

INDIA UNION TIDINGS

VOL. 12

LUCKNOW, INDIA, March 15, 1917

No. 5

A Visit to Pitcairn Island

(Concluded)

"The community impressed us as being an ideal representation of the simple life, and we could not help comparing our lives with theirs. Each islander has an allotted task to perform and they have

was a revelation to us all; flowers of every hue could be seen growing wild, besides which fruit trees, bananas, oranges, lemons, limes, cocoanuts, sandle nuts, soap trees, papaw, and crabapple, are to be seen growing everywhere. After rambling for an hour and a half we heard the



LABOURERS ATTENDING THE NORTH INDIA MEETING

a church and Sunday-school [Sabbath-school]. Their moral laws offer a fine example to the whole world. They have a court-house presided over by a magistrate, where all business is transacted, and the whole produce of the island is used for the benefit of all. Any gifts made to the people are pooled and equally divided. When a couple wish to marry, the whole population turns out, and completely builds and furnishes the home.

"The wonderful tropical vegetation

warning bell belonging to the island, and had to make a start for the return journey, making our farewells as we went along. We slid down to the beach and were met by many of the women who were going out with us to the ship. After being successfully launched through the surf we were pulled out to our vessel by the sturdy natives and all of us by turn scrambled safely aboard—a task which required no little skill. As a tribute to the rowing abilities of the natives, I may

mention that they are very proud of the fact that in a race they had with a crew from the *Cambrian*, they won. The women especially were delighted to meet strangers of their own sex, and to receive many welcome gifts of clothing, which is really their most pressing need. A collection was made amongst the passengers by Mr. Lester, and the children of the island were made particularly happy by gifts of sweets and toys for Christmas.

"At the warning whistle our island friends got into their boats with their presents, and pulled clear of the ship. We were then treated to some of the most delightful singing to which it has ever been our privilege to listen. The pathetic good-bye song brought tears to many eyes especially to the soldiers, who had lost the night before a dear comrade, one who had shared with us all the privations and fortunes of war, and who was returning to his home to recuperate. One of the passenger's little children had fallen overboard into the shark-infested waters, and our comrade had at once plunged overboard and made a great effort to save its life. Both, alas! were lost. As we lifted anchor and steamed away we could not but envy the islanders' simple life. It will certainly stand for us as an example of the practical working of the Christian faith in a small community. When we of the Forces look back and picture the Egyptian, the faith and poverty of the Arabs, one of the most ancient races of the world, and contrast their life with the mode of living practised by these happy inhabitants of Pitcairn, and even compare it with that of our own England, it makes one pause and think what a better world we might have if we all followed their example.

"A very good bit of sarcasm was indulged in by an islander in the following short dialogue: 'Do you people use bad

language?' asked a passenger. 'Very rarely,' was the reply. Passenger: 'Amongst us it is very common.' Islander: 'Oh well, of course, you are civilized.'"—*Brisbane Courier*, Dec. 26, 1916.

A Few Thoughts on Literature Work and Language Study

(Read at Calcutta Conference)

In presenting these few thoughts I do not expect to lay down rules and methods and infallible guides for successfully carrying forward native work. I merely hope that by setting forth a few ideas and experiences a spirit of helpful discussion may be provoked.

The value of literature work no one will deny, all societies recognize its great value. The question is how should it be prepared; how should it be sold or distributed, as the case may be?

First, every one who has given the matter any study at all is convinced that the literature should be simple. Most of the millions of India who are readers are only able to read simple literature. If the literature is not simple then it will not accomplish all that is needed or desired and in some cases will perhaps accomplish next to nothing.

The literature in general should not be of the expensive kind; inasmuch as most of those, particularly in the villages, to whom we propose to sell it, are very poor people. This does not mean that we should not attempt larger and more expensive works, which I mention in another place.

It would appear that we ought to be very careful in the use of illustrations in our literature work. It ought to be quite obvious that to put a picture of the Saviour on the very front page of the tract or paper and then try to sell it to a Mohammedan is to court failure.

Giving titles to our books and tracts which will appeal to the people ought to be studied. Titles are evidently easily

acquired and honourifics widely used in India, the titles of our books therefore should be such as to attract attention and lay hold of the imagination. We might easily label a book "A study of Daniel 2 and 7." But, "Story of the King's Dream" or "The Prime Minister's Vision" would probably appeal more.

