



GENERAL CHURCH PAPER OF THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST REFORM MOVEMENT

"Let Them Give Glory Unto the LORD, and Declare His Praise
in the Islands." Isaiah, 42:12.



Meeting in the Philippines, October, 1978.

Vol. XX No. 1

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A Special Note of Thanks

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"THE AGE IN WHICH WE LIVE CALLS FOR REFORMATORY ACTION."
—Testimonies, vol. 4, p. 488.

The Reformation Herald

GENERAL CHURCH PAPER OF THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST REFORM MOVEMENT

Vol. XX

No. 1

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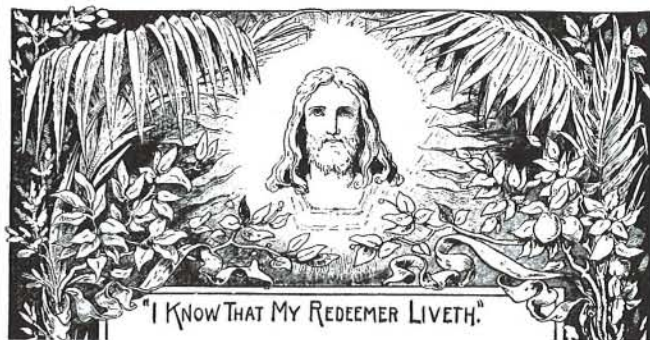
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AWAY, my unbelieving fear!
Fear shall in me no more have place;
My Saviour doth not yet appear,
He hides the brightness of his face;
But shall I therefore let him go,
And basely to the tempter yield?
No, in the strength of Jesus, no;
I never will give up my shield.

Although the vine its fruit deny,
Although the olive yield no oil,
The withering fig-trees droop and die,
The fields elude the tiller's toil,
The empty stall no herd afford,
And perish all the bleating race;
Yet I will triumph in the Lord,
The God of my salvation praise.

Barren although my soul remain,
And not one bud of grace appear,
No fruit of all my toil and pain,
But sin and only sin is here;
Although my gifts and comforts lost,
My blooming hopes cut off I see,
Yet will I in my Saviour trust,
And glory that he died for me.

CHARLES WESLEY



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A Word from the Editor

"BEWARE..."

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8.

"Beware of the dog!" "Beware of pick-pockets!" "Beware of falling rocks!" These are just some of the many warnings put up for our safety. But the most important warning has never been put on posters: "Beware of the wiles of Satan!"

Thank God, we are not left in darkness concerning the stratagems of the great deceiver. E. G. White says:

"Oh, that all could get a view of it as God revealed it to me, that they might know more of the wiles of Satan and be on their guard! I saw that Satan was at work in these ways to distract, deceive, and draw away God's people, just now in this sealing time." EW 44.

Paul says that everything written in the Scriptures was written for our admonition (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11). Let us, therefore, take a warning from the mistake of Saul, who simply allowed himself to be deceived by the devil.

Saul failed, repeatedly, to endure the test. As an excuse for his transgression of a plain "Thus Saith the Lord," he stated that "he feared the people" (1 Sam. 15:24).

"Are there not many in our day, even among the professed ministers of Christ, who could give no better reason for their course? Though the word of God is plain, they dare not offend the prejudices or arouse the fears of their hearers; therefore they let them go on unwarned in their violation of God's law. In the day of final judgment the excuse of Saul will avail for them no more than it availed for him." ST September 14, 1882.

Before anyone openly disobeys the word of God, he allows stubbornness and rebellion to take possession of his heart. He is under the control of Satan. "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." (1 Sam. 15:23).

"He (Satan) is the grand prototype of all transgressors. To indulge unbelief, ingratitude, apostasy, defiance of God, or enmity against him, is but to repeat the course which Satan pursued in Heaven. Rebellion against God is as directly due to Satanic influence as is the practice of witchcraft. Like witchcraft, it exerts a bewitching, deceptive power almost impossible to break. Those who set themselves against the government of God have entered into an alliance with the arch-apostate, and he will not lightly lose his prey. All his power

and cunning will be exercised to captivate the senses and mislead the understanding of his victims. Everything appears to them in a false light." ST September 14, 1882.

Examples to this effect can be found with the Jewish leaders in the days of Christ and the apostles, the Romish clergy especially during the Inquisition, and the Protestant leaders during the proclamation of the Three Angels' Messages. Could such examples be found, also, among those who know the Present Truth? Yes.

"If some who profess to believe present truth could understand their true position, they would despair of the mercy of God. They have been exerting all their influence against the truth, against the voice of warning, against the people of God. They have been doing the work of Satan. Many have become so infatuated by his deceptions that they will never recover. Such a state of backsliding cannot exist without causing the loss of many souls." 5T 103.

While Christ was on earth, the people and their leaders had more than sufficient evidences that Christ was the promised Messiah. "But Satan was at hand to arouse doubts, unbelief, and pride. They steeled their hearts against the Saviour's words. As they yielded to the control of Satan, they were fired with uncontrollable rage against Jesus. With one accord they would have taken his life, had not angels interposed for his deliverance." ST September 14, 1882.

Satan has not changed. And people have not changed either. Therefore, history repeats itself with nations, churches, families and individuals. The same cause brings the same result.

"The same spirit still exists in the hearts of those who set themselves to follow their own perverted judgment in opposition to the will of God. The struggle between truth and error will reveal the same pride and stubbornness, and the same unreasoning hatred against the advocates of truth, as was displayed by the unbelieving Jews.

"He who could cause all the glories of earthly empires to pass before Christ in his hour of temptation, exerts a wizard-like power upon the minds of all who do not implicitly trust and obey God. It is this moral infatuation which steels their hearts against the influence of the Holy Spirit. It was this that led Korah, Dathan, and Abiram to rebel against the authority of Moses. Satan deluded them with the idea that they were opposing only a human leader, a man

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DECEPTIONS



OF



SATAN

By E. G. White

"The light given me is that we shall be tested and proved, that Satan will come to us as he came to Christ, - as an angel of light. The heavenly universe is looking upon us with intense interest. We have been regarded as a people moving under God's guidance, and enjoying a remarkable record of success and prosperity. But a new chapter has been opened. There are among us those who are binding up with the world. They are not standing out in moral independence, trusting to the Lord to carry His work to completion.

"I have been instructed to place before our people the instruction given by the Lord to Israel to keep them separate from the world...

"It is not the Lord's plan that sanitariums as large as the one in Battle Creek shall be erected. When so large a number of patients are gathered together, it is impossible to give them the religious instruction that God designs the patients in our sanitariums to have. And the erection of so large an institution centres in one place a work that should be distributed to several places.

"The nearer we approach the end of this earth's history, the stronger and more numerous will be Satan's temptations. He will work 'with all deceivableness of unrighteousness,' that, if it were possible, he might deceive the very elect. He will bring in every device to hinder our preparation for that which is to come upon the earth.

"In order to fulfill God's purpose for us, we must be taught by the Holy Spirit. Those who have not been taught by the Spirit, however great may have been their advantages in other respects, can not discern spiritual things. They are ignorant, whereas, if they were worked by the Spirit, they would be wise, able to understand the things of God. These things can be understood by those only who are partakers of the divine nature, those who eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God, receiving and obeying His word." Series B, No. 6, pp. 60, 61.

"A great work is to be done now in convicting souls... There will be seducing spirits and doctrines of devils in the midst of the church, and these evil influences will increase... Warnings are to be given. A message similar to that borne by John the Baptist is to be heard... Devote not precious time in trying to convince those who would change the truth of God into a lie... Whoever is determined to depart from the faith can not be helped by you. All your reasoning will be as idle tales. Take the banner of truth and hold it aloft, higher and still higher... Beware of the leaven of evil... God now calls for all who choose to serve Him, to stand firmly on the platform of eternal truth." - RH August 9, 1906.

"From the light that God has given me, I know that one great danger of those who claim to be followers of Christ, is in being self-deceived. Satan is watching his chance. He will come to men in human form, and will speak to them most entrancing words. He will bring against them the same temptations that he brought against Christ. Unless their minds and hearts are filled with the pure, unselfish, sanctified love that Christ revealed, they will fall under Satan's power, and will do and say and write strange things, to deceive, if it were possible, the very elect." RH June 30, 1910.

"Many will be confronted by the spirits of devils personating beloved relatives or friends,

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and declaring the most dangerous heresies. These visitants will appeal to our tenderest sympathies, and will work miracles to sustain their pretensions. We must be prepared to withstand them with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything, and that they who thus appear are the spirits of devils." GC 560.

"As Spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. Through the agency of Spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power." GC 588.

"As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air, 'Christ has come! Christ has come! The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands, and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed his disciples, when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed...' GC 624.

