

# INDIA UNION TIDINGS

VOL. 13

LUCKNOW, INDIA, September 15, 1918

No. 18

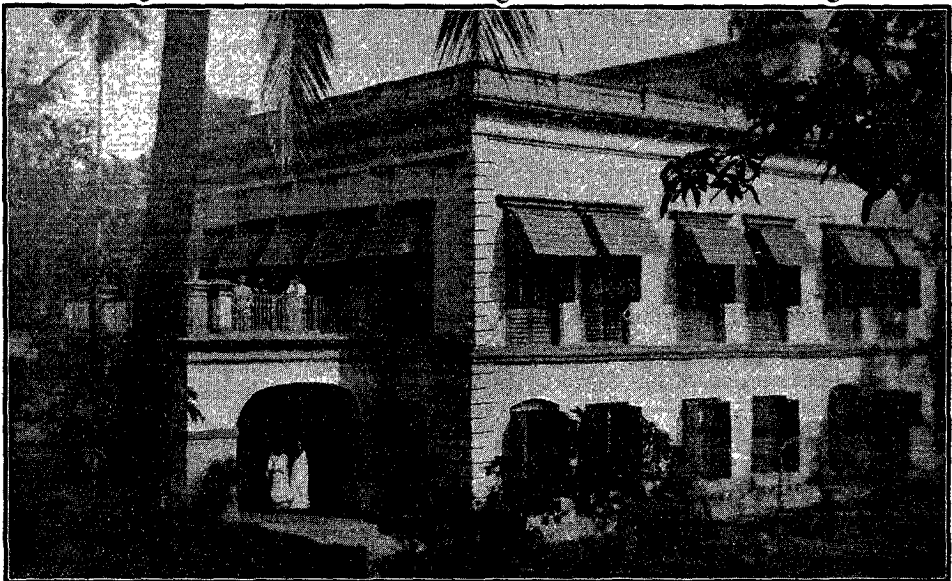
## Annual Bengali Meeting

The annual meeting of our Bengali believers was held at Entally from the 15th to the 20th of August. About eighty persons were present, most of whom came from East Bengal. There was a good interest in the meetings, and a general readiness on the part of all to pray and bear testimony as opportunity offered. The devotional and revival services were a marked feature of the gathering. The Sabbath morning revival service, which was conducted by Pastor L. G. Mookerjee, continued for four hours: not that the speaker occupied much time, but the people were eager to take part. The latter part of this service was marked by a spirit of surrender, of reconciliation between brethren, and a general endeavour to get right with God. It can

not be said of our Bengali brethren that they are cold or formal in their religious life.

One afternoon was given to the hearing of reports of the preceding year. Pastor L. J. Burgess, the superintendent of our Bengal mission, led out in this meeting, and all the labourers, both foreigners and Indians, took part in it. This proved to be a very interesting and encouraging part of the programme. Progress is being made, and the future in Bengal seems to be bright with hope.

Brother and Sister Blue and Brother Williams and the writer were present as union mission representatives, and led out in a number of the Bible studies and departmental meetings, the writer also giving



BENGAL DIVISION HEADQUARTERS, 6, DEHI SERAMPORE ROAD, CALCUTTA

some talks concerning the recent General Conference.

Action was taken by the union mission committee members present (counsel having been received from absent members) appointing two new missionary families to labour in the Bengal division. Pastor H. E. McWhinny and wife have been asked to study Hindi with a view to labouring in the Hindi-Santali field. Brother and Sister L. A. Semmens are to devote themselves to the Bengali. All were much encouraged

own expense, the mission assisting only by paying the fares to Calcutta and back. As it is expected that the meeting will be held in East Bengal next year the believers will be able to come in their own boats or on foot, so that we will see another move forward in the direction of a self-supporting native church by the members becoming entirely self-dependent in attending general meeting.

An encouraging incident was related by an East Bengal fisherman. When he

### Report of the Bengali Division

YEAR ENDING AUGUST 15, 1918.

Indian believers only	Calcutta	E Bengal	Karmatar	Total
Tithe	Rs. 624 7-9	190-1-	58-10-6	873-3-3
S. S. Donations	228-4-0	89-9-	63-6-3	381-3-3
Literature	731-6-9	819-3-9		1550-10-6
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs. 1584-2-6</b>	<b>1098-13-9</b>	<b>122-0-9</b>	<b>2805-1-0</b>
Baptisms	10	25		35
Present Membership Bengal.	44	69	36	149
Membership-English.				65
<b>Total Membership</b>				<b>214</b>

Boys' School opened Feb. 1917, 21 boys enrolled.

