

# The Eastern Tidings

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## The Eastern Tidings

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### "TO MEET THE BRIDEGROOM"

In the parable, all the ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom. All had lamps and vessels for oil. For a time there was seen no difference between them. So with the church that lives just before Christ's second coming. All have a knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ's near approach, and confidently expect his appearing. But as in the parable, so it is now. A time of waiting intervenes, faith is tried; and when the cry is heard, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him," many are unready. They have no oil in their vessels with their lamps. They are destitute of the Holy Spirit.

Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of his Word is of no avail. The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, can not quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. One may be familiar with the commands and promises of the Bible; but unless the Spirit of God sets the truth home, the character will not be transformed. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan.

The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit's working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and per-

mitted their old nature to be broken up. This class is represented also by the stony-ground hearers. They receive the Word with readiness, but they fail of assimilating its principles. Its influence is not abiding. The Spirit works upon man's heart, according to his desire and consent, implanting in him a new nature; but the class represented by the foolish virgins has been content with a superficial work. They do not know God. They have not studied his character; they have not held communion with him: therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live. Their service to God degenerates into a form. "They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness." The apostle Paul points out that this will be the special characteristic of those who live just before Christ's second coming. He says, "In the last days perilous times shall come: for men shall be lovers of their own selves; . . . lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof."

This is the class that in time of peril is found crying, Peace and safety. They lull their hearts into security, and dream not of danger. When startled from their lethargy, they discern their destitution, and entreat others to supply their lack; but in spiritual things no man can make up another's deficiency. The grace of God has been freely offered to every soul.

The message of the gospel has been heralded, "Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the

water of life freely." But character is not transferable. No man can receive the Spirit for another. No man can impart to another the character which is the fruit of the Spirit's working. "Though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it [the land,] as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness."

It is in a crisis that character is revealed. When the earnest voice proclaimed at midnight, "Behold the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him," and the sleeping virgins were roused from their slumbers, it was seen who had made preparation for the event. Both parties were taken unawares; but one was prepared for the emergency, and the other was found without preparation. So now, a sudden and unlooked-for calamity, something that brings the soul face to face with death, will show whether there is any real faith in God. It will show whether the soul is sustained by grace. The great final test comes at the close of human probation, when it will be too late for the soul's need to be supplied.—*Christ's Object Lessons*.

### SHALL SPEAK WITH NEW TONGUES

This is the promise that was given by the Great Missionary to his apostles from the beginning of the gospel work until its close. He knew the circumstances under which they would be placed, and so made provision that their work might not be hindered. By the power of the Holy Spirit working through their minds they would be able to grasp new languages and be able to give the message to people of other tongues in a clear and grammatical manner. This is classed among the gifts of the Spirit which are to be coveted, and we are told that the remnant church will not be lacking in any of the gifts. At present, the remnant

church in India is somewhat behind in this gift of tongues, which is so much needed; but there are indications of an advancement in this respect.

Sister Kurtz has made good progress during the last two years, and is now able to give Bible studies in Hindustani, and as her report shows she is having quite an interest at present. A number of workers at the Sanitarium are taking quite an interest in the language, and are making some progress. Sisters King and Ayers are working on the Hindi, and hope soon to be able to do school and zanana work among the Hindus. Sister Scholz, who recently arrived in India, came with a burden for the native work. She was released from other responsibilities in order that she might take up the study of Hindustani and prepare to do medical work among the native people. We were also glad to receive a letter from Sister Bruce not long since, and to know that she is keeping up her language study in addition to the treatment work in Calcutta. She says, "I am very busy these days. I have quite a list of patients, and am putting in all my spare moments in study. I am working hard to finish my first year in December."

We are glad to see so many of our sisters taking up the study of Hindustani, as this is a language which can be used to some extent in all parts of India and quite universally in the North and West. From Bombay to Calcutta, and to some extent in the South, the Hindustani language is understood, and thus the work in this tongue will not be confined to any one district. In addition to those who are taking the Hindustani, Sister Burroway is now able to give Bible studies in Bengali, and Brethren James and Enoch will doubtless soon be able to preach in Tamil and Marathi respectively. This is an indication that the time has come to give the closing message

of the gospel, the last call to the wedding, to the people of India. It is true that this is only a handful of workers among three hundred million people, but if we are all filled with the Spirit as we should be, there is no restraint with the Lord to save by many or by few.

The gift of tongues is not always received in a day, but time is given for the study of the language in order that as our knowledge increases our love for the people may increase in proportion. For, "Though I speak with the tongues of men, and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal."

L. J. BURGESS.

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## Field Reports

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### MUSSOORIE

The same meeting hall in Mayfield House as we had last year has been engaged for our public meetings this season. Our opening meeting was held April 17, and services have since been conducted without intermission every Sunday, Tuesday, and Saturday, at 5:30 P. M. Thus far, the average attendance has not been so large as it was last year, though occasionally there has been a fairly large congregation; and last Sabbath we had our largest gathering, the hall being full. The subject presented was "The Work of Christ in the Heavenly Sanctuary." In view of the opposition that was launched by several of the churches here last year against the truth, it is not surprising to find some prejudice in the station in regard to our work, and not a little misunderstanding as to our teachings; but in spite of this fact, there is evidence also that some souls are greatly interested and desirous of taking their stand for the truth.

