

The Eastern Tidings

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The Eastern Tidings

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J. L. SHAW,

EDITORS

A Forward Move in English Work

For several years our efforts in India have been very largely absorbed in vernacular work, and it has seemed well nigh impossible to give that attention and help to the English work which it has deserved. The study of different languages, the starting of mission stations with their schools and dispensaries, and the literature work have together taken our time and strength.

But our workers have not been unmindful of the responsibility which rests upon them to give to those who know their mother tongue the message for to-day. Many prayers have ascended to God, and earnest appeals have been sent to the mission board and our people in America, which we thank God have not been in vain. The workers who recently came to India, Elders Pettit and Comer and their wives, Sister Rachel Jones, and Brother Peter Rick are making possible a forward move in English work.

Elder Comer writes from Rangoon that the work is moving forward in a very encouraging manner. The attendance at his English services ranges from one hundred to one hundred fifty each Sunday night; a number of young men are very deeply interested, some of whom have decided to obey God. A partition in the hall has been taken down, pro-

viding nearly as much room again for meetings. Electric fans have also been installed, which add much comfort.

Brother William Carratt, who is devoting his time to the sale of our publications in Rangoon and adjacent stations, is having unusual success, and finds many people interested in the books and papers and willing to buy. His sales are averaging from week to week about Rs. 200.

Lonavla is a summer hill station three or four hours by train from Bombay. At this season of the year, while the heat is oppressive in Bombay, many people go to Lonavla, which is somewhat cooler. Brethren Enoch and Wellman report a very favourable beginning in their meetings. At their lantern services as many as two hundred, including children, have been present. At the other services the attendance is much less; but, considering the size of the station, the number coming to the meetings is more than was expected. The tent has proved too small for the lantern services, so a splendid hall in the Railway Institute has been procured. Brethren Wellman and Kelsey have made a number of slides for further lantern lectures.

Brother Enoch writes that one family has purchased Rs. 30 worth of books, and are eagerly reading all they get. He is getting in touch with people at Dhond and other near-by stations, who have become interested through reading *Oriental Watchman*.

This effort at Lonavla may prove an entrance into Bombay, toward which great city we have had our attention directed for years. Some attempts have

been made, but nothing permanent or successful has resulted. There is every reason to believe that the message of present truth should take permanent root at the gateway of India and shine forth in the districts surrounding it.

The effort in Mussoorie is just starting—the season is late owing to cold weather and rains. Elder Pettit and Sister Jones, who are visiting among the people, are meeting with much indifference and prejudice. On Saturday, May 4th, about forty other than our own people attended the service, and Sunday nearly as many. The subject both evenings was "Spiritualism." This subject seems to be of special interest to the people. We propose doing everything possible to interest souls in the truth this summer.

A strong effort beginning after the break of the rains is contemplated in Calcutta. Elders Pettit and Comer will both begin work in that city, with such other help as may be associated with them. The little church in that great city now feels that its call for help has not been in vain. A hall will be procured and arrangements made for a steady, determined effort in this metropolis of the Indian Empire.

The English journals *Oriental Watchman* and *Herald of Health* bid fare to double their circulation the coming year. Brother Rick, who is devoting his efforts on these journals alone, is having exceptionally good success. During March he registered 197 subscriptions, most of which are annual. Brother Raymond, who during the past year has been going from station to station through South India and Ceylon, has disposed of a large variety of religious literature. His efforts have been incessant, early and late he has worked in the sun and heat, until his health has made it neces-

sary for him to have a change to the Himalayas. Brother Poley has also been selling books and registering orders for our periodicals in North India. We are certain that the sale of our English literature in India and Burma is preparing the way for a harvest of souls later on.

Some of the most successful workers in India, both in vernacular and in English, have come through the medium of English work, and we are sure that with God's blessing the forward move in English work will be for the advancement of the work in India both in English and other tongues. The prayers of God's children for this work are needed and earnestly invited. J. L. S.

Field Reports

Karmatar

For a number of weeks we have been studying the Bible with several young people, who we hoped as only Bible workers can hope, would take their stand with us. During these studies, two of the number have left us, and we have prayerfully held on to the others, not knowing if they would be able to stand the pressure brought to bear upon them from outside sources.

