

there. Bro. Boate thinks "his suggestions most feasible for economy in time and money as well as the most favorable for securing a light yet strong vehicle for mountain service," with which I agree, and the matter is gladly left with him for carrying out, as the Lord enables.

ELDERS.

Some lay great stress on the fact that the word used, "ordained them elders" (Acts xiv. 23), means *pointed out by holding up the hand*, as in voting in a popular assembly. It is true that it has this meaning, and may even have had this technical use; but that would only prove the manner of the action. The point at issue is regarding the *agents*. If elders were appointed by holding up the hand, it was the hands of Paul and Barnabas, not of the church in the place. The context shows that those who ordained were those who came and went and were engaged in preaching the Gospel. The meaning of the word and the manner of the action prove nothing as to the church or congregation being the *agents*, or as to the elders being appointed by popular election. They were ordained by Paul and Barnabas.

Then to ordain elders now you must first find them, and the apostles or their delegates. It is readily admitted that we have none who can act with apostolic authority now. It is clear likewise that the church, or congregation, if we go by Scripture, has not anything to say in the ordination of elders. If it is contended that it has, then you must have the *whole church* of the place, or the part that acts will thereby make itself a *sect*, being an action which concerns all. In the broken state of things, by divisions, the whole church in any centre cannot be gathered together. There cannot be any appointment, therefore, by the church there even if it had authority to act. This in no way denies the competency and authority of the two or three gathered for acting in discipline in regard to any among themselves (I. Cor. v. 12, 13).

Again, unless you have the whole church of the place there is no certainty that the real elders are among those who wish to make the appointment. They may be among the believers who are not in the meeting that seeks to act. Thus, therefore, the God-given elders cannot be appointed by man in the present broken state of things. If attempted, it is a denial of the ruin of the Church as an outward thing. When even

thought about, the principles of gathering, amid the ruin, are feebly apprehended. If a few, in separation from the evil of the whole, attempt to act as if they were the whole, they deny the very principles upon which they have come together amid the ruin. Then if Brethren, so called, ordain elders, they there and then give up the very ground and principles on which they have acted in separating from the denominations. But they can maintain their principles and own the name and Word of the Lord, amid the ruin, and submit themselves unto such as the Lord leads to care for His saints. The work of the elder may be done and recognized, through grace, although there is no ordination except as in the spirit of constraining love they addict themselves (I. Cor. xvi. 15, 16).

W. Corrie Johnston.

SUGGESTIONS AS TO WORK.

If three or four adapted for the work, provided with a tent, wagon, tracts and camp equipments, went through a State in a thorough and systematic manner, much good could be done and many reached. Locate in a town, and while two are holding tent meetings the others might scour the country thoroughly. Then remove and work elsewhere the same way, one remaining if interest called for it to strengthen and confirm in the Word. More ground could be covered and with much better results than with desultory rushing through States, going a tour here, a day there, etc. Of course we are very weak and the laborers are few. I have no fault to find with the Lord's servants who are short-handed through no fault of their own nor of their Master's. Neither do I make light of the Spirit's guidance. God forbid! Yet is there not room for improvement as to the method of service? This plan I feel is not only the apostolic method, but the Lord's own institution, as the twelve and the seventy "sent two and two whither he himself would come." As to Delaware, a narrow strip of land from Wilmington to Cape Charles, Va., easily reached by railroads, the people nearly all religious, yet the majority only hoping, working and praying for salvation. How much have we to account for! "Freely ye have received," but can we say we have been obedient to the command "freely give"?

Instead of incessant warfare upon the sects, would it not be better to hunt for souls and feed them? I am sure many lament the too ready use

of our knowledge in throwing stones at the old ship. Satan is trying to engulf it by heresies from within. Let us not add to the din, but with hearts overflowing with love feed God's beloved people and equip them for the battle, now engaging as it were on the "advance pickets" (the clergy so regarded). Trust you are making headway, though against head winds.

