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## N.S.W. Conference, 1900.

The Fifteenth Annual Conference of the Associated churches of Christ of New South Wales was commenced with a

### FOREIGN MISSION MEETING

in the Tabernacle, Enmore, on Thursday, April 12th, but owing no doubt to arrangements being somewhat dislocated by meeting place being changed to Enmore instead of City Temple, in consequence of plague breaking out opposite Sydney meeting place, it was not very well attended. The following programme was gone through, but collection and promise-cards postponed till Friday:—Opening hymn, congregation; prayer; chorus, Sydney choir; chairman's remarks, Jas. Hunter; solo, "There is a Green Hill Far Away," Miss Stella Kingsbury; chorus, "Lend a Hand," Petersham choir; address, J. Colbourne; solo, Miss Mina Whateley; dialogue, "Send the Glad Tidings," twelve Petersham girls; song, congregation; address, G. T. Walden; duet, "David and Goliath," T. C. Walker and M. Walters; chorus, Chinese brethren; address, P. A. Dickson.

The General Conference was held all day Friday, April 13, in the Tabernacle, Enmore.

### MORNING SESSION.

At 9.30 a praise and prayer service was held, presided over by J. Colbourne. T. Hawkins, of Prospect, one of the old pioneers, gave a thoughtful and earnest address. The hymns, prayers, reading of the word and exhortation prepared us for the blessing that we received during the day.

At 10.15 the President, D. A. Ewers, took the chair, and welcomed Bro. Rowles, from Warren, N.S.W., and Bro. Halliday, who had recently returned from Scotland.

The roll of delegates was then called, and about 90 answered as present, representing churches at Enmore, Sydney, Petersham, Woollahra, Marrickville, Rookwood, Croydon, Merewether and Lismore. Quite a large number of other brethren and sisters were also present, and took a keen interest in the proceedings.

The minutes of last Conference were read and confirmed, with a slight re-arrangement.

Letters of greeting were received from the Victorian and West Australian Conferences; from the combined country churches of Queensland; from N.S.W. Sisters' Conference; also from R. C. Gilmour, Roma, Q., and Bro. Frazer, Scotland;—all with prayers for a successful meeting. The Secretary stated that he had already replied by letters of greeting, and his action was unanimously endorsed.

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

[The President's Address appears further on.—ED.]

Proposed by G. P. Jones, and seconded by G. T. Walden, That a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to the President for his address and that the address be sent to AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN for publication. Carried by acclamation.

The Secretary, R. Steer, then read the Annual Report, clause by clause:—

DEAR BRETHREN,—With great pleasure and thankfulness to God we present you this report of our year's work. For the first time in the history of our Conference, we can announce that a church which has received assistance from the Committee, has now undertaken to support its own evangelist. During the year we have engaged four evangelists, besides assisting in a small measure another field. A decidedly forward movement has thus been made, and although the debit balance has increased, the work accomplished has fully justified the expenditure incurred.

### CHANGE IN COMMITTEE.

Owing to removal to Victoria, Bro. Benson, the Conference Treasurer, resigned his position shortly after his re-election last year. We here desire to record our appreciation of his valuable services: J. T. Hunter kindly accepted the position, which he has filled with ability.

Adopted on the motion of T. Morton.

### QUARTERLY REPORTS.

To keep in touch with the brethren, we decided to issue brief quarterly printed reports, which was done on October 2nd and January 1st. We also held Home Mission meetings in various churches, and would recommend this feature of our work to the favorable consideration of the incoming Committee.

Adopted on the motion of Bro. Barratt.

### HOME MISSION DAY.

The annual collection was taken up on the first Lord's day in January. The receipts show a marked improvement on last year's collection, being £38/13/2, as compared with £27/19/7 for 1899. We hope that next year the advance will be still more decided, and that the churches will devote the whole of day's collection, and not part only.

Adopted on the motion of G. P. Jones.

### FINANCE.

The receipts for the past year have been largely in excess of any hitherto recorded, although at the same time there has been a much greater demand upon our resources. We commenced the year with a debit balance of £41/4/-. The total receipts have been £327/16/6, and the expenditure £360/18/3. In view of the importance of the work, we feel that we are justified in appealing for a more liberal response from the brethren to the claims of our home fields.

J. T. Hunter, Treasurer, read with this the annual statement, which showed a debit

balance of £33/1/9 on current year's receipts and expenditure, which with debit of previous years, £41/4/-, made a total debit of £74/5/9.

Adopted on the motion of J. T. Hunter.

This clause caused a very practical discussion, the speakers being Joseph Kingsbury, W. McIndoe, T. Walker, E. Andrews, R. Steer, G. P. Jones and P. A. Dickson; and in view of the solid work done by the Conference Committee during the year, it was resolved to try and wipe off the deficit at once, on the motion of Bro. Leck, seconded by G. P. Jones. This was enthusiastically carried.

A collection was then taken up, the result being—cash, £12/13/3; promises, £14/4/6.

### BALANCE SHEET.

HOME MISSION FUND—1899-1900.

#### RECEIPTS.

By Church Fees—	
Enmore ..	£2 0 0
Lismore ..	1 0 0
Sydney ..	1 0 0
Rookwood ..	0 10 0
Mungindi ..	0 10 0
Chatham ..	0 10 0
Merewether ..	0 10 0
Moree ..	0 10 0
Bungawalbyn ..	0 10 0
	7 0 0

Contributions from Assisted Churches—	
Sydney-Woollahra ..	88 0 0
Lismore ..	47 10 0
Marrickville ..	24 0 7
Merewether ..	14 10 0
	174 0 7

Sisters' Conference Collections from—	
Sydney ..	23 7 3
Marrickville ..	8 16 8
Enmore ..	7 9 7
Petersham ..	4 16 10
Woollahra ..	3 6 0
Manning River ..	2 10 0
Miscellaneous ..	7 2 10
	57 9 2

Home Mission Sunday Collections—	
Enmore ..	8 8 0
Sydney ..	6 0 0
Chatham ..	3 0 0
Marrickville ..	2 5 3
Merewether ..	2 0 3
Petersham ..	1 13 8
Lismore ..	1 13 6
Bungawalbyn ..	1 4 0
June ..	1 2 6
Rookwood ..	1 0 6
Moree ..	1 0 0
Miscellaneous Contributors ..	9 5 6
	38 13 2

Special Contributions to Marrickville Evangelists' Fund ..	
	9 3 6

Miscellaneous Receipts—	
Rookwood Church ..	13 9 3
Bro. R. C. Edwards ..	10 0 0
Picnic Receipts ..	9 0 4
Col. Missionary Meeting ..	4 14 0
June Church ..	1 0 0
Sundry Contributors ..	3 6 6
	41 10 1

Total Receipts ..	327 16 6
Debit Balance Forward ..	74 5 9

£402 2 3

EXPENDITURE.		
To Salaries—		
Bro. Bagley .. .. .	£125 0 0	
.. Way .. .. .	110 0 0	
.. Colbourne .. .. .	39 0 0	
.. Pond .. .. .	19 10 0	
Secretary's Allowance ..	6 0 0	
		300 10 0
Travelling Expenses—		
Bro. Way .. .. .	14 4 0	
.. Colbourne .. .. .	10 0 0	
.. Pond .. .. .	3 0 0	
		27 4 0
Printing .. .. .	11 7 0	
Picnic Expenses .. .. .	8 15 3	
Assistance to Rookwood ..	5 0 0	
Stamps and Stationery ..	3 18 10	
Interest on Bank Overdraft ..	2 17 2	
Bank Exchanges & Account Charge	1 6 0	
		33 4 3
Total Expenditure .. .. .		360 18 3
Debit Balance 21st March, 1899		41 4 0
		£402 2 3

Mar. 31, To Debit Balance Forward, £74/5/9  
 Audited and found Correct.  
 31/3/00. JAMES SCULLER.  
 JAS. T. HUNTER, Tr. J. F. ASHWOOD.

## OUR MISSION FIELDS.

### WOOLLAHRA.

Bro. T. Bagley, who commenced his labors here in June, 1899, was re-engaged by your Committee. Early in May a Home Mission meeting was held in Woollahra, resulting in the church deciding to contribute £2 per week from 1st June. In November a second meeting was held by the Committee, when the church after mature consideration decided to wholly support the preacher, thus relieving the Committee, and enabling us to turn attention to other fields. This outcome of about 18 months' labor is most gratifying to the Committee, and it must be borne in mind that in order to obtain this result, Woollahra has to raise about £4 per week, including rent of hall and incidental expenses, besides which they have raised a considerable amount for a Building Fund.

