

Field and Work.

VOL. III.

BOSTON, FEBRUARY, 1890.

No. 2.

FIELD AND WORK.

A periodical containing extracts of letters by the Lord's servants, and others, relating to the work of God among His People.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

TERMS.—1 copy for one year, - - \$.80
4 copies " " - - 1.00

Letters of general interest to the people of God will be thankfully received by the editor,

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C. CRAIN, 124 SHAWMUT AVE., BOSTON.

Entered at Post Office at Boston as Second Class Matter.

GOODLY PORTIONS, terms the same as FIELD AND WORK, 1 copy for one year, .30
4 copies to one address for one year, \$1.00

A WORD OF EXHORTATION.

It has been on my heart for some time to write a few thoughts in connection with our "field" and our "work," as gathered to the Lord's name. One thought has been much before me of late. Why does not the work prosper? How is it we see so little fruit? So few gathered to the Lord's name? We would own thankfully the good hand of the Lord in blessing in various places, but how is it that the large cities are scarcely reached? The fact is that in the great majority of these cities it can scarcely be said there is any testimony at all. Why is it? Does the fault lie

with us? Let us, beloved brethren, face this question honestly.

In the first place, we believe gathering to the Lord's name is around Christ as a centre and on the ground of the one body. The fact that we have separated ourselves from evil, to find Christ our centre, should lead to a surrender of ourselves and all we have to Him. Beloved brethren, is this true of us? Are we devoted to Him? Do we really find our joy and our pleasure in an hourly, daily communion with our blessed Lord? Do we hold ourselves as stewards, and thus render to Him a just account of our substance? (See I. Cor. vi. 19, 20; I. Pet. iv. 7-11.)

The question for each one of us is, Do we make Christ the centre of our lives, or are we living for ourselves? May the Lord lead us each one to judge ourselves—thus to be kept from judging and criticising one another.

But we are gathered as members of the one body, and thus we are linked with the whole Church of God. The very moment, therefore, we make our assembly the special object, to the neglect of the house of God around us, "which lies waste," we become sectarian in spirit, and we lose blessing to our own souls.

Is it not a fact that thousands of Christians in the various denominational churches of to-day are really thirsting for the water of the Word of God? Is it not true, alas! if souls were gathered out it would be to find a lack of freshness and power, accompanied by internal bicker-

ings and jealousies? Is it not true also that very often, instead of real humbling before God, brethren are puffed up, and account for there being no Gospel work done in the assembly and no Christians gathered to the will of God? And while we who know the truth are withholding it in this worst form of fatalism the Lord is taking up the Salvation Army and using them, in spite of their unscriptural adjuncts, to the salvation of souls! May the Lord bestow upon us the spirit of humbling and of supplication, and give us to heed that word, "If a man purge himself he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meet for the Master's use, and prepared to every good work" (II. Tim. ii. 21).

We are separated, not to be self-sufficient and proud separatists, but to be used of the Master, and to be prepared to every good work.

But the one body not only gives us the sphere of work (for all service in this dispensation is linked to the one body), but it also defines our line of work. Romans xii. and I. Cor. xii. show that each one has his own place of work in the one body, and it is for each one to go on individually with the work the Lord has given him to do. Every brother and sister in each gathering is responsible to find out the work the Lord has for them to do, and to go on with it in fellowship with one another.

And this also brings in another thing. The apostle lays down a divine rule when he says, "Let all things be done decently and in order." We have left human systems, not to go into human chaos, but to go on with the beautiful divine order. It is a grave question if we could say of many things in our gatherings that they are done "decently and in order." If that thought of "God is the God of order" controlled us in our gatherings, how it would change things! This would regulate

the money question that has been gone into in FIELD AND WORK.

I. Cor. ix. establishes the truth that a servant of the Lord who ministers to an assembly is to be supported as regularly as he ministers. It is as much a debt as the room rent. The withholding the tithes in Malachi is called "robbing God." A careful study of I. Cor. ix. will show that the principle of this applies to the support of the Lord's servant to-day. Of course the servant must look to the Lord alone, but this does not remove the responsibility of brethren. It is of course a privilege as well. One of the greatest failures amongst those gathered to the Lord's name is the lack of divine order. Work for the Lord should be done as systematically and as energetically as possible. This spasmodic effort that we often find is very well, but it is the patient, prayerful, constant, systematic work that will bring forth fruit. And there is another thing, we should work together. There are different lines of public ministry and the Lord calls some into special places. The great need to-day is faithful preaching. II. Tim. iv. 1-4 is of special application for to-day. A faithful testimony as to the evils around us is much needed in order to give solidity to those who may be gathered out. Christians that are gathered out merely on account of a nice Gospel being preached, and who are not grounded on the principles of God's Word, do not give strength to an assembly. We are thankful to see them, but the first trouble generally carries them off. On the other hand, personal attacks as a rule should be avoided. If Christ is held up as the centre of gathering and the Word of God faithfully preached souls will surely be gathered out (See Jer. xxiii. 28, 29). There are some other things I must reserve for another time, as I am afraid I have exceeded my space already.

