

Eastern Tidings.

VOL. 2.

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No. 6.

OUR WORK, AND HOW WE CAN ALL TAKE PART IN IT.

THE Lord Jesus has placed His disciples in a very important and responsible place. He says, "Ye are the light of the world." Like beacon lights on a dark, storm-beaten shore, we are to shine forth to the world in moral darkness, pointing out the dangerous rocks and treacherous shoals.

His "church is the depository of the wealth of the riches of the grace of Christ." And this wealth it is to dispense to those in need. It is very important that we, as members, give forth that which is given to us; for in this lies our secret of wealth. The church and the individual members grow in the riches of heaven in proportion as they give out what is given to them. The Lord wants the church in India to be wealthy. He wishes to endow them with the riches of the grace of Christ. There is no limit to the possibilities of the little band of commandment-keeping people in India who unite with Christ in shedding forth light and truth. He wants each one to have his heart so filled with the love of Jesus and the truth for this time that his very presence will be an inspiration and blessing to others. Then let us come, one and all, and improve every opportunity offered to help others and give forth the truth which has brought new joy to our hearts.

The Envelope Plan.

There are some who wish to work who do not know just how to begin. The envelope plan of distributing tracts will be a great help to such. We have just begun this method of work in the Calcutta church, and we believe by the help of God it will be a great blessing. For the benefit of those living outside of Calcutta, we will explain what the Envelope Plan is. We have at the Tract Society Office, a series of envelopes. In each of these envelopes there are four or more tracts. In

envelope No. 1, there are the following tracts; "First a willing mind, then all;" "Is the end near?" "Benefits of Bible Study;" "The Present Truth;" and "Kept by the Power of God." All these tracts are interesting and such as to attract outsiders. The plan is to lend this envelope to a friend or neighbour asking that the tracts be read and afterwards called for; and at the same time the brother who has lent the tracts can give to the one who has read the first set of tracts Envelope No. 2 which has another set of tracts so arranged as to lead the reader in an interesting way on gradually to know more of the truth. After tracts in Envelope No. 2 have been read, then Envelope No. 3 can be given with other tracts carrying the reader on gradually from one line of truth to another. This can be followed with Envelope No. 4 and then No. 5 and so on.

Awake.

In this plan every one can take part. All have friends, relatives and neighbours whom they wish should have the truth, and by taking hold of this method they can be the instruments of sowing the seed. The following words from the Spirit of Prophecy have stirred our hearts to greater diligence. It shows very plainly our place and work in the world effort of calling men and women to the truth. "God has given me a message for His people. They must awake, spread their tents, and enlarge their borders. My brethren and sisters, you have been bought with a price, and all that you have and are is to be used to the glory of God and for the good of your fellow-men. Christ died on the cross to save the world from perishing in sin. He asks your co-operation in this work. You are to be His helping hand. With earnest, unwearying effort you are to seek to save the lost. Remember that it was your sins that made the cross necessary. When you accepted Christ as your Saviour, you pledged yourself to unite with Him in bearing the cross. For life and for death you are bound up with Him, a part of the great plan of redemption.

The transforming power of Christ's grace moulds the one who gives himself to God's service. Imbued with the Spirit of the Redeemer, he is ready to deny self, ready to take up the cross, ready to make any sacrifice for the Master. No longer can he be indifferent to the souls perishing around him. He is lifted above self-serving. He has been created anew in Christ, and self-serving has no place in his life. He realizes that every part of his being belongs to Christ, who has redeemed him from the slavery of sin; that every moment of his future has been bought with the precious life-blood of God's only-begotten Son.

J. L. S.

THE SABBATH IN THE HOME.

BEFORE the setting of the sun, let the members of the family assemble to read God's word, to sing and pray. There is need of reform here, for many have been remiss. We need to confess to God and to one another. We should begin anew to make special arrangements that every member of the family may be prepared to honour the day which God has blessed and sanctified.

Let not the precious hours of the Sabbath be wasted in bed. On Sabbath morning the family should be astir early. If they rise late, there is confusion and bustle in preparing for breakfast and Sabbath-school. There is hurrying, jostling, and impatience. Thus unholy feelings come into the home. The Sabbath, thus desecrated, becomes a weariness, and its coming is dreaded rather than loved.

