

## PRAYING WISDOM FOR PROSECUTING THE WORK

DEAR BRETHREN:—

We wish to assure you of our continued love and loyalty in the Lord; and that you will have our support, our prayers and material things as we have ability to give them.

We pray that the wisdom from above may be yours to prosecute the work of the Lord that remains to be done.

AZTEC ECCLESIA.—New Mex.

## LOYAL AS IN THE PAST

BELOVED IN THE ANOINTED:—

We wish to convey to you our deep Christian love, with mingled sorrow. We rejoice to know that the loss of our beloved Pastor is his gain; and with renewed determination we wish to assure you that we shall be loyal to the SOCIETY as in the past.

THE DENISON CLASS.—Texas.

DEAR BRETHREN:—

Kindly send me 10 copies of THE WATCH TOWER Memorial Number.

H. E. SPEAR.—Mass.

## ONE MILLION ALREADY ORDERED

During the past month we have received orders from Ecclesias for the 1917 Volunteer Literature—"The World on Fire"—amounting to over one million copies. This number is very large; but many classes have not yet been heard from.

This is the second mention we have made that the classes should take prompt action in advising us of the number they can use judiciously for Volunteer purposes. When ordering please mention B. S. M., Vol. 9, No. 1. Volunteer numbers of B. S. M. are supplied free, transportation charges collect.

While the presses are running we need to know how many to print. Orders from individuals will be received where there are no classes. In estimating do not figure on more than one copy to each English-speaking home.

The friends will better realize the importance of care in the distribution of the Literature this year when we inform them that at the present cost of paper each million of the B. S. M. amounts to about \$3,000.

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No. 4

## VIEWS FROM THE WATCH TOWER

## GREAT STRIDES IN TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT

While the church nominal makes little or no effort to correct the errors in her creeds, handed down from a dark and remote past, but exhibits a declining interest in real Bible study and rather encourages every effort to fasten still more firmly upon the minds of her supporters the doctrines of Higher Criticism and Evolution, nevertheless we cannot observe with indifference her interest in the direction of placing still further restrictions upon the liquor traffic in the various States and territories of the country. We quote from the Literary Digest:

"The past twelve months in the religious world, comments a writer in the New York *Herald*, witnessed a great stride forward in the temperance movement, when four more States went dry at the elections in November, so that now there are twenty-three States in the 'dry' column. In this connection we learn from the report of the Board of Temperance of the Methodist Episcopal Church, that

"The Territory of Alaska, by a 5 to 3 vote, expressed itself in favor of prohibition on November 7, 1916; but it is necessary that Congress put the policy into effect, as that body reserves the right to legislate on the liquor question for Alaska. Utah, by action of a pledged Legislature, will pass a prohibition law, to become effective August 1, 1917. Florida, also by pledged legislative action, will submit a prohibition amendment to the Constitution to be voted upon in the general elections of 1918.

"Wyoming has a legislature pledged to prohibition submission, but the details of its action are not determined. New Mexico is expected to vote upon the question in 1918. The Democratic primary of Texas has instructed the Legislature to submit the question to be voted upon July 28, 1917. Minnesota has a substantial dry majority in its Legislature, and will probably go dry in 1918.

"It is practically assured that Kentucky and Nevada will vote upon prohibition, but the time is not certain. Nevada will almost certainly go dry, and the result in Kentucky cannot be predicted. In Missouri and Indiana strong effort to induce the forthcoming sessions of the Legislature to enact statutory prohibition will be made. Iowa, with statutory prohibition, will, by its Legislature, submit prohibition for the Constitution for the second time, as is required by law before it may be voted upon."

"In evidence of the growth of church unity, our *Herald* informant points toward the merging of the two great branches of the Methodist church, North and South, and he recalls that last winter commissions of all American Protestant churches met at Garden City, L. I., for the first time, and adopted a general platform on which it recommended that the World Conference on Faith and Order proceed. We are reminded also that Pope Benedict XV. sent a letter to the commissions, assuring them of his 'deep interest and prayers.'"

## THE ONE TRUE CHURCH

We view with increasing interest also the various moves made during the past year in the direction of "Church Unity."

But WATCH TOWER readers are not ignorant of what will follow the realization of "Church Unity," which would not be genuine church unity, but a Federation influenced, no doubt, by conditions of a threatening character growing out of the European War, and formed for self-protection and advancement at almost any cost.—Revelation 13:15-17.

The desirability of oneness in the church of Christ is beyond dispute. The impropriety of sectarianism, or division, is after centuries of separation generally conceded. But so recently as twenty-five years ago many still defended the divided condition as being helpful. Invariably they pointed to our Lord's words, "I am the Vine; ye are the branches. Every branch in me that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." (John 15:1-5) It was claimed that the denominations are the branches. But the teaching of the Master here in that his people are related to him in an individual sense, and not as parties, sects or denominations.

St. Paul sets forth the same great truth, declaring that Christ Jesus is the Head of the church which is his body; and that as the human body has many members under the full control of the head, except when diseased, so the church, as members in particular of the body of Christ, are all to be subject to the Lord as their Head. They are to be so connected to their Head, and thus with each other, that when one suffers, all suffer with him, and when one rejoices, all rejoice with him, because they have fellowship in the one Spirit of the Head.

