

The Eastern Tidings

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The Eastern Tidings

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EDITORS

Eight Annas a Week for Missions

At the biennial council at Friedensau the urgent calls for help from the mission fields led our brethren at that meeting to give serious consideration to plans for increasing funds for mission work. They felt so deeply impressed by the urgent appeals from the mission fields that they determined without delay to formulate plans for larger gifts to our world-wide missionary enterprises. The following resolutions were accordingly passed:—

1. That hereafter there be but one general fund for the prosecution of missionary enterprises, and that all contributions to missions be placed in that fund.

2. That all appropriations to mission fields, whether for the support of missionaries or for providing institutions or other facilities, be made from this fund.

3. That beginning with January 1, 1912, the rate of ten cents a week a member for missions be raised to fifteen cents a week.

4. That the fifteen-cent-a-week fund include all donations to missions except the per cent. of the tithe appropriated by conferences to missions, and such donations as are specially applied otherwise by the donors.

5. That during 1911 earnest efforts be made to raise what is still due on the \$300,000 fund.

6. That earnest calls be made at our camp-meetings and other general meetings for contributions to missions, and that all these gifts be applied to the general missionary fund.

From these resolutions it will be apparent to all that the plans laid for increasing mission funds are very simple

and definite and should lead to a very large increase of donations to missions. The question now arises as to what attitude our people in India and Burma will assume toward these recommendations. Hitherto, only a very few have been giving five annas a week to missions, and no general effort has been made to raise the donations of individual members to the amount of five annas each a week. Now that a raise has been determined and an effort will be made to get our people in general to increase their gifts for missions, would it not be well for our workers and English-speaking people in India to fall in line and each determine on a sum, independent of the tithe and church expenses, to be given weekly for missions?

Eight annas a week is even money, and although a trifle more than fifteen cents would serve as a convenient sum to calculate. If one hundred persons in India would give eight annas a week to missions, it would amount to rupees fifty a week, or something more than rupees two hundred a month. Such a sum would be sufficient to pay the salary of an additional missionary and his wife.

I would like to know how many are in favour of encouraging our English-speaking people in India to give eight annas each a week to missions. Such a plan would annually amount to a very substantial sum, and yet it calls for so small an amount weekly from each member as to be hardly noticeable. One hundred persons giving eight annas a week would give Rs. 2,600 a year. Shall we not set ourselves to see if we cannot persuade one hundred persons to adopt

the plan of giving eight annas a week to missions?

What do you think of such a plan? Do you favour it, and would you like to give eight annas a week to missions and encourage others to do the same? If so, drop a card either to the treasurer or to the writer.

J. L. S.

Three Strong Men of the Bible

ONE of the most remarkable characters of Old Testament times is Samson. He is notable in many ways. His birth was a miracle, and his end a tragedy. The Bible narrative portrays his life as a series of impulsive acts, manifesting folly, petulance, revenge, and other unworthy characteristics. He had every advantage that could be bestowed to ensure him an honourable career: his prospects were brilliant, his opportunities rare, and added to this he was the possessor of a physical prowess unrivalled in the history of mankind. Yet his life proved an utter failure.

What does this go to prove? What is the great object-lesson set forth in the history of Samson? Is it not that physical might, though a most valuable thing in its way, does not furnish the elements of true strength? The strongest man physically that ever lived is here shown to be a moral weakling, without any of those elements that go to make up real strength. Though he had physical strength and courage in such an eminent degree that were he on earth to-day he would be worshipped as an idol by multitudes, yet he was self-indulgent and fickle. Too unstable to excel in life, he fell into a dishonourable grave. His mighty strength became a curse, and availed him nothing in the battle of life.

Another strong man is brought to view in the Bible—Solomon. He stands at the

head of all the wise men that ever lived; yet, strange to say, he proved a failure. His great wisdom could not save him, his marvellous mental qualities did not assure him victory in the conquest of self. Solomon went down before the tempter, and grovelled in a base, inglorious defeat. Physical strength avails nothing, mental strength avails nothing, in the conquest against spiritual forces, in this struggle for the mastery of self.