On May 18, a young people's society

was organized, with Doctor Menkel as leader, the writer as assistant leader, and Miss Brunson (who has since her departure for Karmatar been succeeded by Miss Loveday) as secretary, and a membership of twenty-seven. Thus far, the society has held three meetings, and the interest shown by the members is an earnest that in this branch of the Mussoorie church we shall doubtless find a valuable auxiliary to the furtherance of our work in this station.

Several workers who had suffered in health in the plains this hot weather were obliged to seek the benefits of the Mussoorie Sanitarium, where a few days of treatment and rest have resulted in restoration to health. At this writing, we are thankful to report a clean bill of health, by God's blessing.

This account of the work in Mussoorie would be incomplete were the statement omitted that there is no officer of a church who finds himself a more needy individual than does the treasurer, at least judging from a first experience in this office. This is the impression made on the writer, to whom has fallen the duty of raising a sum of Rs. 500 required this season to meet rental and other expenses of the meeting hall in Mussoorie. Any contributions to this end from our brethren elsewhere will be much appreciated by the members of the Mussoorie church, and especially by the writer.

H. B. MEYERS.

June 8.

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### THE HINDUSTANI WORK

On account of delay in getting the title to our land for a school in the Garhwal district, it seemed best to discontinue the work there for a few months until the matter is entirely settled. For this reason, we decided after counselling with

some members of the committee, to come up to Mussoorie and spend a few months. We hope to have a few native brethren here with us for study, and what time we have to spare we shall spend in working upon literature.

We have a tract on the Eastern Question which we expect to have ready for distribution in a few days. This is in Roman Urdu. We also have a tract nearly ready for the press entitled, "Which Day is the True Christian Sabbath." This is a tract which covers most of the common arguments advanced by advocates of the first day. It was called out by the circulation of a tract which has recently been freely distributed by our Methodist friends attacking the positions of Seventh-day Adventists. This has been circulated both in English and Urdu, and as we have nothing in Urdu to meet these subtle arguments, we thought best to bring out this tract, which has been done, not in a personal way, but simply by bringing out the truth in contrast to the error.

We recently received a letter from Sister Kurtz, who is working at Bhaluty, near Naini Tal, from which we quote:—

"Your letter of April 21 was received some time ago, and my reason for not replying to it sooner is that I had planned to go to Naini Tal the following week to meet some people there who Brother Samuel said were interested in the message, and so I thought I would not write until after I made the visit, that I might tell you about it. While there we visited five or six families, to whom we gave the truth. Some received the message of Christ's soon-coming with joy, and also said they saw clearly that the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord. Among this number was a Hindu and his wife. We are expecting them to come to Bhaluty this week, as they expressed a desire to learn more about this teaching.

"Mrs. Philips and I were not out visit-

ing among the people last week, but I am expecting to do some visiting again this week. Besides my Bible class I am studying with a native Christian woman in her home each Sunday. This is the only day she has time for study.

"Following is the Sabbath-school report for the first quarter. Attendance, 96; visitors, 23; donations Rs, 3 9-3."

We are glad to know that Sister Kurtz is getting started in the Hindustani work after two years of hard study on the language, and we trust she may see fruits of her efforts. It is encouraging to see some of our sisters taking hold of the Hindustani language with a determination to master it, and begin giving the message to the women of India. We trust that many of our sisters may take up this needy work with zeal and courage.

L. J. BURGESS.

#### MOULMEIN

I never enjoyed my work more than at present. I can see that some are interested. Every evening we have a short Bible lesson. Six Buddhists were present the other night, the eyes of one of whom sparkled as he listened to the study; and as he comes all the time, he answers the questions nicely. The last week we have been studying the Love of God. To-night I begin with Creation.

If there is any one thing I desire, it is to know how to reach this people. Ever since I came from Lucknow my prayer has been for power and wisdom for the work. Surely the Lord is more than willing to give us this power; what we need to do is to get the hindrances out of the way.

I was recently called to Rangoon. The work there is moving along quite well. Brother Cook is endeavouring to bring things up to a higher spiritual plane. Brother Beckner preaches about every third Sunday night.

Everything is moving along all right as far as I know. May the Lord bless you all.

OLLIE OBERHOLTZER.

#### GOPALGUNGE

If the Lord will, I shall leave soon for the village of Jumila, which is about twenty-four hours' ride by boat from here. Brother Roy was there about two weeks ago, and last Sunday a deputation of four visited me and desired that I should go and conduct meetings there on the Sabbath. I would like to meet the teacher of the village school, who is desirous of coming to study with us.

The medical work has been moving along. Mrs. Watson gave 106 treatments last week, against fifty-eight the week previous. The mighty God of Israel is sending the people to us, it does appear, that they may hear the last message of mercy from a compassionate Father to his fast-perishing children. May he give us strength for our toil and sound wisdom and judgment to deal rightly with each precious soul and help us to fit into every detail of his plans for the work in East Bengal.

