

The

KENTUCKY

MISSION

MONTHLY

The field is the world.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me:

If a man love me he will keep my words: and my Father will love him.

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

“LET HIM THAT HEARETH SAY COME”

THE CHANCE OF A LIFE TIME

THE ORIGINAL EDITION OF

MATTHEW HENRY'S COMMENTARY

ON THE ENTIRE BIBLE, WITH ALL THE ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS

Prefatory Notes By REV. JOHN A. BROADUS, D. D., L. L. D.

IN THREE LARGE VOLUMES. SUBSTANCIAL CLOTH BINDING. GOOD TYPE.

Ministers, Students, Laymen, Periodicals of all denominations unite in pronouncing MATTHEW HENRY'S COMMENTARY unsurpassed and unsurpassible. Here are a few of the things they have said.

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Every minister ought to read Matthew Henry entirely and carefully through once at least. He will acquire a vast store of sermons, and as for thoughts, they will swarm around him like twittering swallows around an old gable towards the close of autumn.

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LOUISVILLE, KY.

THE KENTUCKY MISSION MONTHLY

"LET HIM THAT HEARETH SAY COME"

VOL. VII.

SEPTEMBER, 1908.

No. 5

THE CHURCH BUILDING FUND.

Eight years ago, when I became Corresponding Secretary of the State Board of Missions, I saw the necessity of a Church Building Fund to aid weak churches in building houses.

I sent out circulars. I wrote in our papers. I plead before individuals, churches and associations for this cause. I then went before the Walnut-street church and secured a subscription of more than \$1,000, most of which was paid. I thought others would follow but very few did. I then organized the Baptist Building Band and had more than one hundred subscribers agreeing to give one dollar per month. Some of these have not been heard of since. A few have held out even until this present time.

Dr. Powell, our present hustling Secretary, is awakening our people on this subject.

Mr. Theodore Harris agreed to give \$1,000 provided the denomination in the State would give \$9,000 this year.

Dr. Powell has already more than the \$10,000 pledged and if all of it should be paid in and expended this year it would not near meet the demands upon us. We ought to have a large loan fund, the interest only to be used, and then instead of churches borrowing from banks and corporations, let them come to the board. God speed the day when our people shall see and recognize the need of this work as other denominations are doing.

In the mountains of Kentucky investment brings larger returns. Often we have hundreds of houseless churches. Let us come to the rescue at once.

Usually we can secure a good building by giving one-tenth of the cost.

Brother, sister, have you any of the Lord's money which ought to be put to work in this channel? Think! You are God's steward.

Stand by our Secretary in this effort and success is assured.

Yours to serve,
J. G. BOW.

On the morning of the first Sunday in October the Corresponding Secretary of the State Board will preach the sermon at the opening of South Side church, Covington, the Rev. A. Logan Vickers, pastor. This is the youngest church in Covington. Extensive repairs on the building are being pushed to completion for this occasion. It is hoped that the sister churches will be well represented. Let us make it a great occasion. May the Savior's presence be manifest.

J. T. JOHNSON



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THE TUG OF WAR.

Mr. Theodore Harris kindly offered to pay \$1,000 to our Church Building Fund when \$9,000 shall have been paid in for this purpose. More than that has been promised. We can easily make it \$20,000 if all will act together. We have attended twenty-four associations, and all have heartily endorsed the move and have contributed generously to the fund. Who will give \$1,000 when \$19,000 shall have been paid in?

Let the pledges be paid in as promptly as possible, so as to keep this move out of the way of other matters. Think, pray and act. "Is it time for you. O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses and this house lie waste?"—Haggai, 1:4.

"And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him up, and everyone whose spirit made willing, and they brought the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle of the congregation."—Ex. XXXV: 21.

OUR CHURCH BUILDING FUND.

This noble work of raising a fund to aid needy churches to secure a suitable meeting house, properly located, was begun by my worthy predecessor, Dr. J. G. Bow. In 1901 he asked the churches for \$10,000 and received \$574. The following year he reiterated the need for \$10,000 and received \$290.

