

The Eastern Tidings

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THE CHANGE OF THE SABBATH

WHAT to me was an interesting letter was sent to two of our ministers in America, and printed in the *South-western Union Record*. They were holding a series of meetings, and when they preached on the Sabbath question an old gentleman who was a Roman Catholic wrote to his son to ask the priest about the question. His son's letter is given below just as he wrote to his father:—

Alton, Ill., December 23rd, 1913.

Dear Father, I will now answer your letter relating to the change of the Sabbath-day from Saturday to Sunday.

At a meeting of the young men's Sodality yesterday, I asked Father Tarrent to explain this matter clearly. This was done, said the priest, because the Church (Catholic) has this power as promised by Jesus Christ, and in this instance she made use of the power given her. This is due to the infallibility of the church when teaching doctrine of Faith or Morals. When Christ founded the church, he promised that he would stand by her and see that she did not err as stated above. Then he said to his apostles "Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Therefore, you see that he gave the church power to do as she has done, and so long as such is declared to the world as doctrine of Faith or Morals he has given the Church the authority of being infallible in her teachings.

The reason given for the change is mainly that it appears the greatest mysteries happen on Sunday, such as the rising from the grave, etc., and in commemoration of these, and probably for many other reasons, the Church seemed very much justified in making this change, as it was in her power to do so anyway.

Well, I am not sure whether you can understand this from my explanation or not. I have tried to make it as plain as I could, but my knowledge of such matters is so small, compared with that of Father Tarrent, that I can not

begin to discuss the matters as plain as he can. I should have taken this matter up sooner but never had a good opportunity until at the meeting Sunday evening.

Father Tarrent says that denominations believing in the Bible alone, if they do not mean to believe in the Catholic Church's teachings, should keep holy the Saturday instead of Sunday. But it seems that the majority of them acknowledge, or at least, practise, that part of the Catholic religion to observe the Sunday instead of the Saturday. I believe it is the Seventh-day Adventists who speak of this point strongly (observing Saturday) but whether they do it in reality I do not know positively.

I must close for tonight.

Your son,

Joe Springman

This answer might perhaps satisfy one who follows "the tradition of the Fathers," but would have no weight with those whose rule of faith is the inspired word of God.

H. R. SALISBURY.

SUMMER COUNCIL OF ADVISORY BOARD

THE summer council of the advisory board of the India Union Mission was held April 8-15, 1914. Six members, Pro Salisbury, Pastors Votaw, Enoch, and W. E. Perrin, were

permanent secretary, W. E. Perrin being appointed to the place. Perhaps the first matter of general importance considered was that of the time and location of the general meeting to be held next fall. Elder Daniells is expected to be present at this meeting, and in view of the date of his arrival, together with the itinerary which it seems might be best for him to follow in visiting the different parts of the field, it was decided to hold the meeting in Calcutta, December 18-28. A committee of five, Prof. Salisbury, Pastors French and Comer, Mrs. Reagan, and Brother Hardinge, was appointed to make all necessary arrangements for the meeting, provide accommodations for those attending, etc. Prof. Salisbury and Pastor Wellman were constituted a committee on programme for the meeting. Other actions were:—

That we organize a mission church of isolat-

That Miss Scholz be transferred from Bengal to North India, to labour among the Hindi-speaking population.

That Mrs. S. A. Wellman take up the work of Sabbath-school secretary, Mrs. Bruce having found it impossible to carry on the work in addition to her duties at the Annfield School.

That, because of the great need of maintaining the subscription lists of the *Oriental Watchman* and *Herald of Health*, Brother Attison, before beginning language study, roughly canvass Ceylon for these journals, starting in that island on the completion of his work in Bombay.

bi-ennial meeting, in December, 1914, sufficient funds can be added thereto to provide land and necessary buildings, fully equip the same, and allow a surplus for initial running expenses and that in event of the money not being raised to make the above plan feasible, the disposition of the Rs. 25,000 be referred to the coming bi-ennial meeting of the India Union Mission.

