

Eastern Tidings.

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BENGALI CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

Brethren J. C. Little, B. N. Mitter, A. C. and L. G. Mookerjee, and the writer attended a Bengali Christian Convention which was held in Gopalgunj in East Bengal. This is where Mrs. Grace Mookerji and her husband started a mission. After they had been there a short time, some of the members of the Scotch mission joined them. This caused the leaders of the other mission some little uneasiness. Bro. Mookerji erected some buildings, and this gave evidence that he had come to stay. Mr. Bose who is at the head of the Scotch mission asked me to have all those who were keeping the Sabbath moved off his land, and advised me to buy land on which to put L. G. Mookerji's converts, claiming that there would be constant trouble between his church members and Mr. Mookerji's. I replied that we were not inducing people to join us by offering them land. When they saw they could not control matters in this way, they called a convention and invited many of the different churches to attend. Forty one delegates came from Calcutta and many others from different villages in East Bengal.

The conference lasted three days. On the last day the Sabbath and Sunday question was to be discussed by five ministers but all were on the same side of the question. They put in about four hours on the subject, trying to prove that the Sabbath had been done away with, and that Sunday had taken its place, but, of course, failed. Dr. Rouse had written a tract on Sunday as the Sabbath, and most of their argu-

ments were taken from it. Each speaker took his turn in abusing Seventh Day Adventists. They accused L. G. Mookerji of using bribes to induce the people to join him. One of the speakers asked the assembly, if they did not approve of such things, to rise to their feet. Almost all stood up. Then the question was asked "What should be done with such a people?" The answer was, "Beat them", and from the stir they made, it looked as though some were ready to carry this suggestion into effect. Another speaker seeing the commotion, arose and said that he was acquainted with some Seventh Day Adventists and had found them to be very good people. He said we should not condemn a new sect until we had tested their religion by the Bible.

This seemed to pour oil on the troubled waters, for the people became quiet again. But he took advantage of the influence he had over them for, as soon as he said a few things to make them laugh, he went at us for all he was worth, and tried to out do others in his abuse.

They decided to have no dealings with us whatever, and tried to carry this out at the close of the meeting, but we were friendly and shook hands with many. If they depended on demonstration to prove that Sunday is the Sabbath, they surely were quite successful. We now have a better idea of what kind of people Bengali Christians are than we ever had before.

It is very evident that those who will live godly in Christ Jesus will some day suffer bitter persecution in India. The

Spirit of Prophecy has warned us that when America enforces the Sunday law every nation will follow in her footsteps, and it is plain to be seen that the dragon voice is already being heard. Let us all work the more faithfully while we have so much freedom that the truth may spread out and its influence reach all India, though our mouths may be stopped.

Tracts against Adventists were distributed during the meeting. They were written in Bengali. We also distributed Bengali tracts at the close of the meeting. Since the meeting some threats have been made that if Bro. Mookerji does not leave Gopalgunj they will burn him out. Is this the voice of Christ or the Dragon?

W. W. MILLER.

THE CONFERENCE MEETING.

We are unable to announce in this issue, the date when the meeting will begin, or how long it will continue. A letter from Eld. Shaw said there was a faint hope that one of the members of the general conference committee would be present. If so, the date will need to be set to suit his plans.

We hope to be able to give full information regarding the meeting in the next issue of this paper. The next issue will appear as soon as we get definite information regarding the date.

Eld. Shaw writes that quite a little company are coming with him, and they hope to be here some time in November. All will need to bring bedding. The Sanitarium will arrange to board most of the delegates. All who wish us to rent rooms for them will please notify us early. If there are those who wish rooms for a longer period than the meeting will last, they should write at once.

All will be expected to pay their room and board.

There will be a reception committee to look after the interest of those who come, but don't expect too much for this is the time of year when rooms are hard to find at a reasonable price. Let us all plan to do what we can to make the meeting a success.

W. W. MILLER.

BURMA.

As the rains set in this season, my climatic trouble of last year returned as promptly. Dysentery is very prevalent in Burma in both the acute and chronic forms. But the advent of the monsoons seems to aggravate the disease. I made straight for a dryer climate, and came to Sagaing, a station nine miles distant from Mandalay.

The temporary improvement from the change of climate was very slight. But I was at least able to be about most of the time, while last year I was confined to bed for some ten weeks. This time, I was not confined to bed for more than six weeks at one time.

After I had been in Sagaing a few days, there came one evening a young man up to my room and asked if I could baptize a young Christian convert. This call resulted in several studies with him, as well as the candidate in question. After a few studies they came no more. My first caller however admitted that the Seventh day was the Sabbath of the Bible. In all I met about a dozen individuals, most of whom are students of the government school.

I believe here is material for work when we shall open work in Upper Burma. A Burmese worker would doubtless do well, for while they have a smattering of English, it is not sufficient to convey to them the great truths of salvation.

Sagaing is one of the four ancient Burman capitals. It is the oldest, having enjoyed that distinction from 1351-1380. Later, Ava, famous for the early experiences and long imprisonment and torture of Dr. Judson. It was to Ava that Judson and fellow-labourers made the memorable expedition which consumed several weeks, and no small amount of money. A river boat having been fitted up and manned by a crew of ten besides the missionaries, who with many presents to pave the way, and open the gates to the "golden feet," and not without a magnificent present for the "Golden Face" himself, left Rangoon for Ava. The present for the king was the English Bible in six volumes, gilded entirely on the outside. Their purpose in this visit was to secure liberty to preach, and make converts to the Christian religion, and liberty in particular for the converts to enjoy their religion.

