

# The Eastern Tidings

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## The Eastern Tidings

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### MORNING REFLECTIONS

The question is asked, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith in the earth?" Can you say this morning, I believe in the Lord Jesus; I live by the faith of the Son of God, by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God?

The Saviour is calling souls to come to him. The bells of heaven are ringing out the blessed invitation, "Come." The Spirit of God is pleading, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink." These are precious words of encouragement and hope.

It is the privilege and duty of every church member to consecrate heart and soul to God. At your baptism you pledged yourself to believe in God, to obey his Word, to receive his grace. You pledged yourself to live the principles of the gospel, and to labour together with Christ with all the ability God has given you. None are excused for living idle lives. None can refuse to represent him in word and deed, and be guiltless.

The presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the three highest powers in the universe and those in whose name the believer is baptized, is pledged to be with every striving soul. It will impart grace and strength to all who will watch unto prayer, to all who will purify the soul by obedience to the truth. And it will make the believer instrumental in leading other souls to accept Christ by faith.

The duty to reflect light rests upon every church member. "Ye are the light of the world," Christ declared to his followers. "A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." If the believer fails in drawing light from the Sun of Righteousness, he cannot reflect light. "He that is not with me," Christ said, "is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." Those who do not cast their influence on the side of Christ, Satan imbues with his spirit to act in unison with the enemy of good. We cannot afford to do this, and thus violate the pledge we made at our baptism. When we give to the cause of evil the influence and ability which belong to the cause of truth, angels are disappointed, and Christ is dishonoured. Those who are true to their baptismal pledge cannot be indifferent to the work of saving souls. To those who by their influence gather with Christ, angels will give ability to labour successfully for him.

How precious to every soul should be the thought that his name upon the church books is the pledge that he is engaged in the service of Christ! The servant of God is to be learning constantly how he may reflect light to the world. By his earnest devotion to the cause of the coming King, he is to be a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men. He has become dead to worldly inducements, and lives unto God; and the words of his mouth, the modest dress, the humble spirit, unflinchingly testify that he is a labourer together with God.

Spiritual indolence brings discouragement to the church. The example of one indolent soul may do much harm, for it

will be copied by others just according to the possibilities of its influence. The Lord calls upon all who profess his name to exalt his character before men, by works revealing their faith in him. In response to our desire to labour for Christ, heavenly angels will place opportunities before us by which we may make known the salvation of God.

ELLEN G. WHITE.

### OUR SABBATH-SCHOOL WORK

I wish to call the attention of the readers of the TIDINGS to the fact that we are nearing the close of the last quarter in this year, the time when our yearly report of the Sabbath-school work should be sent to the General Conference Secretary to be placed on file and compared with the reports from other mission fields. I am sure that all are anxious that we make a "good record" at this time; but in order to do so, every Sabbath-school should report promptly and in full. Each quarter this year we have been obliged to hold our report for delinquent schools, and then send the report without every school having reported. I trust that this may not be the case in this our last report for the year. Our schools are so few, and our members so scattered, that it takes the combined effort of all to make a good report; and so I shall ask as a special favour that each school, and also each family of Sabbath-keepers who are not connected with a school, send in as complete a report as possible. I was greatly encouraged last quarter to see that almost without exception the schools were using all donations for mission work, and also to note the liberal donations of many of the schools.

The Rangoon Sabbath-school did especially well, having given Rs. 102-14-9. I am sure that it appeals to the Mission Board at home to note the effort being made by the Sabbath-schools in our

mission field, and is a source of encouragement for them to give more liberally than ever to help in this needy field. As we look back over the year, we can see that we have many things for which to be thankful; and as we enter the new year, may it be with a firm determination to do more than ever before toward advancing the kingdom of God in this dark land. The Sabbath-school is one of working and developing; so let us labour together, one and all, to make this work a success.

EDITH E. BRUCE.

## Field Reports

### THE WORLD'S CONVENTION OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR

It fell to the lot of the writer to be present in Agra at the time of the late Christian Endeavour Convention, November, 20-23. The Endeavour camp was pitched within a few minutes' walk of the celebrated Taj Mahal. A number of tents, large and small, most of which were new and arranged in systematic order, reminded one of the large conference gatherings in the home land. The grounds being decorated with many palms and plants of various kinds presented a very attractive appearance. The motto in large letters above the entrance was "India for Christ and Christ for India." This was also the keynote of the whole convention. A number of earnest speakers endeavoured to impress upon the members of the society that India is soon to come under the Christian standard. One speaker, however, presented the rather discouraging fact that the educated class in India are less inclined to accept of Christianity than they were some years ago. The cause for this change was not given, but the need of all denominations uniting as one body was much emphasized. It was thought that by laying aside conflicting

doctrines and uniting in the work, much more could be accomplished with less friction.

Monday and Tuesday were the only days in which we had opportunity to sell the special number of the *Watchman* which was printed for the occasion, and then only between meetings and outside of the camp grounds, as no one was allowed to do any canvassing within the boundary lines. Notwithstanding these difficulties, Brother Meyers and the writer, with the help of Mrs. Burgess, succeeded in selling something more than a hundred copies. We also presented a copy to Dr. Clark, the president of the society, and to a number of the other officers present. Brother Amar Nath also succeeded in disposing of some vernacular literature. We trust that these seeds of truth may not have been sown in vain.

