

A FEW INTERESTING ITEMS FROM THE 1910 CONVENTION REPORT
Celeron Park, N. Y. Chautauqua Lake Convention—July 30, Aug. 7, 1910

“Many Shall Run To and Fro” (page 170)

The Erie Railroad has a history, and plays an important part in the fulfillment of the prophecy of Daniel, 12th chapter, verse four. Daniel had a vision of the very time in which we are living, but which was not for him to know except in symbol, so the Lord said to him, *“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end, MANY SHALL RUN TO AND FRO, and knowledge shall be increased.”* We know from abundant Scriptural authority that we are now living in the very time Daniel mentioned, and it is our privilege, if we want to, to see these things actually taking place before our eyes. Further, we know on the same reliable authority that these are but the harbingers of still greater blessings for the world of mankind—this being the “day of preparation” for the establishment of the Kingdom for which our Lord taught us to pray, *“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven.”* We are glad that we find that the Scriptures do not teach that the wages of sin is “eternal torment,” but that the penalty is “D-E-A-T-H,” and soon, *“All that are in their graves will hear the voice of the Son of man and come forth,”* and He whose right it is will take His power and reign for a thousand years. (For details and Scripture proof of these and many other interesting features of God’s divine plan of the ages, we refer you to the wonderful works known as “Studies in the Scriptures,” published at Brooklyn Tabernacle, New York.)

Railroads have much to do with this great running to and fro, and the history of the Erie dates so far back, we thought it might be interesting to note the following:

The first railroad constructed in America—outside of experiments—was the line from Albany to Schenectady. The engine used is still in existence. It was called, “The De-Witt Clinton.” And it is worthwhile to remember that the original intent of that railroad was to tow boats on the raging canal, instead of pulling them by horse-power. The cars were let down the hill and drawn up by windlass.

Every good thing begins as something else; and our wisest moves are accidents.

The Erie Canal was a great success. Passengers seeking the West traveled to Albany by steamboat, and were then transferred to the Canal passenger-packets that annihilated space at the rate of one hundred miles every twenty-four hours.

Buffalo was five days away from New York and after two years the time was cut to three days by “flying packets” that charged an excess fare.

Westward Ho!

In 1832 a bill was introduced in the New York State Legislature authorizing a railroad to be built from Tidewater to Lake Erie.

This road was suggested by the success of the Erie canal. It was called the Erie Railway. The first line ran from Piermont on the Hudson to Goshen and was opened for traffic in 1841. The distance is about forty miles, and one train a day was run over from Piermont and back. A great many people went up from New York to take the ride. In

fact, the chief income was from these excursionists. “When the novelty wears off, that is the end of it,” said the wiseheimers.

Women were carried at half-price. Just why this was we do not know; perhaps because they had less money. Women have always been minors—in the eyes of the law, anyway. At country dances, women are admitted at half-price, and probably it was just a business stroke to popularize the road, there being many people who were afraid to ride, because of the great speed.

The passengers were listed or manifested, just like ship passengers, and checked off and on like freight. The first railroad tickets were tags with the man’s name on, and these were fastened to his coat. Next the ticket was stuck in his hat. It was five years before some railroad man said, “Oh, shucks, what’s the use.” And then he quit writing down the passenger’s name, age and pedigree, and just sold him a ticket.

At first, the man in charge of the train was called the “captain.” The engineer objected, however, to this mark of honor, and to quiet all artistic jealousy the word “conductor” came in, meaning of course the man who conducts the passengers from one place to another. It was the duty of the conductor to run ahead of the train and drive cows off the track, and also to run ahead of the train when coming into a village for fear people would not see the train in time and be run over. The first cars or coaches were stage coaches mounted on wheels with flanges. These coaches were costly, and besides, enough of them could not be procured, the railroad buying all the second-hand ones they could find. Then flat cars were provided, with simple benches nailed across for seats.

It was 1843 before two trains were run, one for freight and one for passengers; and this was only brought about after much complaint from passengers, who used to help load and unload the freight in order to lessen delay. Also, there were times when there was such a heavy load of freight, that passengers would have to get off and push. When closed cars came in, people who wanted to ride in them were called “first-class” passengers. Those who rode in open cars were called “deck-passengers.” Later, they were called “second-class passengers.”