"Satan came as an angel of light in the wilderness of temptation to deceive Christ; and he does not come to man in a hideous form, as he is sometimes represented, but as an angel of light. He will come personating Jesus Christ, working mighty miracles; and men will fall down and worship him as Jesus Christ. We shall be commanded to worship this being, whom the world will glorify as Christ. What shall we do? - Tell them that Christ has warned us against just such a foe, who is man's worst enemy, yet who claims to be God; and that when Christ shall make His appearance, it will be with power and great glory, accompanied by ten thousand times ten thousand angels and thousands of thousands; and that when He shall come, we shall know His voice." 6 BC 1105, 1106. ●

" BEWARE... "

(cont'd from page 3)

like themselves. But in rejecting God's chosen instrument, they rejected Christ, their invisible leader. They insulted the Spirit of God; and judgments followed close upon their sin. They were deceived by Satan, but by their own consent; because they placed themselves in his power." ST September 14, 1882.

If we do not wish to be ensnared and destroyed, let us become acquainted with Satan's devices and stand on our guard.

The great deceiver says to his angels:

"We must exert all our wisdom and subtlety to deceive and ensnare those who honor the true Sabbath. We can separate many from Christ by worldliness, lust, and pride. They may think themselves safe because they believe the truth, but indulgence of appetite or the lower passions, which will confuse judgment and destroy discrimination, will cause their fall.

"Go, make the possessors of lands and money drunk with the cares of this life. Present the world before them in its most attractive light, that they may lay up their treasure here and fix their affections upon earthly things... Make them care more for money than for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom and the spread of the truths we hate, and we need not fear their influence; for we know that every selfish, covetous person will fall under our power, and will finally be separated from God's people.

"Through those that have a form of godliness but know not the power, we can gain many who would otherwise do us harm. Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God will be our most effective helpers. Those of this class who are apt and intelligent will serve as decoys to draw others into our snares. Many will not fear their influence, because they profess the same faith. We will thus lead them to conclude that the requirements of Christ are less strict than they once believed, and that by conformity to the world they would exert a greater influence with worldlings. Thus they will separate from Christ; then they will have no strength to resist our power, and ere long they will be ready to ridicule their former zeal and devotion.

"Until the great decisive blow shall be struck, our efforts against commandment keepers must be untiring. We must be present at all their gatherings. In their large meetings especially our cause will suffer much, and we must exercise great vigilance, and employ all our seductive arts to prevent souls from hearing the truth and becoming impressed by it.

"I will have upon the ground, as my agents, men holding false doctrines mingled with just

(continued on page 14)



Critical examination is being made of every aspect of the Christian experience. Previously accepted standards are now being cast aside as incorrect, while philosophical meanderings are being offered in their place. Even the basic characteristics of our Saviour are under severe attack. This attack is not coming from outside influences, but from those who have claimed to be our brethren. Is it little wonder that people are casting aside the restraint that once controlled their actions and are now eating and drinking with the ungodly - in other words, joining the mad rush for materialistic security?

Such a condition as this should not cause the serious thinking person great problems, as we have been more than adequately warned in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Today, even men placed in high positions of trust are casting doubt on plain statements from the Spirit of Prophecy, and it may not be long before the self-same men will be doing exactly the same with the Bible itself. There is only a step between the two, and once they have taken this step, they will have been caught in the snare, and they will even persecute the saints of God.

Doctrines of all kinds are being presented; the basic principles of our faith are being laid aside for the spurious; people are being disturbed by new ideas. Propositions are being

CHRIST OUR SURETY

By N. Bodycote



suggested which are coming from Satan to cause the people of God in this sealing time to look away from the source of all our hope, and to go into discussion about subjects which have no relevance at all to our salvation. Hence the church is being made a cage for every unclean and hateful bird. Anything that unsettles our faith in the leading and teaching of the Lord in our past experience should be rejected. No part of what was originally in the third angel's message will be laid aside or belittled by any subsequent message that comes from God. Any changes which are suggested are not coming from the source of light, but of darkness. Satan will manifest himself in all kinds of deception, even appearing to some as long departed friends, in an endeavor to deceive. (GC 560). His crowning deception will be to represent himself as Christ and endeavor to duplicate His work. Our only hope is to keep our eyes fixed on Christ our Surety. Look not to man or to his ideas, as we will surely fail if we do.

Now is our acceptable time with Christ. Let us draw near to Him. By His divinity He is connected with the throne of the Father, and by His humanity, which He carried with Him, He is linked with us. Therefore, He can feel our woes and sympathize with us in our sufferings.

We cannot but thank our heavenly Father that He has given us a gift such as He has. No better gift could be given; it meets all man's needs, both physically and spiritually. If God had given us a divine gift only - but unable to feel our woes, unable to suffer as we suffer, unable to know the separation that sin has wrought, unable to show us how man can overcome all - what help and encouragement could such a gift bring to us? It would be an admittance that man was in the most hopeless position, in an impossible condition, unable to become free of the curse. But such is not the case. The Bible gives us no such picture.

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit." 1 Peter 3:17,18.

"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God." 1 Peter 4:1,2.

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." 1 Tim. 3:16.

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." 1 Peter 2:21-25.

Those who would take away the human side of Christ know not what course they are on, and will fail of heaven unless they experience a complete conversion. Consider these Scriptures: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." 1 John 4:1-3. "For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." 2 John 7.

The word "flesh" here has a deeper meaning than men will admit. They preclude from it

the possibility of sinning. But the gift that God gave to us had every possibility of sinning, and He won the victory with the weapons of our warfare, the weapons available to each one of us. Men like to clothe everything in mystery so that only they can explain it. God makes it open and plain so that all can understand and run in the race.

Furthermore, if Christ was of such a nature that He could not fall, then the record of His temptation, and His victory over Satan, would be nothing more than a theatrical act inserted in the Bible to make interesting reading; it would be nothing more than a farce. This is not the case, and those who live close to Christ know that it is not. What would be the use of tempting a supernatural being incapable of falling? Read DA 117. To what level are we bringing the word of God down? Those who have laid hands on the Spirit of Prophecy would do well to beware. Before long they will try to do the same with the Bible also. (4T 211). We have the example of Uzza to remind us of the result of this action. "And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God." 1 Chron. 13:9,10.

As the end of all things draws nearer, it is essential for us each to ask, Will my anchor hold? People everywhere are looking to broken cisterns to satisfy their thirst. Young and old are looking to some idol. It may be a politician, a singer, or a Hollywood star. But these idols cannot satisfy the longing of the soul. Others resort to idols of wood, stone, and other substances, all to no avail. Our only hope is in Christ Jesus, fashioned in our flesh, God incarnate, the Saviour of mankind. Will you not come to Him as you are and accept Him on His conditions? Do you want to live a life without Him because you will only accept Him on your conditions? Thomas set conditions for his belief. These Jesus removed, but not without reproof for his unbelief. Perhaps the conditions which you and I set cannot be met. What then? God says, "I change not." So it is for us to give up our conditions, and accept Him on His conditions, or else suffer eternal loss.

Some statements from the Spirit of Prophecy will help to make these points clearer:

"In Christ were united the human and the divine. His mission was to reconcile God and man, to unite the finite with the infinite. This was the only way in which fallen men could be exalted through the merits of the blood of Christ to be partakers of the divine nature. Taking human nature fitted Christ to understand man's trials and sorrows, and all the

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"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead." 2 Cor. 5:14.

In the depth of my heart I pray, "Grant, O Lord, that I may learn what it means, to be constrained by the love of Christ." If I am engaged in God's work from any other motive than the constraining power of love to Him, I am serving Him from an unworthy and base motive.

Let me set forth what I mean in a simple illustration. Doubtless many of you have seen water flowing along an aqueduct. It is being pumped up, and, as the water flows, you can count the strokes of the engine. Now it is full, and there is a rush. The water seems to say, "I flow because I am forced to flow - I flow because I am pumped - I would not flow if I could help flowing." It flows because an external power is brought to bear upon it. But have you not often stood by the side of a mountain stream? There it comes, jumping over that boulder, running round that stone, flowing over that shingle. There is no stroke of the engine in it. As it runs past it seems to sing, "I flow, I flow, because I have got my home on high. I was born amongst the clouds; my fountain-head is up there. I must flow because I have come from on high." And the service which you and I want to render is that service which comes - not from external pressure, not because you have been pushed into the work, but because you are born from above.

And if this is the only right motive, I am certain that it is the only lasting power. What will keep a man really in earnest from the first day of January to the last day of December, and that year after year, but this? You often hear of laborers who have gone back. Why did they go back? Because, although they were engaged in the work of God, they did not know much of working for God. Nobody is ever likely to leave that which he loves, that in which he finds his highest happiness. Now, no one can work for God without being filled with delight. There is no temptation to give up God's work when it is done for his sake. Therefore, nothing will keep a man at white heat year after year but working for God.

The man who works from any other motive will, in all probability, only be anxious to get decently through his work. If he satisfies others, or, what is perhaps far easier, if he satisfies himself, he is quite content. But the very moment that a man works for God, his idea of service becomes higher. There will be conscience put into every stroke.

When a Grecian sculptor was carving a statue that was to stand in a niche in a heathen temple, many of his friends were surprised to see that he took as much pains with the back part of the statue as with that part which was to be

"CONSTRAINED... CONVINCED"

*L*ABORERS of Christ, arise,
And gird you for the toil!
The dew of promise from the skies
Already cheers the soil.

