

INDIA UNION TIDINGS

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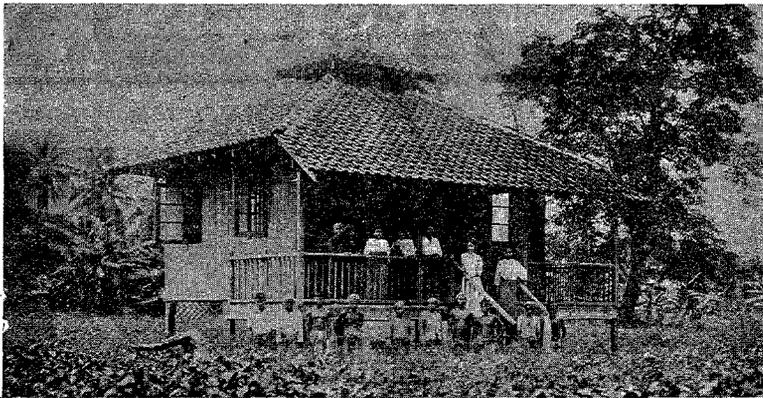
LUCKNOW, INDIA, July 15, 1917

No. 13

Among the Tea Gardens of Assam

Leaving Calcutta directly after our biennial meeting, I have completed a five months' tour of north-east Bengal and Assam. Four months of that time I was in the great tea country of the upper Brahmaputra valley where are to be found some 300 tea gardens under European management, employing from 500 to 5,000 coolies each. With a load of our English books and magazines, I cycled

the Morning, Great Controversy, etc. The educated Indians I found very ready to purchase *World's Crisis*, and to subscribe for *Signs of the Times* and *Herald of Health*. This was partly due to their isolation from home districts in Bengal and elsewhere, and partly to European prestige in Assam. I therefore did my best to reach them, and was successful in nearly every instance, though few of their



OUR DISPENSARY IN THE KAREN COUNTRY, KAMMAMAUNG, BURMA

25 miles a day over all kinds of roads, going from garden to garden and calling upon the manager, his Indian head clerk and doctor, and in case of the larger estates, upon the one, two, or three European assistants.

While the majority of planters are quite irreligious and have little use for missionaries, I found some noble exceptions who were glad to secure *Heralds of*

Christian (?) masters gave any encouragement, and some were decidedly hostile.

I have been made to realize that times are changing and that from now on God's messengers must expect to encounter obstacles unknown in the past. I am very thankful to the Lord, however, that on this tour I have been permitted to see something of His special care of His own when perhaps they little realize any

danger. That which might have seriously hindered was overruled. I was given favour with those in authority and April and May proved banner months. My cash receipts for May rose to Rs. 768. This is not a large sum as compared with many records of our bookmen, but by far

my best for seven and a half years. To God be all the praise. I am now in Shillong for a little time before going on tour again.

May God help us to sense the time in which we live, and keep us faithful and diligent in His service. F. O. RAYMOND.

Baptism in Madras

At the Coimbatore meeting it was decided to move the South India Mission office and tract society from Madras to Coimbatore. So, as soon as the meeting closed, I went to Madras to make the transfer.

While there I had the privilege of meeting with the brethren and sisters of both the English and Tamil companies. The brethren have been doing good work in Madras, and God has blessed their efforts, giving them souls for their hire.

On Sabbath morning, June 16th, four candidates, Anglo-Indians, were baptized in a beautiful river near Madras. These new members are enthusiastic over the truths which they have learned and are doing what they can to interest others.

A point of special interest which I

noticed in Madras was that nearly all the men who have accepted the truth have, so far, held positions in some of the large firms of that city. As soon as they began to keep the Sabbath, they were discharged. Instead of these brethren becoming discouraged over the loss of their work they started in business for themselves. The Lord has blessed them and some are doing better financially than they did when they were working for others. Thus they are independent and free to keep the Sabbath. I feel that this is a good plan, not only for European converts, but for our Indian brethren as well. I believe that as far as possible we ought to encourage our brethren along these lines. Pray for the cause in Madras.

G. G. LOWRY.

Simla

This has certainly been an unusually wet season. Since March we have not had one month, all told, of dry weather, but heavy rains with real monsoon conditions; and on June 16th the actual monsoon burst with scheduled thunder storm and mists, the Meteorological Department holding out no prospects of it being any weaker than usual.

Notwithstanding these unfavourable conditions, attendance at the chapel services is good. The Thursday evening

Bible class on prophecy promises to create quite a new interest, while the Friday evening classes are especially devoted to subjects preparatory to baptism.