Girls' School " Jan. 1916, 22 girls enrolled.

Baptisms of students since beginning of schools, 18.

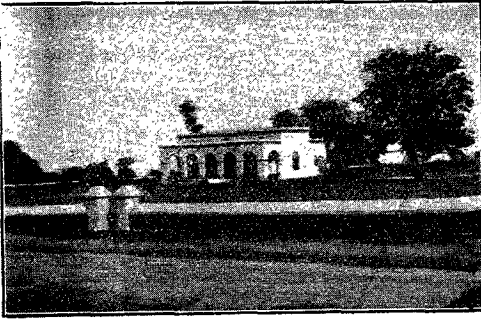
Two new church buildings dedicated during the year, one at Suagram and one at Chourkhuli, East Bengal.

to see these new missionaries come among us to help forward the cause in this great and needy field.

All the foreign labourers of the Bengal mission were present at the general gathering. Brother W. H. Stevens conducted classes for the instruction of the colporteurs once daily for the duration of the meeting, and more frequently for some days after its close.

In the endeavour to encourage a self-supporting spirit among our native believers the brethren arranged that at this meeting all should provide food at their

heard that it would be necessary for him to provide food for himself and wife while attending the meeting, he said to the native worker in his district, "Then you will have to pray that the Lord will send me the money to do it." Soon after that on going to the riverside one morning to inspect his fish-traps, he found such a large catch of fish that he was able to sell them for five rupees. This was a wonderful thing for him. His usual daily earnings from his fishing were from ten to twelve annas only. He saw at once that the Lord had provided for him to attend the general meeting. He



KARMATAR BUNGALOW

said that in all his life he had never before owned so large a sum as five rupees. With

part of it he bought some clothing for his wife without which she could not have attended the meeting, and had enough left to provide for their food while in attendance.

The Friend of the Galilean fishermen still lives, and shows Himself in this touching incident as the Friend of the fisherman of Bengal, and the Encourager of the hearts of His missionaries, to whom nothing is so refreshing as to see unmistakable evidences of the Lord's providential hand leading His children.

W. W. FLETCHER

## With the Literature in Burma

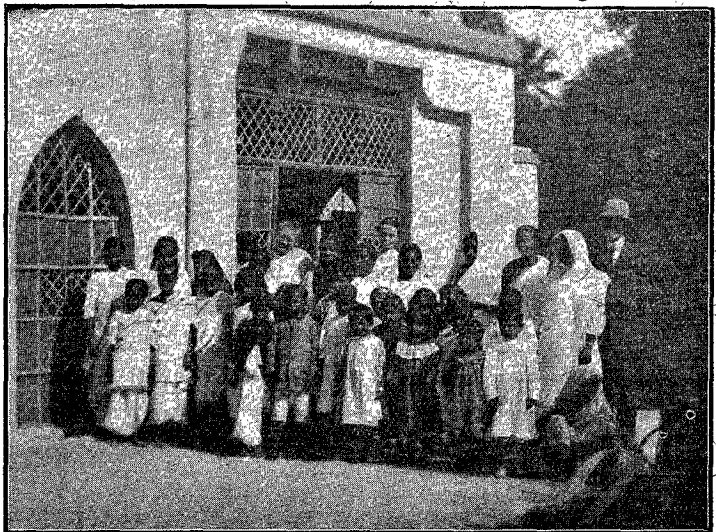
The prospects for our literature in Burma were never brighter. I have just made the round of visiting the churches and isolated members and spoken to them regarding the importance of our literature, with the result that they have pledged to take about two thousand of our quarterly magazine, *Kin Soung*, for one year.

Rangoon was the first church to be visited and here orders were given for about 1,300 copies for the year. Brother Lowry and one or two others pledged for 200 copies each and other brethren and sisters from 100 down to 10 copies. Although it is a sacrifice for some of these to pay for their papers still the orders were given freely and willingly.

From Rangoon I went to Meiktila and at this place I met with the same response and co-operation from Brother Ludington and the teachers. The principal of the school and one of the teachers pledged for 100

copies each, and others for smaller amounts. One poor boy said he would subscribe for a year and asked us to send the paper to his parents who are Buddhists. Altogether, the school promised to use 320 copies of each issue for the year.

From Meiktila I went to Myingyan and visited Brother and Sister Tweedie, and obtained their orders for 100 copies of each number. Then going on to Maymyo I found Sister Edmundson who subscribed



GIRLS, SCHOOL, CALCUTTA

for another 100, and one native brother of the place pledged himself for 25 copies.