Go where the sick recline,
Where mourning hearts deplore;
And where the sons of sorrow pine,
Dispense your hallowed store.

Be faith, which looks above,
With prayer, your constant guest;
And wrap the Saviour's changeless love
A mantle round your breast.

So shall you share the wealth
That earth may ne'er despoil,
And the blest gospel's saving health
Repay your arduous toil.

in front. They said to him, "Why are you so careful about that part? It has to stand in a niche, and it will not be seen." "Because the gods will see it," said he. Ay, and if we preach, and teach, and give tracts, and speak for God, there will be in it the most solid, and the best work that we can put into every detail, because God will see it; it is done for him. I might give a second-rate article to any one else, but the choicest and best must be his. It will not only be the piece of work that the public sees, which will be carefully done - there will be thought, and care, and prayer, and holy jealousy exercised about every part, if I am working for God. And one more thing: Self will be kept out completely.

It is narrated of the great sculptor, Michael Angelo, that when at work he wore over his forehead, fastened on his artist's cap, a lighted candle, in order that no shadow from himself might fall on his work. His beautiful custom speaks an eloquent lesson to us; for the shadows that fall on our work, often fall from ourselves.

Michael Angelo was showing a visitor over his studio and pointed out how, on the great work on which he was engaged, he had polished this part, softened that, retouched this since his last visit. "Yes, I see," answered the visitor, "but these things are such trifles." "So they may be," replied the great master, "but remember that trifles make perfection, and perfection is no trifle."

The Hebrews have this saying, that God is more delighted with adverbs than with nouns. That is, it is more to God how a thing is done than simply what is done. What style of working for God, then, is to be ours? I think we must put at the very head of the list, working for God cheerfully. We read that the Israelites sighed and cried as they worked. I do not marvel at it; they were working for a Pharaoh, and under the lash of the task-master; they were working for those who gave them no straw with which to make their bricks. But when we are working for God - for our Father - for One who guarantees our strength, and supplies us with all materials, and who talks with us all the time we are doing our little work, and who forgives us all our blunders, and is so quick in love to accept it, there is something wrong with us if we do not do it cheerfully. I am persuaded that if we perform even the best work for God in any other spirit than that of holy cheerfulness, we libel God. We ought to make the world see that His service is perfect freedom; that if He had no Heaven for us, if there were no crown hereafter, and no "Well done! good and faithful servant," we would serve him just for the sheer joy of doing it.

Am I speaking to some naturally gloomy or depressed soul? I would recommend you to do what a child once did. As she was feeding her-

self with a spoon, the sun poured through the window and fell on the metal spoon, and she said, "Why, look, mother; I have swallowed a whole spoonful of sunshine!" It would be a splendid thing if we could get all God's workers to swallow two or three spoonfuls of sunshine, so that when we meet the outside world it would be constrained to acknowledge that, at all events, our Master treats us well.

It is comparatively easy to work by fits and by starts. But it is not so easy to keep on, and on, and on, and on! "How do you account for your success?" was once asked of Dr. Carey. "I account for it all, under God's blessing, by the fact that I have learned how to plod."

Adapted

CHRIST OUR SURETY

(cont'd from page 7)

temptations wherewith he is beset. Angels who were unacquainted with sin could not sympathize with man in his peculiar trials. Christ condescended to take man's nature and was tempted in all points like as we, that He might know how to succor all who should be tempted." 2T 201.

In this statement, notice in particular: "angels who were unacquainted with sin could not sympathize with man in his peculiar trials." It is quite clear that Jesus did take our nature, with all its accumulated woes, and with the possibility of falling a victim of sin.

"Christ clothed His divinity with humanity, and lived a life of prayer and self-denial, and of daily battle with temptation, that He might help those who today are assailed by temptation. He is our efficiency and power. He desires that through the appropriation of His grace humanity shall become partakers of the divine nature, and thus escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. The word of God in the Old and New Testaments, if faithfully studied and received into the life, will give spiritual wisdom and life. This word is to be sacredly cherished. Faith in the word of God and in the power of Christ to transform the life will enable the believer to work His works, and to live a life of rejoicing in the Lord." Series B, No. 10, p. 41.

Be not a modern Demas. No man can maintain his spirituality unimpaired, his love uninjured, his robe unspotted, his walk irreproachable, who secretly admits the world to his heart. What attraction can the throne of grace have, what zest can there be in spiritual duties, what delight in the communion of saints, while the heart goes out after covetousness and worldly ambition? Love of place and human applause are the rival passions of the soul (Winslow)
"Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world" (2 Timothy 4:10)



"I write unto you, young men..."

"I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one... Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 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; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." 1 John 2:13, 15-17.

"What a talented minister the Rev. Mr. B. is," I said to a friend one day. "His sermons are so good that I never like to miss one. I always feel that I have had a rich feast of true gospel meat whenever I listen to him, and I always go away with a stronger determination to live a better life."

"I know he preaches excellent sermons," my friend replied, "but I regret to say that they do not affect me as they do you. I am afraid I have a wrong feeling, but I cannot help it, and the secret is just this: A friend of mine, whose word I know is to be depended upon, once heard Mr. B. make a very uncharitable remark, a remark very unbecoming in any Christian, and much more so in a minister. It was made years

ago, but I always think of it whenever I hear him preach."

This remark of my friend set me to thinking more seriously on the subject of influence than I ever had thought before. Conscious influence you can know something about. When you try to influence a person you know what you are doing, and you usually know, too, whether you succeed or not. But what an utterly incomprehensible thing is unconscious influence! It is so vague, it eludes so effectually all of our efforts to touch or control it.

And there is much difference in their relative importance as there is in the size of a dwarf and a giant. I can count on my fingers all of the people whom I am aware of exerting an influence over, and I fear that the number of people whom I have tried very earnestly to influence would not be so large as to be unmanageable; but when I think of the hundreds with whom I have come in contact, either directly or indirectly, and that either for good or for evil they have been influenced by word or act of mine, I tremble for the result for which I am responsible.

How fruitless is the endeavor to make clean only the outside of the vessel, when the inside is full of filth which, sooner or later, will certainly be discovered! How necessary to keep our hearts clean and our thoughts pure, so that we will never exert an influence that will pile burning coals on our conscience sooner or later.

One day an old umbrella-mender brought his skeleton frames and tinkering tools into the alley at the back of my office. As he sat on a box, mending the broken and torn umbrellas, I noticed that he seemed to take unusual pains, testing the cloth, carefully measuring and strongly sewing the covers. Being always interested in anyone who does his work well, I went over to him.

"You seem extra careful," I remarked.

"Yes," he replied, without stopping his work. "I have always tried to do good work."

"Your customers would not know the difference until you were gone," I suggested.

"No, I suppose not."

"Do you ever expect to come back?"

"No."

"Then, why need you be so particular?"

"So that it will be easier for the next fellow who comes along," he answered, firmly. "If I put on shoddy cloth or do bad work, they will find it out before long, and the next mender who comes along will get the cold shoulder or the bulldog - see?"

Worrying about outward appearances is not enough. Let us, in the first place, live "in all good conscience" before God and men. Otherwise, how can we have a constructive influence on those who are watching us? Remember that our influence - one of the talents for which we are accountable to God (COL 339-341) - is not only a revelation of our own characters, but also a reflection upon the characters of those with whom we are associated in church fellowship. Outsiders will judge the whole congregation by what you and I are doing. Therefore, may God help us learn a lesson also from that Christian umbrella-mender!

"Gather up my influence and bury it with me," were the dying words of a young man to the weeping friends at his bedside. What a wish was this! what deep anguish of heart there must have been as the young man reflected upon his past life! - a life which had not been what it should have been. With what deep regrets must his very soul have been filled as he thought of those young men he had led astray by his evil influence, which, he felt, must be eradicated, and which led him faintly but plead-

ingly to breathe out such a dying request - "Gather up my influence and bury it with me."

"Among the many lessons taught by Solomon's life, none is more strongly emphasized than the power of influence for good or for ill. However contracted may be our sphere, we still exert an influence for weal or woe. Beyond our knowledge or control, it tells upon others in blessing or cursing. It may be heavy with the gloom of discontent and selfishness, or poisonous with the deadly taint of some cherished sin; or it may be charged with the life-giving power of faith, courage, and hope, and sweet with the fragrance of love. But potent for good or for ill it will surely be.

"That our influence should be a savor of death unto death is a fearful thought, yet it is possible. One soul misled, forfeiting eternal bliss - who can estimate the loss! And yet one rash act, one thoughtless word, on our part may exert so deep an influence on the life of another that it will prove the ruin of his soul. One blemish on the character may turn many away from Christ.

