

*Eleventh edition, art. "Calendar."* The astronomers also confirm the fact that the weekly cycle has never been altered; for with their delicately adjusted instruments they observe the supreme timekeepers of the sky, and determine that throughout millenniums of time not one second has been lost.

And what of the present hour? The battering-rams of paganism, false science, and apostate Christianity have made a devastating "breach" in the divine wall of morality, the law of God. Some of the workmen who profess to be priests of the Most High have "daubed it with untempered mortar." But to those faithful servants living

in remnant hours of time, the message is given: "They that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in." Isa. 58:12.

One of these days every mouth will be stopped, and multitudes will be found "without excuse" and without a Mediator. But let us buy up the opportunity; for it is our high privilege to be a "repairer of the breach," to honor God by restoring His holy Sabbath to the exalted place it should occupy in our hearts, our homes, and in this gospel message.

## The Latter Rain—No. 3

By MEADE MacGUIRE

It is important that we understand the significance of the expressions "early rain" and "latter rain," which are mentioned frequently in the Scriptures.

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:7, 8.

"In the East the former rain falls at the sowing time. It is necessary in order that the seed may germinate. Under the influence of the fertilizing showers, the tender shoot springs up. The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, ripens the grain and prepares it for the sickle. The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent the work of the Holy Spirit. . . .

"The latter rain, ripening earth's harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection."—*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 506.

From this and other statements it is evident that this illustration may be applied dispensationally, and also in our personal experience. The early rain came at Pentecost and will continue until the gospel work is done. The latter rain falls as the work of the gospel is closing. Likewise the early rain comes to us personally as we hear and accept the message; it causes the seed to spring up and continue to grow until the time of the harvest. Then the latter rain comes to complete the work and fit us for the time of trouble and the coming of Christ.

"Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. They are making a terrible mistake. . . .

"At no point in our experience can we dispense with the assistance of that which enables us to make the first start. The blessings received under the former rain are needful to us to the end. Yet these alone will not suffice. While we cherish the blessing of the early rain, we must not, on the other hand, lose sight of the fact that without the latter rain, to fill out the ears and ripen the grain, the harvest will not be ready for

the sickle, and the labor of the sower will have been in vain. . . .

"If we do not progress, if we do not place ourselves in an attitude to receive both the former and the latter rain, *we shall lose our souls*, and the responsibility will lie at our own door."—*Id.*, pp. 507, 508.

Thus it is evident that the latter rain will not be received by nor benefit anyone who has not reached a certain standard of spiritual development under the ministration of the former rain. The illustration itself makes this plain. If the grain was sown in the field in October, but the ground was dry and the early rain which was due in that month did not fall, it would not come to maturity and be perfected by the latter rain which came in March. The grain must spring up and grow and be almost ready for the harvest in order to be brought to perfection by the latter rain. In like manner, unless we seek and obtain the neces-

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## Not Till He Comes

BY MARGARET LOCKE

THE setting sun goes down on pools of blood;  
The walls of dying millions fill the air.  
Can we e'er say again that man is good?  
Can we e'er say again the world is fair?  
The boom of gun and cannon shakes the earth;  
Gaunt famine stalks and pestilence abounds;  
Rapine and torture boldly sally forth;  
And homeless orphans weep o'er flowerless mounds.

What mean these things? May not tomorrow's sun  
Look down upon the dove of peace restored?  
May not the frightening cry of war be done,  
And lilies grow where noble blood is poured?  
May not this be? No, never till He comes  
Whose brightness ends the noisy clash of arms,  
Whose glory silences the sufferers' moans,  
And stills the dismal fears and wild alarms.

What then? Ah, then to glorious worlds afar,  
The King of kings His joyous trophies leads—  
To worlds which sin and death will never mar—  
Where each on love and joy and plenty feeds,  
Where never will the sun on blood pools shine,  
But on a flowing river, crystal clear.  
God grant this wondrous joy be yours and mine,  
And, praise His name, that day is almost here.

sary experience under the former rain, we shall not recognize nor receive the latter rain, and thus "we shall lose our souls," and the fault will be our own.

