

Asiatic Division Mission News

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No. 6

Church Dedication, and Educational and Sabbath-school Conventions

Held February 2-4, 1917, at San Pablo, P. I.

SOME seeds of truth were sown more than two years ago by one of our faithful Filipino canvassers near San Pablo, a provincial city of 6,000 inhabitants, situated about sixty-two miles southeast of the city of Manila, P. I. Under the direction of Elder Finster a tent was erected on one of the principal streets of the city where the gospel message was proclaimed in answer to the earnest appeals of the people for more light, and as a result a company of two hundred believers were gathered out. The members of this company are of a superior class, and it is expected that some valuable workers will be raised up at this place to bear the banner of truth to the unenlightened ones among the Filipino people.

As with David of old, a place of worship became a subject of lively and increasing interest with these new converts, and as all had a mind to work, and also to give of their means, a church building has recently been erected in a very desirable and convenient part of the city.

In company with Elder and Mrs. Finster and Professor and Mrs. Severns, I was privileged to visit this new station, arriving there February 2, 1917. Previous arrangements had been made for our accommodation, and for the services to be held Friday afternoon and night, and also the following Sabbath and Sunday. Promptly at four o'clock Friday afternoon about fifty of the believers repaired to a running stream beneath tall ferns and cocoanut trees to witness the solemn scene of the baptism of the Filipino sisters, by Elder Finster.

A goodly number were present Friday evening while Elder Finster spoke to them in their new church for the first time. Sabbath morning the church was well filled when each seat was occupied, and forty eager, earnest ones were standing back of the seats and in the aisles as Elder Finster again broke the bread of

life to them. Following this service the ordinances of the Lord's house were celebrated, in which about two hundred took part, the brethren being secluded near the front of the church by means of screens, while the sisters occupied the rear. This service was well conducted, and a splendid spirit prevailed.

The regular Sabbath-school service was held at two o'clock, p. m., after which an interesting and instructive Sabbath-school convention was held. Many phases of the Sabbath-school work were considered during the two and one-half hour period, and much interest was manifested by all present.

Sunday morning at 9 o'clock the subject of Christian education was considered at length by Professor Severns, at which time some valuable thoughts were presented. The speaker directed our minds to the very beginning of this branch of our work, and brought forth figures showing the rapid and wonderful increase in schools, teachers, and pupils, as well as facilities for carrying on the work, since it was started in 1872. He also spoke of the influence, the importance, and the aim of all our school work, which is that of leading souls to the Saviour, and giving them the knowledge of His will concerning our duty to Him.

At the eleven o'clock hour the new church was dedicated to the service of the Lord, Elder Finster taking for his text Matt. 16:18. A church built upon Christ, the Rock, the gates of hell cannot prevail against. He referred to Eph. 2:20, John 1:42, 1 Cor. 16:19, and many other important Scriptures bearing on this important subject. This was a very impressive service, and the Lord came very near by His Spirit which gave power to the word spoken. The Lord must be setting His hand to finish the work in the Philippines, the harvest of which is ready and ripe to be gathered in.

NANNIE L. WOODWARD.

Visiting India

OUR last word to the readers of the NEWS was sent on our arrival at Colombo. We arrived there the morning of December 14, and were met by Pastors Fletcher and James. Having the day in Colombo we spent it seeing the island. A thirty-five mile ride by auto was one of the pleasant features of the afternoon.

Ceylon is called "The Pearl on India's Brow," and with Colombo, the principal city of Ceylon, we saw something of interest on every side, and we only regretted that our stay was so short. We had traveled for hours along one side of the beautiful island before landing at Colombo.

It will be recalled that this is the home of the pearl oyster, and while the industry is carried on now more moderately than in former years, yet some beautiful and very valuable pearls are furnished for the world's market to-day.

The Pearl of great price as revealed through the third angel's message is represented by about thirty-five Sabbath keepers, so scattered that there is no organized church in Ceylon, these representatives largely belonging to the church at Nazareth.

