

Eastern Tidings.

Vol 4

MAY, 1908

No. 13

INFLUENCE

The life of Christ was an ever-widening, shoreless influence, an influence that bound Him to God and to the whole human family.

Every soul is surrounded by an atmosphere of its own,—an atmosphere, it may be, charged with the life-giving power of faith, courage, and hope, and sweet with the fragrance of love. Or it may be heavy and chill with the gloom of discontent and selfishness, or poisonous with the deadly taint of cherished sin. By the atmosphere surrounding us, every person with whom we come in contact is consciously or unconsciously affected.

This is a responsibility from which we can not free ourselves. Our words, our acts, our dress, our deportment, even the expression of the countenance, has an influence.

Throw a pebble into the lake, and a wave is formed, and another and another; and as they increase, the circle widens, until it reaches the very shore. So with our influence. Beyond our knowledge or control it tells upon others in blessing or in cursing.

Character is power. The silent witness of a true, unselfish, godly life carries an almost irresistible influence. By revealing in our own life the character of Christ we co-operate with Him in the work of saving souls. It is only by revealing in our life His character that we can co-operate with Him. And the wider the sphere of our influence, the more good we may do. When those who profess to serve God follow Christ's example, practising the principles of the law in their daily

life; when every act bears witness that they love God supremely and their neighbor as themselves, then will the church have power to move the world.

But never should it be forgotten that influence is no less a power for evil. To lose one's own soul is a terrible thing; but to cause the loss of other souls is still more terrible. That our influence should be a savor of death unto death is a fearful thought; yet this is possible. Many who profess to gather with Christ are scattering from Him. This is why the church is so weak. Many indulge freely in criticism and accusing. By giving expression to suspicion, jealousy, and discontent, they yield themselves as instruments to Satan. Before they realize what they are doing, the adversary has through them accomplished his purpose. The impression of evil has been made, the shadow has been cast, the arrows of Satan have found their mark. Distrust, unbelief, and downright infidelity have fastened upon those who otherwise might have accepted Christ. Meanwhile the workers for Satan look complacently upon those whom they have driven to skepticism, and who are now hardened against reproof and entreaty. They flatter themselves that in comparison with these souls they are virtuous and righteous. They do not realize that these sad wrecks of character are the work of their own unbridled tongues and rebellious hearts. It is through their influence that these tempted ones have fallen.

So frivolity, selfish indulgence, and careless indifference on the part of professed Christians, are turning away many souls from the path of life.

Many there are who will fear to meet at the bar of God the results of their influence.

It is only through the grace of God that we can make a right use of this endowment. There is nothing in us of ourselves by which we can influence others for good. If we realize our helplessness and our need of divine power, we shall not trust to ourselves. We know not what results a day, an hour, or a moment may determine, and never should we begin the day without committing our ways to our Heavenly Father. His angels are appointed to watch over us, and if we put ourselves under their guardianship, then in every time of danger they will be at our right hand. When unconsciously we are in danger of exerting a wrong influence, the angels will be by our side, prompting us to a better course, choosing our words for us, and influencing our actions. Thus our influence may be a silent, unconscious, but mighty power in drawing others to Christ and the heavenly world.

Mrs. E. G. White.

A TRIP TO BURMAH

In harmony with the plans laid at our Council in November that the writer should visit Burmah during the cool season, I left Calcutta March 8th. arriving in Rangoon March 10th. after a comfortable passage across the bay. It had been nearly four years since I had been in Rangoon before and I was not a little surprised to see the growth and increase which the city has made since that time. I was glad to find Brother Votaw and wife and Brother and Sister Cook and children of good courage, and comfortably located at Kemmendine, a suburb of Rangoon.

The first meeting which I attended in Rangoon was the Wednesday evening prayer meeting. It gave me much pleasure to see the earnestness of the Rangoon Church. The brethren and sisters are learning to pray and testify in meeting. It was a great joy to us to listen to their testimonies and fervent prayers. After stopping a day or two in Rangoon in company with Brother and Sister Votaw, I went to Moulmein which is about 135 miles from Rangoon by sea. For over a year, Doctor Oberholtzer has been faithfully working in that place, learning the language and doing what medical work has come to her hand and giving Bible readings as opportunity has afforded. We found a real interest manifested among the English-speaking people in this place. A retired Civil Surgeon and his wife have both accepted the Sabbath, and while there a short series of meetings was held in their house and about twenty-five people from outside attended and showed excellent interest. They were very anxious to have us hold a longer series of meetings, and we trust that this can be done in the near future. While there Brother Votaw baptised the daughter of Brother Hpo Hla, a girl of about sixteen years of age.

We were glad to find Doctor Oberholtzer making satisfactory progress in the Burmese language upon which she has been faithfully working. We hope the time will soon come when she will be able to speak to the Burmese people in their own tongue.