Samson and Solomon are set forth as eminent examples of this most important truth, for the admonition of future generations; yet how few are warned, and how many make similar mistakes, and become castaways, who might have made life a grand success. No natural talents, however brilliant, can be relied upon to deliver in temptation, and to secure the victory over sin.

But the Bible does not leave the matter here. It furnishes another example, and reveals another form of strength, that transcends the two already examined as heaven transcends earth. It gives us a picture of this strength in the person of John the Baptist, the greatest man that ever lived. This form of strength may not be so attractive to the human desire as the former two, but it possesses the sterling qualities of true greatness.

John was a moral giant, who attained by a life of self-discipline to the highest pinnacle of moral excellence ever reached by a human being. Contrast his greatness with that of Samson and Solomon, and there is no comparison. All are good, all are valuable; but as the diamond outclasses a piece of glittering glass in its nature and value, so does the moral strength of John surpass the strength of body of Samson and the strength of mind of Solomon. But John's glorious manhood, his matchless character, is not set before us to admire only. It has been portrayed for us to emulate. He was meek and lowly, yet brave and bold. He was pure and temperate, yet not sentimental or effeminate. He was gentle as a zephyr, but firm as a rock. He was kind and courteous, but no man-pleaser. He was courted and popular for a time, but not conceited. Like a tall cedar he stood his ground unmoved by the mixed and powerful influences that

surged around him. And when his work was done, he stepped down out of the limelight into the obscurity of the dungeon without a murmur, and allowed himself to be superseded by another without a trace of envy or a pang of jealous feeling. His life of self-sacrifice will be crowned with victory on the eternal morning.

May we also gain such victories, and stand amidst the throng of overcomers in that day! "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isa. 11:31.—*T. Whittle.*

Field Reports

Our Literature in Colombo

SEPTEMBER 22 closed my nearly four months' canvass of Colombo. During this time 8,000 pages of Sabbath and second advent leaflets were distributed, beside sales made of nearly Rs. 1,500, thirty-six per cent. of which were for our religious literature, as follows:—

Doctrinal literature,	Rs. 542-15
Children's books,	91-8
Health literature,	844-4
Total,	Rs. 1,478-11

Thus Colombo, with less than half the population of Madras, has purchased twice as much of our literature. Day by day and week by week I have recognized God's hand holding elements in check and giving me access to individuals and favour in many ways. My average receipts have been Rs. 90 a week, with an expense of Rs. 6-8 for room and food.

I am now on tour through the island, praising God for his tender care, and thankful for the privilege of bringing present truth to some of his dear, scattered children. F. O. RAYMOND.

Burma

It is now about two weeks since we arrived here with our household things, and we are stored away in camp until we can secure land for permanent use. I

do not think a more ideal climate is to be found, and everything looks so beautiful since the rains. The villages here are noted for the bamboo, which is very beautiful and graceful. The hill we have selected to build our home on is of about 4,000 feet elevation, and has a rainfall of about 50 inches. In December, January, and February there are frequent frosts. The soil is very fertile, and the country rather sparsely settled, yet there are many large villages around. Heho, which is the market place, has about 2,000 people, and besides this there are a dozen villages in sight.

The people are a mixture of Shan and Burmese; they speak Burmese, or a dialect of Burmese, and read Burmese. They are more simpleminded and not so lazy as the Burmans. Some are almost as I judge they were one hundred years ago. When I first came I was a great curiosity; as they had never seen a white woman before. There has never been any mission work done here, although the Baptists have a mission station only a few miles distant with a native pastor in charge. As far as I can tell, the people are very favourable toward Christianity, although I understand the Sawbwa, the native ruler, is a very bigoted Buddhist. But he is very friendly towards our work. He is anxious that better methods of agriculture be taught his people, and he also looks favourably on the medical work and teaching the woman. He and also the English government officials have expressed themselves as pleased that we are here and that they would help us along—that we are just where we are needed.

