

INDIA UNION TIDINGS

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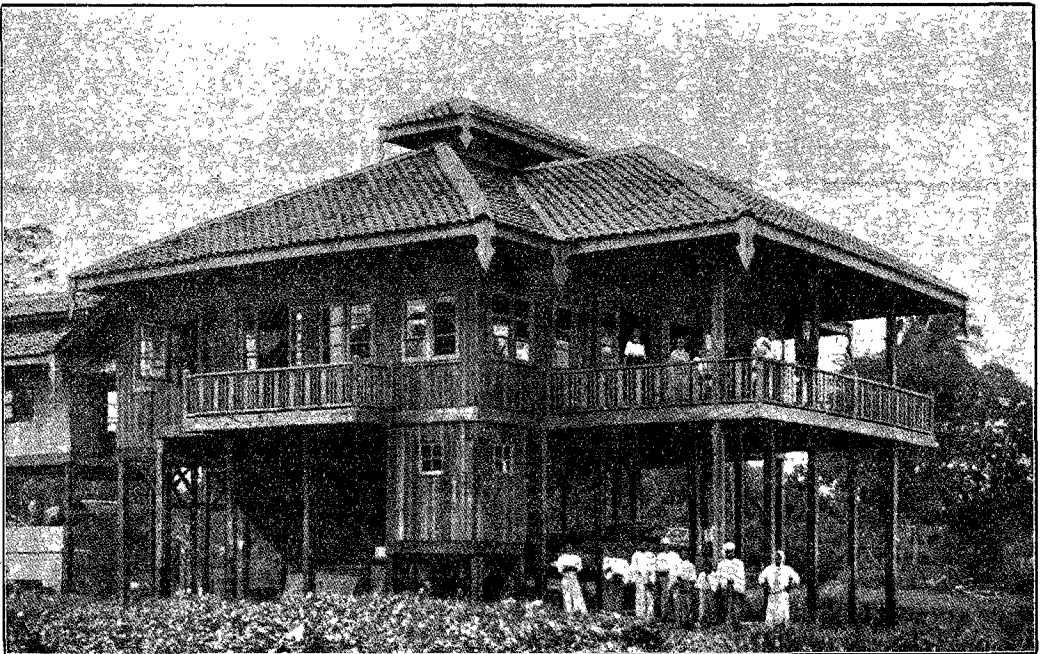
No. 14

Burma

During the past few months we have been very busy studying the language, and this, with our other duties, has kept our time so well filled up that we have been unable to do anything aside from our regular round of duties. Therefore the reports of progress that should have

of the progress that is being made in this part of the Lord's great vineyard.

The English effort in Rangoon under the care of Brother and Sister Hamilton is making most encouraging progress at present. The fact that they are busy is evidenced by their June report which shows



MISSION HOME, KAMAMAUNG

appeared month by month have been neglected along with many other things. Now since we have finished our first year in the language, and as I am taking this opportunity to visit the missionaries in the different stations, the TIDINGS family will no doubt be interested to know something

two hundred nineteen Bible readings and missionary visits, a well filled hall of interested listeners every Sunday night, the many good homes in which they are now teaching the Message, and the fierce storm of opposition that is coming from other denominations. We do not know as yet

what the outcome will be, but surely there is a greater interest among the people of Rangoon than for years in the past, and we look forward with confidence, and believe that God is going to add to our church in Rangoon some precious souls, such as will be saved in His kingdom. A new missionary spirit is also taking hold of some of the old members, and the Lord is opening the way before them so that they are finding many opportunities of giving to their friends and neighbours a knowledge of His soon coming.

June 19th, after spending two days and nights on train and boat, it was my privilege to spend a very pleasant day visiting our Karen station on the Salwin. In addition to what is being done by the dispensary, Brother Hare with the help of Peter, one of our Karen boys from the Meiktila school, is trying to open a small mission school for the benefit of the children from the surrounding villages, and in this way they hope not only to save the boys and girls, but to gain an opening to the homes and hearts of the parents. This experiment so far has not proved all that had been hoped, yet the school is started and everything possible is being done to make it a success. Brother Hare is quite firm in his opinion that the greatest enemy to our work and this Message in that heathen jungle is the "Devil in the form of ignorance." This being true, it is going to take much seed-sowing, and many months of patient toil, supported by strong faith in God, before we can hope to see any great results. There are indeed some encouraging features of the work at this station. The transforming power of God is manifest in some hearts, and when we see the progress that is being made in real Christian living we take courage and praise God that there is power in His grace to touch a respondent chord even in a heathen heart. May we not have the united prayers of the entire TIDINGS family that God may

bless those who are stationed in this dark corner of the earth, and that He may make this station a guide-post that will point some souls of this poor down-trodden race to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

