

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

Conservatism and Progress

By H. W. LOWE

THIS is an age of glib speech. Men talk freely of things they neither experience nor understand.

Progress is an illustration. We live in a land that is called conservative the world over. That is one of the criticisms we cannot refute. We are born and brought up in a conservative environment, and we are therefore all tinged with it. It varies in degree, due to the indefinable laws of heredity, and a few other factors, but we are a conservative people, nevertheless.

This conservatism is of no value to us except as it enables us to retain the spiritual and moral principles proven by time, and to use them as the basis for continuous growth.

Unfortunately many talk of progress while they are all the time the victims of a restricted and narrow conservatism. Their minds automatically close against new ideas and they are especially antagonistic to anything larger and bigger than that which is contained in the limits of their own experience. This contradiction is not difficult to analyze, but it is hard to handle. Anyone who talks one way and acts another is a real problem, and we must be sure we do not fall into this human category. Not even our Lord could do much with this type of person.

All progress comes to us at a price. In religion it is sometimes a high price, as history proves.

For example, the early seventeenth century in this land brought hard times to any who would not conform to the doctrines and decrees of the state church. There followed the lamentable tale of persecution which drove good and godly men to Holland, and finally, people like the Puritans were forced to leave their homes, their loved ones, their livelihoods, and flee to the New World. That was a hard price. If only those Stuart times had been more receptive to progressive ideas and to new truth!

Arrived in the New World, some, while talking of freedom and progress, fell victims to the old narrow conservatism in religious matters from which they had fled, and so we have the sad story of persecution even in early American days. Some of those good people talked progress, but lived conservatism!

The history of the Reformation subsequent to the days of the original reformers also shows that progress, if not continuous, leads people by a circular route almost back to their original starting point.

Now we Adventists must learn well these lessons. In nearly fifty years we have, of course, made some progress. Yet none among us would dare to say that our work has been as great or as widespread as it is pictured on pages 611 and 612 of *The Great Controversy*—pages, by the way,

we wish all would read again. The work of the 1844 Advent movement, and the Reformation of the sixteenth century, are both to be surpassed: "These are to be exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel. The work will be similar to that of the day of Pentecost."—Page 611.

With no desire to belittle what good work has been done, could any of us say we have yet seen anything approaching this scale of results? Many among us are ready to attribute years of small things to one cause or another, but almost all these reasons reveal how conservative and small we are. Very few realize that small reappings come from small sowings. Small fruitage comes of small planning.

The moment we talk of large campaigns, some well meaning soul champions the smaller ones. When we speak of more church buildings, some think our means should not be in bricks and mortar—as though modest houses of worship were not both a crying need and the best kind of investment. This line of conservative reasoning touches almost all our activities, and so we continue to live in the day of small things.

God's work, however, is to move forward, whether we move with it or remain behind. Every

kind of public campaign, both large and small, will figure in its progress. Every growing department of our work will contribute to its success.

"The times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19, 20) is a statement that applies to the final phases of God's work, and if we are to be in that grand refreshing we must be alive and obedient to God's truth, sharing in larger plans, working in a progressive fashion, opening our minds to new ideas, welcoming workers and supporting them in prayer and effort.

We shall make some mistakes. (There are a few recorded of the Pentecost men in the New Testament!) But the work will move forward. Instead of bemoaning apostasies (and there were also some of them back at Pentecost!) we shall work for conversions. In place of the destructive criticism, of which the world is full, there will be the spirit of brotherly

kindness, and the love of God. Replacing the spirit of driving dictation, to which leaders, ministers, and laity can fall easy victims, there will be energetic co-operation in the common cause of Christ. Where the human tendency to magnify self occurs, it will be eliminated by God's grace. The temper (yes, and the nerves!), the passions, the ambitions, the love of office and pre-eminence, the tortuous politics of this subtle age, the love of money and the power it supplies—the small mind and the mean spirit—all these things and a host of their unmentionable relations, will, by God's grace through the Holy Spirit, disappear in those who love the Lord and work for His kingdom.

This is the price of progress in God's work, and, if we willingly pay it, we shall experience Pentecost, and, what is more, "He shall send Jesus" (Acts 3:20) for whom our souls are longing.