It is with gratitude we report that Sabbath, April 13, three precious souls were baptized by Elder French, and another, who had already been immersed, with them united with the church. From the baptism we returned to the bungalow, where we observed the ordinances of God's house. Sister Finney, of Madhapur, because of ill health could not meet with us, so we arranged with Brother French to stop there on his return from Simultala. Sister Leech, Sister Brunson, and I joined him Monday afternoon at

her home, where we celebrated the ordinances for her benefit. It was indeed a pleasure to take part in the ordinances with this isolated sister.

Brother and Sister Leech left to-day for Mussoorie. We are thankful that Miss Brunson is here with us to continue the medical work. D. BURBOWAY.

South India

The last few weeks have been very busy ones for us here in South India. March 16, I went to Bangalore in order to be there at the time that special prayer was offered for Mrs. Lowry. I remained there three or four days, and then started back south, accompanied by Elder James. We visited the brethren at Trichinopoly on our way down, and found them of good courage and busily engaged in trying to teach the truth to some who seem much interested. One young man, a school teacher of considerable experience, has fully accepted the truth, and is zealously working for his relatives and friends. We truly hope that in the near future he may be a help to us in our work. Others who have studied the truth with us quite fully in the past are still undecided; but we have reason to think that soon some of them will take their stand for the truth.

At Nazareth we found our school, dispensary, and general mission work going on in a very encouraging way. The school, especially, is doing good work. The teachers, who are all thoroughly acquainted with the truth, improve every opportunity of teaching it to the children under their charge. We see, too, that their efforts have not been without results.

One week was spent at Nazareth laying plans for future work and in making arrangements for repairing and painting the bungalow, schoolhouse, etc., after

which Brother James and I started for Kodaikanal, meeting Mrs. James and Mrs. Lowry at the railway station, forty miles from the foot of the hills. We are now comfortably located in the hills, enjoying to the fullest extent the cool, bracing air, which is certainly a happy contrast to what we have been having for the last year down on the plains.

Mrs. Lowry stood the trip up here quite well, and although we have been here but little more than a week, says that she feels better. She is able to begin taking exercise by walking around some. We hope that the climate will agree with her, and that she may soon begin to pick up and improve sufficiently to warrant us in returning to our work.

G. G. LOWRY.

"Nook," Kodaikanal.

Among the Karens

I ARRIVED home this morning from the Karen country to the north of Moulmein. The trip was one of the most enjoyable that I have ever made in Burma, and that is saying a great deal. I found that the man whom I baptized last year had remained firm all alone and that he had another man keeping the Sabbath. This second man I baptized. In some ways he is the most progressive Karen that I have ever met in the jungle. His house is the nicest and cleanest, and his compound gives the most evidence of thrift and order of any that I have seen. He came and gave me two rupees as I started away, as an offering, and he says that he will pay his tithe when his crops come this year.

There is a good interest there now, and Bro. Hpo Hla and Bro. Chit Hla are remaining for a week or so to follow it up. I fully expect that some more will accept the truth. The wife of the man that was baptized last week is much interested, and appears to be a very superior

woman. I think she will be ready for baptism soon. Some of the members of her family are also interested. Of course, the outcome of their studying is only conjecture; but there is hope, at least.

We hope to get a Karen boy or two of sound Christian experience to attend our school in Meiktila. Whether or not we shall succeed, I cannot say yet; but there is some prospect at present that we shall get them.

The Sagawas have accepted Christianity more readily in the past, but I found an interest among Buddhist Karens in the village where we were. We went out and gave treatment to two or three, and they were very appreciative. I feel sure that not only Christians will join us when we begin to work there, but that many Buddhists will also come.

I think that the place where we held our baptism was the prettiest that I have ever seen. A hill of rock rises out of the plain to a height of about five or six hundred feet. The sides are almost straight up. Out of this hill a little stream flows. One can go back into the hill. There with the eternal rocks above and beneath and all around, except the entrance, with water as clear as a crystal and hardly hiding the rocks of the bottom, it seemed that we had a tomb hewed out of the rock, and I could not help thinking of the tomb in which never man had lain.

H. H. VOTAW.

The Lonavla Tent Meetings

WE have just finished the fourth week of our meetings in Lonavla, a railway town at the head of the Bhor Ghat, on the South-eastern line of the G. I. P. Railway. Although the most of its population are railway people, it is a semi-hill station,—and yet, judging from the excessive heat of the last month no one would suppose so—and there are a

goodly number of visitors in the station during April and May.

