

Eastern Tidings.

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THE TITHE.

The tithe is the Lord's, He says so. In Lev. 27:30, we read, "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's; it is holy unto the Lord." Christ said in speaking about carefulness in paying tithes, "these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

As Christians who claim to be followers of Christ, we have no better example than our Lord's and no command greater than his own words, "these ought ye to have done." Every church which has taught the systematic paying of tithes has prospered financially. The Seventh-day Adventist denomination gives more per capita for the support of the Gospel ministry than any other denomination. This is very largely due to following the Bible plan of tithing. By teaching its members to pay a faithful tenth into the Lord's treasury more money is being paid according to latest statistics for the support of the Gospel at home and abroad in proportion to their members by this denomination than by any other.

God's way is best. It is best for the church and best for the individual members of the church. It has been proven a thousand times and more, that God can make nine rupees go farther than we can make ten.

His special blessing rests upon the one who renders a faithful tithe. In Mal. 3:10, we read, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me 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." To have the windows of heaven opened for us is indeed a great blessing. It is worth more

than a paltry tenth spent upon ourselves. What a promise is this to the hungry soul,—"a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Who could ask for more? And yet that is not all,—there is a temporal blessing. The same writer says in the following verse, "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits before the time in the earth, saith the Lord of hosts." God specially intervenes in behalf of those who honour and trust Him by returning His tenth. How foolish then the man who depends upon himself and measures his prosperity by his purse. That man is shutting the windows of heaven. He is verily penny wise and more than pound foolish.

Notice Malachi tells where the tithe is to be paid. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse." It is not for the poor, nor to be used for works of charity. God has made provision for these. The tithe is sacred to the support of the Gospel ministry and should be paid into the Lord's treasury for that purpose.

All our workers should be faithful in teaching our people in India to pay an honest tithe into the Lord's treasury. We cannot measure the consequences of such instruction now. The future will show the far-reaching results. We should teach all, both rich and poor, to pay one tenth. God can make nine pice in the hands of a poor ryat go farther than ten pice without his help. We should therefore teach converts who are the poorest of the poor to show faith in God by paying tithes.

The Tamil Sabbath-keepers among whom there many poor people teach tithing and their work has prospered financially thereby. The tithe paid into

the India Mission Treasury should be larger this year than any previous year.

J. L. SHAW.

"IT SHALL NOT RETURN VOID."

Isa. 55:10,11.

He who handles the word of God, handles the life of God. The germ of His life is in the seed which is stored up for us in the great granary, the Holy Scriptures. In order that this seed may reach the human heart, the soil intended for it by the Giver, it is necessary for us to put it into smaller receptacles. So we take a seed here, or a few seeds there from the great storehouse, and in an attractive, strong manner, put it in tracts, papers, and books. In Psalms 127:6, these smaller receptacles are called "seed-baskets." (Margin)

No more honourable, or responsible position has ever been offered to the children of men, than that of being entrusted with these baskets filled with precious seed. In each seed is life. This life is from God, and over each grain he watches with tenderest care. Great blessings are in store for him who will faithfully co-operate with the Lord of the harvest in placing the seed in the hearts of men. Sad indeed the final punishment of him who, neglectful of this seed, is unfaithful in the sowing time.

That this seed shall not return void, is the promise of God. Some have thought that the "not returning void" refers only to the saved. It is capable of a much broader interpretation.

To illustrate this let us take the case of Pharaoh. "And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh." Over this statement the infidel has cavilled, and the conscientious Christian puzzled. It is a simple expression of the truth of our text. God sent his word to Pharaoh in such a way that even that great heathen king could

not keep it out of his heart. In that word was the life of God. The heart to which that word came, could never be the same afterward. It was the desire of God that the heart should by yielding become softened and receive the great blessings stored up in that word. But if the heart would not yield, the word would not return void. By its rejection that heart would be made harder. It was in this way that the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart. Pharaoh's experience is not an isolated one. In the same way the word is sent to every soul. But not all reject it.

Then how solemn is the position of the seed-sower. He knocks at the heart's door of those whom he meets, and there lays an offering that will either harden or soften that heart. It may be that some carelessness or indiscretion on his part, will cause that heart to take such an attitude that it will be hardened. That soul he will meet in the judgment.

On the other hand there may shine from his face a kindness and purity that will cause that heart to consider the word he brings. How gladly will he meet that soul in the judgment.

It was to such seed sowers that Paul is writing when he says, "For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish. To the one we are the savour of death unto death, and to the other the savour of life unto life." Then, as he contemplates this tremendous truth and realises the result of mistakes on the part of the sower, as well as all the other consequences involved, he exclaims, "And who is sufficient for these things?" 2 Cor. 2:15, 16.