Spoken to by the President, with a graceful recognition of the labors of T. Bagley, and adopted on the motion of G. T. Walden.

### LISMORE.

In accordance with the resolution of the Conference, we at our first meeting decided to renew the invitation of previous Committee to Bro. W. J. Way, to labor in this important field. He accepted the offer, and commenced there early in June. For a time the reports were not very encouraging; but now, after nine months' work, the outlook is so bright, that we are hopeful that at no distant date this field will also become independent of Conference aid. Since Bro. Way has commenced his work, 30 have been added to the church, a suitable block of land has been given as a building site, and the timber for the building is promised. The Manning River brethren advanced Lismore the sum of £50, and have allowed repayment to stand over for another year.

Adopted on the motion of J. Stimson, complimenting W. J. Way and Lismore on success of work.

### MARRICKVILLE.

This field came prominently before your Committee, and after enquiry and careful thought it was decided to locate a preacher there, promises of special help being received from several brethren, and the church promising to contribute a minimum of 15/- per week; but we are pleased to report that they have exceeded that amount. The names of two suitable evangelists being submitted to the Marrickville brethren, they selected J. Colbourne, who commenced work there on January 1st. The increasing attendance and interest indicate that before long numerical

progress may be expected. In a field of this kind some months must necessarily be spent in ploughing and sowing before we can hope to reap.

Adopted on the motion of R. Verco.

### MEREWETHER.

The work in this district came under our notice on the recommendation of last year's Committee. And to get all information to guide us, the secretary, R. Steer, spent two weeks there immediately after Conference, visiting the brethren and suggesting ways and means. The church offered £1 per week towards support of a preacher, and after some considerable delay, P. J. Pond, of Queensland, accepted the position, the committee supplementing the amount raised by the church. Your committee then decided, if possible, they would personally visit the field when P. J. Pond took up the work there in January of this year. The President, Bro. Ewers; Vice-president, G. P. Jones; R. Steer, Secretary; P. A. Dickson, and J. Colbourne, were present at welcome meeting at Merewether, and took part. The brethren were pleased and encouraged, and we cannot too strongly recommend that country fields as well as city fields should be occasionally visited by members of the Committee. Bro. Pond's work is proving a success, uphill at present, but the brethren are hopeful. The field is a large and promising one. We also desire to place on record the invaluable services rendered by C. G. Lawson, of Melbourne, who spent three months at Merewether, encouraging, exhorting and building up the church.

Adopted on the motion of G. P. Jones, with special thanks to be sent by Secretary, conveying the appreciation to C. G. Lawson from Conference for his loving Christian service.

### ROOKWOOD.

The brethren at Rookwood with commendable enthusiasm and zeal, were anxious that a preacher should take up the work there, and so engaged L. A. Williams of Victoria, and asked the Committee for financial assistance. The Committee would gladly have responded at once; but, owing to increasing debit had to postpone doing so; however, they finally decided to assist with 10/- per week; but we hope the brotherhood will place the incoming Committee in such a position financially that this will be doubled. The work is prospering beyond expectation: fifteen have been added to the church, meetings all being largely attended.

Adopted on the motion of Bro. Barratt.

### OTHER FIELDS.

Manning River is a field that in the near future must be worked. We believe this field would prosper with the aid of an evangelist. Moree should also receive help and encouragement.

Adopted on the motion of G. P. Jones.

### EIGHT HOUR DAY.

On this day splendid meetings were held as follows:—At 3 p.m., open-air meeting in the Sydney Domain. Speakers were D. A. Ewers, T. Bayley, G. T. Walden and P. A. Dickson, to whom a large audience listened attentively. We also distributed some 2000 circulars of invitation with the New Testament plea and information relative to meetings of respective churches. In the evening a tea was arranged in the City Temple, by the Sisters' Conference, and was largely attended; after, a Home Mission Meeting was held, a special appeal by Bro. Walden resulting in an evangelist for Marrickville.

Adopted on the motion of T. Spedding.

### SUMMARY.

T. Bagley labored under the Committee for

nine months to the end of 1899, during which time there were added by faith and baptism 36, formerly immersed 5, total 41. W. J. Way has labored at Lismore since June; the additions to the end of February being by faith and baptism 31, formerly immersed 3, total 34. Bro. Colbourne's work commenced at Marrickville on 1st January, and P. J. Pond at Merewether on the same date. We have no baptisms to report at these places for the two months, but at the latter 10 who had left the church have returned. At Rookwood 16 have been baptised, making the number of baptisms in our Mission Fields 83, and 18 additions formerly immersed. Total, 101.

Adopted on the motion of G. T. Walden.

### STATISTICS.

It will be noticed that the small church at Rockdale, having withdrawn from the co-operation, does not appear in this year's statistics. The church at Bowraville has been written to repeatedly, but as no replies have been received for the past two years it is assumed that it has ceased to exist, and the name accordingly has been dropped this year. Notwithstanding the removal of these churches the statistics show a net increase of 233. The total additions have been: By faith and baptism, 242; by letter, 36; formerly baptised, 21; restored, 44; total, 343. The losses were: By letter, 31; death, 17; removal and revision of roll, 104; total, 152; net increase, 191. There are 1480 Sunday School scholars and 129 teachers. Increase of scholars, 92; teachers, 3.

Adopted on the motion of J. Stimson, after being spoken to by P. J. Pond, G. T. Walden and the President.

### FUTURE WORK.

In retiring from our position, we make for the guidance of this Conference the following suggestions re future work:—1 We suggest that all the fields now occupied should, if possible, be retained, and that the work in Lismore, Marrickville, Merewether and Rookwood be continued until these fields support their own preachers—provided that the churches in those places indicate by their efforts their desire for assistance. Other things being equal, we believe that the churches which are most in earnest in helping themselves have the greatest claim on our sympathies and aid. 2. We recommend, if practicable, the engagement of a preacher to travel among the country churches at present without evangelistic help, in order that they may be strengthened and drawn into more hearty co-operation.

Adopted on the motion of G. P. Jones, after favorable discussion by R. Steer, T. Spedding, J. Wright, J. P. Walker, and the President.

### THANKS.

We thankfully acknowledge the material assistance rendered by the Sisters' Conference, through whose collections we have received £57/9/2, and who have also aided us in Eight Hours' Day arrangements and in the tea on that occasion, and the provision for our creature comforts to-day. We also express our thanks to James Hunter for his assistance in obtaining bank overdraft, to the officers of the Sydney church, whose building has so freely been placed at our disposal for Committee and Conference meetings, and to the officers of Enmore and other churches in

which we have held Reception and Home Mission meetings. Above all, we are thankful to our Heavenly Father for the measure of blessing which has attended our efforts, and to whom we ascribe all the praise.

#### CONCLUSION.

Brethren, we have tried faithfully to advance the kingdom of God's dear Son by all the means in our power; our only regret being there was so much to do and so little to do it with. This Conference, we hope, will suggest some way of rectifying this. One thought we would emphasise should be kept before the churches assisted by the Committee: that they should strive to help themselves as much as possible, and relieve the Committee at the earliest possible moment.

#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The Committee has held 14 meetings during the year, the attendance being as follows:—D. A. Ewers, 13; G. P. Jones, 13; R. Steer, 14; A. Price, 13; J. T. Hunter, 11 (Appointed after Conference); G. Logan, 13; W. McIndoe, 14; E. Andrews, 12; P. A. Dickson, 12; J. Stimson, 11; W. Benson, 1 (Resigned).

D. A. EWERS, Pres.

G. P. JONES.

R. STEER, Sec.

A. PRICE, Asst. Sec.

J. T. HUNTER, Treas.

Committee—E. Andrews, P. A. Dickson, G. Logan, W. McIndoe, J. Stimson.

These clauses were adopted *en globo*.

W. McIndoe moved, J. Hunter seconded, That the Reports as a whole be adopted. Carried unanimously.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

At this stage the nomination and election of Officers took place, and resulted as follows:

PRESIDENT—G. P. Jones.

