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March. 23/13

THE BOOK "COMING KING."

A Statement Regarding Its Various Editions, and Especially Regarding the Latest Spanish Edition of the MSS. Which Have Been Prepared for the French, the Italian, and the Portugese Translators.

The first edition of the book "Coming King," by James Edson White, was published by the Review and Herald in 1898. Two years later it was adapted for publication in Australia by Elder W.A. Colcord. The Australian edition was set in larger type than the American edition, and with its appendix relating to the South African war and the awakening of the heathen, it made 330 pages. It has been very popular in the colonies, and several large editions have been sold in Australasia and South Africa.

The first American edition contained 290 pages. In 1904 some additions were made to the American edition, and in 1907, it was again revised and enlarged, the 1907 edition being 318 pages. Again in 1911 this book was revised, and it is now selling well in the eastern and southern states. The 1911 edition has 320 pages.

In the first, second, and third editions of this book, the latter printed shortly after the San Francisco earthquake, I observe that the first 18 chapters, including the "Falling of the Stars," are very much the same. These chapters covering about 120 pages, deal briefly with the following subjects: The Creator--The Created--The Redeemer--The Gospel in the Old Testament--The Leader of Israel--The Great Teacher--The Man of Sorrows--Christ our Sacrifice--The Resurrection--The Lord's Ascension--Christ Our Mediator and Advocate--He Will Come Again--When Shall These Things Be?--Destruction of Jerusalem--Great Tribulation--The Bible: Its Preservation and Its Enemies--Darkening of the Sun--The

Falling Stars.

The principal changes made in the second and third editions, in which about 26 pages are added, are found in the chapters entitled Famines--Pestilences--Earthquakes--Volcanoes--Storms and Tidal Waves--Wars and Rumors of Wars--Distress of Nations--War Spirit and Peace ⁴Talk--The Money Question--Capital and Labor--The Coning Conflict--What Shall We Do?

In the last chapters, covering about ⁶⁰~~50~~ pages, there was but little change. These chapters were The Days of Noah--Iniquity Shall Abound--False Christs and False ^Prophets--Parable of the Fig Tree--The Gospel to all Nations--One Taken, Another Left--The True Israel--Emigration--The Coning King--The King's Reward--The New Jerusalem.

While this 1907 edition of the book was very popular in some parts of the United States, and the book had a very flattering sale, there were some of our ministers and bookmen who criticized that portion of the book relative to famines, pestilence, earthquakes, wars, and rumors of wars, the money question, and capital and labor, on the ground that it was more newsy than instructive.

The author of the book, always willing and anxious to meet the necessities of the field, made a very radical revision of the book in 1911.

In the revision of 1911 the first 13 chapters were changed but little. One chapter was dropped out, and a chapter we had prepared on the Great Tribulation, for the Spanish edition was substituted for the one previously bearing that title. All of the matter pertaining to Famines, pestilences, wars, capital and labor, etc., was abbreviated to 50 pages, and placed in a well-illustrated appendix, while those chapters that had formerly constituted the last 60 pages were made to follow the "Falling of the Stars," and seven new chapters were intriduced, filling 80 pages. These chapters deal with the following subjects: The Revelation-

The First Angel's Message--The Sanctuary--The Second Angel's Message--
The Third Angel's Message--Sabbath Rest--A Sealing Message.

This last ~~xxxxx~~ change in the matter and make-up of the fourth edition of the book brought out in 1911, seems to be very satisfactory to our brethren in the eastern States, and the book is having a wide circulation in the east and in the south.

ADAPTATION FOR TRANSLATION

In preparing the MSS. for the new translation into the Spanish language, we gave each chapter careful study with reference to its clearness and simplicity and usefulness to the Spanish readers in South America, Mexico, and the Islands of the sea. With this in mind, there were made ~~xxxxx~~ some extensions of the Biblical arguments in the brief chapters at the beginning of the book. The chapters, Destruction of Jerusalem--Great Tribulation--and The Bible and Its Preservation--were rewritten, also the chapters on the Darkening of the Sun, and The Falling Stars.

In re-writing of the chapters entitled "Great Tribulation," and "Bible and Its Preservation" an earnest effort was made to present the subjects in a winning way to Catholic readers, and in writing ~~the~~ regarding the darkening of the sun and the falling of the stars, much consideration was given to the presentation of the subject from a world-wide standpoint. As mentioned above, the chapter on "Great Tribulation," was included in the latest English revision.

Following Chapter XVIII---"The Falling of the Stars" is a carefully prepared chapter of 16 Ms. pages entitled Wars and Rumors of Wars. This covers the ground of three chapters in the English book, "Wars and Rumors of Wars," "War Spirit and Peace Talk," and "Distress of Nations."

Chapter XX, "Famines and Pestilences," 10 Ms. pages takes the place of the two chapters in the English book, where each of these subjects is treated separately.

Chapter XXI, The Testimony of Nature, 18 Ms. Pages, covers the three chapters in the English edition, Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Storms and Tidal Waves.

