

INDIA UNION TIDINGS

VOL. 14

LUCKNOW, INDIA, April 1, 1919

No. 7

North India Meeting

This year it was decided to hold two meetings in North India instead of one as heretofore; — One for the workers of the United Provinces and the other in the Punjab. The first of these was held in Lucknow from the 18th to the 23rd of February. The School on Abbott Road, where Brother

be an occasion for getting nearer to the Lord, for putting away every sin, in order that we may receive the blessings the Lord has for us. This was followed by a prayer meeting earnestly beseeching the Lord that His presence might be felt in each meeting. I believe this first meeting's results were felt throughout the five days we were together.



WORKERS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE NORTH INDIA ANNUAL MEETING, HELD AT LUCKNOW.

Blue lives, afforded ample accommodation for our Hindustani brethren, and every one greatly appreciated having the hall of the Training School for our meetings. Nearly sixty of our Hindustani people were in attendance from Hapur, Najibabad, Garhwal and Lucknow; and about ten from the Punjab.

Our first meeting was held on the afternoon of the 18th, in which was explained the real object of the meeting, that it should

We began the services each day with a praise meeting. From 9 to 11 a. m., talks on practical Christian living and Bible studies were given. At 11 o'clock came breakfast and meetings continued again from 3 till 6 p. m. In the afternoons, workers' meetings were held. At the same hour meetings were held for the sisters by Sisters Blue and Belgrave. Sister Morris held meetings for the children, and they seemed just as happy over having meetings.

all to themselves as European children usually are.

Two days before our meeting began, Pastor Fletcher was called to Burma and we were much disappointed that he could not be with us.

All our meetings this year except three — two by Brother Wellman and one by Brother McWhinny — were conducted without the help of an interpreter. We are glad to see the improvement made in this line and we hope that by another year these two brethren also will be able to dispense with the middleman.

It is a source of great courage to see the good spirit that prevails among our Indian brethren and sisters and to see the way the truth is getting hold of their hearts. It is also good to see these our brethren content to be Indian Christians, and happy because they are. May it ever be so. We rejoice that some of these are bearing more and more responsibilities in the work and doing their work faithfully. This is as the Lord would have it. I felt very thankful to God for the part our Indian Brethren were able to take in the meeting and for the spirit of harmony that prevailed. I pray that this same spirit may pass on into our Punjab meeting.

Sabbath, as usual, was the best day of all. In the morning we had Sabbath-school and two meetings: at 3 o'clock in the afternoon Brother Blue conducted a consecration service, which was followed by the ordinances of Humility and the Lord's Supper. We know the Lord was in this service for we could see the working of His Spirit and feel His Presence. All felt that it was good to be there.

Sunday afternoon four were baptized in the Gumti river. These were young men who have been studying in the School the past winter with Brother Blue. Three of these have come from Mohammadanism, and our prayers for all are that they may be true to the service to which God has called them.

In all our meetings the workers emphasized that we have a very short time in which to work, and that today is the day of salvation and the time to get a preparation for standing in the great and terrible day of the Lord.

I feel very grateful to the Lord for these annual meetings, and for the advancement

the third Angel's Message is making even in dark India. I am glad to see our European brethren getting hold of these different languages and for the way God has blessed our efforts in this line. Our Indian brethren appreciate this too, and are beginning to realize that our mission is in India to stay till the Lord comes, that it is the Lord's organization for gathering out a special people to meet Him when He appears.

We are of good courage in the Lord and are determined to labour on till the harvest is ended. Pray for our work and workers.

M. M. MATTISON.

Thoughts for the Missionary

No. 3

In the memoirs of Mr. H. W. Fox occur the following statements which express the real state of things:—"A Missionary life does not deliver one from spiritual trials such as used to beset me of old. There are just the same temptations to indolence and love of ease which have been my besetting sins all along: just the same reluctance to prayer and the reading of the Scriptures: in fact, I see nothing but the grace of God to prevent a missionary from being as cold and dead a Christian as ever vegetated in an English parish. Perhaps there are more temptations of this kind where all around is ungodly."