We arrived here on Tuesday and were compelled to camp in our little two room bamboo house. On Friday we got things partly straightened up, and announced there would be a Bible study Sabbath morning at 9:00 o'clock. We threw mats down on the floor, and had our first Sabbath-school. Eighteen were present with us. Our lesson was Genesis 1. None had ever seen a Bible except Po Kyan and a man Mr. Tornblad has had for some time. It was a good day. Never did I feel that I needed the help of God more than I did that day as we bowed in prayer. MRS. OLIVE TORNBLAD.

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EASTERN TIDINGS is published the 15th of each month, and all copy should be received not later than the 10th.

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

—MISS REID spent Sabbath and Sunday, the 7th and 8th, here in Lucknow on her way back to Bombay.

—IF you are in favour of the plan suggested in the first page article, note the request to write either to the superintendent or the treasurer of the India Union Mission.

—BROTHER LAKE writes from England that he has been comfortably installed at Caterham Sanitarium. Dr. Olsen and other workers have pledged themselves to give him as much assistance as possible during his few months of training there.

—BROTHER AND SISTER WEAKS returned from the hills the 5th inst, and are located in Lucknow for a time. Brother Weaks went to Calcutta on the 11th, where he will spend a few days and then take up matters pertaining directly to the canvassing work.

—FOR some time the workers on the Bombay side have felt that they should have re-enforcements in their work, and now their number is being increased. A new nurse, Miss Katherine Louella, arrived at the home of Brother and Sister Kelsey on Friday, the 6th inst., and is being carefully trained along Indian health lines.

—ELDER MILLER writes: "Just a few lines these busy days. I came here from the Ohio camp-meeting, where we had a good time. On my way there we were running at a high rate of speed, when all of a sudden the coach turned over on its side, and I was cut on the hand and bruised on the back of the head; but, thank the Lord, I was one of the fortunate ones. Many were crippled and badly cut with glass, about thirty being hurt and some killed. I continued my journey, reaching the camp-meeting about three hours late, took a good wash, and went into the desk with Elder Daniels and others. Well we think of you dear people over here, and Mrs. Miller and I pray for India."

—A LETTER from Dr. Menkel says: "We have not forgotten you or lost our interest in India. Mrs. Menkel is improving slowly, but is still troubled with her head and is very nervous. During the recent Colorado camp-meeting we had several hours on India, and Elder Evans spoke three times on China; so it was quite a missionary meeting. It begins to look as though we would yet get back to India before some of the calls are filled which were made ere we left the field. I do not think it would be wise for us to venture back until Mrs. Menkel has gotten entirely over the effects of her breakdown, but we might as well be discussing plans for that time. We are doing what we can for India at long range, and hope you feel the effects of our prayers."

—SISTER OWEN writes from Simla. "I have been having Bible studies with a lady living at the Hotel Royal, and she told me two or three days ago that she is quite convinced of the Sabbath truth and intends to keep that day holy to the Lord for the future. She has kept one Sabbath and this is the second, and it is such a happy day for me to have another to praise him and learn of him with me. We intend, if God wills, to give these truths to others and perhaps some may join us in keeping God's day holy?"

—BROTHER BECKNER had an unfortunate accident recently. While attempting to open the church window at Rangoon he fell about six feet and struck upon a water pipe, breaking his leg midway between the knee and ankle. He was taken immediately to the hospital. Fortunately, there have been no serious complications, and we trust he may make a favourable and complete recovery.

—Dr. V. L. MANN and family are booked to leave England for India the first of November, and should reach Bombay about the twenty-third. Brother Peter Rick, who is coming to India as a canvasser, is probably on his way, and should reach Ceylon early in November. Brother Weaks expects to meet him in South India, and help him to get started in the canvassing work.

—BROTHER AND SISTER WELLMAN came down from Almora, October 4, and have settled in Lucknow, arrangements having been made at the recent committee meeting for Brother Wellman to locate here and take up work necessary in getting out literature both in English and the various vernaculars.