It is this same feeling that causes those spoken of by the Psalmist as bearing the "seed-baskets," "to go forth with weeping." Therefore Paul exhorts us to purge ourselves from every evil thing so

that we "shall be vessels unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the Masters use." So our constant prayer should be, "Lord so cleanse these vessels that must bear your living seed, that the seed shall not so taste of the vessels in which it is served that souls will be hardened."

Of striking interest to all our seed-sowers is the latter part of that chapter in which we find the Third Angel's Message outlined. Turn to your Bible and read Rev. 14 : 15-20. Here you will find two distinct harvests. Verse 16 tells us of the first, verses 18 and 19 of the second. The second is called the harvest of the clusters of THE VINE OF THE EARTH, and all the fruit gathered in this second harvest goes into the "wine-press of the wrath of God."

So by the simple work of scattering the seed over the wide world God is ripening all for one of these two harvests. His word will not return void. There will be no unripe fruit, or grain at the time of harvest. The same word, the same showers of grace, have prepared each one for one of these harvests. Each one will either be fruit of "the true vine" whose root is in heaven, or of "the vine of the earth" which finally is cast root and branch into the lake of fire.

"Who is sufficient for these things?" "He that goeth forth and weepeth bearing precious seed shall doubtless return with rejoicing, bringing sheaves with him."

G. F. ENOCH.

INTERESTED IN INDIA.

We are always glad to know of an interest on the part of our young people at home in the work in India. Elder Miller has been in correspondence with a little band of young people and children in Connersville, Ind., U. S. A., and a recent letter from one of their number says :

"There are only a few children here, but we are all decided to have a missionary garden or chickens or something of the kind, and the proceeds are to go to you and you can use it in your work. How is the best way to send it? We have a very small church here, but we have a building."

For some time this little missionary society have been sending their offerings to India to help on the work here. It is by means of efforts like these among our people in the Home land that the work is sustained in these far-off fields. A number of little bands in the Home land have from time to time sent donations to various workers for different lines of work in India. May the Lord's blessing rest upon these earnest little bands of workers.

THE GOSPEL NOT A SECRET.

THE gospel declares the abolition of secrecy. "No man saw me do it," says the sinner. "It was only a thought. I would not dare to express it. No one knows that I cherished it." "It was only a desire. I have not done the thing. No one knows." "I did it in the dark. It will never be found out."

Not so. No public act of our lives was ever so open, or under such universal observation. What do the unseen spectators care for the drama of our acts? They watch the battle-ground of the inner life. When once evil has conquered there, the evil act will follow in its course.

We may be sure that it is precisely that part of our life which we deem secret, and in which, therefore, we tolerate what we could not endure that man should see, that interests God and the unseen witnesses. "They see most clearly and watch most acutely what we think we have hidden from all sight.—Robert E. Speer.

Eastern Tidings.

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Mrs. Quantock is now taking a much needed rest in the Rest Home in Mussoorie.

Among the recent departures from Mussoorie may be mentioned Elder Miller and family, Mrs. Mackie, H. H. Votaw, and J. C. Little. The Rest Home has been full most of the summer.

Our people will be encouraged to know that the Mussoorie Sanitarium has had all it could do and more during the past month. If reports are true the Sanitarium has found it necessary to turn over a dozen patients away for lack of room in the last month. This is better than not having enough to fill the rooms.

Recent word from Home brings the news that Mrs. Bruce, the head nurse and matron of the Washington Branch Sanitarium, has been asked to come to India, and is now on her way to this field. Mrs. Bruce has been well recommended to this field, and will undoubtedly fill a responsible place in our Sanitarium in Mussoorie.

At Mussoorie during the past two months quite an interest has been aroused by the series of meetings on Present Truth. The little room rented as a hall has been full at nearly every meeting, and some have already acknowledged that the word preached is the truth. Let the prayers of our people throughout the field ascend in behalf of this effort.

Some of our people have been complaining about not getting EASTERN TIDINGS. Probably the difficulty lies with them and not with the office. Some have not ordered the paper after it expired. If you are among the number, please send in your subscription at once and you will have no more trouble.

A recent letter from Brother Enoch gives a very encouraging report of their progress in the language work. They expect if all continues well to go up for the examination in October. If they are able to do this it will represent very good work on their part for the time they spent in preparation. We are sure all our readers will wish them success.

All our workers, we are sure will welcome to this field Miss Fuller from the Boulder Sanitarium, Colorado, U. S. A., and Miss Boardman from the Sanitarium in England. These workers will fill a long felt need in the Mussoorie Sanitarium. They arrived at Annfield House, Mussoorie on the evening of July 5, having come all the way from England by way of Bombay without having seen any of our workers.

"Endeavour to do your work better than it has ever been done before. Believe in its worth and dignity, no matter how humble it may be."

"If intercessory prayer was necessary to Jesus in inaugurating the work given Him to do, how necessary it is to us if we are to be His instruments in bringing that work to a successful completion."

"Remember that work well done is the highest testimonial of character you can receive."