



OUR SPECIAL

PUBLISHED BY THE
RAILWAY COMMITTEE
OF THE
TORONTO Y.M.C.A.

G. SANDHAM, DEL.-EG.



THY WORD
IS A
LAMP UNTO
MY FEET.

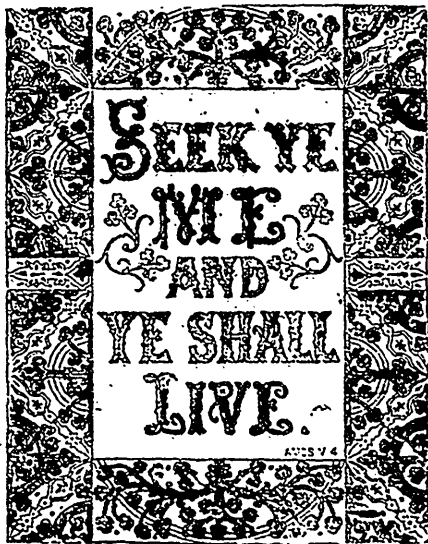


THY WORD
IS A
LIGHT UNTO
MY PATH.

Vol 5.

JANUARY, 1885.

No. 1



TO EVERY RAILWAY MAN

WE WISH

A TRULY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

RAILWAY SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The following is the report of the Railway Secretary for the month of Dec. 1884:—

Visits to Engines	100
“ Caboose	76
“ Round-houses and Shops..	7
“ Switch-houses	25
“ Offices	22
“ Injured and Sick	9
“ R. R. Reading Rooms and Bunk Rooms	11

Meetings held to date.3	Attendance	250
Papers distributed.....		990
R. R. SPECIALS distributed.....		1000

1,990

A REPLY.

THE editor of “The Railway Signal” (not the *well edited* and *reliable* English journal of that name, but the organ of the Toronto Rail Road Men’s Christian Association) asks why the Toronto Young Men’s Christian Association Railway Committee does not mail.

Thou art the same, and thy **YEARS** shall not fail.

Heb. i. 12.

Proclaim the acceptable YEAR of the Lord.

Isa. lxi. 2.

tain a greater number of Gospel services, and wishes us to remember what was done when "HE" was in charge. All we have to remember is that the separation, which took place some months ago, was proof that "He" and our Railway Committee were not fully agreed as to whether the work then being done (or reported as having been done) was the true work for which the Committee was called into existence.

The same article assures us that we are still the objects of watchful care and prayer. We feel our need of all that prayer can bring, but when we are told that success is prayed for, and in the same article are told that success has not come, we wonder which of the essentials spoken of in James v. 16 (last clause) are lacking. Perhaps the *editor* will explain.

ITEMS.

SAMUEL MCARTHUR, brakeman, G.T.R., had one of his fingers taken off while in the act of coupling his train at York.

WILLIAM STEADMAN, yardman, G. T. R., had the sad misfortune to lose one of his fingers and otherwise injure his right hand, while coupling cars in Toronto yard.

ANDREW WALLS, foreman of the car repairing department, York, has been dangerously ill for the past month, but we are pleased to state that he now seems to be out of danger, and on a fair way of recovery.

WE regret very much to learn of the sad and sudden bereavement which has befallen Mr. Joseph Loranger (chief clerk in Mr. Smith's office) in the loss of his little baby girl of only four summers. We extend to the parents our heartfelt sympathy.

JOHN CURRAN, brakeman, G.T.R., had his finger and thumb taken off while coupling cars at Georgetown. His arm is also seriously injured, but we trust that he may not lose the use of it.

LONDON, Dec. 21, 1884.

DEAR BROTHER JEX.—At the annual meeting of the London R. R. Branch, held last Friday evening, a vote of thanks was passed to you and friends for your continued donation of the SPECIAL. The vote was unanimous, even the ladies voting. If I could convey some of the *spirit* of this resolution, it would do you good, but, as I can't, I hope it will not do you any harm. Our branch is alive and active, and *great in promise*. I am, yours faithfully,

G. MARTINDALE.

MOTTO FOR CONDUCTORS.



Ye did run well; who did hinder you, that ye should not obey the truth?—Gal. v. 7.

You watch over others; are you watching yourself also? Self-will and self-righteousness make "hard running and a heavy grade," and will tend to throw you off the track. If you get off the track, only superhuman help—the lever of God's grace—can put you on again.

You wave your lantern or pull the bell-cord as a signal to the engineer. You say by your signals, "stop", "go ahead", or danger. Your life is also a signal. "No man liveth to himself." Is it safe for others to follow your directions as to the future of life; had they better "go ahead", "or stop"?

If any man be in Christ, he is a NEW creature.

2 Cor. v. 17.

The YEARS of the wicked shall be shortened.
Proverbs x. 27.

"CRUSHED."

FROM REAL LIFE.