On the return trip the three hours wait for the train in Moulmein afforded opportunity to visit Ma Baby, our only representative in this city. She was baptized about one year ago, and now we rejoice with her that her husband has learned to love the truth and has expressed his desire to unite with the church. We will arrange as soon as possible to give him further instruction preparatory for the rite of baptism.

We are glad to report that our literature has started on the upward climb again. Brother Carrott is now giving his entire time to this, when not busy training and helping some young men who are getting started. He is out in the field going from village to village and sending in long lists of subscriptions, many of which are three years' subscriptions to our Burmese magazine. A good work has been done in the past with this paper, and from the fact that the subscription list, since starting on the upward swing three months ago, has been changed from less than two hundred to more than two thousand, there is no reason why we should not believe that even more is going to be done in the near future. This includes a number of lot orders from our brethren and sisters throughout Burma to use in their missionary work this year. We have just received word that we are now permitted to continue the translating of the new book "Heralds of the King." For this we are very thankful and shall lose no time in getting the manuscript ready for the printers. A real book will add dignity to our literature work, and we are sure that we will not have so much trouble in getting our men to stay in the field. There are other things of interest which must be told later.

C. F. LOWRY.

Myanaung, Burma

A year has now gone by since we came to Myanaung. In reviewing the past year, we can see many things undone that should have been done, and some things done that might better have been left undone. While there is nothing striking to report, we feel happy over the progress that has been made, and thinking perhaps it will be of interest to the TIDINGS family, I am writing about our situation.

Myanaung is on the Irrawaddi about half way between Prome and Henzada, with a daily ferry steamer each way, two express and one cargo steamers a week each way, also a daily train to and from Henzada. It had just under 10,000 inhabitants when the last count was taken, most of whom are Burmese, with the usual sprinkling of Chinese, Indian traders, money lenders, and coolies. Aside from ourselves, there is one other European family in the town.

There seemed to be an interest among some of the official Burmese before we came, and this was one of the reasons for coming, but this supposed interest was without foundation. However, we began giving Bible studies and holding some public meetings in our house. At the first baptism three Burmese received the rite. As a result of the stand of these we were invited to visit the Karen section which begins about ten miles below here on the railway. A man who had been manager of one of the Karen village schools, stepped out with his wife after a thorough course of studies, and the two of them were the next baptized. As a result of their stand and the interest aroused by it we have been privileged to visit and preach in a dozen or fifteen villages near there. Five more, including this couple's eldest daughter, are to be baptized soon when we are expecting a visit from Pastor Lowry. This will make ten—five Burmese and five Karens. There

are several others who are very much interested and are studying, but do not understand enough yet to bring them to a definite decision.

We follow the plan of spending two or three days in each village and coming again as often as we can make the rounds. As we stay right with the people, and eat their food (that which we can), it does not weary them or take them from their work like a longer stay would. Now that the rains are on, it will be very hard to get to most of the villages as there are no roads, and while there is too much water and mud to wade there is not enough to use a boat for any distance. There are several villages where we have been invited to come, but have not yet had the time.

Being away in the villages so much with U Chit Hla, the Burman worker here, Mrs. Beckner has been left more or less alone, except at the times when she has gone with us to the villages. However she has found plenty to keep her busy, and in spite of a good Government Hospital, has done quite a bit of medical work.

We have many reasons to thank God for His blessings. One thing I feel especially thankful for is the willingness of those who have been baptized to give money, time, and effort to tell others the "good news." U Chit Hla is away at present, but tomorrow I am starting for one of the villages where there is an interest; the baptized Karen man will meet me on the way and go with me to help. This man has gone with us on our tours whenever he could get the time, and is certainly a zealous worker for Christ. When they sold their *paddy* and got rid of the pigs, they were so careful about being sure they were paying the correct tithe.

We feel to thank God for His blessing during the year that has gone by, but we hope for greater blessings in the year to come.

