

plant is to the church what the supply train is to an army, if this fails there is a flagging of interest all along the line. The press of our land propagates so much that has an evil effect upon the mind, that it behooves the church to put forth every legitimate effort in giving to the public good wholesome literature, that will counteract the evil effects of the carnal and vile stuff that through so many avenues finds its way into the homes of the people, or better still that will so purify, cleanse and elevate the mind, that it will desire that which is good in preference to that which is evil.

That the church has a Publishing House producing just such literature goes without saying. Now and again it is interesting and instructive to give a historical resume of this publishing plant.

All publications, previous to 1834, in the interest of the church were the result of private enterprise. Although these enterprises were rewarded with indifferent patronage and consequent failure, yet they served to call attention to the importance of a church organ of some kind.

The first of these was *Zion's Advocate*, edited and published by Rev. Aaron Farmer, at Salem, Ind., 1829. It had a precarious existence, died in its infancy for the want of support, as did also the *Mountain Messenger*, which first saw the light of journalistic day in 1833, at Hagerstown, Maryland.

The General Conference of 1833 resolved to publish a paper under the auspices of the Church.

The trustees thus appointed bought in the town of Circleville, Ohio, in 1834, a lot with two houses, a printing press, together with some type and other necessary apparatus for which they paid \$1,005. They also purchased Mr. Rinchart's *Mountain Messenger* for \$325, and appointed him editor of the Church Paper.

Thus the *Religious Telescope* was launched upon the sea of religious journalism. For seven years it had a precarious existence, at the end of which time it had a debt of \$600, and a subscription list of only 1450, and only for the strong private financial condition of the trustees, it would have gone the way of its predecessors.

But better management finally prevailed, this induced a stronger support and consequent larger financial income.

As late as 1845, the editor with one man and two boys did the whole work of editing, publishing, printing and mailing.