We opened our meetings April 9. Services are held four times each week, Sunday, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Our experience is that people will not at first come out on Sunday, preferring to go to their own churches. They also will not come out on Saturday, as they feel they are in some way countenancing the Sabbath. Still, we have found both these services necessary; the first to wean the people away from old associations and the second to start them on the road for full commandment keeping. The mid-week meetings have been the best attended of the regular services, and have created such a desire for more that some are now attending all the services.

But of all the meetings, the lantern lectures on Saturday night have been by far the best attended. The midweek services the first two weeks averaged about 30, the Sunday attendance has been from 14 to 20, but the lantern lectures have averaged more than 100, with an attendance one night of more than 200. We are trying to give the straight message in these lantern talks. Our collections to date have been Rs. 93. Each week's program has been neatly printed and circulated in every house in the station. Should any of our workers like a copy of these announcements we shall be glad to furnish them. This has had a good effect, as it assures a call on each family at least once each week. We find some who have not yet been to the tent becoming more and more friendly with each succeeding visit.

However, opposition of the most serious nature has been aroused. One minister has nailed Canright to the mast in lieu of a plain "Thus saith the Lord," and is doing all he can by unfair means to poi-

son the minds of the people. So far, he has kept a few away, but he has also decided one family in favour of the truth. At this writing we are in a very critical stage of the meetings, as it is not yet clear whether the frantic efforts of the enemy will keep the people from coming or not. We are confident of one thing, however, and that is that nothing can be done against the truth, but for it. The interest is also reaching out to neighbouring railway towns, and we have already held some services in other places where there seems to be an interest.

One very interesting feature of our meetings so far is that those who have been the most deeply interested are almost without exception old readers of the *Oriental Watchman*. One lady, the first night, on seeing our display of literature near the door, stepped up and asked eagerly for a copy of the *Watchman*. "It seems like meeting a long-lost friend," she said, as she gave her order for an annual subscription. She has proven to be the most interested person in the station. We have sold about Rs. 25 worth of literature at the tent besides that sold by Brother Raymond, some of which was taken by regular attendants at the services.

We do not yet know what will be the result of the effort, as opposition is most determined and prejudice is strong; but we trust that some souls will struggle out into the light. Pray for us. Miss Reid has just joined us from Bombay.

MR. AND MRS. GEO. F. F. NOCH,
S. A. WELLMAN,
MR. AND MRS. A. G. KELSEY.

"THOROUGHNESS, earnestness, enthusiasm, and carefulness often counterbalance lack of experience, and lead to success."

The Printed Page

Our Literature Work

A FEW days ago I received a personal letter from Brother W. E. Gillis, who is now in charge of the publishing work in China, and I believe all readers of EASTERN TIDINGS will be interested in the paragraphs quoted. I am sure that all have read with much interest the reports that have appeared in the REVIEW showing the remarkable progress this department of our work has been making in the China mission field.

"The Lord is wonderfully blessing our efforts in this field. The war held us up for a few months, but when we returned to the work it was found that advances had been made all along the line. Many had been added to the church, and the demand for our papers and tracts has increased more than five thousand a month above what it was when we were compelled to call in the labourers. Our regular issue this month is 38,000 copies, and the orders already in indicate several thousand additional for next month.

"The literature business has depended quite largely upon the faith of those in charge of it. Last year a great improvement upon previous methods resulted in the colporteurs being paid half in literature and half in cash. This was a step in advance; but I believed that the Lord wants his work on a self-supporting basis, and urged that the directors of our station themselves become believers in this and then enthruse their men with a desire to do great things. This resulted in another advance step. This year the colporteurs are being paid altogether in literature, and the Lord is wonderfully prospering them.

"Our first subscription book, 'Christ our Saviour,' and intended for the 40 per cent. list, is just off the press. Our foreign Bible woman in Shanghai has proven it to be a seller at 45 cents board, and 65 cents cloth. When we have a few agents trained to the methods of the successful canvassers of the home land, this field will be one of the most promising yet entered."

To me, this letter speaks volumes. When the recent trouble broke out in

China, I wondered as to the effect it would have upon our literature work, which I knew was in such a prosperous condition. But we are learning more and more that God's work is not dependent upon outward conditions. God's great timepiece has struck the hour for the finishing of this work, and nothing can stop its progress.

