoning powers. He who fitted the tree to bear its burden of goodly fruit, has made man capable of bearing the precious fruits of righteousness.

**THE BEAST FROM THE
SEA AND THE BEAST
FROM THE EARTH**

(Continued from last issue)

The Medo-Persian government likewise fell when the life-giving Spirit of God was withdrawn; and the Greek empire followed. Through Greece, "the prince of the power of the air," the "old dragon," who was cast into the earth, attempted a new scheme for enslaving the truth. Greek culture and intellectual development carried men farther away from the simple truth of God's word than any form of religion, or any oppression from the government. The teachers of Greek philosophy followed in the wake of the Alexandrian conquests. The beauty and aesthetic nature of their learning deceived men as nothing else has ever done. The mixture of good and evil was divinely represented by the spotted leopard, and its universal acceptance, by the lithe form and agile movements.

John saw a beast coming up out of the sea, rising in the midst of the nations of the earth, and it combined the characteristics of the leopard, the bear, and the lion. The successor of Greece was Rome, and profiting by past failures, the devil combined the strength of all preceding kingdoms in this fourth. A false religion, a tyrannical government, upheld and propagated by a flattering insinuating, false system of education,—this was the body of the beast.

It had seven heads and ten crowns upon these horns. Besides building a nation with the quintessence of the evil of all the past, the power which was controlling in the growth of Rome, experimented on that nation, seeking for that form of administration which would best accomplish his designs. The government began with a king, but the people were able to dethrone the monarch; the wealthy ruled for a time as consuls; but there was discord and weakness. Ten men were chosen to make laws adapted to all classes; then all the people tried holding the reins of government, and Rome became a sort of republic or tribunate. The greedy heart of man repeated the story of Lucifer in heaven, and a political ring of

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three prominent citizens ruled. This was the triumvirate. To find three men in Rome who would be of one mind, was as impossible as it would be to find such today; and shortly the triumvirs disappeared, and Rome became an empire. Constant change was the only means of perpetuity, and the throne which Satan hoped to see an eternal one, was weakened by constant modifications.

Thus it was at the advent of Christ; but the end of changes was not yet. The very foundations of the pagan empire tottered as the Gospel spread. Paul himself preached Christ to the household of Ceasars; and emperors found that they might spurn the teachings of the Christ, yet their wives believed, their servants accepted Christianity, and even their soldiers, accepted the teachings of Jesus. A new and unheard of power had arisen which could not be met and vanquished, as Caesar had subdued the foes of Rome. Then the wisdom of past ages was brought into play, and paganism stealthily crept under the garments of Christianity. The prince of darkness clothed himself in the garments of light, and the "mystery of iniquity" was established! The pagan Roman Empire was broken into ten divisions as described in the seventh chapter of Daniel, but each division was a branch nourished by the same old root. Seven of the ten divisions developed into the nations of modern Europe, and bear the fruits formerly borne by the kingdoms which prophecy describes under the symbols of the four beasts. Each horn wore a crown, showing that each is an independent

kingdom or nation. These horns cluster about the last head which arose in their midst, taking the place once occupied by three which it plucked up. This plucking up of three horns to give place to the papacy, the seventh head is made clear in the seventh chapter of Daniel. That each of the various forms of government under which Romans have lived, was controlled by the enemy of God, is signified by the expression that upon each head was written the name of blasphemy. Each was an attempt to seat a man above the God of heaven. The seventh head most fully accomplished the design of the enemy of truth; for to the beast, dragon himself gave power, and his seat, and great authority.

In 330 A. D. Constantine removed his capital from Rome to Constantinople. The ancient city was left to the papal power and the people occupied in Rome a throne higher than any occupied by the Caesars. Constantine laid the foundation of the papacy; but it remained for Justinian to complete the edifice in 533 A. D., by declaring that memorable decree which constituted the pope the head of all the churches. The Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths were of the Arian faith and opposed to the bishop of Rome. The decree could not go into effect until 538 A. D., when the last of the opposing powers was overthrown by the armies of Justinian.

From 538 A. D. May be reckoned that absolute power which lasted for forty and two prophetic months, during which time the mouth speaking great blasphemies was practically unchecked. "He opened his mouth

in blasphemy against God." He "opposeth an exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." He soon claimed power to forgive sin, and the church became sole interpreter of God's Word; the consciences of all men were made amenable to the church or to those to whom the church delegated the right to sit in judgment.

With unbounded audacity, the attempt was made to change the immutable law of God. The Sabbath was trodden underfoot, the second commandment was dropped from the decalogue, and the tenth was divided into two. The memorial of creation and redemption was thus denied to man, the atoning work of Christ was set aside, and the worship of idols was instituted. Any who dared lift a voice in opposition, or who denied, by word or act, the right of the church to control the conscience of man, found death a welcome relief,—a thing to be sought in preference to the incessant torture inflicted by the ecclesiastical tyranny which held the world with an iron grip.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ reached the ears of every nation under heaven; and likewise, before the death of the seventh head, every kindred, nation, and tongue, will feel its oppression.