That we aim at a circulation of 30,000 copies of the next temperance number of the *Watchman*.

That our English colporteurs be located in definite sections of the field under the direction of the field agent in counsel with the local superintendents.

That efforts be made to develop local believers into active literature workers in their localities, both for our periodicals and books.

That a list of forty-per-cent books be prepared by the Tract Society Board similar in scope to that now used in America, which in connection with our periodicals may be devoted to this purpose.

That this work be so planned that the efforts of our regular canvassers and our local believers will not conflict but rather tend to strengthen each other.

That all our forty-per-cent books be open to the use of our workers throughout this field, at the regular discount.

That a call be made for two additional canvassers, preferably single men, one for Burma and one for North India.

That our canvassers be advised to put in only thirty hours weekly during the intensely hot season, if on the plains; and that as far as possible they work in the semi-hill or hill stations during the hottest months.

That we aim at 3,000 as a standard circulation for the *Oriental Watchman*, and 4,000 for *Herald of Health*.

Whereas, The time has come when the demands of a growing work call for the better training and preparation of those Indians who are engaged in evangelical, canvassing, and teaching work; and,

Whereas, It is the consensus of opinion of this committee that a central training school would answer the purpose for such preparation in those workers whom we expect to bear responsibilities in the work and have a fair knowledge of English as a basis for such training; therefore,

We recommend, That the Mission Board be requested to set aside in the year 1915 one thirteenth Sabbath offering of our Sabbath-

schools in America to this purpose; and, further,

We recommend, That a committee be appointed to study the location, and that we call for one teacher in addition to those already appointed to the work.

We recommend, That the chair appoint a committee of two, in addition to himself, who shall be empowered to actively plan for such a school, its buildings, equipment, course of study, and teaching force, and that this small committee shall so arrange its plans as to begin the work of the school as early in 1915 as possible, if necessary, in quarters rented temporarily for the purpose, but that permanent buildings, fully equipped, be provided as soon as finances permit.

Many other items were also taken up: among which were the making up of the budget for 1915; the beginning of work in the Punjab, where doors have been thrown open to us, and calls made for help which we can not ignore; and how to increase the output of our publishing house. Much study was given the most important problem of all, that of how a larger harvest of souls may be gathered in as a result of our work.

Perplexing questions came up for consideration, but harmony and good will were seen in all deliberations, and in every plan of importance, unanimity of action. In fact, all attending testified that it was the most harmonious board meeting in which they ever took part. A spirit of courage was felt in the ultimate triumph of the message in India, and of confidence in each other in the trials and burdens of the work; and all went away to their several fields believing that the tide is about to turn and an enlargement of the work to be seen.

W. E. PERRIN, *Sec.*

"I BELIEVE in work, hard work, and long hours of work. Men do not break down from overwork, but from worry and dissipation."—*Charles E. Hughes.*

Home Missionaries

WHAT OUR BOOKS ARE DOING

THE vice-president of the Epworth League of Montana, U. S. A., and local elder of the Butte Methodist Church, found a copy of "Great Controversy" in his father's library. It had been there more than a year, but he had not seen it before, and none of the family had read it. A few pages convinced him that it contained truth, and, noticing the name of the publishers in the back, he wrote the Pacific Press for several tracts. These came in due time, together with a kind letter thanking him for the order and suggesting that he could secure other literature from the tract society at Bozeman. He did so, but kept reading "Controversy," until one Sabbath morning he came downstairs and informed his astonished father that he was going to keep the day.