In 1905, Dr. Bow recommended the churches to raise \$25,000 for this worthy object and received \$320.

In 1906 the churches rallied to this fund and gave \$1,241. Dr. Bow plead in his annual report for \$10,000. The last General Association and the preceding meeting recommended the churches to give \$10,000, and now they are doing it, and more too.

Some \$14,000 have been subscribed. and it is agreed that \$20,000 will be raised before the associations are over.

The pastors and friends will please collect and send in all pledges at once. Many churches are being constructed, and the demands on us are very great.

Besides, we must get this matter of raising this all-important fund out of the way of our regular work. We have reason to hope that every dollar of the \$20,000 will have been paid by the last day of October.

Several should give large sums. One brother told me to-day that he had remembered this fund in his will. Others should do so. It is better to give the money while you live. Relatives find but little trouble to prove that the testator who wills property to missions or benevolences is of unsound mind.

If parties need the income from the amount given during their natural life, we can pay it and have the money in our possession at their death and avoid a lawsuit and the possibility of losing it all.

We are anxious to complete at least two mission churches each week. Please send in your pledges and contributions without delay.

Dr. Powell tells us that the Baptists of Kentucky have 53,000 more members than have all the other denominations in the State put together. It would seem from this that Baptists ought to be doing more for missions, Sunday Schools and other departments of our Lord's work than all the other denominations are doing. But unfortunately this is not true. I speak of the Sunday School situation. Of the 3,181 Sunday Schools in Kentucky, reporting 24,591 officers and teachers and 205,969 pupils, Baptists have only 1,051 schools, reporting 6,552 officers and teachers and 71,752 pupils. Can Baptists continue to assert their loyalty to God's word when they neglect or ignore the service set for the teaching and studying of God's word? Let's make this our slogan: "A Bap-

tist Sunday School in every Baptist church and every Baptist in a Baptist Sunday School."

EVANGELISM.

We have a fine corps of State Evangelists who conduct the work along wise, safe and sane lines. They treat kindly those evangelical Christians who differ from us, but form no entangling alliances by which any part of the truth must be suppressed or treated with unwarranted indifference.

Evangelism leads to discipleship to Christ, to membership in the church and to personal salvation. All our Baptist leaders realize that we must put more emphasis on a denominational spirit. Divine favor rests on the labors of our evangelistic force. The growing interest in this feature of our State work has produced a profound conviction that we may profitably contemplate a distinctive encouragement of our force.

The evangelists have rendered timely and helpful service to many small and pastorless churches. There is no agency through which to more effectively reach those places now destitute of gospel privileges; these, in a sense, are our distinctive fields.

We must soon consider the location of each evangelist, so that the destitution of each portion of Kentucky will be properly cared for.

We have a fine Committee on Evangelism, led by Dr. M. P. Hunt, who study the situation. In larger faith we should attempt greater things.

We are glad to report that the Rev. George W. Shepherd, of Richmond, Ky., who possesses admirable gifts for evangelistic work, will enter our service on October 1.

We must say to pastors and treasurers that money is coming in very slow for all our mission work. Let us pray and work and give. Press the matter before the congregations. We must have funds for State, Home and Foreign Missions.

Fellow-workers, keep your ideal high. You may miss it, but there is more honor in missing a high one than in hitting a low one.

There are 61,681 Baptist churches in the world, with 6,195,817 members. We have 55,408 of these churches in the United States, with 5,425,701 members.

The Sunday School teacher has a calling an angel might well crave. We have 14,000,000 pupils in our Sunday Schools, one-half of them unsaved.

Dear teacher, be a soul-winner; be evangelistic.

The National Convention of Colored Baptists convenes in Lexington, Ky. the 15th of this month.

We have 5,159,133 Baptists in the United States and 1,900,000 are colored.

QUICK MEAL

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NORTH STAR

THE BEST REFRIGERATOR

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LOUISVILLE, - KENTUCKY

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

Sunday School Secretary W. J. Mahoney.