From Moulmein we returned to Rangoon and a short series of meetings was held there. An announcement was put in the paper and a good attendance was secured. I have preached in few places where the interest of the people seemed greater than in this place. The Rangoon meeting hall is pleasant and centrally

located. Two souls were baptised while we were in Rangoon and united with the Rangoon church

From Rangoon, in company with Brother and Sister Votaw, I went to Meiktilla which is in the dry zone, not far from Mandalay, some three hundred miles from Rangoon. About three months before, Brother and sister Votaw conducted a series of Bible studies in this place with the result that five persons began the observance of the Sabbath. We had the pleasure of studying further with them and presented the Spirit of Prophecy. We were there but four days though the time was very fully occupied in the study of the truth. Those who had made a start to live out the truth showed great zeal and earnestness in learning more. On Sabbath, five were baptised by Elder Votaw in a beautiful lake around whose sides the station of Meiktilla is located. In the evening the ordinances were celebrated. It was a great joy to us to see the willingness of these dear friends to learn, and their eagerness to carry out the Word of God in its simplicity. Two of those who were baptised were lawyers. Several others are interested and we are looking forward to the time when a church may be organised in Meiktilla.

After returning to Rangoon, just prior to sailing for Calcutta, a two days' counsel meeting was held with the workers in Burmah. Some plans were laid at this council looking forward to the time when Burmah will be organised as a separate part of the India mission field. A committee of four persons in conjunction with Brother Votaw was appointed to take the needed oversight of the work in Burmah subject to the Advisory Board. It seemed advisable that a small branch of the International Tract Society in

Calcutta should be opened up in Rangoon in order that time may be saved in filling orders in that field, and that those who are working in Burmah may get in closer touch with the work in the field where they are working. A recommendation was therefore made, subject to the sanction of the Advisory Board, that a branch depository be opened up in Rangoon. Sister Lucy Cook was appointed Secretary and Treasurer of the same. She will receive all tithes and offerings made in the field and give receipts for the same, and will keep a small set of books so that accurate account of all receipts and disbursements may be had.

Some little time was given to the consideration of our literature. It was felt by all that immediate steps should be taken toward the getting out of literature, specially for the Buddhist people. It was arranged to get out a small pamphlet on the second coming of Christ for use among both Christians and Buddhists. Brother Votaw was also requested to get matter together for a booklet on the question of health to be sold among the Buddhist people. It seems difficult for the Buddhist mind to understand that there is a God who has created the heavens and the earth. Small leaflets on the subject of the Creator are therefore to be gotten out, making clear that this earth is not a matter of chance but was created by an all wise God.

We were very thankful to find the work in Burmah in so prosperous a condition and to mingle with workers so united in their efforts to advance the Cause. We feel certain that the work will continue to grow and develop in this encouraging part of the India Mission field. Though there are many perplexities, we are glad to say that the workers in Burmah love their people and the work they have in hand. May God greatly bless them.

Brother and Sister Votaw returned with us to take a much needed change in Mussoorie. While here, Brother Votaw is getting out literature. Meanwhile Brother Cook has the oversight of the work in Rangoon and is enjoying his work.

The day we left Rangoon, a few hours before our boat sailed, Miss Orr and Miss Haegert arrived from Madras. It was a pleasure to see these workers again. For more than a year they have been going from one place to another in South India, selling our books and papers. Their presence and help in Burmah will give strength to the work. They are now in Moulmein with Dr. Oberholtzer.

J. L. SHAW

A WORD FROM SATARA

Since coming to India everything concerning our field of labour has been so unsettled that we have not before written anything for the TIDINGS family. On our first arrival, we found Brother James awaiting us with the decision of the Committee here recommending that we locate on the Bombay side, and suggesting Poona. We did not find any opening in Poona that was satisfactory, and knew but little of the Presidency, so at the earnest request of Brother James went down to Bangalore until the place of a location could become more definitely settled.

During the time intervening, that most interesting trip to the Tinnevely Sabbath keepers was made, and was accompanied by every evidence that in South India there is a most providential opening. This was manifested not only in the interest of these Sabbath keepers but also in the great efforts put forth by the enemy to shut us out.

It has always been our experience that where the Devil does not seem concerned about our movements, that but little will be accomplished, but when he bestirs himself, and puts forth superhuman efforts to hinder the work, we can ask for no better evidence that something will be done for the Lord providing that we keep humble. For a little time it was thought that it would be necessary for us to locate down in South India with Brother James, but as the hot season was coming on and there was no place of residence to be obtained within 22 miles of these people, it was finally thought best to carry out the original plan and leave Brother and Sister James to meet the situation there. They are in a trying place under trying circumstances and need all the prayers and sympathy of the household of faith.

We arrived in Satara the middle of March and began at once the study of Marathi. Satara is the ancient capital of the Marathi country, and is in many ways a most favourable place to study the language. We have been most fortunate in securing one of the best Pundits in the Marathi country. He is a Brahmin and is much interested in us partly because of our vegetarian principles. He has for some time been teaching the Missionaries of the American Board and the I. C. S. people. The heat has been trying to us yet we know that it has not been anything like lower down on the plains.

We are praying daily that the Lord will give us the language of the people and ask the prayers of the family of workers to that end.