When the promise of the Spirit was fulfilled at Pentecost, it was immediately recognized by all the true disciples of Christ.

"Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: for these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." Acts 2:14-16.

Will it not be the same when the latter rain is given in much greater measure? Many statements are made regarding what will take place when the latter rain is poured out. If we study these statements prayerfully, we need be in no uncertainty as to when and where the latter rain is falling.

"The light that was shed upon the waiting ones penetrated everywhere, and those in the churches who had any light, who had not heard and rejected the three messages, obeyed the call, and left the fallen churches. . . . A compelling power moved the honest, while the manifestation of the power of God brought

a fear and restraint upon their unbelieving relatives and friends, so that they dared not, neither had they the power to hinder those who felt the work of the Spirit of God upon them. . . . Mighty miracles were wrought, the sick were healed, and signs and wonders followed the believers. . . . Souls that were scattered all through the religious bodies answered to the call, and the precious were hurried out of the doomed churches, as Lot was hurried out of Sodom before her destruction."—*Early Writings*, pp. 278, 279.

"Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 612.

If a large number of people respond when the message is preached in a new field, or presented in a new way, some seem to think that is evidence of the latter rain. They seem to forget that the ministry of the Holy Spirit which causes people to accept the message, is the early rain. The latter rain comes only when a Christlike character has been developed, and the grain is almost ready for the harvest.

## "Blessed Quietness, Holy Quietness"

By EMMA M. WALTHER

ONE day a young woman whom I had succeeded in interesting in our doctrinal truths called at my sister's office. As usual, her thoughts were on the terrible conditions prevailing in the world, and she expressed the opinion that the churches generally were failing to provide "meat in due season." She was particularly impressed by our denominational presentation of Bible prophecy.

Conversation continued for a while; then suddenly and most unexpectedly the young woman inquired of my sister, "Are Seventh-day Adventists a reverent people?" Made rather uncomfortable by the query, my sister hesitated and then said, "I wish you hadn't asked me that question, because, to be perfectly truthful, I shall have to admit that to a regrettable extent some are not."

"Well," continued her caller, "you and I know that the church to which you once belonged, and of which I am still a member, does have regard for the sanctity of the house of God."

My sister, fearing that any further discussion on this point would result only in increased embarrassment for herself, refrained from asking her visitor why she had so suddenly, so pointedly, inquired about the reverence of Seventh-day Adventists. But both my sister and I concluded that either the young woman or some relative or friend had attended one of our services and had noted the whispering, the talking, the restlessness, in which so many Seventh-day Adventists indulge. Apparently someone had been impressed, unfavorably so, by the irreverence manifested.

"Are Seventh-day Adventists a reverent peo-

ple?" Why should that question ever embarrass us? Why should we not be able to answer instantly, truthfully, Yes? Why should not our houses of worship be places where one may indeed "come . . . apart . . . and rest awhile," where in an atmosphere of "blessed quietness, holy quietness," one may renew one's spiritual strength? Those who dishonor God by their whispering and talking not only deprive themselves of a blessing, but also rob others of it.

Irreverence played a great part in the downfall of Satan, in his banishment from heaven. He refused to recognize the matchless majesty of God. He refused to accord Him the honor, the reverence, due Him. His ambition, "I will be like the Most High," clearly reveals his refusal to accept the eternal supremacy of God. And what a price he paid! Can we who hope to become citizens of the heavenly kingdom afford to regard lightly the following statement by Mrs. E. G. White?

"They [irreverent professors of the truth] can never, with their uncultivated ideas, appreciate a pure and holy heaven, and be prepared to join with the worshipers in the heavenly courts above, where all is purity and perfection, where every being has perfect reverence for God and His holiness."—*Testimonies*, Vol. V, p. 500.

May God help us to gain a deep appreciation of our relationship to Him, an appreciation which will develop in us the spirit of true reverence and will create in our churches an atmosphere eloquent of God. That atmosphere of "holy quietness" is in itself a benediction.