Experience shows that articles such as "Christ our Righteousness," "the Trinity," etc., should never be titled as such in our literature (that is, for non-Christians), as they will surely kill the sale. Last month a certain vernacular paper could scarcely be sold in any district simply because the first article was given as written by "Pastor" So-and-So. One canvasser, who usually sells about Rs. 14 or 15 per month, sold only Rs. 3 as a result.

We evidently ought not to make it so apparent that our literature is "Christian literature." I believe that much of our literature for non-Christians should be given in the form of a story which will be from the every-day life of the people, and so appeal to them. Even if a pice tract were nine-tenths along the lines of a helpful story or incident, and one tenth good moral or lesson, more would be read, and the lesson more easily grasped and accepted.

In this connection I believe we should study the ways and habits, and also religion of the people. There are many good points in their own writings which might be introduced and thus they become sufficiently interested to be led to the reading and acceptance of the particular truth we have in mind.

(To be continued)

The Colporteurs

The accompanying report of the literature work for February shows that the Lord is still blessing the men in the field. The time of the English canvassers has

been broken into quite a deal during the month as is seen by the small number of hours worked but we are thankful for the success He has given.

Brother Raymond is still doing his usual good work and is at present in the Assam district. His report does not show quite as high as usual on account of a number of the tea planters being away in military camp.

The vernaculars have dropped slightly but the figures shown are encouraging. All fields have not reported yet. We are glad to see Burma appearing again with such a good report. We pray that the Lord will raise up more workers in that field.

We ask an interest in the prayers of all God's people on behalf of the colporteurs in these troublous times that the work may go forward with even greater power than it has done in the past.

A. W. KNIGHT.

Bombay Presidency Mission

SUPERINTENDENT - G. W. PETTIT

News Items

During the past two weeks, Brother and Sister A. G. Kelsey with their two children, and Miss Elnora Reid have left us for their furlough. This leaves us very short handed in our work. Yet we are glad to be in a position to permit these fellow-workers to return to their homes for a rest and labour in America, believing that they will soon return to us full of courage and zeal for the work of God in the field of their adoption. It is planned for Brother and Sister Kelsey to enter upon a mission station of their own as soon as they return. Miss Reid will perhaps connect with the medical work again.

Pastor Wellman and family and Brother and Sister Leech were visitors in Bombay and Kalyan on their way home. We were glad to have these workers visit us, that have filled out their full time before taking their furloughs. They will take this glimpse of our work and pass it on to those in the home land, who are so eager to learn every thing they can of the progress of the work.

The interest and attendance in the English services in Bombay has been very good of late. The people seem to be willing to listen to the voice of prophecy as witnessed in present day events. Remember Pastor and Mrs. French in your prayers that God may give them this year a harvest of souls for their labour.

We regret to report the serious illness of Sister Wood since the day after her return from the Conference. This has been a serious blow to our medical work, as Miss Reid had been released for furlough, leaving the work without any one to carry it on. Brother and Sister Kimble were over with us for a few days but have now returned to their work in Simla. We desire to ask a special interest in your prayers that Sister Wood may be restored again to health.

Plans have been perfected to have a definite place of worship in Lonavla. A property has been taken on for a term of years which provides a hall for services, and a nice room for a worker to stop while in the station. Brother Rolland Loasby spoke in the new meeting place there last Sabbath.

Two of our Indian workers completed selling out our edition of Marathi and Gujarati *Signs of the Times* magazines last month. These two brethren sold almost 1800 copies in February. We are now getting out another edition of 4,000

each of these two magazines. Our two-coloured cover pages are a great help in disposing of these papers which sell for one anna each. We are reducing our papers from 24 pages and cover to 16 pages with cover, and will retain the former price, thus enabling us to more nearly clear on the cost. We are certain that the 16 page paper with the two-coloured covers will sell just as readily for one anna as if it had 24 pages.

Last Sunday evening at the close of Pastor French's lecture on "The Vatican and the War," 32 copies of the pamphlet *The Bone of Contention* were sold. The church has ordered 250 copies to begin with. These ought to be sold by the thousands in India and Burma. They are filled with stirring and vital present day truths.

