

Eastern Tidings.

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No 3.

MARAH AND ELIM.

Today 'tis Elim with its palms and wells,
And happy shade for desert weariness:

'Twas Marah yesterday, all rock and sand,
Unshaded solitude and dreariness.

Yet the same desert holds them both, the
same

Hot breezes wander o'er the lonely ground:

The same low stretch of valley shelters
both.

And the same mountains compass them
around.

So it is here with us on earth, and so
I do remember it has ever been

The bitter and the sweet, the grief and joy,
Lie near together, but a day between.

Sometimes God turns our bitter into sweet
Sometimes He gives us pleasant water-
springs

Sometimes He shades us with His pillar-
cloud,

And sometimes to a blessed palm-shade
brings.

What matters it? The time will not be
long:

Marah and Elim will alike be passed:

Our desert wells and palms will soon be
done.

We reach the "City of our God" at last.

O happy land! beyond these lonely hills.

Where gush in joy the everlasting springs:

O holy Paradise! above these heavens,

Where we shall end our desert wanderings.

—H. BONAR.

THE INFLUENCE OF OUR LIVES.

There is an eloquence far more power-
ful than the eloquence of words in the
quiet, consistent life of a pure, true
Christian. What a man is has more
influence than what he says.

The officers who were sent to Jesus
came back with the report that never
man spoke as He spoke. But the reason

for this was that never man lived as He
lived. Had His life been other than it
was, He could not have spoken as He
did. His words bore with them a con-
vincing power, because they came from a
heart pure and holy, full of love and
sympathy, benevolence and truth.

It is our own character and experience
that determine our influence upon others.
In order to convince others of the power
of Christ's grace, we must know His
power in our own hearts and lives. The
gospel we present for the saving of souls
must be the gospel by which our own
souls are saved. Only through a living
faith in Christ as a personal Saviour is
it possible to make our influence felt in
a skeptical world. If we would draw sin-
ners out of the swift-running current,
our own feet must be firmly set upon the
Rock, Christ Jesus.

The badge of Christianity is not an
outward sign, not the wearing of a cross
or crown, but it is that which reveals the
union of man with God. By the power of
His grace manifested in the transforma-
tion of character, the world is to be con-
vinced that God has sent His Son as its
Redeemer. No other influence that can
surround the human soul has such power
as the influence of an unselfish life. The
strongest argument in favour of the
Gospel is a loving and lovable Christ

To live such a life, to exert such
influence, costs at every step, effort
sacrifice, discipline. It is becau

do not understand this that many are so easily discouraged in the Christian life. Many who sincerely consecrate their lives to God's service are surprised and disappointed to find themselves, as never before, confronted by obstacles and beset by trials and perplexities. They pray for Christlikeness of character, for a fitness for the Lord's work, and they are placed in circumstances that seem to call forth all the evil of their nature. Faults are revealed, of which they did not even suspect the existence. Like Israel of old, they question, "If God is leading us, why do all these things come upon us?"

It is because God is leading them that all these things come upon them. Trials and obstacles are the Lord's chosen methods of discipline and His appointed conditions of success. He who reads the hearts of men knows their character better than they themselves know them. He sees that some have powers and susceptibilities which, rightly directed, might be used in the advancement of His work. In His providence He brings these persons into different positions and varied circumstances that they may discover in their character the defects which have been concealed from their own knowledge. He gives them opportunity to correct these defects, and to fit themselves for His service. Often He permits the fires of affliction to assail them that they may be purified.

Mrs. E. G. WHITE.

PAYING TITHES.

The question has been asked whether Indian Christians should pay tithes. Some feel that many of them are so poor that it is hardly fair for them to be ask-

ed to pay a tenth of their income. To such we ask the question: "Is the tithing system of God or is it a human ordinance?" If it be only a human arrangement and no authority existing for teaching it save that of man, the question falls out of the role of duties of the Christian church and every man may do as his judgment dictates. On the other hand if the tithing system be of God, it is the duty of all, rich and poor to pay tithes unless the Scriptures make a distinction.

As a denomination, we believe in the tithing system and our faith rests upon the clear teaching of the Bible. Abraham our father in the faith left us an example in tithe paying. Gen. 14: 20. And the test applied by Christ to the children of Israel applies equally well to us. Christ said to the Jews: "If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham." If we claim to be the children of Abraham so far as his life conformed to the teaching of the Word so far shall we be safe in following his example. Jacob was also a tithe payer. He began when he had only a stone for a pillow and was undoubtedly as poor as any Indian Christian, but God honoured his faith and gave him great riches while so doing. As a reward of his faithfulness God changed his name to Israel, the name which every child of God is to bear whether living in this day or in the time of the Jews. If we wish to be Israelites indeed as Nathanael, we should be true to the name and render unto the Lord His portion.

