

The **NEW CHURCH MESSENGER**



June 8, 1938

In This Issue

Report of the General
Convention

The Saturday Evening
Banquet

Convention Sunday

Highways and Byways
C. S. C.

A Page for the Younger People
Book Review

Price 10 cents

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THE NEW-CHURCH MESSENGER

Official organ of the General Convention of the New Jerusalem in the United States of America. Rev. Fred Sidney Mayer, President, 3812 Barrington Road, Baltimore, Md.; Mr. Lloyd A. Frost, Vice-Pres., Cambridge Trust Co., Cambridge, Mass.; Mr. B. A. Whittemore, Secy., 134 Bowdoin St., Boston, Mass.; Mr. A. P. Carter, Treas., 511 Barristers Hall, Boston, Mass.

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 The Rev. Paul Sperry, Pastor.

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Pennsylvania Avenue and Broome Street
 The Rev. Immanuel Tafel, Pastor.

The NEW-CHURCH MESSENGER

Vol. CLIV, No. 23

New York City, June 8, 1938

Whole No. 4423

Report of the General Convention Washington, D. C., 1938

SATURDAY

The one hundred and seventeenth annual session of the General Convention of the New Jerusalem in the United States of America opened in our National Church at Washington, D. C., on Saturday morning, May 7th, at ten o'clock, with a religious service conducted by the Rev. William H. Beales of Detroit, Michigan. The President of Convention, the Rev. Fred Sidney Mayer, delivered his annual address, using as his subject "The Leaven of Divine Truth."

Immediately after the religious service the attention of the assembly was turned to business. The Rev. Arthur Wilde of New York extended a welcome from the New York Society which this year was privileged to act as host to the Convention.

The President then introduced the Reverend S. J. C. Goldsack of Birmingham, England, who expressed the following gracious sentiments:

"Mr. President, my dear friends, thank you very heartily indeed for your most cordial welcome and may I at once associate my wife with me in those thanks. We are overwhelmed by the warmth and generosity with which you have received us, received me once again into your midst. I have listened to the address of the President this morning with the deepest admiration, and I feel thoroughly inspired and uplifted, as I am sure you must have done, and I beg and pray that that address may fire every New Church in not only this country but the Church across the sea, and around the world, to enter into the real work that has been outlined, the real work of the Church specific in relation to the Church universal.

"Mr. Mayer has touched the right note. There

does depend upon us of the Church specific in the various organizations throughout the world a very grave responsibility, but I believe that responsibility can be responded to and discharged if we, in humble submission and surrender to the Holy Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ, will try to do those things we see ought to be done. Influx is according to effort and if we unitedly will put forth the best efforts we can in new directions, as indicated, I am sure there is a future before us, both here and throughout the world.

"It was my privilege last year to write the presidential address to you, and I ventured then to say that if the two bodies, the Convention and the Conference, could unite in bringing forth before the world new ideals in a practical way, I felt sure that the great work could be achieved. Your President has again said something of the same kind, much more ably, much more forcibly, than I could ever do, and I pray that the divine blessing may rest upon us in all our labors."

The President then invited Mrs. Goldsack to step forward in order that she might be formally introduced to the assembly.

The Secretary, Mr. B. A. Whittemore, read the Report of the Committee on Nominations which had been previously printed in *THE MESSENGER*, April 20th. The Chair asked for nominations from the floor, and the following were received:

For *Board of Home and Foreign Missions*: the Rev. William R. Reece.

For the *Nominating Committee*: Herbert R. Swing.

Nominations from the floor were: For President, the Rev. Fred Sidney Mayer, the Rev. Clyde W. Broomell, the Rev. Dirk Diephuis and the

Rev. Arthur Wilde (Mr. Diephuis and Mr. Wilde declined the honor); for Vice-President, Mr. Lloyd A. Frost; for Secretary, Mr. B. A. Whittemore; for Assistant Secretary, Mr. Horace B. Blackmer; for Treasurer, Mr. Albert P. Carter. The Secretary announced that THE MESSENGER Advisory Board nominated the Rev. Arthur Wilde as Editor of THE NEW-CHURCH MESSENGER.

The President read the following telegram which he had sent to the Rev. William L. Worcester: "This morning at Washington we recall again with gratitude the fine and long service you gave to the Church. We greet you with that love which makes us one in the Lord."

The Report of the Council of Ministers which was read by its Secretary, the Rev. Frederic R. Crownfield, showed definite and encouraging results of the activities of the various Council committees throughout the past year. It was announced that the Council had been informed by the Rev. Norman Gutry that he had sent a telegram to the Cleveland Society offering his resignation as pastor.

The Rev. William H. Beales of Detroit, Michigan, who has served as chairman of the Council for a number of years felt that he should retire, and the Rev. Leonard I. Tafel of Frankford, Philadelphia, was elected to serve for the coming year. The present Secretary, the Rev. F. R. Crownfield, was re-elected.

Several recommendations for the General Convention's consideration were contained in the Report of the Council of Ministers, and were readily adopted by the members of Convention. The investiture of the Rev. Louis A. Dole (Maine) with the office of General Pastor, with the understanding that the tenure of this office is to coincide with Mr. Dole's continuance in the office of presiding minister of the Maine Association, and that the investiture take place at the morning service on Sunday, May 8th, was authorized. Changes in the roll of ministers, as follows, were approved: (a) the name of Rodney D. Book to be transferred from the roll of ministers and pastors to the roll of former ministers, by reason of his decease; (b) the name of the Rev. Louis A. Dole be added to the roll of General Pastors, following his investiture with the powers of that office. The recommendation made to Convention that it provide a place for the reading of a memorial to the late Rev. Rodney D. Book was adopted. Recommendation was made to Convention that it request the Marchant Committee on a New-Church Edition of the Word to make financial arrangements for a meeting of the sub-committee on the study and translation of the Word to be held in Cambridge during the coming summer; and that it request the Committee to pay the Rev. Richard Tafel

during the coming year for the work of making a preliminary translation the agreed compensation. These recommendations were adopted.