RELIEVING THE TEDIUM

THERE is a certain church in which every time a certain officer is called upon for public prayer, some of the young people raise their eyes and inwardly groan. I have groaned with them at times.

The inordinate length of some public prayers is uninspiring, and we ought to cure ourselves of this useless habit. If every person whose duty includes public prayer would write out a prayer no more than four times as long as the Lord's prayer, the ideal of a two-minute prayer, as advocated by Sister White, would be reached.

DENMARK

PASTOR P. G. NELSON, president of the West Nordic Union, informs us that the Skodsborg Sanitarium, which has been in part in Government use by the Germans during the war, is likely to be returned to us in a few months.

We understand that Dr. Roy Maudsley, son of Pastor and Mrs. W. Maudsley, passed through Skodsborg recently, and received a warm welcome as the first visitor from overseas since the war began.

H. W. LOWE.

Notes from the Union President

COLPORTEUR'S EFFICIENCY COURSE

THERE have just come to hand eight bright-hued booklets which we think are destined to influence our publishing work in days to come. This "Efficiency Course" will bring to new recruits a knowledge of the basic principles of salesmanship and character, that will prepare them for success as Christian colporteurs. Old hands who take this course will be better hands, and so the whole standard of this department will be still further raised. The future will bring conditions demanding better salesmen and better Christians. This course is not obtainable elsewhere, but if it were, it would cost many times the price we charge.

MISSION NEWS

PASTOR W. McCLEMENTS informs us that C. A. Bartlett and W. J. Newman, both from the British Union, were ordained at the Aba camp meeting in February.

Pastors E. D. Dick and A. W.

Peterson flew from Washington to West Africa recently, and are studying local problems before proceeding to the Near East.

Dr. and Mrs. Henry Hargreaves and four children are home on furlough from Persia, in which land the doctor has now served for twenty years.

JAPAN

THE *Church Times* of June 1, 1945, in recording a report of church conditions among Christian communities in Japan concludes thus:

"Seventh-Day Adventists and another sect, known as the Holiness Church, have been disbanded and their leaders imprisoned, because they refused to compromise concerning their tenets, and remained critical of the Government."

We have no direct news to this effect. Seventh-Day Adventists support governments as loyal citizens, and any criticism must have been based on definitely anti-Christian requirements.

South England Conference

President: Pastor G. D. King.
Office Address: 780 St. Albans Road, Watford.
Telephone: Garston (Watford) 2213-4.

Baptism at Chiswick

ON the afternoon of July 21st, the Chiswick church was bright with flowers—surely prepared for something special. Yes, a baptism!

In this service, members of the four West London churches were united with many friends from Wimbledon and Stanborough Park. Practically every seat was occupied and a solemn silence prevailed.

The service proved to be a most impressive one. Pastor Armstrong officiated, assisted by Pastor Bolton and Brethren Roper and Manning.

Surely every heart was stirred

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as Pastor Armstrong spoke of the power of the blood and the need for daily sanctification.

Four candidates were baptized and received into the church. Four of the churches represented, namely Ealing, Chiswick, Wembley, and Wimbledon, received one member each.

We all thank Brother Lethbridge for so beautifully rendering "Open the Gates of the City." We were also fortunate to have in our midst the Misses Hyde, who sang superbly, "My King Divine" and other musical items. The organ was in the capable hands of Miss O. Selby.

At the close of the service opportunity was taken to express our deep appreciation of Pastor Armstrong's unsparing service and devotion during the past six years. We pray that God may be pleased to bless him continually and grant him success in his new field of work.

CHURCH CLERK.



District Meetings

At a recent meeting of the South England Conference Executive Committee, it was voted that the following district meetings should be held throughout the conference:

September 1st Norwich
September 8th Plymouth
October 6th London
October 20th Bristol

Programmes and further details will be issued in due course. Members are invited now to make their plans to attend their nearest district meeting, thus taking advantage of these days of fellowship which mean so much to us in our spiritual experience.

