

Eastern Tidings.

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THE LADDER OF PRAYER.

"IN those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord. Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.

"Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, saying,

"I beseech thee, O Lord, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done *that which* is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

"And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the Lord came to him, saying,

"Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the Lord.

"And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.

"And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered."

II. Kings, xx. 1-7.

How encouraging an incident for the little church in India!

Hezekiah prayed that the Lord might let him live, and the answer was—"I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold I will heal thee." The petition was so earnest that it was accompanied by the shedding of bitter tears.

The great heart of Jehovah was moved to compassion as he beheld the agonising of a frail human creature, and a message of consolation and comfort was conveyed to the pleading one. Behold the loving-kindness of our God. He is the same to-day—"I am the Lord, I change not." (Mal. 3: 6) Oh, then, brethren,

take courage! Every petition will be answered, if we know how to agonise, if we will but pray with that humility, soul-hungering and faith, which will carry our supplications in the likeness of smoke ascending from the golden altar which is before the throne (Rev. 8: 3)—in the 1st. apartment of the heavenly sanctuary—through the veil, into the golden vials of the four beasts and four and twenty elders (Rev. 5: 8), and from these to the Lamb (Rev. 5: 6), and thence up to the great "I am." What a beautiful climax! Shall we not come down to that humble condition, in order that our prayers may go up by such a desirable ladder?

Then humbly press your petitions home, brethren, till they centre in Christ, the Lamb that is in the midst of the throne (Rev. 5: 6), and when they reach this step of the ladder, they cannot but be received of "I am" who is at the very top, for the Son of God points to Calvary, and mentions His blood. The heart of the Father is melted with tender pity as the "Son of Man" thus identifies Himself with fallen humanity, and the request of the suppliant prevails in, and through, the Father's dear son, alone.

"Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving, sing praise upon the harp unto our God," for that which has been made available unto us by prayer.

A. G. W.

EN ROUTE.

THE following is an extract from a letter received by one of the brethren in Calcutta, and dated Kobe Harbour Japan, June 2nd., 1904:—

We have been brought safely on our journey to Kobe, Japan, where we expect to be detained for ten days in quarantine, so I can do some writing while the vessel is quiet.

The way has been smooth and the weather pleasant since we left Calcutta, for which we are thankful, although we can rejoice in storm as well as calm, for both work together for good.

We went ashore at Singapore, and met a family of Missionaries with whom we had a pleasant visit. They seemed to be earnest people and certainly treated us with warm hospitality and fervent charity.

At Hongkong and Canton we spent a week, and met our brothers Wilber and Anderson and their wives, and sister Thompson. They have all made a good start with the Chinese language and are able to talk some.

I like the Chinese people, and I believe we shall see many of them in the Kingdom.

Wife and I went ashore today and met Dr. Lockwood and Sister Lockwood at the quarantine station. The work seems to have a good start here in Japan, and some souls are turning to the truth. We did not have a long visit with them, but hope to meet them again and also other brethren here, and hear more about the way the Lord is blessing in sending the message in this field.

On the Steamer "Lightning" from Calcutta, I became acquainted with a number of native men, acting as servants on the boat, and before the end of our voyage the Lord gave me a place in their hearts, and I was sorry to leave them at the end of the voyage. The promise is, "He that receiveth you receiveth me," and so I pray and trust that this may be true in the case of these dear souls.

L. J. BURGESS.

Brother and Sister Burgess, it will be remembered, were on their way home when this letter was written.

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MUSSOORIE.

We have been in Mussoorie since last reporting, and there found hearts which are stirred with the third angel's message. By the Lord's strength 194 subscriptions were taken. More than once have I called at homes, and introduced myself as engaged in gospel work, when cut short by, "We don't care for anything," "No! No! Don't show us any thing," as I reached for the paper; but somehow it came forth and opened to their gaze. "O! the *Oriental Watchman*. I have been getting that for two years and find it very useful."

Then I generally take a subscription of them for *Good Health*.

Others who have said the same as the above at first sight, upon seeing the paper and its contents, have given me their order, and at parting have given me a heart-felt "thanks" for

having brought them a paper of so much value.