Christ very clearly said that we should pay tithes and He made no excuse for those who are poor. Speaking of tithing He said: "These things ought ye to have

done." He who was so poor that He had nowhere to lay His head, did not do away with the tithing system or make it obligatory only upon those in comfortable circumstances, but enjoined it upon all. When He saw the poor widow put all she had into the treasury He commended her faith.

There is a blessing for Indian Christians in paying tithes. Mal. 3: 10 and 11 says: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, 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 here shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts."

If a poor man gets only ten pice a day, it may seem hard to some to teach him to return one pice to the Lord. But He who gave the ten pice is able by His blessing to make the nine go further by His blessing than the ten without it. The blessings of the tithing system are gladly told by all who have made tithes paying a Christian privilege and duty and have done so by faith in God as the provider and giver of all.

It may not be convenient for all to pay tithes in money and it is not necessary. The children of Israel paid theirs in cattle or produce, whatever they had. Among poor people in India, rice is the most common food. Why not teach those who raise rice, dahl or whatever it be to bring one tenth unto the Lord. There is a blessing in it. By this means Indian Christians will lay the foundation for self-supporting work among their own

people. Every ten Christian men may in that way support one of their number to carry the truth to others.

J. L. SHAW.

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER FROM

ELDER THOMPSON.

A letter to hand from Elder Thompson while at Gland, Switzerland, reports an excellent meeting. A picture of the property purchased for the Mountain Mission reached him. He says: "I have explained to them (the council) about the hill station. It is such a help that I have seen the place. The committee approved of the purchase of it, and I have not heard of a single word of criticism concerning either the price or the location. I think all are satisfied. Personally I believe that the Lord has directed in the matter. I know he heard us pray about it. I feel really better satisfied than I would have with the other. It will always be a credit to our work in India, and we will see as time goes on that it is the right place. I feel more glad than words can express that you have the place. Between that and Debra Dun it will be a splendid place to have workers. I believe the Lord helped us in our weakness." He further says: "all calls for workers sent from India were approved but it is not possible to fill them all at once. The whole budget put in for workers (from all fields) I send you, so you will see what pressure we are under for workers and how to fill all these and get the money is a great question."

J. L. SHAW.

Elder Owen, Brother J. H. Reagan and Miss Rachel Johnson are all enjoying a pleasant change at Annfield.

DEAR brothers and sisters:

Another month has passed quickly by leaving many blessings with us:

We have just received an encouraging letter from Elder Haskell, who is much interested in the work in this field. He says: "The heart of God is drawn out for all mankind, and those for whom the least has been done are the very ones that His great heart of love is drawn out toward at the present time. He will accompany every effort put forth for the advancement of His truth with a power that is more than ordinary."

Last month I spent two days in Agra, where the Lord is leading some native Christians into the light of Present Truth in a marked manner, a number of whom have begun to keep the Sabbath. I will quote a few lines from a letter received from one of them a few days ago: "We are praying the Lord to help us by His Holy Spirit in making a complete sacrifice of all that is really disgraceful in the Lord's sight. I thank you for your Godly remark on the use of tobacco. I have been praying the Lord to help me by His Spirit to never touch it any longer, and I hope the Lord will give me the power I need in making this Sacrifice. All the brethren were glad to read this remark of your and they intend to give it up entirely. The Lord will help them. Give us more help in these matters."

The following lines are from another converted Mohammedan who is just seeing the light in regard to the message: "I am at present in Gwalior and am spending my whole time in teaching the Present Truth to the Christians of this place. A few of them have certainly been converted to the truth by the Spirit of God. The Christians of this place gather every day in my house for prayers and I teach them openly about the Sabbath. I praise God with my all power that whatever I have learnt by the Spirit of God about the original Sabbath of God, I could not help myself to preach about it. I have done a great mistake that I did not write you to send me 100 more of the "Sanatar Sasanachar" (our Hindi pamphlet). I have none with me to sell here, because I sold all what I had received."

If we seek the Lord in humility He will work in a more than ordinary way in this field and we will soon see the message go with a loud cry among the people of India.

Pray for us that the Lord may give us strength and wisdom for every time of need.

L. J. BURGESS.

KARMAVAR.

The medical workers here sometimes receive calls that would perhaps startle some of the brethren who work in the cities.

One such summons was made about a week ago. Between nine and ten o'clock at night a deputation of three waited on Mrs. Watson, saying that there had been a burning accident by which two, a young man and a boy had been severely injured, and desiring that medical aid be rendered

forthwith, the village whither they desired her to accompany them being some 12 to 15 miles distant. We did not feel that the call could be answered in the manner desired. So a lotion for washing the burns and some ointment was prepared and handed the men with directions for application, and they were asked to bring in the patients, in palanquins very early in the morning.