In China, as in other parts of the world, the colporteur, with his books, papers, and tracts, is the pioneer of the message. His work creates an interest and awakens a desire for further light and truth, and thus the work moves forward with rapidity. In China the membership doubled last year.

I believe we have reached a time when our literature work should act a more important part in heralding the third angel's message to the millions of India. We can never hope to have a force of ministers equal to the task of giving this message, but the Lord has told us that through our publishing houses the work will largely be done.

Have we not reached a time when this work should be more largely self-supporting? While it will doubtless be some time before our ideal will be reached, I believe there is room for immediate advancement.

May the Lord richly bless us as we labour and plan together for the upbuilding of this important branch of his work in India.

C. E. WEAKS.

Success

If the number of orders shows one's degree of success, it may be said that I have had success. But unless the literature is read, the work will be in vain. God says that his word shall not return unto him void, so we can go forth rejoicing, scattering seeds of truth, and trusting our Father for the increase. There

are some honest souls who will heed God's message for to-day, and the only way we can find them is to pass none by. This has been one of the hardest things for me to overcome. However, by an experience of late in Calcutta, God has taught me a lesson that I shall not soon forget. As I began work one day the first house was a Jewish home, as I had been told the day before, so I passed it by, thinking that it was useless to go there, because I had been hopelessly refused by Jews a number of times. While I went on canvassing the other homes without success, a voice kept reminding me that I had passed a house; so finally I went back. Although Jews, they were glad to get the paper. After that the orders came fast. Another Jew soon entered his name.

I am indeed glad to have a little part in this great work; my courage is good, and I never had better health. Yet I feel the need of your prayers, dear readers, that the blessing of God may attend my efforts.

I have just arrived in Darjeeling, and will remain here long enough to canvass the place.

P. A. RICK.

Burma

THE Lord is still richly blessing the canvassing work here in Burma. I left Rangoon on the 8th of April, returning on the 30th, having visited the following stations: Prome, Thegon, Pongde, Zegon, Myanaung, Ingabu, Henzada, Bassein, Myaungmya, and Maubin. Most of these stations are very small, with just a few English-speaking people in them. While travelling on the train from one of these stations I had the joy of selling a copy of "Heralds of the Morning" to a Roman Catholic priest, also two copies of the *Oriental Watchman*. He seemed glad to get hold of such a good book. I

parted with it with the prayer that the contents might present to him the truth as it is in Jesus.

My sales for three weeks amount to Rs. 700; 50 per cent. is for our religious literature.

Some of my old subscribers were glad to see me in Bassein again. They spoke very highly of the "Heralds of the Morning," and several of them ordered "Great Controversy" and "Christ's Object Lessons." One man said, "But you are not a Christian are you? or you would not work on Sunday." I told him I was a S. D. A., but came away with an order provided I took the book on Monday. That day (Sunday) I came in with more than Rs. 70 worth of orders. Surely these books will bring forth an abundant harvest for good.

I indeed thank God for the privilege of scattering these message-filled books in Burma and I do pray that the seed thus sown will bring forth an abundant harvest. I am sure that "When the roll is called up yonder" we shall see people from Burma who have accepted this message through the reading of our books.

I rejoice to hear of the progress the papers are making. This month I secured 43 subscribers to the *Oriental Watchman*, and 50 to *Herald of Health*. Remember me at the throne of grace.

W. CARRATT.

Lahore

I BELIEVE this province of the Punjab is somewhat indebted to THE EASTERN TIDINGS in respect to field reports, so I am constrained to write a few lines.

Its capital, Lahore, is the centre of its ecclesiastical activities. It has two fine cathedrals, and as the seat of learning, it affords ample scope for the canvasser.

I rejoice that it has been my privilege to scatter a considerable quantity of our

precious literature, glowing with the light of God's last message of mercy, among its people. Especially have I found pleasure in presenting *The Oriental Watchman*. Surely the articles in that good paper are ringing out the grand old notes which have in them the harmony of heaven. A native Christian occupying a good government position, and who as a "local" preacher has influence among the Christians of the district, has been in the habit of furnishing his notebook with some of the Bible truths it contains. Is it not true that the messenger is often outraced by the message?

Among the people of note who have purchased literature, I might mention the son of the ex-Amir of Afghanistan, the latter being a state prisoner in the hands of the British Government. He bought "Heralds of the Morning." It is surely a matter of joy when an educated Mohommadan purchases such a message-laden book.