Another department of Government has recently been added to the list of those in which Sabbath keepers may be found.

The church, in its Sabbath-school and Home Missionary departments, is doing splendid work. The faithful and steady efforts of our members in giving this

message to friends and neighbours has added to the church each year, and the present season will yield its results from this earnest work.

In the "Hydro" we are finding the

arrangements much more satisfactory on account of the new ladies' treatment room, which has relieved the very unpleasant congestion of last year.

H. C. MENKEL, M. D.

Home Missionary Work in Simla

The secretary of the Simla Home Missionary Society writes as follows:— "Nearly all the sisters have planned to devote a certain time to house-to-house visiting in Simla. Today we are meeting with Sister Menkel for instruction as to how to go about things. We have divided Simla into districts and mean to tackle the work systematically. We hope

to have some good experiences to relate in the near future."

We like to receive letters like, this and to know that the church members are getting after things. We pray that the Master's blessing will rest upon the good work that is being done by the Simla brethren. May other churches adopt the same plan.

A. W. KNIGHT.

A Word of Farewell

During the ten and one-half years of our sojourn in India we have read many welcomes and farewells in the TIDINGS as various workers have come to and gone from the field, but these we naturally read from the standpoint of those who were permanently settled, never dreaming that it would be necessary some day for us to add our own farewell to the list. It is an old saying that nothing in this world is sure except death and taxes, but I think another item might be added to this saying without in the least running any risk of successful contradiction, and that is, "a Seventh-day Adventist missionary is not permitted to take root permanently in any place." How will we ever manage to feel at home in the great hereafter without the goods boxes, and the annual tear-up and move to some other place?

The circumstances under which this letter is written are unusual. Instead of being on my way back to India as I had

planned, I am detained here at Shanghai, whither I had come to attend the Asiatic Division conference. I had been at the conference but a short time when I heard rumours about that there was a possibility that I might be called to take up duties in this part of the Division. I regarded such a thing as impossible, owing to the mistaken idea that I had become a fixture in the field of my choice in southern India, but when the officers for the Division were nominated, I realized that rumours had resolved into facts, as I was asked to connect with the general work of the Division and locate my family here in Shanghai.

This request came as a complete surprise to me, and some days elapsed before I could bring myself to realize that India was no longer to be my home. Ten years and seven months ago Mrs. James and I left America with our two little boys and located in southern India to pioneer our work in that part of the

field. At that time there were no Sabbath keepers within fifteen hundred miles of us, and the message had not yet taken root among the Indian peoples. We had to feel our way in a strange and difficult field, trusting in the God of battles to go before us and make our feeble efforts prosperous. In this we were not disappointed. During these years that have gone, God has mercifully watched over us, preserving us from serious illness or disease, and has rewarded our imperfect efforts with some fruit, for which we glorify His name alone. As we now think of turning our faces to new fields of labour, it gives us great joy to reflect that through the unselfish cooperation of fellow-labourers who have joined us from time to time, the truth, which is destined to advance rapidly until all have heard the last great message, is now firmly established in the hearts of the representatives of three of the five great languages in southern India.

Past years of labour in India have endeared to us that land, its people, and its loyal band of foreign workers. Ties of friendship and love have been formed that can never die, but will continue to grow and strengthen with the years until the work is finished. If our change of work and location involved our separation from the joys of foreign missionary service, we should refuse to be reconciled to it, but the change only calls us to another part of the same great, needy vineyard, and in our future labours we are happy to know that we will still be closely connected with the interests and needs of India. We shall always make India and her workers among the first in our prayers, that God will watch over and bless all in bringing many of her

sons and daughters to a knowledge of the truth.

After my change of field had been decided I thought of returning to India in a few weeks to pack my things and bring Mrs. James with me, thus giving me an opportunity of closing up my work and saying good-bye to many of the workers in person. But in order to avoid the present dangers of sea travel, besides saving the expense of the round trip to India, as well as the time necessary to make the journey, the brethren here felt that I should take up my duties at once, and cable for Mrs. James to dispose of our things and join me as soon as possible. I knew this would leave a very tedious task of packing and moving to fall heavily on Mrs. James' shoulders in the hottest part of the year, but as she had always proven to be equal to any occasion in the past, I felt more willing to adjust myself to existing circumstances and stay on here.

