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Eastern Tidings

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The Eastern Tidings

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W. E. PERRIN, - - EDITOR

South India

SHORTLY after the general meeting, Eld. Prescott made our station a visit, remaining with us from Friday till the following Monday, speaking twice to the public and visiting the various departments of work represented. His counsel and help were much appreciated, and plans were arranged for a more extensive campaign. Our local committee voted to purchase a small piece of land upon which to erect a school and dispensary building and also make provision for a church. It was also thought advisable to open up work in one or two out-stations, thus providing a field of operation for the native workers who have been under instruction the past years.

On his way to Burma, Eld. Prescott stopped one day in Trichinopoly accompanied by Eld. Lowry and myself, where we counselled with our native believers stationed there. These brethren have been beseeching us to open up the work in that important centre of heathenism. It was thought best to secure a building for meetings and Bible study, and add one of the native brethren who is a splendid Bible teacher, to our working force. We hope that matters will develop so that Trichinopoly will become another

central station for our work in the future

The last five weeks Brother Thomas has been carrying forward evening Bible services for the public, which have been well attended. At the close of these meetings we shall have a number ready for baptism, after which we hope to organize a church.

The last few days we have been very busy in closing up a land purchase and getting deeds registered. We now have land sufficient for our building needs, and as soon as the harvest is gathered we shall begin putting up our school. All our workers are enjoying the blessing of health and strength, and are of good courage in their work. This month we hope to send out our first native canvasser and colporteur. We all desire to be remembered in your prayers, as you are in ours.

J. S. JAMES.

First Sabbath-school in South India

For several months we have seen and felt the need of a Sabbath-school for our people at this station. But for good reasons it was not deemed advisable to start this school for some time. However, after returning home from the general meeting, and getting the work in hand, we decided to organize our people into a Sabbath-school. Consequently, Sabbath, January 7, the first Sabbath of the new year, instead of having a regular sermon as we usually do, we began what we call in Tamil, a *oevunal pallavidum*, or Sabbath-school. When we divided the school up into classes we found we

had seven classes with 79 students, ranging all the way from small children seven or eight years of age to old men and women.

At first we were a little afraid that the older ones might object to coming to anything that is called a school, because they generally consider that the school is a place for children only; but they did not seem to object and rather enjoyed sitting down and studying the Bible for a while together. Since we have nothing in the way of Sabbath-school lessons prepared in Tamil, we have been somewhat puzzled to know just what to do. However, for the present we are studying the Life of Christ. We expect to make a thorough study of his life and works as recorded in the gospels. We feel that this will be especially helpful to the people.

G. G. LOWRY.

Madras

IN paying a visit at a friend's house we sat out in her verandah. The street is narrow, and looking across at the opposite house I saw a very tall and very emaciated man stand for a minute or two at his window. I can not express how forlorn and ill he appeared, and I felt that I must go and see if he needed some one to help him in any way. But everyone warned me not to go, that he was ill, but wanted no one, and would surely insult me and bid me leave. But something within kept telling me to go. I did not go that evening, as it was late, and then came some very wet weather. Still a strong impression kept this man before my mind, and the first fair day I went to his door and knocked. A weak voice said, "Come in." I opened and entered, and he took my visit very quietly. At first I hardly knew what to do or say, but I walked up to the lounge chair where he was, took his hand in mine, and said,

"God bless you" as brightly and cheerfully as I could. After chatting a short time, I took my leave, when he asked me to come again soon. Next time I went he told me that he did not wish to deceive me, so he wished me to know that people called him an infidel, a spiritualist. He said he had not been to church for twenty-eight years, and was an opium eater. When the awful pain was in his legs they were inflamed and he was a mad man, quite unaccountable for what he said or did. "Now," Mrs. Owen, "are you afraid?" he asked. I said, "No." "Will you come again?" "Yes." Then he said when I walked in the first time not knowing what I should find, something in the way I said "God bless you" took hold of his heart. For so long he had not heard such words. Then he wanted to know what church I belonged to. When I told him he said that if when I walked in I had thrust my church and its belief down his throat he would not have seen me again. As it was, the salutation went deep in, and he wanted to learn about us.

The visits are growing more and more interesting; for he seems to eagerly drink in all that I can give him of God's truth. If it is God's will, I hope to lead this poor soul back to faith in the love of the One who died for him. He learns fast and questions much. I go twice a week to see a lady who has been ill seven months, and since my first visit (I was sent for by her people) she has steadily improved. Pray for me, that I may have health and strength and faith in the might and power of God.

MRS. A. C. OWEN.

West India

IN company with Mrs. Shaw, I took a trip to the Bombay side last month, visiting Poona, Lonalva, and Panvel. Poona is a very pleasant semi-hill station locat-

ed in the Western Ghats. We found Brother and Sister Enoch and Brother and Sister Kelsey pleasantly located; they have a very desirable bungalow. Brother and Sister Kelsey were busy with language study, and Brother and Sister Enoch were making preparations to move to Panvel. We spent three or four days looking about Poona, getting acquainted with the station, and visiting the native part of the city. We were very much pleased to see the thrift and enterprise to be observed in the native part. It shows that India's sons are waking up to the advantages of Western ideas.