After I began my work as your State Sunday School Secretary, I became convinced that the best service I could render the brotherhood, would be to devise some way to unite our Sunday School forces for more aggressive effort in building up the Baptist Sunday School cause in the State. I conceived the plan of organizing our Sunday Schools, in the various Associations, into Sunday School Unions to carry out the various purposes outlined in the suggested constitution, which I prepared and had printed. The purposes of the union, as indicated in Article II. of this constitution are "To organize our Baptist Sunday Schools in this association for more aggressive effort in Baptist lines; for co-operation in advancing Baptist interests; in promulgating Baptist principles; in promoting our Baptist Sunday School work in this association and in encouraging a more sympathetic fellowship among our Baptist Sunday Schools. It is also our purpose to establish so far as is possible, Baptist Sunday Schools in churches and places where there are none; to seek greater efficiency and better organization in the schools now existing; to counsel together as to the best ways and means to bring this about, and to urge contributions to our own Sunday School work." The plan, when projected, met with most cordial reception. The General Association, at its meeting in June, adopted resolutions approving the plan and recommended that the brethren organize unions within the bounds of their various District Associations. Unions have been organized in several of the associations and others in their meetings have passed resolutions endorsing the plan and recommending to the churches the immediate organiza-

tion of a Sunday School Union within their own boundaries. It is to be hoped that the associations that are yet to meet will likewise commend the plan and take steps toward the organization of a union. Surely this progressive movement will appeal to every loyal Baptist heart. We long to see the day when there will be a Baptist Sunday School in every Baptist church, and when every Baptist Sunday School will be with us in this Baptist organization for the promotion of our own Baptist Sunday School work. Reports from the various unions are most encouraging. I have just received programmes of the second meeting of the Sunday School Union of South Kentucky Association. Others are planning for their first meeting, to be held soon. Will not the brethren throughout the State join us in this great forward movement?

The Sunday School Secretary will be ready for work with the churches as soon as the associational period is over. It will be well for brethren who desire his services to write him at once, so that he may be able to arrange for his fall and winter work. He has several requests on file, but is anxious that the brethren who have not written to him shall do so now, that he may provide a time for them in his schedule. His office address is 732 Fourth avenue.

Evangelist McCarter will hold a meeting with Missionary Vickers at South Side church, Covington, beginning the first Sunday in October.

12. Also, "The God of Heaven, He will prosper us; therefore we, His servants, will arise and build."—Neh. II: 20. And then when another year shall have passed we can truly say, "All that was committed to thy servants they do it," or have done it.

THE BAPTIST OPPORTUNITY
IN KENTUCKY.

Kentucky should stand first among the States of the Union in membership, gifts and influence. We stand third in point of members, but should be, and can be, first by occupying the waste places and developing our wonderful Baptist resources. The signs are propitious, the future is full of promise, and great things can be accomplished if we will now take advantage of our opportunities and press vigorously along the lines that Providence is so clearly revealing to us. A general and united effort on the part of Kentucky Baptists will accomplish great results and win great victories in this State. We must avoid spurts and spasms. wish our work projected along lines that will insure a larger work being done the succeeding year than has hitherto been accomplished in our State.

OUR CHURCH BUILDING FUND.

Conservative brethren feel that we should have ultimately \$100,000 in our Permanent Church Building Fund.

We are earnestly engaged in raising \$20,000 of this amount at present. Churches, Sunday Schools, W. M. U.'s, pastors and individuals will please make liberal offerings to this work without diminishing your gifts to the regular work. Some people can and should give thousands, others hundreds, and others tens and smaller amounts.

We have secured some \$14,000 of the \$20,000 in good subscriptions.

Those who have made subscriptions ought to pay them with as little delay as possible so as to close the whole matter by November 1.

Pastors, one and all, lend your valuable assistance to this noble work, which means so much to hundreds of homeless Baptists churches in our noble Common-

wealth, and it will soon be completed without detriment to any other department of our Baptist work.

It has been suggested by one of the Central Committee that we put in from time to time in the Mission Monthly the work mapped out for next year, so that all of the societies all over the State may have a defined plan of the work expected of them. First of all, do not forget the Training School. There is yet the greater part of the Endowment Fund to be raised. Think of the blessings every dollar you give for this noble work will bring you in return. "Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days."—Ecc. XI: 1.' A school for training workers in Jesus' vineyard.