Brother Stevens is still selling from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 a day worth of our good book *Heralds of the Morning*. He expects to finish up his work in Bombay by the early part of April. By the time this is being read he will have sold 1000 copies of this book. A good record for a European city, much more for a city of the East.

South India Mission

SUPERINTENDENT

J. S. JAMES

Among the Stations

After my return from the general meeting in Calcutta, I planned to make a visit to all our stations, it being over a year since I had been able to visit some of them. Sabbath, the 17th of February, I spent with the church at Pondicherry, celebrating the ordinances of the Lord's house, and talking twice to the people. Brother Devasahayam, who is in charge, is kept very busy working among the in-

terested ones, and translating our Tamil literature. The members of this church are faithful and of good courage, and all are trying to do something that will let their light shine before men. A number are now being prepared for baptism.

My next stop was at Nazareth where Brother Thomas is in charge. I spent three days at this station, visiting with the people, and planning with Brother Thomas. One night while I was there all the church came together for a preaching service, and I was glad for the opportunity of speaking again where, in years past, I had received so much of God's blessing in opening to a needy people the words of life. The work at Nazareth continues to advance and strengthen in spite of evil influences which are continually set in operation to check it. School work and an aggressive evangelistic work go hand in hand and both do their appointed work.

From Nazareth, Brother Thomas accompanied me to our new station at Neyyattinkara, in the State of Travancore, which was opened a year ago. This work has grown beyond our fondest expectations, and it seemed imperative that we locate other and more qualified help in connection with this effort to develop and bring it forward. While I was in that section I spoke to adherents and interested friends in three different localities, aggregating in all one hundred and twenty adults, with as many or more children. These are willing to place themselves under influence and instruction in both our schools and churches.

The prospects for gathering a large harvest of souls for the truth in Travancore is bright indeed. The influence of our literature scattered far and wide in this State by our colporteurs, has brought to us many earnest inquirers both in person and by letter, and opened many avenues for reaching the people. Before

leaving the State I took occasion while at Travandrum to call on the Prime Minister of the King, a very liberal and broad-minded man, with whom I spent an interesting half-hour in giving him a hasty survey of our work throughout the world. As I was about to take leave, he remarked that he would be interested to know more of our principles and work; that the State of Travancore was open to our Mission, and that he would be glad to help us in any way he could. I learned later that the Prime Minister has been very much influenced by Christianity of late, and favours evangelical Christian work. Before leaving Travancore I also called on the British Resident and obtained information regarding the opening of our work in that State.

At Quilon Brother Thomas left me to return to Tinnevely Bridge by rail, while I continued my journey north by motor boat and steam launch through the lagoons of the West Coast to British Cochin, a distance of 100 miles. Travel in this section is very interesting. The whole State has but the ends of two small railways connecting it with British India, but motor busses furnish the medium of modern transportation inland, and along the coast the backwaters are frequented by gas and steam launch service. The general nature of the country is rolling, which, together with its dense tropical growth of palms, ferns, and fruits, continues to bring before the eyes of the traveller beautiful changes of landscape and scenery.

On my return journey to Madras I stopped off one day at Coimbatore to counsel with Brother Lowry. I had shortly before made a visit to this station and found all well and the work prospering. This year four of the oldest students finish their work in the school, two of whom will go on to the school in Lucknow, while the others take up local

duties in the work. The earnest, faithful labour of Pastor Lowry and his staff of teachers at Coimbatore has already begun to bear fruit to the glory of God. The prospects for the coming year were never better or more encouraging.

As I have talked with the various workers the past month, I have heard a definite note of courage and confidence

expressed by all. Our watchword for the present biennial term is "Two hundred baptisms before the year 1919." We believe that this is possible, and that by earnest prayer and work it can be accomplished. We remember all the workers in our daily prayers, and desire to be remembered in yours.

J. S. JAMES.

Sabbath-School Report

FOR THIRD QUARTER, 1916.