Just yesterday I called upon a man who said, "yes, we received the *Oriental Watchman* two years ago." The wife is secretary of the Y. W. C. A. She said they discontinued the paper because of so many papers being taken. She refused the paper again, and then we talked over some of the special truths for this time, she having introduced the Sabbath question. She said they were discussing the question at their meeting last Sunday. Both admitted there being no Bible foundation for the latter day's sacredness.

Just before I left, Mr. Addison said to his wife, "I have Re. 1. and if you have one, I will take the paper for a year." Mrs. Addison had just paid the servants and had nothing but a cheque, but she went to the lady next door and borrowed the amount.

We must ask the Lord for wisdom and patience in meeting such people. Satan causes all kinds of evil surmisings to pass through their minds regarding our intentions, and these must be overthrown. Hasty words only aggravate the case.

We are not to become discouraged nor look at appearances, but just look up and remember that "the Lord longs to do great things for his people *at this time*."

W. O. JAMES.

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CEYLON.

THROUGH the bountiful kindness of our heavenly Father, we are comfortably settled in what is called "The Eden of the East." Ceylon has a population of over 3,000,000, and all these precious souls await the sound of the "Third Angel's Message." In opening up the work in Colombo, which is the capital of Ceylon, we stand in the way of nations; for the beautiful and spacious harbour of Colombo, always contains a good complement of ships representing all the great nations of the world. This in itself is a vast and needy field for missionary operations.

Since coming to the Island, we have found avenues opening before us, and especially would we mention the leading of the Spirit of God to the very house in which we live. Contrary to our first desires we have settled down with a very dear family who are seeking for light and truth. I have been able to conduct studies with them; also they have

invited their friends in, and in this way the truth is already entering the homes of the people. The Gentleman of the house is a School-Master, and by his kind invitation I am privileged to conduct a Bible class each morning with his students. We trust this may be the means of planting the seeds of truth in the hearts of the young, also of gaining us an entrance into the homes of their parents.

Through the kindness of the Editor of the "Ceylon Independent," I am contributing an article each week for the benefit of the subscribers to that paper. We believe these articles will be appreciated by the general public, and cause a demand for more important and urgent truths for this time.

When we look around and see the great need of this unentered field, and the small equipment of labourers, we feel to pray as never before that the "Lord of the harvest may send forth more labourers into His vineyard." Now is the time for earnest labour, and for the complete dedication of all that we have, and are, to the service of God. We know that in a few short years this work will close, and then it will be too late to offer either ourselves or our means. May the Good Spirit of the Lord touch every heart, and may there be a hearty response from every member of our Royal Cause, both now and until Jesus shall come, for His Name's Sake.

H. A.

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CALCUTTA.

During the last few weeks, notwithstanding the unfavourable weather, some of our sisters, have been having some good experiences in working for the Lord, in various ways. Every week some are going to one or more of the hospitals visiting the sick, where are found many who are passing through deep waters, and who welcome those who can give them kind help in their hour of trial. The hospitals in Calcutta afford opportunities for active missionary work. The soul-saving literature, to some, will be a seed sown to save a soul. To others, a few flowers will be a messenger that will speak to their souls sooner than the printed page. Some of our sisters can testify of good experiences in visiting those who are ill, and of blessings received into their own lives by ministering in a humble way to those who need help. There is nothing that will give a brighter experience than this line of work. It is a sure

cure for discouragement and doubt, and a means given us by God of helping those in trial. May we all avail ourselves of the blessing given by the service rendered to the sick and afflicted. There is work for those who will engage in it with a heart-filled with love. As one timidly expressed it—"The Lord has helped me to do something."

The orders received for our papers by our sisters testify of blessings received. The canvassing work is a means of soul-blessing to the one who engages in it. The first day one of the sisters took up this work, the Lord gave her opportunities of speaking many words for Him, and by His help she was enabled to take four paid subscriptions for our publications.

The time is not far distant when many more will be engaged in this line of work.

In a recent number of the *Review* our attention is called to the following; "It is a solemn fact that, during the closing time of the sealing message, Satan will use every device to keep the minds of God's people from the present truth, and cause them to waver."

While Satan is using his devices, the Lord is calling us to greater diligence and activity by putting all our energies into His service. The canvassing work is one of the agents to keep our hearts warm and aglow with the truth, and a means of carrying the present truth throughout India.

