

Eastern Tidings.

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DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER

We sincerely hope that all our workers as far as possible will unite in observing May 22 as a day of fasting and prayer in behalf of the work in India and Burma. Elder Shaw has promised to request some of the brethren in attendance at the general conference to join him at that time in seeking God's blessing on this field. How fitting that we who are interested in the work here should set apart at least one day in the year to call upon God for help for this needy field. Many will be the calls for workers and means to carry forward the work throughout the world, and I am sure we want to see India receive her share. Doubtless many will re-consecrate their lives to God and his work during the general conference. Still we do not want to be selfish. Let us ask God earnestly to send us men and women who are fully consecrated and willing to stand by the work wherever they may be put. It will do our own souls good and inspire new vigour in some of us who are growing a little weary and worn to see new workers filled with the right kind of enthusiasm and hear them present the truth. I need not spend time to show that prayer and fasting are of divine origin. So let us all take part, and God will hear and answer. "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

W. W. MILLER.

GULF OF LYONS

Dear Fellow Workers: We are nearing Marseilles, and expect to land by noon-day, then take train for Paris and arrive in London the evening of the 22nd. This is one of the smoothest voyages I have ever made upon the sea. From the time I placed my feet in the dandy at Annfield

up to the present there has been a series of over-ruling providences all conspiring to make more easy and enjoyable the voyage which seemed so long from the other end. Our boat is the steadiest and cleanest craft it has been my privilege to ride upon. The ship crew are splendid fellows. I shall say Good-bye with great reluctance to the Indian servants on this boat, who have so fully and faithfully done their duty. The passengers are a nice lot of folks for people of the world. They come from all parts of India.

There is one other missionary, a lady, who has been about two years in India studying the Marathi, but is compelled to return to America for a serious surgical operation. She is a devoted child of God, and we have studied his Word and talked together daily by the way. She is seriously considering the Sabbath question. Pray for her.

Just a word regarding letter writing: I want to hear from you each, giving interesting experiences in your work; for such will be ammunition for India. If I don't write very much, remember I have not the faithful assistance of Brother Rhidoy Mitter, and the strength which might be placed on letter writing is being used to help in what little way I can the great and needy cause of present truth in India.

May God greatly and abundantly bless you all with health and a large measure of his Holy Spirit. Hold to the work in hand with unceasing confidence and hope in God. Make his Word your daily source of food, and I entreat of you, let nothing keep you from the place of secret communion with God. There lies your power and sufficiency. It is in the mountain and then among the multitude that

counts in Christian work. I am expecting to hear from Elder Miller that the second Sabbath of general conference will be made a day of special prayer by all our workers in India, to the end that we may have a large measure of God's Holy Spirit; that consecrated men and women from the homeland be thrust forth into the needy land of India; and that means be found to follow up the work and make possible its extension. And, of course, we do not want to forget to pray for the great wide mission field; for the millions of China, Japan, Africa, and the islands of the sea, thousands of whom are dying daily without a knowledge of the true God.

I must close. May the peace of God rule all our hearts continually. May we each fervently present one another and various needs before the throne of grace; and may I request your continued service of prayer on this journey.

J. L. SHAW.

Field Reports

SOUTH INDIA

We feel to thank and praise God for his continued care over us the past month. We are all happy and in good health. The past week has been a remarkable one weatherwise. We have lived in comparative comfort, whereas we should be sweltering in the heat. The last three nights we have slept under a quilt with comfort, and found it very agreeable to wear woolen garments in the day. If we had the assurance that this would be continued, we should be more than pleased. But we know our hot weather will not stay off always.

There are no new developments in our work to report that would be of special interest. Our major attraction is the building of the bungalow. This gradually

nears completion. The terrace bricks are being hauled at this writing, and I hope soon to report a completed house. We shall rejoice when we are able to dwell under our own roof and enjoy more room to move about. Miss Shryock and Mrs. James continue to apply the healing balm to the sick and suffering in the dispensary. The total number of persons receiving medical attention last month was more than two thousand. We are endeavouring to train some native help, so that the bulk of the work may be done by them. We have a young man of 20 who has manifested considerable tact and ability along these lines. We trust the way will open up some day for him to have a fuller and more professional training.

Of course we are anxious to hear about the general conference and the help that we may expect in the near future. We remember our delegates before God daily, and pray that largeness of heart may be given our brethren at home as the needs of India are placed before them.