	No. Schools	Membership	Average Attendance	Home Dept.	Regular Offerings	13th-Sabbath Offerings	Total
Bengal Mission							
Calcutta (English)		56	46		207 6 3	200 0 0	407 6 3
Calcutta (Bengali)		55	40	10	10 9 6		10 9 6
East Bengal		12	6				
Karmatar		69	50	6	41 7 9	10 4 6	51 12 3
TOTAL	4	192	142	16	259 7 6	210 4 6	469 12
Bombay Mission							
Bombay		26	16		113 13 3	107 14 6	221 11 9
Kalyan		49	42		58 8 5		58 8 5
TOTAL	2	75	58		172 5 8	107 14 6	280 4 2
Burma Mission							
Kammamaung		11	10		40 13 6	20	60 13 6
Mandalay	No report						
Maymyo	No report						
Meiktila		41	34		57	20	77
Rangoon (English)		58	36		141 10 7	208 5 3	349 15 10
Rangoon (Burmese)		10	6				
TOTAL	6	120	86		239 8 1	248 5 3	487 13 4
North India Mission							
Agra		10	10		19 8 0	5 0 0	24 8 0
Chuharkana		6	5		9 10 6		9 10 6
Garhwal		35	18		18 0 3	4 1 0	22 1 3
Lucknow		33	31		53 1 0	19 8 0	72 9 0
Mussooree		36	34		161 0 0	35 4 3	196 4 3
Najibabad		17	14	2	22 3 9	3 1 6	25 5 3
Rai Bareli		7	6		5 0 6		5 0 6
Simla		31	28	3	208 12 0	40 9 0	249 5 0
TOTAL	8	175	146	5	497 4 0	107 7 9	604 11 9
South India							
Coimbatore		42	37		24 6 9	4 6 4	28 13 1
Madras		18	14		54 0 5		54 0 5
Nazareth		99	78		18 9 6	1 4 0	19 13 6
Nazareth Out Schools		42	40		6 13 8		6 13 8
Pondicherry		29	24		13 0 0	1 4 0	14 4 0
TOTAL	5	230	193		116 14 4	6 14 4	123 12 8
GRAND TOTALS	25	792	625	21	1285 7 7	680 14 4	1966 5 11

Membership of the Home Department is included in the membership of the Schools.

Are We Giving the Bible to the Indian Church?

(The following paragraphs were written by a missionary in China of another denomination, but some of the points brought out may be food for thought for our labourers. Are we teaching our converts to rely on the Bible? Are we teaching them how to use it? How many of them are willing to come and pay their expenses to the local mission meeting and then go back home and work at their own expense for others? If not, whose fault is it?—Ed.)

William James defines religion as those experiences which a man has with his Creator in his solitude. The only way you and I know of having experience with the Creator in our solitude is through the Word of God and Prayer. Deny a man these things and his spiritual life is forever a desert.

To pray for an outpouring of God's Spirit on the Church without teaching them to read the Bible and to pray seems to me as unreasonable as to ask for a water supply in our houses when we have not put in pipes. It is as if a man should neglect to dig trenches in three quarters of his rice-field, and then pump furiously at the water wheels, expecting by some divine magic to get a crop.

We are apt to think, indeed, that the work in Korea is the result of divine magic; that God has been in some strange way a little better to Korea than to us. And you hear all sorts of plausible reasons why the Church in Korea is more alive than the Church in China. In Korea they give but one reason,—the Word of God. It looks to the visitor as being not so much a miracle as the natural result of Christian common-sense applied to teaching the Gospel. They have opened trenches straight through the whole field, and then have laboured and prayed till the waters of life flowed in.

They have the Bible and have been trained to rely upon it. There is the whole story in a nutshell.

Just how was it done? The missionaries came to Korea to find a people no whit superior to the Chinese; in sobriety, in industry, in reliability quite the inferiors of the Chinese. They began by teaching them the Word of God. Eighty per cent of the people could not read. They taught their converts to read the Word of God. They sought to secure for each believer three things: a vital experience of salvation from sin; a spiritual use of the Sabbath; a knowledge and love of the Word of God. They

did it through Bible classes,—ten-day Bible classes once or twice a year. After three or four thousand years of sordid thinking in his ancestry, with nothing but sordid thinking all around him, it is no simple matter to capture the thought-life of your would-be Christian and change it. If you try to do it by giving him holy thoughts for an hour once a week, you fail. If you insist on doing it by giving him holy thoughts all day once a week, for a few minutes every day, and for ten days steadily twice a year, by the grace of God you may succeed. And they in Korea have succeeded; in a thousand beautiful ways you see it; in the Bible, brought reverently forth when you enter the Christian home, for a word of heavenly cheer; in the word of a woman to a passing stranger as he waters his donkey by her door,—“When you come this way again you must believe;” in the shining face of shabby neighbours anxious to send a missionary to China. Ah, it was then the iron entered into my soul! And I prayed for the time when the Holy Spirit should have a chance in China.

