

Eastern Tidings.

Vol 4

NOVEMBER, 1908

No. 19

THE GENERAL MEETING.

We greatly desire a general rally of Sabbath-keepers at the General Meeting in Lucknow, Dec. 25th. to Jan. 3rd. There is ample reason for making a very earnest effort to get as many as possible of our people to be present. The word of God encourages His people meeting together especially as the day of God approaches: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." The times in which we are living, our need of power and the great work before us in India, imperatively demand that we come together for prayer and study and conference.

Our people are facing no ordinary situation in India. There are approximately three hundred million people speaking many different languages. How the warning word of truth shall be sounded among them is an unsolved problem. We have a few mission stations in different places but even these are unadequately manned. More men, more means and more power are needed. There are scores of Indian tongues in which not a sentence of present truth has yet been translated, while at the same time we are teaching that our work is to be finished in this generation. Such a tenet of faith should lead us to expect greater things of God, and attempt greater things for God just now in the India mission field. The coming conference should mark a new epoch in the message in India. As Christians we need more of the vitality of heaven, more wisdom to learn languages, and more power to bring men to Christ. Should we not, therefore, come together in definite intercessory prayer during these ten days? You know it was a ten day's

meeting of prayer that began the great gospel movement in the heathen world at Pentecost. The problem was there solved of conveying the gospel into unknown tongues. To a few unlearned men had been left the great all world commission of Christ. In their extremity they waited on God in united and untiring prayer for ten days. The Holy Ghost was given and a world-wide work was inaugurated the result of which comes down to us in many pages of history. Is not God as mighty now? And are we not as needy as the fishermen at Pentecost? The great miracle of God's last message is to be worked out in India in the next few years. If we have a part in that miracle, a miracle will be wrought in us and that miracle will be the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and that Spirit will come in answer to prevailing and unremitting prayer. We therefore beseech our people, labourers and believers generally, to come to the Lucknow conference. Come in the spirit and attitude of prayer. There is no limit to the possibilities of the coming conference at Lucknow for God is unlimited in power. Let us, therefore, beloved brethren, not "limit the Holy One of Israel." If our faith shall lead us to large and definite requests, we shall obtain them. In conclusion we invite you to pray daily for the coming meeting; pray and work that you may attend, and pray that the Spirit and Inspiration of Heaven may be with you while there.—J. L. SHAW

PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING.

Arrangements are now being made for the entertainment of the delegates who will attend the coming General Meeting. Board will be Re. 1 per day. Rooms from Rs. 5 to Rs 20 for the time of the

meeting. We will do what we can to make all comfortable at as reasonable a rate as possible.

It will be quite cool at the time of the meeting, therefore it will be necessary to bring warm clothing for the evenings, and plenty of bedding as well. Bring your rugs and purdas. They will come in nicely to help fill up your room, as some of the rooms may have but little furniture.

There will be a good supply of Health Foods on hand, and if any wish to board themselves they can do so, but such I would advise to bring their oil stoves and cooking utensils. All should, as far as possible travel by the mail trains as they will make much better time than the passenger. The place of meeting will be 19 Banks' Road. All should go there first, as the Committee will be there to direct you to your rooms.

Please write W. W. Miller, 2 Havelock Road, Lucknow before hand just what kind of a place you want, and we will accommodate you if possible. First class gharries will charge twelve annas from the station to the meeting Hall. Second class eight annas. These are bun gharries, of course.

It will be wise to put your name on your luggage before leaving home. Also "Lucknow" so it will not get lost. Be sure and comply with the laws of the R. R. Company, and do not attempt to put more luggage into your compartment than the company allows, lest you become embarrassed when you reach Lucknow by having a man weigh up your luggage, and fine you, thereby casting a reflection on the Truth. Some of the Railway people of Lucknow will attend the meetings, and our influence will not be very much with them if they could say that we were trapped at the station with unbooked luggage.

We feel that it is important that every S. D. A., as far as possible, make an effort to attend this meeting, as it will

be one of the most important meetings we have ever held in India. We need spiritual discernment that we may be able to lay broad plans for our future work. The Lord is ready to bless us abundantly at this meeting if we will draw nigh to Him. Praying that God will bring all safely to the meeting, and bless according to our need, we remain as ever.

Yours in Hope,

W. W. Miller in behalf of Reception Committee.

THE BURMA MEETING.

This meeting was held at Rangoon Oct. 9th. to 19th. Nearly every one of our little band of Sabbath-keepers in Burmah was present. From Meiktila Brother and Sister Stevens and family and Brother and Sister Carapiet and Sister Lemon were in attendance. Brother Bertie came down from Mandalay and the Burmese brethren and sisters came over from Moulmein, bringing with them a young Buddhist priest with whom Dr. Oberholtzer and Brother Hpo Hla had been studying the Bible. He had laid off his Hpoongia robes and asked for baptism while in Rangoon.

Two meetings a day were held in English and one in Burmese. The morning service at 8:30 took the nature of a Bible and Testimony study. Two lessons were given on the Holy Spirit. These were followed with studies on the spirit of prophecy. Our people in Burmah took a real interest in the subject of the Spirit of prophecy and the testimonies which have come to us through this medium. Two or three complete sets of the testimonies were ordered. Meetings were held daily for the Burmese brethren. They also manifested an interest in the subject of the Spirit of prophecy. Sister Orr conducted two studies with them on this subject.