The Secretary of the Board of Managers of the Theological School, Mr. B. A. Whittemore, read its report. In addition to the teaching activities, Mr. Whittemore reported that there had been intensive work expended on the task of re-classifying the books in the library at the School, and of preparing an analytical card catalog to make the library available for students of the Church. About 250 volumes of the original editions, scientific as well as theological, have been set in order. During the present year cards have been drafted for about 3,000 volumes, and about 1,000 volumes in the School's general collection have been classified. Work which remains to be done involves the classifying of about 1,500 first copies and 3,000 duplicates, and the typing of about 23,000 cards. Another year's work at the present rate will put the library in good order. In connection with the School's activities many lectures on Swedenborg, exhibits of Swedenborgiana, and displays of slides for the benefit of the public, were reported by the Secretary. Of particular interest was the account of Professor Lewis F. Hite's lecture on Swedenborg given at Boston University, on behalf of the School.

Careful consideration was given to balancing the School's budget at the Spring meeting of the Board. It was decided to place the Rev. Frederic R. Crownfield upon full-time service at the School with an increased salary. A special committee was appointed to formulate a recruiting plan for the consideration of the Convention. The Secretary in addressing Convention, said, "Before submitting that plan to you, we should like to suggest that the student body of the School should not be limited merely to prospective candidates for the ministry, but the facilities of the School should be freely available for the education of suitable laymen desirous of studying the teachings of Swedenborg for other purposes. It has happened in the past, and may happen again many times in the future, that a layman attending a school for his own enlightenment, and without definite thought of entering the ministry, has later become a most efficient clergyman."

The advisability of our New-Churchmen, "ambitious for higher education," enrolling in our Theological School for acquisition of Swedenborg's teachings, and at the same time in Harvard College for instruction in such other lines as they might desire, was stressed.

The recruiting plan must be part of a larger campaign to enlist the interest of young people of the Church in choosing lines of work or advanced study which fit them for various kinds of

service to the New Church, emphasizing the ministry as the highest of useful careers. A brief pamphlet addressed to young people, summarizing the opportunities for service to the Church, has been suggested; personal contacts are essential. The time has come when the president of the School should make a tour of visits to persons who have shown some interest in the ministry, the opinion of the Board indicated. "During the next five years we have the task of convincing the boys and young men of the Church that the Church ministry is a field not overcrowded. . . ." The report was received on proper motion.

The chair called next for the Report of the Urbana Visiting Committee which was read by the Secretary of the Committee, Miss Frances E. Darracott. Of particular interest was the statement that 50 acres of land adjoining the school campus at Urbana Junior College have been given to the College by Miss Margaret James. The report was duly received; and it was moved and seconded that the Convention adopt the recommendation of the Urbana Visiting Committee that Mr. Laurence R. Awood and Mr. Edward F. Wunsch be reelected to the Board of Trustees.

The Report of the American New-Church League Field Secretary was read by Miss Lydia Seymour, assistant Field Secretary, and was received on proper motion.

The chair asked for the report of the Board of Publication; whereupon Secretary Whittemore announced that the President of the Board had informed him that it was impossible to present his report at that time, but that it would come later.

Vice-president Frost then asked the Trustees of the Building Fund and the Trustees of the Orphan Fund to secure proper reports for the Convention.

The Secretary of Convention having no further reports for consideration, it was announced by the Vice-president that President Mayer had a welcome announcement to make. It was to the effect that he had received that morning from Miss Amelia Burkert of Mt. Berry, Georgia, a letter of regret that she was unable to attend Convention this year, and also a check for \$300 "to start an endowment for ministers who cannot afford to attend the Convention." The token is in memory of Miss Burkert's parents who dearly loved the New Church. It was moved and seconded that the Convention vote an appreciation of this gift from Miss Burkert. At this point a final plea by the chairman of the Committee on Credentials was made to the delegates present to sign the roll.

The Convention then adjourned, to reassemble on Monday morning.

MONDAY

The Devotional Service at 10 A.M., which was conducted by the Rev. Louis A. Dole, opened the

Monday morning proceedings. The Rev. Fred Sidney Mayer called the Convention to order at 10:20 A.M., and Mr. Benjamin A. Whittemore then read the minutes of Saturday's session. These were accepted after a minor correction offered by the Rev. Lewis F. Hite.

The roll was then read, ministers and delegates answering as their names were called. The final report showed a total of 132 voters—45 ministers and 87 delegates.

Pending the hour of eleven o'clock at which time elections took place, the Vice-President called for the report of the Women's Alliance, which was presented by its former President, Mrs. Kent of Pennsylvania. This report, which was accepted as read, will be given in a special issue of THE MESSENGER.

The next report to be considered was that of the American New-Church League, presented by Miss Gulbenkian. The report was received.

Mr. George Pausch of Maryland then presented the report of the Sunday-school Association. He stated that as a step to stimulate interest the sum of \$200.00 has been appropriated to help make it possible for Sunday-school teachers to attend the gathering in Freyburg next August, the third week of which will be devoted to instruction for teaching. A growth in numbers of over a hundred during the past year was reported. During the year \$1,445.00 was expended by the Committee, \$700.00 of which came from the Sunday-schools and the balance from the Convention. The Association asked a contribution of \$500.00 of Convention to continue the work on lessons.

The report was accepted and the recommendation contained in it referred to the General Council.

At this time President Mayer announced that the hour for elections had arrived. One hundred and thirty ballots were cast, the results of which were as follows:

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Pending the report of tellers on voting, the Vice-President called for a report from the Association of the Church Book Conference, which was presented by Mr. Charles T. Cushman. Mr. Cushman stressed the many new books and new editions of old books which have been brought out both in the United States and in England during the past commemorative year. These were on display and for sale at Convention under the supervision of Miss Cecile Werben. Mr. Cushman also dwelt upon the value of the New-Church periodicals: *THE MESSENGER*, weekly official organ of the Convention, and the *New Christianity*, issued quarterly with the object of making Swedenborg better known to the world at large. He closed his report with the hope that people would make use of all these works.