S. A. W.

LOS ANGELES, CAL.—We have much reason to thank God for His mercy in opening doors of access to these poor people and supplying the wherewithal to minister to them. Yesterday I heard from a Christian who is printing Spanish tracts in New Mexico to ask if we could take up still other places in South America. I told him that with the Lord's help we were duly thankful for the opportunity. These poor people need Christ and the simple story of the cross—God's love to man, a sinner and an enemy, flowing through this wonderful channel and bringing refreshment and blessing to all who will accept salvation as a gift at His hand. This is as unknown to most of them as if they were heathen—which indeed they are for the most part. Romish superstitions grafted on to heathenism is all their religion, and the Gospel which is the power of God unto salvation they know nothing of. A poor Mexican woman here who is in suffering and poverty we have ground to hope is resting in the Lord Jesus. She delights in reading her Testament, and speaks freely of her confidence being only in the precious blood of Christ. We are also cheered by hearing from a dear brother in New Orleans that he has been led of the Lord to give up both membership and ministry in the M. E. Church, so called. Also a fellow preacher in the same neighborhood has found deliverance, and I trust that the Lord has work prepared for them in those needy places. In some ways I envy the saints in Canada and other parts as not being surrounded by the terrible atmosphere of infidelity that is so almost universal here. But the day of our gathering together unto Him may not be far off, and then we shall be where and what we would be, and, best of all, shall see Him face to face.

R. T. Grant.

HALIFAX, N. S.—B. C. Greenman pitched his tent here July 25, and we have been having crowded meetings nightly and on Lord's Day afternoons, also Bible readings every afternoon

and meetings for children two and three times a week. The Lord has blessed our labors here, although little decided results have been manifest as to conversion; some claim to have found peace, others expressing anxiety. May He lead them out. Many Christians have been greatly helped at the readings, some we trust delivered from "sinless perfection," "Adventism," and others who denied the two natures now see clearly as to that truth. Our meetings were several times broken in upon by "Materialists," "Holiness" men, etc., but the truth always prevailed. We had after meetings nightly, many of them sweet and precious both in testimonies and prayer. Bro. Greenman gave some addresses on "What did the Lord Jesus mean by 'born of water'?" "How to read and understand the Book of Revelation," "The four judgments," also some important readings on "What is man? spirit, soul and body," completely exploding doctrines advanced by some Adventists present. He gave them an opportunity of replying and an hour to do so, but the "written Word" was too much for them, and they were glad to escape at any price. Bro. Lyman and McCandless joined us on Aug. 18th. We strike canvas 20th and leave with the tent for St. Croix and other places; are looking forward to a time of much blessing there. I expect to go with B. C. G. after leaving St. Croix, but cannot say as to returning to Halifax, as I hear of several open doors. May He guide.

We have just compiled a new "Hymn Sheet," 66 hymns, and have had a number printed, to be had at the Book Room, 65 Granville St.; to all who can purchase, 75 cts. per 100, or \$6.00 per 1000.

F. J. Enefer.

BEDFORD, N. S.—The Lord has been giving tokens of His favor in blessing souls here and at Waverley through Mr. McKay, who is now working at Richmond. At the tent the interest manifest from the start has deepened, and numbers increased as well as solidity of the hearers. Many ask to be visited, and from conversations in after meetings one hopes to find many in whom God has wrought, those in whom the work is often deepest shrinking from more public means of settling their difficulties. The Lord give grace to seek them out and minister to them. The Mission Hall, to be resumed in September, we hope will gather up much as to these precious souls. We trust to find an opening at the Exhibition Sept. 29th to Oct. 2d, in

which the help of others would be welcome. Lack of fellowship which one finds at times serves, however, to cast us more entirely on Him who sent us. May He, and not the work or its results, be our joy and stay.

B. C. Greenman.

UNITED STATES.

BOYERTOWN, PA.—As to your reminder, while the world enjoyed independence day on the 4th of July we had a dependence day, J. B. Gottshall being here, we had two very encouraging readings, well attended, and with special power, and we trust with blessing.

We send tracts to Virginia. Gospel meetings are again held at Pine Iron Works by E. B. Manger and others. Meetings are still kept up at Glasgow with interest and at Bechtelsville.

Bro. G. left on July 18th, to stop over Lord's Day in Reading, then Sunbury, Shamokin and Harrisburg. Things are going about the same as when you were here; nothing new, except a few who seemed to get cold are warmed up again, and come more regularly to meeting. Thank the Lord. ***

WILLIAMSPORT, PA.—It has been my joy to follow you in FIELD AND WORK from month to month, and to pray much for you. As I read August number I could not keep back the tears, such a longing came over me to aid you in the work of the Lord. I am yet kept here while fields are white to the harvest and laborers so few. The Lord in His mercy has comforted us in sending Bro. Hoffman here from Baltimore to work, we hope to move here. Our gathering is indeed weak, and we praise our God for sending him. I want much to go into Virginia and North Carolina, but must bide His time.

To S. A. White.

