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Eastern Tidings.

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No. 11.

“BRING YE ALL THE TITHES INTO THE STORE-HOUSE.”

SOME REASONS WHY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS PAY TITHE.

FOR nearly fifty years, we as a people, have practised the tithing system. We believe that one tenth of our income belongs to the Lord, and should be brought to the storehouse to pay the servants of the Lord. This plan of supporting the gospel ministry was not adopted without careful searching of the scriptures. Every point of truth which we cherish so dearly, has come through much prayerful study of the word, and the tithing system is a part of the whole. While other denominations have resorted to various means, some of which are often questionable, to carry on their work, we have held to the teaching of God's word on this point, and have been greatly blessed in so doing.

We are able to trace the tithing system back as far as Abraham who paid tithes to Melchisedec priest of the most high God. And this order of priesthood is still in existence; for Christ, our high priest, is a priest after the order of Melchisedec. Therefore belonging to the same order of priesthood as Abraham and being his children Gal. 3:29, it is perfectly consistent that we should have a wholesome respect for the words of Christ: “If ye were Abraham's seed ye would do the works of Abraham.” And if he the father of the faithful paid tithe, we, his children, have a worthy example in paying tithe and may show our faith in the same priesthood which he regarded.

Jacob was the next tithe payer spoken of in the Bible. He promised the Lord that if he would help him in the way he was going, and prosper him; that of all that the Lord should give him, he surely would give Him the tenth. God abundantly blessed him and gave him much store and many cattle, and we have no reason to doubt that Jacob did as he had promised. Because of his prevailing with God, Jacob was called Israel and every true child of God becomes an Israelite by prevailing faith and as such may obey the instruction on tithing

given to Israel with full assurance that he is doing God's will.

Careful instruction was given to the children of Israel about tithing and they were taught to be very particular about giving to the Lord one-tenth of all their increase, which was given to the Levites who had no possession of their own but gave their time and efforts exclusively to the Lord's work. The first tithe was not given to the poor nor was it designed for that purpose. Other means of caring for them is mentioned in the Bible, see Deut. 15:7, 24:19-22. Lev. 19:9, 10; 23:22.

Not only do we have the teaching of the Old Testament in support of the tithing system but we have the explicit injunction of Christ who said concerning tithe paying, “these ought ye to have done and not to leave the other undone.” Matt. 23:23.

We, as they are also enjoined to bring all the tithe into the storehouse: Mal. 3:10, and are promised temporal and spiritual blessing as a result of faithful payment of tithes and offerings. We have taken occasion to converse with a large number of people who have faithfully paid their tithes for many years; and their unflinching testimony is that tithe paying is a blessing both temporal and spiritual. It is only reasonable to suppose that when we follow God's plan, and give one tenth to Him, that he is able to make the remaining nine tenths go farther and do more than we in our short-sightedness should with the ten tenths.

When the heart is cleansed of selfishness, tithe-paying really becomes a joy and a real blessing, a blessing to us for our faithfulness and a blessing to the cause in the increase of means for the Lord's work. God does not want us to return our tenth to him in a grudging spirit. O no! He wants us to bring his portion to the storehouse with a joyful heart remembering that all we have has come from him, and that we appreciate the honour bestowed upon us, by his entrusting us with the whole, that we may show our faithful stewardship in returning the one tenth to him.

What a terrible sin it is to rob God, and withhold our tithe, or allow ourselves to become lax in paying it. In every instance when the people of God have been careless in this matter, they have backslidden and when they returned unto the Lord and paid their tithes, blessings have followed. The restoration of Jerusalem in Nehemiah's time, is a striking example. The people returned unto the Lord, ceased to break the Sabbath and returned their tithes and offerings to the Lord's treasury. It was a real reform and brought a real blessing. To the same degree that Sabbath-keepers in India respond to the teaching of God's Word and are faithful in keeping his law and paying their tithes and offerings, will they enjoy the blessing of God and be a light to the people of this land.

May God's spirit move mightily in all our hearts; and may we each be a living example of integrity and honesty with God and man. Honest in giving our hearts to God, honest in keeping his law and honest in returning the one tenth which is his.

J. L. SHAW.

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BURMA.
RANGOON.

BROTHERS and sisters—the time of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ is very near now. We should be like the wise virgins who took oil in their vessels with their lamps. "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

During last month, a great number of Christians (Burmans and Karens) from all parts of Burma assembled here on account of the yearly Baptist Convention. This meeting was held three days, and there were nearly three thousand souls present.

We left our house on Saturday, October 23rd, 1904 at 6.30 P. M. to preach the present truth, among the Burmese Christians. We commenced preaching at 8 P. M. till 2 A. M. after midnight. The subjects touched upon were "Man is mortal," "Breath of life," "Soul," "Unconscious state of the dead," "Rich man and Lazarus," "Kingdom of heaven," "Sabbath of the Lord" and the "False Sabbath."