We are of good courage and our hearts are united in the effort to proclaim a saving message to those about us. Remember us in your prayers. J. S. JAMES.

DRIVING OF THE ENTERING WEDGE

During the cold season I spent two weeks in Burma organising Good Health Leagues, one in Rangoon and the other at Meiktila. The League at Meiktila is made up almost entirely of Buddhists, Mahomedan and Hindus, there being only one or two Europeans. As vegetarianism and abstinence from alcohol and other hygienic rules hold a prominent part in the religion of these people, they were made quite ashamed of themselves when we set before them such a high standard along these lines, and revealed how utterly they had come short of living up even to the teachings of their own religion in regard to these matters.

The following quotations from a letter recently received from Brother Stevens will give some idea of the effect this work is having, and it will be more clearly seen how the health principles are to act a prominent part in bringing our work to the favourable attention of the people in these countries. Brother Stevens writes:—

“My friends here were much pleased with the promise of your sending a course of study to be regularly held here, and you may be sure that though I have several irons in the fire, I shall do all I can in the matter of these meetings, and in the advancement of the interests of the Good Health League. The Buddhists and Brahmins with whom I have come in contact are in great praise of the work, as it coincides with their views and the tenets of their religion; and several who did not observe health reform are now eschewing drink, meats, etc. Let us hope they may gradually come to know and worship the only true and living God, and let us ceaselessly pray to this end.

“I have just returned from Myingyan, where I have, with the Lord’s help, created an interest in the health line. The Buddhists, Hindus, and Mahomedans are equally surprised at the reformation brought about by us. A high caste Brahmin is so loud in praise of this work that he tells everybody that we are of a higher caste than they. He calls me by some name which I never can catch, and as long as it is in praise of the Lord, I will not try even to hear it.”

H. C. MENKEL.

DARJEELING

We arrived in Darjeeling the 7th of April, and after looking about for a place for a day or two decided to take two rooms at a place called “The Snuggery,” in one of the best parts of Darjeeling. It was almost a case of this or none, as there were very few rooms available. But this

is certainly a good place from the standpoint of health.

Since coming here we have been studying the Bengali language and have made some progress. It is certainly an advantage to be in the hills where the climate is cool, and we shall be able to study harder and to make better progress than if we were in the plains. We are glad indeed to hear good reports from the workers in different parts of the field through EASTERN TIDINGS and otherwise. It is certainly evident that the Lord is in the work in this field, and we are looking for great and still greater things as the work develops among the peoples of India.

Our courage in the Lord is good. The work in Bengal is moving on in an encouraging way, and we trust all the workers will remember this part of the field in their prayers.

J. C. LITTLE.

RANGOON

Dear Fellow Workers: Just a word from Burma to let you know that we are all well and of good courage in the Lord. We have had much to strengthen our courage and faith during the past few weeks; our faith has been tested, but our prayers have been answered, and souls have stepped out to obey God’s truth.

As the church in Rangoon has met together and sought God earnestly and unitedly in behalf of others he has heard and answered our prayers in a most marked manner. A few weeks ago I baptised three persons, one of whom, Mr. Lake, invited some of his friends to witness the ceremony. They were much impressed, and three of them began attending the meetings and investigating the truth.

Two began keeping the Sabbath about four weeks ago, and I baptised them this morning. The other one has taken his stand since then and is keeping the Sabbath, and will be baptised soon. He makes the third young man who has stepped out from the government tele-

graph in Rangoon. This has caused quite a stir in that department, and has also been the means of spreading a knowledge of the truth.

But while God has been working, Satan has not been idle. He has stirred up prejudice against the work, and we have been attacked in the papers by the other churches. They have also circulated tracts against us. But this has only been the means of bringing more people to hear the message.

To-morrow I leave for upper Burma to visit the little company there and hold a few meetings with them, also the communion service. They are members of the Rangoon church, but cannot be present on these occasions.

We are looking forward to a visit with Doctor Oberholtzer, as she expects soon to come to Rangoon for a short time. Brother Beckner is beginning to talk Burmese. We are all longing for the time when he can begin work for these people. Pray for the work and workers in Burma.

R. R. COOK.

GOPALGUNJE

There have been some good wind and rainstorms here, and just recently we have been able to tuck the blankets about us and enjoy a snug rest at night. The rain was badly needed. The wind blew so strong that once or twice we began to be a little fearful for the bungalow, which suffers the unbroken force of the north-west winds. But if it is the Lord's will that we labour here, he is abundantly able to preserve us. We trust him.

