

The Eastern Tidings

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The Eastern Tidings

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Right Methods in Mission Work

GIDEON'S band, though only three hundred in number, put to flight the Midianites who were as grasshoppers before them. This was made possible through having a wise method of attack, and carefully following the special directions of God.

Too much cannot be said of the importance of right methods of work, especially in difficult mission fields where climate, caste, and heathen traditions present obstacles so difficult to overcome. How many pious missionaries have gone to heathen lands and through wrong methods of labour have toiled for years with very small results, when if wise methods of labour had been adopted larger results would have followed.

Before Gideon made his charge upon his enemies, with Phurah his servant, he went to visit the camp of the Midianites. He there heard them talking among themselves, discovered their weakness, and with new courage returned to his band of warriors and formulated his method of attack.

A knowledge of conditions which obtain in the enemies' camp is very necessary to the Christian soldier in deciding on what methods to pursue. He needs to go into their camp and be among the enemy with the same object as possessed Gideon. As

a missionary, he should avail himself of every opportunity possible in gaining a knowledge of the people, the language they speak, the manners and customs which govern them, and the general tendencies of their religious beliefs, in order that he may adopt methods of labour for them which shall appeal to their hearts and draw them to the truth as it is in Jesus.

Paul in describing his manner of labour, says: "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; to them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

Paul did not approach the Jews in a way to excite their prejudices. He did not run the risk either in working for Jews of Gentiles of making them his enemies by condemning at first their teachings. Knowing their beliefs, he avoided as far as possible those things which should offend. His tact and method of approach is enviable, and we need the same. The missionary may well learn if possible the heart workings of the people for whom he labours. Mr. Swartz, deeming it necessary in order to converse with advantage with the people

to be well acquainted with their system of theology, spent five years in reading their mythical books. While it is probable that he engaged too much time studying heathen mythology, yet his success in preaching the gospel to the Malabars suggests the wisdom of knowing at least something of the religious beliefs of the people for whom we labour.

The missionary must take the part of a skilful physician in ministering to sin-stricken souls, and to do so he must know something of the pathological conditions which obtain in order that he may know how to apply the appropriate remedy and thereby bring new life and hope to the sin-sick soul.

J. L. SHAW.

Garhwal Industrial School

[THE following composition was written by a student in the Garhwal Industrial School. He has had about a year in English, and although not free from mistakes, the composition shows what advancement he has made. He is now studying the life of Christ for the first time.]

Once upon a time Jesus went from Nazareth to Capernaum, where was the home of Peter. When Jesus arrived at Peter's home then he began to teach the people. There came many people to hear his teaching. There was a man who was suffering by paralytic. He wanted to forgive his sins. He had four friends. He told them that take me to Jesus with my bed. His friends carried him to Jesus. But when they saw a large flock of the people there then they took him to the roof. They cracked the roof, and two friends of him went into the house to hold him. Then they put him to Jesus by holding the string. Jesus knew about his heart. Jesus said to him that I have forgave your sins. There were many people who did not believe on him. They thought that besides the true God who can forgive the sins. Jesus knew

about their hearts. But then Jesus said to the sick man that take your bed and walk to and fro. The sick man took his bed and walked hither thither, then all people astonished on Jesus.

LACHMI DATT.

Field Reports

Ceylon

I HAVE met with nothing extraordinary this month, neither have I witnessed any of those very special manifestations of Providence that we love to hear and read about.

On the contrary, it has been "who are you?" "where do you put up?" "How long will you be in the city?" "Give me your address, and I will write to you," "I must consider," "I'll take these two copies [O. W. and H. of H.] for four annas, have a read of them, and send for them if I require." "Have you been to Mr. . . . ? Just go to him; I'm sure he will buy," "I've no time," "Call when you come round again."

These are the idle excuses which weary men and angels, to say nothing of the summary dismissals. In order to accomplish anything and faithfully search out the few honest truth seekers, it has seemed necessary to put in long hours and make many calls.