As an aggressive worker in a province where the dearth of labourers is great, I place myself on record as a candidate for the yet larger consecration—the condition and guarantee of Divine power which tells for effectiveness in every line of our sublime calling. More than this, there comes the hope that some seed thought may be planted in the heart of many judgment-bound souls—there to bring forth the fruit of wise decision before the world's approaching doom shall close our doors of opportunity. As I view the whitened fields I am led to repeat often the harvest prayer of the Master. There are so many to be warned.

PERCY C. POLEY.

NOTHING can work me damage except myself. The harm that I sustain I carry about with me, and never am a real sufferer but by my own fault.—*St. Bernard*.

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LUCKNOW, - - - - - MAY, 1912

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 CHILTON left Lucknow last Sunday for a vacation in Garhwal

—DOCTOR MANN, who spent some time in Calcutta in the interests of the treatment rooms, has gone to Mussoorie.

—THE tithe of the India Union Mission Field for the first four months of 1912 amounts to Rs. 5,735-12-7, and the Sabbath-school offerings to Rs. 634-0-8.

—Two young man have begun keeping the Sabbath in Rangoon, and another is about to take the step. One of these young men knows four languages, Tamil being his mother tongue.

—THE following workers are now enjoying a change in the bracing air of Mussoorie: Brother Raymond, Brother and Sister Mookerjee, Brother and Sister Leech, and Sisters Wellman, Kurtz, Scholz, Wagner, and Shoto Mitter.

—ELDER OWEN went to Mussoorie the middle of last month. He gave a number of recitations at various places in Calcutta which were much appreciated, and is now planning for an entertainment in the Christ's Church Hall, Mussoorie.

—BROTHER BECKNER took more than a hundred yearly subscriptions for *Kin Young* in less than two weeks. We are very much pleased with the appearance of the first number of this journal, which was received a few days ago. The workmanship and illustrations are commendable. Brother Comer sold a hundred copies though unable to speak any Burmese.

—ELDER FRENCH reports that the colporteurs are all doing well selling *Juga Lakhan* in Calcutta. The motor boat for East Bengal will soon be finished, and we shall be interested in learning the results of its maiden trip. The maker says it will go six miles an hour. The workers in East Bengal are anxiously waiting for this greatly-needed means of travel in their work.

—AFTER spending two weeks in Thandaung, Brother Thurber returned to Meiktila to look after building work at the school. He hopes shortly to get two or three weeks' more of relief and change in Thandaung. He says: "Two of our boys (from the Meiktila Industrial School) are doing excellent work selling the new quarterly."

—THE Annfield School including teachers and students recently had a photograph taken. Those desiring copies should write Mrs. Bruce, Annfield House, Mussoorie. The price is Rs. 1-4 and postage. The children in the school are all looking exceptionally well.

—WE are glad to report an improvement in Sister Lowry's health. She is gaining both in weight and strength, and she and Brother Lowry feel very hopeful. The air at Kodaikanal is bracing. Brother James has also improved since going there.

—THE name of the Burmese quarterly is *Kin Young*, which means "Watchman." Brother Votaw writes that all Burmese understand this term; for they have a watchman at the gate of every village, every night, in most of Lower Burma.

—ELDER PETTIT is conducting a Bible class each week with the workers in Mussoorie. The object of the class is the mutual help of all as gospel workers, to the end that they may be more ready to give an intelligent answer of the hope within them.

CANVASSING NOTES

ELDER TOWN, of the Publishing Department of the General Conference, writes that the literature sales of the denomination for the year 1911 were more than \$1,600,000, or fifty lakhs of rupees. This means that literature to the value of nearly a lakh a week is going to the world to assist in giving the message of the Lord's soon coming.

THE new Burmese quarterly is an attractive little journal, and the workers are finding a ready sale for it. Brother Baasch with an assistant is canvassing in and around Rangoon. Brother Beckner is working in Upper Burma, Brother Carratt has been able to handle quite a large amount of Burmese literature along with his other canvassing.

OUR workers in Bengal realized Rs. 100 on literature sales during the month of March.

BROTHER MILTON MATTISON, of Keene, Texas, who is under appointment for the canvassing work in India, will probably sail from New York about June 1st. C. E. WEAKS.