

# END OF THE WORLD IS NEAR, SAY THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS



Although going regularly about their business, the Seventh Day Adventists live in momentary expectation of the end of the world. "I expect to see it in the flesh," said a prominent member of the Oakland church a few days ago, and he but voiced the sentiments of the whole congregation. The awful day may come to-morrow; it may not come for years, but the Adventists feel that it is their duty to be prepared. Following is a statement on this subject by Elder Wilcox of Oakland.

The end of the world is assuredly close at hand. There can be no question about this, for a chain of biblical prophecies leads directly to this conclusion. There are thirteen different lines of prophecies already fulfilled, or in process of fulfillment, which present at least a score of special features, the existence of which no honest person can deny. Among these are the increase of riches, and knowledge, and disease; the waxing old of the earth as evidenced by earthquakes, cyclones, failures of crops and the like; the rise of all kinds of religious deceptions; the great decline of faith in things spiritual, and the great increase of scoffers; the widespread expectation of, and preparations for, war between the powerful nations of the earth. All these are indisputable facts, and were plainly foretold in the books of James, Isaiah, Habakkuk, Daniel, Revelation and others. We are told that these things and many more, which are occurring all around us now, were to occur "in

the last days"—"in the time of the end," and therefore we feel sure that the time of Jesus' second coming is very near, "even at the doors."

The coming of Christ is to be an actual and literal coming in the flesh, as he was caught up into heaven after his resurrection. He will appear in the clouds accompanied by his angels, and the righteous, both the living and dead, will go with him to heaven, while the wicked will perish at the sight of his glory and brightness. The heaven which we look forward to is not simply a state or condition, but is a reality, a blessed abode wherein the elect will live and reign with our Redeemer for 1000 years before their return to earth. It may be on one of the planets, or perhaps—and this seems to some of us more likely—on the glorious sun itself, the center of our solar system. Wherever it is, however, it is a certainty, a place of "many mansions," where the righteous shall be especially blessed by the personal presence of him through whom they are redeemed.

For 1000 years the earth will lie desolate and forsaken, and the wicked, who rejected the Saviour while they had the opportunity to obtain his grace, will wait in a dreamless sleep their final judgment. At the expiration of this period of the Lord and his people will descend to earth and the doomed shall be summoned to their accounting, after which they are to be utterly consumed by fire from heaven, which is also to burn and purify this whole earth, and make it fit for the occupancy of the great family of God which is to live in happiness and glory inexpressible forever.

We do not believe in an everlasting hell of fire and brimstone, but we do believe in an utter blotting out and destruction of the wicked. Every chance is given them in this life, and they are

free agents as far as the acceptance or rejection of God's mercy is concerned. There can be no repentance or forgiveness after death; our record is kept faithfully, and by that we are judged.

Our people do not set a precise date for the ending of the world, for the reason that we believe the Bible to be true and we are told therein that "the day and the hour knoweth no man." The definite prophecy made by William Miller was based on a miscalculation and a misconstruction of certain scriptural terms. He expected that the world was to come to an end in 1844, but that was in reality only the end of definite prophetic time—the end of Christ's priestly ministrations in heaven, and the beginning of the work of investigative judgment. While we do not attempt to even approximate the "great and terrible day of the Lord," we are still sure that it is so near that some of those who were living in 1843-44 will be living witnesses of the Lord's coming, and will go with him, without passing through death, to the New Jerusalem. This brings the time very near, but it is best that we should not know its exact limit. One thing is certain—the general war which is to precede the end will not take place until God's work, the spreading of the gospel in all nations, is done, but events follow each other rapidly, and there are no obstacles in the way of appointed things. Whether it be to-day, or to-morrow, or years from now, it is our duty to be prepared and to help to prepare others, and to do what good we can to the poor and suffering. Having done our duty the swiftly approaching end of worldly things will have for us no terrors, but will be full of ineffable joy and gladness.

Statement of Elder Milton C. Wilcox of the Oakland Seventh Day Adventist Church.  
Editor "Signs of the Times."

## The Great and Good Things Women Are Doing.

MISS MARY CHANNING WISTER has been appointed a member of the Philadelphia Board of Public Education. She was especially indorsed by the Civic Club, of which she is an active and highly valued member.