R. A. BECKNER.

A Leaf from Satan's Diary

(We are not able to vouch for the authenticity of this remarkable Ms. but judging by the contents we have no hesitation in assigning the above title. The missionary who gave it to us has reason to believe it is true, however.—Ed.)

"Second day of the 5990th year of My Rule on Earth.

"European War progressing well. Agents at the various capitals report everything favourable for at least another year of unsurpassed bloodshed. Nothing much to worry about today except these meddling, nefarious missionaries. They seem to be at it harder than ever. Their confederates also in America, England and Australia show renewed activity in collecting funds, but probably another year of the war will put an effectual stop to this.

"10 A. M. Got rather worried after hearing reports from different countries. Despatched messengers for a council of all my continental sub-chiefs at 12 M.

"1 P. M. Council just closed. All seemed to think the situation dangerous regarding my enemies, the missionaries. I called for expressions as to the best means of combating this heresy.

"England, America, Australia and some other countries reported our plans going excellently in the Christian churches. Many of the members had been called into the armies, and those who were left were mostly taken up with war work, amusements, narcotics, or one of my new forms of Spiritualism.

"Regarding the missionaries, my council voted,

"1. That we encourage all possible quarrels and misunderstandings between individual missionaries, as results have not been encouraging enough previously.

"2. That we get them so discouraged by ill health, debt, grouches against those in authority, or quarrels with the others,

that they will not want to return to the country after their furlough.

"3. That we encourage race prejudice on every possible occasion between every class.

"4. That we get all we can to disregard the rules of health so they will have to return home.

"5. That we redouble our efforts with all those for whom they pretend to be working, such as converts and especially prospective converts.

"6. That their officers and leaders be entangled in my business, and get them to using my political methods in their work; keep them from studying their Bibles or praying to their God; get them ill-tempered with those under their direction; and encourage them to override all opposition to their plans after they are under my control.

"I gave definite command that these plans be put into operation at once, as I know from past experience I may expect results. If I can get those Advents I will be particularly satisfied, for they are all the time talking about the second coming of my enemy.

"9 P. M. C. just reports from India that the heat conditions being favourable, he had about 100 missionaries at loggerheads before night, and two of them shaking their fists at each other on a committee meeting. Ha! Ha! Going some! I'll get the lot yet, even if I am not allowed to kill the wretches.

"12 P. M. Word just in from China, Africa and the islands, shows that my plans are working beautifully. I am getting their pace all right. I *shall* win out yet. Now for an hour's sleep."

He only is rich who owns the day, and no one owns the day who allows it to be invaded with worry, fret and anxiety.

Saved His Crops Through Paying Tithe

Several marked examples of the fulfilment of God's promises to those who obey Him have been related in our papers of late. Here is one clipped from a conference paper of the United States. May it strengthen our trust in the living God.

"That God cares for His own was demonstrated recently in Australia, as is shown by the following letter just received from a friend living in that country.

"Situated in the fertile southeastern portion of South Australia is a prosperous little place named Millicent. There we have a company of Sabbath-keepers at present in charge of Pastor C. P. Michaels and Brother Reginald Burns. Quite recently the district was visited by a plague of caterpillars which destroyed acres of beautiful grain and grass crops. It seemed as if nothing would stop them. One man was the proud possessor of a particularly fine field of grass, soon to be cut for hay. The devastating pest bared his land as if it had been ploughed and harrowed. Right beside was a huge

field of oats belonging to one of the brethren who had lately come into the truth. Brother Norman watched the caterpillars, like Attila's hordes, pouring through the fence towards his crop. His workman who is not a Seventh-day Adventist, standing by, remarked quite seriously, 'You need not fear, they will not touch your oats, because you keep the commandments of God.' Surely enough, our Heavenly Father was true to his promise in Mal. 3:11. On visiting there some days afterward, I saw the dead bodies of these devourers lying thick along the edge of the oats, as if the angel of God had allowed them to come to the danger point, then 'breathed in the face of the foe as he passed,' and smitten them with death before they touched one blade. The bare acres on one side of the wire fence and the full waving heads of strong healthy oats on the other were an overwhelming evidence of the reality of God and His fidelity to His promises."

