

edition of 100,000 is going rapidly, as orders are daily being received at the office in large numbers. Letters from hundreds of the friends throughout the country show an increasing zeal for and activity in the work. Thus we see that in many ways the Lord is manifesting his blessing upon the work of the harvest, greatly to the joy of those who are able to participate therein, either by actual labor or otherwise.

JESUS THE GREAT CHIEF REAPER

Why, we are asked, is the work still progressing? We answer, Because it is the Lord's work and not man's! Brother Russell always recognized that the work of the harvest is directed by the great Master of the harvest—Christ Jesus; and that all of those who labor therein are greatly privileged above all other creatures on earth. Furthermore, the Scriptures show that those who died since 1878 have been changed instantly, "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye," and have entered into their eternal reward. The Scriptures declare that while such have ceased from their laborious efforts, their works do follow them. (Revelation 14:13) Hence our dear Pastor, now in glory, is without doubt, manifesting a keen interest in the harvest work, and is permitted by the Lord to exercise some strong influence thereupon. (Revelation 14:17) It is not unreasonable to conclude that he has been privileged to do, in connection with the harvest work, things which he could not do while with us. Although we recognize that the Lord is the great Master and Director of the harvest, yet we recognize that he would privilege the saints beyond the veil to have a part in the work on this side; and thus all the saints, both in heaven and upon earth, are now given the honor of concluding the work on this side, preparatory to the full establishment of the kingdom of glory.

"SCATTERING COALS OF FIRE"

Pastor Russell organized the WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY, under the Lord's direction, to carry on this work. This corporate body clearly seems to be designated in Revelation 14:18. It is the only organization on earth that is maintained by the sacrifice of the saints—the little voluntary sacrifices of the Lord's dear people throughout the world, who love him and his cause better than this life, and who joyfully make sacrifices in order that they may have a part in the work of setting the ecclesiastical heavens on fire, and announcing "the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Thus the Society is granted power and authority to scatter coals of fire (truths destructive of error), particularly as contained in Volumes IV. and VII. of STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES.

Pastor Russell was a prodigious worker. He labored early and late to make known the precious message of the kingdom. The welfare of the church was always dear to his heart. Like the great Apostle Paul, he ceased not day and night to warn the flock of God, if not with literal tears, yet often with weariness of body and sadness of heart. One of the last messages which he delivered to the church was that after his departure great trials would come upon the Lord's flock; and we witness the fulfilment of this prophetic statement. While fiery experiences bring sadness for the time, yet all who are properly exercised thereby rejoice to be partakers of these sufferings as a further evidence of discipline from the Lord.

For years he was the head of the Bethel family and director of a large corps of workers, both in America and abroad. Notwithstanding his arduous duties, he was never too busy to hear the troubles of others; and like a loving father and shepherd he sympathized with, comforted and directed the Lord's dear children. At the weekly meetings addressed by him, and at the many conventions which he attended, he always devoted a portion of the time to private counsel and aid to the Lord's dear flock, over which the Chief Reaper and Shepherd had made him overseer. Truly he was a Barnabas to the consecrated scattered throughout the earth.

When the great adversary came in like a flood, threatening to overwhelm the saints, Pastor Russell, the Lord's chosen servant, raised up a standard against him (Isa. 59:19), bring-

ing forth the "row" of faithfulness, which has proved a protection and blessing to many in these evil days. The "Morning Resolve", another product of his fertile brain, has been a great comfort and help to many in time of need.

HIS DEVOTION TO THE LORD

His firmness was a distinct part of his character. Once sure that he had the mind of the Lord upon a subject, he permitted nothing to stand in his way or to prevent him from carrying out what he considered to be the Lord's will. Indeed, the Lord foretold that his servant would possess this attribute of character, saying through his prototype:

"Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. As an adamant, harder than flint, have I made thy forehead."—Ezekiel 3:8, 9.

Whatever trying situation Pastor Russell faced, the Lord made him equal to it, and gave him the strength to prevail according to God's holy will. His life motto, in fact the very keynote of his wonderful career, was, "God first"; and this motto he kept faithfully, at whatever cost to himself or others dear to his heart. His loving devotion to Jehovah and to the Lord Jesus was an inspiration to all with whom he came in contact and served. Though firm, yet he possessed a gentleness like unto that of a woman. Benevolence was a marked attitude of Pastor Russell, which manifested itself in his liberality of sentiment and his untiring efforts to bring the "glad tidings" of the kingdom of peace to those who sit in darkness. He suffered much, yet was able to steel his mind against difficulty and attack, and by the Lord's grace was enabled to stand firm and steadfast while others would grow weary and discouraged. He was endowed with keen perceptive powers, thereby rendering his range of observation extraordinary; while his memory and ability to analyze, and to reach rapid and accurate conclusions, continued to be a marvel to all who were associated with him closely. He had an exalted sense of duty as a servant of the Lord, and the conviction that each moment is precious and must be utilized to the Master's praise seemed to pervade his entire being. This was a source of inspiration to the brethren generally. He faithfully and untiringly administered the affairs of the church, the members of which he loved devotedly. It was said of the Apostle John that when he was too old and feeble to walk to the meeting of the early Church, he was carried into the house and placed upon a couch, where he delivered his exhortation and message of love to the flock of God, always admonishing them to love one another. With a like loving spirit Pastor Russell faithfully looked after the interests of the Lord's little ones, until his dying hour. When almost too feeble to walk and too feeble to stand for any length of time, he was assisted to the platform of the hall where the church at Los Angeles, California, was assembled; and there sitting with bowed head, he delivered to them the last loving message that he ever spoke. When he had finished this last message he quoted and asked the congregation to sing:

"Abide, sweet Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With light and comfort from above,
Be thou our guardian, thou our guide;
O'er every thought and step preside.

"Teach us in watchfulness and prayer
To wait for thine appointed hour,
And fit us by thy grace to share
The triumphs of thy conquering power."

Great men are not fully appreciated while they are among us. Such is true with reference to Pastor Russell. Like the great Master whom he devotedly loved and faithfully served, he was misunderstood and persecuted, all of which he bore in patience. He finished the work given him here to do, and is now forever with the Lord, where there is fulness of joy and pleasures for ever more.

THE HISTORY AND OPERATIONS OF OUR SOCIETY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of the Shareholders of the WATCH TOWER BIBLE & TRACT SOCIETY will be held at Carnegie Hall, in the City of Pittsburgh (North Side), County of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, on the 5th day of January, 1918, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of electing Directors and Officers and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

W. E. VAN AMBURGH, Secretary.

Because of the unusual interest in the ensuing Annual Meeting of the WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY, as per the foregoing notice, it is deemed proper that we here give

THE WATCH TOWER readers a brief resume of the organization and operations of the SOCIETY.

As is well known, Pastor Russell began his religious