

THE SILVER LINING

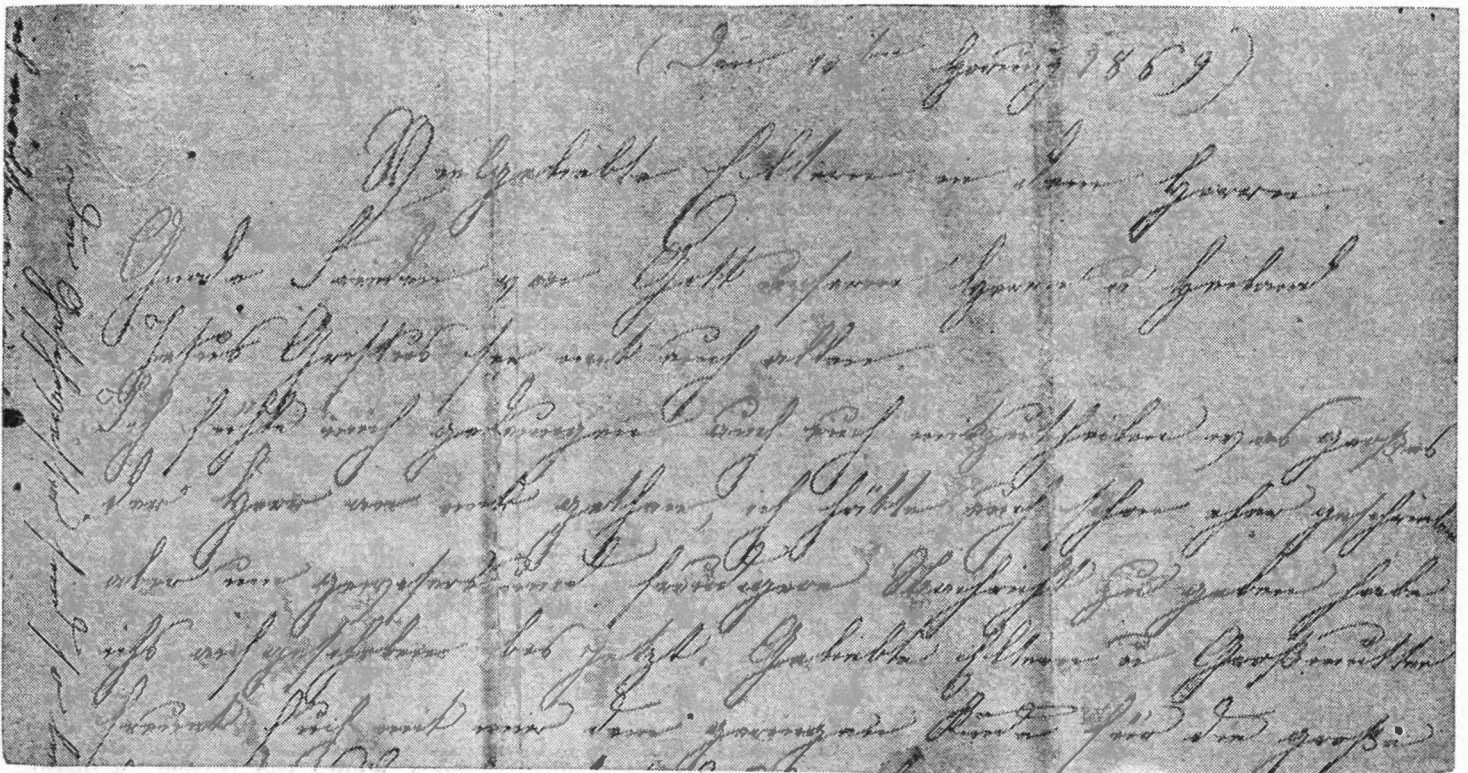
A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

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WHAT GREAT THINGS THE LORD HAS DONE



Part of the letter in German.

(This is from a letter found, it is said, in the back corner of Grandpa Conrad's old writing desk. Bro. Noah Herman of Tuscon told that at the start of the Peoria church there were three sisters. They were encouraged to meet together. Bro. Benedict Weyeneth said, Love is the key. When the young convert who wrote this became a member, Bro. Hartman was the brother who had responsibility to go ahead, according to Bro. Geistlich's diary. Listen to these beautiful words, and be thankful God gives today in the same way, His unsearchable riches.)

My dear Parents, in the Lord,

grace and peace from God our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ be with you all.

I feel it is my duty to let you know what great things the Lord has done for me. I would have written you sooner but to be sure that my news is happy (good), I've waited until now. Beloved Parents and Grandmother, be happy with me, your child, for the many graces and sympathy that the Lord has bestowed on me. Maybe, because of our closeness, you were aware of this. Sunday, I had the biggest holiday and the happiest day of the year of my whole life. The Lord took me into his organization (pro-

fession of faith). I wasn't alone, also Maria Hardman and Wilhelmina Thorsie. The three of us were instructed on Sunday and also baptized. You can't believe what a big celebration it was for us and all our brothers and sisters. Bro. Reitter, Leidhold and Herbald were present at our profession of faith, also many relations from Mansfield were here. Bro. Reitter asked the most questions. Thank God that we made it.

