

THE GLEANER.

VOL. 2.

Melbourne, December, 1897.

No. 6.

THE MELBOURNE CAMP-MEETING.

ONE of the most interesting and apparently the most successful camp-meetings ever held in Australia has just closed. The meeting was held in Inkerman Road, Balaclava, November 18th to December 6th. The Lord greatly blessed us in the selection of the ground, which was one of the most beautiful that we have ever seen for a camp-meeting. It consisted of a paddock of three and a half acres, hedged in on nearly every side by fine, large pine trees. Although surrounded by a great population, it was far enough from trams and trains to be perfectly quiet, and well suited for a place of worship.

The attendance by our own people was larger than usual, every tent being engaged two days before the meeting opened, and we were obliged to rent additional tents from one of the city firms. Even then there was insufficient room for those who came, and many had to take rooms in houses in the vicinity of the camp. Our camp-meeting followed so closely the one held in Sydney, that we were unable to obtain our supplies from there in time to begin arrangements as early as we desired, and we were therefore considerably hurried in the preliminary arrangements. But by very energetic work the entire camp was nicely arranged on Friday afternoon, and it was with considerable pleasure that we looked over the ground, and saw the perfect order of the encampment.

But the last blow had hardly been struck when we noticed a heavy cloud rising out of the west, and the prospects of a heavy storm rapidly increased. Doubtless you have all read in the papers concerning the storm that followed. It tore up trees within sight of the camp, blew down chimneys, tore away verandahs, and completely wrecked some very large places. We lowered the big tent to the ground, so that it received no damage. The Lord spared us from any serious harm, and we seemed to fare much better than many who lived in houses. Seven or eight family tents were blown down, and eleven flies torn off. This was the only damage done. After the storm some of these were mended and put up again. After one day's work one would scarcely know that there had been a storm.

It appeared that in many respects the storm was a

blessing to the encampment, for all seemed to feel their utter dependence upon the Lord for protection, and the voice of prayer and singing could be heard through a large portion of the night. This circumstance seemed to add much to the interest of the meeting.

The Sabbath and Sunday following the storm were very interesting days. The attendance on Sunday was so large that seating within the tent could be found for only a few comparatively. It seemed a pity that so many hundreds should be shut outside who could not hear the preaching, therefore, after the first Sabbath and Sunday, another splice was obtained for the large tent. It was then put up with three central masts, which made a beautiful pavilion of 110 feet long by 50 wide. This would comfortably seat 1000 people. But the crowd seemed to grow with the extension of the tent, and we were not able to seat more than a portion of the congregation.

There was a deep, steady interest, and a good attendance all through the meeting. At the close of the first week the interest had become so great that it seemed advisable to extend the meeting another week, which was done, with gratifying results both to our own people and to the public. The speaking was largely done by Brethren Farnsworth, Daniells, Robinson, and Caro. All of these brethren enjoyed freedom.

Our medical work received special attention at this meeting, and plans were further developed for energetic work in some of the more important colonies. We can hardly estimate the great good that these self-supporting missionaries and nurses will accomplish through Christian Help work, and various lines in behalf of the needy and suffering. The Lord has surely been good to us in sending us so many efficient helpers.

The book tent was one of the attractive features of the ground. This was not used entirely for a book tent, as one counter was set apart for the exhibition and sale of various health foods, which had been imported. Dr. Caro and his assistants succeeded in awakening a real interest in these foods, both on the part of our own people and the visiting public. At the beginning of the meeting we had about nine hundred weight of these foods, and they were all sold out, and we have had none since to supply the demand for

them. However, we hope very shortly to be manufacturing them ourselves.

The sale of our publications during the meeting was the highest that we have yet had at any meeting. It amounted to £35.

When the camp-meeting closed the big tent was taken down, and pitched nearer the station in Balaclava Road, where the evening meetings have been kept up right along. The good attendance has continued, and at least seventeen have fully taken hold of the truth at the present time. A pleasant house has been rented right back of the tent for the accommodation of the mission workers. The workers consist of Pastor A. T. Robinson, as superintendent, Mrs. Robinson, Prof. H. C. Lacey and wife, of Avondale College, N. A. Davis, J. H. Woods, Mrs. Blunden, Miss Tuxon, Misses Jeanie Mansell, Prissie Prismall, Susie Gurner, and Brethren Louis Currow and Albert Piper. These workers are finding all that they can do in holding Bible readings, visiting with the people, and in selling the *Bible Echo* and other publications from house to house. They find a widespread interest that has been awakened by the camp-meeting. We trust that the earnest prayers of all our people will be offered for the work in Balaclava.