ONLY one word, but it tells of a life "lived out", as a tale that is told. Yes, it was but too true, the sad news that we heard. Hale and strong, the Railway man stood once more in his accustomed place, to couple up the train. There is a little delay; at last they come. Alas! he is not ready to couple them; he had turned aside for a moment, so he is found not watching; he has taken a step too far, and is "crushed" to death in a moment between the buffers. Oh! friend, what a sad picture, not ready, not watching, but taking God's holy Name in vain; the very last words he was heard to utter were curses. He was "called into" the presence of God uttering unholy words.

Can you read these words without a shudder?

"Oh, can we say we are ready, brother,
Ready for the soul's bright hom ;
Say, will He find you and me still watching,
Waiting, waiting, when the Lord shall come?"

I pray you, my fellows, "look quickly," and see to your soul's salvation "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." You have no excuse to plead for still living in sin, for "the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John i. 7). Will you tell Jesus you have sinned, for "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John i. 9).

"Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John i. 29), and again, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold! now is the day of Salvation" (2 Cor. vi. 2).

One more lesson which we must learn from this sad history is, when the buffers were examined, these words were found written in pencil on them:—



The words are still there. Who wrote them? God knows, we cannot tell. I think we may well re-echo the words of a Railway man, who told me the story: "God bless the man who wrote those warning words on the buffer. He has delivered his own soul" (Ezekiel iii. 19).

Dear friends! God's voice is calling to you once again through these words. The sands of time are running out. We stand upon the verge of time. Eternity is drawing nigh. The King Himself will soon appear.

Pause a moment. When the pale messenger whose name is "death" shall knock at your door, will there be another dark messenger follow close to the Death angel's footsteps? His name was "Death," and Hell followed with him (Rev. vi. 8).

What is your hope? If we have hope only in this life, we are of all men the most miserable. God's word says it.

Can you say, Jesus is my Saviour, my all in all? Should Jesus call us, we can answer, "Come, Lord Jesus." We are only "waiting for the coming of our Lord" (1 Cor. i. 7).

Again I would say, "Tarry not," dear fellows, but "Come." "Jesus ready stands to greet you."

"The free gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. vi. 23).

But remember, "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. vi. 23)

ETERNITY.

Lord, let it alone this YEAR also.
Luke xiii. 8.

THE TRAIN THAT RUNS TO ETERNITY.

AS I was travelling to a certain town, the train stopped, and a lady entered the carriage I was in. She was blowing and panting, for she had been running to catch the train, and as she wiped her face she says, "How I perspire! I was very nearly too late!"

Said I, "Ay, ma'am, you might catch cold and die from such a run as that."

"I might, sir, indeed," she replied.

"And did you ever think, ma'am, about getting ready for the other train?"

"What train is that, sir?"

"Why, the train that runs through the valley of the shadow of death."

"Well, to be sure, sir, we ought to think about that." "But I've never had much time to think about it!"

"But, my dear lady, you'll have to find time to die. Haven't you had some friends that have had time to die?"

"Yes, sir," she says, beginning to weep. "A year ago my mother died! But, indeed, I go to church, and I take the sacrament, and I try to do my best."

"Yes; but you may do all that, and go to hell!"

"Well," says she, "what else should I do?"

"Now suppose," said I, "I was standing in yonder station, and saw you running in breathless haste, and I knew the train was just about to start. I come to meet you, and ask you where you are going. I pay for your ticket and offer it to you; but you say, 'No, thank you, I've got plenty of money.' And so, while you are finding your purse, you lose the train. Now, you see, it is your pride that has hindered you from going. But suppose another case. You have got a letter to say that if you come to a certain place by twelve o'clock to-morrow, you will receive the title-deeds to a large estate. But you have no money to pay your fare. When you come to the station I see an anxiety and perplexity on your face. I ask you, 'what's the matter?' and you tell me. If I gave you a ticket, you would willingly and eagerly take it, and say, 'Thank you, sir; I'm very much obliged to you.' Now if you want a free passage, Christ gives it

you. And you might have it in this railway-carriage. We'll just pray a bit!" So I prayed with her, and she found Christ in the railway-carriage.

I visited her some time after, and found her on her dying bed. I asked her how she was. "Oh," she said, "I haven't lost my ticket, bless God; I've got my ticket all the way through."

R. WEAVER.

"HE IS ABLE."

SOMETIMES we hear a man say, "I am not a Christian, but I admire Christianity and would like to be a Christian, but a railroad man can't be a Christian." This only proves that such a one lacks that one essential to being a Christian; that is confidence in Christ and his word. All that you need is to be persuaded that He is able to keep you from falling. He has said, "I will in no wise cast out." "I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish." "Whosoever will may come." To deny that these words apply to railroad men, is to call Christ a liar, when we know better. The question, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" has no answer.

INFIDELITY removes nothing that is bad. It only ridicules and denounces all that is good. It tears down, it never constructs; it destroys, it never imparts life; it attacks religion, but it offers no adequate substitute.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS.

Sunday Gospel & Song Services.

Union Station.

AT 3 P.M.

JAN. 4.—Jos. Greene and P. A. Hertz.

" 11.—Jno. Wood and Jno. Johnston.

" 18.—W. C. Jex and W. Marks.

" 25.—R. Connors and A. Saunders.

Meetings at York discontinued until further notice.