Brethren Gyan and Haldar studied the truth with us for some time, after which they went home, and have been attending a mela, or periodical fair, in the vicinity of their home. They took fifty of our Bengali pamphlets and in a week ordered another fifty. They have been invited to the home of a man who is interested in the truth, to study with his family, and expect to return here for study in a few days.

A man from a village twelve or fifteen miles away besought us to send them a teacher of the third angel's message. I asked Brother Roy to go, and he studied with them for a few days. They began to be busy with the cultivation of their lands, and asked him to return to them again. Their village teacher, who is interested, is, I understand, desirous of coming here to investigate further, as he feels we have the truth. He could be instructed and sent back to teach the message in his village. One of the teachers in the mission school here has been taking some studies with us, and has intimated his intention of coming again.

The medical work has been increasing of late; day before yesterday there were nine patients, yesterday thirteen, and today seventeen. Two went off without receiving attention this morning, as they did not feel that they could wait long.

Hindus frequently join in our studies and Sabbath meetings, and desire our literature, even Bibles being asked for. Our contemplated paper would be a great help in the work here at this opportune time. This is a most urgent matter, and we hope it will not be long till we have the Bengali paper to use among the people in our work here.

A. G. WATSON.

CALCUTTA

The secretary of the Y.M.C.A. Entally branch, is so very much interested in the truth that he is taking daily studies, besides attending both morning and evening meeting on the Sabbath. He tells me that he has already settled as to what he is going to do, and he tells others that Saturday is the Sabbath, and he keeps it. Besides, he is distributing our tracts. I gave him the tract on the tobacco question, and when he came back he told us that he did not know that tobacco was so injurious; so he has left it off for good. He seems to be coming out fine. He is a well read and well educated man, and is at present editor of a Bengali paper. We shall be very glad to gain this brother for the truth.

A Telugu man from South India, a Brahmin, who left his home in his eighteenth year as a hermit, visited many places of pilgrimage, and went all over South India, and who is well versed

in Sanscrit and the Vedas, well up in the sin system of the Hindu philosophy, knows English, Marathi, Telugu, and understands Tamil, has been taking readings since last Sunday. He is also reading our literature. He was converted to Christ about two years ago under the Methodists, and has resigned his position with them that he might be enabled to keep the Sabbath. He is a promising young man, twenty-six years of age, full of courage and faith, and adheres strictly to right principles. We are indeed glad to see him take his stand.

I have also two more readers, one of whom comes daily, and is very much stirred concerning our doctrines. I long for that day when we can have a meeting hall, that our influence for the truth may be more widely extended among the souls of Calcutta. I believe there are many honest souls here who will accept of this truth.

Pray for the Calcutta work.

L. G. MOOKERJEE.

MEIKTILA

The Lord, all praise and glory to him, has worked mightily and called out men who are anxious to see the projected Buddhist Industrial School here fairly started. I wish I could give you a verbatim translation of the Burmese appeal, intended to be circulated telling the public of the advantages of such an institution and calling on them to arouse from their lethargy to their own interests and the interests of their children. It would indeed require the pen of an Oriental only to express such language. They have a way of putting things together and expressing themselves which the Occident would fail to conceive or dream of; but I can assure you, dear readers, who have your heart and soul in the Lord's work, that the appeal is fetching enough, and therefore let us hope and pray that it will fulfil its mission.

That the school will be the means of carrying the gospel where the missionary fails, there is ample evidence. The heathen is ever dubious of any teachings beyond what has come down from his forefathers; his ignorance and superstition are colossal, and only by wisdom and knowledge from the Most High can the message of mercy ever reach him. There

are rumours now current to baffle the work, that the missionaries are getting up this institution to cajole the people into Christianity; but the Lord in his infinite wisdom and fore-knowledge has moved the hearts of the supporters, who on their own initiative are giving a lie to the rumour and assuring them that there shall be no force or coercion in the Lord's work, and that the missionaries will do their duty in proclaiming the gospel, and yet not fail to train them on the lines taken up, as promised. Opposition will certainly arise, as from the beginning of all things, but who indeed can prevail against the Lord, "Who moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform?"