"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and de-

livereth them" (Psa. xxxiv. 7. What is like the word of our God? Well may we rest in it for our temporal needs, as spiritual. Phil. iv. 6 has long been my rest. "The peace of God"—glorious it is. I am now free as to this world's service, and while all is dark as to my path, yet He keeps me in perfect quietness. I go out by faith to minister Christ to saints and sinners. I dare not hold back longer. Since hearing from Bro. Pearson of the needs in many parts, and of the hardships that both saints and sinners, with the Lord's servants, go through, it has mightily stirred me up, and I should be verily guilty now to enjoy the little ease I have while others are denying themselves to carry the bread of life to these hungry ones. The poorest food and accommodation often through the South and Bahamas, and poor as I am I have always had a comfortable bed and good plain food to eat; not many luxuries, but plenty to thank God for. The Lord helping me, I now lay all at His feet who said, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head." I am ashamed of myself that I am not more moved to fall prostrate before such love and grace.

A. F. Cowles.

ROANOKE, VA.—I have been going two or three times a week to East Roanoke for meetings and to see the people, giving out tracts as the Lord leads. I love to go to D.'s; there is much freshness of soul, and they enjoy reading and listening to the blessed Word of God, and it is restful and refreshing to go after a day's work. They are very teachable, and I believe the Lord is leading them into "paths of righteousness for His name's sake." There are two Y. M. C. A. cottage meetings I am urged to go to, and do so frequently. Have been visiting a sick girl who was much pleased to have me come. I asked her what if the

Lord Jesus said, "Will you take me for your Saviour?" "I would say, 'Yes.'" It was the last time I saw her alive. Her grandmother always enjoys my visits. When last leaving her a young man asked if I thought it was too late for him. He was to have joined the Lutheran mission on a certain day, but had committed a sin the day before he was to have been baptized, and therefore dared not go ahead. I told him he was on the wrong track, and urged the importance of accepting Christ as his Saviour, gave him some Scripture and left him, assured that He who had begun a good work would finish it. How I wish we had a tent here. Don't forget the need here before the Lord who is so gracious.

I have been preaching three weeks past nightly and two or three times Lord's Day at some meetings with a Bro. J. an earnest Christian, practically outside, in the woods, and the Lord has been saving souls; some say about fifteen, real bright conversions. I know of seven or eight who have received assurance. One who cannot read said he believed Jesus Christ died for the sins of the whole world. I asked, "Do you believe, then, that He died for the sins of John Nolan?" He replied, "Well, now that you put it in that way, I can't say that I do." The next evening, with glad tears in his eyes he said that he could not sleep the night before because of that question, but in the morning the light broke in upon him, and he said, "What a fool I have been! If He died for the sins of the whole world, of course He died for the sins of John Nolan." He has been happy ever since. His wife has been a Christian for years, and now their eldest daughter is coming into the blessed light of salvation. The meetings have been largely attended, sometimes 200 to 300. One young man who attended once or twice and was spoken to

personally was afterwards shot down in a quarrel. His family (who are very hard) sent for some to pray with him. Bro. J. and I went, but he could just say, "Yes, yes, pray for me, pray for me," then sank into a semi-conscious state and died two hours later. His death caused some seriousness.

In the whole of our meetings in the open air on the outskirts of the town with rough element around (as witnessed by a murder and highway robbery near there) there was the most perfect order. After preaching I talked personally with a great number, and received quiet, frank answers, and soon the Lord came in and souls were saved and are now rejoicing. It was so good to clear away the rubbish and let anxious souls right down before God—delightful work! Now I have so many I want to see. I thought of you often, how you would have enjoyed the opportunities. The Lord hurry on the wagon to these parts, for the need is very great. Bro. J. lives about 70 miles on the Shenandoah R. R., and wants me to go with him to hold a woods meeting there. I have such a longing, may the Lord make it plain. It may prove another link in the chain north. The Lord give wisdom that this precious fruit may be gathered to Christ, a testimony faithful and true. We have prayer meeting and Bible study from house to house (Wednesday and Friday) and preaching in the grove Lord's Day. I trust soon to hear that your face is set toward "old Virginia."