G. D. KING.



Good News from the Channel Islands

IN the years immediately preceding the outbreak of war some faithful student colporteurs did good work in the literature ministry during one summer vacation in the Channel Islands. Two of these, whose labours centred in Jersey, in addition to achieving

gratifying results in their book sales, succeeded in arousing an interest on the part of two elderly ladies and a gentleman in the Sabbath truth, and in finally leading them into the observance of God's true day. Some time later, one of the ladies died. This sister, in addition to consistent faithfulness in giving the Lord His tenth, had rendered substantial assistance to the students in the matter of their school fees. Up to the time of the occupation of the Islands, the remaining brother and sister continued to send to the conference office their tithes and offerings. Since then they have been completely cut off from us.

They were not forgotten, however, and you may imagine our gladness when recently a letter, dated June 30, 1940, reached us from the sister, containing tithes and offerings, posted just prior to the Island being overrun by the enemy, but evidently held up somewhere. Then, very soon afterward, two substantial registered packets arrived from the brother, together with a letter containing a beautiful testimony of gratitude to God for deliverance and for the blessings they had received, despite the shortage of food and other trials endured through the years of occupation. Associated with this was a neatly prepared statement of the tithes and offerings he had been putting aside quarter by quarter since he had been unable to post it. Likewise, the sister has now sent the result of her accumulation of dues to the Lord.

This is most heartening. It is an inspiration to know that these good souls have kept their faith warm and strong through such a long trying period, believing that the day of deliverance would come when they could renew their contact with the Lord's people, despite appearances to the contrary. It also speaks well for the solid work done by those faithful student colporteurs, who will rejoice with us at this good news.

It is hoped that as soon as the ban is lifted, and access is again granted to the Channel Islands, further efforts will be made to extend the interest among the inhabitants, and to add to the num-

bers of those who will prepare to meet the Lord. Your prayers to that end are invited.

J. H. PARKIN.



New Hastings Church

THE members of the Hastings church are now meeting in their own building: St. George's Hall, 90 St. George's Road, West Hill, Hastings.

All visitors will be heartily welcomed.

North England Conference

President: Pastor R. S. Joyce
Office Address: 22 Zulla Road,
Mapperley Park, Nottingham
Telephone: Nottingham 66312

Notes from the President

You will recall that we told you in our last notes that special meetings would be held on certain dates if suitable halls could be booked.

To secure halls, it has been found necessary to change some dates. They now stand as follows:

Manchester, September 8th, for Lancashire — Co-operative Hall, Downing Street, Manchester.

Newcastle, September 15th, for Tyne and Tees — News Theatre Lecture Hall, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle.

Leeds, September 29th, for Yorkshire — Blenheim Baptist Church, Blackman Lane, Woodhurst Lane, Leeds.

Birmingham, October 20th, for Midlands — Digbeth Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham.

APPRECIATION

WE are greatly cheered by the faithfulness of the North England Conference members.

Last time we mentioned that more had taken part in the In-gathering campaign than ever before.

The following are some interesting facts for those who like figures:

1	Collected by office workers and families	..£233 11 6
2	Collected by field workers and families	. 891 14 10
3.	Collected by collectors and families	479 11 4
4.	Collected by members not in above groups	. 8,262 0 4
	Final total	£9,866 18 0

This shows a gain of £1,267 over the amount collected last year. Groups 1-3 total £1,607 17s. 8d. or 16 per cent of the 1945 figure.

Out of 2,173 members, 1,970 faithfully remember to return the tithe of their income to the Lord.

The Sabbath-school and Missionary Volunteer attendances, and the number of members doing Home Missionary work, have increased, as also has the total mission offerings.

The numbers attending church and the spirit of unity and good fellowship are most encouraging.

SPREADING THE MESSAGE

"I saw that the servants of God should not go over and over the same field of labour, but should be searching out souls in new places. Those who are already established in the truth should not demand so much of their labour; for they ought to be able to stand alone, and strengthen others about them, while the messengers of God visit the dark and lonely places, setting the truth before those who are not now enlightened as to the present truth."—*Early Writings,* page 104.

"We must learn to stand alone, and depend wholly upon God"—*Ibid,* page 105

We have already laid plans for aggressive evangelistic advances this autumn. All the evangelists will be pulling their full weight and we are relying on whole-hearted "home missionary work" support from all the members.