The working committee comprises one magistrate and leaders of the Buddhist and Mahomedan community, and we propose adding members of the Hindu and other communities, also to co-operate in collecting the funds, which we intend sending down to Rangoon as collected. Many in the magistracy are anxious and willing to help us, and we shall do as the Lord guides us. Pray for us. Especially do I feel my helplessness in a work of such magnitude. Oh, how I do tremble at the thought of taking a single false step, and I do feel the need of your prayers. I have not the least idea how to act, and I yearn daily for the Lord's guidance in this and all I do. We have promise of a fairly large sum, and no doubt, with the Lord's blessing, more than sufficient will be forth-coming for the proclamation of his glorious name and his tender mercies. We hope to call for another meeting Sunday next, to discuss the plan of operations for collecting funds. The other interests are increasing and our hopes are built on the Lord for a strong and efficient body of workers. Burma, as you know, is a province of 171,430 square miles, with a population of more than eleven million, who are in ignorance of what is coming over this world, and who have never heard the name of Jesus, our blessed Saviour. And we have barely as many ministers as we have fingers on the one hand to carry this message of present truth to these people. Does your heart go out for them? Do you think Jesus cares for them? Awake, O my soul, what does my Master say?

A. W. STEVENS.

The Eastern Tidings

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—Mrs. Roof went Sunday, the 2nd instant, to Mussoorie for the summer months.

—Mrs. Quantock and Miss Fuller had so far recovered from their illness that several days since they were able to leave the Sanitarium and go to Annfield House.

—There seems to have been a hitch in the proceedings at Deosa, Garhwal District, and Brother and Sister Burgess have not been able to go ahead with their school work. They are now at Annfield.

—We understand that Doctor Menkel has opened a free dispensary for the native people. We are new in the country, and would not set up our opinion as invaluable; but it would seem that much good might be done in this line of work, and we trust that future developments may more than justify all expectations.

—Some one said, "It never rains without it pours," and sometimes we wonder if that some one was not correct. It was only after weeks of delay that our shafting was put in place, and then when it was ready, the engine refused to take hold as it ought, and of late we have twice found it slightly broken, whether intentionally by some one with malicious intent, or not, we can not say. But both breakages occasioned delay and expense, and even yet the engine is unsatisfactory; so work is being carried on under trying circumstances.

—We here at head-quarters were much interested a few weeks since in a letter received at the office. It was from a man whom Brother Burgess had formerly supplied with reading matter, but who for several months had not known Brother Burgess's address. He had appreciated the reading, and desires more, also to know where Brother Burgess is. It is indeed true that "many are called, but few are chosen"; and while the multitudes heed not the calling, and for this reason are not chosen, it is encouraging to find here and there one who is looking for truth.

—Word from Brother Shaw to Sister Shaw gives some items not mentioned in the letter to EASTERN TIDINGS. On nearing the islands of Sardinia and Corsica suddenly their boat stopped and they began to change their course. He says: "The fourth officer was on the bridge and had gotten out of his course. The captain and other officers were soon on the bridge. I have felt ever since that God spared our boat. Had the mistake not been corrected we should possibly have been on the rock; but, thank God, we are hurrying on as upon a sea of glass." He spoke of the awful havoc wrought by the great earthquake, and said: "I could not but think as we passed the beautiful hill slopes of Italy so peaceful and quiet, and seemingly a delightful place to live, how little this world knows of the future destruction coming. Places picturesque and grand beyond description will be visited with the judgments of God, and houses and palaces of men laid in hopeless heaps of ruins. I felt tonight, having seen these ruins only from a distance, how important it is to have our affections on things above. This old world is certainly coming to a last and final upheaval."

—It has been said, "Distance lends enchantment to the view"; and we believe it. For several years we were acquainted with a certain firm in our home city by name and location only. As to the goods put out by it, we knew nothing. But a few days since, on leaving the octri post near the freight station, the name "Waterbury Chemical Co." looked strangely familiar, while closer inspection revealed the address, "Des Moines, Iowa, U. S. A." And even three cases of wretched Cod Liver Oil were so intensely interesting that we went clear round the cart and looked at them from all four sides. The name "Waterbury Chemical Co." now sounds like—home—and henceforth we shall know what at least one of its products is.

—The following note recently received will be interesting to friends of the *Watchman*: "Having seen your special Revelation number, may I ask you to kindly send a copy to—, —, and one to—, —, and oblige." The request was from a lieutenant colonel in the India Military Service, and the men for whom the papers were requested were both editors, one being a Catholic.

—Two new nurses, Miss Brunson, of California, and Miss Loveday, of England, arrived at Bombay, Friday, the 14th, and will proceed to Mussoorie this week.