One of his heads was wounded to death; for Truth rose up in its majesty and broke the tyrant's head. The seed of the woman put His heel upon the serpent's head, and would have crushed out all the life, had the plan of salvation been fully complete. The world emerged from the darkness gradually. The light of the Reformation shone forth in the sixteenth century; the last public execution for conscience sake was in Seville, Spain, in 1776; and in 1798, the closing year of the forty and two months, Pope Pius VI, the representative of that power which had crowned and uncrowned kings, which had arisen to defend the holy sepulcher, which had extracted money from all nations, was captured by the French army, and died, shortly after, a prisoner, in fulfilment of the words "He that leadeth into captivity." But the deadly

wound was healed. The seventh head had not yet done its full work in the earth. According to the prophecy of Daniel, it lives until the close of time.

Although it seemed that a death-blow had been dealt in the early days of the Reformation; although for a time it was believed that the nations of Europe would accept Protestantism instead of the papacy; notwithstanding bloody battles were fought for the cause of protestantism, yet life came back into the beast and into the wounded head; and before the end, all naitons, kindreds, and people that dwell upon the earth, will be called to decide whether they will enroll under the banner of Prince Emmanuel, or whether they will acknowledge the leadership of power that speaketh blasphemous words against the Most High. Those who choose the standard of Christ will have their names entered in the Lamb's Book of life; they are the ones who accept the message of the tenth chapter of Revelation, and who are sealed as described in the seventh chapter. They will eventually join in the song of redemption which is sung before the throne of heaven. Those who voluntarily choose to follow the other power will receive the mark of the beast, and in the time of the final judgment, will go with their leader into everlasting death.

(To be continued)

DON'T WORRY

People, as well as seeds, get too crowded. One thing chokes out another in our lives, and too often it is the best that gets choked out. We are living so fast, we have so much to do, so many interests. As some one feeling the disadvantage of this hurry, said, "I am in danger of being jostled out of my spirituality." It is a real danger, and one that threatens us all in our rushing life. Cares, worries, distractions, seem to grow in our hearts as naturally as weeds do in a garden.

Some people think worries quite harmless, but Christ spoke very strongly against them as most potent in our lives, in the way of crowding out the good. He warned us strongly against all anxiety. He said plainly that

it can add nothing to our stature, possessions or success, but instead does us harm and grieves our heavenly Father, who all the while is caring for us. There are two things, at least, about which we should never worry. First the thing we can't help. If we can't help them, worrying is certainly most foolish and useless. Secondly, the things we can help. If we can help them, let us set about it, and not weaken our powers by worry. Pluck up the smallest roots of worry at their first appearance, or they will crowd out all beautiful things that ought to grow in our hearts. H. K.

PROMISES TO THE OVERCOMER

It is almost axiomatic that when one becomes thoroughly converted, he no longer thinks of gratifying selfish desires, but in zeal for others, gives all to the cause—even life itself. Witness Paul, Peter, Huss, Jerome, Mofat, Livingstone, and a host of others, noble laborers, who gave all for the Word of God.

Just so certainly does He speak to His people today: Whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it." Matthew 16:25. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and set down with My Father in His throne."

He that overcometh the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before his angels."

"To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God. Revelation 3:21, 5:2, 7.

Elder A. C. Chatman of Des Moines, Iowa, is now in Savannah, Ga., attending a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the General Assembly, and will assist in a series of a ten-days' meetings.

The talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do well without a thought of fame.—Longfellow.

FREE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS PROGRAM**Our Program Is:**

1st—A deeper consecration to do service in the vineyard of the Lord.

2nd—To do our BIT in preaching the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ, in all the world, for a witness unto all nations.

3rd—As a race, maintain self-respect, and do as Our Lord has said, "Occupy until I come."

4th—To establish among Negro Seventh-Day Adventists, Negro Conferences with Negro officers— Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Bookkeepers.

5th—To establish schools for the training of our children and for workers in our organization.

6th—To establish a publishing house in which we may furnish employment to Negro Men, Women, Boys and Girls, as we strive to preach the truth of the Third Angel's Message through the printed page.

An invitation is extended to all "INTELLIGENT" Negro Seventh-Day Adventists, those, with a vision, with moral courage, with backbone, those who are strong in the knees, in short, just common self-respect, who have the love of God in the heart, to join with us and help to put this program over the TOP, for over the TOP it must GO.

"Of a truth, I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." Acts 10:34. Therefore, we are determined to, "Stand fast . . . in the liberty wherew.th Christ hath made us Free." Gal. 5:1.