

The Eastern Tidings

VOL. 7

LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER, 1912

No. 9

The Eastern Tidings

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

INTERNATIONAL TRACT SOC.,

17, ABBOTT ROAD, LUCKNOW

W. E. PERRIN,
J. L. SHAW,

EDITORS

TITHING IN THE MISSION FIELD

CHRISTIAN missions are regarded in India, not as agencies needing the support of their converts, but as organizations operating independent of them and to which in time of need they may look for help and support. This condition is brought about by several causes. In the first place, the large share of converts are very poor, they have but little with which to help forward mission work; and in many instances poverty causes the mission to help and support them. In the second place, missionary organizations get their support almost wholly either from Europe, America, or Australia, and for that reason do not train their converts into giving for mission work as they otherwise would.

The question now arises, How can Indian Christians of all classes be trained in the way of self-supporting mission work. We believe that solution comes in turning back to the Bible plan of paying tithes and offerings. The Christians of India must feel more responsibility in carrying the gospel to their own people. With them, lies, in a large measure, the work of preaching Christ to the millions of this land. The payment of tithes and offerings is a very necessary means to that end.

Christ said, "For where your treasure

is there will your heart be also." That statement is true in India to-day, just as much as it was in Galilee when Christ spoke it. The heart of Indian Christians in the salvation of their own people is not what it should be, and one very great reason for this is that their treasure is not being put into the work. It makes no difference how small the income may be, the principle is the same; a man, be he Indian or American, is interested in what he helps to support, and the payment of tithes and offerings is God's divine plan to that end. It applies to all people, in all ages, and in all lands. By it, the sympathy and support of all God's children is enlisted in his work, and without it there is a lack of vital interest in the cause of Christ which is stagnant and death-like.

In the work in India, there is need of pressing upon our people, both in the English and vernacular, the importance of paying an honest tithe into the Lord's treasury, not simply for the increase of funds which it will bring into the work; for, while that is important, the heart of our people in the cause is more important still, and the larger it grows, the greater the strength of the movement of present truth in India.

Every Christian should feel that he is in partnership with God and that he is doing business with God; and the tithing system gives him that precious opportunity and experience. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there

shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall the vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts." Mal. 3: 10, 11. Continual tithing makes us partners with God in the bank of heaven. We thus show our interest in the enterprise of salvation, and carry with us the assurance that back of us is the firm of heaven which shall supply all our needs according to the good pleasure of our heavenly Father. No member of that firm ever comes to want; for back of him is the Word of God and the wealth of heaven.

There is great joy in returning unto God his own. In doing it, we develop our faith in God, and the reality of his promises becomes assured. It is the duty of every missionary to teach the tithing system, no matter how poor the people may be for whom he labours; for the result of such instruction will be the development of Christian character. Covenantship with God comes through sacrifice, and the result of sacrifice for the work of God brings interest in that work, which in turn fosters and furthers its growth and development.

May the Lord inspire his children in India to be faithful in paying an honest tithe and liberal in contributing for the advancement of the cause. As we do, God will increase our stewardship in temporal things; and pour out upon us a blessing even larger than we are able to receive.

J. L. SHAW.

WORD FROM OUR WORKERS

It is a source of great regret to all our workers in India that Bro. and Sister G. G. Lowry are compelled to leave the field. While packing to leave, Brother Lowry writes the following lines:—

"It makes me feel very sorry indeed to begin to pack up our things for the journey; but I see that it is the only thing to do, and I know

that the Lord sees it all, and that there is an unseen lesson in it for us, some way. We are not discouraged, for we know that God will cause it all to work for his glory some way.

"I thought that it would be a great deal easier for Mrs. Lowry if we went by Colombo. We plan to go directly to Mrs. Lowry's parent's home. We cannot stay there, of course, for, as you know, it is very damp all along the river and would be no place to stop. So, after staying there for a few days, if Mrs. Lowry's condition will permit, and the Lord is willing, we shall go on west to Colorado.