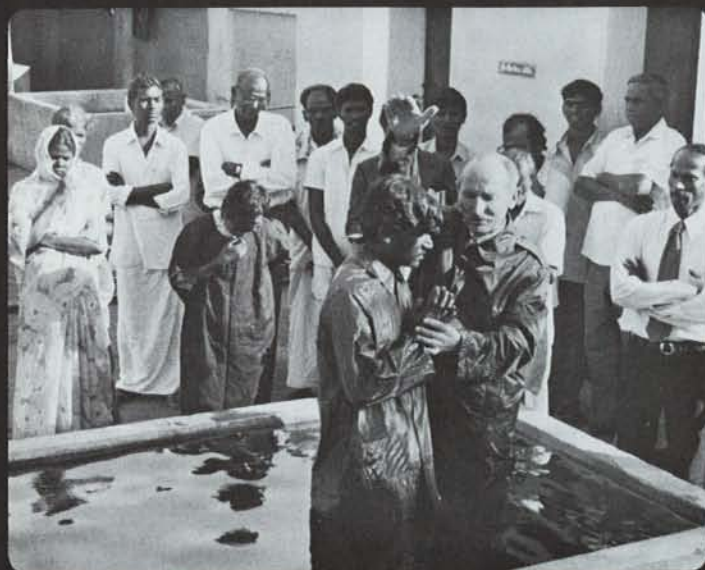
"As the seed sown produces a harvest, and this in turn is sown, the harvest is multiplied. In our relation to others, this law holds true. Every act, every word, is a seed that will bear fruit. Every deed of thoughtful kindness, of obedience, of self-denial, will reproduce itself in others, and through them in still others. So every act of envy, malice, or dissension is a seed that will spring up in a 'root of bitterness' whereby many shall be defiled. Hebrews 12:15. And how much larger number will the 'many' poison! Thus the sowing of good and evil goes on for time and for eternity." PK 85, 86.

My young friends, the influence of our lives, for good or evil, cannot be gathered up by our friends after our eyes are closed in death, no matter how earnestly we may plead in our last moments on earth. Our influence has gone out from us; we alone were responsible; we had the power to govern, to shape. Our influence no human being can withdraw. Such a request cannot be fulfilled. It is impossible. Our relatives and friends cannot "gather up our influence and bury it with us." Young men, let us live noble, true, heroic lives. Let us possess this "moral courage" in full proportions, and at all times - everywhere. - Adapted. ●

My Mom . . .

An eight-year-old's essay on "What Mom means to a Kid:" "A mother is a person who takes care of her kids and gets their meals and if she's not there when you get home from school, you wouldn't know how to get your dinner and you wouldn't feel like eating it anyhow."

- Capper's Weekly



Pictoria

First Column (left)

- 1) Philippine Union Conference Session (October, 1978)
- 2) Baptism in India (November, 1978)
- 3) Group of Reform believers and friends in Kerala, India

Second column

- 1) Delegates of South India Mission (November, 1978)
- 2) Meeting in Manado, Indonesia (December, 1978)
- 3) Brethren Devai and Sas with a group of Reform believers in Indonesia (December, 1978)



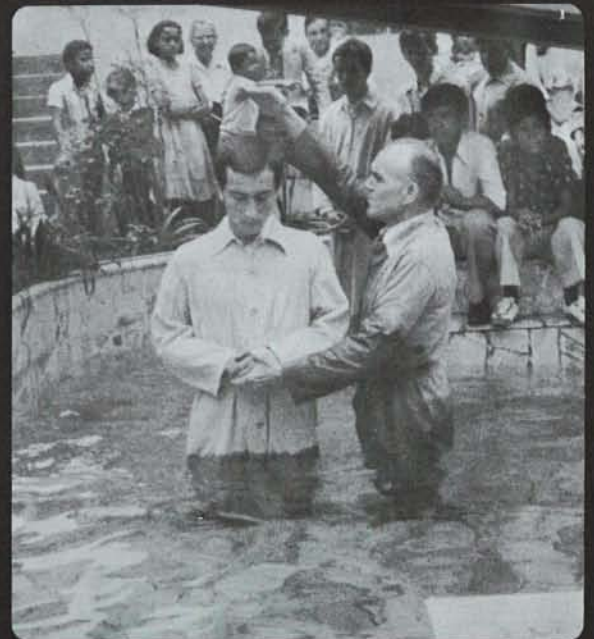
News

Third column

- 1) Bro. Devai with a group of Reform believers in Korea (September, 1978)
- 2) Baptism in Korea (September, 1978)
- 3) Bible seminar in Sydney, Australia (August-September, 1978)

Fourth column

- 1) Group of Reform believers in Burma
- 2) Baptism in S. Paulo, Brazil (February, 1979)
- 3) Baptism in the Dominican Republic (March, 1979)



"BEWARE..."

(cont'd from page 5)

enough truth to deceive souls. I will also have unbelieving ones present who will express doubts in regard to the Lord's messages of warning to His church. Should the people read and believe these admonitions, we could have little hope of overcoming them. But if we can divert their attention from these warnings, they will remain ignorant of our power and cunning, and we shall secure them in our ranks at last. God will not permit His words to be slighted with impunity. If we can keep souls deceived for a time, God's mercy will be withdrawn, and He will give them up to our full control.

"We must cause distraction and division. We must destroy their anxiety for their own souls, and lead them to criticize, to judge, and to accuse and condemn one another, and to cherish selfishness and enmity. For these sins, God banished us from His presence; and all who follow our example will meet a similar fate." TM 473-475.

Let us not underestimate the danger. Satan is on our track with stubborn perseverance. Although we cannot hear his voice, we can sense his evil suggestions, which are accepted by many who profess to know the truth.

"With the same temptation Satan approaches men, and here he has better success than with Christ. To men he offers the kingdom of this world on condition that they will acknowledge his supremacy. He requires that they sacrifice integrity, disregard conscience, indulge selfishness. Christ bids them seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; but Satan walks by their side and says: Whatever may be true in regard to life eternal, in order to make a success in this world you must serve me. I hold your welfare in my hands. I can give you riches, pleasures, honor, and happiness. Harken to my counsel. Do not allow yourselves to be carried away with whimsical notions of honesty or self-sacrifice. I will prepare the way before you. Thus multitudes are deceived. They consent to live for the service of self, and Satan is satisfied." DA 130.

While Satan rejoices at his success, he is also full of fears. Do you know what he fears the most?

"There is nothing that the great deceiver fears so much as that we shall become acquainted with his devices." GC 516.

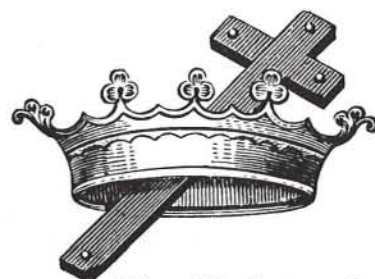
A Japanese wrestler was going to engage in a wrestling bout with an African muscleman. So, before long, the Japanese was seen sitting, in a very attentive mood, in the first row, next to the ring where the African was fighting with an-

other bonecrusher. The reason why the Japanese was watching his prospective opponent, was very evident: He wanted to see all the movements of his antagonist. When the day came for them to have their contest, the Japanese had an easy job beating the African. No wonder. Now he was familiar with all his tricks. Sometimes we can learn a lesson from those who are worldly-wise. This is true, especially, in our spiritual warfare.

Now let us turn the picture and consider the other side of it. The Bible assures us that, by the power of Christ, we can resist and overcome the devil: James 4:7; Philippians 4:13; Romans 8:37; Galatians 2:20.

"There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. If Satan had his way, there would never be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time. But we are not ignorant of his devices. It is possible to resist his power. When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come. Satan can no more hinder a shower of blessing from descending upon God's people than he can close the windows of heaven that rain cannot come upon the earth. Wicked men and devils cannot hinder the work of God, or shut out His presence from the assemblies of His people, if they will, with subdued, contrite hearts, confess and put away their sins, and in faith claim His promises. Every temptation, every opposing influence, whether open or secret, may be successfully resisted, 'not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts' (Zech. 4:6)." ISM 124.

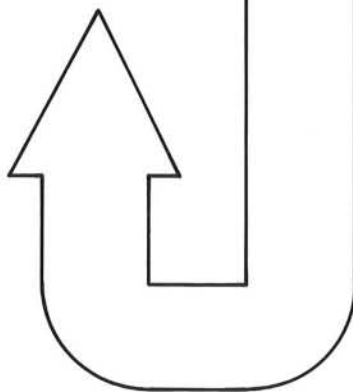
"Christ desires nothing so much as to redeem His heritage from the dominion of Satan. But before we are delivered from Satan's power without, we must be delivered from his power within. The Lord permits trials in order that we may be cleansed from earthliness, from selfishness, from harsh, unchristlike traits of character. He suffers the deep waters of affliction to go over our souls in order that we may know Him and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, in order that we may have deep heart longings to be cleansed from defilement, and may come forth from the trial purer, holier, happier. Often we enter the furnace of trial with our souls darkened with selfishness; but if patient under the crucial test, we shall come forth reflecting the divine character." COL 174, 175.



The Reformation Herald



E.G. White



WORKERS NEEDED

cept, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.¹

"Amidst the temptations that abound in these days, some will depart from the faith. Those who have been trying to quench their thirst at broken cisterns, which can hold no water, will have a misleading message to proclaim. They will speak smooth things. It is now, just now, that genuine gospel medical missionary work is to be done by men who acknowledge Christ as their master; who realize, as did Elijah and Jeremiah, that they hold their commission from God, and that they are accountable to God for the use made of the talents entrusted to them. God's workers are to acknowledge no earthly master. One higher than men, even Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, is their Master.