Again it is said, and truly, that after you have taught your convert to read there is no assurance that he will love to read his Bible; that of those who can read among us only the merest fraction do search the scriptures. Just here the Bible class comes in to awaken full souls and show them how to find God through His Word. What Keswick is to England, and Northfield to America, that the Bible class is to Korea, repeated hundreds of times yearly all over the land. There they learn to revere and love God's Word as the soul's very bread, and from thence they go forth to share that bread with others.

The practical plan of the Bible class work is this:—The missionary in charge arranges with the pastors and church officials, long beforehand, the date of the meeting—a date which suits the members. Then for months in the Church and among the missionaries there is special prayer for that meeting. Everybody has a tremendous enthusiasm for the Bible classes. They regard these seasons as the normal annual feast for the church,—a time of spiritual uplift they could not possibly get along without. This is their method of securing permanent revival in Korea, and it works. Effort is made throughout the district to secure as many as possible for this central class; and in spite of their deep poverty they come in great numbers. In 1914 one class enrolled 1,600 men. They follow a regular course of

India Union Tidings,

ORGAN OF THE

India Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists,
17 Abbott Road, Lucknow

Subscription Price: Rs. 1-8-0 a year

EDITOR: R. D. BRISBIN

"Copy"

All "copy" intended for publication the 1st of the month should be in the editor's hands promptly on the 23rd of the preceding month. "Copy" for the issue of the 15th should be received by the editor not later than the 8th of the same month. Matter received later than these dates will be held over until the next issue. Hand-written or double-spaced type-written "copy" will be gladly received, *but single-spaced type-written manuscript we can not use.*

CPrinted and published semi-monthly at and for the International Tract Society, Lucknow, by W. S. Mead. 1060/17

study. All come at their own charges, and even pay a small fee to defray expense for ink and heat. Here we have the beginning of the training in self-support which makes the Koreans, despite their poverty, such liberal givers. Then for those who cannot come to a central class there are district classes provided,

and local classes in each vil age, these being taught by preachers and Christian laymen. Every available man is pressed into service. Of the eighteen hundred classes held in Korea in 1914, half the teaching was done by unpaid laymen. In every class work for the unsaved is vigorous; an hour in the afternoon is given to visiting; the evening to a gospel meeting, where strangers are led to Christ. It is an annual training school not only in Bible study but in giving, in teaching, and in witnessing for Christ. It was after twenty years of steady work of this kind that the great revival came to Korea which has lasted ever since.

Here and There

Annfield School opened the 13th of the present month.

We are glad to say that Brother Comer's little boy, who has been in the hospital for several weeks; is better.

Mrs. Shannon, who for several years was connected with the Rangoon office, has accepted a position with the Tract Society at Lucknow.

Brother M. M. Mattison was a recent caller at the central office. He reports our vernacular papers to be selling well.

Whosoever would be sustained by the hand of God, let him constantly lean upon it; whosoever would be defended by it, let him patiently repose himself under it.—Calvin.

Canvassing Report

FOR FEBRUARY, 1917

HERALDS OF THE MORNING		Hours	Orders	Rs. Value
H. A. Skinner,	North India	32	16	101 0 0
R. A. Thrift,	Calcutta	92	99	1228 8 0
W. H. Stevens,	Bombay	80	80	639 0 0
Helps Sold				11 0 0
Totals		204	195	1968 8 0

Magazine Sales

ENGLISH LITERATURE	No. Agts.	Hours	Subs.	Copies	Helps	Rs. Value
F. O. Raymond		119	54	44	110	373 0 0
VERNACULAR						
East Bengal	6	647	81	1489	158	50 6 3
Burma	1	130	1	1552	318	201 12 6
Bombay Presidency	2			1860		116 0 0
Tamil	8	1219	165	626	222	158 9 6
Telugu	3	161		111	20	13 4 6
Malayalam	12	1361	33	315	56	32 15 6
Totals		30	3637	334	5997	884 946 0 3