

# INDIA UNION TIDINGS

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No. 7

## East Bengal

We have just returned to Dacca after spending two and a half months among our Sabbath-keepers who are scattered in the districts of Faridpur and Barisal.

During this trip we had the pleasure of visiting our Sabbath-keepers and interested people in twenty villages. In each of these villages we spent a few days holding meetings, giving Bible readings and distri-

members were added to the Suagram Church which was organized last July by Pastor Fletcher. Altogether twenty-five persons were baptized during this trip. We received in tithe Rs. 84-1-3 and Rs. 44-4-9 annual offering, making a total of Rs. 128-6. This does not include the tithe of our Mission-paid workers, but is chiefly the tithe on paddy of our village Sabbath-

IN 1839, when Royal Gould Wilder, missionary to India and founder of *The Missionary Review of the World*, was graduated from Middlebury College he divided first honours with his classmate, Foote. Strange to say, both had been born in the same year and on the same day.

Foote became a lawyer and rose rapidly in his profession. He amassed wealth and married a young woman of singular beauty. But in the midst of his prosperity, death took both wife and daughter from him, and overcome with sorrow, he killed himself.

When Wilder turned from flattering prospects at home to devote his life to India, Foote, his twin-honour man, had said to him: "Why bury yourself among the heathen, Wilder?" Wilder worked in India more than thirty years, preached in more than 3,000 cities and villages; scattered over 3,000,000 pages of tracts; gathered into schools over 3,300 children, of whom 300 were girls. Was not his choice the better?—*Selected.*

buting message-filled literature. To report what we have witnessed would need a paper larger than the TIDINGS, so I will condense the report to a few facts and figures.

Two companies were organized into churches. One is called the Burnabaree-Chourkhuli Church and the other the Sharengkatee Church. Now we have three organized churches in East Bengal. Nine

keepers. This amount may not seem large to our European believers, but when we see the extreme poverty of the villagers, it speaks to us in no uncertain tone that these people love the Truth. They have truly sacrificed to give this sum. We are thankful to God that He is opening the way for the Message to enter these villages to warn those who are sitting in darkness.

This week I am planning to go to Noa-

khali for a few days to answer a long-standing call to visit an educated Roman Catholic family. This family purchased our books and papers from one of our canvassers and have become very much interested.

We are planning to hold our next Bible Institute with interested people during the months of May and June next, in Gopal-

ganj, as this place is more easily accessible than Dacca for the people who will attend.

We are grateful to God for the open doors in East Bengal and our prayer is that He will give us health and strength needed to work "while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

L. G. MOOKERJEE.

## First-Fruits at Kamamaung

"From all nations" God has said He would gather His people, and we are glad to be able to report that from the Karen nation, numbering over a million, scattered about here and there in the hill country of Burma, one more, a young woman, has taken her stand for the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Only two short years ago Hla Kin was a half-Animist, half-Buddhist Karen, being born of Animist parents and educated in a Buddhist school. Miss Gibbs, who was then doing quite an extensive medical work, engaged her to come and assist in the dispensary, and under Miss Gibbs' instructions Hla Kin learned to read and write her own language. Being thus able to read the Bible she soon became deeply interested in its characters and teachings, and it was indeed gratifying to see her give over her old dirty habits,—betel-nut chewing and smoking—and step by step accept the Truth.

Her greatest struggle was with appetite, and often in the battle it looked as though betel-nut would win the day. But God gave complete victory, even the giving up of unclean foods and decayed fish, which with rice is the chief food of the country.

Last December, without any urging, she paid her first tithe, and on February 16th of this year was baptized by Pastor Williams in the water of the mighty river Salwein. We sang "O Happy Day," and it was indeed a blessed day. In the afternoon we celebrated the ordinances of the Lord's house and were greatly refreshed.

"My word shall not return unto me void" the Lord has said, and when in the day of His glorious coming His people are gathered from the north and south, may there be many more from the Karen tribes of Burma who with Hla Kin will lift up their hands and say, "Lo, this is our God, we have waited for Him."