We should not provide for the Sabbath a more liberal supply or a greater variety of food than for other days. Instead of this the food should be more simple, and less should be eaten, in order that the mind may be clear and vigorous to comprehend spiritual things. Overeating befogs the brain. The most precious words may be heard and not appreciated, because the mind is confused by an improper diet. By overeating on the Sabbath, many have done more than they think to dishonour God.

While cooking upon the Sabbath should be avoided, it is not necessary to eat cold food. In cold weather let the food prepared the day before be heated. And let the meals, though

simple, be palatable and attractive. Provide something that will be regarded as a treat, something the family do not have every day.

At family worship let the children take a part. Let all bring their Bibles, and each read a verse or two. Then let some familiar hymn be sung, followed by prayer. For this, Christ has given a model. The Lord's prayer was not intended to be repeated merely as a form, but it is an illustration of what our prayers should be,—simple, earnest, and comprehensive. In a simple petition tell the Lord your needs, and express gratitude for His mercies. Thus you invite Jesus as a welcome guest into your home and heart. In the family, long prayers concerning remote objects are not in place. They make the hour of prayer a weariness, when it should be regarded as a privilege and blessing. Make the season one of interest and joy.

The Sabbath-school and the meeting for worship occupy only a part of the Sabbath. The portion remaining to the family may be made the most sacred and precious season of all the Sabbath hours. Much of this time parents should spend with their children. In many families the younger children are left to themselves, to find entertainment as best they can. Left alone, the children soon become restless, and begin to play, or engage in some kind of mischief. Thus the Sabbath has to them no sacred significance.

As the sun goes down, let the voice of prayer and the hymn of praise mark the close of the sacred hours and invite God's presence through the cares of the week of labour.

Thus parents can make the Sabbath, as it should be, the most joyful day of the week. They can lead their children to regard it as a delight, the day of days, the holy of the Lord, honourable.

I counsel you, my brethren and sisters, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." If you desire your children to observe the Sabbath according to the commandment you must teach them by both precept and example. The deep engraving of truth in the heart is never wholly effaced. It may be obscured, but can never be obliterated. The impressions made in early life will be seen in after years. Circumstances may occur to separate the children from their parents and their home, but as long as they live the instruction given in childhood and youth will be a blessing.

E. G. WHITE.

RANGOON.

WE are sorry to have missed the opportunity of reporting for EASTERN TIDINGS last month, and trust our readers will excuse this somewhat lengthy contribution to the monthly family letter.

In spite of the excessive heat we have experienced in Rangoon for the past two months, we are glad to report a good attendance at our Tuesday and Friday meetings, for which we are indeed grateful, especially when we find that the larger churches in the town have so small an attendance at their week-night meetings. We are endeavouring to start some more Bible Readings in new homes, and have had invitations during the past month from two families for a regular weekly study of God's word. During the coming weeks we shall be canvassing for renewals for the *Oriental Watchman* and *Good Health* in Rangoon, which will doubtless afford us a good opportunity to get acquainted with other families who might wish for Bible readings.

The school re-opened on the 16th. May after a midsummer vacation of six weeks, and we are glad to report that we have eighteen bright children on our rolls; and we have every confidence that the Lord will help us in doubling that number before long. Sister Meyers, who has been doing the teaching hitherto, found herself very much tied down for the best part of the day, with the result that other pressing work could not receive her needed attention; but since the return of Sister Sloan to Rangoon, after her canvassing tour up country with Sister Smith, the way has opened up to invite her to connect with our school work, and we are glad to report she has entered into this work with hearty zest and interest. We have been able to get in some portion of the much needed furniture for the school, which is now fitted up with a substantial black board on stand with rollers and a large clock. We hope to get some suitable desks as soon as funds permit, and would again take the opportunity of thanking those who have contributed to this end. Brother Maung Maung, who is always so active in preaching present truth among the Burmans, now conducts a meeting every Sabbath in the home of one of the Burmese sisters in the Burman quarter.

I have just had placed in my hands the last annual report number for 1903 of the *Baptist Missionary Magazine*, published by the American Baptist Missionary Union, Fremont Temple, Boston. In that portion of the Magazine devoted to the Baptist Missions in Burmah, I find a reference to our opening work in Rangoon, and as the paragraph will doubtless interest our readers, I take this opportunity of reproducing it:—"The Seventh-day Adventists have been doing their best to win our church members to their faith. It appears that two or three years ago one of their missionaries made a tour of inspection in Burma. Seeing some of the weak points of the Baptist Mission, he came from Calcutta last hot season, with his wife and an assistant, and established himself in the heart of Rangoon. Instead of preaching to the Jews, or trying to convert the heathen, these workers have sought to ingratiate themselves with the Burmese Christians; especially in times of sickness and sorrow they have sought to gain influence over them. Prominent among those who have joined them are two, who on different occasions, were excluded from the fellowship of Baptist Churches. They are now very active in endeavouring to propagate their newly accepted views."