I praise God, however, for the favour he has shown, for his keeping power, for strength imparted day by day, and for the privilege of bringing meat in due season to a few of his dear children who are hungering for truth. With his blessing upon the effort the last month has been the best in cash receipts of any of my twenty-two months' experience in India. Of the Rs. 455 taken in, forty per cent. has been for message filled books

and periodicals, the remainder for our health literature and "Best Stories" for the children. Last week my receipts were Rs. 108-7.

I desire an interest in your prayers, that I may be enabled to do thorough work throughout this island, and that God may graciously preserve and water the precious seed sown.

F. O. RAYMOND.

Trichinopoly

SPEAKING of his recent visit to Trichinopoly, Bro. James writes as follows:—

"I stopped over about a week with Eld. Lowry's, and had a very profitable visit with them in their new location. I feel very much concerned over the situation there. I have never seen an opening in India for teaching the truth to a hungry class of people like the one in Trichinopoly at present. Bro. Lowry, by the help of the native worker who has been working there for nearly a year, has succeeded in coming in touch with a fine class of young men, most all of whom have been fairly well educated and hold good positions. I think there are six or seven young men who are now debating in their minds as to how they can make the change necessary in obeying the truth. Two of these belong to the Lutherans, three are Roman Catholics, one S. P. G., one Mohammedan, and one Hindu. Two of these have passed high school grades, and one is now studying for his B. A. While I was in Trichinopoly I had a number of good readings with these and others. The last two days I was there we seemed to be providentially thrown in the way of the Government School headmaster who had previously studied some phases of the truth and was very much impressed with it. Just before I left he was taken with a severe attack of gastric fever, and Brother

Lowry and I visited him twice and gave him treatment, for which he was very grateful. He begged Brother Lowry to come often and study the Bible with him. Then besides these, Brother Lowry has a number of women and some children coming to a Sabbath-school in his house. Down in the native city, in the midst of heathen surroundings, they have rented a fair-sized house and fitted it up for holding meetings. This is about two miles from where Brother Lowry lives. The house is not over large, but it is in good condition and serves the present needs very well."

Karachi and Hyderabad

AFTER spending a month in Karachi, I came to Hyderabad. Karachi has a large community of Parsees and Goanese, and to these people I was unable to sell many of our message-filled books. However, I had excellent success with our health literature. My sales for the month are as follows:—

"Heralds of the Morning,"	8
"Christ's Object Lessons,"	2
Subscription for the <i>Oriental Watchman</i> ,	1
" " " <i>Herald of Health</i> ,	37
"School of Health,"	49

These make a total of Rs. 338-8, of which Rs. 268-1 is cash collection.

Hyderabad is a large native city, and is noted for its academy, and other educational institutions. The weather is rather warm here during the day, but the nights are very pleasant when free of dust from the Sind desert.

Although I have not been able to dispose of many books containing present truth, still I pray that my visit to Karachi and Hyderabad may not have been in vain, but that some seeds of truth may have been sown that will bring forth an abundant harvest for good. Says the Apostle, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. Our

work is to plant and water the seed and am sure God will give the increase for more than we can ask or think.

The late Brother Hansen left a deep impression on the people of Karachi and Hyderabad. He was at one time the secretary of the Karachi Y. M. C. A., and was well known in religious circles. He is remembered as an earnest student of God's Word and a faithful witness of present truth.

It was with pleasure that I read the interesting reports in the June TIDINGS. May God continue to add his blessing.

W. CARRATT.

Lonavla ^{AUG} Nov. 1911

THE TIDINGS came yesterday, and it was with much pleasure that I read the reports of the different workers. I am sure that the TIDINGS would be greatly missed, did it fail to come. It is encouraging to read how God is blessing the work in our various stations.