This true church has never been divided. Each member is united with the Lord, the Head, and through him to every other member of his body, which is the church. In this church there has always been maintained one Lord Jesus—one faith, his word of promise—and one baptism, consecration into his death.—2 Timothy 2:11, 12; Ephesians 4:4-6.

## 'IMAGE OF THE BEAST'—GIVING IT LIFE

Recently there was published in the leading newspapers of the country a dispatch from Washington, D. C., which bears the appearance of great significance to many of our readers. Several copies of this dispatch have been forwarded to us by persons deeply interested in the fulfilment of prophecies respecting Church Federation and in the manner in which the impartation of "life unto the Image of the Beast" will be brought about.—Rev. 13:15.

While later developments will doubtless hurry along the fulfilment of Scripture relating to Babylon's downfall—"in one hour"—God's faithful people, "the wise," will continue to walk in the light of his Word and rejoice in every evidence of its fulfilment, remembering that before Zion travails, she shall bring forth; before her pain comes, she shall be delivered of a man child. (Isaiah 66:7-9) The Head of this man child—Christ Jesus, glorified—was delivered before nominal fleshly Zion's travail eighteen hundred years ago. The body—"the church which is his body"—shall be delivered prior to the collapse of nominal spiritual Zion, toward which we believe Babylon is now fast progressing. We give following a portion of the article referred to:

"Private letters from the Vatican, received by Dr. A. Palmieri of the Library of Congress, a recognized writer on ecclesiastical subjects, announce that Pope Benedict

XV. is about to appoint a commission of four cardinals to renew a movement begun by Pope Leo XIII., and abandoned by Pope Pius X., looking to a reunion of Christianity and the cultivation of friendly relations with the Anglican Church. A public announcement on the subject from Rome is expected soon.

"Dr. Palmieri said that the new movement, as outlined in his advices, will be directed particularly toward an establishment of the reunion of the Russian church and the Papacy and to a thorough re-examination into the validity of Anglican or Episcopal ordinations, which was settled in the negative in a papal bull 'Apostolica Sedes,' by Pope Leo X. The interest of the pope in the problem of Christian unity is said to have been intensified by the recent progress of the world congress, initiated by the American Episcopal church.

#### LONGS FOR REUNION

"The new pope," said Dr. Palmieri, summarizing the information received from Rome, 'has taken a considerable part in the efforts of neutral nations to establish peace among nations. The Vatican's efforts have been suggested not only by a humanitarian spirit, but by a longing for Christian unity and to end the conflict which long since has divided Christian churches. Efforts of Leo XIII. for carrying out the reunion of Christianity were abruptly stopped by Pius X., who aimed at an inner reform of the Catholic clergy and turned all his energies to the crushing of modernism [Higher Criticism and Evolution].

"Benedict XV. thinks it is time to renew the policy of Leo XIII., also that a reestablishment of a political peace would be the first step toward renewed attempts to stop the splitting of Christianity into a greater number of sects.

"It seems to the Vatican that the Orthodox Slavs will be very soon called to take a more active part in the life of western nations, either Protestant or Catholic, and that it is necessary to come to an understanding with them to avoid evils produced by religious intolerance. The newly planned commission of cardinals will pay attention to yearnings for unity, which from time to time manifest themselves in the Orthodox church, and to cultivate friendly relations with the Anglican church.

#### WILL REEXAMINE ARGUMENTS

"One of the most important tasks of the new commission will be a thorough reexamination of the arguments pro and con on the validity of Anglican ordinations. The Bull 'Apostolica Sedes' by Leo X. has settled in the negative the problem of that validity, but generally theological schools assume a more favorable attitude toward acknowledgment of the validity of Anglican orders, and the new commission of cardinals will carefully ponder the reasons set forth by Russian and Anglican divines against the decision of Pope Leo X. The friendship of the Anglican church is appreciated by Rome, for she may be as a link of union between Roman Catholicism and Russian Orthodoxy."

#### "SO MIGHTY AN EARTHQUAKE"

The *New York American* continues to see and boldly proclaim editorially the "Earthquake" of Scripture. We quote as follows:

"What direct effect the President's address will have upon the Governments of Europe we shall soon see. That his high object of universal justice, liberty and permanent peace can be obtained without a more definite and adequate plan and programme we frankly doubt.

"But we suspect that the President was not speaking alone to governments. His notable address is an address to peoples, and we cannot help thinking that no man understands better than Mr. Wilson that this is the true purport of his words.

"It is apparent to thoughtful men that this war, huge as it is, is only the prologue to a greater drama; that when the ruling classes have settled upon terms of peace with one another, they must then settle with the peoples they have so long ruled, and whom they have led or driven into this dreadful massacre.

"Nothing that is still in the future can be more certainly expected to happen than a series of revolutions in the European States which will change the whole face of society;

which will probably result in the complete overthrow of royalities and aristocracies and privileged classes, and out of which may form a federated, coöperative commonwealth of Europe.

"We have said more than once, and we still firmly believe, that the thrones of aristocracies of Europe are on their swift way to the junk-heap; that the moment the crushing pressure of military dictatorships is removed by peace, and the peoples of the warring nations are free to discuss with one another the leadership and policies and conditions which resulted in this gigantic crime against mankind, the fate of the old order of government and society in Europe would be written in unanimous revolution.