Soldiers' Literature Fund

The following notice which appeared in the *Statesman* needs no explanation to patriotic missionaries or lay members. If you have not had the privilege of helping to entertain the soldier boys in your home, here is one way to help entertain them at the front by providing good literature. There will probably be many who have copies of American or English periodicals that can be used in this way. (Be sure to follow directions). And there are others who will not have the papers but who have the money to help such an enterprise.

Any who desire to contribute money to a good cause will be given the chance through the opening of a Soldiers' Literature Fund which will be used in sending current copies

of *Signs of the Times* and other literature. Both in England and America large funds are being collected for this object and as we have the opportunity to help the troops in Mesopotamia let us not be slow in doing so.

All remittances should be sent by M. O. or registered letter to The Treasurer, I. U. Mission, 17 Abbott Road, Lucknow. Receipt of all money will be acknowledged in the TIDINGS.

"It is notified for general information that English magazines and illustrated journals for the use of the troops in Mesopotamia will be accepted free of postage at all head and sub post offices in India and Burma. No receipt or acknowledgment of any kind will be given and ordinary newspapers will

not be accepted. The following are the conditions under which such magazines and journals will be accepted at post offices:—

(1) They must be in a reasonably clean condition and complete.

(2) They must not be more than one year old.

(3) They must not be wrapped up or packed in any way.

(4) They must not be addressed to any particular soldier or unit, and

(5) They must be handed in over the counter of a post office and not posted in a letter-box."

Concert at Annfield School

They who attended the concert held at Annfield on June 26th will agree that much credit is due Miss Johnston and her helpers as well as the children. The programme consisted of songs, piano solos, recitations, piano duet, and an action song.

Of special interest to friends of the school were the school song, the recitation "Not so very big" by Mabel Hildreth, a wee tot who won the hearts of her audience by her sweet unaffected manner, and "Pierrette" as played by Miss Gertrude Edmundson, which was creditably executed.

An interval of fifteen minutes was announced, but judging from the way the time was lengthened, all enjoyed the home-

made dainties served in the school parlour.

To appreciate the "Fan Song" given by six small girls one would need to see the quaint Queen Anne costumes so kindly lent by Miss Holland. For twentieth century children they vied well with the dames of ancient times in the use of the fan.

They who were present could testify to the interest of unmentioned items. All must have noticed as they stood to sing the National Anthem the effectiveness of the decorations for which credit is due to the young people for their assistance, and thanks to Woodstock School for their contribution of flags, etc.—*Mussoorie Times*.

An Excellent Record

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

The above text came to my mind very forcibly last month during a visit with Brother A. W. Stevens at Meiktila. Seeing the large amount of literature that he was sending out week by week, I asked him if he could give a rough report of the literature he had given out the last few years. I give below the report he gave:—

1912	1913
Tracts 9,500	Tracts 975
Papers 2,611	Papers 4,397.

1914	1915
Tracts 700	Tracts 1,400
Papers 1,666	Papers 25,404
1916	1917
Papers 15,222	Papers 6,200

Total	Tracts 12,575
„	Papers 55,500

Grand total 68,075

This is how one brother is giving the Message to Burma. Let us all pray that Brother Stevens may be privileged to see souls saved in the kingdom of God as a direct result of this good work, and that many others will follow his example.

W. CARROTT.

Statistical Report

OF THE INDIA UNION MISSION FOR FIRST QUARTER, 1918.

	Union	Bengal	Bombay	Burma	North I.	South I.	Totals
European labourers :—							
Ordained ministers	3	2	3	2	2	2	14
Licensed ministers	5	3	1	3	5	0	17
Licensed missionaries (men)	5	1	1	3	1	3	14
" " (married women)	14	5	4	7	8	5	43
" " (unmarried ")	2	1			1		4
Teachers (not incl. above)	2			1			3
Canvassers " " "							0
Other labourers					1		1
Total European labourers	31	12	9	16	18	10	96
Indian labourers :—							
Ordained ministers		1				1	2
Licensed ministers				2		2	4
Licensed missionaries (men)				2	4		6
" " (women)				8			8
Teachers (not incl. above)		11	1		8	17	37
Canvassers " " "		4	3		3	20	30
Other labourers	*25	8	8	1	6	5	53
Total Indian labourers	25	24	12	13	21	45	140
Total Eur. and Ind. labourers	56	36	21	29	39	55	236
No. churches		7	2	2	4	4	19
Membership		210	47	126	122	147	652
No. companies				2			2
Membership				11			11
Total membership		210		137	122		663
No. added by baptism		27	4			4	35
No. added by vote		7				3	10
Unbaptized adherents		70	4	38	15	233	360

*Press employees, including Hindus and Mohammedans.