"Although we leave India, yet you may be assured that we will not forget the work and workers out here and that we shall always pray for the success and up-building of the cause in India. Our association with the workers here has been of the most pleasant nature, and it is with feelings of real regret and sorrow that we turn our backs upon India and return home. I think that you, perhaps, as no other man in the field, can really realize our feelings; for once you went home, not knowing whether you would return or not. But the Lord has blessed, and has worked in such a way that you could return. We do not know what the Lord has in store for us. He may do the same thing for us. If he does, we shall certainly be most happy. If he does not will for us to come back, then we shall try to be content to work wherever he puts us and do what we can for the advancement of the cause."

Concerning the trip which he and Brother Weeks took to East Bengal, Brother French writes as follows:—

"I performed my first marriage ceremony in India on my last trip to East Bengal. I was able to do this in the Bengali language, of which fete I was somewhat proud, as it was also my first attempt to use Bengali in a public way before our own workers. I had preached some in the villages when I was out by myself, but never before our workers.

"Our school at Chaurchhull is doing fine. It looks encouraging to see about seventy-five Hindoo boys studying daily under Christian influence and learning the Bible. It certainly will tell in time, and we may look for fruit in the coming harvest. There are some Christian boys also in the school. The Hindoos are taking quite an interest in the school, and seem very favourable to our work and to Christianity. One of them is so much so that he wants

to give us land upon which to erect a church. The brethren are rather keen on having a church building erected while we have this opportunity. It does seem quite favourable, and the spot of land that he has offered to us is a very nice piece and well situated. He offers us half a bigah, which in that place is worth about fifty rupees. It is quite a gift from a poor man, and especially from one who is not a professed Christian. A church building will cost about one hundred and fifty rupees; and it seems to me that it will be money well spent, that is, provided that we have it in hand to spend. Our estimate for Bengal calls for sufficient funds, still unused, to provide for this amount. Our work has been going on at this out-station for several years now, and there are three families living in the village and two other families within easy reach of the place who could attend any special meetings that we might want to hold there. Then the school being located there, is another argument in favour of building a church.

"Our motor boat does fine in clear water, but readily winds up any thing that may be growing in the water. We used our sail to good advantage through the foul water. Our engine was so much appreciated both by Brother Weeks and by Brother Watson, that they insisted upon my starting it in every little clear place. It is a relief to have an engine to run the boat after you have poled for a few miles. We had one stretch of water for about six miles that was very foul, and on our way over we had to pole it the entire distance because we left our mast and spar at home; but on returning I improvised a mast and spar, and we sailed the distance in the face of a wind. We had some quite interesting experiences in sailing; as neither of us had had any experience in that work."

Field Reports

BURMA

I HAVE only eleven days' work to report for the month of August. I left Mandalay on the 1st, and visited the following places: Shwebo, Kanbalu, Katcha Bhamo, and Myitkynia. The Lord gave me success at each of these towns; some days I took orders for more than Rs. 100.

The book "Heralds of the Morning" is

an excellent one. It points the reader to the great truth regarding the coming of Jesus. I believe this is one of the best books published by our denomination. People like it, and speak very highly of it. Since coming to Burma, I have taken orders for 124 copies. Burmese preachers of one mission are taking their sermons out of it. Brother Baasch reports that one man he met had every chapter underlined. People who think so highly of our books will not hesitate to tell others of the truth they contain.

I pray that God, who has a record of every book sold, will convince the people of the truth there is in the third angel's message.

Pray for the canvassing work in Burma.
W. CARRATT.

BAREILLY

WITH thankfulness and praise I review God's many blessings of another month and send a word of cheer to the TIDINGS family. Though my cash sales were for but Rs. 400, about 6 per cent was for religious literature and included many excellent subscriptions to *Oriental Watchman*.