"We do not believe that such an ideal peace concert of European governments as the President pictures so brightly can be achieved at a near-at-hand congress, for the very reason that we have no faith in the stability of the present European governments or the present political and social systems of Europe.

"This, the most dreadful and destructive of all wars, will, in our judgment, usher in revolutions that will succeed both with the sword and with the ballot, and that will change the whole aspect of Europe and profoundly modify human society all over the globe.

"Until that time, until the earthquake has spent its force, until the architects of ruin have levelled Europe's governments and social systems, and the architects of construction have erected new governments and new social systems on the destroyed foundations of the old, there can be no permanent concert of Powers for the purpose of maintaining peace or for any other purpose."

#### THE BURNING BUSH

The child of God needs no demonstration to prove the truthfulness of the Bible statement that a "bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed"; as, for instance, that respecting Moses and the "burning bush" (Exodus 3:1-3); but the following from the *Scientific American* will be of interest to WATCH TOWER readers:

"One of the most remarkable plants in the world is certainly the so-called Burning Bush, *Dictamnus fragranellina*. This species is native to Western Asia, though nowadays commonly to be found in gardens in temperate regions.

"A great many people who grow the plant are quite unaware of its strange habits. As a matter of fact the *Dictamnus* secretes a fragrant essential oil in great abundance. This is produced in especially large quantities by the flower stems, in warm weather volatilizing so that the air surrounding the plant is impregnated. Further, this vapor is highly inflammable and, if a naked flame is brought near to the plant, the fumes at once take fire with a most singular result. The whole plant is surrounded with crackling shooting flames, reddish in color, and leaving a highly aromatic odor behind them. The Burning Bush is not injured in any way by the fire; for the flames do not actually come into contact with the plant itself.

"Several conditions are needful if the experiment with the Burning Bush is to be a success. Thus it is essential that the air should be very dry and warm, also that there should be practically no wind. The best effects are secured only just after the opening of the flowers. It will be realized that these conditions cannot always be relied upon. A plan has recently been devised by means of which the inflammable nature of the vapors given out by the *Dictamnus* may be shown with startling effect.

"A strong plant of the Burning Bush is raised in a pot. At the time when the flowers are just reaching perfection the plant is placed in a glass jar or a shade. This is closely covered for some hours before the time of the experiment. On removing the cover a light is held over the plant, when there is at once a tremendous outburst of flame. So great is the rush of fire that it is wise to keep one's face away from the top of the jar; a nasty burn is not by any means out of the question. After an interval of an hour or so with the jar or case closed up the experiment may be repeated with similar results.

"In connection with the *Dictamnus* it is rather remarkable that the species is common where the incident of Moses and the Burning Bush is said to have occurred."

## EXEMPTION OF SOCIETY PROPERTY FROM TAXATION

Since there has been so much published by various newspapers concerning the taxation of the Association's property, and our effort to have the same exempt from taxes, we deem

it proper that we should here give to the friends a statement of the facts.

The laws of the land usually are very just. It is rather

remarkable that so many righteous laws have been enacted by imperfect men. It is quite evident that the law-makers have been guided in a large measure by the code of perfect laws which God gave to Israel through Moses. The law has been brought into disrepute in the minds of many, not because the laws are wrong, but because they are oftentimes enforced without reference to justice.

Under the Membership Corporation Law of the State of New York, a corporation created and organized for the purpose of the mental and moral improvement of men and women, and for religious, charitable, scientific and historical purposes is exempt from taxation. This exemption is based upon the theory that the corporation is engaged in a work that is beneficial to the public in general, and therefore such work should be encouraged.

In 1909 the PEOPLES PULPIT ASSOCIATION was created and organized under the Membership Corporation Act of the State of New York, for the purpose of aiding in carrying on the work in which the WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY has been engaged for more than thirty years. The WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY is incorporated under the Pennsylvania laws, but certain legal requirements made it necessary to have a New York corporation in order to facilitate the work of the Society. Hence the PEOPLES PULPIT ASSOCIATION was organized. Its charter declares that it is organized for the purpose of the mental and moral improvement of men and women by teaching the Bible and preaching the Gospel by word of mouth and through the printed page, and for historical, scientific and benevolent purposes. This corporation first purchased the Beecher Home on Columbia Heights, thereafter, as the harvest work expanded, purchased an adjoining piece of property, and later constructed on the rear a new building, joining the three, thereby making one property, which is designated as the "Bethel Home."

For some time after the organization of the Corporation the Tax Commissioners of the City of New York, upon examination of the property and the uses to which it was being put and is now put, readily exempted the property from taxation; and for a time it was free from the burden of taxes. Later, some of the enemies of our work, seeking to make us all the trouble possible, filed a petition before the Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments of New York City, demanding that the Bethel Home be taxed. Considerable pressure was brought to bear on the Commission. A public hearing was demanded and had, at which hearing strenuous efforts were made to show that the PEOPLES PULPIT ASSOCIATION is not entitled to the benefit of the exemption law. The Commissioners were divided as to what they should do, and concluded that the matter should be submitted to the courts in order to get a final decision. The Commission therefore assessed the Bethel Home at the sum of \$100,000. Counsel for our Association thereupon instituted a proceeding in the Supreme Court of New York upon a Writ of Certiorari. The Corporation Counsel, after long delay, filed and returned an answer in the Supreme Court, and the case came on for hearing in that Court before Mr. Justice Callaghan on the 15th of January. The issues to be determined by this case involved not only the taxes upon the Bethel Home, but also those upon the New York City Temple; and there was involved the aggregate sum of between twenty-five and thirty thousand dollars, which the Association would be required to pay as taxes if the decision should be against it.