E. B. HARE.

## Canvassing in Burmese Villages

The last few weeks have been full of interest to me. It has been my privilege to canvass all the villages within about thirty miles of Monywa. This was my first real experience of village canvassing and I must confess that I have been pleasantly surprised at every village. In many of these villages in this district, I have, by the blessing of God, taken subscriptions for our Burmese paper, not only for one year, but

in most cases for three years. I recall one experience which I consider worth passing on.

While returning from one of these village canvassing trips, although hot and dusty and scarcely able to speak on account of the heat and dust, I noticed a small village a little distance off to my right; and feeling impressed that they should receive this Message, I called and asked for the head-

man of the village. As is about always the case, the white man is a very honourable visitor, so the head-man treated me with awed respect and from somewhere brought out a real armchair, which, taking the dust into consideration, had not seen use since the last *sahib* had visited the place. Having invited me to be seated, he sat down at my feet and was at my service. I made known my visit and secured his subscription to the paper for three years.

Being too hot and fatigued to go around the village, on account of the long journey already taken over roads which would have made a good obstacle-race course, I asked the head-man to call for all the men in the village who could read. Immediately he sent out messengers, and in a few minutes the villagers began to arrive, and as fast as they came up I spoke to them regarding my paper and in each case obtained a subscription for three years. Although I had gone out of my way, I felt

amply repaid for the little extra effort put forth. The armchair method might not always prove successful, but I find by canvassing the head-man of the village first it always helps materially to get other subscriptions.

The Monywa district has had a thorough canvass. We have spent a very pleasant, and, we believe, profitable year there. I believe that the seed sown in this district will result in sheaves being gathered in the great harvest.

After passing my second year's language examination I was asked to spend this year in the interest of our literature in other parts of Burma. We are now located at Kalaw which we will make our headquarters while I canvass Upper Burma.

I desire an interest in the prayers of God's people that he may use me and the Burmese literature in spreading the Truth we love so much.

W. CARROTT.

## Nazareth

During the Week of Prayer, each morning at 5.30 a meeting was held in our school building. Nearly all our people were able to attend these meetings as they were held before work was begun for the day. At these meetings translations of the readings were read. They have done immense good to all of us.

Our people have realized the present situation of the world and the heavy responsibilities we shall have to bear in the near future in extending the Message to the different parts of India. Some of our brethren feel very proud of the responsibilities given to the Indian churches and all thank our good people in America and elsewhere for having been so liberal and charitable in supporting the work in India so long. Different ones got up and emphasized these points, begetting a lively missionary spirit in the minds of all who

were present. We had good seasons of prayer also. Different individuals offered many short, earnest prayers. Every one gave very cheerful and encouraging testimonies on the last day.

As we had previously announced that a special collection would be taken the last day of the week, everyone determined to bring in some silver coins that day. All worked hard during the week and our students also went out canvassing. To our great surprise Rs. 26-4 was realized in offerings.

One Roman Catholic girl who attended all these meetings was so stirred up that she gave one-eighth of her wage. One old lady who is getting only one rupee a month as her pension, has given an eighth of that small sum also. We know the Lord thinks a good deal of these few annas; for the great Apostle has said, "If there be first a

willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not." Let us all remember these poor people before God so that they may continue to grow in His grace and at last be found fit to have a place in His kingdom.

Now the whole church is again hard at work for our next Harvest Ingathering service, which is to be held the last week in April. We are all well and of good courage.

E. D. THOMAS.

## Y. P. M. V. S., Nazareth

[We received the following report from the secretary of the M. V. Society at Nazareth. We are printing it as it came to us. Although the thoughts may not be expressed in the best English, they would probably be all right in Tamil. We are glad to get these encouraging words. — *Ed.*]

The young people of this society are very interested with their meetings. The continual growth of the work of these youths is very much appreciated by all our workers. They are always glad to see the powerful and wonderful truths of God's Word. When they look on the plan of salvation with open hearts, their eagerness to study this present truth thoroughly and their zeal to propagate this complete gospel in the Tamil-speaking area is unexpressible. Thanksgiving is rising up from their consecrated hearts for this worthy privilege. Now they are getting a good training to fight a good fight as true Christian soldiers.