A report from the Editor of *THE MESSENGER*, the Rev. Arthur Wilde, followed. Mr. Wilde informed the Convention that a canvass of the whole of the New-Church non-subscribers to *THE MESSENGER* is being made, with eminently satisfactory response from the ground already covered. He also made an earnest appeal to those ministers who do not write for *THE MESSENGER* for more support, at least to the extent of two articles a year. He also begged for support from laymen and women for material to be used, in order to keep *THE MESSENGER* a well-balanced and interesting periodical. He closed with a message of thanks to those who have given such unstinted support during the past few years.

The Report of the Committee on Education was made by its chairman, the Rev. Franklin H. Blackmer of Massachusetts. Mr. Blackmer stated that the joint work of the Church body is largely an enterprise in education and that his committee urged Convention to guide the thought of its members and encourage them into other educational channels. With this in mind the committee proposed a brief handbook setting forth all the edu-

cational opportunities under the auspices of New-Church men and women, indicating the scope of each agency among our schools. It felt that the Church might well take a hand in vocational guidance, and that therefore the committee wished to begin the preparation of bulletins and handbooks that would carry a "message to young people about the attitude with which they should face various aspects of the modern world." The committee proposed to reorganize into sub-committees which would work together during the year and have drafts of this proposed literature ready for the consideration of Convention in 1939. It therefore requested that \$200.00 be made available for committee expenses. The motion for the appropriation was referred to the General Council and the report of the Committee on Education received.

Several recommendations from the Council of Ministers to the Convention were put forward by the Rev. F. R. Crownfield, secretary to the Council of Ministers, and were immediately adopted.

The Rev. Leonard I. Tafel, President of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, invited the members of Convention to attend a meeting of that body to be held at Bryn Athyn on Wednesday evening, the day following the Convention. Mr. Tafel said that the meeting had been arranged for that day in the earnest hope that it would prove convenient for many members to stop on their way home from the Convention.

Secretary of Convention, Mr. Whittemore, brought forward several recommendations from the General Council for amendments to the Constitution. These proposed new sections are quoted:

"Section 1: A member of the New Church, after the satisfactory completion of the course of study required by the Convention Theological School, or after preparation recognized by the executives and ministers as adequate, may be authorized by a General Pastor within his jurisdiction and on the provision, to lead in worship, teach the doctrines of the Church, to lecture and officiate at funerals, such authorization to expire within one year unless renewed.

"Section 2: An Authorized Candidate for the ministry who has served actively for one year in this capacity may, at a request of the Council, or any other body of the General Convention which employs a minister or ministers, be ordained by a General Pastor into the office of Minister with power in addition to the function set forth in Section 1 of this article, to administer the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Supper, and administer other rites of the Church not specifically assigned to the office of the General Pastor.

"Section 3: A General Pastor acting as the President of the General Convention, or as the official of the association, may, to meet particular

needs or problems, confer upon suitable persons for a term of one year, subject to renewal and that the exercise in the limit of the body of his supervision, any or all the powers of the Authorized Candidate, such person to be known as a Lay Preacher."

The former Sections 2, 3 and 5, would then be renumbered 4, 5 and 6. After some discussion on the floor as to the actual changes which would be made by the adoption of these new sections, the Rev. F. R. Crownfield explaining this at the request of the Chairman, the amendment was unanimously adopted.

At the conclusion of business at 12:45, the members of Convention were addressed by the Rev. Arthur Wilde on the subject of "The Church in Social Service." What our Church as a whole can do to lighten the burden of the underprivileged, and to take an active part in the various movements for social betterment was outlined with appealing emphasis.

(To be continued.)

The Saturday Evening Banquet

(Written by William H. Beales.)

One of the most stimulating events of the entire Convention was undoubtedly the "Half-Century Celebration Dinner and Dance" given for the American New-Church League, in the Raleigh Hotel, on Saturday evening. This was the great social event of the Convention, and it proved to be an exceedingly happy one. The magnificent banquet-hall was a picture, with its long Speakers' Table, and the scores of smaller tables. One felt that here, indeed, was the hope of the New Church. And not only the hope, but the certainty. For there was a spirit of optimism, of quiet confidence and assurance, which was most heartening. This feeling found its crystalization in the confidence with which documents and other things were placed in the Commemoration Box, to be sealed and not opened until the close of another fifty years of League history. The mere suggestion that there might not be another fifty years of history, even more successful and productive of good for the Church, than the past fifty years, never seemed to enter the mind of anyone present. The whole event was a splendid evidence of confidence and trust in the enduring qualities and purposes underlying the League activities, creating a spirit which, as one speaker expressed it "couldn't be downed."

The guests of honor included that League veteran, Mr. Ezra Hyde Alden, first President of the American League, whose tenure of office was from 1888 to 1898; and other Presidents between 1899 and 1938; the Rev. and Mrs. Goldsack, rep-

resenting the British Federation of Young Peoples Societies, and the Rev. Fred Sidney Mayer, representing the Convention. Mr. David Mack made a most acceptable Chairman and Toastmaster.

When dessert had been served, and the guests had settled down to enjoy what was to follow, the lights in the hall were switched off, and even the candles on the head tables were snuffed out. Then the double-doors which led from the center of the hall to an adjoining room were opened, and one of the biggest waiters on the force entered slowly and almost majestically, bearing a big, glistening birthday cake. This was a real triumph of the confectioners' art. It was surmounted by the model of a church, and encircled with fifty lighted candles. The effect, in the dimly lighted hall, was striking. There was an instant outbreak of applause, and then someone started the good old birthday greeting, which was taken up on all sides, as the cake was borne down the middle of the room, and back behind the head table, and deposited in front of the Chairman:

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you;
Happy birthday, dear Le—ague;
Happy birthday to you.

Then Mr. Alden, as the first President of the League, and Hayden Johnson, as the President during the fiftieth year, were invited to follow the usual custom, and blow the candles out with one breath. It required a long, steady blow, but by the united efforts of these two Presidents whose terms of office were divided by fifty years, every candle was extinguished without either President taking a second breath.