The taking of testimony in the case occupied the greater part of one week. At the close of the hearing of the testimony the Corporation Counsel, who appeared on behalf of the Tax Commissioners of the City of New York, moved to dismiss the case and to leave the assessment standing, upon the ground that the PEOPLES PULPIT ASSOCIATION had not shown from the facts that the property was and is used exclusively for the purposes for which the corporation was organized, and was therefore not entitled to exemption. The Court overruled this motion. Counsel for the city then asked that the court permit the filing of a written brief and argument

in support of the city's contention, and that the court defer the decision until some future day, that such brief and argument might be considered. Mr. Justice Callaghan thereupon remarked from the bench: "I have not the slightest doubt that this organization comes clearly within the statute; if there were the slightest doubt in my mind I should give you an opportunity to submit briefs. It is shown conclusively that these premises as a whole are devoted to the purposes provided by the statute."

The Court thereupon decided that the PEOPLES PULPIT ASSOCIATION was and is entitled to the benefits of the statute, and that it should be exempt from the payment of taxes upon the real estate involved.

#### THE EAGLE

The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, as is well known by the many readers of THE WATCH TOWER, has for several years unjustly persecuted Pastor Russell and our Society; but we hope that its action was based entirely upon a misapprehension, and that now, since that paper sees the true situation, its attitude may be different. In its issue of January 20, commenting upon the result of this case, the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* said:

"The People's Pulpit Association, founded in 1909 by the late Pastor Russell, yesterday won its suit for exemption from taxes on the property owned by it at 122-124 Columbia Heights, known as 'Bethel Home,' and valued at \$100,000.

"Justice Stephen Callaghan of the Supreme Court, before whom the trial was held during the week, at the conclusion of the testimony yesterday afternoon, announced from the bench, without giving the Assistant Corporation Counsel an opportunity to present briefs on the case for the city, that he was satisfied that the Association was engaged in religious work within the meaning of the statutes and therefore entitled to exemption from taxes.

"I haven't the slightest doubt that this organization comes clearly within the statute," Justice Callaghan said; "If there were the slightest doubt in my mind, I should give you an opportunity to submit briefs. It may not be true that every room in this house is used for the work of disseminating Bible tracts and literature, but it is shown conclusively these premises as a whole are devoted to that purpose.

"It is not for me or any other judge to say whether or not these men are sincere in their work. For myself, I believe that they are and that their purpose is a righteous one."

"Mr. Durham tried to bring out the fact that when 124 Columbia Heights was occupied by Henry Ward Beecher taxes were paid upon it, but Justice Callaghan rejected that evidence.

"Joseph F. Rutherford, Pastor Russell's successor as head of the WATCH TOWER SOCIETY, was the last witness. He testified that in 1909 he and four other gentlemen raised \$10,000 between them to settle Mrs. Russell's claims for back alimony against the Pastor, and that these five gentlemen continued to subscribe \$100 a month to pay alimony to Mrs. Russell from 1909 until the Pastor's death in October, 1916. He declared that not one cent of this alimony came from the treasury of the Society. This arrangement to pay the Pastor's alimony, he said, was made while Pastor Russell was in Europe and was done without the Pastor's knowledge and consent. The money all came from the private resources of the five subscribers, he said. The expenses of Pastor Russell in his libel suit against The Eagle were met in the same way, it was testified."

It is understood that the City will appeal the case to a higher Court. Our counsel, however, feel confident that the higher Court will sustain the position of Mr. Justice Callaghan, and that the tax matter will be definitely settled in favor of our Association.

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

The great Master, Christ Jesus, began to promulgate in the earth God's message of salvation to mankind. He pointed out that the forgiveness of sins and the blessings of life everlasting could come only to those who accept Jesus as their Redeemer and who walk in the ways of righteousness in the reverence of God. The apostles taught the same doctrine as long as they were upon the earth. The teachings of Jesus and the Apostles pointed out that "the wages of sin is death"; that sin is the result of the disobedience of Father Adam; that this death sentence came upon all men by in-

heritance as the offspring of Adam; that God provided redemption through the merit of Christ Jesus' sacrifice; that those in this age who exercise faith in the merit of his sacrifice and who present themselves in full consecration to do the will of God receive the imputed merit of Christ and are accepted by Jehovah as joint-sacrificers with the Lord Jesus; and that if thus continuing faithful unto death they are to be changed in the first resurrection to the divine nature to live and reign with Christ for the blessing of mankind and for the carrying out of the eternal purpose of Jehovah. They

further taught the coming of Messiah's kingdom; that this kingdom would be set up when the church is complete; that the church is the body of Christ and is selected without reference to creed or denomination. Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "Thy kingdom come," well knowing that the establishment of the kingdom would mark the beginning of blessings to the poor, groaning creation.

