

# INDIA UNION TIDINGS

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## Smile

There's a wondrous lot of power,  
In an honest, wholesome smile;  
For it often starts a blessing,  
That will travel for a mile.  
And when hearts are sad and heavy  
And the days are dark the while,  
You can notice that things brighten  
From the moment that you smile.

## Tamil General Meeting.

The general meeting of our Tamil brethren was held this year at Madras, from the 19th to the 23rd of March. The meetings were held in the hall on the Vepery High Road which is used by our Madras English, and Tamil churches. This proved to be a very suitable and comfortable arrangement, and was much appreciated by all. The use of a building set aside wholly to the worship of God and suitably furnished is not the privilege of most of our South India believers.

An encouraging feature of the Madras meeting was the large attendance of women. The South India Mission committee had arranged for all the wives of workers to accompany their husbands to the meeting. This step proved to be well warranted, for it helped greatly to make the gathering the success that it was. It was inspiring and touching to hear our Indian sisters taking part so freely in all the prayer and testimony meetings.

On Sunday the 23rd of March, there was a baptism held outside the city, when four persons who had accepted the truth in connection with Brother Asirvatham's work in Madras were baptised, one man and four women. The latter, members of one family, have taken a stand for the truth against the wishes of their relatives, and were much helped by the presence at this meeting of so many of our sisters who had already had to meet and overcome the difficulties with regard to dispensing with

jewellery, and other things that mean so much to the women of India.

The last South India meeting at which the writer was present was held at Coimbatore in 1917, and was attended by our Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam believers. That was a longer meeting, and was unavoidably characterised by continual interpretation. One could not but recognize in the Madras meeting the great advantages that have come through the plan the brethren have adopted of holding three shorter meetings, one in each language area. In the recent meeting very little interpretation was needed, most of the meetings being conducted in Tamil by brethren G. G. Lowry, E. D. Thomas, and A. Asirvatham. Brother Lowry gave talks on practical subjects, and led out in the meetings devoted to the consideration of methods of work, and the questions raised by the brethren at the "round table" session. One of the most important meetings was the revival service held on the Sabbath morning. Brother Thomas led out in this meeting, and the Lord helped him to reach the hearts of the people. There was earnest work done in putting away sins and getting right with God. The workers had been praying for revival and blessing, and the Lord sent the needed help.

Brother and Sister E. M. Meleen and Brother and Sister P. C. Poley also were in attendance. The former both took part in the testimony meetings in the vernacular, as an earnest of the fact that they are steadily progressing toward the place where they will strengthen the forces already carrying on the work in the Tamil tongue. Brother Meleen also occupied the hour appointed for the consideration of our educational work.

The meeting as a whole was an encouraging one, and the spirit of the believers seemed to promise the progress and growth of the cause in the Tamil field.

W. W. FLETCHER.

### East Bengal

We left Dacca the first of December for our winter tour in East Bengal. After being four months away, we are now on our way home. The Lord has graciously encouraged His servants in the field with many soul-inspiring experiences, which spur us on to greater activities as the Master assures us, "the battle is not long."

During this trip we have found Sabbath-keepers in new villages who are standing firm for the truth in spite of opposition. We have seen Hindus accepting Christianity; a Hindu man and his wife were recently baptized by the writer, and another educated Hindu man and his wife, having left relatives and property, came to us some time ago, after becoming interested through reading our Bengali "Signs of the Times," and are now preparing for baptism. We have seen evidences of real Christian experience in the lives of the people who have recently joined us; women have given up their jewellery, and men have given up smoking and other bad habits. We have witnessed the tear-drops which have flowed down the cheeks of some of our sisters who have been persecuted by their own relatives because of the truth. A brother and his wife who have long been threatened by his parents that the moment they join our church they will have to leave his father's home, were given a final order by the parents, the Sabbath they were baptized.

The second Sabbath of March found us by the river Madhumati of Gopalganj, when eight men and six women were after the pattern of their master, buried in water, and were brought up out of the water to walk in newness of life. On this date, the remaining names on the list of our original East Bengal Church, with added new members, — in all 24, were re-organized into a church which will be known from this time on as the Gopalganj, instead of the East Bengal Church. This makes a total of four organized churches in East Bengal.

The meeting on this eventful day was brought to its close by celebrating the Lord's Supper, when 36 people, consisting of the members of the Gopalganj Church and visitors from our other churches, joined in the feast.

An Institute for our canvassers was held in Gopalganj the first week of March when Brother W. H. Stevens gave our men help-

ful instruction regarding literature work. In connection with this institute, as a number of our isolated members were with us, it seemed to be an opportune time to conduct the Week-of-Prayer meetings. So although a week earlier than the specified date, we conducted our Week-of-Prayer meetings in connection with the institute.

In spite of failure of the rice crop, and high prices, we were able to collect Rs. 115, in tithes and offerings, aside from our regular workers' tithe and the usual Sabbath-School donations.

We are glad to report that the prospect has never been so bright before us as at present in East Bengal. It is our earnest prayer that the Lord of the Harvest will continue to bless us as we labour to win souls for him.

L. G. MOOKERJEE.

### Facing Towards India

After more than four years of exile, the writer is happy to have his face set resolutely towards India once again. Little did we think in May 1914, when we took the boat at Bombay for one year's furlough, that five long, weary years were ahead of us before we would see India's shores once more.

But at the Loma Linda Council of the General Conference in 1915, it became very evident to the leaders of our work that there was a great crisis ahead of us as a people, a crisis coming not so much through lack of money as through lack of workers. The burden of Asia in a special manner rolled in upon us at that meeting. It was very clear that thousands of doors would soon swing wide open, bidding us to enter. For these calls thousands of young people must be speedily prepared.