I held three studies on the Sabbath and two on Sunday morning before leaving. Besides Christians, some Hindus attended most of the meetings. Two or three of the more interested ones will probably come here for further investigation in a little while. One who had been a preacher among the Baptists for a good while seemed to be much interested. Brethren Gaen and Haldar had first visited him and presented the truth in his home. They then invited him to Jumila last Sabbath.

We are glad to know that the brethren in Mussoorie are all well. We are the same. May the Lord bless us all with much of his Spirit.

A. G. WATSON.

#### LUCKNOW

The work in Lucknow is progressive. One Sabbath-keeper is ready for baptism, the result of Sister Rouff's labour.

This is only a beginning. It is the day of small things, and we are grateful. Others are studying faithfully. An interesting letter was received recently from a young girl who took a keen interest during the cold weather, which reads as follows: "You will be pleased to hear I have not changed with regard to the dear mission and its good people. I am more attached to them than ever. When I come back to Lucknow this winter, I think I shall have a good deal to tell you of what I have gone through here. It is with a grateful heart I thank you for your prayers; they have been a strong safeguard." Tears flow from my eyes as I read these sentiments. They are full of meaning to me; coming from the mind of one who is so young, I appreciate them. Remember this young sister in your prayers.

In spite of the heat, I have visited some, and studied with others. The Lord's promises are all back of this message, and this is comforting to me.

E. MEYERS.

#### MUSSOORIE DISPENSARY

Since the first of June we have had a dispensary open in Mussoorie from 9:00 A. M. to 1:00 P. M. daily. We are located very nicely between the two bazaars. We have only a meager equipment, but God has blessed our weak efforts richly. During the first eight days I treated 23 native men and women. Although nearly everyone of these desired medicine, I did not have any difficulty in giving them hydrotherapeutic treatments, and I am sure that God will give us success and power from

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# The Eastern Tidings

LUCKNOW, - - - JUNE, 1909

Printed by W. E. Perrin, at the Watchman Press, 19 Banks Road, Lucknow.

—Brethren Amar Nath and Gardner, with their families, went to Mussoorie recently to spend the summer months in study.

—Mrs. Perrin, Harry, and Irma are now at Annfield, and thus only six are left at Lucknow. Mrs. Meyers, Dudley, and Harold, Mrs. Quantock and Edna, and "us."

—Mrs. Ruoff changed her plans considerably last month, and returned from Annfield and on the 27th left Lucknow for Burma, where she expected to visit for a time, and then return to America via England.

—Miss Belchambers was taken sick the latter part of May, and found it necessary to go to the Sanitarium for rest and treatment. That the work might not be interrupted, Mrs. Quantock returned to Lucknow.

—We are glad to say our engine seems to be getting in a better mood. This month's *Watchman* was printed during the week beginning May 30, and no real difficulty was experienced with the engine, thanks to a mistri here in Lucknow who seemed to understand his business.

—Friends of the Bengali work will be glad to know that the paper planned for during the conference gives promise of soon becoming a thing of reality. The copy has been set and is being corrected and made ready, and we hope soon to have a nice, neat little paper to help in the work for the Bengali people.

—A recent letter from Brother James informed us that Mrs. James and Miss Shryock were thinking of spending the hottest months at Bangalore, while he himself would probably go to Ceylon and look after the interests there, which while not affording him relief from the heat, would at least be a change.

—All should remember to address officers and not individuals. If you have occasion to write the Tract Society or the Mission, address your letter accordingly, and not to some person, who in this land of more than usual uncertainty may be here to-day and somewhere else to-morrow. Keep this in mind, and save yourself distressing anxiety some time when in a hurry.

—If any of our readers wish to add to their list of testimonials concerning the binding obligation of the ten commandments, perhaps the following quotation from a secular paper, the *Des Moines Capital*, in its leading editorial of May 8, will be interesting: "The Decalogue, engraved upon tablets of stone, has never been repealed. The words of the law shine bright and clear. They constitute the foundation of every system of jurisprudence which to-day has the approval of mankind. When Jesus came into the world and began his wonderful ministry, he did not decree that the ten commandments should be abrogated."

—Those who did not order the *General Conference Bulletin* are missing a treat. The first copies reached Lucknow last week and give a good report of the opening meetings, and succeeding numbers are awaited with interest. We are living in the time when the work will soon be "cut short in righteousness," and we may confidently expect this conference to mark a new era in our work.

## MUSSOORIE DISPENSARY

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above if we represent him in the right way. These poor people need to be taught, with great patience and meekness, the right health principles. God has said he places among us the poor and helpless to be dependent upon our care, to test the professed followers of Christ.

We must do our best for his needy children, and thus prove the genuineness of our love for him. "As ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." May God keep me humble, and may the love and sympathy in my heart for these poor people increase day by day as I minister to them, and may they see the fruits of the Holy Spirit manifested in my life. I long to have that close relationship with my heavenly Father that he can fill me with his Holy Spirit. Then we have the promise, "They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover."

LUISE SCHOLZ.