GREETING.

Dear Brethren and Sisters of the Central Australian Conference:—

GREETING.—Since coming to this country, I have felt a strong desire to become personally acquainted with all our people. The multitudinous duties during the time of the camp-meeting largely prevented this. I am hoping before very long to have the privilege of meeting and labouring with you in your home churches; but at the present time, in company with quite a force of co-workers, we are closely held in the work of following up the interest awakened by our good camp-meeting. At the close of the camp-meeting, the large tent was removed to a location near to the Balaclava railway station, where meetings were opened the following night, and have been continued every evening since, except Monday and Saturday evenings, and two meetings on Sabbaths and Sundays.

You will all be pleased to know that the interest is still good, and that new ones are deciding to keep the Lord's Sabbath. Last Sunday evening the large tent was full. The subject presented was "The Mark of the Beast." The power of the Holy Spirit was present in a very marked degree, and at the close of the service several persons expressed themselves as fully decided on the Lord's side of the Sabbath controversy. I was never in a meeting where the presence of God was

more manifest. Our company of workers are doing all they can to reach as many as possible at their homes. Two thousand copies of the camp-meeting edition of the *Bible Echo* are being sold. In this way many interested ones are being found. It is an intensely busy and interesting time with us here, and we trust that you are all earnestly praying for the success of the work in Balaclava.

I quote this timely and stirring question and admonition, from Testimony No 31:—

"Brethren and Sisters, have you forgotten that your prayers should go out, like sharp sickles, with the labourers in the great harvest field? I entreat you to fear the Lord, to waste no time in unprofitable talk or in needless labour to gratify pride or to indulge the appetite. Let the time thus gained be spent in wrestling with God for your ministers. Hold up their hands as did Aaron and Hur the hands of Moses."

We are fully in the time of the "latter rain," and God is waiting to be gracious unto His remnant people. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit will be just in proportion to the spirit of consecration and faithfulness on the part of our people. God calls upon us now to deal faithfully with our own souls; for faithfulness in putting away our sins and selfishness; faithfulness in letting our light shine to those around us, in deeds of love and benevolence; faithfulness in the use of the means He allows to come into our hands, in the payment of the Lord's tithes. He asks us to prove Him on this latter point. "Bring ye all the tithes (not a part of them) into the storehouse, and prove me now *herewith*, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Who dares thus to prove our God? O, let us prove Him. Let us prove our God! He is faithful who hath promised. It is impossible for God to lie. If every Seventh-day Adventist in this Conference would prove the Lord on this one point, every day during the year that is before us, we would hear no more about Conference indebtedness; we would not be in fear and dread of putting more workers in the field than could be supported, but we would see the work breaking out in many new places where the precious light has not before shined out. It is time now for everyone to act just as though they really believed the third angel's message. Shall it not be so everywhere? And let all the people say, Amen, let it be so.

I will be much pleased to have all feel free to write me concerning the work in different places, of the interest in the churches, any specially good openings for meetings to be held after our tent season is over, or on any matters in which you feel interested.

Faithfully yours in the Master's Work,
Balaclava, Dec. 15, 1897. A. T. ROBINSON.

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MONTHLY SUMMARY AUSTRALIAN CANVASSING WORK.—November, 1897.