Monday morning he went to his employer, the owner of a large wholesale grocery, and told him of his decision and the reason for it. After listening closely, the owner told him he had never discharged a man because of his religious convictions, and was not going to begin with him. Three weeks after this experience found him ready for baptism.—*Pacific Recorder.*

A WORKING CHURCH

PASTOR WM. COVERT, in the *Lake Union Herald*, U. S. A., told about a good working church: He said: "As I was in the western part of the conference, I visited the Galesburg church and held three meetings. We found that the members had been doing evangelistic work among their neighbours, and as a result a number of persons had become obedient to the faith. I baptised six of these, who became members of the church.

There are also six or eight more who could not get ready for the baptismal rite when I was at Galesburg, and they made request that I return in three weeks to baptise them. I hope to comply with this request.

“How good it is to see a working church who can gather in members for the fold of Christ by holding cottage meetings and by doing Bible work even though a preacher is not located among them.

“Our excellent printed mater, handled by an earnest and consecrated people, becomes mighty through God to the accomplishment of great things. Let our people take the truth in printed form and supplement the same with well conducted Bible lessons, and they will surely come with rejoicing, bringing the ripened sheaves.”

In General

AMONG OUR MISSION STATIONS Burma

At the close of our general meeting with the workers at Najibabad, I went to Burma to attend the bi-ennial meeting. Arriving three days before the meeting, I took advantage of the time to visit the place where our brethren in Burma hope to secure a station for work among the Sgaw Karens. In company with Pastors Votaw and Hamilton, I went to Penwe-gon, 124 miles from Rangoon on the main line to Mandalay, arriving at 11 p. m. By midnight, a bullock cart had been procured, and we started through the jungle for Kyaukkyi, 18 miles away. Three of us in the cart without springs, with all our luggage, made sleeping rather difficult. At half past three in the morning we came to a river, where we left our bullock cart and were ferried across in a very narrow, native canoe

made from a log. On the other side of the river we got another bullock cart, and reached Kyaukkyi at eight o'clock. This town is most favourably situated for mission work, being the centre of the Sgaw Karen country, accessible by cart in the dry season and by boat in the wet season. There is a good bazaar and post and telegraph office. We looked carefully over the land which the brethren hope to get for a station. Brother and Sister Hamilton and Miss Gibbs are anxious to begin work among the Karens, and I hope they will soon be located; for it is evident to those who know these people, and the success attending the efforts of other missionaries from the days of Judson, that the message of a soon-coming Saviour will find a place in many hearts.

The Burma meeting extended over five days, and was attended by all the workers and several lay members. A service of Bible study and prayer was held in English each morning at eight, and in Burmese at eleven. The afternoons were given to committee work, and the evenings to services, which were well attended, for the public.

At the close of the meeting, I went with Brethren Votaw and Williams to visit the new station among the Pwo Karens, forty miles above Moulmein, on the Salween river. Brother Williams owns his own property, which is well located for work both among the Pwo Karens and the Burmese. We crossed the river, and walked ten miles into the jungle to visit two families of Karen Sabbath-keepers, our first-fruits among this people. These were baptized about two years ago by Brother Votaw. They have remained faithful, and are letting their light shine. They are, of course, greatly encouraged to have Brother Williams begin work in their midst, and

I feel confident that in a little time there will be gathered out a large number of Karens keeping all the commandments of God.

I enjoyed meeting again with the brethren and sisters in Burma. Brother Votaw has associated with him a united and zealous company of workers who love the message, and who are labouring untiringly for its success.

Calcutta

On my return from Burma I spent four days, including Sabbath, with the workers in Calcutta. On Tuesday night I spoke to the Bengali students in the hall in College Square. I was pleased to find nearly one hundred men present as I spoke on Present-day Omens. Brethren Watson and Poley, who have the meetings in charge, are greatly encouraged with the results thus far, for they are able to give the message to a class which has not been reached heretofore. Brother Poley's health talks are well received, and last week, when Brother Watson spoke on "the Coming of Christ," the *Bengalee*, with its large circulation, printed more than a column, giving the Scripture references used. This paper has also given very excellent reports of the lectures by Pastor French and Brother Poley, thus bringing these important truths to a large number of educated Bengalis who do not attend.