GEO. F. ENOCH

"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."

KARMATAR WHO WILL HELP?

Our dispensary work in Karmatar calls us out to many villages, and brings us into close contact with the people.

For some time we have been trying to close our eyes to their distress and poverty, excusing ourselves that we were doing what we could for their sick and were not called upon to do more. The beggars who used to come to our door once a week now come about every day. To many of these also we have turned a deaf ear as rice is expensive and a rupee doesn't go very far.

Last week while on the way to visit a patient our cart was stopped by a little mud hut where we found a man ill. He looked to us as though he were starving. We enquired what he was eating and found that once a day he ate a little rice. His only relative was a boy who herded cows for a small allowance of food for himself, and this small allowance he divided with this man who was his uncle.

As we were coming home that night we enquired of the man who drove our cart about the above man and others of his village. He was of another caste and village, so would have no object in misrepresenting their cases. He said, "Families live on one *pow* (half a pound) of rice a day. This they boil into *mar* (soup), the only meal of the day." We asked him if the children did not cry from hunger. He said, "Yes, but what can they do?" They will not be able to get work until the rice season. Think of a family of eight or more living on half a pound of rice a day, not another thing with it, not even salt.

As we were about to come away from a village one night a storm came up, and I offered a man two annas if he would

drive us home; and leave the father of the sick child to remain at home. He fairly shouted, "Yes, *Memsahib*." As we started we found both of the men going. They said, "We want to divide the two annas to buy rice."

We have started a fund here in Karmatar to help these in need, and hope some of our brethren will add to this fund. These people will need help until they can get work putting down the rice. Many will need help until the rice is harvested. We realise that we will have to be very cautious or some may take advantage of our efforts to help. We have thought of charging perhaps a third or half the price of the rice to those who can get hold of a little money. Perhaps you who are interested could suggest a plan that would help us.

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble."

DELLA BURROWAY.

All we possess is the Lord's, and we are accountable to Him for the use we make of it. Money has great value because it can do great good. In the hands of God's children it is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, and clothing for the naked. He who realizes that his money is a talent from God will use it economically, and will feel it a duty to save, that he may give.

The Lord has endowed Christian with capabilities, and power, and influence; He has entrusted them with money, that they may be co-workers with Him in the great redemption. All His gifts are to be used in blessing humanity, in relieving the suffering and the needy. We are to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to care for the widow and the fatherless, to minister to the distressed and down-trodden. God never meant that the wide-spread misery in the world should exist. He never meant that one man should have an abundance of the luxuries of life, while the children of others should cry for bread. The means over and above the actual necessities of life are entrusted to man to do good, to bless humanity. The Lord says, "Sell that ye have, and give alms." Be "ready to distribute, willing to communicate." *Mrs. E. G. White.*

Eastern Tidings.

INTERNATIONAL TRACT SOC..

39/1 Free School Street, Calcutta.

Among the Annfield family at present may be mentioned Elder Miller and family, Elder and Mrs. Votaw, Mr. and Mrs. Little and baby, Mrs. Mackie. A recent letter speaks of the "large and happy Annfield family," so we take it that pleasant times are the lot of our people in the hills now. Brother Owen has been doing some dilligent work on the grounds of the Annfield Estate, and his efforts are being rewarded in some noticeable improvements.

We are glad to hear that arrangements are being made for an evangelistic effort at Mussoorie. According to reports a hall has been secured and a series of meetings will soon begin. Let all our workers remember this effort in prayer before the throne of Grace. Considerable seed-sowing has been done by the workers in Mussoorie since the purchase of the rest home, which we trust will result in fruit as this effort proceeds.

We would call special attention to the plea on another page by Sr. Burroway in behalf of the famine sufferers about Karmatar. These people are actually starving, and bear all the marks of those suffering from starvation. It will be months before the next harvest of rice and till then, unless they are helped many of them must die. Think of your now old father or mother, or of your wife and children slowly wasting away under your very eyes for lack of food, and then see

what you can do to help these. A fund is already started; who will give of his own blessings to help these needy ones.

We are glad to hear reports that the work of the Sanitarium at Mussoorie is prospering. We believe our institutions will prosper more and more as they come into line with what instruction we have had through the Spirit of Prophecy for their guidance. "Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper."

A letter just recieved from Mussoorie tells us that the Meetings there began on May 17th. A hall near the Union chapel has been rented, which can be made to seat eighty or one hundred people if they crowd it alittle.

We have just received word that a nurse for the Mussoorie Sanitarium is on her way out from America.

A new cart for the Medical work in Karmatar has been purchased and is now on its way to Karmatar.

The mailing lists of the *Oriental Watchman* and *Good Health* are again on the decrease. The number of the *Oriental Watchman* posted at the beginning of this month was only one thousand three hundred ninety-eight and the *Good Health* for this month, which has just been posted, was only six hundred eighty-nine. Last year, at this time the mailing lists were *Oriental Watchman* almost two thousand and *Good Health* very nearly nine hundred."