J. J. Sims.

UNITED STATES.

KENNEDY, MINN.—Glad to know of interest in the East. The Lord has been gracious the past year, has He not, in opening so many doors to preach the Word in the East and in the West? Was pleased to learn that Brn. F. W. G. and P. J. L. were West. Any accounts of the work in Toronto the last year would you put in **FIELD AND WORK**, as I have heard nothing definite? [Will some one who is able kindly comply with this request? Ed.] Bro. Little went to Howard for a little in December. We have had some real blessing here, some precious souls saved and Christians much blessed in a clearer knowledge of the Word. Some now desire a gathering out to Christ, but we will wait a little, D. V. Brethren Allen and Long have been out in some *new fields* and are much encouraged. W. H. Scott (Alexandria) is encouraged at Lake Ida, near his home; some have been saved. Bro. McKenzie (Lowry) is now about to enter the Gospel field likewise. There seems a number of open doors here. Bro. Little and I have found it so almost every place this past year. Of course one needs to *push out* into new fields, and commence in school houses, and the first week or so needs patience. Yet in each place we have had crowded meetings after a week or so. It is much more difficult in the large towns and cities. The Lord has also given us good weather this fall to have meetings every night. The Lord's coming is kept before us much of late, and we feel the importance of giving it out in each place, distinct and clear, for it will surely come to pass. Then we shall lay our armor by forever and enjoy the blessed reality of all He has purchased for us by His precious blood. *A. E. Booth,*

Care P. Brass,
Port Huron, Mich.

[The Lord abundantly bless our brethren in these Western fields, especially "dear unto us" as the scene of former labors. As He has graciously given them a goodly number whose hearts are specially in the Gospel, may He also further raise up others to feed His sheep according to the integrity of their hearts, and guide them according to the skilfulness of their hands.
Ed.]

JENNINGS P. O., WOODLAND, MO.—We noticed in a list of gatherings some one had drawn his pencil over brother Fowler's name, thinking he had moved from Greene, Iowa.

Brother Fowler and family still live there and are very happy when the Lord sends a laborer to visit them. The meeting for breaking bread is at Plainfield, about twelve miles from Greene. Brother Van Loon and wife were with us and, when we left, the latter part of December, for St. Louis, he went on with the meetings.

After leaving Minnesota we spent a few weeks at Forest City and Greene, and at the latter place found much interest.

Brother F. W. Grant has been opening up the precious truths of God's Word here and in St. Louis for the past three weeks, but had to return to Plainfield the fifth of January. *A. M. Scott.*

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.—The Lord has at last taken our daughter home. She breathed her last Monday, Jan. 13th, at 3.20 p. m. She has been failing fast for the last week.

The funeral took place Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 10.30 a. m.

The scripture the Lord gave me to comfort me is Philemon 14, 15.

E. H. Smith.

WILLIAMSPORT, PA.—Have been much exercised of late as to a line of service to the Lord—the Traft Depot, taken up for Him in real love to souls, and dependence

on Him for all needs in it. I see the press of the world running off its millions of pages of trash to lead souls down to perdition; bookstores and news rooms thrusting these works of Satan in boldness on the streets, and God's precious truth (as given to us) has not even a corner in this city! The small assembly here is going on quietly, I trust, with the Lord, yet we do wonder why more will not listen to the truth.

Bro. Stutzman is in Towanda, called to the funeral of sister Skiff, who lately went to the Lord. Bro. S. has been previously in Reading and Boyertown also for a little.

A. F. Cowles.

[Many could serve readily and to good account in the line here suggested, and if even commencing with but a dollar's worth of stock kept carefully, and faithfully and prayerfully brought to the notice of others, "the little one would become a thousand in due time," we doubt not. What hast thou *in thine hand?* is a question of great force here as elsewhere. May we each look and see! Ed.]