The Punjab

After three days in the office, I went with Brother Wellman to the Punjab to meet those who are interested in our work and who have been calling for a missionary to come and give them further instruction. We are too little acquainted with the people and the conditions to determine what will come from this opening; but I can report a most cordial reception by Brother Samuels, the native missionary in charge, and by those whose villages we visited. It was my first trip

to the Punjab, and I was most favourably impressed with the people and the country. These who are asking to be taught our message are all farmers, and while most of them are poor, they are industrious. These villages are forty miles from Lahore, and I found many of the people suffering for lack of medical attention; so, on our return, we stopped at Najibabad and arranged with Dr. Mann to spend two weeks among them. He is now with them, and will doubtless have an interesting report to bring back. At our spring council, which will be in session when this goes to press, the needs of this new mission field will be carefully considered.

H. R. SALISBURY.

NOTES BY THE WAY

WHILE in Burma, I was glad to meet Brother and Sister Beckner after their return from their furlough and attending the general conference. Their trip took them around the world. Brother Beckner was soon at work, and I give below a report I jotted down of what he did in twenty-four days:—

621	yearly subscriptions for Burmese quarterly	Rs. 232	14
45	" " " Chinese monthly	67	8
32	" " " Tamil quarterly	12	0
29	" " " Hindi "	10	14
26	" " " Urdu "	9	12
13	" " " Bengali "	4	14
363	single copies of these periodicals	33	1
	Total,	Rs. 370	14

Moung Nge, one of the Burmese boys from the school at Meiktila, worked with Brother Beckner for nineteen days and took 132 yearly subscriptions for the Burmese paper and sold other literature making a total of Rs. 56. His commission for the time was Rs. 19-8.

The meeting hall in Rangoon, wherewe have held services for nine years has just been done over, re-seated with new, comfortable chairs, this done at considerable expense and all borne by the members of the church. One young man who travels for a large fire insurance company and is allowed second class fare, travelled third class and gave the money to the church.

I found the Treatment Rooms in Calcutta prospering. Brother Reagan said that the week I passed through on my way to Burma he had given the largest number of treatments for

one day in the history of the institution. He had treated eighteen persons, for which he received Rs. 65. The month of February of this year has been the best February the Treatments Rooms have ever had. Among those who received treatments were H. H. the Aga Khan, two judges of the High Court, several leading barristers, army officers, and wealthy merchants.

H. R. SALISBURY.

West India Mission

G. F. ENOCH, - SUPERINTENDENT

BOMBAY

SINCE our school work closed at Mussoorie, we have been in Bombay, and have felt it a privilege to be here where we first laboured in India. Then we were the only ones in this great city; now we are associated with quite a band of workers in warning the people here of our Lord's soon return. God has greatly blessed my efforts for our magazines. I find our old subscribers are pleased with the journals. This has been especially true of *Oriental Watchman*. Very few of them have refused thus far. Only yesterday I met a man who subscribed in 1912. When I showed him the paper again he said, "You will find my name on your lists. I renewed as soon as my subscription expired, and shall continue to do so." I also met an ex-missionary yesterday, who subscribed in February. She told me that she had seen no magazine in India like the *Watchman*. She and her daughter read every word of the February issue and then sent it to her son in England.

The Lord has given me wonderful success with the police. I have secured fifteen or twenty subscriptions thus far from the force. One police quarters I canvassed last week contains five families. I am glad to say that *Oriental Watchman* will come to each family in the quarters for one year. The Lord gives me many

precious experiences every day. We are of the best of courage in his service.

I might say that my cash sales for any week, except two during which I worked only part time, have not been less than Rs. 85. The total number of subscriptions obtained for both periodicals since January 1 has been about five hundred.

Remember to pray for the work in Bombay. We are glad to see the reports of progress from the different parts of India and Burma. M. M. MATTISON.