VICE PRESIDENT—G. T. Walden.

SECRETARY—R. Steer.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY—Bro. Arnott.

TREASURER—J. T. Hunter.

COMMITTEE—D. A. Ewers, W. McIndoe, E. Gole, P. A. Dickson, Bro. Chappell.

The Executive were then elected unopposed, but about 20 were nominated for Committee, with result as above. Quite a lively interest was displayed in this, showing that the future of Home Missions is bright.

At 1 o'clock the Conference adjourned to the schoolroom, where the sisters had prepared a plentiful and splendid dinner of provisions too numerous to mention. About 150 visitors sat down, and heartily appreciated the thoughtfulness of the management of Sisters' Conference, who arranged the dinner with the assistance from sisters of various churches.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2.15, a short devotional service was held, led by Bro. Chappell, and again we felt the truth that "they who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."

At 2.30 the President took the chair, and business was resumed.

The Sunday School Union Report was read by T. Morton, as follows:—

Since last report was presented to the Annual Conference the Union has been working harmoniously,

and with a certain amount of encouragement, for which we thank and praise God.

At the last Conference it was decided, and placed on record, that the New South Wales Sunday School Union suggest to the Sister Colonies that this year's examinations be drawn from "First Principles of Christianity." But that desire could not be carried into effect for various reasons. It is hoped and expected that the examination of 1901 will be upon that subject.

Whilst the competitors for the examination of 1898, unfortunately, showed somewhat a decrease upon the previous year's examination, we have been encouraged and pleased to find that for the examination of 1899 there was a substantial increase. The number of entries for all divisions last year was 184, classed as follows:—

1st division, 18 competitors; 2nd division, 50 competitors; 3rd division, 82 competitors; 4th division, 29 competitors; 5th division, 5 competitors.

The different schools represented were as follows:—Enmore, 98; Sydney, 35; Petersham, 33; Lismore, 9; Woollahra, 6; Rookwood, 1.

The number of competitors examined was 134, which was satisfactory. It was not expected that all entering would come for examination. At the examination of 1890, there were only 109 examined; thus, showing an increase of 25 for 1899. We look for further crowning of our efforts at this year's examination, and hope to see last year's number far advanced. We would much like delegates to notice that a considerable number of schools were not represented, also we regret to find that quite a number of churches have no schools, not probably feeling the need of same. Such an erroneous idea should be resolutely stamped out as early as possible, for it is ever noticed that the church that flourishes most draws largely on its Sunday School for additions.

Not all our Sydney Schools are affiliated with the Union. We earnestly desire delegates, if there are any present from these churches, to see what can be done towards that end. Not only is it to the advantage of Schools to be so connected, but it is a means of more united and consolidated effort being set forth towards accomplishing the end in view, that of fitting those young souls for the place in the Master's Kingdom.

Under the auspices of the Sunday School Union, the sacred Cantata, "Under the Palms," is to be rendered on April 10th. It is hoped that it will prove a predecessor of more united efforts amongst the schools in future. Such should be taken in hand earlier, for in this instance it was not thought of in time to acquaint the various schools, to enable them to participate.

Bro. J. T. Hunter resigned his position as Secretary to the Union. The work has since been carried on by the Assistant Secretary, who on his retirement was appointed Secretary. At the last meeting of the Union, Bro. T. P. Beer was elected to assist Sister Smith in the secretarial duties. It is hoped their labors will be zealous and united.

JOHN KINGSBURY, Pres.  
E. GOLE, Vice-Pres.  
T. MORTON, Treasurer.  
T. SMITH } Joint Sec.  
T. P. BEER }

This was spoken to by G. T. Walden, E. Gole and T. Spedding on its importance, and adopted on the motion of T. Morton.

The report of the N.S.W. Committee of the Australian Foreign Missionary Society was read as follows:—

The following is supplementary to the report by the General Committee in Melbourne, and for the general information of those who are not acquainted with

the management in Australia of Foreign Missions to the heathen. We may state that there is a General Committee of Management in Melbourne having as its auxiliaries sub-committees in South Australia and New South Wales. Each Committee refers to the other in all questions of appointment to Missionary fields of labor, and general finance; and action is taken upon the combined decision of the three Committees.

The following are the missionaries laboring in connection with and supported by the churches in Australasia with their fields of labour:—Bro. John Thompson and his sister-wife who labor among the Kanakas in Queensland. Four are laboring in the Central Provinces of India, Bro. F. E. Stubbin, Sister Mary Thompson (at present in Australia on furlough) and Bros. Nathoo Lal and Shah, native preachers, Sister Pfirunder, of Queensland, has been selected to accompany Sister Mary Thompson on her return to her field of labor.

In June last we were glad to welcome back our returned missionary, Sister Mary Thompson. Several of the churches had the privileges of hearing our missionary speak on the work in India, its trials, its difficulties, and its joys, and we believe that her visit has been a source of strength to the cause of Foreign Missions to the heathen generally.

The three Committees have generally discussed the advisability of opening a Mission in Southern China, but no decisive action has yet been taken. The opinion of James Ware has been obtained on the matter, as also particulars as to running expenses of mission station and salaries paid to missionaries and native helpers. The stations of the American Foreign Missionary Society are in Northern China, while nearly all the Chinese in these colonies come from Southern China.

Many of the churches and schools in the city, suburbs, and in the country, helped make up the Christmas Box for India, and in that letter received from Dr. C. C. Drummond, in speaking of the appreciation by the native children of the presents, says:—"I suppose many of them have little idea where Australia is, nevertheless they know that somebody cares for them, or else they would not send such presents to them."

The famine is very bad in India, tens of thousands are on relief works and your Committee have approved of £10 being sent to Bro. Stubbin for relief purposes.

We have again to thank all those who have given their assistance in the various ways during the past year. We have much to rejoice in, the churches generally seeming to realise more and more every year that the commission is not local but for all the world, that the cause of missions whether at home or abroad knows only two parties, those who GO and those who SEND, the willingness of those who go being still greater than those who send.

Our Treasurer's statement, and the things given so readily and abundantly for the Christmas Box, show we owe a growing debt to the children. Trained to usefulness and unselfishness now, with a larger vision and broader sympathies, the results, we believe, will be seen in the future churches, for the schools of today will be the churches of to-morrow.

We would not close our report without remembering the sisters who have given themselves to the task of gathering in the funds, and accordingly enrol their names:—Sisters Mrs. E. Bagley, senr., Waverley; Mrs. D. A. Ewers, Petersham; Mrs. Jones, Marrickville; Mrs. Page and Miss Brown, Enmore; and Miss Field and Miss Fox, Sydney.

JAMES HUNTER, Chairman.  
E. GOLE, Sec. and Treas.

## N.S.W. STATISTICAL REGISTER, 1900.

LOCATION OF CHURCH	Church Additions, 1900.					Church Losses, 1900.			Membership, 1900.			Lord's Day School				Church Additions from Lord's Day School.	Seating Capacity of Meeting House.	
	1899 Membership.	Faith and Obedience.	Letter.	Baptised Believers.	Restored.	Letter.	Death.	Removal or Discipline.	1900 Membership.	Increase.	Decrease.	1899 Scholars.	1900 Scholars.	1899 Teachers.	1900 Teachers.			
Bowraville*	14							14			14	19	2					
Bungawibya	14			1		1	1	13		1	22	23	4	4			80	
Canley Vale											39	25	2	2			100	
Chatham	38							38			12	13	2	2			200	
Corowa	23	45	5	2	5	3	4	72	49		14	43	4	4				
(Croydon)†	8							8			14	12	1	1				
Enmore†	467	53	7	8	1	12	7	517	50		450	500	30	32	11		525	
Petersham†	114	22	1	3			1	135	21		140	129	15	14	3		180	
Junee	13	1				2	2	1	9		27	4	4					
Lismore	47	31	2		3		6	77	30		30	70	3	6	16		300	
Mungindi	18							18			40	40	3	3			100	
Merewether	66	3	1		15	5	21	59		7	155	77	9	8	1		170	
Marrickville	45	5	4	3	14		7	64	19		88	105	12	12	1		150	
Moree	31				1	1	1	29		2	12	2	2				200	
Prospect‡	10							10			21	21	1	1				
Rockdale§	28						28			28	30	2	2					
Rookwood	26	16			1		2	41	15		54	75	7	7	1		140	
Sydney	290	26	7		2	4	2	314	24		135	186	20	26	10		500	
Wagga†	19							19			21	21	1	1			200	
Woolahra	86	40		5	2	4	3	125	39		100	162	8	10	4		250	
Wingham	16							16									200	
Isolated Brethren..	9							9										
Totals	1382	242	36	21	44	31	17	104	1573	247	56	1387	1480	125	229	47	3295	

\* Church ceased to exist. † These form one church. ‡ No returns; figures same as last year. § Requested to be left off schedule this year.

