

Eastern Tidings.

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* HOW TO GAIN SPIRITUAL STRENGTH.

Many are spiritually weak because they look at themselves instead of at Christ. Looking at themselves, and seeing only discouragement and unworthiness, they forget that God is waiting to make them agencies for the blessing of the world, and that angels are waiting to be co-labourers with them.

Christ is the great storehouse from which on every occasion we may draw strength and happiness. Why, then, do we withdraw our eyes from His sufficiency to look on and bemoan our weakness? Why do we forget that He is ready to help us in every time of need? We dishonour Him by talking of our inefficiency. Instead of looking at ourselves, let us constantly behold Jesus, daily becoming more and more like Him, more and more able to talk of Him, better prepared to avail ourselves of His kindness and helpfulness, and to receive the blessing offered us. As we thus live in communion with Him, we grow strong in His strength, help and blessing to those around us.

Christ has made every provision for us to be strong. He has given us His Holy Spirit, whose office is to bring to our remembrance all the promises that Christ has made, that we may have peace and sweet sense of forgiveness. If we will not keep our eyes fixed on the Saviour, and trust in His power, we shall be filled with a sense of security; for the righteousness of Christ will become our righteousness.

If we would only do as the Lord desires us to, our hearts would become as sacred harps, every chord of which would sound forth praise and gratitude to the Redeemer sent by God to take away the sin of the world. With joy we would be able to say, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience: and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh, not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us."

When temptations assail you, as they surely will, when care and perplexity surround you, when, distressed and discouraged, you are almost ready to yield to despair, look, O look, to where with the eye of faith you last saw the light: and the darkness that encompasseth you will be dispelled by the bright shining of His glory. When sin struggles for the mastery in your soul and burdens the conscience, when unbelief clouds the mind, go to the Saviour. His grace is sufficient to subdue sin. He will pardon us, making us joyful in God.

Looking at self, we see only weakness, and we forget God's purpose for us. We forget that He placed on us so high a value that He gave Christ to die for us. Oh, after all that has been done for us, how can we disappoint Christ by failing

to live the life that He has made it possible for us to live? Let us no longer talk of our inefficiency and lack of power. Forgetting the things that are behind, let us press forward in the heavenward way. Let us neglect no opportunity that, if improved, will make us more useful in God's service. Then like threads of gold, holiness will run through our lives, and the angels, beholding our consecration, will repeat the promise, "I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir." All heaven rejoices when weak, faulty human beings give themselves to Jesus, to live His life.

MRS. E. G. WHITE.

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BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE INDIA MISSION FIELD.

As arranged this meeting was held at Lucknow, North India, December 25, 1908, to January 4, 1909. There was a general attendance of all our workers in India and Burmah. Some arrived several days before the Conference opened. The few intervening days were spent in Bible study, prayer and council, the result of which was a great blessing to the Conference. As workers we were led to realise, as never before, our imperative need of a larger measure of the Holy spirit for the work before us in India. There was an earnest, untiring seeking after God from first to last through the Conference, and the natural result was the continual presence of the spirit of God with us in our council meetings from beginning to end. We found ourselves facing conditions we knew not how to meet; but the way God gave wisdom to His servants while planning together and the sweet presence of His spirit which

pervaded all that was said and done will not be soon forgotten by our missionaries in the India Mission field. They came many hundreds of miles from different parts of India and Burmah. They came intent on pleading with God and claiming more of His power to meet the difficulties before them in India, and they were not disappointed. Their faith was strengthened, their courage increased. We parted one from the other with a shout of victory in our hearts, knowing that we had been in the presence of God, that He had been with us and would go with us and grant us victory where caste and prejudice and climate oppose the march of truth.

There were a number of Sabbath-keepers present from different parts of India: We were glad to have so many Hindustani people in attendance. Their interest in the truth was very encouraging. A brother, who accepted the truth about a year ago, came eighteen hundred miles at his own expense to be present at this gathering. He came with an urgent request that an industrial school be opened among the Burmese in Northern Burma. He had with him a letter from a prominent Burman promising fifty pupils who wish to attend and would be willing to pay tuition if such a school could be opened.

A survey of the Indian Mission field shows that the work is moving onward. The number of workers has been increased. While nine have left the field during the last two years, twelve new ones have taken their places. During the meeting, word came from the Mission Board that a company of five workers were sailing from New York for India, thus raising the

number to seventeen coming to the field as against nine who have returned.