There are some who cannot engage in this work but who are giving their whole time to the Bible work, and the Lord blesses their efforts. There is not one to whom the Lord has not given a work, and may He find us true to the work He has called us to do.

MRS. J. L. SHAW.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

We were glad to learn of the safe arrival of Brother and Sister Quantoek and child, at Bombay, on 9th instant. The train reached the station about four and a half hours late owing to a breach on the line occasioned by the heavy rains, but otherwise there was no mishap. Our prayers follow our dear Brother and Sister on the voyage to the home-land, and our eyes are turned to Jehovah who is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think."

This is the third couple of labourers that have left us within a few short weeks, two of these for reasons of health; but our trust is

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in the Mighty One of Israel, and we pray that His spirit may give a deeper consecration, and cause a complete surrender, to His service, of those of the little band who are left, and that, by the same means, new workers may be raised up, for this field, both here, and in the distant west.

BROTHER Shaw left Calcutta on the 4th instant to pay a short visit to Rangoon. Pressing invitations from Brother Meyers were being sent him from the beginning of the year, and at last after laying the matter before God, he felt that he should go. May He use him to accomplish His purpose for the salvation of souls, and the preparation of the way of the Lord, in the needy field of Burma.

THE Sanitarium from the beginning of the month have been moving into, and fitting up, their new premises, No. 50 Park Street, adjoining the old one. We understand that the buildings are much more convenient for their requirements, and we wish them prosperity to the glory of God.

OUR hearts have been encouraged very recently as we have observed the Spirit of the Lord call out two of the Sisters attached to the Church in Calcutta, to begin to canvass for the literature containing the precious present truth, and to visit the sick. We heartily wish them success, and pray for them.

The promises of God are sure, and as we step out, claiming them in faith, they are verily fulfilled in us.

Will not some other Sisters, and Brothers, too, take the Lord at His word, and set out to scatter the printed page loaded with the truth, by canvassing for our books and periodicals and distributing tracts, and other papers; or take up any other line of work open to them in His great harvest field? Mighty Angels of God are longing to help such. Shall we disappoint Heaven?

CALCUTTA CHURCH SCHOOL.

AFTER a six weeks' vacation, midsummer term began on 4th July. Those pupils who have returned, together with one or two new ones, are bright and in good health, and have taken hold of their work with willing earnestness, so that the teachers' hearts have been gladdened and made of a good courage, notwithstanding the number attending up to date is smaller than that with which the last term closed.

The true education of the young is a glorious work, for it is the training of boys and girls so as to enable them to win back to God that which Satan has usurped, *viz.* the human race. Could the lambs of the flock be prepared for service more noble? Or, do we place the government and mercantile professions above this, and are we striving to fit our children for these avenues, to gain an entry into which there is so much keen competition among those who know not God? Are we looking forward in our imaginations, to the time when our boys after a creditable term of office under the government, or some large mercantile house, will be drawing their comfortable pensions? If so, then we are not Seventh-Day Adventists, because this people do not believe that it is at all likely that this earth will be existing in its present state by the time their school-going children attain unto the pensionable age. No, brethren, the world's Redeemer will come back before that, to take with Him to the mansions of delight in His father's house, those who, laying aside all earthly considerations and attractions, are, with their children, found watching and waiting to receive Him.

How much better, then, to cast in our lot with the people of God, and have our lambs qualified for the "high calling of God in Christ Jesus," knowing and feeling that they are on the Lord's side? For, if God be for us, who can be against us? If our children work for the Lord, "bread shall be given them, and their waters shall be sure" (Is. 33: 16) until Jesus comes. If they toil merely to "earn a living"—to use a worldly expression—then they "labour for that which satisfieth not" (Is. 55: 2), and there is no rest to their souls. The writer has had personal experience in both services, formerly in that of the world, and latterly under principal Jehovah. Of a truth, he "laboured for that which satisfieth not," but now, oh, how invigorating and soul-satisfying are the experiences that are daily received in the office of which Jesus Christ, his, and your, elder brother, brethren, is the "Burra-Saheb" (senior partner or member). We, then, have some lien to this office (our blood relation being its chief). Let us, therefore, in order to prefer the claim hereafter, now educate our children accordingly, by the Lord's help.

A. G. W.