Trains were advertised “to run, weather permitting.” In rainy weather the damp ran down the steam in the boiler. Asbestos covering was a long way in the future. And the rain and wind were bad for both trainmen and passengers. Steamboats lay up in bad weather—why not trains? Certainly, neighbor, certainly! Time wasn’t as valuable then as now. They had all of it there was; and as long as a train could go twice as fast as a team, folks were satisfied.

Within the past eight years there has come into being a new Erie. Not a rail is on the main line of 1,000 miles, lacking one, from Jersey City to Chicago, that was there eight years ago. New steel and heavier steel, lower grades, longer trains, heavier equipment, numerous safety appliances, increased efficiency. And now Bergen Hill has been cut through. The cut is seventy feet deep, a hundred feet wide and a mile long. To do the task cost \$5,000,000. Four tracks are now being laid on the level floor at the bottom of this great artificial canyon. The two tracks and the old tunnel that have done such valiant service will be used for freight, but through the open cut will flow the tide of commuters

and the restless peoples who come and go from East to West, and from West to East. Millions of people will be benefited.

Bible Students Here From All Over the World (page 172)

(Reprint from Jamestown, N. Y. Evening Journal, Saturday, August 30, 1910)

Although arrangements have been made very quietly, the annual meeting of the Bible Students' Association, now being held in the auditorium at Celeron, has brought to this city and the lake fully 3,500 persons from all parts of the country and many more are expected this evening and early next week. The association is undenominational and non-sectarian, consisting of members of Bible study classes located in various cities and villages. The object of the association, according to one of its representatives who called at the Journal office, Friday afternoon, is independent Bible study and the purpose of the convention is to take up various questions pertaining to the study of the Bible and to hear discourses on various topics by leading Bible students from various parts of the land. Rev. C. T. Russell, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle, whose Bible studies are given in the Journal every week, is at the head of the association, and E. W. Brenneisen of New York is the general secretary. The convention committee invited "all consecrated people of God who trust in the Redeemer's merit for acceptance with God" to attend any and all of the sessions of the convention.

Over 3,000 men and women from all over the United States and Canada arrived Friday and early this morning. Besides there are delegates from foreign shores, from Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Syria, China, etc. These are lodged in private homes in Jamestown, and all around Lake Chautauqua as far as Mayville.

"Classes in independent Bible study have during the past ten years been forming all over the world," said a representative of the association to the Journal this morning, "but only recently have they effected an international association. They are not a new Christian sect but from all denominations, they seek to accept whatever is good in every Christian creed and reject, whatever they find unsupported in the Bible, however ancient and honorable.

"This movement for Bible investigation outside of all sectarian bondage, and without grandfather's spectacles, was forced by the course of the 'higher critics.' Attacks upon the Bible by most eminent professors and doctors of divinity in all the leading colleges and seminaries and pulpits of the land have captured thousands, but it led others to a more careful and systematic study, and these classes of Bible students all over the world is the result.

"Indeed, we are told that many of the most enthusiastic of the Bible Students had 'for a time lost their footing and fallen into higher critical infidelity.' Many of them owe the recovery of their faith to a clearer understanding of the Bible obtained through the reading of Pastor Russell's sermons now published weekly in the newspapers all over North America, and to his book, *The Divine Plan of the Ages*, now in its fourth million

and published in ten languages.

“These Bible Students claim that from their new standpoint of study they find many doctrines beautifully harmonious that their forefathers fought over and made an excuse for burning one another at the stake. They hold tenaciously to every item of Christian faith which will stand the test of the Bible. We certainly never met more enthusiastic defenders of the Bible—‘rightly understood,’ as they would say!

“The delegates seem to be of the ‘middle class’ so far as worldly prospects are concerned. Educationally they are above the average, in a knowledge of the Scriptures far in advance. So far as discernible they are all theologians, although few of them are clergymen. They say that they have gathered not to beg money, not to take up collections, but to study God’s word together and to enjoy each other’s fellowship.

“When among these Bible students one is reminded of the statement, ‘Behold how these Christians love one another!’ One might almost suppose these people one family, although many of them never saw each other before. They claim that this is the result of their more fully than ever before attaining the faith once delivered to the saints and previously divided amongst the various denominations—‘one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.’