They arrived about 10 A. M. the next day, one a boy of ten, the other a young man of about twenty.

The boy's face and head were so severely burnt that, despite the unceasing efforts of Mrs. Watson and her assistant Sister Sbotto Mitter, he expired at nine o'clock the night of his arrival.

The young man although badly burnt about the face and arms, survives, and is improving. He lives in our premises with several of his relatives and servants, and is receiving careful attention each day.

The accident was caused by a lighted match falling into a can of petroleum.

These people had become acquainted with our medical workers when, a few months ago, they went out on a labour case in or near the same village, and came with confidence that we could help them. We have not heard a word of complaint or criticism although the boy died.

A. G. WATSON.

ANNFIELD NOTES.

Brother Hansen is again upon his feet and is making steady recovery. Brother Barlow seems to be improving.

Miss Burroway who had to stop her language work at Dehra Dun because of trouble with her eyes, finds the change

and rest at Annfield a great blessing and is feeling much better healthwise.

We are glad to have with us Brother and Sister Little who are enjoying a well-earned change to the mountains.

The Mussoorie Missionary Society are sending out five hundred copies of the "Oriental Watchman" for June to missionaries of other denominations in India. They expect to send out a similar number each month for the coming six months to the same names.

The workers at Annfield were happy to witness the baptism of John Last on the 3rd. of June, in the mountain stream just below the Mission Home. Brother Last is about 55 years of age. He was converted from Hinduism about 15 years ago and has been preaching the Gospel according to the best light he has had. For the past two months he has been considering the subject of the Sabbath and other truths and has fully accepted each point which has been made clear to him. We hope that brother Last will make a faithful worker to carry the message to the people of the Patiala State, where he has been labouring for some years past.

It is fortunate for the Sanitarium workers in Calcutta to have a light run of patients during the intense heat just prior to the rains. As the rains break, more patients will come, the work will increase and every ounce of strength will be required. Sister Shannon has been undergoing an operation at the Sanitarium. It is hoped that this minor operation will forestal a more serious major operation.

The Sanitarium Health Food Factory is continually improving its foods. Every one who makes a continued use of them will find a great benefit healthwise. We suggest that our workers supplement the efforts of the Factory in its endeavour to make foods par excellence by recommending them widely among the people of India.

EASTERN TIDINGS.

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INTERNATIONAL TRACT SOC.,

39-1 Free School Street, Calcutta.

Elder Votaw writes that Brother A. Bertie of Rangoon soon expects to enter the canvassing work in Burmah. He recently gave up a good position to keep the Sabbath.

Brother H. B. Meyers reports that his son Brother William Meyers is continuing to have good success canvassing for Health Books.

Sisters Orr and Haegert have returned to Colombo after a month at Bangalore. These sisters are entitled to our prayers in behalf of their efforts while canvassing in Ceylon, that their health be spared and success attend their work.

A small consignment of "Heralds of the Morning" is on the way from the Pacific Press, California. The publishers tell us that it is the best selling book now published by them. All India is open for this book, canvassers should do well with it. If several think of selling this book, it will be necessary to order another shipment at once.

Brother Burgess reports rapid sales of the little booklet "Sanatan Susamachar" in Mussoorie. Brethren John Last and Barlow have sold out all in hand and a further order for more has been sent to Karnatar. We are glad to find that

Indian people are willing to buy our literature. What an immense field there is before us!

The Watchman Press printed 3,500 copies of the "Oriental Watchman" for June, an increase of 2,500 over that printed for the month of January. In this we see a marked evidence of God's blessing upon the faithful efforts of those who have been building up the subscription list for the "Oriental Watchman" which has now passed the 2,000 mark.

Elder Votaw writes in for a club of "Oriental Watchman" for the Young Peoples' Society at Rangoon. These are to be used by the Society in visiting hospitals. This is a good example the Young Peoples' Society of Rangoon are setting. Why not other societies and churches do likewise? Such a plan will do the individual members good and help to spread the message.

"The Signs of the Times" are publishing a set of twenty-six symposium numbers which are to cover all phases of the Message. Three numbers are to hand. They come packed full of truth presented in no uncertain way. Sister O' Connor is working hard to raise a club of fifty. Rally to help her in this effort. The price is Rs. 2-8 for single sets of twenty-six copies. If taken in clubs of five, Rs. 1-8 and postage. Send in your order to International Tract Society, Office, 39-1 Free School Street, Calcutta.

Bro. James writes that the tent after much trouble and some expense has been shipped from Colombo to Bangalore. We hope it will be helpful somewhere in an effort this coming cool season.