Sabbath, the 16th, we spent at Coimbatore. Here we have a school for both boys and girls supervised by Brother and Sister G. G. Lowry, with fifty students in attendance. These students are mostly grown, and already some have gone into the work, and each year finds others ready to enter the great harvest field with the message. They have had sufficient English to make an interpreter unnecessary, so we were able to converse together and get somewhat acquainted; and by the acquaintance we were drawn nearer to them in Christian love and interest. After the Sabbath they planned for us a pleasant reception. They sang some beautiful songs, and one unique feature of the evening was the flower shower. As they sang they showered us with lovely fragrant flowers until we looked like one huge bouquet. They called for remarks from their guests, and each responded with words of encouragement and appreciation, and of thankfulness for what we had seen and heard through the Coimbatore School.

Monday, the 18th, we spent three hours at Bangalore. Brother and Sister W. R. Nelson are located at this place. They met us with an auto and showed us the city during our short stay. Bangalore is a beautiful city, and may the time be hastened when our work will be more largely represented here. Brother and Sister Nelson are just starting the work in Bangalore.

The 19th was spent in Bombay, and the 20th in Kalyan. Brother and Sister French and Brother and Sister Pettit are holding up the light of truth to the people of Bombay, and they have gathered in a nice little company from all classes and walks in life.

Brother and Sister M. D. Wood are working hard in Kalyan, she in the dispensary, and he in the school work. It is hard to see our dear missionaries working in a way that is gradually but surely undermining their health on account of too strenuous work. The work is so great, and the laborers are so few that every one is working not only to the limit of their strength, but just a little beyond. The body will in time rebel and demand shorter hours. Here in India it is different than in most of our mission fields. Usually our workers are sent out two and two, but there is not enough here to man the field in this way, so they must go one alone. But they go willingly and cheerfully and with no word of complaint. All are in love with their work, so we find every one happy and contented. Two families will return to the homeland for their furloughs, Brother S. A. Wellman and family, and Brother and Sister R. H. Leach. The Wellmans will attend the Shanghai general meeting en route to America.

One day was spent at Nejibabad. Here Brother and Sister R. P. Morris and Sister B. A. Kurtz are working faithfully and hard, and their efforts are not in vain. An interest in the gospel is springing up all around them, many being awakened through the dispensary work conducted by Sister Kurtz and her assistant.

The last Sabbath in the old year was spent at Lucknow. The chapel was filled to its capacity as the writer spoke from the text, "What think ye, that He will not come to the feast?"

At Lucknow is located the general training school for the India Union. Twenty students are being faithfully trained as leaders to carry the message to several nations of India. Prof. and Sister I. F. Blue have charge of this school and are doing excellent work.

Sunday evening we left Lucknow for Calcutta. Two short stops were made, one at Cawmpore and the other at Banares that we might see these cities so renowned because of their part in the great rebellion of 1857.

Tuesday morning, the second of January, we reached Calcutta, two days before the opening of the general meeting. We spent this time, what was not used in committee work, in seeing the city and visiting the school where Sister Della Burroway has charge. There are something like fifty bright girls and boys in this school studying hard to fit themselves for the Lord's work in India. There is much of interest that we would like to speak of in connection with this school, but space will not admit of it this time. Sister Burroway has greatly endeared herself to her students, and the blessing of the Lord is with her as she daily holds up before her school the great Teacher in a way to cause even the smaller pupils to love the Lord and His service.

At this writing the general meeting is more than

half over. Almost all the workers in the union are in attendance, and about every one was in for the opening meeting. A report of the meeting will follow in a later issue. The 15th we leave for Burma, and after a short visit to that field we hope to be able to take passage from Rangoon to Singapore. The health of our party is good and we are enjoying our visit to India thoroughly.