While in Simla I met many who had known our faithful workers of former years, and am glad to report that impressions then received have not been entirely effaced. Indeed, it seems wonderful how the leaven of truth is kept working there where for a long time we have had no regular workers stationed. I found a nice little company of earnest souls who are hoping that in the near future the truth may be publicly presented in that Imperial station. It was with sincere regrets that I parted from these dear friends, yet with real joy and increased courage and inspiration to carry the truth-laden pages to other places.

I am now at Bareilly en route to the important hill station Naini Tal.

The Lord has been very good to me along the way, for which I praise him and would consecrate every power to his service.

I often think of the other dear workers and pray God's rich blessing upon each one. May he care for, and water the precious seed being sown.

F. O. RAYMOND.

The Eastern Tidings

LUCKNOW, - - - SEPTEMBER, 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, 17, Abbott Road, Lucknow.

—EXCHANGES will please note the change of address in the next column.

—SISTER BURGESS was in Lucknow over Sabbath and Sunday, a week ago.

—RETURNING from his trip to East Bengal, Brother Weaks stopped off in Lucknow a few days and directed the moving of the Tract Society from Banks Road to the new location.

—THE mission school at Pragasapuram, Nazareth, Tinnevelly, has an enrollment of an even hundred. There are sixty-seven boys and thirty-three girls. Six standards, not including the infants' class, are taught.

—ELDER SHAW, Dr. Mann and Brother Weaks expect to make a visit to Simla this month in the interests of the work. Several people have been studying the truth the last season and wish to know more of our teachings.

—THE mission offices and the Watchman Press have been moved from 19, Banks Road, to our new premises, No. 17, Abbott Road, Lucknow. The change has entailed some hard work, but to have more room and be in premises of our own after using rented buildings for fifteen years and more, is a source of great blessing to our work and an encouragement to the workers. All should note the change of address in their correspondence.

—MISS VERA CHILTON, who is working in Lucknow, has fifty zenana students receiving instruction weekly. She teaches Bible, reading, writing, vernacular dictation, and simple arithmetic and English to some of the more advanced. The ages of her pupils range from twelve to more than thirty years. She also teaches sewing and knitting when desired. To prepare lessons in Urdu for so many pupils is a very heavy and strenuous work in the hot months.

—ELDER PETITT writes to Sister Quancock that living quarters have been settled on at 4, Sudder St., Calcutta, which is considered a good location, near the market, our own people, and the recognized centre of European population. The new meeting hall and furnishings are not ready, and until they are, it is expected to hold public services in Royal Theatre, with Sabbath service and prayer meeting at 75, Park St. For some days they have been busy getting things in readiness for the meetings, preparing for advertising, etc. To properly give the message in a city like Calcutta is no small task, and they wish the prayers of our people, that all may be so done that success may attend the effort put forth. Elder Comer and wife have arrived from Rangoon, feeling well and ready for work.

—THE September number of *Herald of Health* is one of the best numbers which have been published, both in the general make-up and appearance of the paper and in its contents. We look to see the rising list of subscribers very largely increased before the end of the year. The August number of the *Oriental Watchman* is also a very taking number, and we believe our workers are finding it an excellent number with which to solicit orders. Brother Raymond took forty subscriptions for the *Watchman* while in Simla. His cash sales during the five weeks while there amounted to Rs. 425.

—THE treatment rooms, both in Calcutta and Mussoorie, had a good run of patients in August. The combined receipts were more than in any previous month. Miss Rachel Jones has been relieving Sister Reagan in the ladies' treatment rooms in Calcutta, so that she might take a month's rest.

—KARMATAR MISSION STATION has 205 enrolled in its different schools. There are fifty-five in the English school. Miss Burroway writes that the attendance at the English school would be much larger if there were a place for boarders. Continued calls from distant and nearby villages are coming in for schools.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

THE home of EASTERN TIDINGS is now 17, Abbott Road, Lucknow, instead of 19, Banks Road, and henceforth all exchanges should be addressed to the new location.