Weitbrecht, a missionary of great experience, wrote the following in his diary:—"Had a profitable conversation with La Croix (another missionary) on the sad fact that many of us missionaries lose our spirituality even while engaged in our work. He lamented it with me and said that it was often the cause of distress to him, and one principal reason that had induced him to visit Europe once more to strengthen his spiritual faculties and warm his heart afresh with established and devoted Christians at home."

From a book called "Instructions to Missionaries" by the C. M. S., I quote the following:—"Do not suppose that because you have become a missionary you have got rid of all inducements to worldliness and self indulgence. It may be so to a certain extent just for the present. But the temptation will soon return and assail you,

though it may be in some disguised and subtle form in the mission field."

"The great enemy will increase his efforts to draw the missionary away from Christ, and to dampen his zeal, and has many auxiliaries in human weakness and short sightedness. . . . Punctual performance of plain duty, a kindly bearing, a social spirit, intelligence and candour, a certain amount of mental vigour—the presence of such qualities as these in missionaries is frequently acknowledged by observers, whether friendly or hostile, whether spiritual or worldly; and the committee are glad that it should be so; but the very qualifications which would be expected to stand out most prominent—ardour, devotion, self-sacrifice, self-denial, the disregard of lower comforts and pleasures—these sometimes do not seem to come forth evidently to view in the aspect which the missionary presents to the community which witnesses his labours."

The above though written to workers of another mission applies to us as well. And we must be on our guard to see that while we are working with all our power to push the message which we know must go to India, we ourselves do not become cast-aways. The school work, the training of colporteurs, the production of literature, office work, printing, hospital work and language study are highly important, and we must do these things; but in doing them we must not omit the all important work of keeping ourselves in the right attitude toward God. That is the mistake that Martha made. She was anxious to see that every temporary arrangement should be made and nothing left undone. But in doing this, though her intentions were good, she received a rebuke from the Saviour. "And Jesus answered and said unto her Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things; but one thing is needful; and Mary hath chosen that good part which shall not be taken away from her." Let us be careful that same be not said of us.

G. G. LOWRY.

It is understood that Pastor Fulton was arranging his passage to India via the East Indies, and was expecting to leave Sydney about the end of February.

THE whole business of the whole church is to preach the whole gospel to the whole world:—
J. Cambell White.

Encouragement for the Workers

Since December 7th, in company with others, it has been my privilege to visit nearly all our mission stations in India. This to me has been a very great privilege, as it has not only afforded me an opportunity of becoming better informed as to the progress of our work and its needs, but I have had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with nearly all the labourers and observing the conditions under which they labour. It has been a source of very great encouragement to me to note that though the conditions under which they labour are far from ideal, no word of complaint is heard, only a touching plea for help for the people for whom they labour.

The work has moved very slowly in India but I am persuaded that there are brighter days just before us. The shortness of time and India's great need are the surest pledges of soon coming help. God is watching over His ripening vineyard and reapers will be supplied.

There are many incidents that indicate that the Lord is bringing our work to the favourable consideration of the higher classes. We have some very warm friends among even government officials; and the fact that at least one periodical has been started for the avowed purpose of combating the message is evidence that it is making an "impression" in India. Our publishing interests need to be greatly strengthened and a literature suited to the needs of the field provided. It is gratifying to know that the conference committee is fully alive to this need and that appeals have already been made for help in this branch of the work. I am fully persuaded that it will not be long until the workers in India will be strongly reinforced, not only by labourers from other lands, but by an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the latter rain. Thus, equipped with a new literature, additional workers, and the power of the Holy Spirit this work can be finished in this generation even in India."

C. W. FLAIZ.

In a covering letter dated the 14th of March Pastor Flaiz writes:—

"I am sailing today for Singapore where Mrs Flaiz will join me, and after a tour through Eastern Asia and Japan we expect to reach America in July. I cannot help feeling a sense of regret at leaving India, her great need appeals to me."