A young New York newspaper woman has been trying as an example and help to poor working girls to live on \$3 a week. Having succeeded only in going hungry, she now declares that living on such a sum is utterly impossible, which is scarcely an encouraging thought for the thousands of girls who are able to earn no more.

Miss Lennie Abshire lived for seventy-two years in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, and then suddenly determined to learn to read and write. She reported as a pupil at the primary school nearest her home and studied diligently for three terms, seven months in all, and then retired to private life again with enough education to make the remainder of her days happy.

Mrs. E. W. Cole of Nashville is the owner of one of the largest and loveliest rose gardens in America. She cuts over 2000 roses every day and gives them away to hospitals, schools, "shut ins" and her friends.

The Teachers' Annuity Aid and Pension Fund Association of Philadelphia had nearly \$30,000 on deposit in the Chestnut-street National Bank and Trust Company, which recently closed its doors.

The Woman's Club of Chicago during 1897 received \$22137 from the girls and boys of the public schools of that city, for the purpose of supplying warm clothing to poor school children.

Minnesota has opened a State School of Agriculture for women, with accommodations for sixty pupils.

Dr. Freda Lippert is physician for the new Girls' High School in New York. She occupies the chair of physiology and also attends to the physical well-being of the young women under her care.

A St. Louis girl, who committed the indiscretion of marrying at the age of 16, wants to continue her studies in the public schools, but has been denied the privilege by the school board. There is a decided difference of opinion among the citizens as to the board's position in the matter.

The Maine branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union has sent a formal protest to the Governor against the reappointment of Judge Enoch Foster of the Supreme Bench, alleging that he is morally unfit to occupy that position. The Judge is one of the most eminent jurists in New England, and in-

tends making a bitter fight against his feminine antagonists.

Miss Phoebe Cousins has almost recovered from her recent illness, and is preparing lectures on Cuba and Hawaii. She believes Cuba's belligerency should be recognized, but is opposed to the annexation of Hawaii.

Over a quarter of a century ago George W. Lee and Ellen E. Massey were sweethearts in Gillespie, Ill. Lee disappeared without any explanation, just before the wedding, but Miss Massey remained true to his memory. Last week Lee reappeared and called upon her, and as soon as a license could be obtained the two were married and started off on their long-delayed wedding journey.

Mrs. Alice M. Day is physician and surgeon of the Lake County (Indiana) Hospital and Asylum. She is a graduate of the Central College of Indianapolis and the first woman ever appointed in her State to such a position as the one which she is now filling most satisfactorily.

Ethel Evans Smith, a little 8-year-old daughter of the Quaker City, shows a remarkable talent for free-hand drawing, in which she has received no instruction whatever. In a recent drawing contest she submitted a design so beautiful in conception and execution that, although the contest was only intended for boys, the judges gave her a special prize and placed her work on public exhibition.

Lady Henry Somerset has given the town of Reigate, England, sufficient land for the erection of ten almshouses. One of the conditions of the gift is that no less than three women shall always be members of the almshouse board of governors.

Elsa Escheisohn, recently appointed to the professorship of civil law at the University of Upsala, is the second woman professor of university rank in Sweden. The late Sonya Kovalevsky was appointed professor of mathematics in the University of Stockholm in 1881.

A recent official report shows that there are in Germany three women employed as chimney-sweeps, thirty-five as slaters, seven as gunsmiths, 17 as coppermiths, 37 as farriers and nailers, 369 as masons, eight as stonecutters and 2000 in marble, slate and stone quarries.

Miss Leonora Jackson, the Chicago girl who won the Mendelssohn annuity prize at the Berlin High School for music, is deemed by Maestro Joachim the most marvelous violinist he ever has taught.

Miss McLean of Glasgow has given a fund for mission work among the dwarfs of the Cameroons district, West Africa, and the work of evangelization is fairly begun.

There is still living in quiet retirement

In a pretty villa near Aberdeen a daughter of James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd. The lady, now well over three score years, has no clear recollection of her gifted father, for she was only an infant of 4 years or so when "the shepherd" died, in 1835.