CATAWBA, N. C.—The open doors for the Gospel here in this State are increasing. Despite the opposition which the enemy stirred up at various points, the enquiry after the truth on the part of Christians increases. At and around Scott's Cross Roads the people seem much more anxious to hear. The Associate Reformed Presbyterian minister there has gotten so much truth that he does not go on with his former charge any longer. He remarked to me when I last saw him that he was now simply looking to the Lord for direction in the next step. I must (D. V.) visit him and the others at that place who are interested soon. There is another interest growing at Shepherd's Cross Roads; a few nice souls there seem to be getting help.

Four weeks ago I again visited Denver.

Found almost everybody apparently anxious to hear and glad to have the opportunity of looking into the truths brought before them. The doors of the Methodist Church were opened for me to preach and lecture in, the minister himself attending, though he did not seem to relish some of the truths, yet seemed to see that it was best not to oppose. The dear people there are much exercised, and not only need to be taught but are willing to be.

If any of the brethren have on their shelves any tracts or booklets which they have read and could therefore dispose of I think it would be a good work to send them to Mr. Spencer Monday, Denver, North Carolina, that he may read and hand to others interested. I am hopeful under God to see a nice little gathering there soon.

I have just returned from a trip to the town of Abemarle, it being my first. There is a brother there, a dear good man, who has been quite prominent as a Baptist minister, whom I am very hopeful to see with us soon and all his family.

A Bro. T. J. Hunt and wife of Westville, N. C., came 200 miles to see me the week before Christmas. The brother withdrew from the Baptist ministry three years ago and started two assemblies as what he called the "True Baptist." He came, he said, to compare notes with me. He had some truth, but much he did not have, and seemed quite willing to be taught and expressed himself pleased with what he heard. He took some books home with him and said he was going to look more fully into these things. I trust that the Lord is opening the way there for blessing.

The fields here are widening for work, especially among Christians. How we do need laborers to occupy them! Let us devoutly pray that the Lord will both send and raise up laborers for the work here.

How my heart often bleeds for dear souls when I see them groaning under man's system and crippled by false teaching.

J. H. Booth.

RAHWAY, N. J.—I send this as an encouragement to *sisters* in the "work of the Lord."

I went to the hospital this afternoon, saw Mr. Gale; his wife and a young man were with him. Mr. G. said, "Mother, this is the one I told you about." I explained to her how I made a mistake yesterday, coming into this ward instead of going out at the front door. He said, "It was a good mistake, I tell you. It is not often that any one comes in here and talks like that; no one ever did, but Mr. F—— (a clergyman) came in once and stayed a little while, but I have not seen him since." The young man was a little reserved at first, but he soon told me he belonged to a church, Y. M. C. A. and Society of Christian Endeavor. I felt a little disappointed at his staying in the room, as I was not free; but Mr. G. was free, and I said but little, and when I arose to go, he asked, "Sister, you will pray with me before you go?" I replied, "Well, I can, but I never like to if there are men present; perhaps our brother here (turning to the young man) would pray with us?" But he was as much frightened as myself and said, "Oh—I—never made a prayer in my life!" and his head dropped. But Mr. G. said, "Oh, sister, *you* pray with me." But I was like the young man, I could not *make* a prayer, so I was compelled to let the Lord talk with my tongue as I knelt by the side of his couch. Mr. G. sobbed and sobbed and I could hear the other two stifling theirs. When I arose, we were all crying. It seemed as if the Lord had preached the Gospel there, and made it very plain to the young man that all he belonged to availed him nothing; there was but *one way* of salvation, through

the shed blood of Christ. As I said good-by, Mr. G. held my hand crying and saying, "Blessed Lord," and then asked "Come again soon, sister, won't you?"

He was suffering very much in body, had taken cold, besides the abscess, which in itself is serious. The wife said, "I must see if I can get you a pair of slippers." They are poor and the thought came to me send him a dollar out of the "Lord's Bank." I did so, by Stella, telling her to accept it as from the Lord. She said, "The Lord will reward you," and he cried and said, "Tell your mamma, 'Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days.'"

He seems so humble and submissive, I trust the Lord will raise him up. Pray for him in your prayer meetings."

He is growing in the things of the Lord very rapidly. He said, "Oh what sweet peace I have, sister. I never spent such a happy week in my life." I asked, "How long have you been a Christian?" "Well," he replied, "I have had my name on the church book since I was twelve years of age, but I was not a Christian. I never knew what peace was until you came here. Praise the Lord! When I first called he had no Bible, and said he never could interest himself in it. Yesterday after reading some comforting verses from the Psalms, I said, 'I intended to bring you a leaflet; entitled 'The Three Crosses,' it is beautiful.'" He exclaimed, "Yes, I guess it is pretty; but you cannot bring me anything prettier than the book out of which you have just been reading." He is certainly a very bright case. He says he obtained peace on my second visit while I was praying. One of his Lodge men came in, and Mr. G. said, "H., we have just been talking about that Lodge Room up there" (looking up). The man did not know what to say, so he went on: "That Lodge Room up there, when this 'earthly

house of this tabernacle is dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens blessed be God." The man could not say a word.