R. C. AND MRS. PORTER.

A Victory for the Bible Sabbath

RECENTLY a young lady joined our ranks in Japan who has had a very unusual experience in finding the truth. When very young she was taken into a mission school of another church, and has spent many years now in gaining a Christian education with the idea of completing it in America, then giving her life to missionary work. While in school her private study of the Bible convinced her that the seventh day of the week, and not the first, is the Sabbath, and she resolved to keep it. Without knowing of another person who believed as she did, she continued to observe the Sabbath for thirteen years, spending the day in her room with the Bible, and then on Sunday preparing for Monday's lessons.

Then she came to Kobe and began studies in a girl's theological school. Before long in a clearly providential way she learned of our church and our work. While not allowed to leave the dormitory to go to church on Sabbath, she took every opportunity to come to us and learn more of the truth. She plainly saw what her duty was, but the inducements they began to hold out to her in school, and her ambitions to do a work that would be recognized in the world, brought a great struggle in her mind, which she could not settle for several months. At last her convictions for truth conquered, and she made her decision to identify herself with the remnant church.

Just at the same time her fiance, four hundred miles away, also learned of the truth through one of our Japanese workers. The outcome is that now as man and wife they are both studying in our training school in Tokyo preparatory to going out to herald the tidings of a soon-coming Saviour to their countrymen. When I saw them, on a recent trip to Tokyo, she told me with tears in her eyes how happy she was to have so many brethren of the same faith after being alone in her Sabbath observance so long. All praise be to God who works in marvelous ways to gather out a people for His name.

P. B. HOFFMAN.

En Route from Calcutta to Burma

OUR last report closed with the beginning of the Calcutta general meeting. I will not attempt a full report of that meeting here, more than to say it was one continual feast of meat in due season. Each day brought richer and deeper experiences in Christian living. With the exception of one family, Brother Walter Mead, and one or two sisters, every foreign worker in the India Union was present at this meeting. Brother Mead was detained to look after the printing plant at Lucknow, it being thought best not to close it up for so long a period.

Two large new apartment houses were rented to accommodate the delegation. These buildings were electric lighted with private bath in connection with each room, and with large commodious rooms for committee work, the pretty, open, grassy plot of ground between the buildings, so shady and protected from the street, where the children could play and be entertained, made this location all that could be desired for comfort and convenience. Five minutes' walk took us to the dining rooms where Miss C. Manson and her assistants served us with good palatable food three times a day. Sister Manson enshrined herself in the hearts of all by her unselfish determination to please one and all, and she succeeded, for even the most delicate appetite was tempted.

The regular report of this meeting will contain other items of interest pertaining to the business part of the conference.

The morning of the fifteenth of January our party, together with the delegation from Burma, thirty-five in all, left Calcutta. About five hours' ride on the Hugli River took us to the Bay of Bengal, and for three days we peacefully glided over its placid waters to Rangoon. Immediately on our arrival there we diligently searched to see if there was a way out to Singapore. No steamship company would give us the least encouragement, but rather discouragement. We took the matter to the Lord in prayer and that evening started for the Meiktila Mission Station. Brother and Sister Luddington had preceeded us one train, so were there to give us a royal welcome to their station. It was Friday, and after a visit to the school, the industrial plant, and the dormitories we made our preparation for the Sabbath. A party of ten grown people coming all at once to the home of those new in the housekeeping business, taxed to the limit their accommodations. But the visit being anticipated some extra canvas cots were brought for the occasion, and when the Sabbath drew on everything was in readiness. Those who could not find room inside were made most comfortable on the verandas. With the warm welcome we received no one would have complained if cradled for the night on the soft side of a board.

There are one hundred twenty students enrolled in

The poorest education that teaches self-control is better than the best that neglects it.—*Sterling*.

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this school. Not all are yet Adventists. Since the school started forty-five have been converted and united with the church. There are nine teachers in this school, four being Adventists, three Baptists, and two are heathen. When we can have all Christian teachers of our own faith greater results will be seen in the conversion of souls. Services were held Friday evening, Sabbath morning and afternoon. A live young people's society rendered a good program Sabbath afternoon.