## FOREIGN MISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RECEIPTS.	
By Balance forward	£0 11 7
Church at Bungawibya	1 18 0
.. Cundletown	1 0 0
.. Enmore	31 8 11
Lord's Day School	2 12 2
Church at Manning River	4 0 0
.. Marrickville	4 6 3
.. Merewether	0 11 0
.. Moree	1 0 0
.. Mungindi	1 0 0
.. Petersham	3 5 0
.. Prospect	1 10 0
.. Rookwood	1 12 0
.. Sydney	19 9 8
Lord's Day School	3 1 6
Church at Woolahra	6 19 0
.. Willowtree	0 5 0
.. Wingham	0 11 6
.. Wellsford, N.Z.	1 0 0
Proceeds of Tea Meeting	3 9 6
	£89 11 1

This is exclusive of any moneys sent direct to the Treasurer at Melbourne.

EXPENDITURE.	
To Postage and Exchange	0 14 7
Printing	1 9 0
Expenses of Tea	3 14 10
Cost of Carriage, Freight, &c., of Box to Hurda, India	2 9 7
Materials for India	0 10 0
Cash forwarded to Dr. C. C. Drummond, India	0 17 6
Cash forwarded to General Committee, Melbourne	77 1 9
Cash Balance Forwarded	2 13 10
	£89 11 1

E. GOLE, Treas.

E. Gole, on moving the adoption, stated that additional sums of money had been sent direct to Melbourne, and also that each colony had increased their contributions very largely. Report adopted.

During the afternoon a collection for Foreign Missions was taken up, the result being £24/12/8.

The Foreign Mission Committee was then elected as follows:—J. Hunter, E. Gole, G. T. Walden, D. A. Ewers, Sisters E. Bagley, E. Ewers, and Miss Fox.

## VERBAL REPORTS FROM THE FIELD.

## WOOLLAHRA.

T. Bagley spoke with hopefulness of the future of Woollahra. The elements of success have been the unity of the church and the help of the brethren. He paid a graceful tribute to a sister who devoted a lot of time to visiting, without which, he felt certain the success they have had would not have been reached. He deplored, however, they had to meet in a hall where dancing took place during the week, and hoped the brethren would put them in a position to commence building. They have the land, but until they get £300 in hand they could not venture. Bro. Bagley's address is 80 Windsor-st., Paddington.

## LISMORE, RICHMOND RIVER.

W. J. Way gave a very graphic and interesting account of work done at Lismore during the past year. He told us how the brethren were denying themselves for the work's sake, and paid a very graceful tribute to the brethren and others who helped in the open-air meetings. They too feel the need of a building of their own. They have the land and the necessary timber, and hope soon to start building. This is a decided advance.

J. P. F. Walker also spoke. He said they felt deeply grateful to the Conference for help, and also expressed their gratitude to the brethren at the Manning River who had assisted them with £1 per week to be returned to them at end of year ending June. But on

the Lismore church stating and showing that the work was progressing, they said, You can have it for another year; if you cannot pay it then, never mind—it was given to the Lord's work. He also spoke with great energy of the zeal and untiring efforts of W. J. Way, their evangelist, attributing to him and his effectual work their present success. He had been instructed by the church to say they would definitely promise £1/7/6 weekly towards support of evangelist, as against nil previous years (apart from the £1 given by Manning River brethren). This statement was received by the large audience with great applause.

## MARRICKVILLE.

J. Colbourne said he felt somewhat depressed, inasmuch as he could not report any additions. But he felt in the course of time, when confidence was restored from without, that Marrickville too would have a good report, three months being too short a time to expect results. However, interest was being maintained and hope expressed for the future.

## MEREWETHER.

P. J. Pond said the work was going on steadily. They had paid a certain amount off their building, had the gas laid on and the dingy appearance removed by paint. They were organising a choir, and were making special efforts to attract strangers as well as friends back to the Merewether church. They had opened up a preaching service at Lambton, also holding cottage meetings at Stockton and other places, and expressed hope for future success. Bro. Wright also spoke in a hopeful way of the work being revived again.

## ROOKWOOD.

L. A. Williams said that Rookwood was known as the City of the Dead, but he could assure them it was very much alive. Their morning meetings were well attended, and the evening meetings were crowded. The Sunday School was increasing, and an effort was being made to reach young men and women who at present rarely went to church or school. A Bible Class had been started, and it had been decided to put up a vestry at rear of building for a classroom for Bible Class, so that they might study without interruption from general school. He hoped the Committee would further help during the coming year.

All these reports were deemed very encouraging, and no doubt will inspire the brotherhood to give.

## LETTERS FROM CHURCHES.

The following is an abstract of letters received from the churches, and is published for general information:—

## COROWA.

The Corowa letter is a very cheering one. The Secretary refers to the work of E. Bagley, "who was instrumental in God's hands in removing a lot of the existing prejudice and winning many precious souls, no less than 40 being added. On Bro. Bagley's departure (which was deeply regretted by the church, and particularly the loss of our dear Sister Bagley), we unanimously decided to invite Bro. W. S. Hoehns, of Melbourne, and we are pleased to say that the work is steadily but surely growing under his excellent teaching and preaching." Since Bro. Hoehns' arrival, a Chinese Mission Class of 20 scholars has

been formed. A well attended Literary Society has also been organised, Sunday School work has been revived, and altogether the work in Corowa is in a real live state. The one drawback is thus stated, "We still experience a great difficulty in meeting our financial engagements as, owing to the bad seasons prevailing, members cannot give as they would like to." No statement of the year's receipts is sent; but the amount raised must have been considerable. The increase from 23 to 72 members is most encouraging. This is the greatest proportionate increase reported by any church in the Colony.

## ENMORE.

The church at Enmore is the largest in New South Wales, and, in fact, in Australasia. Including the Petersham Mission, it has a membership of 669, with a net increase for the year of 71. Excluding Petersham, the membership is 525, with net increase of 50, including members at Croydon, Katoomba, Nelligan, Nambucca, Hurstville, Tilba Tilba, Jemolan Caves, and other inland towns. One brother is in Ladysmith, South Africa. The Enmore Tabernacle is a hive of industry. The Lord's day morning meetings are well attended, and the evening meetings crowded. Since last Conference the improvements to the building have been completed, and the enlarged Tabernacle now seats 400 comfortably. The Sunday School is growing fast, and now exceeds 500 scholars, with a staff of 32 teachers. It is a difficult matter to accommodate all the children, and a proposal is under consideration to erect an infant class room. Bro. Walden has opened a Young Men's Institute in Edgeware-road, close to the Tabernacle, which promises to be a great success. Its object is to provide healthy recreation for young men in conjunction with educational classes. In the hall of this Institute, Bro. Walden now conducts his Sunday afternoon Bible Class. The Dorcas Class is doing good work, and the Secretary reports that the meetings have been characterised by the true Dorcas spirit—full of zeal and love, giving practical help and sympathy to those in need. There is also a live Y.P.S.C.E. in connection with the church, in which the young people take great interest. The church receipts for the year, including £9 15s. from Croydon, amounted to £558 18s. 6d. This does not include Petersham. The Sunday School receipts were £72 8s., the Dorcas receipts £15 7s. 3d., and the C.E. receipts, £4 17s. 6d. Total, £651 11s. 3d. It may be stated that Enmore assists the Petersham Mission to the extent of 30s. per week.