Their mission proved a failure. The present to the king was spurned; a treatise on Christianity in Burmese was thrown to the floor by the king after the reading of the first sentence. And later, when the British entered Lower Burma, the missionaries were imprisoned, at first in Ava, for eleven months, and in Oung-pen-la, ten months, in both of which places they lay in heavy irons, and at night a bamboo pole was passed between their feet and hoisted up by ropes till only their shoulders touched the ground. Thus in filth, heat and torture, twenty-one long and weary months at last wore away. Then the war ceased and reluctantly the prisoners were liberated.

Directly opposite Ava on the Sagaing side is a hospital, where Mrs. Hansen was taken when she had the cholera. Together, we spent twenty-four days at this hospital, reflecting on the history of Ava.

Following the close of that war king Mindon Min, the father of Theebaw, built Mandalay, after having reoccupied Amarapura for a short time as capital.

Mandalay is a modern city, and during the twenty-five years of British rule has not lost much of its former glory. Indeed the palaces of the kings and queens are very much as though the occupants had been absent for a time while the place was getting in need of general repairs. The "golden" aspect so inseparable from Burmese royalty is quite in evidence at the present time.

There are however many signs of western industry. And there are mighty agencies slowly working and modifying the present generation. The Gospel is meanwhile having its influence. For while old and established customs are remodelled, it is a very opportune time to also change religious opinions.

The Burmans seem to feel that the old ways are not able to keep pace with modern progress and they are taking kindly to the new state of progress and speed. The situation for teaching the Gospel to-day is a thousand times more favorable than in the days of Judson, a half century ago. One involuntarily exclaims in view of all the changing forces working for the better, "What hath God wrought?"

After spending ten weeks in Sagaing Mrs. Hansen was convalescing, and I was somewhat improved in health. Our trials and blessings of God, while there, were of an unusual kind, and will live while memory shall last. We hope that God will some day raise up reapers for Upper Burma, so that many of these much blessed people may be looking with rejoicing for the King of Kings.

At the time when our afflictions had reached the climax, we were much cheered by an unexpected visit from Brother and

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INTERNATIONAL TRACT SOCIETY.

39-1, Free School Street, Calcutta.

Sister Votaw, who were much in need of a little change. Their coming was evidently of divine order, for at the time, we were at our wits' end to find suitable food for Mrs. Hansen, as she was gradually merging back to life.

They were accompanied by Brother Parker, a sabbath-keeping soldier. And as brother Parker is very "handy" about the house as well as in the kitchen, his services were highly appreciated. And when he came to go down to Rangoon the train ran over a bullock before it reached his station, which gave him time to get his train. For, disliking to crowd the departing Sabbath hours, he had but thirty-eight minutes to make six miles after dark. By the accident, the train was delayed long enough for him to reach the track, and signal the train and have it pick him up. He was the happiest man on that train, for this signal blessing of God to him.

We have numberless reasons to be grateful for the goodness of God to our work and workers in this new field,

L. F. HANSEN.

ENCOURAGING WORDS.

Dear Friends,

Kindly continue sending me the Oriental Watchman and send next copy by V. P. P. The death of Christ and the resurrection of the dead—Captives led into Captivity—should be explained. You mind this time last year I wrote saying I was actually raised from the dead, after seeing the dead rise when Christ died. I should like to know more about that saying, "Captives led into Captivity" Some others may hearken. Can I get a bible with large print, not an expensive one; strong and serviceable for every day use on engine, and print

large enough to read at full swing of the engine? The print of the ordinary Bible is too small for a side shake.

Your grateful servant,
(Driver) B. N. Ry.

BOMBAY.

WE read with interest each month the encouraging reports that all are sending, and from Bombay we cannot send any discouraging word for God has blessed us in many ways. We have of late held a few services, which resulted in finding some Bible readers who we hope may in time come into the truth. The enemy is faithful indeed in following up our work; the churches are fully united in one thing, namely, in keeping each other posted as to our moves, and in sparing no means to fight the truth.

Mrs. Hansen and Sister Kurtz and Brother Haga are selling books all the time they can spare. Some orders are also coming in for the papers. Sister Kurtz is selling the most books as she is not known as well yet as an Adventist. The other day a man came and wanted to know if that Miss Kurtz was an "Advent." So they will soon have her booked like the rest of us.

The Sanitarium is doing quite well for a beginning. Patients are coming in and they are getting in among the Parsi people. Mr. Haga goes out and finds the patients and thus opens the way for Dr. Marsh, and thus an entrance is gained, and we hope that in time they will listen to the truth. Many of these people have lots of money and as they are benefitted, they pass the news on to others. They always seem grateful when they are helped.

We are planning to have a series of lectures here this fall, if the Lord wills and we can get help. There is need of some general move to finish up the city, and we always find that meetings aid in finding the honest ones. Pray that our work may bear fruit to the glory of Him who died to redeem all.

C. A. HANSEN.