The three office young ladies will be released from their office work for some time each week to assist in a local evangelistic campaign which Pastor W J Cannon is planning to conduct in the new Nottingham church as soon as it is completed.

R. S. JOYCE.



Blackpool

THROUGH an inadvertent error in the *Morning Watch Calendar* visitors sometimes seek the Black-

pool meeting place on the south side of this holiday resort. Will those who may be coming to Blackpool during the summer kindly note the address: 31 Queens Street, near North Pier. Sabbath services: 10.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday service: 6.30 p.m. W. MAUDSLEY.

Please Note!

As the Printing Department of the Stanborough Press will be closed during the annual holiday period in August, there will be no issue of the MESSENGER on Friday, August 24th. The next number will be dated September 7th and the copy date for this issue will be August 29th.

The Sales Department will receive orders and dispatch goods as usual throughout the factory holiday period.

Wedding Bells

HANDYSIDES-ELIAS—On June 19, 1945, Brother John Handysides and Sister Lelia Elias were united in marriage in the Advent church, Renfrew Street, Glasgow. This marriage unites two well-known families in the Advent cause, John and Lelia having been brought up in the message from childhood days. Both having graduated from the College, they begin their ministry together with many advantages. They have already proved in field work during the past few years their one desire to save and win souls for the kingdom of God. It was a great pleasure for the writer to visit the Renfrew Street church again on this special occasion, and to see so many old friends once more. The superintendent of the Scottish Mission, Pastor J McMillan, kindly assisted at the service, and we believe from the good words of counsel which were given by many sincere friends that this union will be blessed of God and bring great blessing to His cause. As a body of workers we welcome Brother and Sister Handysides and wish them Heaven's richest blessings. Our prayers will go with them as they labour together for God in the Liverpool district.

L. MURDOCH

BENNETT-SHELDRIK — On July 15, 1945, at the Wimbledon Advent church, Mr John Bennett and

Miss Joyce Daphne Sheldrick were united in marriage. A good number of relatives and friends attended the service. Both are members of the Wimbledon church and we wish them God's richest blessing and continued joy in their united labours for the Master.

G. ROPER

Advertisements

PRINTING—C Russell, Newton Street, Macclesfield

FARM HOUSEKEEPER required for two single men friends in Norfolk Country woman preferred. Help given with rough work Sabbath privileges Good food and outings Write, giving particulars and wages required, to: H. Slarke, Wood Farm, Denton, Nr. Harleston, Norfolk.

WANTED immediately in old established firm, an assistant with a view. Excellent prospects for a keen, energetic man. Great spiritual opportunities for one who loves his fellow-men. Apply: Dr. F. C. Shone, 17 Orford Road, London, E 17

GOOD HOME offered for orphan child, or one needing a home. To be legally adopted. Age six months to five years, either sex. Apply: J.H.P., 780 St. Albans Road, Watford, Herts

FURNISHED FLAT to let, West London 3 rooms. All conveniences. £3 weekly. Apply: J.H.P., 780 St. Albans Road, Watford, Herts

WANTED URGENTLY, for church library Spirit of Prophecy volumes, denominational and other books. Sale or exchange. New or secondhand. Write: D. J. Sage, 172 Wadham Road, Walthamstow, London, E 17.

YOUNG married couple require accommodation, preferably in the country. Husband assist on farm or market-garden. Wife willing to help with housekeeping. Write in first instance to: E. Plummer, 18 Meridan Street, Coventry

The North England Conference treasurer acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord's tithe, £5, anonymous

SUNSET CALENDAR

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	Lon'n	Not'm	Car'ff	Edin	Belt
Aug 17th	8 20	8 28	8 32	8 47	8 53
Aug 24th	8 05	8 13	8 18	8 29	8 36
Aug 31st	7 50	6 57	8 03	8 12	8 20
Sept 7th	7 34	7 41	7 47	7 54	8 03

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Published fortnightly on Friday for the British Union Conference of Seventh Day Adventists by the Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts

Copy for next issue.—August 29th

EDITOR: W. L. EMMERSON

Vol. 50. No 16 August 10, 1945