J. M. Peddicord.

I think of you daily, and pray God's blessing to rest upon you and yours; wish you were here to assist us. We hold meetings every Sunday in the railroad rooms, with quite a large attendance. All the work is stopped in the yard for two hours, so that the men can come. We have everything to encourage us, our officials

taking an active part in the work. We have rented a house and are fitting up reading rooms, and trying to make it homelike for the men. I feel that Christ is with us, and that if we only do all in His name it is bound to be a success; there is no such word as fail when He is our Leader. I know whereof I speak, for since I have had Him for my Guide things beyond my power to overcome have vanished away in His presence, and my work is so much easier and our home so much brighter with the presence of our dear Saviour. And we can all say that we now have eternal life, and are looking for the second coming of our dear Lord. I am looking forward to your coming to us this winter, and bespeak for you to stay with us in our humble home. You will find a warm welcome. We often speak of you and pray that your labors be blessed with a bountiful harvest. Have received the tracts and enjoyed them beyond expression. I hope you will pray that we may continue in the right way, and remember we want you to come and see us.

[One blessed through the word last May. Ed.]

I must tell you that I hope your prayers and ours have been heard and answered so far. The young man I spoke of has not touched intoxicating liquor since you left, and has been very circumspect in every way. Continue to pray for his conversion. We often speak of your pleasant visit.

[Mother-in-law of the above. Ed.]

NETHERS, VA., Aug. 4.—Bro. Silas Berry is gone to the Lord; he bore testimony for Him. We had a meeting last Lord's Day on the top of the Blue Ridge. There were about 100 present, mostly from Page Co. We gave away a good many tracts. The meetings continue as usual at the schoolhouse and Sunday School. We hope to go to Nicholson's

Hollow this month for meeting. Bro. Boynton expects to return to Virginia in September.

F. Markes.

C. R. Jenkins.

NEABSCO, VA.—We had advertised two meetings at Potomac for July 5, two men arranging seats for it. There were about 100 present—a large company for there. Some came six or seven miles by train and boat, others over the hills on foot. God gave me an awful earnest of judgment to come. G. and S. were both working for salvation and withstanding us before we came. They were very dark, unable to read, yet had been praying God to send some one, and He sent Bro. S. and myself. We both felt there was evidence of hunger of soul. After the meeting we conversed with them and their wives, one of whom, Mrs. G., was 75 years old and one side paralyzed. As we talked of the wonderful love and grace of God their eyes filled with tears and faces beamed with delight, and all opposition melted under the Word of God. G. grasped my hand, crying, "O my dear brother, we are all brothers in the same family;" then said to Mr. S., "O Charlie, come, do come to Jesus." He seemed full of the blessing of the Lord. Then as S. and I were still in his embrace, the other, with tears streaming down his face, began to exhort S. The two old men were repaid, the Lord giving them more than they could contain. Mrs. S. said to them, "Now you've heard them yourselves, what do you think of them?" They could only rejoice that God had sent us to show them His way of salvation. Old Mr. G. said, "I am not long for this world. God has something yet for me to do, I will supply all the lumber for a place of meeting and help build it. The Lord has given it to me, and I will give it all to Him."

J. M. has been restored—praise the Lord. He seems very happy, but deeply

exercised about his brother, who denies the Word of God. His wife is rejoicing and firm in the Lord. Thirteen of us (two colored brethren) remembered the Lord's death there for the first time. They remained till near midnight, then climbed the hills to their homes. There is hardly a family but what God has been speaking to, and we can but rejoice over the wonderful work of God. S. made a bold confession. He will be a staunch Christian. I am thankful with trembling for the wonderful strength the Lord is giving me for this work. I do not feel strong in body, yet had two open-air meetings yesterday, long and earnest. It made me welcome the bed at midnight, and feel little worse of it. Dumfries tonight, three miles away; six miles on, at A. W.'s, Tuesday; at Freestone, four miles on, Wednesday—to be walked D. V.). Potomac again Thursday. God is hearing and answering the prayers going up as sweet incense to His throne, for which I am thankful. Bro. S. can only be with me 10 days.

POTOMAC, VA.—Only five were baptized yesterday; a happy time. Bro. C. seemed full of the Spirit, and bore a happy testimony to the crowd. I addressed them from Matt. xxviii. and Rom. vi. There were about 150 present, though there was no public announcement of it. Willie K., the lame boy, says he is saved now. Mrs. A. confessed Christ last night; her sister is also interested. I go to Forrest Hill Thursday (D. V.) by urgent request. I am wanted to go also to Stafford. So God is stirring up this section also. All praise to Him. I heard that Mr. L. of Forrest Hill was sceptical about the work of God until last Tuesday night at D., when he heard the word preached from Titus ii., and remarked to some one, "I believe the Lord has sent that man here. That is just what we want." He says he is saved.