After some trouble and much anxiety, we were able to secure a cottage at Lonavla, where we commenced work about June 15th. We found the two families of believers here very glad to welcome us. They had been having Sabbath-school every Sabbath and were keeping fast hold of all the truth they had received, but were desirous of knowing more. We are glad that we can meet with these sisters, and instruct and encourage them in the Lord. Outside interests have been opposing them in their new faith, but they have fought a good fight for the Lord and are of good courage.

Owing to the heavy rains and the villagers being busy in the fields planting rice, it was thought wise to call our Marathi brethren together for Bible study and instruction in doctrine during the rainy season. For this reason, our

school at Compoli is temporarily closed, the master and his family being located with us here in Lonavla. I am holding daily studies with these brethren in the vernacular, and God is richly blessing us. They show a splendid interest in the studies. We also have an organized Marathi Sabbath-school here, with about twelve members.

Our dispensary work is still in the embryo, but we expect to see it develop into an important part of the work.

All are of good courage and glad to see the truth making progress in Lonavla. Our hearts are full of praise to God; for it is through him this progress has been made; and we desire to have a still closer and dearer acquaintance with him. Pray for the work in Lonavla.

A. G. KELSEY.

Calcutta Treatment Rooms

I WISH to relate some of the experiences I have recently had with patients. One who professes to be an Evolutionist ridicules Genesis, Daniel, and Revelation, and considers the books legends and myths. He asked me if I believed the world was created in seven literal days, if the sun was made to stand still, if Christ was born of a virgin, etc. I told him that what was impossible with man was possible with God, and that I believed the Bible as a whole, whether statements in it appeared reasonable or not. He then said I was going blindly on faith, like a little child, and I quoted 1 Cor. 13:11. I told him that unless we became as little children we could not enter the kingdom. He thought I should exercise my reason. Of course, evidences in nature do not appeal to a man of his belief, so I referred him to the prophecies and the marvellous way in which the Bible has been preserved, in spite of

man's efforts to destroy it from the face of the earth. Again we see its miraculous workings in the life of men. It has power to transform lives in a way no other book has.

Another patient, a well known lawyer, believes that only the New Testament is inspired. His reasoning is that the writing of a new testament makes an old one null and void. I told him that might be true in the making of testaments by men, but that with God it is not. The New Testament is simply an adjunct to the old, or a codicil, if you please. In a codicil the old testament holds good, while the new makes further provisions only. This seemed to have its effect, and he questioned me no further.

Recently, after treating a new patient on Friday, I told him that we would be closed the next day. This struck him as something new, but he began to say it was Jewish and not the Christian Sabbath. I replied that it was the Lord's day and given to man—including both Jew and Gentile—that Jesus was a Jew himself, and that in fact for one to be saved he must become a Jew. He wanted proof, and I referred him to Rom. 9:6-8; 8:9. He then advanced the plea that it made no difference what day one kept. Knowing him to be a gentleman of position, I brought the matter home in a way that he could understand, by suggesting that as a man of authority if he should give order that a certain piece of work be done on a certain day and should find that his servants had taken it upon themselves to change the day for doing it, he would not consider such work a carrying out of his orders. I suggested that to obey is better than sacrifice.

Recently a minister came to me feeling quite jubilant and saying. "I received a letter from England, from a lady who

was a Sabbath-keeper, but she has now given it up." I suggested that the lady now observed Sunday, not as the Sabbath, but in honour of Christ's resurrection. He claimed Sunday was the Sabbath, but on being asked to quote the fourth commandment, changed his ground, and said Sunday was the Lord's day. My answer that Christ was Lord of the Sabbath and that whatever day was the Sabbath must necessarily be the Lord's day nonplussed him for the time being. After some conversation in regard to the Fathers, he lost his temper and began to abuse me severely, calling me an ignoramus, a fool, stupid, etc. I am thankful to say that his fiery darts did not strike any vulnerable point. I was given grace to take all he said without retaliating, and a couple of hours had not passed after he left until I received a letter of apology.

We are having profitable studies in our Sabbath-school lessons. In these lessons the most prominent thought, to me, is that God hears and answers prayer—the evidence in overwhelming.