Our schools were struggling under debt, and were unable to provide either the buildings or equipment necessary to prepare this army of young people. The policy adopted for giving a portion of the weekly offerings for the liquidation of the debts met that situation, but did not provide the increased facilities necessary.

So it was decided that someone must remain out of Asia and spend their time bringing the situation before our people, rolling the burden on their hearts, appealing to our many bright young people to

forsake the world and turn their faces resolutely towards the mission fields, and to our churches to provide sufficient facilities at our schools to properly and quickly train them. Toward this great effort I was asked to remain and contribute my mite.

This month I complete three years effort along this line. I have visited hundreds of churches, met thousands of our young people, as well as our older members. Hundreds of young men and women have definitely devoted their lives to foreign mission service and thousands of dollars have been contributed to missions and to our schools.

It has been my great privilege to work especially for three of our Colleges, three of our Junior Colleges and three of our Academies as follows, Pacific Union College, Washington Missionary College, and Walla Walla College; South Lancaster Junior College, Southern Junior College, Laurelwood Junior College, Mount Vernon Academy, Western Washington Academy, and Southern Oregon Academy.

Nearly \$200,000 have been contributed for the improvement and development of these schools during the three years. The campaign has also turned the hearts of thousands of our young people towards these schools. Were it just to add brick and mortar, the effort would be more than wasted. As a result of the campaign I believe that in the near future the greatest number of missionaries that we have ever seen will head towards the mission fields.

I have also laboured earnestly to interest those of our members who have either means or a profession, to come out to India as self-supporting missionaries. January, 9th, Dr. J. Vinton Scott and wife and child sailed for India as the firstfruits of this effort. I am sure that others will follow.

But we are surely glad that the period of service at the home base is now over. I am booked to sail for Bombay about the first of April. Mrs. Enoch will remain until Pearl is in school next fall before coming. With great eagerness I look forward to resuming the work in dear old India.

GEO. F. ENOCH.

### "Colportage in Bengal"

The canvassing work, properly conducted is missionary work of the highest order. If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the people, thus leading them to search the scriptures.

These passages very forcibly set forth the importance of the canvassing work as being pre-eminent among the agencies which God is using for the finishing of His work on earth; and as the years come and go, we realize more and more the blessedness of being members of the "Advance Guard" of the last warning message to humanity.

Since coming to this field the writer has not written any account of our work for the TIDINGS family but shall begin today. I have just returned from Gopalganj, East Bengal, where eight very enjoyable days were spent in a Canvassers' Institute, there were present two new canvassers and eight of our regular agents. Together with the "Evangelists" and "Bible workers" these all manifested a keen interest in the daily instruction. At the close of the meeting they returned to their respective fields with greater faith in the literature work, and determined to push it forward with greater enthusiasm and courage than heretofore.

A prominent feature of the meeting was the spirit of harmony and good will which prevailed throughout. I heard it remarked "that it was the most peaceful meeting that had been held in Bengal," this however was not the fruit of smooth teaching, for some very plain facts were stated.

It seems marvelous that when we announced that the price of the *Yuga Lakshan* had been doubled and the subscription price raised to six annas there was not one dissenting voice heard, for the Bengali usually has a super-abundance to say about such matters.

We were fortunate in having living testimonies for our colporteur work right in the meeting in the persons of a young Brahmin teacher and his wife. A copy of the *Yuga Lakshan* had been rejected from the mail and had fallen into this young man's hand. He became so interested in reading it that he subscribed for the paper and afterward studied with Brother Mookerjee. He had fled from his

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home by night with his wife, forfeiting Rs. 1000, and is very desirous of being baptized and entering the canvassing work. In the meantime he is having further studies. This living testimony impressed the brethren with the importance of this work and the possibilities before them far more than many words could have done.

The canvassers are urging us to go to new fields to foster interests which have been created as a result of their work. Brethren and Sisters, it appears although so many years have been spent in the land with but apparently small results, the day is now dawning when precious fruit shall be reaped for God's kingdom.—“Hold on.”

Our greatest need is some literature which can be sold for a few annas instead of price. Kindly remember our colportage work in your devotions.

“The Busy Colporteur.”

Colporteurs are judged and this surely is true,

By the time they put in, and the work that they do;

From earliest dawn until late in the night,  
These soldiers of Zion press on with the fight.

The comforts of home and the punkah-side pleasures

Are counted but dross beside heavenly treasures,

But their faithful reports bring comfort and cheer

To the watchers at home and the loved ones so dear.

There is naught that can alter them, nor tempest, nor rain,

As they carry God's message to earth's farthest plain;

And those who accept of the message they bear

Shall be stars in the crowns the colporteurs shall wear.

W. H. STEVENS

## 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.

Brother G. A. Hamilton tells of a growing interest in his Sunday evening meetings in Rangoon. Some new people are becoming interested and welcome the workers to their homes. The attendance at the meetings is building up again. The week of prayer has brought a real blessing to the church there, so that altogether the outlook for the work is decidedly brighter.

Brother L. A. Semmens, who is engaged in language study in Calcutta, has secured an order for a copy each of sixteen of our larger books to be supplied in full leather binding. The gentleman who has given the order is an Assistant Engineer on the Railway, and is deeply interested in the message.

Arriving in Madras from Rangoon early in April, Pastor Fletcher has spent a busy month attending meetings in the south. In company with Pastor G. G. Lowry visits were made to Madras, Rajamundry, Narsapur and other places. Good meetings are reported all through and a growing work. On the 2nd of this month Brother Fletcher left Madras for Bombay. Immediately upon the arrival of Sister Fletcher from Australia, he plans to return to Lucknow.