

some are doing. We celebrated the ordinances, and held an election of officers, at most of the places we visited. The Lord came very near, and gave us precious seasons with the brethren. We are sorry to see that in some of our churches, some of the older members are not in so good a spiritual condition as they should be. This is especially the case with those who have lost faith in the "Testimonies." We find among the Scandinavians, as well as among the Americans, that those who have but little faith in the "Testimonies," have but little faith in helping the cause, and are robbing God in tithes and offerings.

There are openings and calls for labor among the Scandinavians in many places in this State. May God give us more faithful workers.

Dec. 30.

P. L. HOEN.

A GOOD WORD FROM WASHINGTON.

FROM a private letter from W. H. Saxby, Washington, D. C., we take the liberty to publish the following:—

"My heart is filled with gratitude this morning, from our experience last evening. We carried out the program quite fully in our Christmas exercises. Our donations two years ago were about forty dollars; last year, fifty-eight dollars; last evening, \$162.25. I rejoice when I see what the Spirit of God has wrought upon the hearts of this little company. Two more have accepted the truth during the last week."

THE WEEK OF PRAYER AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

THE week of prayer was a season of refreshing to the Kansas City church. The daily readings had a good effect. Meetings were held twice each day, except on Friday; while on the fast days four or five services were held each day. The children were not neglected, several meetings being held especially for their benefit. During the entire week the attendance was good, and a number of those not of our faith came in. One meeting was held for the benefit of those who expect to solicit signatures to the petitions.

On Sabbath, at the praise meeting, over fifty testimonies were given in quick succession, all testifying to the goodness of God. The Christmas program was fully carried out. The donations amounted to \$61.73. The cause is onward in this city, and we feel hopeful and of good courage, believing that God is blessing the work here.

D. T. SHIREMAN.

CANVASSING IN ARKANSAS.

THAT the South is a more difficult and less desirable field of labor than the North, is attested by all who come here. There are several plausible reasons for this, the principal one being the want of means. The whole country was impoverished by the war. It is generally felt here that the war "desolated the South and enriched the North." This not only still has its depressing influence, but there is an aversion to paying a Northern man much for his labor; and a prejudice also exists against his teaching.

The want of internal commerce, such as manufacturing establishments, railroad traffic, etc., depresses the home markets; and such things as rags, old iron, and many of the commodities of life—including eggs, butter, and vegetables of all kinds—either find no market, or are of so little value that no account is made of them. There are, of course, exceptions to the above statement, but this is true of the field in general; and the expense attending the work of the ministry,—such as tents, camp-meetings, traveling expenses, and necessary wages,—brings a burden which the people are unable to bear, even though their hearts are ever so willing, especially when we realize that it is almost universally the poorer classes who embrace the truth.

To carry the message, therefore, to these people in the manner done in the North, presents almost insurmountable difficulties; but we feel very thankful to our Heavenly Father that another and perhaps a more effectual means is opening up before us,—one in which, thus far in this State, the hand of God has been leading out,—and our hearts are rejoicing in it. I refer to the canvassing work. In this our consecrated men and women can engage successfully; and when we can employ those natives of the South who have shared the defeats of the Confederate side of the Rebellion, it allays all

feeling, and the hearts and homes of the people are open to receive them. This has been our object; and the success we have had has been beyond expectation.

One brother writes:—

I have taken thirty-six orders for "Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation" in six days. People often try to get me to stay longer, and tell them more about the truth. They thank me for coming, and ask me to come again. A lady happened to call at one place where I was stopping. She said she had been praying for light. I gave her a canvass, and she said it was just the light she wanted. She wept like a child, and I have every reason to believe she will soon keep the Sabbath. I entered a steam saw-mill, and walking up to the owner, asked to engage his time for a few moments. He suspended his business and listened patiently; and the result was that I sold him the book. I feel proud of the book I have to show, and I throw my whole soul into each canvass as though it were my last before probation ends. Is it not glorious to be a co-laborer with Jesus Christ? Why do not all our people desire to work in the vineyard of the Lord? The wages are high, and the pay is sure.

This brother spent five years in the rebel cause. One day, while in company with him, we called to visit an old lady who supposed we were both "Yankees." She soon began a lamentation of how the Yankees had come South and taken all her slaves, and ruined her home and happiness. "And now," she said, "they come in with their new religions and Yankee notions, just to break up our society," etc. When our brother had listened a sufficient length of time, he said to her, "Madam, I fought just as hard to save the negroes as you did, and have suffered just as much in consequence of the war." "Did you, indeed?" she said. "Are you a Southerner?" When informed that he was, she was so profuse in her kindness and hospitality that he could scarcely get away from her home. I am satisfied that the more of the real Southern element we can induce to engage in the work, the greater will be our success. The "color line" is here, and will remain until custom changes, as will also the prejudice against the Northerners; and each must abide its own time.

