

Eastern Tidings.

Vol 4

AUGUST, 1908

No. 16

HE IS COMING.

Christ is coming! Joyful message!
Sound it far and near.

Christ is coming! O ye people,
Lend a listening ear.

Christ is coming! Shout in gladness!
Watchmen, trumpets blow!

Christ is coming! Rouse, ye soldiers,
Forth to victory go.

Christ is coming! Stop, ye sinners,
Stop and reason now!

Christ is coming; at his coming
Every knee will bow.

Christ is coming! Day of splendour!
Hear his armies tread—
Voices sounding! Soon a trumpet
Will awake the dead.

Christ is coming! Blessed promise!
Hearts with fervor glow;
Kingly message! Turn not from it;
'Tis for you to know.

Christ is coming? O the glory!
Heavens backward roll!
Jesus, Jesus; lovely Jesus;
Bless the Lord, my soul.

—E. H. MORTON.

SOUTH INDIA.

Dear Fellow Workers:—

I have been silent for sometime but it is not because I have been idle or absent. In fact, we have been so busy that we have hardly had time to put our pens to paper for much reporting.

We moved down among the Tamil Sabbath-keepers in March and occupied one of their buildings in the midst of a native village until the 9th of July, when we came away here for a few weeks, rest and recuperation. Our native village of operation is about 12 miles from the sea and 23 miles south east of Palamcottah in the Tinnevely Dist. We are just one mile from the stronghold of the S. P. G. Society at Nazareth P. O. The only

other churches represented in the community are the C. M. S. and Roman Catholic.

As soon as we were located we found ourselves in strange surroundings. We were acquainted with few but those of the Sabbath-keeping sect. Public sentiment was much against us from the first and strenuous efforts were made to hinder our entrance, but the Lord overruled in our behalf. We felt that the surest and best way to break down false ideas and win the confidence of the people was to employ the familiar "wedge"—the medical work, which has found its way through so many difficult situations. All around us was sickness and disease of every description, so we began.

At first the people would not come to us for help, but we secured a few samples and sent them out into the villages and as soon as the people saw we were able to help them they flocked to us from all quarters. We improvised a small hospital on our back verandah, laid in a stock of necessary medicines and set aside two hours in the morning and an hour and a half in the evening for treating the sick. Space will not permit of my relating the many many interesting experiences we had in this kind of work. June was our heaviest month's work, and our record shows that we treated 780 cases, 218 of which required bandaging and special treatment. We made 48 calls to the homes of the people besides the scores of visits made during a cholera epidemic which broke out sometime before we left. The Lord has helped us marvelously with this line of work and it has proved a great blessing to us as well as the people.

We have tried to look after the spiritual needs of the people as far as circum-

stances would permit. The latter part of May I began a Bible class in our home which was attended by a number of young men from among the Sabbath keepers who became very much interested. I regretted very much the necessity of having to discontinue this class on account of my interpreter going away. In visiting among the homes of the people we have prayed for the sick and given much instruction on health principles. These things were never known or heard of before we went there. The presence of a European missionary in the village save only on a short call was never known before, but to have one come in with his family and mingle freely with them, laying aside the usual priestly robes and false dignity and treating the sick and suffering with their own hands was beyond their comprehension for a time. They could, say as the Pharisees of old, "We never saw it on this fashion." I am glad to say that the large majority are fully convinced that it is the right kind of missionary work.

Since coming away I have received a number of splendid letters from some of the young men who were in the Bible class, and from some who are in Ceylon. One letter came from a leader in the S. P. G. church who at first was very much opposed to us. All are anxious that we build up in strength and return to them as soon as possible.

We need your prayers in this difficult field. We feel that God has some true-hearted ones among these people who will give up their heathenism and make useful workers in giving this message to the Tamil people. We are feeling much better than when we came to the hills but we fear the expense of living will compel us to leave before we would otherwise desire. Our courage is good in the Lord and we feel like making greater

consecration of our lives to His service.
—J. S. JAMES.