The conference is a thing of the past, and the workers are now hurrying back to their fields to throw themselves with greater zeal and devotion into the only task worth while in this troubled and torn world of ours. Surely these are stirring times in which we live, and it behoves us to arouse to a full sense of our responsibility and the fast-closing opportunities for work which are all about us. While it is true that the work is great, and our hearts tremble at the magnitude of the task given us, still, God is greater than either the work or our hearts, and He will give strength and wisdom to those who will lay hold on Him for victory. While others may fear and faint because of the judgments of God that are abroad in the earth, we can look up with holy confidence and assur-

ance, and rejoice that the end of our conflict is only a little way ahead, which will bring to the children of God in all lands a happy release from the toils and sorrows of earth and a joyful reunion in the family of heaven.

Let us remember that "the field is the world;" that wherever God in His providence may call us to labour, there it is our privilege to labour with all our heart and strength; to think no sacrifice too great, and no load too heavy in which

the Lord of Glory stands by our side to share and assist. In these days of great trial when every man's faith is to be subjected to the crucial test, let us be true to God, true to our responsibilities, and true to one another. "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

Our address will be Box 523, U. S. Postal Agency, Shanghai, China.

Yours in His service,

JUDSON S. JAMES.

MRS. MINNIE JAMES.

Burma

Brother E. B. Hare went before the examination board the 15th of June and passed his second year in Karen, making a grade of 96 per cent. When we remember that Brother Hare has been in Burma less than two years, we feel inclined to congratulate him for such excellent success. A number of our workers are studying language a large part of their time this year and we hope to be able to give other such reports in the near future.

We have just received a letter from Brother R. A. Beckner, in which he tells us that he and Sister Beckner have arrived in Myanaung, Henzada District, where they plan to labour in the future. Myanaung is a beautiful village of ten thousand inhabitants, situated on the west side of the Irrawaddi river, eighty miles above Henzada. The Henzada District is one of the most thickly populated districts in Burma, and it seems that God has opened the way in a very remarkable manner for us to begin work in this part of our field. It was in answer to this long-standing call that the committee, after careful consideration, decided to ask

Brother and Sister Beckner to leave Mandalay and begin work at Myanaung. We pray that God will be very near to them as they endeavour to develop the interest that has been awakened, and give them a rich harvest of souls.

Brother Ludington writes very encouragingly about the opening of the school at Meiktila. The enrollment is one hundred ten at present and Brother Ludington is confident that they are going to enjoy the most successful year in the history of the school.

Pastor G. A. Hamilton, while enroute to Moulmein recently, stopped at Paan and went out to visit our Karen brethren and sisters. During this visit he baptized a young woman who has been waiting for this opportunity for several months. This sister and another one who was baptized on Pastor Hamilton's arrival in Moulmein, have come into the truth as a result of U. Chit Hla's home missionary efforts. Brother Chit Hla has just recently joined our band as a regular worker, and at this writing he is in Rangoon, preparing to go to Myanaung to join Brother Beckner in his work.

Notes of progress continue to come to us from the different parts of the field. We are of good courage and desire an interest in the prayers of the workers

throughout the Union that God will help us to be faithful and give us wisdom to know how to make the work a glorious success in Burma. C. F. LOWRY.

Church Recording

Perhaps the previous articles have been plain enough for all to understand. There is another paragraph in "Instructions to the Church Clerk" that it seems should be understood by all church members.

"Care should be taken to keep the church record complete. When a member moves to another place where there is an organized church, he should take a letter of transfer with him or send for it during the quarter. If he goes where there is no organized church, his membership can remain, or, better, be transferred to the church nearest him. If he remain a member, then he should keep in touch with the church by reporting to the clerk each quarter, preferably just

before the quarterly meeting, that his letter may be read at the social service. Do not allow the name of a member to remain on the records month after month without hearing from him. Either he should be transferred to another church, or, if he has departed from the faith, his name should be brought before the church."

As we said in the first of these articles, doubtless there are more vitally important things in the world than recording the affairs of the church, but let us study to be "not slothful in business,"—whether it be our own or only that of the church. Said a very wise man: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, DO IT."

W. S. MEAD.

Ordering the Conversation Aright

(Contributed)

"When I was a child I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man I put away childish things." 1 Cor. 13: 11.

"There is an unaccountable reluctance, a growing disrelish for religious conversation; and in its stead frivolous chit chat is indulged in, even by the professed followers of Christ."—*Test. Vol. 5*, p. 387.

"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me; and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I show the salvation of God." Psa. 50: 23.

"All frivolous words, all lightness and

trifling, are enticements of the enemy to deprive you of spiritual strength."—*Test. Vol. 9*, p. 288.

"But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Matt. 12: 36.