We spent one day at Pundita Ramabai's school, which is not far from Poona. She has about 1,400 women, mostly widows. In connection with the school are a number of industries which give work to the girls. There is a weaving plant where 175 girls are kept busy weaving sarees. The looms in use are not the latest pattern, and the amount of work accomplished is not large considering the number of girls employed. They are not able to weave enough sarees for use of the mission. We saw some very nice needle-work which is done in a separate department. About 250 are engaged in this. A printing plant is also operated at the mission, and nearly all the work is done by women, even to the operating of the cylinder presses and caring for the engine.

There are more than twenty European workers connected with the mission. We had an interview with Ramabai. She finds industrial work a great advantage in providing employment for the girls, but so far has been unable to make it a success financially. We saw a large number of the girls in school. They have no school house, but use the large church for school purposes, which consists of one large room with accommodation for

1,500 or 2,000 native people. No doubt a good work is carried forward for native women at Mukti.

Elder Enoch gave Ramabai our first tract printed in Marathi, a chapter taken from "Steps to Christ." She seemed to appreciate it very much, and said she would like to have the other chapters as they are printed.

We spent one day visiting Lonavla, which is a little more than an hour's ride on the train from Poona toward Bombay. Lonavla has an elevation of more than 2,000 feet. It is a very pleasant station, cooler than Poona, but the rain fall is much heavier. The Missionary Alliance have here a rest home for missionaries. We met two sisters who had recently begun to observe the Sabbath. A meeting was held at the home of one of these sisters the day we were there. Sister Hanson, who accepted the truth in Mussoorie, has been stopping at Lonavla during the cool season. We also met Brother Bulwantro, who accepted the Sabbath some time ago. He is a missionary, at one time being associated with a European brother who is now dead. Before dying, this brother willed to Brother Bulwantro about 10,000 rupees with which to carry on mission work. With the interest on this, a small school has been maintained and evangelistic work continued in Lonavla. Since learning of the Sabbath he has expressed his desire to unite with our mission and work with us as a self-supporting worker. He has two or three promising looking sons, who we hope will develop into useful workers.

In looking over the station, it seemed to us that a wise choice has been made in choosing Lonavla as a mission station. It has a good climate, a population of about 8,000 or 10,000 people, and villages

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EASTERN TIDINGS is published the 15th of each month, and all copy should be received not later than the 10th.

Printed by W. E. Perrin, at the Watchman Press, 19 Banks Road, Lucknow.

—BROTHER AND SISTER BRUCE left recently to investigate conditions at Najibabad and again take up work in the Garhwal.

—We learn that Misses Reid and Wagner are now pleasantly located at Rachel Lodge, Apollo Bunder, Bombay, which location overlooks the sea.

—MRS. BRUCE, accompanied by Edna and Laura Reagan, passed through Lucknow Sunday on her way to Mussoorie to assist in the school arrangements.

—DR. AND MRS. MENKEL went to Mussoorie two weeks ago to complete arrangements for their return home. They are now in Bhopal State, giving assistance in medical work being carried on by the Begam. We understand they expect to sail from Bombay March 11th.

—ANNFIELD HOUSE is taking on scenes of activity early this year, Elder and Mrs. Shaw and Brother Weeks having arrived several days ago to look after the Sanitarium property and make arrangements for the opening of our school. They write that it is cool in the hills, but very pleasant.

—JUST after last month's TIDINGS was printed a letter was received from Sister Bruce requesting that the prize offer be withdrawn, for the reason that further study of the Testimonies showed that such a course was not advisable in Sabbath-school work. Therefore, all should remember that the offer is withdrawn.

—WORD from Elder and Mrs. Miller indicate a fairly pleasant voyage as far as Port Said, notwithstanding some rough weather just after leaving Bombay and a very cold passage through the Red Sea. Brother Miller found he was not yet free from the effects of the sun and was endeavouring to be very careful that another attack should not come on. William had added interest to the journey by hanging his feet out of the port hole.

West India

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extending in various directions. A gigantic scheme of damming up water in the Ghats is now under head-way. With this water falling over the Ghats, electricity will be generated for various purposes in Bombay, including the operation of large cotton mills. This will bring a large number of native people into the station. The fact that some have already embraced the truth is another reason for believing that Lonavla is a place to build up work. Other societies have done comparatively nothing in or about the station, so it is now almost an open field.

The territory which has been decided upon by the committee for carrying on work stretches from Lonavla to Panvel, a distance of thirty miles, and the country is well populated. The territory, however, on the plains west of the Ghats ~~reaching down to the sea~~, unfortunately does not have a healthy climate, especially in the rains, when fever is prevalent. This being true, Lonavla being in the hills at an elevation of about 2,000 feet, will form an excellent refuge for our workers when malaria rages at Panvel and other stations.

We spent Friday and Sabbath at Panvel, reaching there by way of boat from Bombay. Brother Enoch has been very fortunate in getting a splendid bungalow to live in at Panvel; it is the property of a Parsee who only goes to the town once or twice a year and then only for a short time. It has ample room and considerable furniture in it, and the rent is moderate. It is well situated on a well travelled thorough-fare. Panvel has a population of about 10,000 people and many villages near by.

We believe that a strong work will be built up on the Bombay side.

J. L. SHAW.