MANDALAY.

WE are enjoying our work in Burma, and the Lord is blessing us with a fair amount of success. We could do more work if it were the cool season, but to rush things at this time of the year would be unwise. Miss Haegert has had fever at two different times, but, thanks be to God, He has given back health and strength each time, and we can testify to the loving kindness and faithfulness of our mighty Friend and Helper.

Besides our canvassing we have been holding some Bible studies in the evening with some interested ones here. We hope to see some decide to obey the Lord. Brother Bertie lives here, and we were glad to find him of good courage. He has a pest with a firm who give him the Sabbath off, and who so much appreciate his services that they are urging him to enter into a five year's agreement with them. Brother Bertie is anxious to be back in the canvassing work, and thinks that he will start out in September after giving them a month's notice.

We canvassed Sagaing on Sunday. We met the missionary who took Sr. Hansen to the hospital when she was so ill there; also the Doctor who attended her, Dr. Crow, spoke of the Hansens having sent him "Ministry of Healing" and "Heralds." He renewed his subscription for O. W. and took G. H. We were pleased to find a widespread interest in vegetarianism among society people. The little cook books, even at 1-12 a copy go quickly when they hear that it is a vegetarian one. We met a native man who had become one, and he was a staunch advocate of it.

If ever a people needed light on the question of a clean diet the Burma people do. We have a nice family of Burmese

Baptists next door. I love to hear the sweet hymns of praise that often come to us from their home. Yesterday they had a basket brought with that rotten fish that they consider so toothsome. The smell can be imagined better than described. The empty basket was left in the street in front of their house, and some hour of the night when I was awake I could get the smell. Even the fresh morning air was still tainted by the smell from that empty basket. As I saw the "spit-toons" carried out this morning to be cleaned, I felt glad and thankful for a complete salvation that cleanses body, soul and spirit. These poor Christians have not had the light that we have enjoyed, and do not realise that these filthy habits and loathsome foods are an offense to the pure and holy God they serve.

Oftentimes in India when weary and hungry and away from home, I have picked up tasty and wholesome food in the bazaars and enjoyed it, but the Burmese bazaar are different. I ventured to taste some nice, crisp looking pastry in the bazaar that I thought did not have fish in it. It did not require any effort to taste it. The effort came in getting the taste out of the mouth. It was flavoured with asafætida. If you have taken this once in childhood days, no-doubt it is a life long memory.

Pray for us that we may have strength of body and help and grace, to be faithful witnesses in Burma.—A. ORR.

THE HUNDUSTANI WORK

Several months have passed since I last sent a report to the EASTERN TIDINGS, and it is only due to the Lord's mercy that I am now able to write a few words to express my gratitude to Him for having spared my life in answer to the many prayers of brethren and sisters. On the

first of April I was attacked with typhoid fever, and for about two months there was a close combat between life and death, but the Lord heard our cries and redeemed my life from destruction.

On the first of June we began a course of Bible studies with a number of Hindustani men and women who came up from various places on the plains. They had heard something of present truth, and being convinced that there was light in it were willing to leave all and come for further study of the Message. By the Lord's help we were able to give them some new truth each day until they had covered all of the special points. As we met together each morning for our study we felt the presence of the Holy Spirit to impress the truth upon every heart, and we have never seen any people advance more rapidly than these Hindustani brethren and sisters.

On the 23rd of July we had the pleasure of seeing twelve of these souls follow the example of the Lord in baptism. The service was conducted by Elder Shaw in a beautiful spot on the mountain side. It was a solemn and yet a glad and impressive occasion, and one which we believe marks a new era in the Hindustani work. Surely there shall be delay no longer in giving this message to the millions of India, as the Lord is ready to cooperate with every one who gives himself to this work.

Several of these new brethren and sisters have now returned to their homes, and we expect to hear soon of many others becoming interested through their efforts. Two of these brethren who have been studying with us, not many years ago were in the darkness of Hinduism and were bowing down to idols of wood and stone; but through the reading of the Scriptures they were converted, and have been led on step by step, until now they are rejoicing in the light of present truth.

