

Mrs. White frequently sang that song during her last illness, and the last stanza of the hymn was the one most often heard, as with strong faith and bright hope she looked forward to seeing the wonders that had been shown to her:

We'll be there, we'll be there in a little while,
We'll join the pure and the blest;
We'll have the palm, the robe, the crown,
And forever be at rest.

When Ellen was very young she heard the song "The Dream of Pilate's Wife." It impressed her tremendously, but she had never seen the words or music, and later in life she was unable to recall them. As she and her husband began their ministry they tried to find the song, but failed. Years later, and in the middle of the night, she sat up in bed and sang the entire song without hesitation. As she sang, her husband took down the words and the music. Her son Edson and his hymn-writing cousin, F. E. Belden, were then just about to print the book *Hymns and Tunes*, and the song was included in that volume.

Mrs. White later used the song in a dramatic and effective way to emphasize the message of a sermon. She had been asked to speak at the General Conference of 1909 and had chosen to use as her subject the theme of the crucifixion, dwelling particularly on the vacillation of Pilate as he was influenced by the mob demanding Jesus' death. In the midst of her sermon she paused while a male quartet sang "The Dream of Pilate's Wife." The congregation was deeply moved by this song, which portrayed the anguish of the wife of the Roman governor.

James White published the first hymnal for Advent believers in 1849 (the same year in which the *Present Truth* journal was first published). He chose 53 hymns and called the small volume, *Hymns for God's Peculiar People That Keep the Commandments of God and the Faith of Jesus*. As was often the case in those days, no music was in-

MUSIC IN THE LIVES OF THE
cluded—only the words were printed. The first hymnals included only the words of the hymns centered on the second commandment. The first anticipated joys of His soon-expected return were included in the collection. Appropriately the first hymn in the book is "Holy Sabbath," and the last is "Whom All Blessings Flow."

During the nearly quarter of a century between the publication of his first hymnal, James White prepared for the publication of five more. The first compilation of hymns was entitled *Songs for Camp-Meetings and Other Occasions*.

After the publication of a number of hymnals, the General Conference in 1886 published a new *General Hymn and Tune Book*, generally known as *General Tunes*. The committee that was appointed to prepare it wrote:

We now commend this volume to the use of that people who are waiting for the coming of Christ, humbly hoping that it will be instrumental in increasing their love to God and to one another, and in the preparation necessary to a happy meeting and join in singing the new songs.

The new hymnal proved to be a great blessing to the remnant church in its publication. Among the leading causes of concern about the worldliness that seemed to be prevailing in the church. Also, there was a tendency toward unwill- ing individuals to challenge the church. It was not by mere chance that at the General Conference session in Oakland, California, the hymn chosen was "Soldiers of Christ, Arise."

Soldiers of Christ, arise
And put your armor on,
Strong in the strength
Through His eternal love,
Strong in the Lord of Hosts,
And in His mighty arm.