Another company of four average workers have sold and delivered over \$600 worth of books in eleven weeks, and would have delivered \$100 worth more, had not delays occurred. Another brother is steadily at work, taking from twenty to thirty orders per week for "Marvel of Nations" and the "Bible Readings;" and several others in the State are at work, with good success. Our work, however, is just begun. With the Lord's help, we expect to see missionaries in every part of the State. Will not our brethren and sisters who are longing to do something in this precious cause, take this matter to the Lord in prayer, and consecrate themselves to his service, and write to me when they are ready to enter the field? Arrangements are being made for several companies to go out Jan. 1. We would like to hear from all who wish to join us.

The question might be asked, Why do the people in the South subscribe for books so freely when they are so poor? 1. Because it is God's way of presenting the truth before the people. 2. Because the Southern people are not overstocked with literature, and they are hungry for something to read. 3. Because they are liberal with what money they do have, and will freely purchase when approached in the right manner. 4. Because there are not such numbers of canvassers throughout the South as in the North. Several good results of the canvassers' work may already be seen. We are very thankful for success, and know that the hand of God is with us. One recent conversion in our State is worthy of mention.

A minister of the — denomination, getting a salary of \$900 a year, was called into Texas last summer to defend his church against the "tent work" of two of our brethren. He listened to them three evenings, and returned home, telling his brethren that he "might as well try to turn the Mississippi River up stream as to defeat those men," and that to "defeat them would be to defeat the word of God." He began to preach the perpetuity of the law to his congregations, who soon showed their disapproval by giving him his discharge. Discouraged with his own people, he embraced the Sabbath and all he had learned of our faith, and now comes to us to engage in the canvassing work or in anything we desire him to do. He needs the prayers of our people that he may be sustained.

God is merciful to us. To him be all the praise and honor. "O that men would praise the Lord

for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men." J. P. HENDERSON.

THE MEETING AT MONTEREY, MICH.

THE quarterly meeting for Dist. No. 4, Mich., was held at Monterey, Dec. 15, 16. It was largely attended, and proved to be one of the best held in this district for some time. The meeting was preceded by the labors of Eld. Burrill for two weeks, which had aroused considerable interest in that place. Eld. Corliss, also Eld. Root, our director, were present, and gave excellent instruction. The Constitutional Amendment and the Blair Sunday bill received special attention. The interests of the Sabbath-school were looked after by Bro. G. W. Morse, who gave valuable instruction, especially on the methods of studying the lesson. The meeting closed with such an interest, both in and outside the church, that it was thought best for Bro. Burrill to remain and follow it up; and his efforts have been greatly blessed of God.

The following recommendations were introduced by the director, and adopted:—

That we recommend an immediate, thorough, and systematic circulation of the petitions throughout the district.

That the *Sentinel* and "Sentinel tracts" be especially circulated.

That Bible readings on National Reform be given in all our churches, and be made a subject of special study at home.

That a committee be appointed to settle with the district secretary.

That each consider it a part of his Christian duty to visit the lonely ones, and pray with them.

We are sure that if these recommendations which refer to labor, are carried out, our next district meeting may be even more interesting.

EMMA J. BUCK, Sec.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT.

As the work of the canvasser is one of sowing, not of reaping, his opportunities of seeing his labors bear fruit are few, compared with those of the minister or Bible worker. Hence he does not have the pleasure and encouragement of seeing those for whom he labors rejoicing in the truth, but with the eye of faith he must look forward to the great reaping time, for the result of his work. Although this is the rule, there are some happy exceptions, and for the encouragement of our fellow-workers we will narrate one which has been a great source of encouragement to our company.

A member of the company, while returning from work, on the cars, engaged in conversation with the conductor, which resulted in the canvasser's loaning him "Great Controversy." Not long after this, another of the company learned from the conductor that he was reading the book with great interest. This interview resulted in his obtaining "Helps to Bible Study," he giving, in return, a donation "to help the cause," as he expressed it. As the subject of the sanctuary seemed to interest him most, "The Sanctuary and 2300 Days" was placed in his hands. Soon after, a note was left in the post-office, requesting an interview on his return trip; and to the great joy of all, we learned that he had decided to obey God at the sacrifice of friends, position, and all. At his earnest request, two of us spent the next Sabbath (his first) at his home in Bloomington. His wife, who was in harmony with him—a blessing for which he said that he praised God with a gratitude second only to that for the truth itself—had made preparations to keep the Sabbath "according to the commandment." None of the cross-bearing points of our faith staggered them, the language of their hearts seeming to be, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" He stated his case before the railroad officials, which resulted in his being retained, with the privilege of keeping the Sabbath. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and had previously sacrificed a position of \$110 a month for one of \$75, that he might keep what he had supposed to be the Sabbath.

"In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whither shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." Eccl. 11:6.

A. F. BALLENGER.

MEETING AT CLEVELAND, OHIO.

THE district quarterly meeting held at Cleveland, Dec. 28-30, was a profitable season. The attendance from outside of Cleveland was not large; but those who came, felt amply repaid for so doing.