(Mrs. A. C. White.)

How much can be done by the sisters if there is true devotedness to the Lord! Many, many are the sick to whom a kind womanly word of cheer would be as a boon of heaven to their weary souls! How sweet and restful is the name of Jesus to such, as the "Old, old story" of God's wondrous love is told out. May God speed the sisters in such work, and may many names be added to the list of such as are found in Rom. xvi. and Phil. iv. 3. Amen.

S. A. White.

CANADA.

BEDFORD, N. S.—Once more debtors to the goodness of the Lord in our yearly meeting here, one gladly recounts a little of the favor realized. Sickness and other circumstances prior to it seemed to forbid the hope of much of a meeting, but one by one the clouds rolled back, and proved to be but the "dust of His feet" whose

"Every act pure blessing is,
Whose path is unsullied light."

Most of our brethren from St. Croix, J. Stewart from Horton Landing, four from Eastern Passage, and while some in Halifax and around were hindered by sickness, yet a fair number gathered, and it rejoiced our hearts to see some who had rather dropped back once more there.

Commenced with prayer meeting, then open meeting, nine taking part, one speaking on a happy new year—a new *life, standing, portion and prospect*; another, Rom. xii., presenting our bodies; a third, "looking unto Jesus;" and a fourth, John xviii., our influence upon others. In the afternoon a profitable reading on the three

appearings and aspects of salvation, and in the evening an address upon "The Tabernacle," in which there was manifest interest. Next morning a few remaining had a reading on Acts xii., our privilege and responsibility as to prayer, worship and ministry being before us to profit. All received a portion and went their way, we trust, to send one also.

One writes, "I truly realized in our meeting the blessedness of communion, and feel much refreshed and encouraged. The Lord grant us all the needed grace to rest simply and trustingly in Him until He comes. Grace is all we need, and we are told it is sufficient; let us glory in it."

The Tract Depot, undertaken by a sister in Halifax, promises fair to link many with the truth helpfully, and we trust will prosper. Any needing almanacs, periodicals, books and Bibles may address M. I. Allison, 65 Granville St.

Two meetings in an Evangelical Episcopal Church, the simple Gospel, have been quite appreciated, and more are spoken of shortly.

B. C. G.

TARA, ONT.—Our number has been only three and now reduced to two, Bro. Nicol going to Stratford to work. "Our times are in His hands," so we have no reason to be discouraged as long as we have the Lord's promise. It makes our heart glad but we do long for the fellowship of others. I was at Grey when Bros. Grant and Loizeaux were there. It was a time of building up which you know we all need very much in these cold days of proffession. This is a trying season on the finances of God's people among the rest. How is it that so many with us are of the poorer class? Is it that our religion makes us inactive and fold our hands to sleep, or is it that we have been delivered from a scene of delusion, and now take advantage of our freedom to not own God's

claims upon us? We all cannot go out and travel, but we can have fellowship with those who do. *Thos. R. Foster.*

[Our brother's enquiry ought not to be hastily disposed of; does the Lord thus straiten our resources because we do not "honour Him with our substance" and give Him His own, or are we of His honored poor in this world, rich in faith? If our investments are made in this and that to our loss and shame, deceiving ourselves that some day we will serve Him well, little wonder that He blows upon it, for He must be LORD. May our state be such that we may prosper and be in health as our soul prospereth—a safe prosperity.

ED.]

NEW ZEALAND.

AUCKLAND.—You and many other dear brethren will naturally be desiring to hear how we have fared in crossing the deep, and how we find things in New Zealand. Through mercy we have every cause for thanksgiving, and desire to be really grateful to our God, and mindful of the saints who have been remembering us at the throne. If an apostle felt the need and said, "Brethren, pray for us," how much more do we need to think of one another!

We left San Francisco in a storm, which lasted three days. The pilot could not get off and had to come on to Honolulu. We soon got right, and as the weather became fine it was quite enjoyable. We embarked on a Sunday, and went ashore on the next Sunday evening. We found the various churches at work with good congregations, and even one for the Chinese. We looked in there and felt as if the preacher was in earnest, though the hearers did not look very bright, but could thank God that the poor Chinese were hearing of Christ. At the Y. M. C. A. they were doing a little work; indeed, the Chinese Mission was begun by them, and they formed the first

Chinese Y. M. C. A. that was known. Then there is plenty of religious activity in Honolulu, and we trust it is not all mere activity.

