

The Eastern Tidings

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The Eastern Tidings

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CONFERENCE TALKS BY PROFESSOR SALISBURY

At the opening session of the conference on Thursday evening, Nov. 14, after the address by Eld. J. L. Shaw, Professor Salisbury occupied an hour in bringing to the attention of the workers assembled the providence of God in connection with the advance of the message in all the earth, especially in regard to the leading of the Spirit of Prophecy in the establishment of the work in new places and centres. The statement was made and substantiated by illustrations from all parts of the world, that every great success in our work had been outlined by the Spirit of Prophecy long before it had been attained in fact. The opening of the work in the Middle West and the Pacific Coast, as well as in later years of the work in the South; the opening and development of the work in Europe, Australia, and the mission fields were cited. There was also brought to our attention the providences of God in the work at Loma Linda and elsewhere in Southern California; the opening of the work in Watford, England; Avondale, Australia; and other centres in foreign lands. This thought, begun in the first service, was continued in several of the after services, bringing out the lessons of God's leading in the Old

Testament and early church history, the promises for the latter rain, and our hope in their fulfillment to us as a people.

In several of the morning services, Professor Salisbury took up the spiritual development necessary in the ministry and gospel workers for the present time, reading from "Acts of the Apostles," and from Dr. Jefferson's book "Quiet Hints to Young Preachers," and making brief and instructive comments on each.

On Sunday evening, Nov. 17, at Theatre Royal, the lecture on "The Balkan Crisis in the Light of Prophecy" was largely attended, something more than five hundred people being present and listening attentively to the discourse. Covering briefly the history involved in the eleventh chapter of Daniel, the Professor carried his hearers down to the development of the present sick condition of the Turkish Empire when it became a patient in the hands of the European powers on Aug. 11, 1840, and then, in a quiet hush, in which you could have heard a pin drop, he outlined in detail, yet briefly, the circumstances which had led through war with Russia, Greece, and the Balkan states separately, to the present conflict between the Confederate States and the Turks. In closing, attention was called to the import of these struggles and conflicts in view of the prophecy to be fulfilled close upon the departure of the Ottoman from Europe, the coming of the Son of Man after a time of trouble and turmoil such as the world has never seen. Especially impressive was this made to our own workers and people because of the work set before us which must be finished before that time.

Among the points emphasized in the morning talks, the following are noted:—

The necessity of the power of God's Holy Spirit in our work on behalf of others as it was manifest among the Apostles and early believers. "Acts of the Apostles," page 40.

More feeling of responsibility for the souls around us; more sympathy in our relation to them both in the church and in their homes.

Making use of every legitimate means provided by modern methods and science in the promulgation of our message.

The possibilities for labour on the part of Christian laymen distinct from pulpit and public labour; the influence of example in shop, office, and home life.

The necessity in our schools of that atmosphere which will unconsciously turn the mind of the pupils towards Christ and God.

Every visit we make should so influence those to whom we go that they will feel that the messenger of God has been in their home.

Keep cheap, trifling conversation out of our lives as not representative of the message which we bear.

Our language should be chaste, and so far as possible, adapted to our surroundings, not peculiarly national in its setting.

The disciples after their baptism were no longer ignorant and uncultured fishermen of Galilee, but cultured men who spoke with purity their own and the languages in which they laboured.

Let every quotation, every statement, we make in our public or private discourse or labour be fully authenticated, to make sure we are correctly representing the facts.

Study to so develop our linguistic ability that the ideas we desire to express may flow easily from our lips because

we have filled our mind with a fountain of purest knowledge.

Fullness of diction comes only after such a thirst for learning as was manifest in Lincoln's early search for knowledge, a longing always present but never fully satisfied.

For the ministry: carefulness in dress that we may show no manifest peculiarities; a careful correction of all our mistakes in speech and manner,—never mispronouncing but being sure of our pronunciation before going before the people (applicable both in the English and the vernaculars); a constant search for the best in our language; stories of a light character never to be used; meeting the men of this world as messengers of God, not men of the world; never pompous; never loud; not peculiar; look our congregation in the face; use the lower tones of the voice more, the higher tones less.

The last Sunday evening of the conference, Professor Salisbury gave a most interesting talk on the development of our work in all the world, relating some experiences in connection with its rise in Europe which were full of encouragement and hope to all present. Of these we hope to say more later.

CHRISTMAS

I FEEL impressed to write a few lines on the subject of Christmas. Long before I became a Sabbath-keeper I had learned the origin of Christmas, that it came from paganism; and I think it can not be pleasing to the Lord if a Seventh-day Adventist in any way encourages or countenances the keeping of the day. I say "in any way," because there are some who though not regarding it as a religious festival look upon it as "holiday," and do not mind sending cards, or allowing their children to receive gifts on the day.