“Jamestown is certainly honored in having such guests within her borders. They will remain nine days, and the program includes many prominent speakers. The services begin at 10 o’clock a.m. and close at 5 o’clock p.m., except Sundays, when there will be evening services. At noontime there will be an intermission for luncheon, which will be served at the auditorium.

“The managers secured hundreds of rooms and paid down \$3.00 on each. They expect to use all of them, but if not they wish the payment to reimburse the proposed entertainers for trouble in preparation.”

Arrangements have been made for accommodating several thousand delegates and it is expected that the total number of persons in attendance at the convention will break all records, as several cities are sending many more than they expected to send, 75 coming from Detroit alone and 50 from Dayton, Ohio. Two years ago the convention was held at Put-in-Bay, Ohio, and it was expected that there would be an attendance of 3,000. The hotel proprietors thought this meant about 1,500, but the actual number of persons present at the gathering was about 4,500. There was no annual convention last year, but district conventions were held in various places, among them Chicago, Memphis, Tenn.; San Antonio, Tex.; Los Angeles, Cal.; Oakland, Cal.; Portland, Ore.; Seattle, Wash.; Spokane, Wash.; and St. Joseph, Mo. A large party of members of the association made the circuit of the western meetings in a special train.

“In fact the convention is the largest in the history of Jamestown and the wonder of it is that all of the arrangements for the coming of this immense throng from all parts of the United States and from several other countries as well were made in such a quiet manner that the people of the city were scarcely aware of the fact that between 5,000 and 7,000 strangers were to be here for this gathering. During the past few weeks representatives of the association have been making a house to house canvass for rooms

for the entertainment of the visitors and in each case where accommodations were secured a deposit of \$3.00 was made. Men who have had years of experience in handling large gatherings are in charge of arrangements for the convention and no detail, however small, has been overlooked. Certain persons were designated to meet certain trains and as soon as the visitors arrived in the city they were shown to their rooms without any delay, in spite of the fact that the arrival of these visitors has been almost constant during the past twenty-four hours.

A representative of the association informed the Journal that up to noon today fully 3,500 persons had arrived here for the convention and that there was every reason to anticipate that the total number of persons in attendance at one time or another during the nine days of the gathering would be between 6,000 and 7,000. There were over 3,000 persons present at the opening session in the Celeron auditorium this morning and it is expected that the average attendance at the sessions next week will be 4,000. Two special trains arrived from New York and one from Washington Friday evening, and this morning six coaches came from Boston, seven from Pittsburgh and fifteen from Chicago.

“Every transportation line entering Jamestown brought hundreds more all morning long and visitors will continue to pour into the city throughout the remainder of the day and all day Sunday, while many will be unable to get here until next week. The Journal is requested to emphasize the fact that the people of this city will be made welcome at all of the sessions and that an opportunity to hear Pastor Russell will be presented at 3 o’clock tomorrow afternoon, as well as every evening at Mayville. No collections are taken at any of the sessions, no appeal is made for funds and no business is transacted.”

While the foregoing is not stated in every particular as we would were we reporting it; it is well sometimes to see how outsiders view our gatherings, what they may have to say and the impression our lives and conduct may have upon them—all of which is a witness to the glorious Truth we present. May we be “living epistles known and read of all men.”

Address of Welcome by Mayor Samuel A. Carlson (page 173)

Dear Friends: On behalf of the town of Jamestown and vicinity, I wish to extend to you all a cordial and hearty welcome. During the time I have been mayor of Jamestown it has been my privilege to welcome to this city various organizations. I have welcomed commercial, political, educational and fraternal organizations, but this is the first time it has been my privilege to extend the keys of this city to an organization, world-wide in magnitude, coming as it does from all parts of the world, coming here for one sublime purpose—the work of redeeming the world. I want to say to you that I feel deeply interested in this movement, although I do not understand much about it, but I can read in

your faces that you are all truth-seekers, and I know that the great unrest in the political and social world means something—it is significant—it means that the great power which moves the world is preparing for a great change in the future. I believe that the day of restitution is near and I understand that that is one of the great purposes of this organization, to prepare the world for that new day of righteousness that is coming.