The Roll-call of the Leagues brought most of those present to their feet. The call was not only for present members, but included all who were ever connected with leagues in the past. These rose as the name of their Church was called. It was exceedingly interesting to see old and young alike respond as the list was read, league by league. But the former Chaplain of the A. N. C. L., the Rev. André Diaconoff, carried off the palm. Five times he rose to his feet, each time being the sole representative present of the league called: Los Angeles Junior and Senior, Riverside Junior and Senior, and Berkeley Senior.

Messages of greeting were received from a number of leagues, including that at Toronto, Canada; the Leagues of Switzerland, and the Boston League, which sent "Fifty Happy Returns." A message was received, also, from the members of Split-Mountain Camp, the "first of the Young People's summer camps."

The presentation of the Shaw Trophy, to the League having the greatest percentage of attendance and showing the greatest total number of miles travelled in attending, was one of the hap-

piest incidents of the evening. The trophy itself—a handsome silver seven-leaf candlestick, stood on the Speakers' Table, and when the time came for its presentation, the candles were lighted. Then the Chairman announced the result of the work of the Credentials Committee in computing percentages and adding mileages. Of the fifteen Leagues represented by thirty-two delegates and forty-nine who were not delegates, the Brockton League had made the best showing. Its members had turned out 57 per cent strong, and the members had travelled a total of 450 miles. The New York League was the "runner-up." Brockton delegation was given a splendid ovation—and the trophy.

Then followed the presentation of handsomely-bound copies of the History of the League, to a number of those present. First a copy was handed to the Rev. Mr. Mayer, to be presented by him to the Church; then one to the Rev. Mr. Goldsack, to be conveyed to the British Leagues; then a most beautiful copy, bound in blue leather, "to the man who had done more than any other in the work of carrying on the activities of the League—Mr. Ezra Hyde Alden." The approval accorded this presentation could not be mistaken.

But the climax of the evening's activities was reached when the Chairman announced that the handsome anniversary box, presented by Mr. Alden, would receive the precious documents and other articles which were to be entrusted to it, and be duly sealed, at least for the present. This box, bearing a silver plate on its cover, was to be finally sealed and placed in the safety vault at the Theological School, at Cambridge, there to be kept duly guarded, until the 100th anniversary of the League, when, according to instructions accompanying it, it would be solemnly opened by the President of the League in 1988. The plate on the cover was engraved with the words: "This box contains the records of the first half-century of the American New-Church League, placed herein on its fiftieth Birthday Celebration, at Washington, D. C., May 7th, 1938, and to be opened on its hundredth Birthday Celebration in 1988."

Twenty articles will be placed in the box, before the final sealing. These include the following: A copy of the first League report, dated 1887; a copy of the first Constitution of the League; a copy of the Constitution as revised; one of the first League badges, and one of the badges now used; a copy of the program of the last year's Conference; the League Handbook; copy of the 1938 Convention program; a copy of the League History; copies of the messages received at the banquet; a copy of the large photo taken at the banquet; copy of the program of the banquet; copies of the League Journal and MESSENGER re-

porting the evening's events; cards bearing the autographs of everyone attending the banquet, and letters written by Mr. Alden, as first President, Hayden B. Johnson, as President during the fiftieth year, and William J. Haid, newly-elected President. These were all addressed to the President-to-be in 1988. Mr. Alden's letter read as follows:

"To the Unknown President of the American
New-Church League:

To be opened on the occasion of the League's
celebration of its Centenary in the year 1988.

"Greeting:

"We are this year celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the organization of which in the year of 1988 you will be President, and I have been asked as the first President of the League to address a letter to you and your fellow Leaguers of fifty years hence, the letter to be placed in a box on the occasion of the League's fiftieth birthday, to be opened when the League's Centenary is celebrated.

"I am addressing you as the 'Unknown President.' I might of course at the moment speak of you as the Unborn President, for it is reasonable to suppose that you will be on the hither side of twenty-five or thirty when you hold the office of the League President. But whatever your age I am confident that you have brought to the office the same energy and enthusiasm, the same love of the Church and the same devotion to the interests of Her young people which have characterized the long line of Presidents during the last fifty years.

"It is a long look back to 1888 and some of our young people today can hardly visualize the strides which have been made in the last fifty years in material comforts and conveniences and in bringing the people of the world in closer touch with one another. Things which are today commonplaces were then unheard of. Our only means of land travel were the railroad and the horse-drawn vehicle. There were no electric street cars, no automobiles, no airplanes or dirigibles. The telephone and the electric light were in their infancy. The X-ray had not been discovered; there were no wireless and television was but a dream of fanciful writers.

"With this record of fifty years ago, he would be a bold prophet indeed who would venture to predict what the coming half-century would bring to pass. But I believe it is safe to say that in ways which to-day we know not, we shall be far closer to one another in communication and in physical presence; that we shall see and hear one another more clearly although separated by long distances of earthly space; that in these respects we shall have approached more near to the hea-

venly condition where there is neither time nor space and where mutual affections bring immediate presence.

"As to how far these earthly changes may show forth corresponding spiritual conditions I hope I am not overly optimistic in expressing the belief that the constant leavening by the truths of our New-Church Revelation will in these fifty years which to me are the future, but to you will be the past, will have done much to bring to this old earth a far greater degree of order, a better understanding between individuals and nations, a truer recognition of the Divine Providence than we have to-day, when the world is rent with wars and rumors of war and society divided by the clash of the conflicting demands of its component parties.

"It would be futile to offer any advice to the young people of fifty years hence in the solution of their problems which are quite unknowable to us of to-day; and yet at heart you will not greatly differ from us and you will have, as we have, the same assurance of Divine support in every effort which looks to the spiritual betterment of mankind.

"And with this assurance and with the good wishes of our young people of all ages—some of whom may still be with you in 1988—to you and your fellow Leaguers, may I sign myself,

"Your Optimistic Friend,

EZRA HYDE ALDEN."

Past-president Johnson's letter was written prior to the Conference, anticipating the events as they took place. The letter read:

"To the President of the American New-Church League at the Conference of 1988.

"Greetings:

"As I write these words the American New-Church League is making final plans for the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary at the 1938 Conference to be held in Washington, D. C., on May 5th to 7th. The high point of the Half-Century Celebration is to be a Banquet on Saturday, May 7th, at which time The Leaguers of today and those of other days will join in paying homage to an organization that has meant much to us all.