Chapter XXII, The Strife Between Capital and Labor, consisting of 17 Ms. pages takes the place of four chapters in the English edition of 1907.

Chapter XXIII "As in the Days of Noah," being 11 Ms. pages, covers the ground occupied by two chapters in the English book, "The Days of Noah," and "Iniquity Shall Abound."

Chapter XXIV, "Take Heed that Ye Be Not Deceived," is practically a new chapter, intended to point out principles that will guide in recognizing the false and in finding the true religion. It includes, however, the chapter in the English book, "False Christs and False Prophets."

Chapter XXV, "The Gospel to All Nations," will present a brief but interesting picture of mission work in heathen missions.

Following this, four brief chapters complete the book:

Chapter XXVI, "Parable of the Fig-Tree," 3 pages.

" XXVII, "The Coming King," 7 pages.

" XXVIII, "The Millennium," 6 pages.

" XXIX "The King's Reward," 5 pages.

In order to make room for ~~some~~ additional matter, we have left out the chapters on "One Taken, Another Left," "Emigration," and "The True Israel," besides the blending of kindred subjects into one chapter as indicated above.

In rewriting the middle portion of the book, it has been our aim to deal in a brief but comprehensive way, and from a world-wide standpoint with the subject of earthquakes, war, capital and labor, and missions, and in the closing chapters a very earnest effort has been made to appeal

to the hearts of the readers, inspiring faith in God, and by pointing to the signs of the times indicate the need of a preparation for the coming of the King.

The question may arise in the minds of some as to why we did not use the new matter brought into the 1911, or fourth American edition, relating to the Messages, the Sanctuary, and the Sabbath. There were two reasons why we did not incorporate this matter. The clear and convincing presentation of the subjects occupying the first and central portion of the book seemed essential, and unless these were abbreviated there did not seem to be room for the matter; and furthermore we felt that the Latin people as a class would not so readily grasp these subjects as would the American people who are more familiar with Scripture.

We are confident that the matter selected for these Mss. which we are now preparing for translation is good, and that it will make a much better book for the Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese people of Europe and South America, than any of the former editions of "Coming King."

We feel confident that it will meet the approval of our translators and the brethren who are members of the publication committees, but we do not think it is perfect, and we are desirous of having the faithful criticism of our brethren who are actively engaged in the work among the Latin people, men who have had experience, and are well prepared to give helpful criticism and advice regarding the book Mss. With this in view, we are placing copies of the Mss. in the hands of representatives of the French, Italian, and Portuguese work.

In placing these Mss. in the hands of our brethren for criticism and improvement, we have two principal and important questions for them to consider. First, have we secured the satisfactory presentation of the subjects included in the Mss., and, second, is there additional

French
matter which might be brought into the translation that would make the book more satisfactory to the French people? Is there some additional matter which ought to be brought into the Italian edition which would make it seem to the Italian people like an Italian book, written from the Italian standpoint? Also with the Portuguese, is there some addition, some improvement or adaptation which would make the book more satisfactory to the Portuguese people, both in Portugal and Brazil?

GERMAN, DUTCH, SWEDISH, AND DANISH-NORWEGIAN EDITIONS

Some time before the revisions and additions of the 1907 edition were incorporated into the American editions of the English book, it was translated into German, ~~Denish~~, Swedish, and Danish, and published by the Southern Publishing Association of Nashville, Tennessee. Later on a Dutch translation was made, and the book was printed in Hamburg. The Hamburg office also secured a set of plates of the German edition, and from the German office there has been a moderate but steady sale of the book in the Dutch and German languages.

After the revisions made in the English book in 1907, in which some up-to-date matter was incorporated relating to the San Francisco earthquake and other recent calamities, there was prepared for the German, and Swedish and Danish editions an appendix bringing in most of this matter.

The large expense of making frequent revisions of the book and bringing it up-to-date in those chapters dealing with newsy matter, such as famines, earthquakes, war, and the money question, has led us to endeavor in our adaptation of the book for translation into the Latin languages to present these matters from a world-wide view-point, in such a way that there will be less occasion for revisions.

It is with this in view that we are especially desirous that our ^{who} brethren ~~show them~~ examine and criticize these manuscripts shall give particular attention as to whether or not we have been

successful in presenting these subjects in a satisfactory way.

ILLUSTRATIONS

In the matter of illustrations we have found that the first portion of the English book is quite satisfactory for the translated edition. In the central portion of the book we can use about one half of the illustrations that have been used in the former edition. We are leaving out several of the illustrations dealing with North American affairs, and are substituting for these illustrations of world-wide interest, and especially of interest to the Latin peoples. In the latter portion of the book we find that new illustrations are needed. These we shall endeavor to secure so as to brighten up and make attractive these last chapters, which we consider to be the most important chapters as regards the religious education and spiritual welfare of the people.

We hope that our brethren representing the several nationalities will give us the benefit of their opinions regarding these matters, and we request them to be very free in marking the Mss., and in making notes which they will return to us when the Mss are returned.

J/r

Yours faithfully
W. C. White