I want to extend to you the hand of welcome and I hope your stay will be a pleasant one, and I hope that you will enjoy the exhilarating breeze of this lake, 1,500 feet above the level of the sea, one of the highest bodies of water navigated by steam. I hope that you will partake of this beautiful atmosphere, not only physically and mentally, but perhaps this convention will be the means of working toward that which will uplift this community to that higher, that nobler, grander thing, to which mankind is destined, and I hope this convention will have this influence in this city and surroundings. Again I welcome you.

Response by Pastor Russell (page 173)

I am very glad, dear friends, to be with you this morning. I recognize a great many of your faces. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to meet with so many of God's consecrated people who are loyal to the Word of God. I understand there are representatives here from various countries. I have not had the pleasure of meeting all of these various delegates, but I am sure the Lord intends that we shall have a great spiritual feast. I trust you have come with your hearts prepared and that you are desirous of a blessing in your heart, and desirous also that you will seek to pour out your blessings on every hand, not only here with those assembled for Bible study, but upon all the dear friends in this vicinity. Around this place live so many intelligent people there must be many Christians of all denominations, and I am glad we are meeting them here on interdenominational planes, Christians meeting Christians, and not on any denominational lines. I am glad we have no fence to divide us from God's people, that we have seen the folly of these fences, if I might so express it, of having such denominational fences. Some of us were once inclined to think that we must think along the Presbyterian line, and others along the Methodist line, and others along the Baptist line, so we have divided and separated. Now, by God's grace, as we study the Word of God we are being drawn "Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee" and in being drawn nearer to the Lord we are being drawn nearer to all those who are his; so I trust, dear friends, and in fact I believe that it must be so, that you are having greater love for the brethren, and I can go beyond that and say, that those who are truly the Lord's feel in their hearts a great stirring love for the world of mankind besides the Church of Christ, a greater sympathy for them, and a desire to do all you can to help them along. This is evidently the proper sentiment. This is the One faith, as the Apostle expresses it, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father over all." How blessed it is to have that

experience.

Once, perhaps, we also were more or less divided by sectarian lines, and thought we did God service by so dividing ourselves; but as we study his word we find it is adverse to any such divisions. "That they all may be one, as thou Father and I are one," was the Master's prayer on the very last night he was with his disciples. So I trust that is coming to be your and my sentiments, that we desire to be more and more at one with all who love the Lord Jesus and are begotten of the holy Spirit.

I was thinking, as I sat here, What is it that serves to unite our interests and has brought us to be specially Bible students, instead of as we formerly were, students of our creeds and theories, handed down to us from the past? I believe, in speaking for myself, that I also speak for many who have opened their hearts to me upon this subject: I can say this, that the very thing that is bringing infidelity to the whole world is the very thing that has been drawing my heart to the Lord. I will explain: In my own case it happened a good many years ago, with others it is happening day by day. The experience was this: The higher critics began to tear the Bible to pieces, took off the covers, and took out all the books, and practically told us that there was no Bible there, and that the people who wrote it were old dotards, and knew not what they were doing, and that the Lord and his disciples were fools because they thought the prophecies were inspired, and quoted those prophecies all through the New Testament. So, forty years ago these things aroused my mind and I said, Can this be true? This book upon which the world has been building for centuries, is it all a farce? This first effect upon me was to shake my faith and I threw away the Bible entirely, but afterward in God's providence he led me to a reexamination of the Bible. I took off the spectacles received from my parents and began to study the Bible myself, comparing Scripture with Scripture, the Old and New Testaments from Genesis to Revelation.

As I studied, the harmony began to appear more and more. Now every day my faith becomes stronger and better established, because I know in whom I have believed and why. That is the experience of very many of you here. You have been studying the word of God and that which has injured others, because of the higher critics, has made you more eager to study the word of God. They denounce it as fallible and of men, not worthy of credence, but the more you think of the Apostle's words, that God gave us this book "That the Man of God might be thoroughly furnished unto every good work," the more you are convinced that it is the Word of God. He also tells us in 2 Tim. 2:15, to "study to show ourselves approved unto God, workmen that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." I believe that has been your experience and that I am expressing the sentiments of all who are gathered here from all of the states of the Union, Canada and from various parts of the world.

Well, dear friends, I am glad to be here in your company, and as the Chief Officer of your

Association, THE INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION, I am glad to be here.