"The League to-day is composed of thirty-five Leagues with a total membership of about six hundred. Our activities are extremely varied, dealing both with local and national projects. Our emphasis is on the development of the League as an integral part of the Church, so that the Leaguers of to-day can become active, useful members of the Church of to-morrow.

"It is interesting to speculate on the state of the world and of the Church in 1988. To-day we are living in an exciting period, many forces are at work in the world, and as yet it is impos-

sible to tell in which direction we are heading. It is our sincere hope, however, that the forces represented by religion will have a large place in moulding the world of the future.

"I send you and the members of the League the sincere greetings of the League of 1938. It is our sincere hope that the work which we have seen develop from year to year will continue to grow and flourish and that the one hundredth birthday of the American New-Church League will find it still active and influencing the lives of the young people of the New Church.

Sincerely,

HAYDEN B. JOHNSON,
President."

President Haid's contribution to the contents of the box urged close adherence to New-Church teachings and close association with the Church. The letter read:

"To a Future President of the American New-Church League:

"Dear President:

"As first president of the second fifty years of the American New-Church League, I salute you. To have been elected to this office at this time is indeed an honor. To send a greeting to you, as presiding officer of the League's Centenary, is a privilege of which I never dreamed.

"It is apparent that our predecessors have executed their part of the building of the organization in a fine manner. The foundation of the future League has been completed, and has been built on the rock bottom principles of the New Church. Surely such a start can support any superstructure which may be added.

"The superstructure is now being started. It is up to our League, and future Leagues, to complete the building of the organization in as fine a manner as the foundation. The present League feels sure that if this is carried out along the lines of Brotherly Love, as taught by the New Church, no better structure could be planned.

"Surely such an organization, united with the Church and its teachings, can weather any storm that may arise. The fundamental materials used, namely, truth and love, are the best to be found. May the League adhere to them, and when repairs may be needed, use them and not look around for a cheaper and easier substitute. Only by following this procedure, and this alone, can our fine organization be recognized in heaven and eventually assume its rightful place therein.

Greetings and best wishes to all who are assembled.

Fraternally yours,

WILLIAM J. HAID, JR.,
President."

Mr. Alden presented the key of the box to the

President of the League, and a duplicate key to the Secretary. These are to be passed from President to President, and from Secretary to Secretary, for the next fifty years, "and I hope that neither of them will be lost," said Mr. Alden,

amid laughter, "... certainly not both." The box is to be placed in the vault of the Theological School at Cambridge, and the Boston League was named as "Official Guardian." Dancing followed the close of the program.

Convention Sunday

(Written by William H. Beales)

For many hundreds of New-Church people, indeed, for the whole Church, the simple term, "Convention Sunday," has a wonderful and a beautiful significance. It means far more than just the Sunday of Convention—it stands for the highest and best in New-Church communion and worship. Especially the morning service. There is always something about these Convention Sunday services which can never be expressed in words. There is an uplift, an exaltation, which touches the deepest emotions. As the worshipers gather, one is conscious of a sense of expectation, an undertone of quiet, eager anticipation. It seems to fill the church; to be present in the very air. And this feeling grows, and with it, a sense of inner joy, as the sound of the familiar opening sentences of the service comes from the chancel: "The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him." Here, indeed, is a "New-Church" service; a service of worship and praise of the Risen Christ, the Lord in His Divine Human, as He is known and worshiped by the angels on high. One feels akin to Peter, as he exclaimed on the Mount of Transfiguration, "Lord, it is good for us to be here!"

And there comes renewed courage and renewed confidence. Here are other New-Church people—hundreds of them, filled with the same spirit of devotion to God and His Church. Some have come from the larger city churches; some from the smaller parishes, where perhaps less than a score assemble Sunday after Sunday; and some are present who never hear a New-Church service from year-end to year-end, to whom this one beautiful service is of inestimable worth. And the spirit of unity and strength is awakened, and the consciousness that the work of the Lord is going forward, and that whatever the difficulties and problems, it is a great and glorious privilege to be of the Lord's New Church.

The morning sunlight shines through the beautiful windows of the chancel. We are "at home," in our own National Church. The Rev. Paul Sperry, the Pastor of the Washington Society, is

conducting the service. How well he has selected the Psalter for the day: "O sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord all the earth." And how appropriate the Selection: "For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace; and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest: until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth." The sermon is delivered by Convention's guest from overseas, the Rev. Mr. Goldsack. His message is from the book of Revelation, that book which has been called the "Charter of the New Church." He talks of the "Tree of Life," with its many fruits, and its wonderful leaves, given by the Lord "for the healing of the nations." And once again Miss Sewell presides at the organ she loves so well. Surely no Convention would be complete, at Washington, if she were absent. It is a beautiful service, a satisfying service, with the climax reached as the congregation joins in the singing of those inspired words of the hymn:

"It comes—the breath of God—
Through all the skies!
To live—to breathe with Him,
All souls, arise!"

One of the most impressive features of the service was the Investiture and Consecration of the Rev. Louis A. Dole, of Bath, Maine, as General Pastor of the Maine Association. This was especially impressive, due to the fact that one of the General Pastors officiating was the father of the candidate, the Rev. George Henry Dole. The service closed with the administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

At 4:30 in the afternoon, the Sacred Cantata, "The Glorified Christ" was presented in the auditorium of the Church. The text of the Cantata, which was arranged by the Rev. Antony Regamy, of the Boston Church, was read by him from the pulpit. Dr. Rollo Maitland, organist of the Philadelphia Church, who composed the music, presided at the organ; and Mr. Arthur Potter conducted. Many hearty congratulations for a splendid production were accorded those who took part.

As usual, the program in the evening was under the auspices of the Board of Home and Foreign Missions, with Hon. Forster W. Freeman presiding. The address of the evening was given by the Rev. Samuel O. Weems, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, who told of "some religious difficulties of the Negro." Mr. Weems, who is doing very successful work among the Negroes, said, in part:

"The greatest difficulty that the Negro faces to-day, is that of preserving or holding on to his racial identity. To-day, the Negro has little love for what might strictly be called 'Negroid.' In every possible way he seeks to avoid all connection with and semblance of, Negro life. He craves to be like the white people in every way. The church life, the schools, the colleges and lodges and even the families, of white people, are more attractive to him than his own. This explains the attitude of many of the Negro singers, who much prefer to sing the songs of Europe than those of Africa—the spirituals!"