We have much reason to be thankful for the way God has been blessing the work here. We had a very busy season, and even now, during our off season, patronage continues good. So far we have been able to more than meet expenses, and have a substantial credit for a rainy day. However, not all is smooth sailing. The sea often runs high, and sometimes we seem to be nearing rocks and shoals; but we keep our eyes on the light at the entrance of the harbour. I desire the prayers of the workers, that I may be used as a humble instrument in the hands of the Lord. Ignorant though we be, may we have the testimony born of the humble fishermen, that they had been with Jesus and learned of him.

J. H. REAGAN.

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EASTERN TIDINGS is published the 15th of each month, and all copy should be received not later than the 10th.

Printed by W. E. Perrin, at the Watchman Press, 19 Banks Road, Lucknow.

—BROTHER THURBER, writing from Meiktila, says notwithstanding the hindrances in building they hope soon to move into the new school building.

—MISS BELCHAMBERS came down with an attack of malaria Sunday, July 30. On the 6th inst. she left for Mussoorie, Sister O'Connor having come down to carry on the office work.

—MISS BRUNSON who recently passed her first year examination in Bengali, is in Mussoorie for a few weeks assisting stenographic work, Miss Loveday having gone to Calcutta to take up other duties.

—THE Tract Society has been interested in getting the word that the August number of *Herald of Health* is an especially good seller, the word having come from points far removed from each other.

—FOR a few weeks an assistant will be needed here in the Press, and Mr. Hunter Davis, a young man who for some years has been interested in the truth and who of late has arranged his work so as to have the Sabbath off, will help see to the work until after the committee meeting.

—ELDER WELLMAN came to Lucknow the morning of the 9th. After seeing to some matters here, he left for Chandpur, to look over the situation and learn the prospects for Mission work. From there he proceeds to Mussoorie, where he will spend some time in study before the committee meeting.

—THOSE interested in our Bengali literature will be glad to know that the Press has just laid in a new supply of type, which will make possible the putting out of cleaner, neater reading matter. We might add, also, that the Bengali paper has at last been registered, and can now be sent through the mails at the special rate accorded newspapers.

—It has been necessary to change the date of the meeting of the Advisory Board, owing to the decision of the Friedensau Council to make up the appropriations at the Autumn Council each year rather than in the spring. For this reason the Advisory Board will meet September 1st, and the estimate for the India Mission Field for 1912 will then be considered. Following this meeting there will be a workers' meeting beginning September 6th. The prayers of all our people for the coming council and workers' meeting are requested. We very much need God's blessing upon us at that time, to the end that we may know his way in his work in India. An out-line of subjects to be considered at the workers' meeting has already been sent to various workers in the field.

—MRS. M. A. LEMAN writes from Raichur, Deccan: "I went to the Talukdar's to-day, who represents the Nizam's Government here. He took 'School of Health,' and we had a religious talk in which I asked him to take 'Our Paradise Home' and read it, which he did. I also left an *Oriental Watchman*, pointing out the reading on The Second Advent. He is a well educated Mohammedan, and has been to England."

—It is encouraging to follow the labours of those who have been faithful to the truth. In speaking of Brother Hansen, of Karachi, Brother Carrott says: "The late Brother Hansen was much loved by many in Karachi and Hyderabad. He is spoken of as an earnest student of God's Word. One young man said that whenever he visited him he found him studying the Bible."

—OWING to the failure of the monsoons, the heat has been intense upon the plains the last month. Those going to Mussoorie give evidence of the trying conditions which prevail on the plains below, but notwithstanding this, the health of the workers has been reasonably well maintained in various parts of the field.

—NENA BALA BURRUS, our first heathen convert in India, has been for a number of years in America. The Lord has been blessing her efforts, and she regularly remembers and remits her tithe to the Indian office.

—A RECENT letter from Brother Dudley Meyers gives evidence of an earnest purpose in his school and press work in Australia, with a desire to get ready for a place in the closing work.