Each Missionary Society is requested to send from two to ten dollars in second quarter of the year to meet the current expenses of the Training School. We are used to carry out God's plans. He said, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all things shall be added unto you." These workers have done this and their needs must be supplied, so don't let us be found wanting in this. Do not forget the Bible Fund of the Sunday School Board, as it supplies with Bibles Miss Buhlmaier and other missionaries and colporteurs. New lines of State mission work are opening up. Write to the Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Lamb, about it, if you are led to take it up. The Mountain Schools are expecting help from the W. M. U. also. Don't disappoint them. It is God's work and you will find as many in heathen ignorance there as well as in China. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Tennessee Baptists must raise \$12,000 this month for State missions.

.....KENTUCKY MISSION MONTHLY.....

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THE STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS

Meets at Norton Hall,
Tuesday, October 6, 2 P. M.

J. M. WEAVERPresident
L. T. WILSON ...Recording Secretary
EBEN G. VICKAss't. Secretary
W. D. POWELL ..Corresponding Sec'y

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News Editor, Mrs. W. H. Matlack,
1517 Brook street.

Mrs. S. E. Woody, Mrs. G. B. Eager,
Miss E. N. Burke, Mrs. B. G. Rees, Miss
Agnes Osborne, Mrs. H. H. McCulloch.

Miss E. S. Broadus, chairman of the
Central Committee, urges every Mission-
ary Union to contribute liberally to the
support of our State missionaries and to
our Church Building Fund during the
month of September. Funds can be sent to
Miss Lamb, who will forward them to
this office.

“Settle and fix our hearts that we may
move

In order, peace and love;

And, taught obedience by the whole cre-
ation,

Become an humble, holy nation.”

The general outlook for woman's
work is inspiring. Here in Kentucky its
results seem marvelous when we consider
the few churches organized for this
phase of effort. Just put your thinking-
cap on and try to realize this situation.

We have 1,746 churches and only 404
societies, counting all—Woman's, Young
Woman's and Children's. As many of
these are in the same church we can
safely estimate that only 300 churches
are represented in those organized for
woman's mission work. Now, if we can
persuade these other women to organize
and add their magnificent strength to
this work, how splendid it will be. This
would mean a quickened interest and an
increased power that would thrill our
matchless State through and through.

STATE MISSIONS.

Our Study Topic for September.

When one begins the study of our
State needs it is hard to see beyond our
own mountains. Surely the time is at
hand that demands wide-awake, intelli-
gent effort. No congregation can do
successful work without a suitable house
of worship. This is a fact so obvious
that it needs no emphasis. Dr. Powell
has seen this great need and is working
for a fund that will enable any earnest
congregation to get the help needed to
put them under a roof of their own and
in position to do the necessary work for
their community. This surely is the
kind of help that helps.

It is to be hoped that the women of
every church in Kentucky will add some-

thing to this fund whether they are organized in a society or not.

Let us all have a share in this splendid work.

OUR STATE MISSION WORK.

By E. Y. Mullins.

Kentucky is one of the greatest Baptist States in the Union. We have Baptist wealth and Baptist members. We have Baptist zeal in evangelization, and yet in spite of all that we have done in the past the Baptists of Kentucky have not much more than well begun their tremendous work. Our State is developing. Our mineral and other resources are being brought to light. New towns are being established, new railroads are being built, new mines are being opened.

Kentucky is now a Baptist State in one sense of the word, but it is not a Baptist State in the complete sense of the word. What we need is more money for State work, and thus we will secure more money for all departments of the work—home and foreign. Our indefatigable State Secretary, Dr W. D. Powell, is leading the forces most admirably. His church building fund is a splendid undertaking. Nothing does more to establish a church more securely than a good building. In one town which I visited a number of summers in succession the Baptists had no church at all. There were a few scattering churches in the community, as was supposed, but not enough to undertake a work. One winter the State Board came in and assisted in erecting a commodious house of worship. Within twelve months a Baptist church was organized, and in a short time it became the leading church of the town. In this instance it looked as if a building alone had solved the problem. But then we must have missionaries and colporteurs. The work must be pushed at all points. We must not

let our great Baptist opportunity slip through our grasp. Kentucky needs Baptist doctrine, and it needs Baptist life, and it needs Baptist power. Let us rally to our State mission work. There is no reason why we should not be the greatest Baptist State in the Union. We are not far from the geographical center of the country and have every opportunity to exercise a commanding influence over the Baptist life of the world. Let us see to it that this is done.