## PETERSHAM.

This is a vigorous mission of the Enmore church, with a membership of 135—a net increase for the year of 21. There is a Sunday School of 130 scholars and 14 teachers, a Mutual Improvement Society, and a Dorcas Class, all of which are in a healthy state. The Sunday meetings are fairly well attended, the evening being frequently crowded. During the year a Victorian brother donated £100 towards a new building, on condition that £100 more was raised. Altogether about £220, including the £100 donation, has been subscribed, and a suitable building site has been secured for £250, of which a balance remains to be paid. The Building Committee is anxious to sell the old property before building on the new site. The total church receipts, including £55 subscribed locally for the Building Fund, amounted to £206 10s. The Sunday School receipts were £16 10s., and the Dorcas £16; total, £239. There is a good field for labor at Petersham, and when the new building is erected, rapid progress may be looked for.

## MARRICKVILLE.

The secretary writes: "Our returns will show some progress during the year. The preaching has been principally in the hands of visiting brethren, who

have preached with a certain amount of success, and the attendance has been good. As arranged by the Committee, during the last two months Bro. Colbourne has been laboring untiringly with us, and laying a good foundation for results, for which we patiently wait. The present extra call upon the resources of the brethren has been well responded to, and about three-fourths of the contributions are devoted to gospel work. There are special difficulties in connection with this district as a field for the preaching of the word, which we trust in time will disappear." During the year five have been baptised. No statement of finances is sent, but the contributions now amount to over 30s. per week, of which eight shillings is devoted to current expenses, and the balance to evangelistic work. A debt of about £90 still exists on the property. The Sunday School and Dorcas class are in a healthy state:—"The letter concludes: "The meetings at present are particularly well attended, and we, therefore, hope the time of gathering the sheaves is at hand."

## MEREWETHER.

This church has been in low water until recently, and the report is, therefore, not so bright as could be wished. A careful revision of the roll has resulted in a slight decrease in the published membership. The principal events of the year were the timely and much appreciated visit of C. G. Lawson from Melbourne, who spent three months labouring here, and the arrival of Bro. Pond, who began work at the commencement of the year. The prospects are now brighter; several have been restored to fellowship. A small sum has been paid off the church debt. All the meetings are growing in numbers and interest, and contributions are increasing. The church receipts for nine months, ending February 28th, were £32. The secretary writes: "I am of opinion we are receiving the blessing promised to those who trust in his dear name."

## MOREE AND MUNGUNDI.

The only item of special interest from Moree is the statement that "The great drought has been the chief drawback of all things here during the past three years." The Mungundi secretary says: "The church is in a languishing condition, chiefly through the faithlessness of some—drink and indifference, the sins of the age. We number eight to ten regular communicants." The hall for the meetings is lent by Bro. S. Butler, and a Sunday School is conducted in the afternoon by Sister S. Butler, assisted by Sister Keenair. The conducting of the church service is almost entirely in the hands of Bro. Butler, owing to the fewness of male members.

## ROOKWOOD.

The Rookwood letter is full of cheer. "The first half of the year, from April to November, was very quiet, but we worked unitedly and kept together." Then came a change. We felt some special effort must be made and decided to engage L. A. Williams to labor with us, the result being that God has blessed the effort." There has been progress in every department of work and we are told that "We have no cause to regret our action in securing Bro. Williams. He is the right man in the right place." On Sunday nights "the chapel is well filled, and late arrivals have to take their chance of getting a seat," while "we have nice meetings on Lord's day mornings." The week-night meetings have improved, the Sunday School has increased from 54 scholars to 90, and there is a Bible Class of 18 young men and women. Sixteen believers have been baptised, others have decided, and one member has been restored to fellowship. A Band of Hope has been organised, and 87 members enrolled. Everything looks bright ahead. The secretary adds: "We have to thank very heartily

those brethren who have helped us, and the Committee who, in the latter part of Bro. Williams' engagement, also came to our assistance." It is to be hoped that arrangements will be made for the continuance of this good work.

## SYDNEY.

The metropolitan church sends a very encouraging report. This field is a harder one to work than any of the suburbs, as the membership is so widely scattered, and the hearers at the evening meetings have to come from a distance to attend. The secretary, however, writes: "The work in connection with the church is going along most satisfactorily." During the year 26 have been added by faith and baptism, and the net increase is 24, with a present membership of 314. The Chinese Mission commenced just before last Conference has flourished. "There are not less than twenty names on the roll, and the Mission is doing a grand work. Three of the pupils have seen it to be their duty to go through the waters of baptism, and, we are pleased to say, are walking worthy of the name they have taken." The Sisters' Sewing Class has distributed over £24 among the needy, and the Endeavor Dorcas has distributed about 300 articles of wearing apparel among the same class. The Y.P.S.C.E. is doing a good work. Financially, things are also on the up-grade. The receipts for the year from all sources amounted to about £470, but this does not include a special effort to reduce the Building Debt, which is now being made. The Conference treasurer's report will show that Home and Foreign Missions have largely benefited by Sydney's help. This is a good Missionary church.

## LISMORE.

In this important field Bro. Way commenced his labours early in last July. There was then a nominal church membership of 47, and a Sunday School of 30 scholars. The gospel meetings were conducted by Bros. Walker and Furlonger, but the attendance was almost limited to the families of members. For some time after Bro. Way's arrival, the attendance was not encouraging, but the brethren prayed harder and the School began to grow. It was not until November, after four months of downright hard preaching and teaching, that there was any visible response to the gospel appeals. But on November 19 five were baptised, and from that time the meetings have improved, and the church has been cheered with frequent additions. The brethren and the evangelist are fully in touch, and the evangelist is given a free hand in his methods of work. This is right. The secretary adds, "At the present stage of the work it would be disastrous, humanly speaking, to withdraw the evangelist from the field. Sixteen of the additions were from the Sunday School, and these, with about 10 other young converts, will need constant supervision and teaching." Financially things are also brightening. At the beginning of the year only sufficient was contributed to pay current expenses, but there has been a marked improvement. Special sums are also being laid by for a building fund, and about £10 is already in hand. Our Sister M. A. Cottee has presented us with a suitable piece of land. The letter closes with a warm acknowledgment of the kindness of the Manning River brethren, who have been contributing £1 per week to help maintain an evangelist at Lismore, on the understanding that we should repay them in a similar manner. They have now promised to forego the repayment for another year, so that we can devote that amount to the Home Mission Committee.

## WOOLLAHRA.

Of the churches about Sydney no one reports so high a percentage of numerical progress as Woollahra. From the time T. Bagley took up the work there in June, 1898, the cause has advanced by leaps and

bounds. The membership now stands at 125, a net increase of 39 for the year. The Sunday School increase is proportionately great, and in connection with this Bro. Bagley has a Bible class of 40 members. The hall used on Lord's days is now rented for a mid-week Prayer Meeting, which has an attendance of about 70. The financial advance has been so great that the church became independent of Conference aid at the end of 1899. The Lord's day contributions for the past year amounted to £153 14s. Sunday School receipts, £20; Dorcas receipts, £6. In addition to these figures, £145 was raised locally for the Building Fund, making a total of £324 14s. The great need of the church is a building of its own. Toward this, the total amount of £350 has been contributed, and land has been bought for £360. It is felt that about £300 more will be required before the church can venture to borrow about £1000 and erect a building commensurate with the needs of the locality and the importance of the work. Woollahra has a bright future.

#### MANNING RIVER.

The Chatham Secretary says, "The church has been stationary for the past year. It is some years since we had a preacher here, and it does not seem likely we shall make much progress in members without one. We are inclined to think an evangelist would do good here for awhile, and we should be glad to have one, but it appears we are unable to raise the necessary funds for the support of one for 6 or 12 months." The writer thinks, however, that if the contributions were saved up, "instead of being distributed to nearly every good thing that goes along, we would be able to support a preacher for awhile before long." The contributions, through the church treasury, for the year amounted to £23 14s. 3d., which they spent in assisting Home and Foreign Missions, Rescue Home, local hospital, and in other ways. A few individual members also contributed £42 towards £50 loaned to the Richmond River brethren for their mission, the balance coming from the church fund.

There is also a small church at Wingham, and the Secretary writes: "Our numbers are not large—only two families in the town, the others living at a distance; but for all that the majority meet every Lord's day around the table."

#### OTHER CHURCHES.

On our Statistical Schedule appear the names of Bungawalbyn, Junee, Prospect and Wagga. These churches are small, but, with the exception of the last-named, are steadily holding their own. There are also meetings at Croydon, Hurstville, Katoomba, and perhaps other places, consisting of Enmore members, and it is probable that there are other meetings in the Province of which the writer has no knowledge. On the whole, the progress of the past year has been such as to lead us to "thank God and take courage."

