

THE TRACT SOCIETY. Thirty-first Annual Report of the Executive Board. We submit this report of another year's operations with a deep sense of indebtedness to God for his goodness. He still blesses the cause of the Sabbath and its advocates, and we thank him for all his favors. It is our earnest prayer that the Holy Spirit may help us to realize still more the claims of truth, and prepare us for greater efforts to teach it in the world.

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN SABBATH TRACT SOCIETY.

VOLUME XXX—NO. 48.

ALFRED CENTRE, N. Y., FIFTH-DAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1874.

WHOLE NO. 1556.

CATALOGUE OF BOOKS AND TRACTS.

THIS SABBATH AND THE SUNDAY. By Rev. A. H. Lewis, A. M. Part First, Albany, 208 pp. Fine Cloth, 1/2 1/2. This volume is an earnest and able presentation of the Sabbath question, argu-mentatively and historically, and should be in the hands of every one desiring light on the subject.

NATURE'S GOD AND HIS MEMORIAL. A Series of Four Sermons on the subject of the Sabbath. By Rev. Nathan Wardner, Missionary at Sharon, Vermont. 1871. 172 p. It is valuable as showing the origin of the Sabbath argument at that time.

THE ROYAL LAW CONTENDED FOR. By Edward Seaman. First printed in London, in 1658. 64 pp. Paper, 10 cents.

THE SOCIETY also publishes the following tracts which will be sold at cost, in large or small quantities, to any who may desire them. Specimen packages sent free to any one who may wish to examine the Sabbath question. Twenty per cent discount made to clergymen on the purchase of any of these books, and a liberal discount to the trade.

NO. 1—Reasons for Introducing the Fourth Commandment to the consideration of the Christian People. 28 pp. NO. 2—Moral Nature and Scriptural Observance of the Sabbath. 52 pp.

grog-shop there and showed themselves practical prohibitionists by emptying out the casks of whiskey. Bro. Hull reports his labors there as follows: "I gained the respect and confidence of the church, and when I presented the subject of the Sabbath and the law of God they listened with apparent interest and approval. One evening an aged man interrupted me and charged me with misrepresentation of Acts 20: 7. Several others took it up and while we discussed the question, The congregation seemed to take the side of truth almost entirely. I was much pleased with the spirit and result of the meeting.

One noteworthy achievement not mentioned in this extract was the modification of the law of Minnesota so as to exempt Sabbath-keepers from fines for working on First-day. Bro. Bailey distributed petitions, and Hon. W. F. Babcock presented them to the House of Representatives, and succeeded in securing this protection. Plans are laid, and will be pressed next winter, by which it is hoped to secure that State entire equality of rights for Sabbath-keepers.

Bro. Bailey attended the Quarterly Meeting of the churches of Northern Wisconsin at Berlin, the last of May. He preached four times there and then went to Dakota, where a remnant of the church still remains, numbering about twenty-five members, most of whom are well situated, and will probably continue there. Besides other preaching he gave two Sabbath lectures to good congregations. Liberal contributions at both places were taken, and arrangements made for more systematic collections in the future.

Bro. M. B. Kelly is the only agent who has been steadily at work throughout the year. His labors have been confined to Southern Illinois. By lectures, sermons and the distribution of tracts, he has apparently maintained a good interest on that field. The results are as marked as they were in the earlier stages of the work there. Still it is evident that the cause is making headway against all opposition.

Bro. M. W. St. John, who was appointed Treasurer at the last session of the Society, presented his resignation, and argued it on account of ill-health and the demands of business. He was therefore released from the position, and Bro. J. M. Todd was chosen to fill the vacancy.

LECTURING AGENCIES. The number of lecturers and their terms of service have been limited for reasons already mentioned. As their reports have been mostly published in the RECORDER, and are a repetition largely of details of labor with which you are familiar, it is thought best to present here merely an outline, with such brief extracts as may have special value.

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ought to be continued with vigor. I give it to be important information. The project is auspicious. I do hope that the beginning made, and will be followed up, and find large success in causing the people to understand their duty to God, and to their fellow-men.

The feeling in this Society, doubtless, is largely in favor of the view presented by Bro. Greene in regard to the importance of continuing the effort in that State. Already two Associations, the Central and Western, have taken action preparatory to memorializing the Legislature of Pennsylvania once more, as well as the Congress of the United States, against all enactments abridging the rights of conscience, when the exercise of such right is not determined to others, and since they are secured by the organic law.

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"I was pleased to notice that some were present who had never attended our meetings before, especially the women. It is cheering to see the cause in the country. Our brethren would readily respond to such plans if they were properly posted, and could see the work in progress. It is no time to falter now, with rich fields opening to us and God bidding us go forward."

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regarded as a good citizen, though not religious. In October, 1874, I was passing through this neighborhood, and felt moved with a strong desire for his salvation. I called and spent several hours with him, and prayed with him and his family. It was the Lord who blessed that effort. His wife and daughter with himself have embraced the Sabbath. Having expressed their wish to unite with our people, I went to Pleasant Hill and requested that a committee be appointed by the church to visit the neighborhood, for the purpose of receiving them. On last First-day a large concourse assembled on that bank of Cedar Creek. In a seat full of glory, when I preached from Acts 28: 22, "But we desire to hear of what thou thinkest concerning this sect, for we know that everywhere it is spoken against."