Georgia Baptists gave to Foreign Missions \$67,000 last year. Ten years ago they gave \$15,000.

In 1901 Kentucky Baptists gave \$15,560 to Foreign Missions. Last year they gave \$34,000. This year they will give \$40,000. Pastors, see that your churches do their full duty.

Kentucky gave the Home Board \$11,989 in 1901. This year we must give \$25,000 for Home Missions.

Information, enlistment and enlargement is what our people need.

Let me say to you, brother evangelist, missionary or colporteur:

“If you never have failed, it’s an even guess,

You have never won a high success.”

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THE BIG SANDY VALLEY.

Since coming back to Kentucky most of my work has been in the Big Sandy Valley. I was first with Brother Charles Martin, the Paintsville pastor; next with Brother V. L. Stonnell at Ashland, and then at Prestonsburg. The Baptist opportunity in this great valley is great and God will hold us guiltless if we neglect it.

The valley is rich in its coal and timber, but richer still in its boys and girls. If we will give them the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ and the education they are longing for the world will hear from this mountain valley echoes that will touch and lift this old sin-cursed world for God and good. It is going to take money to do it, but it takes millions to develop the coal and timber interests and the gold is pouring in from everywhere. Shall we allow the most valuable product of this mountain valley—her boys and girls—to go on as they are and waste their lives because we are not willing to put our gold there to develop them. At Ashland, the mouth of the valley, they are struggling under a heavy church debt of some \$9,000, and the membership is discouraged. The spirit of commercialism has swallowed up this town and our Baptists as well. They need to be aroused. At Catlettsburg the Rev. T. H. Plemmons has full command of the situation and the church has taken on new life since he took up the work. More than fifty new members have been added to the church and the work along all lines is moving nicely. Louisa, the first large town as we go up the valley, I understand, is making progress under her new pastor, Missionary G. G. Riggan. This is a very important field, as they are building a large non-sectarian school here that will bring many hundreds of our mountain boys and girls. At Paintsville } Brother Charles Martin has done a great work.

No man in the mountains has done a greater work under such adverse circumstances. They have one of the most beautiful church buildings in all that section, and the Baptists have taken their place among the foremost in the town. Our great work at Prestonsburg was also made possible through the persistent and untiring work of this same man of God, Brother Martin. I have not space to speak particularly of this work; others have done this; but we must say the work here has just begun. Then at Sayersville and Pikesville and Inez and many other important fields need to be developed.

In conclusion, let me say if you want to invest your money it will not only pay you good dividends in time, but throughout eternity. Invest it in these mountain boys and girls.

J. P. JENKINS.

207 West Breckinridge street.

Hyden, Ky., Sept. 8. 1908.

Dear Dr. Powell—The meeting closed at Hindman with good results. Had eleven additions to our church, and the church is very much revived.

I am now holding a meeting about two miles from this town with good outlook.

Our work on house has been delayed by sickness on the part of the mill man, but is starting again.

We want Mr. Barnes to come to our assistance not later than October 1.

Say, Dr. Powell, we need those windows very much. Cannot you get someone to buy them? I'll send you the bill of same, if desired.

Pray for me. Respectfully,
J. M. OSBORN.

Evangelist Barnes is now in a meeting at Dry Ridge. He will spend the month of October in Blood River Association.

Evangelists Sledge and Roof will aid Missionary Brandenburg in a meeting in Berea.

Missionary G. E. Baker is building a good house of worship at Lot. They hope to be ready for dedication in two months.

Liberty wants a pastor for all time. Missionary E. L. Howerton has just finished a meeting at Limestone resulting in five baptisms.