"Men are needed who can speak intelligently of the sacredness and the importance of the truth; men who can point their fellow-men to the needs of the present hour; men who have an inspiring message to bear against perverted principles; who watch for souls as they that must give an account, pointing souls to God's standard of righteousness.

"Many who have known the truth, but who have not nourished its principles in their hearts, will become leavened with evil. This evil they do not discern. In word and act they say, 'Speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits.' We are now to call things by their right name. No longer are we to look upon unrighteousness as righteousness. Let every one be prepared to lift up the standard of truth. We are to have no fellowship with the worldly practises that have perverted the faith of some who have enjoyed great privileges and who should now be standing on vantage ground.

"We are to respond to God's call to take a decided stand for truth and righteousness. No longer are we to bind up with worldly elements. The leaders in God's work are not to be men who do not know God, who have no experimental knowledge of God. They are to be men who love and fear God and Christ; otherwise, they must be relieved of their responsibilities.

"Satan is watching every opportunity to make of no account the old waymarks, the monuments that have been raised up along the way. We need the experience of the men who through evil report, as well as through good report, have been steadfast to the truth; men who have not built their house upon the sand, but upon the solid rock." Series B, No. 6, pp. 61-64.●

"We are living in the last days of this earth's history, and God calls upon those who have an understanding of the truth for this time to pray, to believe, to stand fast in the faith, proclaiming the message of mercy to be given to the world...

"There are those who today are standing in perilous places, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. From this time on, Satan will bring in deceptive influences of every kind. True, stanch, wholehearted believers are needed; men who are not fashioned after a worldly mould, but who see and realize that it is at this time that Satan's power will be exercised through believers who have not kept the beginning of their confidence firm unto the end.

"Workers are needed who understand that the warnings given in the word of God are appropriate for this time. Shall we not pray, and watch unto prayer, and see that we need to be reconverted? God's purpose for us is that we shall be constantly 'increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.'

"At this time we need men who are as true as steel to principle. We need the help of every one who has had an experience in the giving of the first and second angel's messages.

"There are those who have so linked themselves with the world that they have lost the knowledge of God, and are departing from the faith...

"The warning comes, 'As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain de-

COMMUNICATION

From: the GC secretary

March 30, 1979

To: all Unions, Fields and Missions

Dear Brethren,

By the grace of God we are coming to the end of another quadrennium - one more lap in our journey toward the promised land - and we must say, again, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.

The dates for the general gatherings, as announced in the Reformation Herald, Vol. XIX, No. 2, had to be changed as follows:

Youth Convention	Aug. 31, 7 p.m. - Sept. 6
Special Meetings	Sept. 7, 7 p.m. - Sept. 9
GC ExCo Meeting	Sept. 2, noon - Sept. 5
GC Council Meeting	Sept. 10, 8 a.m. - Sept. 11, noon
GC Delegation Session	Sept. 11, 7 p.m. - Sept. 28
GC Council Meeting	Sept. 30, 8 a.m. - Oct. 1
GC ExCo Meeting	Oct. 2, 8 a.m. - Oct. 10

These gatherings will be held at PARADISE LAKE CONFERENCE CENTER, Bushkill, Pennsylvania, approximately 100 miles from New York City.

Copies of "Special Invitation" are being forwarded to all Unions, Fields and Missions. Please read the information therein contained.

"Revival of Primitive Godliness" will be the motto of our prospective gatherings. The core of the studies to be presented during the meetings will reflect passages like these:

"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 will he 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.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20.

"Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children." GC 464.

August 25 will be a special day of fasting and prayer, in which all our brethren and friends in the Present Truth are invited to join us. For the success of the conference we should be making preparations well in advance. By the help of the Lord, let us prepare our hearts with daily confessions and supplications.

At the last GC ExCo meeting held during the early part of this year, different resolutions were made in connection with the prospective conference, transfer of workers, international trips to be made, finances, assistance to be given to new fields, etc. As the work of the Reform Movement is growing slowly but steadily, more frequent GC ExCo meetings have become necessary. The next GC ExCo meeting will begin June 3. Unions, Fields or Missions that have questions or recommendations on doctrine, church order, financial administration, etc., either for the GC ExCo or for the GC Delegation, should send in their points in advance. Those points that have to be submitted to the GC Delegation will be put on the agenda during the meeting scheduled for the early part of June. If anything comes in after the agenda has been completed, it will probably forfeit the attention of the Delegation.

Please read the information and instructions directed to all Unions, Fields and Missions, through the Reformation Herald, Vol. XIX, No. 2, pp. 16-18, which was sent to you.

You will certainly be anxious to hear about the development of the work in the different parts of the vineyard. Last year (1978), after his visit to Europe, where conferences and gatherings were held in different places, Bro. F. Devai spent some time in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, Burma, India, Indonesia, Australia. To some of these countries Bro. Devai went together with Bro. A.C. Sas. Many blessed meetings and conferences were held and new souls were added to the church during their missionary tour. In January and February

1979, brethren F. Devai, W. Volpp, B. Burec and A. Balbach were in South America attending two Union Conference sessions - one in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the other in S. Paulo, Brazil. Encouraging reports showing growth in membership were presented along with important experiences with the Lord. The main activity in the Brazilian Union is the ministry of the printed page. Their canvassers (230 in number at the conference last February) sold 200,000 books in 1978. The Lord has evidently been with His people and His work in these Unions.

After the conference in Brazil, Brethren Devai and Volpp went to attend the conference in Peru, from where Bro. Devai wrote:

"Praise be to God! We had a good conference at Puente Piedras, near Lima, where a new chapel is under construction. The Sabbath School was attended by over 400 adults and over 150 children. The youth congress and the course for canvassers were also a success. Twenty-five souls were baptized during the conference."

From Peru Bro. Devai proceeded to Venezuela, Central America and Mexico, and Bro. Volpp to South Africa. We will be expecting news about the new conferences they went to attend, together with some pictures, for publication in the next Reformation Herald.

Soon after my return to the USA, I heard from the Philippine Union. They write:

"Bro. P and Bro. L just arrived from Mindanao, informing us that 27 new souls were fellowshipped during their visit there."

I was also informed that, after Bro. Devai's last visit to Korea, over 30 new members were added to the church in that country.

These are just a few examples to show that our growth in membership is slow but steady. At the forthcoming GC Delegation session we will have reports - even detailed reports - from all parts of the vineyard. But let us always bear in mind that the most important growth in which we should take special interest is our spiritual growth. In the first place we should be striving "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12,13).

"A congregation may be the poorest in the land. It may be without the attraction of any outward show; but if the members possess the principles of the character of Christ, they will have His joy in their souls. Angels will unite with them in their worship. The praise and thanksgiving from grateful hearts will ascend to God as a sweet oblation." COL 298.

With best wishes to all of you, and remembering you and your work in my prayers, I will be looking forward to hearing from you soon. Please write me to: P.O. Box 312, Blackwood, NJ 08012, USA.

Your brother in Christ,
A. Balbach, secretary



THE FINAL CRISIS IS AT THE DOOR

"The Word of God plainly declares that His law is to be scorned, trampled upon, by the world; there will be an extraordinary prevalence of iniquity. The professed Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin, and the church and the world will be in corrupt harmony.

"Here the great crisis is coming upon the world. The Scriptures teach that popery is to regain its lost supremacy, and that the fires of persecution will be rekindled through the time-serving concessions of the so-called Protestant world." 2SM 367,368.

"The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering, - a battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition." GC 582.

"The Protestant world today see in the little company keeping the Sabbath a Mordecai in the gate. His character and conduct, expressing reverence for the law of God, are a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord and are trampling upon His Sabbath; the unwelcome intruder must by some means be put out of the way... Men of position and reputation will join with the lawless and the vile to take counsel against the people of God. Wealth, genius, education, will combine to cover them with contempt. Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church members will conspire against them. With voice and pen; by boasts, threats, and ridicule, they will seek to overthrow their faith. By false representations and angry appeals they will stir up the passions of the people. Not having a 'Thus saith the Scriptures' to bring against the advocates of the Bible Sabbath, they will resort to oppressive enactments to supply the lack. To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law. Those who fear God cannot accept an institution that violates a precept of the Decalogue. On this battlefield comes the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error." 5T 450,451.

E. G. WHITE ON POLITICS

"The Lord would have His people bury political questions. On these themes silence is eloquence. Christ calls upon His followers to come into unity on the pure gospel principles which are plainly revealed in the word of God. We cannot with safety vote for political parties; for we do not know whom we are voting for. We cannot with safety take part in any political schemes. We cannot labor to please men who will use their influence to repress religious liberty, and to set in operation oppressive measures to lead or compel their fellow men to keep Sunday as the Sabbath. The first day of the week is not a day to be revered. It is a spurious sabbath, and the members of the Lord's family cannot participate with the men who exalt this day, and violate the law of God by trampling upon His Sabbath. The people of God are not to vote to place such men in office; for when they do this, they are partakers with them of the sins which they commit while in office.