After the death of the Apostles, false teachers arose and erroneous doctrines were put forth. Contrary to the Scriptures, the clergy was formed, as distinguished from the laity of common people. The clergy began to teach that the wages of sin is purgatorial torment or eternal torment; that the souls of all are immortal; and that death does not mean death, but the beginning of either bliss or torture; that only a comparatively small number would be saved and taken to heaven, and that all the others would be forever damned. They taught the divine right of kings to rule the people, and asserted that this right came to the kings through the ecclesiastical systems. Numerous sects and denominations were organized, and spread these doctrines throughout the earth, each claiming that these teachings are supported by the Bible.

In more modern times teachers of Higher Criticism have arisen in the church nominal, who have repudiated the Bible altogether, denying that any part of it is inspired; and denying that it is God's Word to man, but instead that it was written by men in ancient times who were less capable of writing than the modern clergymen. These and other clergymen calling themselves Evolutionists, teach that the Genesis story of the creation of man a perfect being and of his subsequent sin and fall, and of God's plan for redemption of man through the blood of Christ, is all nonsense and not worthy of the consideration of thoughtful men and women. The church nominal throughout the world for some time has been devoted chiefly to social functions and the teaching of almost everything except the Scriptures. The effect upon the people has been demoralizing to an alarming degree.

#### ADVANCEMENT IN THINGS MATERIAL—DECLINE IN THINGS SPIRITUAL

We call to mind that the forefathers of America migrated from Europe to New England because they believed the Bible and desired to teach it and to serve God according to the dictates of their own conscience. They taught and followed the Scriptures as best they could. After several hundred years we mark a great advancement in material things and a great decline in things spiritual. The *Boston American*, in its issue of Sunday, January 21, publishes almost a full page concerning the conditions prevailing especially in New Hampshire, under the title, "Grave Moral Decay Threatens Future New Hampshire." We quote from that article as follows:

"Eighteen years ago the Governor of New Hampshire said:

"The decline of the Christian religion, particularly in our rural communities, is a marked feature of the times, and steps should be taken to remedy it. No matter what our belief may be in religious matters, every good citizen knows that when the restraining influences of religion are withdrawn from a community its decay, moral, mental and financial, is swift and sure.

"There are towns where no church bell sends forth

its solemn call from January to January;—there are villages where children grow to manhood unchristened; and there are communities where the dead are laid away without the benison of the name of Christ."

Continuing, this article gives many instances of moral depravity, attributing such to the fact that the people have lost faith in the Bible and do not hear its teachings.

#### "THE HIRELING CARETH NOT FOR THE SHEEP"

To whom then does the blame attach for this moral degeneracy—to the people themselves or to those who have claimed to be their teachers? The clergy have occupied, and yet occupy, positions of great influence amongst the people. A repudiation of the Bible by them could have none other effect than to destroy the faith of the people in the Scriptures. Jehovah foreknew that such a condition would arise as we now witness; and he attached the blame therefor to the men who claim to preach the Gospel, but who in fact have turned the minds of the people away from his Word. Through his prophet, he said: "For amongst my [professed] people are wicked men; they lay wait as he that setteth a snare; they set a trap; they catch men [they set the snares and traps of Higher Criticism and Evolution]; as a cage is full of birds, so are their houses full of deceit [they have practiced deceit upon the people]; therefore they have become great and waxen rich [many of the clergy say, "We are rich in wisdom; and none can teach us, not even the prophets and the apostles"]; they are waxen fat; they shine; yea, they pass by the deeds of the wicked [unnoticed]. . . . Shall I not visit them for these things? saith the Lord; shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this? A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land. The prophets [preachers] preach falsely and the priests bear rule by their means; and the people love to have it so." (Jeremiah 5:28-31) Had the clergy faithfully performed their duty to teach the people the sweet message of salvation as spoken by Jesus and the apostles, and had pointed them to the coming of Messiah's kingdom, a different condition would prevail.

The article above referred to is proof of the fact that the world now is experiencing what the Lord foretold through the Prophet Amos, saying, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land; not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of the hearing of the words of the Lord."—Amos 8:11.

The WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY was organized for the very purpose of the mental, moral and spiritual improvement of men and women by teaching them the Bible. The PEOPLES PULPIT ASSOCIATION was organized under the laws of New York for the same purpose. These two organizations have been spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to enlighten the people; while the majority of the clergy, claiming to be Christians, devote their time and efforts to the persecution of Brother Russell, whom the Lord so wonderfully used to make known his message, and all who have assisted in making known the glad tidings. On the other hand, the lawmakers, who have not pretended to be interested in teaching the Bible, have enacted liberal laws granting to Bible societies and churches privileges that individuals and other corporations do not have.

### JESUS HEALS A NOBLEMAN'S SON

[This article was a reprint of that entitled "The Rewards of Faith," published in issue of February 1, 1908, which please see.]

### JESUS AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA

[This article was a reprint of that entitled "He Went About Doing Good," published in issue of February 15, 1908, which please see.]

### JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND

[This article was a reprint of that entitled "Ever Give Us This Bread," published in issue of February 1, 1905, which please see.]

### SOME LETTERS OF INTEREST

#### 30 YEARS OF ASSOCIATION WITH PASTOR RUSSELL

DEAR BRETHREN:—

My heart goes out in love and reverence to the memory of our beloved Pastor Russell, and it is indeed a privilege to give testimony to his services and faithfulness.