Marion wants a good man for pastor.

Evangelist Sledge will aid Missionary Plemmons in a meeting at Catlettsburg beginning November 8. May the Lord give them a great revival.

Evangelist Jenkins began a meeting September 13 with Pastor Thompson at Owenton. This is a great Baptist country, where we have 1,000 more Baptists than voters. We hope for copious showers of divine grace and a great ingathering of souls.

October 4 Brother Jenkins will begin a meeting with Pastor Johnson at Eminence, October 18 he goes to aid Pastor Bell at Middle Creek church, LaRue county. This is the first church that Brother Jenkins served as pastor. November 8 Brother Jenkins begins with Pastor Jones at Bellevue.

Our evangelists eat no idle bread.

Missionary J. H. Page held a meeting at Holly Springs church. There were twenty-five conversions and twenty were baptized. The church was greatly revived. He also held a meeting under a brush arbor in a very destitute community. Three persons over forty years of age were baptized. There is an opening there for a Baptist church.

Southern Presbyterians give \$1.08 per member for Foreign Missions last year; the Congregationalists give 90c; Baptists give 90 cents; Baptists in the North give 76 cents; Southern Methodists give 68 cents; Southern Baptists give 20 cents. Will someone tell me why we stand at the foot of the class? We need to be made "willing hearted." Read Exodus XXXV.

Missionary Shearer aided in a fine meeting at Lockport.

Brother E. H. Cunningham is holding a meeting at Farmers. Five have been received for baptism. We hope for a great meeting.

The Rev. George W. Shepherd becomes a State evangelist on October 1. Brother Shepherd has had fine success in the pastorate, but has peculiar gifts for evangelistic work. We feel sure that there will be great demand for his services. We commend him and all our evangelists to our brotherhood.

RECEIPTS FOR AUGUST.

Long Run Association, \$800.73, from the following churches: Kosmosdale ch., per C. K. Hoagland, \$1.13, Ladies of Louisville, per Mrs. Geo. Lewis, \$20, Walnut St. ch., per Miss Fannie Moses, \$22, Parkland ch., per J. R. Roney, \$17.54, Elk Creek ch., per J. C. Sweeney, \$21.41, Eighteenth St. ch., per B. V. Bolton, \$3.75, Oakdale ch., per S. N. Mohler, \$51.76, Calvary, ch., per W. H. Johnson, \$26.44, Broadway W. M. Soc., per Mrs. Geo. Lewis, \$3, Clifton ch., per J. J. Brooks, \$200, East ch., per J. D. Scott, \$15, Broadway ch., per T. J. Humphreys, \$105, Little Flock ch., per Mrs. Ida Holclaw, \$14.46, per L. M. Render, \$142.41, Walnut St. ch., per J. G. Bow, \$4, Immanuel ch., per Thos A. Johnson, \$67.83,

(continued on page 14)

WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT

EDITORS—MARY E. TYLER . . . MARY KNIGHT SHELEY

“Preach the word.”—II. Tim. 4:2.

“And he that hath my word let him speak my word faithfully.”—Jer. 23:25.

In a former issue we spoke of what the word of God was, and now we wish to speak of the Word itself. Timothy admonishes us to preach the word, and again the spirit of God, through Jeremiah, says: “And he that hath my word let him speak my word faithfully.” Again we are admonished through Jeremiah in these words: “O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord.” There are two important reasons why the word of the Lord should be preached. First, because it is His word, and, secondly, because of His attitude towards it. It being His word, has several offices. First, it is a light to our wayward feet, and darkened souls. David says, in Psalm 119:105: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” Also in the same psalm and 130th verse we have “The entrance of My words giveth light. It giveth understanding unto the simple.” In II Peter, 1-19, we have, “We have also a more sure word or prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place.” This is the true light we know, for Peter immediately afterwards says, “Knowing this first that no prophecy of the Scriptures is of any private interpretation,” “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” So knowing the Bible is the work of the Holy Ghost, we know it is therefore the true light, and as we walk in this Heaven-given light “our paths will grow more and more brighter until the perfect day.” Second, the word is a purification source. In John 17:17, we read