AGENT AND TERRITORY.	DAYS.	HOURS.	Can.	ORD.	M.	L.	C. G.	C. M.	C. P.	HELPS	VAL.
BIBLE READINGS,—											
Reekie, Mr. P. ... Gympie, Q. ...	15	80	128	25	3	4	8	10	—	£2 15 0	£18 1
<i>Other Books</i> ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Chapman, Mr. T. A. ... Gympie, Q. ...	4	24	35	8	1	7	—	—	—	11 0	6 1
Foskins, Mr. E. ... Seymour, Vic. ...	2	16	22	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Innes, John, ... Waratah, Tas. ...	5	39	62	4	—	1	3	—	—	6 0	2 2
Johanson, Mr. J. ... Perth, W.A. ...	8	64	—	13	2	—	5	5	1	—	7 7
GREAT CONTROVERSY,—											
Masters, Mr. F. ... Geraldton, W.A. ...	6	—	—	11	2	1	4	4	—	—	7
H. H. BOOK,—											
Diverall, Mr. J. C. ... Tallangatta, Vic. ...	7	64	27	6	—	3	—	3	—	15 0	10
McKenzie, Mr. A. ... Maryborough, Q. ...	7	44	29	9	—	3	—	6	—	12 0	14
Reekie, Mr. F. W. ... G. S. Railway, W.A. ...	20	213	229	115	1	9	—	105	—	4 5 0	167
Horwood, A. W. ... Maryborough, Q. ...	6	33	18	4	—	2	—	2	—	—	6
LADIES' GUIDE,—											
Gooding, Mrs. C. ... Adelaide, S.A. ...	9	55	47	11	1	4	—	6	—	5 0	11
<i>Other Books</i> ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ackary, Miss A. ... Charters Towers, Q. ...	14	103	—	35	7	8	—	20	—	9 0	35
Reekie, Mr. F. W. ... G. S. Railway, W. A. ...	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	12	—	—	10
MAN THE MASTERPIECE,—											
Masters, Mr. F. ... Geraldton, W.A. ...	—	—	—	5	1	1	—	3	—	—	5
Chapman, Mr. T. A. ... Gympie, Q. ...	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	1
SUNBEAMS,—											
Stoate, Mr. R. J. ... Bendigo, Vic. ...	15	106	202	23	—	—	6	—	17	2 7 0	14
Totals ...	108	741	799	287	18	47	27	177	18	12 5 0	324
NEW SOUTH WALES AGENTS.—											
BIBLE READINGS,—											
Ross, Lewin, Mr H ... Narrandera ...	12	89	116	37	1	2	15	18	1	£1 4 0	£22
Hodgson, R. S. ... Junee ...	12	105	110	29	10	8	6	5	—	1 11 0	25
Adcock, Miss E. ... Penrith ...	13	64	120	25	3	1	4	7	10	1 13 0	15
PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS,—											
Carswell, Mr. W. R. ... Picton ...	21	154	269	17	1	4	4	8	—	4 9 0	14
<i>Other Books</i> ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Carswell, Mrs. ... Picton ...	22	158	242	19	2	1	13	3	—	5 0 6	17
LADIES' GUIDE,—											
Gregg, Mrs. M. A. ... Newcastle ...	7	49	80	20	1	1	—	18	—	15 9	18
Ross, Lewin, Mrs. ... Narrandera ...	9	44	64	11	—	—	—	11	—	2 0	9
Totals ...	96	663	1001	159	19	17	42	70	11	14 15 3	123
Grand Total ...	204	1404	1800	446	37	64	69	247	29	27 0 3	448

BIBLE ECHO SALES during November, 1897.

CHURCHES.	MEMBERSHIP.	ECHOES.	UNORGANISED COMPANIES.	Ec
Adelaide ...	159	664	Brought forward ...	
Ashfield ...	66	760	Bendigo ...	
Avondale ...	50	192	Brisbane ...	
Ballarat ...	40	228	Croydon ...	
Bismarck ...	56	48	Geelong ...	
Brighton ...	14	72	Ipwich ...	
Broken Hill ...	18	912	Kalgoorlie ...	
Hawthorn ...	40	144	Kangarilla ...	
Hobart ...	95	552	Kadina ...	
Kellyville ...	16	108	Launceston ...	
Latrobe ...	9	24	Melrose ...	
Malbourne ...	208	848	Stanmore Mission ...	
Malvern ...	23	96	Townsville ...	
Parramatta ...	70	1,620	Zeehan ...	
Perth ...	31	620	New Zealand ...	
Prahran ...	47	644	Miscellaneous ...	
Prospect ...	12	48		
Rockhampton ...	68	392		
Sydney ...	84	1,344		
Toowoomba ...	28	128		
Williamstown ...	64	244		
Carried forward		9,688	Total	2

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NOTES.