We were brought before King Kalakaua, who heard our names and nationalities, bowed and withdrew. Of this part we felt half ashamed, that a dozen nondescript strangers should claim even five minutes of his majesty's time; but the break in the voyage was most enjoyable. We were soon on board again and getting under the sun in the most delightful weather. Even in crossing the line it was never warmer than we had it at the Plainfield meetings. So the greater part of our voyage was as fine as the beginning was rough. We had a full complement of passengers, though thirty-five left us at Honolulu. To our joy we found quite a number who were the Lord's. Some five or six were old friends known in Australia, and others had heard me speak. Thus we were quite at home, one might say, and had those with whom we could talk of the things of the Lord. The captain allowed us to have service on Sundays, and we both spoke briefly on each occasion, and had a very attentive hearing. Many, of course, did not come, as we had all sorts among us—skeptics, Spiritists, a professional shooter, an athlete, a pugilist and a representative of the New York Sporting World. Seldom have I seen a more agreeable company on board ship, nothing unpleasant having happened to disturb any during the voyage. This, as one knows from experience, is very unusual. If any one does not believe in total depravity, he is likely to get convinced if he will take a voyage with a good company of ordinary mortals.

We arrived at this lovely city Sunday (Nov. 10). We got to work in a hall obtainable, and have had a little interest among Christians, and a few from the

meeting are coming, and there is now a little enquiry. We go on for a month or so yet, please God, in this city, and may stay longer if the work opens up either in the Gospel or among saints.

We hear from those with us in the South, and there is great need for help among them, though some cheering things are told amid others that are not so. But they quite expect help and blessing among others.

There is plenty of activity of a kind all around, but things spiritually and temporally are in a very depressed condition indeed, though at Dunedin there is a great exhibition just opened which is causing some activity, but it is not an atmosphere that favors our purpose. We have plenty of room, however, to work away till the sight-seeing and big-shop-show fever dies down somewhat. No doubt if on the spot country people could be reached, but with work at hand we could not miss many places to go there just now. If the Lord gives blessing in the Gospel the saints will soon get freshened up, and we would have more hope of work among them; but a ministry of grace, a ministry of Christ, in the Spirit's power, alone will suffice.

We look for news as to things in America, and trust there is still blessing in the Gospel and among the gathered saints. With love in the Lord to all.

W. Corrie Johnston,
Care Mr. John Polson,
165 Tuam Street, Christchurch.

TERKUMMAH, ONT.—I came out on the Manitoulin Island in October last, had many nice talks on the road coming out here, and also since I have been here. There are three little assemblies out here gathered to the Lord—one near Manitowaning, one here and one at Providence Bay. There seems but little opening for the Word of God just here at present. Glad to hear of you in FIELD AND WORK.

Evi. Adams.

GOLDEN LAKE, ONT.—Have just returned from Combermere and Bangor, where we have been laboring for the past six months with some blessing. Twenty-two received the truth and twelve are gathered according to God. We left all bright and happy. Trust the Lord will direct some of His servants that way ere long to confirm and strengthen them in the truth. One dear brother saved during the meetings, now on his death-bed, is giving bright testimony to the One who saved him. From his sick-bed is sounding out the Word of truth with blessing to many; the tongue that was used formerly to blaspheme the precious name of Jesus is now used in praising Him.

Oh, the power of grace! It can change the lion into a lamb, and turn the blasphemer into a preacher.

There are many open doors and anxious souls in these backwoods. The harvest is indeed plenteous, but, as the Master says, "the laborers are few." I have just heard from Bro. Gall, who is by this time in Key West. Our hearts are much drawn to the dear ones there and in the Bahamas, and trust our way will soon be open to visit them again. Would like much to spend a while in North Carolina and Virginia, D. V. May do so on our way south. We may soon have "grounded our arms at Jesus' feet," our warfare accomplished. What an incentive that thought is—to hear from His blessed lips, "Well done!" But love is our motive for work, not reward.

"It is good at His word to be here,
Yet better by far to be gone,
And there in His presence appear,
And rest where He rests on the throne."

The saints here are as usual, and would be glad to see you. Any of the Lord's servants coming here will not, I trust, forget to pay the dear ones at Combermere and Bangor a visit. It is only 30 miles from here.

Geo. Pearson.