"Brother ... is thoughtless of his words and actions. Idle words for which he must render an account in the day of God are almost continually falling from his lips."—*Id. Vol. 5*, p. 286.

"Let it not be once named among you as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor

foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks." Eph. 5: 4.

"Those who profess to believe the Third Angel's Message often wound the cause of God by lightness, joking, and trifling."—*Test. Vol. 1*, p. 133.

"It is the duty of the youth to encourage sobriety. Lightness, jesting, and joking will result in barrenness of soul and the loss of the favour of God."—*Vol. 2*, p. 236.

"I was shown that lightness and folly, joking and laughing, should not be indulged in by the workers in the office. Those engaged in the solemn work of preparing truth to go to every part of the field should realize that their deportment has its influence. If they are careless, jesting, joking, and laughing while preparing solemn truths for publication, they show that their hearts are not in the work or sanctified through the truth. They do not discern sacred things, but handle truth that is to test character, truth which is of heavenly origin, as a common tale, as a story merely to come before the mind and be readily effaced."—*Id. Vol. 1*, p. 590.

(Remarks by Sister White at a picnic)

"I have been thinking what a contrast would be seen between our gathering here today and such gatherings as they are generally conducted by unbelievers. Instead of prayer, and the mention of Christ and religious things, would be heard silly laughter and trifling conversation. Their object would be a general good time.

"I was on this ground about a year ago, when there was a gathering similar to this. Nearly everything passed off very pleasantly then, but still some things

were objectionable. Considerable jesting and joking was indulged in by some.

"It is right that we should choose such places as this grove for seasons of relaxation and recreation. But while here it is not to devote our attention to ourselves merely, and fritter away precious time in amusements which will encourage a disrelish for sacred things. We have not come here to indulge in jesting and joking, in foolish talk and senseless laughter."—*Test. Vol. 2*, pp. 585-598.

"Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you." Titus. 2: 6-8.

"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise. The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth. The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out." Prov. 10: 19, 31.

"The deportment of the labourer for God should be serious and characterized by simplicity and true Christian politeness, yet he should be fearfully in earnest in the work which the Master has left him to do."—*Test. Vol. 2*, p. 507.

"The conversation where Christ and the characteristics of His life are the themes dwelt upon, will refresh the spirit, and the fruit will be unto holiness and everlasting life."

Amusements

"There are amusements, such as dancing, card playing, chess, checkers, etc., which we cannot approve, because heaven

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condemns them. These amusements open the way to great evil. They are not beneficial in their tendency, but having an exciting influence, produce in some minds a passion for those plays which lead to gambling and dissipation. All such plays should be condemned by Christians and something perfectly harmless substituted in their place."—*Test. Vol. 1, p. 514.*

"Such mental exercise as playing cards, chess, and checkers excites and wearies the brain and hinders recovery, while light, pleasant physical labour will occupy the time, improve the circulation, relieve and restore the brain, and prove a decided benefit to health."—*Id. Vol. 1, p. 555.*

Weekly Mail Service Resumed

On the evening of the same day of the publication of the July 1st issue, the papers announced that the weekly mail service to India from England was to be resumed.

Here and There

Brother H. G. Woodward of Madras has been appointed assistant in the Mussoorie treatment rooms.

7,500 Copies have been ordered for the next issues of the Urdu and Hindi quarterlies. We hope that the following edition may reach the 10,000 mark.

Brother Comer writes of the death of his mother in America. We are sure that his many friends among the readers of this paper unite in deep sympathy in this bereavement. How precious to the missionary under such circumstances is the promise:

"And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

The news of another civil war in China will be noted with anxiety by our missionaries. Let us remember daily in our prayers our brethren and sisters in that field that they may be kept from harm, and hindrance in their duties.

Notice

Will all our friends kindly note that orders for books, papers and tracts are sent forward to the American and other publishing houses at the customer's risk; and should any supplies be lost in the mails, we are unable to accept any liability. International Tract Society.

Rosalind Agnes Hare, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eric B. Hare, was born in Rangoon, Burma, June 5th, 1917, and for nineteen days she lingered between life and death. Her hold on life grew less and less until finally, soon after the close of the Sabbath, June 23rd, she quietly fell asleep. The nineteen days of her life were days of deep sorrow and intense anxiety to Brother and Sister Hare. However, in this great affliction their faith and confidence is in God, and their hope is in the soon-coming of the Saviour and the resurrection day when little Rosalind will be restored to them. Words of comfort were spoken by the writer from 1 Cor. 15: 26, and we laid her away in the Protestant cemetery, there to await the coming of Jesus.

C. F. LOWRY.