At Mandalay I met Brother Lonsdale and two Burmese brethren who helped the good work along with orders for 50, 25 and 10 copies, respectively, the latter being a former student of our Technical School at Meiktila now studying in Mandalay. I have also visited two isolated sisters and they pledged themselves for 25 copies each.

In addition to the foregoing, most of our labourers are taking what they can of each issue and using them as they travel and in other ways.

A letter to hand from Brother Beckner tells of what he and Brother Chit Hla are doing down in the Delta. Brother Beckner writes, "I canvassed while travelling and a day or two when waiting for boat connections. Brother Chit Hla sold about 250 old *Kin Soung* and 10 *Guide to Health*. I sold 260 *Kin Soung*, 21 Chinese, 30 Tamil, 10 each of Urdu, Hindi and Gujerati, 14 *Is the End Near?* and took about 34 subscriptions, mostly Chinese. My boy even got the inspiration and sold about 33 copies of *Kin Soung*." This is how things are going in the Delta. I am reminded too that several baptisms have taken place there during the last few weeks.

A few weeks ago I started two native boys canvassing. Brother Roberts, a Telegu, and Brother Singh, a Hindustani-speaking brother. Brother Roberts has done exceptionally well. His last report for the week ending 2nd of August was for Rs. 54-3-9. In one day Brother Robert sold 112 tracts, took about 4 subscriptions, sold 3 single copies of Indian magazines, and 5 small books. The following day he sold 100 tracts and 17 small books.

A letter just to hand from Brother Ludington reports that three of his Adventist boys are anxious to start canvassing. We have asked Brother Ludington to bring the boys to the general meeting in Rangoon this month. After the meeting we shall hold a small canvassers' institute.

We are surely of good courage. With the hearty cooperation of our church members and our large force of colporteurs, (I say large as it is the largest by three we have ever had), we look for good results in the sale of our literature from now on. Will not the brethren and sisters in India pray for the success of this effort in Burma, especially for our Burmese and Indian men who are devoting their time to this department.

W. CARRATT

## Colportage in Bengal

After a few days spent at home I started out for the town of Sylhet on June 24th to canvass there, arriving the next morning. I first met with two independant Christians of Shekghat with whom I was well acquainted for many years. I enquired if they had a room for hire and they kindly furnished me one for a month. When they inquired why I had come, I told them about the literature that I was selling, and requested them to subscribe to the *Juga Lakshan* and they gladly did so. One of them is a retired E.A.C.

Next morning I visited the missionary

at the Welsh Presbyterian Church with whom I formerly worked in mission work at Silchar. I had the privilege of teaching this man Bengali when he first came to India. I asked him to purchase the literature and subscribe to the paper, but he asked who published this paper. I replied "The Int. Tract Society." Then he said "Excuse me, Purna Babu. I do not like to purchase this literature or even have the members of my church do so, because the idea that I have of your publications is that you people believe that heaven is within you, and that the keys of heaven are in the

S. D. Adventist church and others are in the dark; therefore I do not desire to purchase it. A few months ago an American gentleman visited this town who also brought literature from the same society and I also refused to purchase from him." I said to him. "Dear Mr. Roberts, you may refuse this literature as many other people do, but in some way the message it carries will go to every person on earth, every nation, kindred, and tongue for a witness of the coming Lord, our Redeemer." I am glad to tell you that one of his co-labourers in the same compound subscribed for the paper for one year. I believe that it is the will of God that in this way He will reveal His truth among those who reject it.

I am glad to say that an independent Christian at Shekghat, Sylhet is very much interested. He said, "I am very glad to read the peculiar things in your literature, therefore I like to study it more, and learn more about the present truth. He also said that until he was fully convinced he will never change his society. This man purchased one copy of *Bible Readings* (in Bengali) one of *Coming King*, and sub-

scribed for the *Juga Lakshan* for one year. He now desires a copy of the Bible in English.

Following is a brief account of my work from June 24th to July 29th. I was in Sylhet and Sonamganj canvassing and worked for seventeen days only. On account of earthquake and flood and not receiving my papers and order books on time I was unable to do any canvassing for eighteen days, but I am thankful to my Lord that during this short period of time, under His blessing, I received two hundred orders for the Bengali magazine, twelve for the Hindi, four for the Urdu and seven for the English papers, the total being 223 orders valued at Rs. 63; and Rs. 1-8 from the sale of other books. Thus in the aforesaid time my sales were Rs. 64-8, while my travelling and other expenses were Rs. 14-13-6.