#### MOTIONS.

By Committee.—"That a Committee be appointed to receive contributions and to prepare rules, to be submitted at next Conference, for the Management of an Aged Preachers' Fund." Moved by G. P. Jones. *Lost.*

Amendment by T. Hawkins, "That the incoming Committee consider matter and report to next Conference." Carried.

"That in the opinion of this Conference, an Intercolonial Convention should be held to celebrate the Jubilee of the introduction of the plea for Christianity into Australia, and that the Conference Committee be appointed to arrange, if practicable, with Committees of other colonies, for the furtherance

of this object." Moved by P. A. Dickson and carried.

By J. P. Walker.—"That the services of an evangelist be continued at Lismore for another twelve months." Carried.

By Thos. Spedding.—"That this Conference requests the Committee to arrange for the opening of one or more additional Missions in the Sydney and Suburban Districts during the current year." After an animated discussion it was suggested to the mover that the motion read, "That this Conference recommends the opening up of one or more additional Missions in the Sydney and Suburban Districts during the coming year if possible." This being accepted by the mover it became the motion and was carried.

G. T. Walden moved, "That the Annual Conference should take place on some other day than Good Friday." The reasons given were that many took advantage of the Easter holidays to go away from Sydney, and hence could not be at Conference; and also by having Conference on another day a Federal Conference could be arranged for, and so enable others to be present at Victorian Conference, without neglecting their own. After discussion the motion was lost.

The following resolution was received from the Sisters' Conference, and unanimously agreed to:—"That this Conference notes with regret that the hotels were not brought under the provisions of the Early Closing Act, and expresses a hope that the General Conference in its deliberations on Good Friday will endeavor to have this defect removed; and we as sisters of the church of Christ pledge ourselves to heartily support, and, by any means in our power, to assist to arrive at this desirable end."

It was resolved on motion of Bro. Rootes, "That a Temperance Committee be appointed."

The following were appointed:—D. Hall, G. T. Walden, T. Morton, T. Bagley, Bro. Rootes and L. A. Williams.

This completed the Business Session, and an adjournment was made for tea. The arrangements were attended to by the Sisters' Conference, assisted by others, and left nothing to be desired. Everything was excellent for the small charge of sixpence, and although the schoolroom was full to overflowing there was plenty for all.

#### HOME MISSION MEETING.

At 7.30 the President, D. A. Ewers, took the chair. The platform was occupied by members of the incoming Committee, and 8 evangelists—18 in all. After hymn and prayer the President introduced with a few complimentary remarks the new President and Committee, and vacated the chair.

The new President, G. P. Jones, in a feeling speech thanked the brethren for the honor conferred on him, and paid a tribute to the outgoing President.

The musical arrangements were made by T. Walker, and were carried out to the satisfaction of all. Missionary addresses were delivered by T. Bagley, W. J. Way, J. P. Walker, P. A. Dickson, J. Colbourne, P. J. Pond and L. A. Williams. They were listened to attentively by a full meeting. P. A. Dickson made a special Home Mission appeal. Promise-cards had previously been

handed round. The statements by Home Missionaries, and the soul-stirring—better expressed as pocket-stirring—address by P. A. Dickson, coupled with the Committee's and evangelists' solid and progressive, unprecedented report, resulted in cash and promises amounting to £63/11/2; which, added to the morning's collection of £26/17/9, made a total of £90/8/11—an advance over last year's collection of £56/18/11. This result is distinctly encouraging; but we expect, and work, and hope for more, and feel that we deserve it. Any brother or sister who desires to assist after reading this please send cash or promises to J. T. Hunter, 95 Elizabeth-st., Sydney.

#### Looking Backwards; or, Lessons from the Past.

(President's Address at the N.S.W. Conference.)

Two years ago we listened to a Chairman's Address on "Forgetting the things behind," and there is a sense in which these may well be forgotten. But to-day I desire to "stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance" of the past. If the children of Israel required to be frequently reminded of their past blessings and sins in order that they might profit by the lessons learned, we also may profitably reflect upon the path we have trodden and lay to heart the lessons there taught. Perhaps there can be no more fitting time than this closing year of the century to review our past history as a reformatory movement within the church of Christ. We are about to enter a century in which our success will largely depend on the readiness with which we profit by the lessons of our past experience. It would be strange indeed if we had nothing to learn as a religious people, from the successes and mistakes of days gone by. There is a church whose proud boast it is that she is *semper eadem*, always the same, and hence she presents her claim to infallibility; but we dare not lay the flattering unction to our souls that we are infallible—that we have attained perfection, and have no more to learn.

It was on August 12, 1809, ninety-one years ago, that "The Christian Association of Washington" was formed by Thomas Campbell. He and his associates had no idea of establishing a church, or a community apart from existing churches. They proposed to retain their membership in their respective denominations, and to merely form a society for the furtherance of the principles of Christian union. From this humble commencement has sprung the mighty movement with which we are connected, and which now embraces nearly a million and a quarter of communicants in almost all parts of the world. The success of this movement has been especially marked during the last twenty years, and it may now be reckoned as one of the great religious forces of the world.

1. The pioneers of our movement gave special prominence to the Lordship of Christ. The confession of Peter, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," was from the first recognised as the rock foundation of the church. During our past history the transcendent pre-eminence of the Christ has ever occupied the most prominent position in our preaching. We have sought to win

men, not to a religious system, but to Christ himself. We have presented the claims of the personal Christ upon the confidence, affection and obedience of men, urging them to believe in CHRIST, to be baptised into CHRIST, to meet and remember CHRIST, and to live in and for CHRIST. From the success of the past presentation of the gospel of Christ we may well learn the lesson that in all things, and especially in our preaching and teaching, Christ must continue to have the pre-eminence. It is deeply significant, that those churches which deny or neglect to prominently present the divinity of Jesus of Nazareth are losing ground the whole world over, and that, too, notwithstanding the intellectual abilities of many of their leaders.

2. The very genesis of our movement was a plea for the union of Christians. This plea, so common to-day, was at that time extremely unpopular. Our fathers then stood alone, but many of them lived to see the union sentiment welcomed and cultivated by men of all parties, and manifesting its vitality in a variety of ways. Our Young Men's and Women's Christian Associations, United Prayer Meetings, Evangelical Alliances, W.C.T. Unions, Christian Endeavor and Sunday School Unions, the Congress of Churches and other co-operations of believers are all indications of the prevailing desire for closer union. And although they all fall far short of that for which Christ prayed, they are significant evidences that the prayer of Christ and the teachings of the apostles are to-day influencing the minds of men. When Thomas Campbell invited members of another branch of the Presbyterian Church to partake at the Lord's table, he was censured by the Presbytery and narrowly escaped exclusion from the ministry. Such a course to-day is scarcely conceivable. The various divisions of the "Split P's," as Presbyterians are sometimes called, are drawing closer together, and in some cases there has been amalgamation. In the Methodist churches the spirit of unity is so strong that organic union is now in course of consummation. It is to be hoped that the desire for union may so mightily prevail among all those who have the "one Lord, one faith, one baptism," that they also may ere long study how they may, on scriptural lines, unite in "one body." Encouraged by the success which has so far attended our plea for union, we may well continue our efforts, and while pleading for the union of the children of God, let us not fail to cultivate and manifest the *spirit* of unity, without which organic union itself would be neither practicable nor desirable.

3. The leaders of this restoration work were men of education. They realised the need of an educated ministry if the movement was to hold its own and become an influence in the world. Alexander Campbell did no better work than that of founding his College of the Bible in Bethany, Virginia. This institution became the mother of all the colleges and universities which have done so much for the cause of the Reformation in America and to which we in Australia are also deeply indebted. The men who have done most to make our plea publicly known in this country were educated at our Amer-

ican collegess. And yet these institutions have not proved an unqualified blessing to us. Dozens of able young men inspired with a laudable desire to receive a sound Biblical training have gone to the United States and after a course of education have their remained and their talents have been lost to the land of their birth. It is at length dawning upon our minds, as a lesson of past experience, that we must train our own preachers. Something is already being done toward the support and education of qualified men, and brethren of means, who have the welfare of the cause at heart, should realise the great importance of this movement, in its bearing upon the future of primitive Christianity beneath the Southern Cross. I sincerely hope the the time is not far distant when our young men will feel there is no no need to visit America in order to be trained for the work of the ministry.