"We are not to compromise principle by yielding to the opinions and prejudices which we may have encouraged before we united with God's commandment-keeping people. We have enlisted in the army of the Lord, and we are not to fight on the enemy's side, but on the side of Christ, where we can be a united whole, in sentiment, in action, in spirit, in fellowship. Those who are Christians indeed will be branches of the true vine, and will bear the same fruit as the vine. They will act in harmony, in Christian fellowship. They will not wear political badges, but the badge of Christ.

"What are we to do, then? - Let political questions alone. 'Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?' What can there be in common between these parties? There can be no fellowship, no communion. The word fellowship means participation, partnership. God employs the strongest figures to show that there should be no union between worldly parties and those who are seeking the righteousness of Christ. What communion can there be between light and darkness, truth and unrighteousness? - None whatever. Light represents righteousness; darkness, error, sin, unrighteousness. Christians have come out of darkness into the light. They have put on Christ, and they wear the badge of truth and obedience. They are governed by the elevated and holy principles which Christ expressed in His life. But the

world is governed by principles of dishonesty and injustice.

"Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; but have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.' Two parties are here brought to view, and it is shown that there can be no union between them." FE 475-477.

"I call upon my brethren who are appointed to educate, to change their course of action. It is a mistake for you to link your interests with any political party, to cast your vote with them or for them. Those who stand as educators, as ministers, as laborers together with God in any line, have no battles to fight in the political world. Their citizenship is in heaven. The Lord calls upon them to stand as a separate and peculiar people. He would have no schisms in the body of believers. His people are to possess the elements of reconciliation. Is it their work to make enemies in the political world? - No, no. They are to stand as subjects of Christ's kingdom, bearing the banner on which is inscribed, 'The commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' They are to carry the burden of a special work, a special message. We have a personal responsibility, and this is to be revealed before the heavenly universe, before angels, and before men. God does not call upon us to enlarge our influence by mingling with society, by linking up with men on political questions, but by standing as individual parts of His great whole, with Christ as our head. Christ is our Prince, and as His subjects we are to do the work appointed us by God." FE 478, 479.

"In our periodicals we are not to exalt the work and characters of men in positions of influence, constantly keeping human beings before the people. But as much as you please you may uplift Christ our Savior. 'We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of

The Final Triumph of Truth

the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory (from character to character), even as by the Spirit of the Lord.¹ Those who love and serve God are to be the light of the world, shining amid moral darkness. But in the places which have been given the greatest light, where the gospel has been preached the most, the people - fathers, mothers, and children - have been moved by a power from beneath to unite their interests with worldly projects and enterprises." FE 480.

"Great blindness is upon the churches, and the Lord says to His people, 'What agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.'

"The condition of being received into the Lord's family is coming out from the world, separating from all its contaminating influences. The people of God are to have no connection with idolatry in any of its forms. They are to reach a higher standard. We are to be distinguished from the world, and then God says, 'I will receive you as members of My royal family, children of the heavenly King.' As believers in the truth we are to be distinct in practice from sin and sinners. Our citizenship is in heaven." FE 480,481.

"The Lord desires all who bear the message for these last days to understand that there is a great difference between professors of religion who are not doers of the word, and the children of God, who are sanctified through the truth, who have that faith that works by love and purifies the soul. The Lord speaks of those who claim to believe the truth for this time, yet see nothing inconsistent in their taking part in politics, mingling with the contending elements of these last days, as the circumcised who mingle with the uncircumcised, and He declares that He will destroy both classes together without distinction. They are doing a work that God has not set them to do. They dishonor God by their party spirit and contention, and He will condemn both alike.

"The question may be asked, Are we to have no union whatever with the world? The word of the Lord is to be our guide. Any connection with infidels and unbelievers which would identify us with them is forbidden by the word. We are to come out from them and be separate. In no case are we to link ourselves with them in their plans or work." FE 482. ●



There are two freedoms — the false, where one is free to do what he likes, and the true, where one is free to do what he ought.

Charles Kingsley

If we try to look objectively at the organized work of the Reform Movement today and compare our numbers, our facilities, our working force, our financial resources with that of other religious organizations, we are not likely to be drawn into the Laodicean temptation to boast of being "rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing." It is in fact very easy for doubt and discouragement to beset our pathway if we draw shortsighted conclusions as to what God regards as success. "It is not numerous institutions, large buildings, or great display that God requires, but the harmonious action of a peculiar people, a people chosen by God and precious." 6T 293. "Character is given to the work not by investing means in large buildings, but by maintaining the true standard of religious principles." 7T 92. "The greatest victories which are gained to the cause of God are not by labored arguments, ample facilities, abundance of influence, and plenty of means, but they are those victories which are gained in the audience chamber with God, when earnest agonizing faith lays hold upon the mighty arm of power." 4T 443,444.

It is one of the identifying characteristics of the remnant at this time that, generally speaking, they will be "a poor and afflicted people," but this does not mean that God has no resources to provide for the expansion of the work and the support of His self-sacrificing workers. "God's work is now to advance rapidly, and if His people will respond to His call, He will make the possessors of property willing to donate of their means and thus make it possible for His work to be accomplished in the earth... We are to encourage in one another that living faith which Christ has made it possible for every believer to have. The work is to be carried forward as the Lord prepares the way." 9T 272,273.

"The truth is soon to triumph gloriously, and all who now choose to be laborers together with God will triumph with it." 9T 135.

"Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm in the holy mountain. Gather the host of the Lord, with sanctified hearts, to hear what the Lord will say unto His people; for He has increased light for all who will hear. Let them be armed and equipped, and come up to the battle - to the help of the Lord against the mighty. God Himself will work for Israel. Every lying tongue will be silenced. Angels' hands will overthrow the deceptive schemes that are being formed. The bulwarks of Satan will never triumph. Victory will attend the third angel's message. As the Captain of the Lord's host tore down the walls of Jericho, so will the Lord's commandment-keeping people triumph, and all opposing elements be defeated." TM 410. ●





Part I

THE ANGEL OF REVELATION 18 AND THE MESSAGE OF 1888

By A. Balbach

"And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory." Revelation 18:1.

For the finishing of His work on earth, God gave us three messages (Revelation 14) by which we are to be prepared to stand in the great day of the Lord. They are the present truth for today. The way how we treat these messages determines our position before God and decides our destiny either for salvation or perdition. "The true understanding of these messages is of vital importance. The destiny of souls hangs upon the manner in which they are received." EW 258, 259. Revelation 14 is evidently a life-or-death question in which the great deceiver takes special interest. As a matter of fact, he is doing his best to weaken our grasp of the present truth. "Satan is constantly seeking to cast a shadow about these messages, so that the people of God shall not clearly discern their import, their time and place." 6T 18. And, unfortunately, he has had much success among the professed people of God.

I - WHY THE ANGEL OF REVELATION 18 MUST COME

"Satan has devised a state of things whereby the proclamation of the third angel's message shall be bound about. We must beware of his plans and methods. There must be no toning down of the truth, no muffling of the message for this time. The third angel's message must be strengthened and confirmed. The eighteenth chapter of Revelation reveals the importance of presenting the truth in no measured terms but with boldness and power... There has been too much beating about the bush in the proclamation of the third angel's message. The message has not been given as clearly and distinctly as it should have been." Ev 230.

"The third angel's message is to be given with power. The pow-

er of the proclamation of the first and second messages is to be intensified in the third. In the Revelation John says of the heavenly messenger who unites with the third angel: 'I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice. Revelation 18:1,2. We are in danger of giving the third angel's message in so indefinite a manner that it does not impress the people. So many other interests are brought in that the very message which should be proclaimed with power becomes tame and voiceless.' 6T 60.

The angel of Revelation 18 is to lift up the banner of the three-fold message which was left to trail in the dust. The following testimonies will shed more light on this point:

"I saw another mighty angel commissioned to descend to the earth, to unite his voice with the third angel, and give power and force to his message." EW 277.

"As foretold in the eighteenth of Revelation, the third angel's message is to be proclaimed with great power by those who give the final warning against the beast and his image: ... (Revelation 18:1-6 quoted) ... This is the message given by God to be sounded forth in the loud cry of the third angel ... It is a solemn and terrible truth that many who have been zealous in proclaiming the third angel's message are now becoming listless and indifferent! The line of demarcation between worldlings and many professed Christians is almost indistinguishable. Many who once were earnest Adventists are conforming to the world - to its practices, its customs, its selfishness. Instead of leading the world to render obedience to God's law, the church is uniting more and more closely with the world in transgression. Daily the church is becoming converted to the world..." 8T 118, 119.

"Satan has laid every measure possible that nothing shall come among us as a people to reprove and rebuke us, and exhort us to put away our errors. But there is a people who will bear the ark of God... They will proclaim the word of the Lord; they will lift up their voice like a trumpet. The truth will not be diminished or lose its power in their hands. They will show the people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins." TM 411.

II - MINNEAPOLIS, THE TURNING POINT

1888 marked a critical period for the SDA Church. In this same year and in the following years the church was called upon to choose between vital issues and thus decide her destiny. The servant of the Lord wrote:

1. The beginning of the light (1888)

"I know that a work must be done for the people, or many will not be prepared to receive the light of the angel sent down from heaven to lighten the whole earth with his glory." TM 468, 469.