The speaker explained that the reason for this dislike and hatred of what is Negroid, by the Negro, was due to the fact that for many centuries the Negro had been taught "with both a kind and an iron hand," that the white skin was a sign of superiority, progress and everything worth while, and that the black skin was the symbol of inferiority, ignorance, disease, crime, laziness and everything degrading. This "cursed son of Ham" doctrine preached by the whites was having a deadly effect upon the Negro.

"In order to escape this inferiority complex," said Mr. Weems, "the Negro resorts to cosmetics, in some cases, and when he has bleached himself sufficiently, he crosses over into the white division of the race. He favors the mulatto element in the choice of his leaders in the ministry and the lodges, and if it is at all possible, when he marries, it is among the whites. Needless to say, such practices play havoc with the Negro in his religious life." The speaker cited an instance where a Negro woman of great promise, who found it impossible to throw off her "color" by the usual means, and who could not bear to continue with her own people, solved the difficulty by taking her own life.

"The second great difficulty which faces the Negro to-day, is learning to appreciate the printed page," continued the speaker. "The Negro believes in immediate revelation and inspiration. He is suspicious of any preacher who comes before him with a manuscript. He is quite certain that the Lord never called that man, nor has anything to do with his preaching. This attitude seems to have grown out of the religious experiences as slaves. For this reason, the illiterate preacher, who just talks to the people, has an advantage over the literate and educated, who may use notes or a manuscript. The Negro does not take to the

printed page. He has few books and reads very little. He has not awakened to the fact that the Lord works through the printed page, the colleges and the libraries."

The difficulty of connecting religion and industry in the mind of the Negro was also stressed. Industry has no place in his religion. The heavenly life, to the Negro, consists in singing hymns and playing on golden harps. After death he is going to be granted everything he desires, without any effort on his part. Therefore, the Negro does not establish industries among his own people, but must go to the white race for employment. When the speculative element among the Negroes wants to make some "quick money," it goes into the Ministry. The Negro Ministry is consequently ridden with many who go about establishing churches in vacant stores.

In the Writings of Swedenborg could be found the cure for many of these conditions. In these Writings the Negro is assured that he need not go out of his own race in order to secure equality with the whites. Also, that the Lord works through the printed page, and that there can be no heaven, here or hereafter, without useful service to others. Mr. Weems has been commissioned by the Board of Missions to call on Negro educational institutions, to introduce the Writings of the New Church.

The Rev. William R. Reece, of Portland, Oregon, spoke vigorously on the "Forward Movement in the Great Northwest." He told of the Northwest Conference, which now meets annually, and pointed to promising signs of steady growth. The Rev. Leslie Marshall described the Mission Board's plan for raising fund through the sale of used postage stamps.

The annual contribution of the National Alliance of New-Church Women, gathered by means of the "mite-boxes," was made by the President of the Alliance, Mrs. Henry T. Kent, of Philadelphia. The contribution this year amounted to \$359.00. It was received by the Rev. Charles H. Kuenzli, and consecrated at the altar. The electrical presentation of "He was born too soon," and a brief address, using the "Talking Book," concluded the evening's program.

(Further Convention Reports in next issue.)

Affirmation

THOU ART MY HIDING PLACE AND MY SHIELD: I HOPE IN THY WORD.—Psalm cxix. 114.

WHEN the Lord is with any one He leads him, and provides that whatever befalls him, whether sad or joyful, shall turn to his good. This is the Divine providence.—(A. 6203.)



A PAGE FOR THE YOUNGER PEOPLE

By the Editor

Bells and Pomegranates

AS I go about the city, I am continually meeting men who wear little badges upon the left lapel of their coats. These badges tell me a story. I know from them that a man is a Shriner, or a Free-Mason, a Knight of Columbus, or a member of some other order.

In other places I find young men and women wearing special pins or rings that indicate membership of some college fraternity or sorority. All these persons are very proud of possessing the jeweled evidences of their social standing. They would no more think of appearing in public without them than I should in driving an automobile without license plates.

In the Bible we read of badges and decorations commanded by the Lord to be worn. In the Old Testament we read of the special robes Moses was commanded to make for the high priest. On one blue robe there was to be a fringe of golden bells and pomegranates. They ran alternately around the lower end of his robe. Only the high priest might wear them. There were many other priests in the land, but only the high priest might wear those special decorations. In that respect he belonged to a fraternity with a membership of one. Almost every day he wore that special robe.

But these bells and pomegranates meant something more than mere decoration. Have you ever realized that a bell is a symbol of truth? A bell cannot tell a lie. The Church bells ring out the hour of worship, or an alarm of fire, or perhaps a message of public rejoicing. Their message is always a proclamation

of some form of truth. Even the door-bell and the telephone bell are tellers of truth. One announces the arrival of someone at the door. The other tells me I am wanted at the 'phone. Apart from its misuse by mischievous or inefficient people, the bell always tells the truth. And the High Priest of Israel wore that fringe of golden bells as a reminder to himself and to all the people that the Lord desires everyone at all times to speak the truth.

All of you probably know the pomegranate, a fruit something like an apple, full of seeds enclosed in a red fleshy tissue. It was one of the favorite fruits in Israel, and is often mentioned in the Bible. It was and is a symbol of loving neighborly deeds. It will grow in all warm countries, and is now plentiful in Mexico and in our southern states. It was probably the most beautiful fruit known to the Israelites. They ate the pulp, drank the juice, and even used the rind for medicine.

The High Priest wore these bells and pomegranates as symbols of the two great principles of life—truth and love; and when the people heard the sound of the golden bells and saw the beautiful embroidery in which the pomegranates were represented they were reminded of these two great things, truth in all things, love in every act.