“Sanctify them through the truth; Thy word is truth.” Also in Ephesians 5:26, we find, “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.” Then in I Peter, 22d verse, is “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth.” The proclamation of the word is a source of the word of God is a fire hammer, for salvation through regeneration. A changing and making pure from sin. Third the word is a critic. In Hebrew 4:12, we have, “For the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing assunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” The world moves on and scoffs and jeers when the word of God is preached, but “The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth,” and He knows all about this, and woe unto those who have deaf ears for His word and ill treatment of it. Fourth, He says: “Is not my word like fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?” The world is full of stony hearts and stubborn wills and if you mention religion they edge away as if you were possessed of lunacy. They are unsaved, and the word says, “Preach the word,” and in another part of the word we are told “He that winneth souls is wise.” We are to give them the word, not our words, and God will burn out the dross out of their stubborn hearts and break the rock natures down with His hammer “that breaketh the rock in pieces.” When Jesus after His resurrection left the disciples with whom He had walked to Emmaus unknown to them; they said after they knew Him, “Did not our

heart burn within us while He talked with us by the way?" And so the word still burns as we read it and use it to purge and cleanse and the hammer breaks down the rocks and bulwarks of sin even as it builds up new palaces on the old ruins. The second reason why God's word should be preached is because of the attitude He has taken towards it. He says in Jer. I: 12, "For I watch over my word to perform it," and in Isa. XV: 11 "It shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." What an incentive to Christian workers to know God is watching over His word to perform all he has promised and therefore their efforts will not be fruitless, for He says, "It shall not return to me void." When we do battle with sin let our weapon be the mighty "Sword of the Spirit," the word of God, remembering the battle is not ours, but His; that not in our own strength we fight, but His. Therefore the warriors of God should be studying daily this word, this mighty sword, rubbing it up and buckling it on so as to unsheath it when the proper moment arrives.

"O, ye Christian band
For this Bible stand ..
By the Lord's command,
Ne'er give o'er."

"The Lord gave the word, great was the company of those that published it."
—Psalm LXVIII: 11.

EDGED TOOLS.

I knew a man once whose wife became intensely interested in a revival meeting as a seeker of salvation. He was a skeptic and a scoffer, and when he found her constantly reading the Bible searching for some promises that would comfort her he said: "Bosh! I will give you

enough of that. I will read till you are sick of it!" and he began. Day by day when he came home he read the Bible, chapter after chapter, having his wife sit and listen. At last one day, when he had finished the third chapter of John, he said: "My wife, won't you pray for me? I am a poor lost sinner." And they knelt and prayed, and God came in mercy and both were converted.

I knew another skeptic and scoffer—a great physician, my mother's cousin—who was a frequent visitor at my father's house when I was a boy. On one occasion he complained because he could find nothing in the library he wanted to read.

"Will you read a book I will bring you?" my mother asked him.

"Yes; I'll read anything! I'll read an almanac, a patent office report—anything"—and mother brought him the Bible.

"The Bible! the Bible!" said he, "Why, I haven't read the Bible since I was a boy."

"But you promised," mother said, "and I hold you to it."

And he began. He scarcely laid it aside even to eat or sleep for four days and nights.

"The most absorbing book I ever saw" he said.

After a hundred hours passed thus, away in the night he knocked on my mother's door and said:

"Cousin Lucy, Cousin Lucy; won't you get up and pray for me? I am a poor lost sinner!"

And she did, and God heard that prayer and the great doctor was saved.

Edged tools cut!—Exchange.

"Help these women who labor with us in the gospel."

—O—
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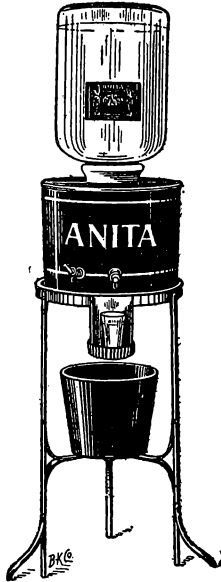
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