The Week of Prayer which was held in the last week of February throughout the Asiatic Mission field was very helpful to consecrate and render again ourselves to God, so that we may be able to shine more light to those around us. Every one of this church has determined to speak about their Saviour with a new power and with a new energy whenever they have time to speak with their neighbours. These young people have done the same. When they heard that a collection would be taken at the end of the week, these youths did not know what to do to give their part. But the Spirit of God inspired their hearts to find money by some means.

At length the boys thought of a plan and asked the teachers for a day's leave for canvassing work. Their request was granted. After hearing the sixth reading of the Prayer Week they set about their journey in the grey of the morning with papers and tracts. Leaving the Mission compound with the praises and prayers, they went batch by batch to all the villages within a radius of ten miles from our mission station. Resisting the devil and his agents, they spent the whole day only in selling papers of the King's message with heart and soul enthusiasm. Their mind did not turn into any discouragement or laziness, but they were active all day long and Satan and his hosts fled away on seeing the whole armour of God they have been wearing. In consequence of this work they returned with happy faces and cheerful countenances and less bundles in their hands. One of the batches returned with empty hands, for they had sold all the papers they took within four hours.

When the day came to give our annual offerings each gave with a cheerful heart all they had earned by their canvassing work, remembering the words of Christ, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." They strongly believe they will see their labour rewarded, because it is said, "My word shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent it."

Let us hasten the second coming of Christ by preaching this gospel of the kingdom in all parts of this and for a witness.

V. D. KOILPILLAI.

## Notes on Language Study

One of the first things that a missionary has to deal with when he begins the study of the language is the pronunciation. In nearly all the Indian languages there are sounds that are entirely foreign to the languages of the West. Consequently they present some difficulty to the missionary. But if one expects to speak the language so he will be understood he must persevere in the matter of acquiring, as near as possible, a correct pronunciation.

New missionaries are sometimes inclined to pass over the matter of correct pronunciation as a trifle. This should not be done. A knowledge of grammar and the construction of the language, its literature, etc., will be of very little value unless he is able to pronounce his words so he can be understood. Never give up until you have completely mastered every new and strange sound that you meet in your study. Some teachers are very good at drilling their students on this point. Others seem to care very little as to how their students speak. At first they may be quite careful and correct every mistake, but gradually they grow weary, and finally give up altogether. They say to themselves, "This Doria, or Sahib, never will be able to pronounce the words as he ought to, and so what is the use of bothering with it." More than that, many times some of them will tell their students that they are doing remarkably well, when in reality they are actually butchering the pronunciation. They sometimes will tell you that you speak just like a native. That all sounds good, but you can not always depend upon what they say. He may be telling you that just to save himself the trouble of correcting you. Or he may be afraid he will irritate you (which, by the way, often happens) by continually reminding you of your mistakes.

The time to be very careful regarding pronunciation is when one first begins.

Words learned wrongly at first are very hard to correct. It will pay to make haste slowly on this point. For the first few weeks one should do most of his study with his teacher. Have him read the sentence first and then try to imitate him. There is no one who can *tell* you just how you ought to pronounce the word. You must hear it from the mouth of a native.

### Test yourself

From the very first test yourself by talking with the people, preferably strangers, because your teacher or servants will soon become accustomed to your mode of speech, no matter how poor the pronunciation is. Therefore making yourself understood to them is not a real test. Try a stranger. And if he stares at you when you address him, as if he wonders what is the matter with you, do not accuse him of not understanding his own language; or when he speaks to you do not say that he speaks faster than he ought to. Nine cases out of ten the trouble is with you and not with him. After a few months' practice you will be able to understand them better, and then you will decide that after all the people do not talk so fast. It will be less embarrassing if you talk with children at first. The milk-man's boy or the gardener's girl will usually be glad to let you practise on them if you give them a pice now and again. But one must not stop with that. He must meet strangers, for even a child will soon catch on to your way of talking and cease to smile at your mistakes. You will usually find our Indian brethren glad to help you out on these points if you solicit their help. You will have to ask them though if you wish their criticism, for usually they do not volunteer it. A fellow-European worker also, if he really has the language, can be of assistance to you. It is not, however, advisable to depend too much upon

the European for a correct pronunciation. To learn from him entirely would be to copy from a copy.