I intended to remain longer in the field, but having received a postcard from my wife, stating my children were ill, I was obliged to return home. I ask that the readers of the TIDINGS will kindly remember them in your prayers, also that God will bless the work which he has enabled me to do in these towns. P. C. DAY.

## The Colporteur's Reward

To those who would like to understand the far reaching influence of our missionary colporteur work, the following incident will be interesting.

Brother Haddock was for nearly three years a student of our Missionary College but owing to financial embarrassment had to break off his College course and eventually lost interest in the message and drifted into the world.

In those days the scholarship scheme was not in operation and consequently if one was not exceptionally good at canvassing or had some financial backing the way through college was hard indeed. But

though men may lose sight of us the Lord does not.

Truth is stranger than fiction. Listen to his story. After Walter Haddock left Watford he drifted around and finally went to Australia and there married. One day a canvasser came to his home with *Bible Readings*, and the sight of the book he used to canvass for seemed to bring a longing to hear about the truth again. He did not tell the canvasser who he was, but asked if there was an S. D. A. preacher near, and said he would like to know more about the truth and have Bible readings. The canvasser told him there was a minister not far away,

and he would have him call. A short while after the young preacher called, and you can imagine the astonishment of them both when Cecil K. Meyers found his interested party was none other than Walter Haddock. It was more than a coincidence that brought them together. Cecil, you know, turned out to be a fine worker. Well, it was not long before both Walter and his wife were brought into the truth by the readings Cecil gave them. Then Walter wrote to Elder Parsons, addressing him at the General Conference, Washing-

ton, D. C., and in due time the letter reached him. Elder Parsons tells me that Walter and his wife are on their way from Australia to attend the General Conference, and then they expect to go back east to Elder Parsons' Conference, where Walter will engage in ministerial work. Those of the folks who remember Walter Haddock will be much interested to learn this.

Pastor Meyers was a student of Duncombe Hall Missionary College, Manor Gardens, London, at the same time as Brother Haddock.—*Missionary Worker, England.*

## “Be ye also Ready”

On Nov. 12, 1902, Sister White wrote: “The time is nearing when the great crisis in the history of the world will have come, when every movement in the government of God will be watched with intense interest and inexpressible apprehension. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another,—fire and flood and earthquakes, with war and bloodshed. Something great and decisive will soon of necessity take place.”—“Life Sketches,” p. 413.

A few years after this testimony was given the great earthquake occurred in San Francisco, to be followed quickly by others still more disastrous all over the world—an evident fulfillment of this prophecy.

Later on, in the week of prayer readings for Dec. 16, 1904, Sister White wrote: “Soon grievous troubles will arise among the nations,—“troubles that will not cease until Jesus comes. As never before we need to press together, serving him who has prepared his throne in the heavens, and whose kingdom ruleth over all. God has not forsaken His people, and our strength lies in not forsaking Him. The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumours of wars, the destruction by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble, “which is to increase until the

end,” is very near at hand. We have no time to lose. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecies of the eleventh of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfilment.”

At the General Conference held in Washington in 1909, the last Sister White was ever to attend, she “solemnly charged the brethren who had come to the meeting as representatives of the cause of present truth from every part of Europe, from Asia, Africa, South America, Australasia, and the islands of the sea, to prepare their hearts for terrible scenes of strife and oppression beyond anything they had conceived of, soon to be witnessed among the nations of earth. ‘Very soon,’ she declared, ‘the strife and oppression of foreign nations will break forth with an intensity that you do not now anticipate. You need to realize the importance of becoming acquainted with God in prayer.’”—“Life Sketches,” p. 421,

In the foregoing testimonies there is certainly no assurance of even a “little time” of peace ahead of us. Such expressions as these are used: “Soon grievous troubles will arise among the nations,—“troubles that will not cease until Jesus comes”; “trouble which is to increase until the end.”