Lady Ernestine Brudenell-Bruce, daughter of the Marquis of Ailesbury, wants to sail her own yacht, and has applied to the Board of Trade for a master's certificate. The board refuses to examine her because she is a woman.

Mrs. Humphry Ward received \$10,000 for "Robert Elsmere," \$30,000 each for "David Grieve" and "Marcella," \$75,000 for "Sir George Tressady" and \$15,000 for "Bessie Costrell."

A pension has been granted to the widow of Knud Knudsen, a soldier in the late war, the back pay of which aggregates over \$6000. The man was a native of Norway and his wife has always resided there.

### CURIOUS TELEGRAPHIC MISUNDERSTANDING

As long as private telegrams can only be transmitted from one person to another at the rate of halfpenny per word, so long will senders scheme for the saving of words, and at the same time risk misunderstandings, some serious, some laughable.

A couple of friends were staying recently at Ballater, in Scotland, and were to be joined on a particular Sunday afternoon, for the afternoon only, by two others from Aberdeen. In the afternoon, however, the rain poured down piteously at Ballater and a wire was sent to Aberdeen informing the pleasure-seekers of the state of affairs and asking if they intended to come. The reply sent was: "Certainly not. Raining cats and dogs here." Unfortunately this was read, "Certainly. Not raining cats and dogs here," and the result was that two miserable beings, drenched to the skin, sauntered wearily about Ballater station for hours and hours till their home was sought and temper freely exhibited.

Another story told of Aberdeen is that there was a gentleman, well known there of the name of Saint. Any telegrams addressed "Saint, Aberdeen," would have found him. But one time the name of another Scottish town was substituted for Aberdeen in this brief address, and the telegraphic authorities at the receiving end were puzzled. They at once returned the message over the wires with the intimation and instruction, "No Saints here. Try Aberdeen."

A well-known art dealer once exhibited some of his treasures at an exhibition at Manchester, and desiring the

return of one of them he wired, "Please send panel, ten by eight, Venus and Adonis—Litchfield." The message was not in the least understood by the recipients and was consequently returned to the postoffice with a note to that effect. They at once came to the conclusion that the last portion of the wire was an address, and sent it on to the city of Litchfield, receiving an early, reply as follows: "No such firm as Venus and Adonis known at Litchfield. Try Manchester."

It is well known that press telegrams are sent to newspapers at greatly reduced rates and are delivered on large sheets of tissue paper, technically called "flimsy," about 100 words appearing on each sheet. Telegraph operators, knowing the skill of sub-editors, abbreviate freely, such contractions as "biz" (business), "rgh" (right hon. gentleman), and others of a like kind being regularly used, while new ones are invented as necessity arises. On one occasion the late John Bright was making a speech on an educational topic, which was being telegraphed to the press, and found it necessary to frequently make use of the word "children." "Chn" being the understood abbreviation for "chairman," the telegraph clerk could discover no means of shortening the word, but at length became tired of writing it in full and put "kids" instead, trusting to the sub-editor to make it right. Unaccountably, however, the sub-editor passed it, and when the paper came out Mr. Bright, to the astonishment of his admirers, was represented as having spoken of "the dear little kids."

### ROMANTIC COURTSHIP IN FAR JAPAN.

Japan is a long way off, and this charming story of how courtships are carried on among the elite of the society of the land of the rising sun has not been confirmed by travelers, yet it is pretty enough to be true.

In certain districts in houses wherein reside one or more daughters of a marriageable age an empty flower-pot of an ornamental character is encircled by a ring and suspended from the window or veranda by three light chains.

The Julietts of Japan are, of course, attractive, and the Romeos as anxious as those of other lands. But instead of serenades by moonlight and other delicate ways of making an impression it is etiquette for the Japanese lover to approach the dwelling of his lady bearing some choice plant in his hand, which he boldly, but, let us hope, reverently, proceeds to plant in the empty vase. This takes place at a time when he is fully assured that both mother and daughter are at home, neither of whom, of course, is at all conscious that the young man is taking such a liberty with the flower-pot outside their window. This act of placing a pretty plant in the empty flower-pot is equivalent to a formal proposal to the young lady who dwells within.