While it would serve no good purpose to pass any criticism on the spirit which has prompted the writer, it is well to note that this adds but another link to the chain of evidence of the opposition and prejudice, in face of which we are exhorted to cheerfully push our victories. In justice however to the two brethren to whom allusion is made in the latter portion of the paragraph, I may add that the charge against them of having been on different occasions excluded from the fellowship of the Baptist Churches is utterly groundless, and so far from having ever been excluded it is generally known amongst the Burmese Christians here that when these two brethren resigned their membership of the Baptist Church on doctrinal differences, strenuous efforts were made by the authorities of that church to induce them back to their communion. We are admonished that "the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace," and so, brethren, we pray the Lord in all our work to help us, above all things, to "put on charity which is the bond of perfectness."

H. B. MEYERS.

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READ what is said in the first article about the envelope plan, and send to the office for the envelopes and tracts and give them to your neighbours. It will be a blessing to you, and the tracts will be a blessing to them.

ENCOURAGING word comes from Brother Armstrong on the outlook for the work in Ceylon. Let us pray that an effectual door may be opened in Colombo.

BROTHER Shaw spent a pleasant Sabbath, June 11th. at Simultala. Three Santhal students were baptized. Brother Barlow has in all fifteen Santhal boys in his school. They are fine looking fellows and are eager to learn. We are looking forward to the time when many Santhals shall accept Christ and his word. We thank God for the good beginning which is being made.

THE tracts for which subscription was taken have come. They are an excellent assortment and bear on every phase of the message. Let us use them. The subscription taken was not equal to the cost of the tracts, so if any wish to help bear the expense of them a good opportunity still remains.

INTERESTING EXPERIENCES IN PAPER AND TRACT WORK.

God has given me much encouragement lately in the disposal of our periodicals and tracts in the streets and public places of this city of Calcutta. The municipal market has been visited a few times, and several copies of the *Oriental Watchman* and *Good Health* have been sold at two annas each. On one occasion, twelve papers were sold in a little more than an hour, in the morning before breakfast, and two or three encouraging experiences were received. One gentleman

with a companion, was looking at the papers. As he scanned the *Oriental Watchman*, his companion remarked, "Oh, that is a religious paper." "So much the better," said he, "I'll have it," and he accordingly took *Oriental Watchman* in preference to *Good Health*.

Now a word as to the tract work. The spirit of the Lord encouraged me to take up this line of work three or four weeks ago. Truly the experiences are exhilarating. Hundreds of these little messengers have been disposed of from week to week, travelling on the tram car of the city, chiefly on the way to and from my canvassing centre, which is now in the heart of the northern portion of Calcutta, the great native residential quarter. As I sit among my dear native brethren, the leaflets are pulled out of my pockets where they are always stored ready for use. With a smile and a word in their own tongue, one is handed to each who is within reach.

These are willingly accepted, and as a rule eagerly read. In two or three instances, I have seen my brothers on alighting from a car, and while awaiting transshipment by another, to be so engrossed in reading precious truth, as to almost miss their cars. Brethren, the Lord gives courage to his servants! At least two or three have testified that the words they have read, have been sweet to their souls, and they have asked if I had anything new for their reading. To-day a man said to me, "Have you anything for me? My mind is soothed by reading the pamphlets."

As I received enquiries from several for our English tracts, I was compelled to take these, too, in my journeyings, and now, praise God, He is reaching our European brethren, by the same means. Yesterday a gentleman to whom I handed one asked whether I could give him another. I did, and opened up a conversation in which I invited him to attend our Sunday evening meeting. He replied that he was a resident of Howrah, and only came to Calcutta for a little while. As the conversation ceased, he began to read "The Coming King."—and when I alighted, bade me "good morning." cordially.

Oh, for the faith of Abraham, to believe that what God has promised, He is able also to perform.

Let us take Jehovah at his word, dear Brothers and Sisters, and press forward to victory, day by day.

A. G. WATSON.