Bengal Mission

W. R. FRENCH, - SUPERINTENDENT

EAST BENGAL

I MAY say that East Bengal, although a hard field for the literature work, presents some encouraging features. About thirteen or fourteen families have begun keeping the Sabbath during the last few months. This result has been accomplished by distributing our papers and tracts and securing orders for our periodicals, whether small or great. But it is evident that if workers wish to have success in the canvassing field, much depends upon faithfulness and consecration to the work.

I am glad to say that our paper, *Yuga Lakshan*, is a grand missionary in East Bengal, as are the other quarterlies in other parts of the field. A few days since, a friend, a man of position in government service, requested me to take orders for the paper among his men. He is a subscriber, and said he would try to secure forty or fifty subscriptions for the paper. Is it not a matter for wonder that God is preaching his message by means of unbelievers? I hope to be able to take more orders for *Yuga Lakshan* this year, and trust that with the help of Brother and Sister Kellar our work may be strengthened and many souls brought from heathen darkness into the light of the gospel.

P. C. DAY.

COLLEGE SQUARE MEETINGS

THE workers in Calcutta are grateful for continued indications that the Lord's hand is leading in the giving of the message to the educated native people of Bengal. The writer was recently asked by the head master of the Athenæum school of seven hundred boys to give a weekly address at the institution to the senior students, and already two lectures have been given.

The meetings in College Square reveal no signs of declining attendance or interest. About seventy or eighty educated Bengali gentlemen were present last week at Brother Watson's presentation of the glorious condition which will prevail in the new earth and the splendours of the golden city. A few days after the publication of a full column report of this lecture in the *Indian Daily News*, the *Amritsar Bazaar Patrika*, and the *Bengali*, daily papers, a young Hindu wrote Brother Watson that his uncle had read the report in the *Daily News*, and, feeling that what had been said was right and timely, had asked him to write him (Brother Watson). I quote as follows: "Everyone who reads is sure to appreciate it highly. He said that he would have a talk with you on the matter when you would have the pleasure to see him. . . He will be glad to see you at your very early convenience. He has strictly ordered me and my brother to attend your meetings from Tuesday next."

The papers have been very good to us. We first found the way to their columns by our health principles. Two of the Calcutta daily papers never fail to publish everything we send them.

The report referred to in my second paragraph also contained Brother Watson's remarks on the true Eden Sabbath and the mistake that is now being made in observing Sunday, together with a number of Scriptural references setting forth important doctrinal points. Thus the message is being borne by the daily press to the homes of the educated throughout Bengal, without any expense

to us; for the newspapers are largely circulated in the principal mofussil stations.

The presentation of health and temperance subjects has a place in our work, and after a lecture given last Tuesday on "The Effects of Modern Tea Drinking," a respectable elderly gentleman stated his intention to abstain from the use of tea from the day following.

We ask all to remember this effort in prayer. P. C. POLBY.

The Canvassing Work

COLPORTEURS' MARCH SUMMARY

	Weeks	Hours	Sales per Hr.	Total Value per week
ENGLISH				
Colporteurs, 5	17	39	Rs. 2-9-10	Rs. 1,747- 1-0
BURMA				
Colporteurs, 3	7	32	" 1-0- 5	232-10-6
BENGAL				
Colporteurs, 12	45	38	" 0-0-10	84-5-0
NORTH INDIA				
Colporteurs, 4	8	26	" 0-1- 2	15-1- 6
SOUTH INDIA				
Colporteurs, 7	26	44	" 0-1- 1	80-15-9
				Total, Rs. 2,160-1-9

NOTES

THE Lord has continued to bless Brethren Mattison and Nelson in the heat of Bombay and Brather Raymond in Agra.

IN one week, Mounge Nge, a young Burmese brother, worked fifty hours in a plague-stricken town that had been canvassed about a year previous. He took 85 subscriptions for the vernacular quarterly and sold 20 single copies and 41 small books amounting to Rs. 39-4-6. There are wonderful possibilities in Burma.