L. J. BURGESS.

#### SOUTHERN INDIA

After spending a few weeks in Mussorie, we returned to our work in Tinnevely District, coming via Poona, where Miss Shryock joined us at the close of her vacation at Elder Enoch's home.

We found that the work left in the hands of our servants at the time of our departure had been faithfully carried out in every detail. The first work of importance after our return was the dedication of the new bungalow, which took place on Thursday, October 14. This service was well attended and proved to be the most enthusiastic gathering of native people I have ever been in. We were nearly buried under garlands of flowers, bunches of plantains, limes, and sugar. In my address, I dwelt largely on Mark 16: 15, 16; giving a brief outline of our fundamental principles and our purpose in mission fields. In the evening of the same day at 8:30 I gave a magic lantern lecture on the Life of Christ. This being the first thing of its kind ever seen

in the neighbourhood, a large crowd assembled to see and hear. We moved into the bungalow immediately after the dedication.

One week following this service, an event took place for which we have been looking for more than a year. Twenty-five families, representing some hundred and twenty-five souls, separated themselves from their old moorings and came over to us. From that time until the present, our audience has increased in numbers and interest. For a church we are using the front verandah of our bungalow, but we are now crowded for room. The people are very regular in their attendance at meetings which are held at the beginning of the Sabbath and on Sabbath morning and evening.

Shortly after these people declared in our favour, we found it necessary to organize a school for the benefit of a large number of children placed at our disposal. This school has been running now one month, and has an enrollment of sixty scholars under three teachers. More scholars are to join at the beginning of the new year.

The building we had been using for a dispensary, which belonged to the old church, was closed to us after the division took place; but in less than twenty-four hours arrangements were made for a better building in a more suitable location, where we could carry on that line of our work entirely independent of any outside influences.

Thus it is that the Lord causes the wrath of man to praise him, and the remainder of wrath he will withhold. Our work goes forward in spite of the fiercest opposition. How utterly futile it is for puny man to lift his hand against the great God of heaven. We are all of good courage and in health. We desire an interest in your prayers, that we may be enabled to thoroughly instruct in the truth those who have taken their stand with us.

J. S. JAMES.

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LUCKNOW, - DECEMBER (15TH), 1909

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

—The International Tract Society is getting out a new catalogue of publications, which will be ready in a few days. If you can use one, write for it.

—Word from Calcutta informs us that Brother Barlow and family have arrived there and are in good health and ready for the work in India.

—Elder Miller is accompanying Brother and Sister Thurber and Miss Secrist to Burma, and will remain there a short time counseling in regard to different matters pertaining to the work.

—After the Agra convention, Brother and Sister Burgess returned to Lucknow for a few days. They are now out for a short visit at Dehra Dun and elsewhere, but will soon return to see to some printing in the vernacular which is being done.

—Elder Miller went to Bombay and met the new workers who arrived there December 3. A few days were spent at the home of Brother and Sister Enoch at Poona, and then the first of last week Brethren Wellmen and Thurber, with their families and Miss Secrist, came on to Lucknow. Brethren Lowry and Kelsey are to locate in Central and Southern India, while Brother and Sister Wellman will remain in Lucknow during the cool season and study the language. Brother and Sister Thurber and Miss Secrist are now on their way to Burma, their field of labour.

—That we are not located on an American trunk line it is easy to realize from the fact that a shipment of books ordered in May was just received a few days since. On the other hand, a new machine for the Watchman Press, which was ordered September 9, was billed by the supply house in Washington on October 13, shipped to New York and billed by the steamship company there on the 26th, and is expected in Calcutta in a few days. This is much sooner than we had dared to hope for it, and is very encouraging in the midst of some of the difficulties peculiar to life in the East.

—A church organization was effected here in Lucknow last Sabbath for the benefit of the few who are permanently located here and those who though not here all the time find this a central place for them. Ten members took part in the organization, and we trust that others may be constrained to cast their lot with us.

—Brethren Little and Watson have moved to Barisal, East Bengal, whence they will labour in the interests of the Bengali work.

## HINDUSTANI ITEMS

During the past month Amar Nath has succeeded in selling nearly a thousand copies of Hindi and Urdu pamphlets.

Brethren Caleb, Camphor, and Massey all report good sales of literature at the Melas which they have attended.

Since the closing of the treatment rooms at Mussoorie, Brother Gardner has gone to Meerut to spend a couple of months in the sale of literature.

Miss Minnie Singh has been doing Zanana work in Dehra Dun during the past month, and reports some interest among the Bengali women there.

The Urdu version of the exposition of the book of Daniel has been sent to the press, and we hope to have it ready for circulation within a few months.

L. J. BURGESS.

## NECESSITY OF PRAYER

Prayer is a necessity; for it is the life of the soul. Family prayer, public prayer, have their place; but it is secret communion with God that sustains the soul-life.

It was in the mount with God that Moses beheld the pattern of that wonderful building which was to be the abiding-place of his glory. It is in the mount with God—in the secret place of communion—that we are to contemplate his glorious ideal for humanity. Thus we shall be enabled so to fashion our character-building that to us may be fulfilled his promise, "I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

It was in hours of solitary prayer that Jesus in his earth-life received wisdom and power. Let the youth follow his example in finding at dawn and twilight a quiet season for communion with their Father in heaven. And throughout the day let them lift up their hearts to God.—*Selected.*