I am reminded of the Israelites before whom the kings were made to yield. The whole country seems to be opening up further and further through the blessing received by others. Have announced a meeting in E. chapel for Monday, 27th (D. V.), Dumfries tomorrow, Freestone Friday, Cherry Hill on Lord's Day. Hope to return to W. on Tuesday on my way home for a little and arrange for a more extended trip. S. A. White.

FREEPORT, N. Y.—I am pressing through with work at home, hoping to go to Virginia. There are especial needs at present near here. Trenton also and Nassau, Del., are before me. Thus it will be the middle of September before I can reach the Blue Ridge, diligent as I may be. Our dear Bro. Silas Berry, whose heart seemed so to burn while he listened to the precious truth, is with the Lord. How joyous the change for him!

C. F. Boynton.

CONCORD, N. H.—I got here Aug 7th; spent three weeks previously in Fitchburg, Mass. The Lord gave a time of refreshing, those with us manifesting interest in the Word and work of the Lord. Found much to encourage outside also. One brother (Baptist) opening his house, had three very interesting and blessed meetings; interest also among the unsaved, which encouraged me greatly.

Only a few in fellowship here, but I am happy in being with them, remaining till the 14th, then leaving for St. Croix, N. S. Have lately had much happiness in the ministry of the Word, and God graciously supplies every need. Commenced meetings on Boston Common in June. God gave fellowship and blessing from the beginning, and interest continues. I have learned that I am not necessary to the carrying on of God's work. He can do without me. Several have come into fellow-

ship. One after another has been led out in the Gospel, and the end is not yet. May our God richly bless and continue to use them there and everywhere. The time is very short, and the King's business requires haste.

J. Cran.

CANADA.

SHERBROOKE, QUE.—Dr. Hutchinson has been here since July 13th, ill in bed the last two weeks at Orford. He was a little better last week, and as I am going to New Brunswick asked me to mention to you how he was situated, and so through FIELD AND WORK his friends would know about him; he thinks of coming here on the 8th. Mr. Brown and others met at P. with a few simple souls who say they are gathered out to the name of Jesus alone.

J. A. Brown.

L'ORIGINAL, ONT.—It needs much care and singleness of eye to record work done for the Lord, especially if it concerns one's self. I had it on my heart to return to the field I so unwillingly left last November—Northwestern Ontario; but the Lord has directed otherwise, at least for the present.

Through the kindness of Bro. Hall, who runs a steamboat between Oswego, N. Y., and L'Original, Ont., myself and son came here, where I had no doubt the Lord of the harvest was leading, and present indications strengthen my convictions and give comfort.

We are in the last field (Caledonia) where Brn. John and Thomas White labored so faithfully, zealously and with no little sacrifice last winter—working hard all day, then going 11 miles through snow-drifts and storm that would not be thought of by the comfortably settled, so called minister, returning late, and up at their work in the morning, that they might preach the Gospel without charge. This is only one place where they endured hard-

ship like good soldiers of Jesus Christ. Dear T. White has gone to his rest, much missed by his fellow-laborer, sorrow-stricken family and those who received blessing under his labors.

I spend my time at Hawkesbury, Caledonia and Bro. Hall's, lecturing twice weekly on the Tabernacle with colored charts, the pastor here much enjoying the lectures and glad to hear. May the Spirit of God lead him on in that plain path that shall honor the Lord. "He that honoreth me shall be honored of my Father also." Blessed words! Such honor is more than passing vapor. What strength it gives to the faithful soul!

Most of my time is spent in Caledonia, trying to help those converted last winter and give the Gospel to those still unsaved.

Last night the lecture was on the "Golden Altar," with some Gospel, contrasting the two altars; also showing how Christendom had ignored the distinction between them. The building was well filled, and the people listened with the closest attention. The Lord open their hearts to receive the life-giving Word.

Yesterday was a solemn day, delightful to the converts and to the blessed Lord who loves to gather to Himself, to show forth His death and bear testimony according to Matt. xviii. 20.

Twelve happy souls (nine living there, three of us elsewhere) gathered in the school house, two of whom I baptized—a young man, a school teacher, and his uncle, now carrying on a Sunday School, and not a year converted. Others I think will come soon to increase their number.

I am getting into years, but labor for souls never was sweeter to me. Peace be with all the children of God. God is one, and the Church is one. The very divisions only bear testimony to the divine oneness, so far above men's thoughts and ways.

Geo. O. Atkinson.