There is a cheering appearance of growth, progress, and expansion attending every branch of our work in Australasia at the present time. Much of the time of the recent session of the Union Conference was spent in planning for broader work.

Four new committees were appointed by the Union Conference. One was to serve as a Mission Board, labouring for the evangelisation of native and alien races. One was to study the duty of the church in the matter of primary education. One was to consider the matter of establishing an Old People's Home, and another was to labour for the finding of homes for orphan children. Each church, and each family is a standing committee to assist in each and all of these lines, and it is to be expected that these special committees will aid by collecting all the best thoughts of those having practical experience, and imparting these thoughts to others.

Watch for the new health journal, "The Herald of Health." And as soon as you have a copy, show it to your neighbours, and get a few of them to subscribe for the year. It is a live journal, dealing with a vital subject. Let us all unite to give it a good start in life.

The School Board are planning to make a special effort this year to have well taught those studies that lie at the foundation of a thorough course of instruction in nursing, and have invited Dr. Kate Lindsay to visit Australia on her way from South Africa to the United States.

In harmony with the resolutions of the Union Conference, the Avondale School Board have begun the erection of a commodious building for the accommodation of young men and boys. It has been named Herman Hall, and will accommodate forty-two. The material has been secured, and if the friends of the school are prompt in paying old pledges, and will favour the school with some new donations, we shall have this hall ready for use next March.

The interest manifested in the message as presented in the tent meetings now in progress in Stanmore and in Balaclava is phenomenal. In each place there are about fifteen workers, but the broadening interests would employ as many more. If there are those who wish to help along this good work, who cannot personally take part in the labour, they may manifest their interest by donations of money, food, furniture, and bedding. It is quite an enterprise to suddenly set up housekeeping for a family of twelve, with a few rented cots, tables, and chairs, and a limited supply of drapers' boxes. The loan of furniture would be acceptable, and donations of fruit would be a great help.

ONE year ago to-day (Dec. 20) I left home to attend the General Conference, and to secure medical missionaries, teachers, and other workers for the Australasian Colonies.

Of the fourteen who have already come to join us in our work, Professor and Mrs. Hughes are with the Avondale School for Christian Workers, Bro. Lee Bond and family are in Melbourne, where Bro. Bond is pressman in the Echo Office. Bro. and Sr. Shannon are connected with the Health Home in Summer Hill, Sydney. Bro. and Sr. Brandstatter, nursing in Sydney. Miss Leilia Harker, nursing in Perth. Bro. E. C. Halsey, establishing a Health Food Bakery in Melbourne. Miss Ruth Jones and Mrs. Edith Hare Reekie, visiting relatives in New Zealand. Dr. and Mrs. Caro, attending the New Zealand Conference. W. C. W.

PLEASE NOTICE.

The following are the names with addresses of the officers of the Central Australian Conference, as elected at the Melbourne camp-meeting: President, Pastor A. T. Robinson, Orange Grove, off Balaclava Road, Balaclava, Vic.; Secretary, Wm. Knight, 3 Highbury Grove, East Prahran, Vic.; Treasurer, C. H. Pretymann, 251 St. George's Road, North Fitzroy, Vic. All who wish to communicate with the officers of the Conference, will please take notice of these changes, and address their letters to the right persons.

At its late session, Pastor A. T. Robinson was elected President of the Australian Tract Society, and Miss E. M. Graham, Secretary and Treasurer. All business for the Secretary should therefore be addressed to Miss Graham instead of to Miss A. L. Ingels as formerly. The latter is not now officially connected with the Society, having been elected Secretary of the Union Conference.

All business for the Secretary of the Australasian Union Conference should be addressed to Miss A. L. Ingels, 251 St. George's Road, North Fitzroy, Vic.

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY
BY THE

AUSTRALIAN TRACT SOCIETY,

251 ST. GEORGE'S ROAD, N. FITZROY.

VIC., AUSTRALIA.

PRICE:

	s.	d.
Per Year, post paid	...	1 3
Clubs of six or more copies to one address, per year, post paid, each	...	0 9
Single copies, postage $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per copy extra	...	0 1

Printed by the Echo Publishing Company, Limited, 14 Best Street, North Fitzroy, Victoria, for the Australian Tract Society, and registered as a newspaper in Victoria.