I was carefully reared under Christian influence, and thus taught and learned reverence for God and his Christ, with confidence in his Word. However, with maturity came analysis of creeds, and their confusion and blasphemy, misrepresenting the character and plan of the Father of mercies and God of all comfort. This soon led me into

agnosticism, in which there is neither chart, compass nor anchorage. In this state I floundered for some years, and finding no rest of heart, naturally became careless and at times reckless. Finally, I determined to go direct to the Word of God and study it; for I retained my faith in God and in Jesus as his Son and the Christ, though grasping these fundamentals but vaguely, as I now discern. And I was rewarded by a growing knowledge, peace and assurance of faith that led me to more earnestly plead at the throne of grace for more light and strength to walk in it.

Looking back, we all can discern the leadings and guid-

ance of our Lord—his overcare—and truly happy it was for me that I had come to a place of more knowledge of and trust in our heavenly Father and our dear elder Brother—Jesus; for at this period I entered one of the severest ordeals of my life and could only cry out for more light and more strength—for more power and faith to endure. In this crisis there came to me unheralded in the mail a blue paper-bound copy of *MILLENNIAL DAWN*, and thinking I saw in it something of Adventism, which in ignorance I disesteemed, I promptly threw the book into my waste-paper basket. Later in the day, and that I might make a seemingly intelligent and courteous acknowledgement to the donor, should he make himself known, I rescued the book from the waste-basket and began what I purposed to be a cursory examination of its contents. Beginning at the dedication, I was at once impressed with the assurance that one who could so aptly quote Scripture as this writer, could surely teach me in the Word, and thus I met my brother and fellow-servant, Charles T. Russell.

It is no disparagement to my revered father and mother, who richly deserve the love, honor and esteem in which I hold their memory, to say that the influence of Brother Russell on and in my life was the most salutary and beneficent that had entered it; and after nearly thirty years of various and intimate association with him, I can gladly say this influence was but deepened and broadened. His service and fellowship constantly led to the Lord. With the Apostle Paul he constantly preached, not himself, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and himself the servant—bond slave—of the brethren for Jesus' sake. To me his life and memory are an inspiration to faithfulness even unto death in following the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.

I thank God for Pastor Russell in his life, in his service and in his death.

Yours in our Redeemer,

W. E. PAGE.

#### SOME THOUGHTS OF PILGRIM WISDOM

DEAR BRETHREN IN CHRIST:—

I feel I should send you a few lines to tell you how much—yes, how deeply—I appreciate *THE TOWER* of January 1. My heart overflowed with joy as I read and pondered its precious message. How strong is the evidence that God's arm is not in any sense shortened! Then the wonderful fulfilment of his promises to supply all our needs! Marvelous in our eyes is the work of our God!

The masterful treatise of the world-situation ("Views from the Watch Tower"), and the concise, forceful presentation of the real conditions as they exist can have but one effect upon every truly and fully consecrated heart—to cause all such to lift up their heads and rejoice, for surely the "day is night!" What more convincing evidence could we possibly have than is here given of the final crash, the near approach of the end, the collapse of all earthly governments and the immediate setting up of Christ's kingdom for the bringing in of peace and righteousness, blessings for all mankind! Surely all the faithful will soon be with the King in Glory! Certainly such a review should stimulate our faith and tend to energize us to renewed activity to press along the narrow way of sacrifice to final victory! And this spells the crown of life.

May God continue to bless your every effort to serve him acceptably and further the interests of his cause. No, he has not deserted his people, even though it seemed good to him to remove our beloved earthly leader, "that servant." Yes, may God bless his memory to the eternal good of all the faithful in Christ.

I am daily remembering you and all the dear collaborators at Headquarters at the throne of grace. To me the blessed truth is more precious than ever. Please bear me up in your prayers. I feel the special need of them. The toils of the way are many and sometimes burdensome, strenuous are the times, great is the power of the adversary, and continuous are his attempts to "beat our courage down"; but greater is he who is for us; for our armor is divine.

In sincere Christian love to you and all the dear ones at the Bethel home, I am

Your brother by his favor,

W. M. WISDOM.

#### A MESSAGE FROM SCOTLAND

DEAR BRETHREN:—

At the half-yearly business meetings of the class here it has been our custom to formally elect Brother Russell as the Pastor of our class; and, as a token of confidence and esteem, to advise him that such had been done.

The passing hence of our beloved Brother rendered this impossible at our recent business meeting; and instead, we unanimously agreed to send you a message of sympathy and encouragement.

The news of the death of our beloved Pastor came to us with mixed effect—sorrow, because we had lost a faithful servant and guide; gladness, because we are confident he has entered into the presence of the Master he loved so much and served so devotedly. He has entered into his rest; surely none deserved it more! His life and work on earth, his example and devotion, will ever continue to be an inspiration and encouragement to all of us.

We desire to let you know that it is our intention as a class to follow faithfully our beloved Pastor's teachings. The truth we have come to us through him, and we recognized him as the one especially appointed of the Lord to feed his flock in this harvest time. The rich store he has left behind will continue to be respected as the Master's message to all who have the hearing ear. We have loved and followed our dear Pastor through evil report and good report these many years; and we desire to follow him still, realizing that if we follow him, even as he followed Christ, we too shall hear that desired "Well done!"