Some people, I do not mean Adventists, think that, in spite of Christmas having originated from a heathen custom, there is no sin in keeping it. Daniel did not follow that line of reasoning when he refused to eat and drink from the king's table. Shall we compromise? As it is a false institution, a plant not of our Heavenly Father's planting, let us leave it alone, and not water it. Let us be consistent and careful not to drive in the thin end of the wedge. Keeping Christmas is following the Papacy, as is keeping Sunday. Some may say the occasion gives pleasure to children, that it is a joyous, happy time in giving gifts, etc. Would that not be putting our children before our Maker? We should please the Lord first. "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

Just as a Christian would not take part in Mohurrum or any other heathen festival, so should he not participate in Christmas. The children of Israel before were God's peculiar people, and the Lord's people now should be different from those around them.

C. M. GREGORY.

Field Reports

DACCA, EAST BENGAL

THE rich blessings of our late conference have been continued even more abundantly as I have returned to the field with our message-filled literature. Many times I have had to recognize God's special leading as I have sought for interested souls. I have found an unusual number who greet the *Oriental Watchman* as an old friend. A Roman Catholic priest purchased "Christ's Object Lessons" along with health literature for the library of his large Higher English school.

A head master, a Hindu, took "Object Lessons," and still another, also a Hindu, took "Heralds of the Morning" for his school. I show some of our religious literature to everybody, and am often surprised to see how it is accepted. The humble canvasser, as perhaps no other gospel worker, is permitted to see how the Spirit of God is at work in most unexpected ways and places. Altogether, this has been my banner week for 1912, with cash sales of Rs. 145-7. I am real well, of good courage in the Lord, and so thankful for a place in his work.

F. O. RAYMOND.

CENTRAL INDIA

THE greater part of last month (October) was spent working the towns on the B. N. Ry. from Calcutta towards Bombay. At every station I saw results of previous canvassing. Some were still getting the papers and were glad to renew their subscription, and many more subscribed for the first time. The people realize that these good magazines contain a message for them. It is too bad that we can not have more canvassers, so that these people can be visited oftener.

At Nagpur I had many rich experiences. God surely prepared the way before me. This being the headquarters of the Central Provinces, I met some of the leading officers who entered their names for the *Watchman*. As the water constantly dropping on the stone makes an impression, I think the *Watchman* coming into so many homes will surely have some effect. Let us pray to that end. During the eight days that I worked there, a special series of lectures was in progress, and the people were well warned against "harmful literature"; still, some would take it. When we remember that this work is of God; we need not fear the power of man.

P. A. RICK.

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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, 17, Abbott Road, Lucknow.

—BRO. C. C. BELGRAVE and wife wrote us from England that they were to sail from London, November 30, and expected to arrive in Calcutta early in January.

—MRS. SHAW and Mrs. Mattison have been spending some time canvassing in Calcutta since conference. They report some interesting experiences, with an encouraging number of orders for *Oriental Watchman* and *Herald of Health* as a result.

—A LETTER from Eld. W. C. White tells of the earnest efforts which Sister White and her associates are making in getting together matter from her writings on different phases of Old Testament history from Solomon to Malachi. Notwithstanding the fact that Sister White has reached her eighty-fifth year, she still continues to write with clearness.

—THE new mission bungalow at Karmatar presents a pleasing and substantial appearance. The workers' houses, dispensary, and school house will soon be plastered, and the premises will then begin to take on a finished appearance. There are many features about the location of the work at Karmatar that indicate the advisability of making it a training centre for work in Bengal.

—PROFESSOR Salisbury, since the bi-ennial conference has visited the work at Gopalgunge, Karmatar, Lucknow, and Mussoorie. He sails for Burma on the 19th of December. We feel certain that he leaves Indian shores with a larger interest in India and the cause of truth in this land. His sympathetic interest in the various lines of work, together with his timely words of encouragement and counsel, have been of much help to all our workers, and while he wends his way round the world he can carry the assurance that many friends in India wish him God's speed on his journey and in his labours in other lands.

—If any of our workers or others have any pointed statements concerning India or the work in India or Burma that would be suitable for the Bi-ennial Conference Number, send such to the Editors of EASTERN TIDINGS, and we shall use what is available.

—The current number of *Oriental Watchman* is fully up to standard. The first cover page is especially pleasing, while the whole paper is well illustrated. The circulation of the *Watchman* is increasing, and efforts are being made to improve the paper month by month.

—A MINORITY meeting of the Advisory Board and International Tract Society Board is being held at Lucknow, after which Pastor Shaw and Professor Salisbury will go to Calcutta.

Bi-ennial Conference Number

THE January number of "Eastern Tidings" will be a Bi-ennial Conference Number. It will consist of thirty-two pages, and will have the reports of various sections of the field and departments of the work as presented at the conference in Calcutta. It will contain matter that will be of special interest to our people in America, and be illustrated with fifteen or twenty pictures of our mission stations of which photographs have been taken.

We believe such a number of the paper will be helpful to our people in various parts of the world, and will strengthen their interest in the cause in India, and we hope it may have a wide circulation. We are sure that our workers especially will desire a supply of this Bi-ennial Conference Number of the "Eastern Tidings" for use among their friends in America, and it will therefore be furnished at the rate of twelve annas a dozen copies. In order that we may know how many to print, orders for the number of copies desired should be sent in to the International Tract Society not later than January 15.