You and I can wear those bells and pomegranates, not on our dress, but in our hearts and in our lives, shewing to all men the beauty of holiness, and the grace and truth of a Christ-like life.

Highways and Byways

By C. S. C.

The John Wesley Anniversary

The Methodist Church celebrated with due honors on May 24th the 200th anniversary of the "heart-warming" that John Wesley experienced at Aldersgate, May 24, 1738. Dr. Albert C. Dieffenbach, editor of the "Religion Today" page of the *Boston Transcript* (January 8), wrote as follows of this turning point in the life of the founder of Methodism: "There and then definitely—something occurred that made a difference in Wesley, in the church that he did not intend to create, and in the world upon which the Methodists have heaped benefactions over two round centuries." This writer tells us how John Wesley at twenty-one took the advice of his mother, Susanna Wesley, and studied theology.

Commenting upon the importance of this decision in the life of Wesley, he says, "The most important factor in the perpetuity of religion is a reasoned basis of belief and the ability to make high argument for the faith." Dr. Dieffenbach continues, "John Wesley did nothing surpassing his work as a theologian. By means of his thinking he wrought his conversions. His assault upon the doctrine of predestination (with his own doctrine of grace) made an epoch in Christendom."

This able editor is doubtless right in paying high tribute to Wesley's contribution to enlightened doctrine. Nevertheless, I cannot help thinking that the warm sympathy of John Wesley for his fellow men and his devotion to his Master had much to do with those conversions. Doctrine alone would not have touched the hearts of thousands of men and women as this young preacher did. Doctrine alone would not have sent them back to field and forge and to English hearths with new hope and joy. John Wesley's preaching and his brother Charles's hymns appealed to the hearts of men and women.

Glimpses of China—1910 and Now

As I think of bombs dropping in China to-day on peaceful villages, on homes, in business

sections, even upon mission schools, I like to reread a letter written me in May, 1910 by a lovely, gifted Chinese girl, Ping Hsia Hu, then a student at Wellesley. After graduating from college, she went back to her own country, later married, and gave herself, I am sure, in ways of large service to her family and her country. Her death, in 1931, must have meant poignant loss to all who knew her. I quote from her letter, written twenty-eight years ago, on May 29, 1910.

"The charming Wellesley is more beautiful in May than usual. The lake, the hills, the blossoming trees, the lovely girls—all these are wonders of the world! I love Wellesley! But sometimes it reminds me of the old, dear village, far in the East, where nature expresses itself in mountains and in streams, in woods and in fields, and where the elegant ladies and gentlemen live in the dark, majestic buildings, while the self-contented, happy villagers enjoy the rural atmosphere under the trees or by the streams at daytime, and retire to their crude, weatherbeaten houses at night."

Another Wellesley graduate, writing in the April issue of the *Wellesley Magazine*, from the college in China with which she is associated, tells of how finely their students are "carrying on" in spite of the fact that Japanese airplanes were at that time making daily visits in their vicinity (the railroad as their objective). This alumna writes, "This morning I attended chapel led by one of our co-ed students. She said, 'We must keep faith, hope and love. If Japan had not lost her loving heart, she would not be injuring China. But we must keep our loving heart, or we will be as guilty as Japan.'"

Surely, this young Chinese student has caught truly the spirit of the gospel teaching that out of the heart proceed the issues of life. She realizes something of the personal responsibility of a great nation. I feel that beautiful Ping Hsia Hu, Wellesley, 1913, would be proud of such an attitude in the heart of one of the students in war-harassed China to-day.

* * * * *

Of Yeats and Swedenborg

"William Butler Yeats," "An Atlantic Portrait," by Louise Bogan, in the May *Atlantic Monthly*, contains two interesting references to Swedenborg. One of these is a reference that Yeats made to his muse. Miss Bogan says of Yeats: "He wrote, in 1923, after receiving from the King of Sweden the medal symbolizing the Nobel Prize:

It shows a young man listening to a Muse, who stands young and beautiful with a great lyre in her hand, and I think as I examine it, 'I was good-looking once like that young man, but my unpractised verse was full of infirmity, my Muse old as it were, and now I am old and rheumatic and nothing to look at, but my Muse is young.' I am even persuaded that she is like those Angels in Swedenborg's vision, and moves perpetually 'towards the dayspring of her youth.'

Later in her article Miss Bogan writes of this unique Irish poet, "From youth on, Yeats has thought to build a religion for himself." After telling of his special interest in teaching which attested supersensual experience, or gave him a background for those thoughts which came to him "from beyond the mind," she refers to his acquaintance with Swedenborg as follows. "He later studied the Christian Cabala and gradually built up, from his own findings and from the works of Blake, Swedenborg, and Boehme, his theories of visionary and spiritual truth."

* * * * *

Books With Biblical Titles and Others

Three distinctive books that draw their titles or their inspiration from the Bible are the following: Thomas Mann's "Joseph in Egypt," (the third in his Joseph cycle); "Hearken unto the Voice," a novel centering round the life of the prophet Jeremiah, written by Franz Werfel; and "Goliath," which the critics tell us is an impressive account of Italy under Fascism—this last book, by G. A. Borgese, one which Lewis Mumford describes as an "enlightening book for all men of good will." I have not made the acquaintance of any of these three, except through the reviewers. The Joseph trilogy of Thomas Mann sounds remarkable but formidable. "Joseph in Egypt," is said to be a great book, a book for deep thinkers, I judge, but not for all.

"John of the Mountains" (the unpublished journals of John Muir), will appeal to lovers of out-of-doors, especially those who have visited the Muir Woods in the vicinity of San Francisco, and those who have read of the Muir Glacier in Alaska. "Christianity and Sex," by Richard C. Cabot, M.D., deserves the commendation the reviewer gave it in *The New Christianity*, (Winter, 1938). Refreshing books, offering different scenes and stimulating thoughts, are "Helen Keller's Journal, 1936-1937," giving an account of her travels abroad,

following the death of her great teacher, Anne Sullivan Macy; "City of Bells," by Elizabeth Goudge; "New Roads in Old Virginia," by Agnes Rothery, and "Build Your Own Future," by David Seabury (New York. Frederick A. Stokes Co.) "John Wesley and Modern Religion," by Umphrey Lee, would be appropriate for this Wesley Anniversary year. The fact that Swedenborg and Wesley were contemporaries, should be of special interest to New-Churchmen and Methodists alike.