We pray for heavenly wisdom to guide the dear brethren who have been left in charge of the different departments of the work. With much love in the Lord,

Yours in our One Hope,

CLASS AT DUNDEE.—Scot.

#### ELECTION AS PASTOR RESCINDED

The following letter from the Boston Ecclesia, which had elected Brother Rutherford Pastor, will be of interest to WATCH TOWER readers:

DEAR BROTHER RUTHERFORD:—

Although you had not receive official notice from the Boston Ecclesia that you had been elected Pastor, Brother Margeson read to the Ecclesia last night your position in regard to the matter and I am glad to say that it rejoiced our hearts for the stand you have taken.

Immediately the original motion by which you were elected Pastor was rescinded, and availing ourselves of your kind opportunity, you were duly elected Counselor of the Boston Ecclesia by a unanimous vote.

We feel that this experience has drawn us closer to you than before, and we shall continue to pray God that his grace may be sufficient to keep you humble and faithful as you endeavor daily to be pleasing to him in your new duties. With Christian love from the Boston Ecclesia,

Yours in Christ,

ALEXANDER OGSTON, Secretary.

#### "STRONG IN THE LORD"

DEAR BRETHREN:—

Resolved, That we convey unto the brethren at Brooklyn our heartfelt sympathy, love and fellowship in the spirit, in this our mutual loss.

Wherefore, beloved, we wish to renew our Christian allegiance and fellowship to you in whom is reposed, more than in others, the continuance of the harvest work and the further carrying out of our beloved Pastor's wishes. It is further

Resolved, That we encourage you to be "strong in the Lord."

VERMILION ECCLESIA.—S. Dak.

#### NOBLEST OF GOD'S CREATURES IN THE FLESH

DEAR BRETHREN IN CHRIST:—

I feel that this is the time to express the deep sympathy I have for yourselves and for all the beloved of the Lord in every place. We have all lost, in one sense, the dearest and noblest of God's creatures that we have known in the flesh! He seemed by his life to revive and make keener our perceptions of what our dear Lord was like. His life was such that it directed us to the "beauty of holiness."

I thank my God for the truth as it is in Jesus, and for the light of his character, as both were revealed to me by his spirit through the instrumentality of our noble and beloved Pastor Russell! I am but fourteen years in the truth, but during that time I have never swerved from the one determination to be a follower of the Lord Jesus. I wish ever to support, to the best of my ability, with the help of the Lord, your efforts to supply our spiritual needs. My prayers shall ever ascend for your guidance and blessing.

We in London have received much comfort and blessing from the ministrations of our beloved Brother Paul Johnson. His coming has helped us at this time to realize that he who has guided us thus far will guide us still. I pray I may strive to fill my own place and work for which I am called, that I may in the age to come, and in the glorious ages to follow, show forth the glory of so great a God, and live in everlasting praise to the Lamb of God, who gave himself a ransom for all.

Your brother in the Anointed,

FRANK E. BARNETT.—London, Eng.



**MORE DETERMINED TO FOLLOW HIS WISE COUNSEL**

DEAR BRETHREN:—

Our heavenly Father, in his infinite wisdom, has called our beloved Pastor to a higher station. As "that servant" to whom was entrusted the dispensing of "meat in due season for the household of faith," he has done his work well. Surely we shall miss him! but we would not call him back, for we know he is now partaker of the divine nature—joint-heir with our Lord—even better able now than heretofore—associated more closely than ever with our Lord—to assist in directing the harvest work.

Our love for him should make us more determined to follow his wise counsel, even as he was a true follower of the Master. Our prayer is that our heavenly Father will continually watch over those to whom our dear Brother has entrusted the work yet to be done, strengthening them to discharge faithfully their responsibility.

Resolved, That we will render loyal support to the work, as in the past, that when the night shall close around us, "in which no man can work," we may, like our dear Pastor, hear the Master's words: "Well done! Thou hast been faithful over a few things; I will make thee ruler over many! . . . Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!"

EASTON ECCLESIA.—Pa.

**COOPERATING WITH THEIR PASTOR'S INSTRUCTIONS**

DEAR BRETHREN:—

We assure you of our love and sympathy, and also of our desire to cooperate with you in any way possible for the furtherance of the work.

The Wichita Ecclesia has been blessed with abundant opportunities for service of late. We have had Pilgrim Brethren, our dear Pastor, and this coming week we are to have the PHOTO-DRAMA in West Wichita, and the following week it is to be repeated on the East Side. Then, too, we are busy with the District work.

It is our great desire to be faithful, and to continue in the work as long as we are permitted to do so, as we know was our dear Pastor's wish.

We assure you of our love and sympathy and also of our desire to cooperate with you in every way possible for the extension of the work.

With Christian love,

WICHITA ECCLESIA.—Kans.

**CONTINUED LOVE AND LOYALTY**

DEAR FRIENDS IN THE LORD:—

At our business meeting Sunday, December 3, the Detroit Ecclesia, after the reading of the December 1 WATCH TOWER, passed a vote of confidence in all of the arrangements of the Society and in those who have been left in charge at the Bible House, and we wish to assure you of our continued love and loyalty and of our further cooperation.