Early Sunday morning we left for Mandalay, the station where Brother and Sister Robert Beckner have charge. The Meiktila and the Mandalay stations are but six hours' ride apart by train. Brother Beckner met us, and for a few hours we visited some historic places of interest. The largest pagoda in the city contains an image of Buddha, as do all the thousands upon thousands of pagodas in Burma. This one is covered with gold leaf, contributed by the worshippers, and is daily added to, at the rate of \$8,000, gold, a month, and is now three inches in thickness. In another part of the city is a sitting Buddha, twenty-five feet high, and hewn out of a single block of marble. The most notable monument of Mandalay is the "Kuthodaw," which consists of a large pagoda one hundred feet high and surrounded by 729 smaller ones about twelve feet square. In each of these smaller ones is a standing marble slab, three by five feet, and on each side of this slab of marble is inscribed a portion of the Buddhist scriptures in Burmese and Pali, each slab thus forming a leaf of this remarkable book. This "stands as a complete official record of the sacred writings," and is the largest book in the world. A few of our party climbed a thousand stone steps to an elevation overlooking the city and surrounding country, where city after city was pointed out where Brother Beckner is scattering the message in printed form, and which some day he hopes to see lighted with the third angel's message. Mr. Judson's untiring efforts in Burma are still bearing fruit; he being dead, yet speaketh. In many places in Burma we see the footprints of his travels, marked by chapels and schools, a fulfillment of the divine record that the word should not return void, but accomplish the thing whereunto God had sent it. One day and one night was spent at this station where Brother and Sister Beckner are faithfully laboring alone. They need and must have more help. The lateness of the hour demands it.

(To be Continued)

From the Homeland

THE readers of the NEWS will be glad to hear from Dr. Riley Russell through a personal letter to Elder Fulton. Dr. Russell is taking postgraduate work in Chicago. He says:—

"I was glad to hear all the good news of the progress of the work in all parts of the great Oriental field. Our brethren here have kept me on the go nearly all the time since we reached home. I have spoken about one hundred times on our work in Chosen and other parts of the East. Everywhere I go the people are as much interested as they can be. Last Sabbath I went to Battle Creek, and the annual offering at the close of the meeting in the tabernacle reached close to a thousand dollars; a gain of seven hundred dollars over 1915. Quite a number came down from the sanitarium.

"I came to Chicago two months ago, and have been hard at work at this place ever since. I plan on staying here until the spring, when the brethren want me to go to Loma Linda for awhile. I go to some of the churches or institutions in the Lake Union each Friday afternoon and return to Chicago Sunday evening.

"I have not seen much of my family since coming to the States. Our little boy is not quite well yet from his sickness, but the attacks are farther apart and lighter, and he is growing fast, so we think he will soon be all right.

"Dr. Larson is in school with me here; also two other S. D. A. physicians, so that we can make our presence felt. The men treat us fine, and show a great interest in the mission fields. I talk medical missions most of the time.

"I would be glad to be with you in the meetings in the spring, and hear all the interesting and difficult subjects thrashed out. I am very glad for the large delegation of general men that are now in the East, for there is no doubt but that the present conditions make the Asiatic Division the biggest thing this denomination has had to face, and it will remain so until the work is finished and our Lord comes."

Important!

It will be necessary for all delegates and visitors attending the Asiatic Division Conference to be held at Shanghai April 5-26, 1917, to bring a good supply of bedding, including a cotton mattress, and bed linen, with them. It may be cold, and with so many people coming it will be impossible for the brethren who live here to supply these to the delegates. Should any neglect to follow these directions, both they and the committee on entertainment will be placed at great inconvenience. We would also request all who attend the meeting to bring knives, forks, spoons, serviettes, and towels, which should be well marked in order that they may not be lost. J. E. FULTON.