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A Good Opportunity

At different times we have been asked to secure copies of Strong's Concordance, and we are therefore proposing to order out a limited number. For the information of those unacquainted with the work we would state that the concordance is absolutely complete, every word in the Bible (Authorized Version) even minor words such as the indefinite article, being duly catalogued. It is thus much more complete than Cruden's work. Wherever a different rendering of any word or passage is to be found in either the English or American revisions, such variations are noted and compiled for easy reference. Further, convenient Hebrew and Greek dictionaries are included in the book, being so arranged that anyone, though quite unacquainted with either of those languages, can readily find the original of any word in the Bible, with a concise interpretation thereof.

The work forms a rather bulky volume, which is very serviceably bound. As it is too large to be sent by post, the consignment will have to come as freight.

The price in U. S. A. was \$ 3. 00 per copy; but this price may possibly have been advanced during the war. With the expense of importation the books will possibly cost about \$6. 00 by the time they are delivered in India; but we plan to charge up just what is actually paid, which may be less than the figure quoted.

Our order list will be closed on 15th May 1919 as we hope to have the books in time for delivery at the Biennial Conference next November.

Will those desiring copies therefore register their names with the publishing house, as early as possible. We can confidently recommend this work as a very valuable aid to Bible study.

A. H. WILLIAMS.

Following upon his recent tour through Southern India, Pastor Williams has found it necessary to take a rest, and has accompanied his family to "The Grange" Mussooree where he is hopeful of spending a month before returning to the office.

As some of our workers have been enquiring for the South India Addresses, we publish the following:—

Pastor G. G. Lowry, Mr. H. G. Woodward,
3 Wheeler Road, S. D. A. Mission,
Bangalore. Neyyattinkara,
Travancore.

A cable message from Melbourne brings the news that Sister Fletcher, accompanied by Miss E. M. James, is proceeding to India by the S. S. "Karmala" arriving in India probably toward the end of March.

Brother Lake writing under date of 20th March, informs us that "Grey Castle" is now open to the public. Many enquiries from prospective patients have been received, and a busy season is expected.

Brother Thrift tells us that they are enjoying a very good Week of Prayer in Bombay. All are manifesting an intense interest and a deep consecration such as has not been witnessed before. Every member seems more or less touched with the solemnity of the times. All are willing to give their lives and their means for the advancement of the Cause. May we not have many more such good reports to give to our THINGS family?

Writing from the Australasian Union Conference Office recently Pastor Cecil Meyers, formerly of India, gives the following:—

"We are suffering just now under the ban of stringent regulation consequent upon the outbreak of influenza in Australia. Not all the states have been afflicted so far, but we are one of the unfortunate ones, and our church services have been prohibited, though a modification of the regulations has been issued by which it will be possible for us to hold our services in the metropolitan area in the open air, limiting the length of the service, however, to half-an-hour, with the proviso also that all those in attendance shall wear masks. I suppose we can read into this provision the statement that "all things work together for good" inasmuch that we as ministers will have to learn to be brief in pouring out our burdened souls upon the people. Perhaps the people will also be blessed in getting only that portion which is according to their capacity to retain what they hear."

"Notwithstanding the hindrances of the war, there is much to encourage us in our world-wide work. The omens of coming peace indicate that little time of peace promised for the finishing of the work. Doors are open the world around. We have never faced such opportunities for the extension of the message. This is God's time to make known the gospel in all the world." The above is quoted from a news letter received from the General Conference Office, as also the following:— "The list of workers going to the fields in 1919, notwithstanding the extended draft and the increased difficulties in getting passports, exceeds that of last year. We find that the number totals 103. In such times we marvel that week after week so many have gone to the fields."

"The outlook for the largest mission offerings in the history of our work is assured for this year. At the end of November mission offerings totalled \$ 971,521. At the same time last year the books showed \$ 739,334, making an increase in the eleven months of \$ 231,197."