4. During the earlier portion of our history the time of the workers was necessarily so fully occupied in advocating and defending what may be termed our "distinctive peculiarities" that the great need of missionary work was largely overlooked. But during the last fifty years, and especially the last twenty five, the brethren have realised more fully the necessity of giving as much attention to the 15th verse of Mark 16, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," as to the 16th verse, "He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved." Last year the American brethren enthusiastically celebrated the jubilee of organised mission work which dates from 1849. But it was not till 26 years later, in 1875, that the Foreign Missionary Society was formed. Opposition to missions was based on the supposition that they would hinder local church work, but history has proved otherwise. It is since the inauguration of active missionary effort that our American brethren have made such rapid numerical progress. This, in a more limited degree, has been our experience in Australia. In our own province, for example, there has been a marked advance during the last two or three years in the amount raised for missionary work, and there has been a corresponding advance in spiritual and numerical prosperity. Which of our local churches has suffered in consequence of assisting mission work? On the other hand it has been incontestably demonstrated in the experience of the Baptists and of our own churches in America, that the anti-mission churches are a dying power.

5. We may learn from the past experience of the churches that their spiritual culture must not be neglected. In Australia, as in England and America, churches have been planted and left alone to perish. It is surely time for us to realise that our churches need wise pastoral oversight, as well as sound teaching in the first principles of the oracles of God. We call our preachers evangelists, because the work of the gospel is their first charge, but we also expect them to attend to much pastoral work. In these days of keen business competition there are but few men, apart from our preachers, who have the time and ability to devote to this most important department of service. But the work must be done, or the churches will suffer. It follows that, where there are not elders with

the time and fitness for this work, it falls on the preacher, and, where no preacher is engaged, the work as a rule remains undone. Other things being equal, those churches will prosper most in which there are preachers to do pastoral work. Even where there are elders, the evangelist, by virtue of his influence over the converts, is able to render these elders material assistance. My point is, that young converts must be fed with wholesome food and protected, as far as possible, from spiritual dangers; and it is the preacher's place to attend to these duties unless there are others qualified and able to do it. In the meantime he should seek to cultivate and develop the talents of those who may afterwards become preachers, or overseers of the church. I believe that most of us have learned from past experience that it is a mistake to send a preacher to labor for a short time in a promising field and then to remove him.

6. Another lesson learned by painful experience is the necessity for a closer union and co-operation of the churches than at one time existed, or even now exists. Our churches are congregational in their polity, and with the New Testament for a guide it is difficult to conceive how they could be otherwise. But there is an ultra-congregationalism which may lead a church to take steps prejudicial to the cause as a whole. For example, any church is at liberty to engage a preacher and may select a person who is utterly unsuitable, but who, by reason of his position is regarded by those outside as a representative man. While we may not have suffered in this way in New South Wales, some of our Australian churches have done so. Especially should caution be exercised in the case of preachers who unite with us from other religious bodies, and I would respectfully suggest that in no case should a preacher, who is not well and favorably known to the brotherhood, be engaged by a church before the Conference Committee has been consulted, and his *bona fides* investigated by them. No honest man could object to submit his credentials to such an impartial committee. Much might be said in favor of a closer co-operation of the churches in other respects, but time will not permit.

7. There is a tendency to take a limited and contracted view of truth rather than a broad and comprehensive outlook. This is sometimes manifested in the magnifying of our work and the minimising of that done by our religious neighbors. No thoughtful man can ignore the great spiritual activities at work outside of our own immediate ranks. The man who is incapable of appreciating and rejoicing over good done by those outside of the religious movement with which we are identified, is essentially a sectarian. He exhibits the spirit of those disciples who were rebuked by Christ because they forbade one who was doing good in the name of Jesus. Their explanation was: "We forbade him because he followeth not us." It is well to remember the words of Christ, "He that is not against us is on our part." A prominent American writer in our ranks has well said: "A Christian having the spirit of his Master will bid God-speed to whatever and whoever is building up the kingdom of God, even though in a way he

does not think wisest or best, and though the truth thus preached be mingled with error which does not wholly neutralise its power for good. He will not rejoice in the error, but in the truth which can reach and purify human lives and fill them with faith, hope and charity, in spite of the error mixed with it. Not to be able to do this, is to live a poor, dwarfed life, with the sympathies of the soul hedged in by artificial barriers."

Again, this tendency to take a contracted view is seen in the opposition which at various stages of our history has been waged against methods of work, on the ground that they are not scriptural. The well-known principle, "Where the Scriptures speak we speak, and where the Scriptures are silent we are silent," has been misapplied. It has been urged that as the Scriptures are silent about Annual Conferences, Sunday Schools, Endeavor Societies, Bands of Hope, etc., we should therefore oppose them? Many earnest and conscientious men have contended that such things should not be tolerated. Their opposition has clearly arisen from a perversion of Thomas Campbell's familiar statement. The writer above quoted has put the real state of the case clearly in these words: "This saying was a declaration of independence from human authority in religion. There had grown up a body of traditions among Protestants, just as there had among the Jews in the time of Christ, and among Roman Catholics in the time of Luther, which had become equally binding with the Scriptures, and in some instances, as among the Jews, has 'Made void the commandments of God.' Many additions had been made to the things necessary to be believed and to be done in order to orthodoxy and to Christian fellowship. In so far as these did not make void any divine requirement, and were not inconsistent with Christian character, persons were permitted to hold the opinions and practices, but in no case were they to be imposed on others as terms of fellowship. 'Where the Scriptures speak' there must, indeed, be compliance with the divine command. Loyalty to God requires that. But 'where the scriptures are silent,' allowing freedom to choose within the limits of divine requirements, there no human authority may bind the conscience. Christian liberty requires that. The first part of the motto affirms unswerving loyalty to Christ's will, and is the centripetal force of the Reformation; the latter asserts human freedom, throws off the yoke of religious tyranny, and is the centrifugal force of our movement. These two forces held in proper equilibrium describe the circle of truth which is the symbol of completeness." I am pleased to know that a larger liberty is obtaining among the Christians known as disciples of Christ and that both in America and Australia the contracted view of those who opposed Conferences and other methods of work are giving way to broader conceptions of truth and duty. This is a lesson we are learning from the past.

8. In looking back over our past history, we cannot fail to be impressed with the fact that the principles laid down at the inception of this reformatory movement have stood the test. When the Campbells, Stone, Scott, and their pious coadjutors pleaded for a return to primitive Christianity, they were

venturing on ground that had been untrod-den for centuries. It was believed by many who opposed them that instead of reaching the Canaan of promise they would be lost in the wilderness, but now we see a mighty host who have come out from all religious parties and from the world, compactly united together upon the inflexible creed, the creed that requires no revision, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amidst the divided and subdivided hosts of Protestantism they stand in solid phalanx, and presenting an unbroken front to the common enemy, demonstrate beyond controversy that it is possible for Christians to unite without a human creed, a human leader or a human name. Our union to-day is an object lesson to the world, and we may learn from the past to hold fast with renewed confidence, and to advocate with unabated vigor and unswerving fidelity the principles laid down by the pioneers of this movement. And while we look back it is well also to look forward and see by the eye of faith, brightened by the visions of the past, the ultimate complete success of the cause we love, when every plant which our heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up, and the Christianity of Christ and his apostles shall reign triumphant.

Since God is God and right is right  
The right is sure to win;  
To doubt would be disloyalty,  
To falter would be sin.

## Queensland Conference, 1900.

The Seventeenth Annual Conference of the church of Christ in Queensland was held in Rosewood on Good Friday, April 13th.