Brother John Matthews has taken up up the nurses' course at the Sanitarium, and we trust he will make a useful worker in this line. Brother Gardner also expects to take up this work from the first of August.

Brother and Sister Meyers joined us in July and assisted in giving the Bible studies. Their help and encouragement were appreciated by all.

I trust the readers of the EASTERN TIDINGS will remember us at the throne of grace.

--L. J. BURGESS

A FAMILY OF MISSIONARIES.

Early in 1819, while waiting to see a patient, a young physician in New York picked up and read a tract entitled, "The Conversion of the World, or the Claims of Six Hundred Millions; and the Ability and Duty of the Churches Respecting Them." Inquiry was aroused; and on reaching home he spoke to his wife concerning the question that had arisen in his mind. As the two pondered, they became convinced that they had duties and responsibilities that could not well be laid on others. The result appeared when against appeal, argument, and opposition, they set out for Ceylon, and later, India, as foreign missionaries. For thirty years the wife, and for thirty-six years the husband laboured among the heathen, and then went to their reward. What they did to arouse their countrymen in behalf of the heathen, and what they did for the benighted race, is history. Apart from that, they left behind seven sons and two daughters. Each of these sons married and with their wives and both sisters gave themselves to the same mission work. Already have several grandchildren of the first missionary become missionaries in India. And thus far, thirty of that family—the Scudders—have given five hundred and twenty-nine years to India missions.--*Christian Herald*.

CALCUTTA.

We are glad to report success in the work in Calcutta this summer. Our force of workers has been small but full of courage and determination.

Brother Watson has been about the only Bible worker we have had for some time, and since Sister Quantock has been away to Mussoorie much of his time has been taken up at the office; nevertheless he has been able to scatter many hundreds of tracts and reading matter on present truth, and has had many good experiences.

Our work at the Treatment Rooms has been somewhat retarded on account of general repairs which have been going on for some time, still we have been able to meet expenses and the month of July shows a small balance to its credit, and the work is improving.

The Health Food Co. has cleared its indebtedness with the exceptions of a bill for printed matter, and as there are some large bills yet to be collected there need be no worry over old accounts. There was a balance of Rs. 24 for July after all expenses were paid. God has been good to us all in keeping us in health. So our work has not been hindered on that account.

The weather since the beginning of the monsoons has been quite cool at times the heat seldom going above 92. Over 50 inches of rain fell from June 15th to July 31st. We were pleased to have Brethren Votaw, Miller and Little with us for a few days in July. They were with us over the Sabbath and we had a good meeting.

Our Church and Sabbath School attendance has been small, but in the matter of offerings the Lord has been good. One Sabbath though it was raining and only a few were in attendance the offerings at afternoon service were Rs. 55 and another time Rs. 70. So though we be few in

numbers the Lord is working with us. Monday evening Bible study and Thursday evening prayer meeting still continue and the Holy Spirit is greatly blessing our efforts. Recent testimony and a close study of the scriptures seem to unite our hearts more firmly, and give us a closer walk with God.

The Mighty arm of our God is now stretched out for the last time to save His people, and the quick work of salvation will soon be accomplished. Every child of God who is striving for a home in the eternal city, ought to feel as never before the deep moving of the Holy Spirit in the heart.

Do not forget Calcutta in your prayers. There are many souls yet to be brought to the light in this city.

We are glad to hear of the addition to our ranks of three new workers from America and England. May God grant them health and many rich blessings in their chosen field of labour. We learn from the "Review" office that they are contemplating sending a man out this winter, if he can be relieved of his present work, to take up the publishing work in this field. Let us pray God to open up the way for his coming.

The summer season will soon be over: let us begin now to plan for a grand united work the coming cool season. Plan for great things, and pray for great things and if we have the faith that God's chosen people must have in the last day, victory will surely follow.—H. J. JEWELL.