Coast-to-Coast Program

We are requested to inform our readers that on Sunday, June 12th, 10:00 to 10:30 A.M. daylight time, a New-Church broadcast will be given under the auspices of the Columbia Broadcasting Coast-to-Coast "Church of the Air" network program. It is planned to use selections from the new Cantata, "The Glorified Christ," by Dr. Rollo F. Maitland. The Rev. Charles W. Harvey will read the Scripture lesson and the Rev. John W. Stockwell will give an address on the subject "Swedenborg and World Peace."

New-Church people in various cities should ask their local station to secure a hook-up with this interesting broadcast.

Station WCAU, Philadelphia, Pa., will feed the program to Station WABC (the key station of the net-work) in New York City. WCAU, however, has another commitment for that period, so far as its own transmission is concerned. Therefore, the readers of THE MESSENGER are advised to tune in on WABC, New York City or the Columbia System Station in some other city but not on WCAU, Philadelphia. This, of course, is important as we do not want people trying to get WCAU and being disappointed..

BOOK REVIEW

WONDER FOOTPRINTS: Stories about Heaven for Children. Sigrid O. Sigstedt. Illustrated. Blactz Bros., Inc., Fox Chase, Pa. 46 pp. \$1.00.

At Christmas time we had the pleasure of reading a new book, written by Mrs. Sigrid O. Sigstedt. It well deserves wide circulation among the children for whom it is especially written, New-Church children. There have been very few books for that particular audience. We, who have New-Church children to bring up, should be grateful for each opportunity to place before them in an attractive manner, what after all we consider

highly important for them to know, something about our teachings and beliefs.

"Wonder Footprints" is the story of a little girl, about six years old, who goes with her Uncle Theophilus on several journeys in the path of Swedenborg, the "wise man," and his angel guide, to visit the people of the Golden, Silver, Copper and Iron Ages. Such of the Memorable Relations dealing with those ages as are interesting to children are given in direct quotation. The explanations and the "story" about the little girl draw the child's attention to the accounts from Swedenborg which it is the real purpose of the book to present. Our six-year-old was much pleased with and interested by the book. This story is a charming preparation for the direct reading which older children can do.

"Wonder Footprints" is now on sale at New-Church book-stores, and should be made available by the Grandmothers and Aunts to all children with enough New-Church background to receive the book sympathetically.

CORNELIA HINKLEY HOTSON.

Erratum

We have the following communication from the Rev. Charles W. Harvey:

In the record of the report of the *Book of Worship* Committee (MESSENGER, p. 316, May 18th) to the Council of Ministers, the undersigned is quoted as "Chairman" instead of Secretary. The Rev. Louis G. Hoeck is the Chairman and all the work of the revision hitherto has been done under his general direction.

Under "the second item of business" also, the report of the *Conjugal Love* Committee, the name of Mr. Hoeck has been omitted. He is Chairman also of this Committee, following the late Rev. H. Clinton Hay. The whole of the actual work of the Committee moreover, has been done by Mr. Wunsch as translator and Mr. Hoeck as reviser of the former translation work which is now replaced with the final version. The Secretary has been only the driving force to keep the Committee together until the finished work—"A new era in the translating of Swedenborg," as the Chairman describes it—could be brought to completion.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

PHILADELPHIA

The Quarterly Meeting of the Philadelphia Society was postponed from its regular date in April, until May 12th, so that the Rev. and Mrs. Goldsack of England might be with us. The Ladies Aid Association served, as they always do, a most delicious and bountiful dinner.

At the business meeting Mr. Harvey presented the

following names for election into membership in our Society:

Harold Boericke, Jr., Mrs. K. Eschemann, Miss Louise Lachenley, all by confirmation; Mr. C. T. Mitchell, by transfer; Mr. and Mrs. Grover McConnell, restored to membership; and Mrs. Clara Minner and Mr. and Mrs. Lucius S. Cole.

Most interesting reports from, and impressions of, Convention were given by Mr. Goldsack, Mr. Harvey, Miss Beatrice McGeorge and Mr. David Johnson. It was very pleasant to have a number of our Frankford friends at this meeting. The attendance at the Quarterly Meetings during the past year has been unusually good.

On Saturday, May 21st, the League held its first Spring Carnival. From 3 to 10 p.m., as the very attractive signs told us, anyone from five to ninety-five could have the best kind of a good time, and we truly did! The side-shows were marvelous—from the flea circus to the fascinating snake-charmer; and the two fortune-tellers were kept busy till closing time. The musical sketch, "Sweethearts on Parade," written and given by Leaguers, was delightful—the music, songs and dancing being given with beauty and grace.

The League expects to give another Carnival next year. Those who didn't attend this year surely must not miss the event again. It was decidedly worth while.

Our League planned a hot-dog roast for Saturday, May 28th; and on June 4th, the League sponsored an old-fashioned Sunday-school picnic, to which the whole congregation was invited.

Mrs. Gideon Boericke invited the Ladies Aid Association to hold its June meeting, the last for this season, at her lovely home "Deepdene," Wynnewood, Pa., on Tuesday, June 7th.

R. E. L.

Coming Event

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Swedenborg Foundation, Inc., will be held at 51 East 42nd Street, New York City, on Monday, June 13, 1938, at 4:00 P. M.

Personalia

Miss Evelyn Kent of Philadelphia, has returned to the home of her sister Mrs. Burton Boyce, in Melrose Highlands, where she will probably stay throughout the month of June.

CALENDAR

June 19.

The Sending of the Apostles

(B. W., p. 511, see T. C. R., no. 791.)

Sel. 67: "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised."

Lesson I. Dan. vii. 7-14.

Anthem XXI, B. W., p. 372: "Now is come the salvation."

Lesson II. Rev. xix to v. 16.

Gloria, Benedictus and Faith.

Hymns (Mag.) 223: "The Triumphant Zion, lift thy head."

220 "Jerusalem, arise."

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