**Do not depend too much on your teacher**

It is a mistake to look upon the average munshi or pundit as you would upon a language teacher at home, and expect him to outline your work for you and urge you to get your lessons up in good shape. If you do that you will sooner or later see the mistake you have made. And he should not be blamed if you are not able to pass the examinations, or able to speak so as to be understood. As a rule the munshi looks upon you as his superior, and he naturally feels that he would be out of his place to dictate to you what you ought to do. He is usually quite ready to do what he is asked to do, and has a lot of good information for you if you can get it out of him. One writer has said, in speaking of the European student, "He will find the native pundit a store-house of learning, but it will depend upon himself, by judicious questioning to get at these stores." So, after all, the whole thing rests with the student, and he must dig for himself.

Some have found, after having passed the first year examination, that it is very advantageous to have a teacher who does not know how to speak English. It will be readily seen that with such a teacher one would be forced to do all his talking in the vernacular. All the explanations and definitions would have to be given in the language, which is a distinct advantage to the student.

**Never give up**

Tenacity is a very essential quality when it comes to language study. A dogged determination to stick to it till the last ditch is the thing that has saved many a man from making a failure along this line. There will undoubtedly come times when the way will look dark. The task will loom up before the student like a great

mountain. So many times he will wonder if he will ever get to the place where he can use the language; he will often think of the great amount that he has yet to learn before he can feel that he has won out. He may also hear of fellow-workers who have tried it and failed, and even wonder if the same fate awaits him. When such thoughts come, then he must determine stronger than ever that he *will not* give up until the aim is accomplished. Patience, toil and tenacity will certainly win the victory in the language line as well as in any other. There is no royal road to the goal. Sheer, hard, unrelenting work, morning, noon, and night, is the only thing that will insure success. Though plans, time-tables, and text-books are helpful and needful, they will not take the place of genuine hard work.

Just how much time one should study each day, whether he should have his teacher come once a day or twice a day, or how much time he should have his teacher with him at a time, and many other similar questions must necessarily be a matter of personal choice. In our plans and schemes for study there is one thing that we must ever keep in mind, and that is that we are working, not for man but for God; that He, not man, has called us to this field of labour. Therefore, we have a perfect right to expect special help from Him in getting the language. Let us remind Him often of His promise to be with us, and ask His assistance in our preparation for service. In writing these notes on language study, I do not pose as one who has accomplished any great thing along this line, but with the rest of you who are studying languages, I am still pressing on toward the mark of efficiency, learning something every day.

G. G. LOWRY.

The man who holds down the ladder at the bottom is frequently of just as much service as the man at the top.

### Sabbath-School Report

FOR FOURTH QUARTER, 1917.

	No. Schools	Membership	Average Attendance	Home Dept.	Regular Offerings	13-h-Sabbath Offerings	Total
<b>Bengal Mission</b>							
Calcutta (English)		63	54	13	184 4 9	119 10 0	303 14 9
Calcutta (Bengali)		67	61	14	57 2 0	13 8 0	70 10 0
East Bengal		48	42		9 14 9		9 14 9
Karmatar		54	43		14 10 9	1 0 0	15 10 9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>266 0 3</b>	<b>134 2 0</b>	<b>400 2 3</b>
<b>Bombay Mission</b>							
Bombay		23	19		110 15 9	104 3 0	215 2 9
Kalyan		33	31		27 9 0	5 0 0	32 9 0
Lonavla		7	5		10 0 0		10 0 0
Mamnad		6	6		6 0 0		6 0 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>61</b>		<b>154 8 9</b>	<b>109 3 0</b>	<b>263 11 9</b>
<b>Burma Mission</b>							
Kammamaung		6	5		19 14 9	3 2 6	23 1 3
Mandalay		7	7				
Maymyo		5	4				
Meiktila		57	52	1	79 8 0	24 13 3	104 5 3
Myanaung		8	6		27 6 9	6 3 6	33 10 3
Rangoon (English)		44	39		130 0 0	80 0 0	210 0 0
Rangoon (Burmese)		16	14		10 8 6	8 0 0	18 8 6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>267 6 0</b>	<b>122 3 3</b>	<b>389 9 3</b>
<b>North India Mission</b>							
Agra		9	9		18 0 0	1 8 0	19 8 0
Chuharkana		9	6		25 9 1		25 9 1
Garhwal		25	20		5 11 0		5 11 0
Hapur		11	8		10 7 6	4 8 3	14 15 9
Lucknow		36	29		96 0 0	9 2 3	105 2 3
Mussooree		34	29		100 0 0		100 0 0
Najibabad		16	11		22 0 0	2 4 3	24 4 3
Rae Bareli Out School		11	11		3 0 0		3 0 0
Simla		55	51		207 0 3	48 12 0	255 12 3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>174</b>		<b>457 11 10</b>	<b>66 2 9</b>	<b>553 14 7</b>
<b>South India Mission</b>							
Bangalore		7	7		11 1 3		11 1 3
Madras (English)		6	4		32 8 0	6 1 6	38 9 6
Madras (Tamil)		12	9		2 2 4	3 4 0	5 6 4
Nazareth		128	101		21 5 9	5 12 1	27 1 10
Nazareth Out Schools		15	13		14 11 7		14 11 7
Neyyattinkara		69	50		7 15 0	3 0 0	10 15 0
Neyyattinkara Out Schools		95	40				
Pondicherry		28	24		10 6 3	1 0 0	11 6 3
Rajamundry		16	10		7 0 6	2 4 0	9 4 6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>258</b>		<b>107 2 8</b>	<b>21 5 7</b>	<b>128 8 3</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1025</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1282 13 6</b>	<b>453 0 7</b>	<b>1735 14 1</b>