"If we would receive the light of the glorious angel that shall lighten the earth with his glory, let us see to it that our hearts are cleansed, emptied of self, and turned toward heaven, that they may be ready for the latter rain. Let us be obtaining a fitting up to join in the proclamation of the angel who shall lighten the earth with his glory. Let us be co-laborers with Christ." ST August 1, 1892.

"The work will grow deeper and become more earnest to the very close of time. And all who are laborers together with God will contend most earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. They will not be turned from the present message, which is already lightening the earth with its glory." 2SM 114.

"The time of test is just upon us, for the loud cry of the third angel has already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ, the sin-pardoning Redeemer. This is the beginning of the light of the angel whose glory shall fill the whole earth." 1SM 363.

"The whole of Revelation 18 will be fulfilled in the glorious closing of this work. It hasn't yet been fulfilled, and yet the light of the fourth angel's message began to shine in that strange and im-

pressive way at Minneapolis." Letter 106.

"The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God." TM 91, 92.

2. Only a few can see the light

"We are living in the last days, and the generation that is to witness the final destruction has not been left without warning of the hastening judgments of God. Says the apostle, ... (Rev. 18:1-5 quoted) ... The whole earth is to be lightened with the glory of this message, and hearts and minds will be prepared by its reception, for the coming of the king of kings. But this gracious message will be as generally rejected by the professed Christian world, as was the message of the Messiah by the Jewish nation. Only a few will receive the testimony of truth, for every influence that Satan can bring to bear against the reception of the truth of God will be employed... The question of most vital importance for this time is, 'Who is on the Lord's side? Who will unite with the world? Who will receive the light that is to fill the whole earth with its glory?' Those who cherish the light that they have, will receive more. Increasing light will shine about the souls who yield to the softening, subduing grace of Christ; and those who love the light, will be saved from the delusions of Satan." RH November 5, 1889.

"For nearly two years we have been urging the people to come up and accept the light and the truth concerning the righteousness of Christ, and they do not know whether to come and take hold of this precious truth or not... They do not let the Saviour in." RH March 11, 1890.

"O how few know the day of their visitation! ... How few there are who are truly humble, devoted, God-fearing servants..."

"Today there are few who are heartily serving God. The most of those who compose our congregations are spiritually dead in trespasses and sins... They are less

and less sensible of the preciousness and value of truth, because they neglect the practice of those things which are pleasing in the sight of God. The stirring testimonies of reproof and warning do not arouse them. The sweetest melodies that come from God through human lips - justification by faith, and the righteousness of Christ - do not bring forth from them a response of love and gratitude. Though the heavenly merchantman displays before them the richest jewels of faith and love, though his voice invites them to buy of him 'gold tried in the fire,' and 'white raiment that they may be clothed,' and 'eye-salve that they may see,' they steel their hearts against him, and fail to exchange their lukewarmness for love and zeal; but fold their hands in complacency, make a profession, but deny the power of true godliness. If they continue in this state, God will reject them with abhorrence. To praise the world and God at the same time, is in no way acceptable to God. Awake, Awake, before it is everlastingly too late." RH April 4, 1893.

3. There is a time limit

The counsel of the Faithful and True Witness to Laodicea (Rev. 3:18-20) was offered to remedy the situation while there was still hope. Sister White wrote:

"The message given us by A. T. Jones and E. J. Waggoner is the message of God to the Laodicean church, and woe be unto anyone who professes to believe the truth, and yet does not reflect to others the God-given rays." MS 24, 1892.

"There is yet a chance to remedy their state, and the Laodicean message is full of encouragement; for the backslidden church may yet buy the gold of faith and love, may yet have the white robe of the righteousness of Christ, that the shame of their nakedness need not appear." RH August 28, 1894.

"Brethren, your own lamps will surely flicker and glow dim until they go out in darkness unless you make decided efforts to reform. 'Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works.' The opportunity now presented may be short. If this season of grace and repentance passes unimproved, the warning is given: 'I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place.' ... But His Spirit will not always strive. His patience will wait but little longer." 5T 612. (1889)

"It is not God that puts the blinder before the eyes of men or makes their hearts hard; it is the light which God sends to His people, to correct their errors, to lead them in safe paths, but which they refuse to accept, - it is this that blinds their minds and hardens their hearts. They choose to turn from the light, to stubbornly walk in sparks of their own kindling, and the Lord positively declares that they shall lie down in sorrow. When one ray of light which the Lord sends is not acknowledged, there is a partial benumbing of the spiritual perceptions, and the second revealing of light is less clearly discerned, and so the darkness will constantly increase until it is night to the soul. Christ said, 'How great is that darkness!'"

"It is an astonishment to the whole universe that men do not see and do not acknowledge the bright beams of light that are shining upon them; but if they close their hearts to the light, and pervert the truth until it is interpreted to be darkness, they will imagine that their own criticism and unbelief is light, and will not confess their opposition to the ways and works of God. By pursuing a course like this, men who might have stood fast to the end, will place their influence against the message and messenger that God sends. But in the day of judgment, when the question is asked, 'Why did you intercept yourself, your judgment and influence, between the people and the message of God?' they will have nothing to answer... May the Lord forbid that the history of the children of Israel in departing from God, in refusing to walk in the light, in refusing to confess their sins of unbelief and rejection of His messages, should be the experience of the people claiming to believe the truth for this time. For if they do as did the children of Israel in the face of warnings and admonitions, the same result will follow in these last days as came upon the children of Israel... When the Lord sends light to His people, He means that they shall be attentive to hear and ready to receive the message. In great forbearance, he waits for man to come to His terms. For 120 years He waited for the people of the old world to receive the warning of the flood. Those who rejected the message turned His long forbearance and patience into an occasion of scorn and unbelief. The message and messenger became the

butt of their ridicule... God is not in a hurry to carry out His plans; for He is from everlasting to everlasting. He gives light and opens His truth more fully to those whom He would have to receive it, that they in their turn may take up the words of warning and encouragement, and give them to others. If men of repute and intelligence refuse to do this, the Lord will choose other instruments, honoring those who are looked upon as inferior." RH October 21, 1890.

"The Lord has seen our backslidings, and He has a controversy with His people... The displeasure of the Lord is against His people. In their present condition it is impossible for them to represent the character of Christ... They have refused to receive the message; they have refused to come to the light, lest their deeds should be reproved... The time will come when it must be said of the impenitent, 'Ephraim is joined to his idols; let him alone.' Will the church see where she has fallen? ... When the members of the church humble themselves before God by zealous, not half-hearted, lifeless action, the Lord will receive them. But He declares, 'I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.' How long shall this warning be resisted? - The church is like the unproductive tree ... on which the divine search discovers nothing but leaves. Solemn thought for our churches! solemn, indeed, for every individual! Marvelous is the patience and forbearance of God; but 'except thou repent,' it will be exhausted; the churches, our institutions, will go from weakness to weakness, from cold formality to deadness, while they are saying, 'I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.'" RH (Extra) December 23, 1890.

"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.' What effect have these words had upon the church? Have the professed people of God understood the import of the words, 'I will come unto thee quickly (when you are at ease, careless, filled with spiritual negligence), and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.' When warnings come no more to the people of God, when tender admonitions from the Spirit of God are

silent, when the candle of heavenly illumination shines no longer upon their pathway, they will be left to kindle their own fire, and to walk in the sparks of their own kindling." - RH April 4, 1893. (The words in parenthesis appear in the original).

From the foregoing quotations we see that the presentation of Christ and His righteousness led the church to the place where she was given:

(1) a short time to decide her destiny,

(2) the opportunity to decide between:

(a) a genuine revival and reformation or

(b) removal of her candlestick.

If the church accepted the special help sent to her, it would not be too late for her to avert the impending denominational disaster. But if she failed to improve the opportunity given her for revival and reformation, the removal of her candlestick would be marked by the cessation of God's warnings and admonitions.

III - THE CHURCH DECIDES HER DESTINY

It is not generally known among Adventists that "the message of the other angel" was rejected.

1. The message is rejected

Sister White wrote:

"Now our meeting is drawing to a close and not one confession has been made, there has not been a single break so as to let the Spirit of God in. Now I was saying, What was the use of our assembling here together and for our ministering brethren to come in if they are here only to shut out the Spirit of God from the people? ... If the ministers will not receive the light, I want to give the people a chance; perhaps they may receive it..." MS 9, 1888.

"If you wait for light to come in a way that will please every one, you will wait in vain. If you wait for louder calls or better opportunities, the light will be withdrawn, and you will be left in darkness. Grasp every ray of light that God sends. Men who neglect to heed the calls of the Spirit and the word of God, because obedience involves a cross, will lose their souls." RH December 18, 1888.

"I have tried to present the message to you as I have understood it, but how long will those at the

head of the work keep themselves aloof from the message of God?" RH March 18, 1890.

"If they have not recognized the Spirit of the Lord in the messages I have borne they will recognize it less now, for I have not strength to contend with the spirit, and resistance, doubts and unbelief which have barricaded their souls, that they could not see when good cometh. I have far greater liberty in speaking to unbelievers. They are interested. They feel impressed by the Spirit of God, and say it seems those words are spoken under the inspiration of the Spirit of God.