And I want to say to the Mayor of Jamestown and vicinity, We appreciate his words of cordial greetings extended to you this morning. We are glad to meet in Christian fellowship Christians from everywhere and we trust that Jamestown will not be the worse for our having been here, but better because of your influence in this vicinity—not meaning by this that there is any special lack of Christian character, but that every Christian should be growing day by day, and that the people of this vicinity ought to receive an impetus from this convention, and we too. Much will depend upon all here, not collectively, but individually. It will not do to say, that if we as individuals are careless of our deportment or words, that others will make up for it, but we must recognize that the whole is made up of individuals as the river is of drops of water; each one is accountable, and so let us seek to glorify God in our bodies and spirits which are his.

We have come here and will stay with the Celeron people in their midst and spend some money, but not for their “gin-crack” amusements. I fear they will be disappointed in this respect, but I hope they will see that there is something better to live for. The majority of people have very little to live for, and I sympathize with them. I tell you, dear friends, that if you should take out of my life the knowledge I have of Christ and God and the fellowship of the brethren in Christ, and the interest in his Word, it would leave my life a blank. Now I say that the majority of the world have very little to live for, not only around this beautiful sheet of water called Lake Chautauqua, but all over the world, rich and poor everywhere; they are without God and have no hope. They do not even know why they are in the world; do not know what God’s purpose was in bringing them into existence. How thankful, dear friends, we ought to be that God has so graciously favored us as to give us an interest in his book, and to gradually open our eyes of understanding. We sometimes sing, “Wonderful words of life”—and they are words of life. What the poet expressed was far beyond anything that he knew, but which we realize to be the very grandest possible statement of the Truth, that these wonderful words of life have a power in them not only in restraining from sin, but a power of producing a happy life and joyous faith.

I do not know when I have seen a more contented and happy set of faces. I congratulate you that you have something inside shining out. I am glad of that hymn. God not only tells us the truth through Jesus, the prophets, and apostles, but all who receive the spirit of truth manifest it in their words, conduct and features. Send out the truth, then, dear friends. You and I have something to do with sending it out, and with how much blessing we will get every day from this convention. May it be a time long to be remembered, of joyful blessing and fellowship with God and with each other, a time of growing in grace, a time of being strong against temptations that may assail you afterwards. Here I remark,

that our heavenly Father has so arranged matters that those who are his people, those who constitute the Church, are to have certain special trials, “The trial of your faith being more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” That trial of your faith and mine must go on if we are to be overcomers. It will not therefore do to pray that we have no trials. I do not pray for trials but leave that to the Lord. I am not going to do as one brother said: Brother Russell, I have been praying that the Lord will send me some great trial. I said, Brother, you have a great deal of courage. I believe that the Lord will hold me in the trials which he sends me, and as the Scriptures say, he will provide a way of escape. So then, knowing that God intends to give us trials, let us be prepared for the trials. Let us remember, that if we have special privileges at this convention, in fellowship, being strengthened in our spiritual nature, growing in the power of his might, that it may be an offset for certain trials which may come to us some time after we have returned to the busy world. So as the bee lays up honey for the winter time, store up your spiritual refreshment for your return to your home; also as the bee lays up more honey than for itself, so in our various associations together as Bible students let us go back laden with the precious things we have heard for those behind, laden with the precious things from the Lord’s words and filled with the spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ, able to be a comfort and to strengthen and build them up in the most holy faith.

...I know from previous experiences that the whole theme you will have to talk about is God’s word, the Truth in general. We cannot get too much of God’s Word and the farther you get into the truth, the emptier you will be of the world’s vanity and the more peace you will have on the journey in the narrow way of all those who are walking heavenward. So I close by wishing you all a very happy time at this convention. ... let us ask his blessing (Brother Russell then offered prayer.)

Services closed with singing Hymn #19—*The Beauty of Holiness*.



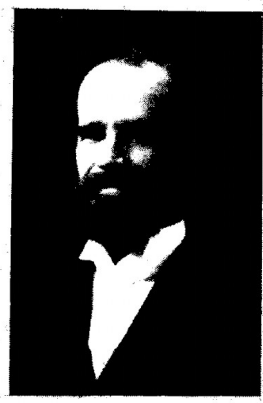
F.H. ROBISON



I. HOSKINS



H. SAMSON



BENJ. H. BARTON



FRANK DRAPER



R.H. HIRSH



M. STURGEON



Geo. B. RAYMOND