### Gentle Unto All Men

The Apostle Paul was one of the most successful missionaries, and in life and character closely resembled his Master. He was a man of profound learning and eloquence but he did not boast of this as the secret of his success in winning

souls. It was the fruit of the spirit in his life that attracted men to him, and through him, to Christ. He could say, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

Paul was not ashamed of the record he left behind him in his missionary tours, but

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boldly challenged a careful investigation of his manner of life. "Ye are witnesses," he said, "and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you." Should not we as Christ's representatives strive to leave such a record behind us? We may never see large results of our work immediately, but along with the message of truth which we have to present, if we can be "blameless and harmless" we shall make it easier for the one who comes after, to gather the fruit of the seed we have sown.

One of the graces which stands out prominently in Paul's life and which we would do well to cultivate here in India is that of gentleness. He says, "we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children."

To be gentle is to be "mild and refined in manners: mild in disposition: amiable: moderate." Gentleness is akin to leniency, toleration, clemency, forbearance, and compassion, and is opposed to harshness and severity.

In giving "correction, reproof or instruction in righteousness" we could accomplish more by using mildness and gentleness, than by using harshness and severity. The former keeps the channel open to the heart, while the latter closes it. It is for this reason that the servant of God is admonished to "be gentle unto all men."

But gentleness in order to become habitual should be used without partiality. Harshness and severity must be left out of all our dealings, even with the coolie, the *gariwala* and the *bikriwala*. Do not let the fear of being imposed upon prevent us from being "gentle unto all men." "The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated." L. J. BURGESS.

## Items of Interest about the Sabbath School During 1917

During the year 1917 the—  
 average membership was.....1005  
 Average attendance was.....795  
 Donations were.....Rs. 7678-12-10  
 Some one may ask, "Did we reach our goal?" The answer is, "Yes," with a hearty "Thank You" to every Sabbath-school member and visitor who contributed.

During the year the following new Sabbath-schools were organized: Bangalore, Hapur, Lonavla, Manmad, Myanaung, Madras (Tamil), Rajamundry, and Neyyattinkara. Sabbath-schools were also held part of the year in Cawnpore by Brother and Sister Lake, and in Monywa by Brother and Sister Carrott.

### An Item of Special Interest about the year 1918

The Sabbath-school goal for 1918 has been fixed at Rs. 9,000. This is quite an increase over the goal for last year, but with united effort, it can be reached. As the Lord said to Moses, "Speak unto the children of Israel that they go FORWARD," so the same call comes to us to-day in the Lord's work. MRS. I. F. BLUE.

"It is better to be God's bramble than the devil's bay tree."

### "It's Jewish"

A leaflet putting the Sabbath Question in a new setting. Send stamped addressed envelope for sample copy. The Printer, 17 Abbott Road, Lucknow.