A MISSION ROMANCE.

"Is it worth while to hold the meeting to-night, do you think?" asked a Londoner of his friend, one raw December night in 1856.

"Perhaps not," answered the other, doubtfully; "but I do not like to shirk

my work, and as it was announced, some one might come."

"Come on then," said the first speaker; "I suppose we can stand it."

The night was as black as ink, and the rain poured in torrents; but the meeting of the English Missionary Society for the Propagation of the Gospel was held in a brightly lighted chapel in Covent Garden. A gentleman passing by took refuge from the storm, and made up half the audience that listened to a powerful plea for the North American Indians in British Columbia.

"Work thrown away," grumbled the Londoner, as they made their way back to Regent Square.

"Who knows?" replied the missionary. "It was God's word, and we are told that it shall not fall to the ground unheeded."

Was it work thrown away?

The passer-by who stepped in by accident tossed on his couch all night, thinking of the horrors of heathenism, of which he had heard that night for the first time. And in a month he had sold out his business, and was on his way to his mission work among the British Columbian Indians, under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society.

And thirty-five years afterward we found him, surrounded by "his children," as he loved to call them, the center and head of the model mission station of the Northwest Coast, an Arcadian village of civilised Indians. This is one of the romances of missions.—*Sunday School Times.*

Souls are made sweet, not by taking the acid fluids out, but by putting something in—a great love, a new Spirit of Christ. The Spirit of Christ, interpenetrating ours, sweetens, purifies, transforms all.—*Drummond.*

Eastern Tidings.

x x x

INTERNATIONAL TRACT SOC.,

39-1 Free School Street, Calcutta.

We welcome to this field with pleasure Mrs. Edith E. Bruce, who will connect with the Sanitarium in Mussoorie. She came by way of Bombay and arrived some time in the latter part of last month.

Through the EASTERN TIDINGS we extend to all who have taken an interest in the relief work at Karmatar our thanks for their donations which have enabled us to help scores of people who would certainly have died if they had not had assistance. Part of our work is to draw out our souls to the hungry and the afflicted, and it is hard to reach people's hearts if their bodies are starving. Many of the richest promises of the Bible are to the liberal soul.

We are glad to say that we have definite word from home that a printer has been selected to take charge of our office here in India, and can be expected in at least a few months. This is a need that we have long felt. As our work develops it is not hard to see that a man of real practical experience in the printing work is needed to direct and plan for its growing facilities and output. We shall heartily welcome this addition to our staff in this field.

Those who have watched the Camp Meeting reports of the various conferences at home this year could not fail to be impressed with the liberal donations of surplus funds to the work in foreign fields. Another matter that augurs well

for the future finances of the Mission Board has been the almost unanimous consent on the part of our conference gatherings to push the ten cent a week plan and thus have a constant stream that can be depended upon for the prosecution of the work in the far off fields. Surely God is setting His hand to finish the last work of this warning message.

Probably all our workers received a testimony recently from the pen of Sr. White, but it will stand reading over and over again. One paragraph especially seemed to be alive with earnest appeal that ought to arouse our souls: "Let there be an awakening and heartfelt confessions of sins. Let there be a seeking after God. Let the Shepherds throw off the lethargy that is upon them. Wake up, brethren, for Christ's sake wake up! Let earnest organised efforts be made that light may go forth to those in darkness, who are eating and drinking with those who are befogged with scepticism." Brethren of India, we have read; are we going to heed?

Sometimes we worry because we seem to be retrograding instead of progressing. We call to mind the case of a worker who was worrying because she said she could see that she lost her patience so much more easily than a few months previously. She felt that she ought to draw nearer to the Lord, and yet she said she was always so tired that she didn't seem to be able to pray or look into the word of God. Now we should say that what she needed was not patience, but health. Probably a month's rest would give her more patience than any amount of meditating. If more often we could bring ourselves to rest in the Lord and not try to plod on when we are not able, we would accomplish more in the end, and not find ourselves worrying about our impatience.