BROTHER TOWNEND writes: "The Lord has enabled me to secure the cream of Kandy. Among my patrons are the most promising men, including eight school masters. I consider myself fortunate in putting up at the Y. M. C. A. The secretaries are fine men and help me much. I will remain in the hills of Ceylon through April and May."

IN Calcutta, Brother Watson took in Rs. 51-4 of the amount credited to Bengal. The average sales of the other workers figure out at four pie an hour only.

IT will be observed that South India leads the whole field in time reported, and that North India compares favourably in average hourly sales,

The Eastern Tidings

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W. E. PERRIN, - - - EDITOR

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

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—AFTER some time spent in assisting in the effort in Bombay, Miss Reid has connected with the medical work at Kalyan.

—MISS KURTZ recently returned to her work at Najibabad after a short time spent with Brother and Sister Mead at Simla.

—MISS BELCHAMBERS left yesterday morning for Calcutta for a few days. Her sister Nina will accompany her home for a stay of several weeks.

—A COPY of "Temperance Torchlights" is desired for immediate use in the Editorial Department. If you have a copy you are willing either to loan or sell, drop a card to the office.

—BROTHER AND SISTER KELLAR are enjoying their work at Gopalgunge very much. Although isolated, so far as Europeans are concerned, they have a pleasant location and a large field for labour.

—PASTOR VOTAW leaves Lucknow to-day for Simla to open up the season's effort. Mrs. Votaw, having accompanied some students to Annfield, will join him at Lhaksar. We hope the results of the work at Simla this year may prove most encouraging.

—WORK on the new bungalow at Kalyan is now progressing favourably. After some delay occasioned by complications arising by reason of an unreliable contractor, Brother and Sister Wood will be happy indeed to see the bungalow finished and ready for occupancy.

—REPORTS from Annfield are encouraging. It seems that the school is full, notwithstanding a commodation has been increased by the erection of temporary quarters for the boys. Brother Brisbin and Brother and Sister Duff, as well as the older workers at the school, will no doubt enjoy their work there this summer.

—NOT infrequently we have occasion to realize that the Lord has an individual care for his people. Very interesting and encouraging has it been to note that as different men employed in government service here in India have decided to keep the Sabbath of the Lord, they have been able to retain their positions. Especially thankful are the brethren at Simla just now, that Brother Mills has been granted his Sabbath off. At first, when he stated that he must observe the Sabbath, his superior officers did not see their way clear to allow him to continue his work and absent himself on the Sabbath. However, recently we learned that those in whose power it lies to grant such requests had given a favourable reply. This considerate action on the part of government is felt to be a direct answer to continued prayer. We rejoice with Brother Mills and our other brethren at Simla. Such consideration on the part of men in authority imposes on our people a most sacred obligation to serve faithfully in their various capacities. In olden times, whole nations were signally blessed because of the presence among them of true servants of God: why should not governments, as well as men of business, at the present time find the faithful, conscientious help of loyal, hard-working Sabbath-keepers quite as invaluable?

Obituary

JOSHI.—Vishnu Vinayak Joshi was converted from Brahminism about six years ago under the work of Mr. Tilak, of Ahmednagar. I first came in contact with him as a translator of "Steps to Christ," on which he spent one year in careful study before beginning his translation. He joined our mission in December last, and I had hoped that he would associate with me in the production of Marathi literature, for which his talent particularly fitted him. Owing to our inability to open Marathi work in Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Joshi were transferred to Panvel, where they both took hold of the school work with courage. Unfortunately, he had a partial stroke of paralysis soon after joining the Panvel station. He was sent to Kalyan, where he passed peacefully to rest, and was buried on the new mission property, to await the coming of the Life-giver. Mrs. Joshi and her three little boys crave an interest in our prayers. GEO. F. ENOCH,