A preaching service was held each evening at 6 o'clock. These services were

very well attended from the outside. Inasmuch as quite a number of those attending these meetings had been halting between two opinions, the importance of obedience and surrender to God was made prominent. God gave freedom to His servants in presenting His Word and souls found freedom. Some who had been in the balances for a year or more took a definite stand.

Sisters Votaw and Cook led out in the singing. They sang a number of soul-stirring songs. The sweet Spirit of God was continually present throughout the meeting. Brethren Votaw, Cook and others laboured hard for souls not without results. Chains were broken and captives were set free. We feel confident this gathering together of our people was for good.

The last service was a social meeting. The fervent testimonies borne gave evidence of help received. Two sisters were baptised in one of the beautiful Rangoon lakes. Several others were formed into a class for further instruction and preparation for this solemn ordinance. A general meeting will, do doubt, be held each year, if possible, in Burma.

Sister Votaw left for America at the close of the meetings. In a letter just to hand from her from Colombo, she says she almost decided to return to Burma and the work there. Her better judgment, however, prevailed, and she is now nearing London. A year in America will restore her exhausted energies for further work in Burma.—J. L. Shaw.

A VISIT TO THE AMERICAN MARATHI MISSION.

On the 20th and 21st of October the examining Board of the American Marathi Mission held their examination for new missionaries who have completed their first year's study of Marathi.

The Board had kindly consented to allow me to sit with their candidates and extended every courtesy to me during my three day's sojourn among them. This Board represents the Congregational Church in America, and is the oldest Mission operating in Marathi territory. Their first Missionaries landing in Bombay in 1812.

The examination was held in Ahmednagar, their headquarters. Here they have a high school with 515 students, a girls' school with 450, a normal school with 166 and a Theological Seminary. They also have a fine new church building built on Oriental architectural lines. Connected with these educational institutions are large industries that were of great interest.

The requirements for the examination of the American Marathi Mission are the highest of any Mission operating in Marathi territory. Their Missionaries are all graduates of American universities, and their mission is justly proud of their educational work.

I thought it would be interesting to readers of Eastern Tidings to know the tests required by this Board.

The books required for mastery are Christian Literature Society Readers I and II (110 lessons) Gospel of Mark and two books dealing with Marathi Grammar.

Examination Schedule.

	Marks
I. Test in Ability to write.	
1. Dictation (written)	20
2. Grammar (written)	40
3. Write in Marathi purport of story read by one of examiners	40
II. Test in Ability to Pronounce and Understand.	
1. Read selection from Mark	20
2. Read letter written by native	40
3. Tell purport of story read by native, story not to have been previously seen by candidate.	40
III. Test in Ability to Use Matter Studied.	

Eastern Tidings.

x x x

INTERNATIONAL TRACT SOC.,

39-1 Free School Street, Calcutta.

Word has come that Brother Thos. J. Grenville and wife were to have arrived in Calcutta on the morning of the 14th inst. These young people come from England to assist in the Health Food work in this field. We are glad to welcome them here, and trust they will have success as they take hold of the Food factory, and will find this field the place God has for them to labour.

It has been decided that we shall have another special number of the "Oriental Watchman" to assist in the latter part of the canvassing campaign after the Conference. This number will come out as the January number, and will be devoted to a study of the book of Revelation. Many of the fundamentals of our faith have their basis upon the book of the Revelation, and we shall make an attempt to make this number brimful of the truth for these times. Let all our workers co-operate in this work.

1. Oral—to make clear to examiners in other Marathi words meaning of idioms from books. 20
2. Written—write in Marathi in other words or in other connection meaning of idioms selected by examiners 60
3. Paraphrase entire section of one of books studied. 20
- IV. Test in Ability to Converse.
 1. To converse in presence of examiners for at least ten minutes with native who does not understand English. 100

There were five of us taking the examination—three gentlemen and two

ladies. All had one year's study excepting the writer. The examination was a very stiff one, but all candidates passed. Being able to pass successfully after but seven month's study, and stand second on the list, the one above me having had about fourteen month's study, I feel like giving all the credit to the principles of the Third Angel's Message in connection with our daily prayer for the language.

I start with the requirements for the second year trusting that the same measure of blessing will still be with us and that we will soon be giving the Third Angel's Message to the Marathi people in their own tongue.—GEO. F. ENOCH.

NOTICE

The date of the General Meeting at Lucknow is Dec. 25th. to Jan. 3rd. Coming as it does during the Christmas holidays our people in North India and Burmah will be able to make the return journey at single fare. Accomodations for both board and room will be provided for those who desire to attend the meeting. See rate of charges elsewhere. A committee consisting of Elder W. W. Miller, Brother H. B. Meyers and Sister Lydia Hansen has been chosen to look after the entertainment of guests. All desiring either board or room should send their names at once to Elder W. W. Miller, 2 Havelock Road, Lucknow. It will be necessary for him to have the names of those coming to the meeting early in order to provide suitable rooms. Meals will be provided at moderate charges.

The nights are cold at Lucknow in December. All should therefore come prepared with plenty of bedding to keep warm.—J. L. Shaw.

"Remember that it is a comfort to others to see a cheerful spirit, a sunshiny face, a merry tongue, and an even temper."