Now, my dear ones, I can speak the truth with the Apostle Paul. I see that the old is gone and everything is new. Also, dear Mother, your wish is fulfilled, Christ is in

me and I ask myself if I can live with my Saviour until my end (the rest of my life). He freed me from Satan's bondage and I cannot thank Him enough for the grace and patience he endured for so long and so often He knocked at the door of my heart and I wouldn't listen . . . But the Lord never became too tired to work on my heart. In short, my loved ones, I want to let you know how I was converted.

Bro. Herbold was here in Peoria assembly about four weeks and he talked to me, since he knew me as a child out there (wherever she was born), and he spoke to me very conscientiously and it touched me deeply. And so I thought to myself now it is finished, it has to change (referring to her way of life) and I made up my mind not to change until the Lord has heard me & so I prayed and begged day and night to the Lord, as all things are possible, so that he may save me from pride and lust, in short, from all in this world that is evil and disgusting, and give me a childlike loving heart. And I have prayed that I will serve only You (the Lord) and You alone. You know how hard it was for me since I was so far gone

with pride, twelve days long I was in battle (with myself) and I couldn't eat, I couldn't sleep, I couldn't rest, I couldn't work anymore. When I was in my room, I wanted out; when I was out, I wanted in; and so I often thought that no human being had a life like mine. I could have crawled under the earth; I couldn't go backwards as I would have been lost forever. Ahead of me all was dark, I couldn't see the light. The last three days, I couldn't pray, all I did was shout, Lord hear me and have mercy on me a poor sinner. I could no longer cry for my sins and my (heart) was very heavy.

So the meeting was that evening by Elder Rieblin. That's where I asked Brother Hard and the other Elders how soon I will have peace and I told them I couldn't cry anymore over my sins. Then Bro. Hard told me I must now believe, and all the other Elders had hope and also believed that I can this evening believe that the Lord has forgiven my sins. All night long I prayed and read the Bible, and it became lighter and lighter and in the morning I was at peace. In the afternoon I went to Hartmans to tell

them that last night the Lord (came to) dwell in my heart and I could feel it, the peace of the Lord. They were all very happy and said that they already felt it that evening.

So I had to let myself down (from worldly goods) and when I saw myself in the light, you wouldn't believe it, but you would never know me . . .

I believe if it wasn't for the grace of God, I would have never made it, and the Lord enlightened my heart so that what I wanted before that was glittery, I now hate. When I, for my Lord and Saviour can live my time on earth, I will never let Him out of my heart and I will suffer for the Lord's will and fight for my belief and I will fight to win over Satan with my belief and the power from above. I know that the Lord died for me and I can believe.

The elders were so loving and understanding, they almost take the place of father. I will never disappoint them, since the Lord ruled not my will but as you will.

So, dear Parents, I ask your forgiveness for the way I lived my life and all the trouble I caused you.

Fred Stockburger

Sometime ago, I found an old newspaper clipping which my father sent to the **Roanoke Post** a few years before he died, which was published for him . . . Raymond Stockburger

Here are a few extracts of my life while I was at Roanoke during 1876 . . . I worked for the late John Beer, and also the late Henry Heuberger in 1877. I made my home with the good old Fauber family, Mr. and Mrs. David T. Fauber, parents of the late ex-Policeman William Fauber. It was one of the best homes I had until of course I had my own home in 1883 in Little Falls, N.Y. Father Fauber always prayed before every meal. The dear Mother Fauber was a real mother to me. When I left them in the spring to go to work for the late Phillip Seifer, my clothing and woolen socks were all mended and in fine shape.

During my stay with the family, Father Fauber got a lot of men to change the course of Panther Creek. I helped also. The creek had many jogs and turns. Mr. Seifer,

for whom I worked a short time, was killed in July that same year being kicked by a horse, leaving five children from his first wife and two from his second wife . . . a very sad going. The Seifer family lived seven miles northwest of Roanoke on the Cazenovia Road.

At that time, Manny Johnson lived near there. They changed the spelling of their name, and I understand they have changed it again. John Johnson had built a two-story brick house, which at that time was rather a fine structure. James Frantz also had a fine brick home. He was one of Roanoke's first storekeepers. The farm was later owned by Henry Emsler, then John Schmidt on the Metanora Road. who built a big cider press and made a one-story home a two-story . . . I helped unload stones from a car for the John Schertz farm home. I returned from the Phillip Seifert farm in April, 1877, and worked for William Wren, who had a well-boring machinery outfit. I can recall a very deep well made on the Solomon Marshall farm.

During my stay in Roanoke, the

boiler at the grist mill at Secor blew up and killed four men. Some eight from Roanoke drove over to see the ruins. Among those who went, if I can recall correctly, were Bob Wren, Frank Rohman and John Pfister. The others have escaped my memory. James Frantz then sold out to Claudin and son, J. E. (John E. still lives in Roanoke). Jacob Engle had a clothing store, where the Herbst, Altorfer & Sauder firm was later located. Henry Altorfer was among the av-

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