Many were much interested in the truths spoken by us and showed great desire to hear them the whole night. Many said these were new truths to them and expressed astonishment to hear them preached for the first time

as they had never heard of such doctrines in their churches. Some of them said, they had no desire to go after the tradition of man, but that the Bible alone should be taken as the Statute Book of God to show the pathway of everlasting life. One aged man of 60 or 65 years said, I am old now, and cannot live much longer, I will certainly be in danger if I hold to the errors taught in the christian church, and now I must obey the commandments of God, as the present teaching in our churches is not according to the Scripture.

We can see how the Lord our Saviour by His Holy Ghost is opening the hearts of the loved ones amongst hundreds.

MG. MAUNG.

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KARMATAR.

It has been sometime since I reported anything in regard to the work and workers at this place, but that is not because there is nothing to say, but because there is so little time to say all the blessed things that are felt in such blessed glorious work as this.

We are all full of hope and courage. The way never seemed more bright than now. We are all well and enjoying our work.

Miss Whiteis is away for a month's change and Sister James has kindly consented to assist me in the work while she is away, and we are so thankful that the Lord is restoring Sister James to health and strength, (and flesh too.)

There have been some changes in our work since my last report. Sister Fleming, who was here for a time assisting in the work, has taken up her former work again, and is sowing the precious seeds of truth in other places. But her school is carried on very successfully by one of our eldest girls, who will thus soon be fitted for a greater work.

The spiritual life of the whole school is developing daily; and our hearts are made glad to see the seed sown in the past, really growing and bearing fruit.

The garden and outside work are very encouraging. Indeed we know God is blessing every effort put forth, and we expect to see great things accomplished by the Lord speedily in this work.

Last night (Sabbath evening) we had five nice Bengali ladies join us in our evening worship, and they were delighted, and said they would come again. One of our girls read a chapter in Bengali from the Bible, and a number of prayers were offered in their native

tongue, as well as in English. They urge us to go and see them and sing and tell them of Jesus. What more do we want?

We praise the Lord for a part in this work and want to see it triumph; and we are sure we shall, if we are faithful in that which is least.

Pray for us and this work at Karmatar.

With greetings to all the dear brethren and sisters in this great Empire.

Yours in the blessed work and hope,

ANNA KNIGHT.

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CANVASSING EXPERIENCE.

THE present writing finds us at Karmatar, enjoying the great open life of the country.

We left Simla September 20th and after a tiresome journey arrived at Igatpuri. Here we found many waiting for the Oriental Watchman, as they had not been visited for about three years by any of our workers and had lost connections with the paper in different ways.

About 112 families live in this place and out of these, 45 were glad to get the paper for the coming year.

An honest-hearted man with whom we were staying, took much interest in the study of "God's Seal" with those subjects which cluster about it and caused quite an interest by circulating tracts which we loaned him. Just before leaving he took Patriarchs and Prophets.

I canvassed for Object Lessons, a lady whom I met last year at Bombay. She said "I should like the book but wish to renew my subscription for the paper and haven't money for both."

She decided however to take the book and receive the paper V. P. P. the next month.

There is much to encourage the worker in seeing honest hearts gradually come to a knowledge of the truth and "we shall reap in due season if we faint not."

W. O. JAMES.

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A VISIT AT SIMULTALA.

"BLESS the Lord, O, my soul, And forget not all His benefits." Thus wrote the Psalmist under inspiration; thus does the Holy Spirit move upon the servants of the most high God to give utterance to His praises in this our day; and shall we say "Amen," brethren?

I am very truly thankful to our loving Father in heaven for this opportunity of spending a

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th and able to do several hours of work daily. Sister Burgess is canvassing Christ's Object Lessons, the proceeds of which are to go to the work here in India. Mr. Quantock writes, It is a relief to be free from pain again. His discouraging feature is the occasional rise of temperature. The Lord is near by His Spirit as special prayer was offered for him in Washington. We know that many prayers are ascending here in India in their behalf.

Now is the time to circulate our literature. The cold season is upon us making it easy to get about in the plains; from place to place. We are aiming to make the Oriental Watchman speak the message for this time more plainly than ever before, and it should go to every English speaking home in India. What can we all do to largely extend the circulation of the Oriental Watchman this cold season?

It is also the best time of the year to sell our books. Many people are buying gifts for the holidays. What better present can be placed in homes than our different books on points of present truth? Come one, come all, let us do what we can. We are told by the Spirit of Prophecy, that "those who bear the message God gives them will see their efforts crowned with success."

Those who have recently taken hold of the canvassing work have been greatly blessed in their work. Miss Keymer reports over fifty yearly paid subscriptions for the Oriental Watchman besides orders for Good Health and a few books. She has found many doors of inquiry, and openings for real christian help work. She reports one experience in visiting a place where she found a woman in a pitiable condition. The woman had been lying for days with high fever, without a helping hand to relieve her. Miss Keymer saw her need, gave her a bath, and attended to her wants, leaving a paper for her to read when better, scarcely hoping she could afford two rupees. Her heart had been touched and she desired to have more papers and handed out the subscription price gladly. Mrs. Newhouse is now canvassing Khargpore in company with Miss Keymer. In the last three months considerable canvassing has been done in Calcutta and much more must be done during the cold season. Brother Hansen is visiting the boats with literature, and having good success.