The youthful gardener, having settled his plant to his mind, retires, and the lady is free to act as she pleases. If he is the right man she takes every care of his gift, waters it and tends it carefully with her own hands, that all the world may see the donor is accepted as a suitor.

British Catastrophe—3087 Soldiers Killed." Fortunately for the reputation of the paper the compositor's suspicions were aroused and the error remedied in time.

There is a tradition of Nottingham journalism which J. M. Barrie, who began his career on the Nottingham Press relates in one of his books. Possibly this is the origin of the tradition, though old pressmen say it has foundation in fact. A sub-editor received a telegram which read, "Zulus have taken Umbrage; English forces had to retreat." A capital U threw him off his guard and he searched the map in vain for the Umbrage which had been captured. Pressed for time, however, he let it go, and on the contents placard next morning there duly appeared the remarkable lines, "Latest News of the War—Capture of Umbrage by the Zulus!"

## If You Cannot Sleep at Night Read This.

THE necessity of regular sleep for the maintenance of good health has long been recognized by observant minds. The impossibility of sleep at will, however determined one may be, brings on a state of painful nervousness. Physical and moral sensibility becomes exaggerated. The subject gets restless, impatient and excited. He is tormented by an unceasing need of motion or action, but there is very little energy in him. He is particularly accessible to morbid influences and predisposed to adynamic forms of sickness, according to the New York Herald.

This summary of the evil effects of insomnia holds good whatever the form it may take—whether sleep comes only after a long period of cerebral excitement, or, on the contrary, is broken after an insufficient interval of repose, or sleep is constantly broken, the results are exactly the same.

But if atretic insomnia has had effects on the organism, the absence of sleep is infinitely more painful in the case of patients stricken with fever. Hence the physician called in must devote all his energies to find a remedy, which must in each case be preceded by a study of the original cause of the trouble.

It is correct to say that besides the insomnia due to abuse of coffee, tea or alcohol, the sleeplessness due to chlorosis, anaemia, arterio-sclerosis or extreme pain, there is a whole category of essential insomnia, so called because its cause is unknown. For all these varieties of sleeplessness, and more particularly for the one last named, the remedies used, with different results, are: Opium, chloral, hyoseyamus, Indian cannabis and a number of other hypnotics.

Having failed with the aid of these drugs to cure a case of persistent insomnia following upon a carriage accident, Dr. Learned had recourse, in sheer despair, to the following rather complicated treatment, which had the desired effects:

The principle of this method is to tire out the muscular system by a series of exercises carried out in bed. The patient first of all stiffens himself out on his bed, then raises his head half

an inch, breathing slowly and deeply, about eight times a minute, and counts his breaths.

At about the twentieth inspiration the head, becoming fatigued, is allowed to fall back, and the patient, still remaining stiff, raises his right leg and lets it fall when tired, alternating with the left leg.

When the muscles are not employed for these exercises, they must be tensed in stiffening out the body. The patient also must raise his body, supporting himself on the back of his head and his heels.

Then turning on the right side, the sufferer begins the whole series above mentioned and does the same on his left side.

It will thus be seen that eight successive positions are taken, involving constant muscular exertion. The author adds: "If sleep does not come after the first cycle of movements, then they must be repeated till it does."

Mr. Learned must be congratulated on having codified and scientifically regulated the time and movements of what we may call "the art of turning in bed." But I must admit that I have no great confidence in the soporific value of his process.

The report may be that it succeeded in his case. At any rate, it is harmless, and that is in itself a reason for trying it.

STILL UNKNOWN.

F. Litchfield, a well-known art-dealer, exhibited some panels of old tapestry at the Manchester Jubilee Exhibition, says Household Words. Wanting one of the panels returned for some reason he telegraphed, "Please send panel eight by ten—Venus and Adonis—Litchfield."

The departmental head of the exhibition was away, and his clerk returned the message to the postoffice as "Not understandable." The postoffice people, struck with a bright idea, then transmitted the telegram to the city of Litchfield, and received the following reply: "No such firm as Venus & Adonis known here. Try Manchester."