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presented to the Society for such action thereon as may be deemed advisable. The following is the report of said committee: The work of the American Sabbath Tract Society, as originally set forth in its Constitution, and as developed by subsequent events, is twofold: 1st, to secure the publication of matter relating to Sabbath Reform; 2d, to encourage the publication of religious and moral tracts, as shall most effectively bring to the attention of the public the facts and truths necessary to promote such reform.

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department would be able to do something toward helping the general work. That there would be a surplus for such a purpose, he thinks beyond a question. It is apparent, therefore, to all that the financial resources of the office depend upon the faithfulness of the patrons of the paper in meeting their obligations. Because their indebtedness is small, many probably fail to realize the evil that results from their neglect to forward payment in season. It is often a matter of mere carelessness. Those who make the receipts slow, should remember that they would not be satisfied if they had to depend upon a slack hand for the issues of their weekly newspaper. And while they demand diligence and regularity on the part of others, they surely will not complain when they themselves are asked to walk by the same rule, especially since, by prompt action, they may bear a part in keeping the source full from which they receive supplies. They should consider that small sums in the aggregate become large. The river can not flow if the little streams fail. Each subscriber should feel the necessity of doing his part to keep the treasury full, to meet the large current expenses which must be provided for every week. We request every one to appear, for the sake of the cause whose prosperity they desire, to remit what is due without delay. We trust that it is only necessary to call attention to this matter to have payments forthcoming in abundance. Your family paper is one of the "necessaries of life," in the highest sense of the term. Let its claims ever be among the first for which you shall provide.

New editions of tracts have been printed as required, to keep the supply sufficient for all demands. The following list shows the number of copies issued: Page. 6,000, Tract No. 16, 189,000; 6,000, " " 6, 200,000; 5,000, " " 14, 200,000; 10,000, " " 25, 80,000; 10,000, " " 22, 200,000; 4,000, " Show it in the Book," 22,500. Total No. of pages, 830,000.

One new tract only, the last in line above, has been published. It is in the form of an address from the six brethren in Southern Illinois who were formerly Baptist ministers, and who have withdrawn. It is the good, old invulnerable Baptist argument turned against their own error of Sunday-keeping. Its circulation, with the divine blessing, bear good fruit.

There are several important reasons why, for having the active membership of these auxiliary societies, made up exclusively of women, instead of a mixed, or exclusively male membership. Some of these are: 1st, The moral purification work is now organized and carried on; the women have not a proper share of responsibility and labor. 2d. The women will take the time necessary for the prompt prosecution of this work, whereas the men, with often more hours of leisure, are quite apt to feel that they can not afford the time necessary for labors of this kind. 3d. Experience testifies that women, as canvassers, secure the largest and readiest subscriptions to benevolent causes; the men are more willing to give than to canvass. 4th. The known self-faithfulness and ability of women in the advocacy and support of moral and religious reforms in general, and of Sabbath Reform in particular, together with the felt need of some efficient auxiliary aid, is of itself a sufficient reason for the plan now proposed.

Publications are freely furnished to Bro. Jones for circulation in London and elsewhere. The total number of pages of tracts distributed, chiefly within the last six months, is 45,740. Considerable correspondence has been conducted by Bro. Jones, which seems to be serving a good purpose. Twenty-four names are already on his list of inquirers for light. A brother has been discovered in Belfast, Ireland, who has been keeping the Sabbath for more than twenty years, and has shown his zeal by writing and publishing a tract in its vindication. Several copies of the RECORDER are now sent across the Atlantic, to the delight of those who, not long since, did not dream that such an organ was in existence. The tract distributor in London is Bro. Charles B. Barber, who undertook the labor voluntarily, from a desire to advance the Sabbath. The small sum of \$25 has been appropriated to aid him. Those interested in the Sabbath in Glasgow ask that a Seventh-day Baptist missionary be sent to Scotland. If we had the man and the means we could send one most cheerfully. What better soil can be found for Sabbath doctrine than that awaiting us in the land of John Knox, where, in Glasgow alone, during a few recent months, more than five thousand young men, besides thousands of others, were brought to Christ, and need to be taught the way of the Lord more perfectly. A letter from Bro. Jones, just received, mentions several persons who might be gathered, he thinks, with prudent effort, into a church in Glasgow.

There are four more nearly ready for final revision, upon the following topics: "My Holy Day," "Sabbath in the Old Testament," "Sanctification of the Sabbath."

Another is partly written, entitled, "The First-day-Seven-day Theory." Concerning others, the author says: "The 'Day of the Sabbath' should be revised and added to the list. Also one on the 'Time of Commencing the Sabbath.' One or two more may be needed to complete the series, as it is important to cover every vital point and meet all objections. I propose, as a conclusion, an 'Appeal to the Conscience of the Christian in Behalf of God's Holy Day.' It may be well to have one on the 'Sabbath by Civil Laws,' and one on the 'History of the Sabbath and Sunday.'" Bro. Bailey intended to finish them all before now, but other work prevented. As soon as practicable he will complete them, that they may not be long delayed, yet time enough must be taken to make the whole as thorough as possible.

The Conference, last year, referred the printing of the "Bi-centennial Essays" to this Society, with the request that we should publish the same in book form, and discontinue the issue of the paper. The Board took due consideration, and in view of the urgent times, and of the Society's lack of organized facilities for book-selling, the Editor, W. B. Gillette, who has distributed our publications on his missionary circuits, calls attention to the demand for a tract against the Sabbath profanation among our

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