"O, it is the hardest place in the world, to speak where great light has come, to men in responsible positions. They have been enlightened, but have chosen darkness rather than light..." Letter W-32, 1890.

"The same spirit that actuated the rejectors of Christ, rankles in their hearts, and had they lived in the days of Christ, they would have acted toward Him in a manner similar to that of the godless and unbelieving Jews." Special Testimonies to R & H Office, pp. 16, 17.

"I can never forget the experience which we had in Minneapolis, or the things which were then revealed to me in regard to the spirit that controlled men, the words spoken, the actions done in obedience to the powers of evil... They were moved at the meeting by another spirit." Letter S-24, 1892.

"An unwillingness to yield up preconceived opinions, and to accept this truth, lay at the foundation of a large share of the opposition manifested at Minneapolis against the Lord's message through Brethren (E.J.) Waggoner and (A.T.) Jones... The light that is to lighten the whole earth with its glory was resisted, and by the action of our own brethren has been in a great degree kept away from the world." ISM 234, 235.

"If Satan can impress the mind and stir up the passions of those who claim to believe the truth, and thus lead them to unite with the forces of evil, he is well pleased. If once he can get them to commit themselves to the wrong side, he has laid his plans to lead them on a long journey..."

"I wish to plead with our brethren who shall assemble at the General Conference to heed the message

given to the Laodiceans. What a condition of blindness is theirs; this subject (the message of 1888) has been brought to your notice again and again; but your dissatisfaction with your spiritual condition has not been deep and painful enough to work a reform. 'Thou sayest I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.' The guilt of self-deception is upon our churches." Letter to O.A. Olsen, September 1, 1892, O.19, d'92.

"I saw that Jones and Waggoner had their counterpart in Joshua and Caleb. As the children of Israel stoned the spies with literal stones, you have stoned these brethren with stones of sarcasm and ridicule. I saw that you willfully rejected what you knew to be truth, just because it was too humiliating to your dignity. I saw some of you in your tents mimicking and making all manner of fun of these two brethren. I also saw that if you had accepted their message, we would have been in the kingdom two years from that date, but now we have to go back into the wilderness and there stay forty years." Melbourne, Australia, May 9th, 1892, (Gen. Conf. Bul., 1892).

"We should be the last people on earth to indulge in the slightest degree the spirit of persecution against those who are bearing the message of God to the world. This is the most terrible feature of unchristlikeness that has manifested itself among us since the Minneapolis meeting. Sometime it will be seen in its true bearing, with all the burden of woes that has resulted from it." GCB 1893, p. 184.

"Our own people opposed the work of God by refusing the light of truth on the righteousness of Christ by faith. This they should have received and re-echoed with heart and voice and pen... But when light has come to those at the center of the work, they have not known how to treat it." TM 401, 402. (1897)

2. The messenger is rejected

The rejection of the message implies the rejection of the messenger - the angel of Revelation 18.

The angel of Revelation 18 symbolizes a movement. The servant of the Lord refers to "the movement symbolized by the angel

coming down from heaven, lightening the earth with his glory" (GC 604). In this movement, both divine and human agents take an active part. In Revelation 18 it is actually the Holy Spirit that lightens the earth with His glory (ChS 253). He is also to seal the sighing and crying ones (3T 267) with the seal of the living God.

Literal angels certainly participate in the sealing of the 144,000 (Heb. 1:13, 14; PK 591). And consecrated human beings have their share, too, in the closing work.

"The angels are represented as flying in the midst of heaven, proclaiming to the world a message of warning, and having a direct bearing upon the people living in the last days of this earth's history. No one hears the voice of these angels, for they are a symbol to represent the people of God who are working in harmony with the universe of heaven. Men and women, enlightened by the Spirit of God and sanctified through the truth, proclaim the three messages in their order." 2SM 387.

So, if "the message of the other angel" (1888) was rejected, this means that the men who brought the message were rejected, the angels who attended these men were rejected, and also the Holy Spirit that used these men was rejected. Sister White wrote:

"Now, just now, is our day of mercy and salvation. The Lord God, who dwelleth in the holy place, sees every soul that shows contempt for the manifestations of His Holy Spirit. God has revealed himself again and again in a most marked manner in Battle Creek. He has given a large measure of His Holy Spirit to the believers there. It has come unexpectedly at times... Some felt annoyed at this outpouring, and their own natural dispositions were manifested. They said, 'This is only excitement; it is not the Holy Spirit, not showers of the latter rain from heaven.'" Special Testimonies, Series A, No. 6, p. 19. (1896).

"The heavenly messenger has been repulsed by the determined will. 'Thus far shalt thou go with my students, but no farther. We need no enthusiasm in our school, no excitement. We are much better satisfied to work with the students ourselves.' It is thus that despite has been done to God's gracious messenger, the Holy Spirit.

"Are not the teachers in our schools in danger of blasphemy of charging the Holy Spirit of God with being a deceiving power, and leading into fanaticism?" Special Testimonies, Series A, No. 7, p. 31 (1896).

"On many occasions the Holy Spirit did work; but those who resisted the Spirit of God at Minneapolis were waiting for a chance to travel over the same ground again, because their spirit was the same." Special Testimonies, Series A, No. 6, pp. 19, 20 (1896).

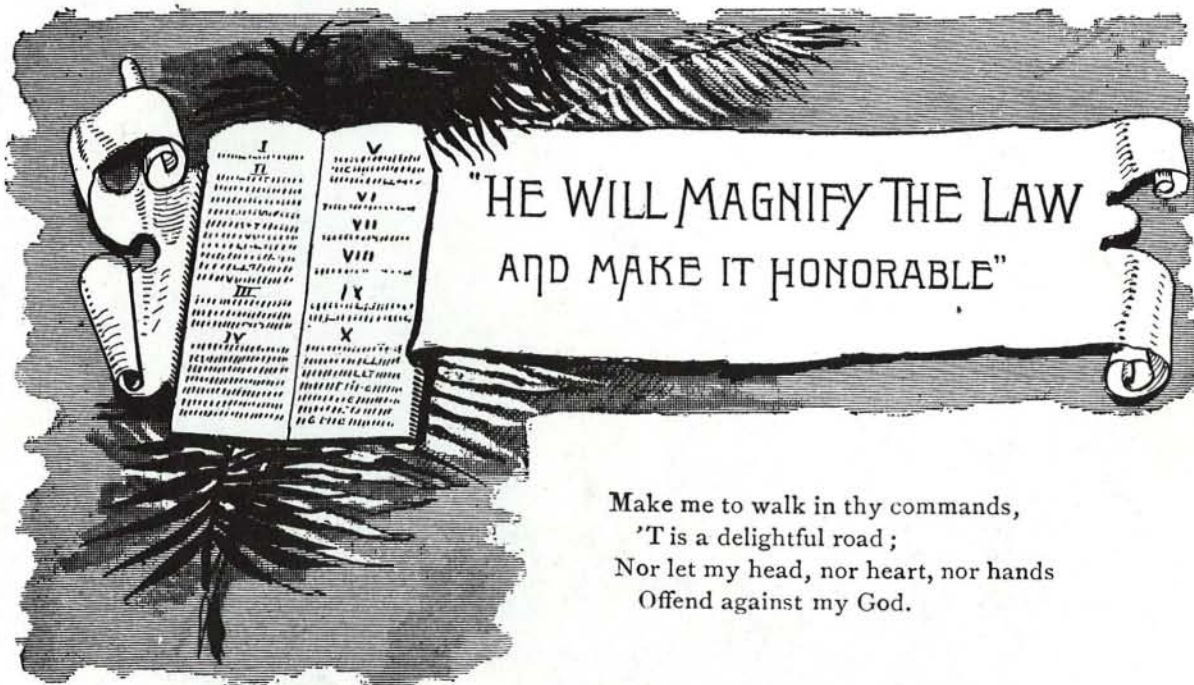
"The sin committed in what took place at Minneapolis remains on the record books of heaven... And

when these persons are tried, and brought over the ground again, the same spirit will be revealed. When the Lord has sufficiently tried them, if they do not yield to Him, He will withdraw His Holy Spirit...

"A succession of showers from the living waters has come to you at Battle Creek... but you did not recognize it as such. Instead of drinking copiously of the streams of salvation, so freely offered through the influence of the Holy Spirit, you turned to common sewers, and tried to satisfy your soul-thirst with the polluted waters

of human science. The result has been parched hearts in the schools and in the church... But I hope the teachers have not yet passed the line where they are given over to hardness of heart and blindness of mind." Special Testimonies to Ministers and Workers, No. 7, p. 32. (1897)

The faithful few, who at that time accepted the message, were powerless to reform the church. Nevertheless, 1888 marked the beginning of the prophesied movement of revival and reformation, which was more fully revealed in another crisis, when open apostasy brought a major separation.●



Make me to walk in thy commands,
'T is a delightful road ;
Nor let my head, nor heart, nor hands
Offend against my God.



<p>FROM:</p>	<p>TO:</p>
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