We have thus far started work in seven languages aside from English in India, namely, Bengali, Hindi, Burmese, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu and Santhali. Each of these languages, with the work which has been done in each, was reviewed. Scarcely a beginning has been made. Much time has been spent in language study, which, by the way, with the tongues to be mastered in India, presents an undertaking our people at home can but faintly realise. A hundred and fifty different tongues, mostly of the trying Sanscrit origin, call for years of untiring study on the part of many workers. We thank God for the earnest company of sons and daughters from the homeland who, working one here and another there, are burrowing in to some one of the seven Indian tongues mentioned above.

One interesting feature of the meeting was the convention held each afternoon for the purpose of studying the Indian Mission field and our work and plans for developing it. Papers had been prepared on various subjects. Most of these had been given very careful preparation and were extremely helpful and suggestive. Methods of labour in many instances are so totally different that wise plans can only be developed through much effort and experience. Connected with the reading of the papers was not a little open discussion on various features of Mission work. This was entered into with much enthusiasm, and proved very profitable. How to work successfully in India is not to be learned in a day. The Indian mind is deep and has proven the study of a life-time to many Europeans.

It is safe to say that our workers are learning, though we often fail to pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit for the discerning of spirits lest we put too much confidence in man or fail to encourage the honest in heart who are seeking after truth.

Our work among the Hindustani, Bengali, and Tamil Sabbath-keepers was carefully canvassed. Each field presents remarkable openings. We found ourselves altogether unable to answer the calls which came in. Two lady workers recently from America were asked to begin the language study at once, Sister Ayers to start in Marathi work and Sister Shryock in Tamil. The appeals for other help, though imperative, were passed on to the Mission Board. We asked for more than ever before. Nearly every one of our Mission stations should be strengthened the coming year. It is hazardous to have a man and his wife with even a lady worker in a language alone. Doctor Oberholtzer has been working alone for two years in Moulmein, Burmah. Where conditions are trying and climate is unhealthy, if one man fails there should be another one already familiar with the language to bridge the crisis until more help is available. Our workers believe the time has come when our stakes in India should be strengthened. We must do that before we start any new centres, however loud the call may be.

The medical work is growing. From the hot steaming climate of Calcutta the Sanitarium was transferred a year ago to the salubrious climate of Mussoorie. Though it is early to predict what the outcome of the change will be, the first year presents a very encouraging report financially and otherwise. Though cramped

for room and labouring with small and unsatisfactory equipment, excellent work has been done. Surgical cases have made excellent recovery. One lady given up to die by friends and physicians rallied from a very serious operation. But we need more room and better facilities. Could our Sanitarium managers at home see how unsatisfactory it is to operate a Sanitarium in rented buildings in India, they would see how much we need a building of our own for this purpose. Fifteen thousand dollars would provide a property large enough for the present.

The last Sabbath of the Conference was marked with the special presence of God. The Holy Spirit worked upon hearts. At the close of the morning service, Brethren J. S. James and J. C. Little were ordained to the gospel ministry. In the afternoon the ordinances were celebrated. A stirring sermon by Elder Enoch on the meaning of the earthquake in the light of prophecy closed the nightly meetings, and there was a goodly representation of people from Lucknow. The organization of our first Hindustani church of sixteen members was effected at the close of the Conference. Four souls were baptized.

The workers have departed and are now in their various places of appointment, but the good influence of the meeting still prevails. It was a mighty uplift to all present. Yet we are unsatisfied. We need more faith, more power to turn men from darkness to light, more love which begets an immeasurable love for unwarned and ignorant souls all about us in heathenism. The work and workers in India are urgently in need of the necessary prayer of our people in every land.

J. L. SHAW.

HINDUSTANI ITEMS.

During the past three years a number of Hindustani men and women have received the message of Present Truth and have been baptized, some of whom have gone into the work and are proving earnest and faithful.

Until recently, however, we had no organized Hindustani Church where these believers could be brought into fellowship. At the close of our recent conference in Lucknow, it seemed best to bring these brethren and sisters together and form an organization. The service was conducted by Elder Miller, who gave a brief Bible study making plain the character and work of the Church of Christ. The subject seemed clear to all, and in response to an invitation fifteen expressed a desire to unite in fellowship. This small beginning marks a very important era with these 80,000,000 Hindustani-speaking people, as it is our first organized church among them. Let us hope that these brethren may all remain faithful, and that soon we may see a number of companies raised up that will stand as beacon lights in this country. We are now in the time of sowing among these people; but the harvest will be sure. "First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear."

Brother Caleb is locating in Ghaziabad and Brother Maqbul Massey at Najibabad for the coming year. These are quite large stations, and we hope will be favourable places for the sale of our Urdu literature.

Brother Camphor and wife are planning to go to Dehra Dun to help in opening a girls' school.