All-labourers under the direct control of the Union Mission are enumerated in the Union column.

Why Dey Call 'Em Tracks

A minister once gave a little tract to a negro, and some time after asked him what he thought of it. "O Massa," said he, "it do me good. I never knew before why dey call 'em tracks, but when I read dat little book it track me dis way, and it track me dat way; it track me all day, and it track me all night. When I go out in de barn, it track me dare; when I go out in de woods, it track me dare; when I come in de house, it track me dare; it track me everywhere I go. Den I know why dey call 'em tracks." He became a sincere

Christian. Thus the silent messengers—"the speaking leaves"—that our Pocket Leaguers are scattering everywhere, every day, are following the people, pressing home the message for the hour."—*Selected*

ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS has somewhere said that the sharpest corners in life have to be turned alone. Crises that arise within the soul itself are essentially solitary crises. No one of us can pull another through a secret spiritual conflict. The only one who can get close enough to help at such a time is God.

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Here and There

BORN to Pastor and Mrs. Poley, June 29th, a daughter.

JULY 8th, Calcutta experienced the severest tremor reported since 1897. It lasted about one and a half minutes.

A LETTER from Brother Knight announces that he is on the road to recovery of mental health. He has taken a position in one of the local Australian conferences for the time being.

THE South India meetings are now in progress. The meeting for the Telugu field was held at Rajamundry, July 5-8; for the Tamil field at Nazareth, July 11-16; and for the Malayalam, at Neyattinkara, July 19-22. Brethren Blue and Williams are in attendance representing the Union. We have not yet heard if Brother Fletcher has arrived.

ELECTRICITY is very convenient when it can be used, but when the engine breaks down at the power house and we are informed that no current will be forthcoming for three weeks to run our fans, we begin to think of the good old days of the *punkah* and the *punkah wallah*, especially during the heat we are now experiencing in Lucknow.

FROM an American paper we learn that Loma Linda experienced a severe earthquake shock on April 30th. Considerable loss was sustained in the laboratory of the medical school through broken instruments and spilt chemicals; and several patients in the sanitarium were injured, one quite severely, by falling bricks. The shock was so violent that those in the buildings were unable to stand on their feet and get out.

MEN are four: He who knows not, and knows not he knows not. He is a fool; shun him. He who knows not, and knows he knows not. He is simple; teach him. He who knows, and knows not he knows. He is asleep; waken him. He who knows, and knows he knows. He is wise; follow him.

New Books from Australia

A fresh stock has just arrived from Australia. New Testament Primer, limp cloth, 12 annas. Mount of Blessing, paper, 12 annas. Steps to Christ, paper, 12 annas; cloth Rs. 1-8. The Sabbath in the Pacific, a new treatise on the "Day Line," 6 pice. Packing and postage extra.

New Hindi Tract

AN entirely new Hindi tract entitled, "The War, Its Cause and Meaning," is now in the hands of the printers. It is written in an interesting yet simple style for the average reader. It contains a new, two-page lithographed map of Europe, with portions of Africa and Asia, including India, with all countries and places indicated in Hindi. It will be well illustrated. Price, 3 pice each; packing and postage extra. Nothing better in Hindi for live missionary literature. Order now.

Attention! New Books!

THE following four-anna pamphlets are in preparation by the Tract Society:

Armageddon and the Millennium,
Spiritualism vs. Christianity,
Jerusalem and the Return of the Jews.

These booklets will be handsomely illustrated and are to be written in a manner which will commend them to the general public. We expect the first will be ready within a month. The usual 40 per cent. discount will be allowed to church members.

WE have spoken before in these columns of the advance step taken by Methodist missions in India regarding Tithing. A copy of Bishop Warne's tract, "Tithes and Offerings," has recently come to hand. In this we read some things which would seem to indicate a change of attitude regarding other great essentials. For instance:

"The new commandment, 'Love one another as I have loved you,' does not controvert the Decalogue,—it is the blossom and product of Sinai's great utterance." p. 14.

The tract in whole and in part is an excellent vindication of the duty of the Christian church regarding tithes.