Many of our brethren are still talking

about that "little time of peace," and expecting that when it comes they will sell their property and put their money into the cause and get ready to meet their Lord. Brethren, this thought may be a snare and a delusion. "For as a snare shall it come on all" them that dwell on the face of the whole earth," "therefore be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

The safer way in a time like this would be to sell that we have and give alms—consecrate our whole lives to God for the finishing of the work in these troublous times rather than to be planning and talking about what we intend to do after the war closes and "that little time of peace" comes. Let us not encourage the spirit of that evil servant who said in his heart, "My Lord delayeth his coming."—*Selected.*

## Malayalam Field

A good family man from the Salvation army is often visiting our place. Two years ago this man bought our *Tamil Bible Readings*: he is also a regular subscriber of our *Nega! Kala Sathiyam* (Present Truth). Every time he comes we give him something more to learn, and he has studied many good subjects. When he comes he never talks about wordly matters but is always reading the Bible. He has a wife and four children and is in a good position. His superiors are thinking to give him promotion soon, but his mind is fully devoted in studying the truth. He is waiting now until he understands it fully. He has said to me, "I do not know how shall I stand before His coming, because I never keep His Sabbath"

Our work has been among the depressed class of people. We have a chance now among the higher classes such as the

Nairs, Nadars, and so on. A young Nadar man had been working as a teacher very close to one of our worker's house. He learned something while he was passing along the road every time, so by and by he came to study the Bible. After some days he openly spoke with his priest that he is going to keep Sabbath and left his appointment. In the beginning he had some trouble yet he is very determined even though he is deprived of proper food at times. He is now getting on nicely with the canvassing work.

Another man of the same caste says, "The Adventists teachings are good indeed, so I shall send my two sons to study the Scripture in their school." These two boys are very regular attendants. We believe in course of time they will be strong pillars and will be the means of bringing their people into this truth. E. D. JOSHUA.

## As a Good Soldier

If I were a soldier, and if a battle were impending, and if I were to leave my place in the ranks and go to the rear because the captain of the company did not speak to me when he passed yesterday, or because a lieutenant did speak to me and spoke ungraciously, or because a sergeant hurt my feelings by something he said or did or left unsaid or undone, or because a comrade trod on my sensitive toes—if I were to throw

down my arms and go to the rear, what sort of a soldier would I be? Yet have we not known "Christian soldiers" to do just such things?

If a soldier should absent himself from drill, absent himself habitually and without good reason; if he were to neglect to study the book of tactics, the manual of arms; if he were to criticize his officers in the presence of other soldiers, and thus

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implant the seeds of dislike or distrust in their minds; if he were in a perpetual state of discontent because the captain did not consult him as to the plans of the campaign; if the army needed recruits, and if this soldier never said to any man, "Come, enlist, and bear arms for the cause"; if, by his half-heartedness, he repelled possible recruits, and if he were to attempt to excuse himself by saying, "I am only a nominal soldier anyhow, and I do not pretend to be more," we should not be surprised to hear of him being brought before a court martial some day.

A "nominal Christian," indeed! Is there such a thing? Who cares to consult a "nominal doctor," or buy a suit of a "nominal tailor," or eat a dinner prepared by a "nominal cook"? Just how far could one travel on a "nominal train" and how much money would we care to keep in a "nominal bank"? A "nominal Christian" is no Christian at all.—*Selected.*

## Here and There

Brother C. C. Keller has passed his first year Bengali. Congratulations.

The Lucknow church members are glad to have Pastor Fletcher with them once again after an absence of nearly nine months. He arrived Thursday, the 12th, and expects to remain in Lucknow for some time.

Brother Mead and family departed this life (at Lucknow) the 27th of August. A letter says they are high, dry, happy and cool in Darjeeling at "Birds Nest." This information of course implies that he is not to be blamed for a few weeks at least if the literature does not come out on time.

Pastor E. W. Thurber, the former superintendent of Burma, is now in charge of Adelphian Academy in America.

10,000 of the September-October Bengali magazine were shipped the second week of September from the Press, with 1000 Hindi magazines, for the use of the Bengal field.

Because of the increased cost of all printing materials it has been found necessary to raise the price of the new booklets in preparation to eight annas instead of four as formerly announced.

The press of current magazines has prevented work on the booklet, *Armageddon and the Millenium*, but the Bindery delivered the first instalment of a three hundred copies a few days ago and all orders can now be promptly filled until the first 5000 are gone.

The second booklet, *Jerusalem and the Return of the Jews*, is now being composed and will be completed as soon as possible. It will have a striking cover cartoon in colours, a gift of local talent.

The editor of SIGNS will be glad to receive clippings, pamphlets or books which any desire to send, bearing on present day topics or fulfilling prophecies. Many thanks are due to those who have already assisted in this manner the past year.

P. S. If any readers get tired of too much news from Lucknow, send us a sheet or two from your part of the world and see how quickly it will be printed.

It is only necessary to glance at the headlines of the daily paper to know we are nearing the "time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation." Satan's trinity of deceptions, the fierceness of God's wrath on guilty men, and Armageddon are hastening on space. Who shall be able to stand?