Brethren Amar Nath, Isaac Samuel and Gardner are remaining in Lucknow, and are having good experiences in selling literature and giving Bible studies to interested ones.

We have just received word from the officials in Garhwal confirming the offer of an acre of land for a school in the hills near Dwarikal. The climate of this place is about the same as that of Mussoorie and it is beautiful for situation. It is about twenty-five miles from the railway terminus and far removed from any European environments. There is no large bazar near by, but many villages short distances apart. There is no school or mission work in the locality, and the people are anxious to have us come among them.

L. J. BURGESS.

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A WORD WITH OUR WORKERS IN INDIA.

After some delay in getting started, the writer and his family are in India in response to an invitation from the General Conference Committee to connect with the work here, and are ready to settle down to earnest labour in behalf of the third angel's message in this part of the harvest field. Before getting off the boat at Bombay we received encouraging and much appreciated words of welcome by letter from several of the workers in India, and upon our arrival in Lucknow were extended a most hearty welcome in person to the fold of labourers in this great field, all of which speaks to us more than words can express. It inspires us to take hold of the work in earnest, and bespeaks

a hearty co-operation on the part of our people here to make that part of the work in which we shall engage a success. We shall endeavour to do all we can in the interests of the publishing work : yet its ultimate success or failure depends in no small degree upon our workers and people here ; for in this, as in many other things, it is true that " united we stand, divided we fall."

In this connection we might add that it is planned to publish the Tidings on the 15th of each month, and it will aid much in issuing the paper promptly if all correspondence can be received in plenty of time. A hearty co-operation on the part of all will insure the prompt appearance of the paper the middle of the month, also fresh, up-to-date reports from the workers in the field.

Asking the prayers of our people in behalf of the publishing work, and assuring you of our determination to do all we can to make it a success, we are

Yours in the work,

W. E. PERRIN.

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"No one can fail, as he looks over the pages of our periodicals, to observe that there is a general growth through all the departments of our work. The colleges report an increase of students over last year, and some are so crowded as to be scarcely able to find room. The publishing work shows almost double the receipts for 1907. Surely the Lord has put his hand to the work, and is now pushing it forward to completion."

Eastern Tidings.



INTERNATIONAL TRACT SOC.,

19, Banks Road, Lucknow.

Brother Little writes the press was to have been placed in the car Sunday, Jan. 17, and should be in Lucknow within a week or ten days.

Mrs. Quantock left for Calcutta the 14th. of Jan. to pack books, etc., to be shipped to Lucknow by car.

The work in Lucknow is picking up. A number of regular attendants are coming to the services and seem much interested. The patronage of the Lucknow Treatment Rooms is also picking up. Several regular patients are taking treatments.

Another satellite has been found, found at the home of Elder and Mrs. Miller. Most moons are spoken of in the feminine gender; this one, however, is a boy.

Elder Shaw left Lucknow Jan. 21 for East Bengal, and will probably go from there to Tinnevely, South India. He expects to be away from Lucknow about a month.

Brother Perrin and party, including his wife and two children, Brother and Sister Leech, and Brother Robert Beckner, arrived in Lucknow, Monday, Jan. 16. They were given a hearty welcome by all the workers in Lucknow. Meeting was held in the large tent, the next morning after their arrival, and all joined in praising God for protecting and bringing them to India in safety. It seems good to have such a splendid corps of workers looking so strong and able to help.

The tithe of the India Mission field for the year 1908 was Rs. 10,843-1-5 as against Rs. 10,614-14-11 for the year 1907.

Mrs. McCamly and Sister Smith arrived in Lucknow, Monday, January 18. Sister McCamly and Miss Johnson and Harry are arranging for transportation to America.

Elder Enoch writes that he is pleasantly located in Poona. Miss Ayers has begun her study of Marathi. Their address is 9, Khun Rd., Poona.

Brother Robert Beckner will proceed to Burmah to begin work there, while Brother and Sister Leech will take up canvassing for the "Oriental Watchman" and "Good Health" until the Mussoorie Sanitarium opens.

Dr. and Mrs. Menkel went down to Calcutta several days ago. Doctor Menkel expects to spend a few weeks in Burmah before going to South India.

At the recent meeting here in Lucknow between 900 and 1,000 rupees were contributed as annual offerings.

"Better to be small and shine, than to be great and cast a shadow."

"God's providence will not place you where his grace will not keep you."

"Since God gives to his intelligent creature, man, an inspired standard of perfection in moral conduct in the Bible, exemplified in the life of him who was and is the Alpha and Omega of it, must not all bring hither their thoughts, words, and actions, and test their fitness by this standard if they desire to perfect holiness in the fear of God?"

"Faith is the hand wherewith we take everlasting life."