With loving Christian greetings,

DETROIT ECCLESIA.—Mich.

**HIS "HAND UPON THE LITTLE ONES"**

DEARLY BELOVED COLPORTEURS:—

We were for a moment bewildered by the sudden demise of our beloved Pastor. We sorrow, knowing his loving watch-care over the Lord's flock; yet we rejoice, knowing "whither he went."

We shall feel a vacancy which henceforth cannot be filled. But "our will is the will of our God"; we bow in humble submission unto it, endeavoring day by day to "gird up the loins of our minds [more fully] and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto us at the [fuller] revelation of Jesus Christ."

One faithful promise reads, "I will turn mine hand upon the little ones." Surely his care is around each one! Therefore will not we fear though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea!

We assure you of our continued effort to cooperate in the harvest work. Believing our beloved Pastor's death has had a blessed effect in this community, we trust by divine grace to give a better testimony in future to our Father's great plan of salvation. We need your prayers and cooperation.

Our petitions continue to ascend to the throne of heavenly grace for the dear friends at Bethel, and for all who labor in the vineyard.

With loving Christian greetings, your servants in the Lord,

PRINCE RUPERT ECCLESIA.—B. C.

**ASSURANCES OF FULL CONFIDENCE**

DEAR BRETHREN OF THE BETHEL FAMILY:—

We esteemed it a great privilege to pay our last respects to the memory of our dear Brother Russell in the flesh by attending the funeral services. A man not in the truth said, "The world has lost its brightest star." We miss our

beloved brother so much! We did not know how much we loved him until now. We know that Brother Russell loved the colporteurs, for he manifested this in many ways. This was a great help and inspiration to us.

But, dear brethren, if we miss dear Brother Russell, we are thinking how much more you of the Bethel family must miss him, as you surround the table each day without his blessed influence and face in your midst! And also the great responsibility that now rests more fully upon you as you continue to minister unto the saints, and to herald the glad tidings of earth's new King. We believe that one reason for Brother Russell's great achievements was that he had many loyal supporters, long tried, tested and proved faithful under many circumstances and conditions, which were the means of sifting out the unfaithful; and that having been so thoroughly tried and proven loyal to our dear Pastor as the Lord's chosen servant you will continue faithfully to carry on the work to its grand completion. We have always appreciated your loving and cheerful service in our behalf. We wish to assure you of our full confidence.

No doubt there will be trials and testings, strong delusions, etc., to the end, but you shall have our prayers. We shall be glad to support you in every way possible.

MR. AND MRS. RAY VAN HYNING AND RUTH.

**WILL HOLD UP THE HANDS**

DEAR BRETHREN:—

Resolved, That to the dear Bethel family and brethren of the Society at Brooklyn we extend our heartfelt sympathy, our warmest love and earnest prayers for comfort in their bereavement, and for guidance in the continuance of the harvest work.

Resolved, That we desire to express our confidence in the brethren whom our dear Pastor has left in charge, and to assure them that we will earnestly cooperate to the extent of our ability in the furtherance of the Lord's work entrusted to them, "holding up their hands," until the dark night shall close down upon us.

With sympathizing and loyal hearts,

CORTLAND ECCLESIA.—N. Y.

**ALL CONFIDENCE IN THE BRETHREN**

DEAR BRETHREN IN CHRIST:—

Enclosed you will find ——— for our free will offering. We wish to assure you of our interest in the Society, and that we have all confidence in the brethren whom our dear Pastor left in charge of the work he loved so well. Pray for us, as we will continue daily to do for you.

Yours in his dear name,

BROTHER AND SISTER S. D. LEMLEY.—Wash.

**HIS NOBILITY OF LIFE AND LOVELINESS OF CHARACTER**

DEAR BRETHREN:—

While we rejoice with our dear Pastor in his privilege of being with the Lord, away from all personal suffering and trouble, and while we recognize the loss to be as much ours as yours, we desire to extend to you our heartfelt sympathy; for, coming so often in contact with "that servant" of God and having become accustomed to fellowship with his grand personality, nobility of life and loveliness of character, the loss to you may seem the greater.

We wish also to say that as the dear Master may be pleased to bless and assist us we will by his grace continue to do what we can to help to spread the glad tidings of truth, and to stand for the principles of righteousness as exemplified by the dear Lord himself and by his servant, our beloved Brother Russell.

Praying the Lord's continued blessing and direction for you, with increasing supplies of wisdom from above (Jas. 3:17), we are

Your Brethren in Christ,

THE PORT OF SPAIN ECCLESIA.—B. W. I.

**GOOD NEWS FOR COLPORTEURS**

DEAR FRIENDS:—

We wish all the colporteurs could know how convenient it is to deliver in the country by Parcel Post, C. O. D.! We frequently find people in the rural districts who are interested, but who cannot pay cash. We now tell these, "We will take your order. What date will suit you? We will send the books by Parcel Post, C. O. D. You pay the mail-carrier, and he will send the money to us. You will have no trouble at all, and the money will be perfectly safe." Then on the date that suits them we mail the books at a cost of 5c for postage and 10c for C. O. D. A full set of SCRIPTURE STUDIES will cost no more for C. O. D. charge, and can be sent into the second postal zone for a few cents.

Please let all the colporteurs know of this as soon as