There was a good attendance of delegates and friends. For the past two years we have not held a united Conference. Nine small churches in the West Moreton District have kept away from the General Conference for well known reasons, which I need not give in my next report. But I am thankful to say the next Conference will be a united one, as a well-defined basis of mutual co-operation in our work as churches has been agreed upon. The thanks of the brotherhood in this colony is due to Bro. John Thompson, our late President, for his indefatigable energies and good counsel, in visiting all the churches in the West Moreton District, and enabling them to see their way to unite as one body. The churches of the West Moreton District met in Conference at Mount Walker on the same day, and discussed the important question of uniting again with the General Conference. A lengthy resolution was drawn up and adopted. This document was sent on to the General Conference meeting at Rosewood, and needless to say the General Conference was glad to learn that the West Moreton brethren were desirous of seeing the churches in this colony once more united in fellowship and co-operation. We appointed three delegates (M. McKie, C. M. Fischer and J. Swan) to meet an equal number of delegates from the West Moreton brethren, on the following day, March 14th, and discuss the points of difference, and arrive at a satisfactory basis for future work. We met as arranged, and discussed the resolution from Mt. Walker.

I am glad to report that we have arrived at a friendly and scriptural basis of action for future work. As this unfortunate affair is now amicably settled, the outlook for the future is very encouraging indeed.

## GENERAL BUSINESS.

The President, J. Thompson, opened the Conference at 10.30 by praise, short prayer, a portion of scripture, and a short address by one of the delegates.

The minutes of last Conference were read and adopted.

The roll of delegates was called:—

BRISBANE.—J. Swan, R. Boyle, W. Rees.  
BOONAH.—F. Stubbins, W. Alcorn.  
BUNDAMBA.—M. Mackie, W. Want.  
MA MA CREEK.—C. Rissen, H. Larsen.  
EEL CREEK.—F. Trissell.  
GYMPIE.—T. Godwin.  
ROSEWOOD.—W. Berlin.  
ZILLMERE.—C. M. Fischer, C. Stabie.

It was resolved, That all brethren present in good standing be made members of the Conference, and take part in its deliberations.

The delegates then gave their reports from the various churches. These reports of churches were not of a very inspiring nature. From accounts given many of the small churches have a great struggle for existence. Others show good progress and a firm resolve to go forward in the strength of the Lord. The delegates from the Brisbane church had to report a decrease for the first time in its history. The numbers in the church statistics are in many cases not very reliable. The great cry is for mor-laborers in the vineyard for Christ. The field is indeed white unto harvest, and the future prospects are encouraging. The treasurer, A. S. Waterfield then gave his report, which showed a small balance on the right side.

After luncheon, 2 p.m., the Conference was opened again by prayer and a portion of scripture being read. The retiring President delivered his address, giving an account of the work of the Committee during the past year. J. Thompson spoke very hopeful of his work among the Kanakas, but regretted that the prospect of the churches was not better.

The election of officers for the ensuing year was then taken, with the following results. President, M. Mackie; Secretary, J. Swan; Vice-president, F. Stubbins; Treasurer, A. S. Waterfield; Assistant Secretary, C. M. Fisher.

It was resolved, That all the churches appoint one of their members as delegate on the General Committee of Management.

It was resolved, That the Conference secretary write all the churches in the Association and ask them to take a deeper interest in Foreign Missions.

It was resolved, That letters of thanks be sent to Sisters Jones, Moffat and Rissen for their active work on behalf of the Rescue Homes and the relief of the destitute.

It was moved, That the Constitution of Associated Churches of Christ be no longer recognised as a binding principle in the government of our churches in Queensland. Much animated discussion took place over this resolution, but it was carried by a strong majority.

We were agreeably surprised to get a



QUEENSLAND STATISTICS, 1900.

CHURCH.	Membership 1899.	Added Since.				Losses.			Membership 1900.	School Statistics.			
		Confession and Baptism.	Letter.	Baptised Believers.	Restored.	Letter.	Death.	Withdrawn or Lost Sight Of.		Scholars, 1899.	Scholars, 1900.	Teachers, 1899.	Teachers, 1900.
Brisbane .. ..	238	14	5	3	5	6	1	40	218	120	90	15	11
Boonah .. ..	19	3	2			1			23				
Bundamba .. ..	18		2			1	1	3	17				
Gympie .. ..	56		2			1	1		56				
Maryborough ..	40	25		1		2	1	4	50	99	75	10	10
Roma .. ..	75	4				9			68	78	82	8	8
Rosewood .. ..	47	2	5			6		6	42				
Eel Creek .. ..	14								13	8	6	1	2
Ma Ma Creek ..	55	3						4	54	90	77	4	4
Toowoomba .. ..	19					2			17				
Zillmere .. ..	37	10				2		1	44	70	68	4	5
Marburg .. ..	33				2			7	28	26	26	3	3
Mt. Walker .. ..	29								29	34	30	2	2
Mt. Whitestone ..	16	1							17				
Milbong .. ..	7								7	32	38	3	3
Rosevale .. ..	15			2				2	15	17	17	2	2
Vernor .. ..	16	8	3		4			1	30		28		4
Thornton .. ..	8					1			7				
West Haldon .. ..													
Green Mount .. ..	33			3		2			34	20	22	2	2
Spring Creek .. ..													
Totals .. ..	775	70	19	9	11	33	4	77	778	594	559	54	56

This list does not include the Charters Towers church and the Kanaka Mission at Childers, as no returns were sent in.

message from the West Moreton Conference with a view to unite as a general Conference. Delegates were appointed to confer with the West Moreton brethren on the following day.

We met as arranged and arrived at a mutual understanding.

The chief point in the resolution from the West Moreton was adopted, viz.—“That they claim the right to combine as small churches, and engage their own evangelists, and to manage their own local financial affairs, and manage their own business as a district committee; and that they will encourage a general Conference of all the churches and will co-operate with them in the work of the gospel.”

It was also resolved at the joint meeting of delegates, “That the West Moreton churches confer with the churches in Rosewood, Bundamba, Ma Ma Creek, Boonah, and Zillmere, with a view to engage another evangelist, or strengthen the hands of the evangelist already engaged. And that the first joint meeting be held on the 24th May, in Rosewood, at 11 a.m.

The chairman of the joint meeting requested that all the delegates sent to the forthcoming meeting on the 24th of May be prepared to state definitely what financial support they can give with a view to engage another evangelist if possible. The thanks of the Conference were given to the sisters in the Rosewood church for the abundant supply of refreshments to all who attended the Conference.

A public meeting was held in the Farmers' Hall on Good Friday night. Bro. M. Mackie, President of Conference, presided. Short addresses were given by Brethren A. S. Waterfield, J. Swan, C. F. Nixon, J. Thompson, and F. Stubbins.

Bro. G. Colvin led the singing with grand effect. Thus ended one of the most practical Conferences I have taken part in for some years back.

JOHN SWAN,  
Conference Secretary.

Terrace-st., Toowoong.

### Auckland (N.Z.) Conference 1900.

The Seventeenth Annual Conference of churches of Christ in the Auckland District co-operating for evangelistic purposes, was held in the meeting house, Ponsonby-rd., Auckland, on Friday, April 13th, 1900.

The business of the day was preceded by fervent devotional exercises. John L. Scott, of Parnell, took the chair, to which he had been elected by the retiring Committee. F. Evans and A. Bowen were appointed recording and reporting secretaries to the Conference.

Delegates and representatives were present from Helensville, Hoteo North, North Albertland, Omaurau, Papakura, Port Albert, Pukekohe, Tara, Te Arai, Turua, Warkworth and Wellsford.

The Chairman in a brief introductory address welcomed heartily the visitors and delegates, and bespoke the co-operation of all in facilitating the business of the day.

The minutes of last Conference were then read and confirmed, the meeting expressing its pleasure at the manner in which the business had been recorded, and passing a vote of thanks to the Secretary, E. Vickery.

The Evangelist Committee, through their secretary, H. Downey, then presented to the meeting a brief *resumé* of the past year's work. It contained lengthy reference to the

acceptable manner in which the evangelist engaged by the Committee had carried on his work, and concluded with a recommendation to the Conference, That Bro. Bull be re-engaged for a further term of twelve months. Reference was also made to the valuable work being done by our unpaid evangelists, from amongst whom supplies of preachers are regularly drawn for our country churches. The Committee urged upon the Conference the discussion of the possibility of engaging a second evangelist during the coming year.

The treasurer's statement showed a revenue of £191 6s. 5d. and an expenditure of £177 7s. 8d. leaving a balance in hand of £13 18s. 9d.

Bro. Bull then, by request, gave the meeting a brief sketch of his labors during the year.

The ballot for the election of the new Evangelist Committee resulted in the following brethren being chosen to that office:—W. Vickery, H. N. Bagnall, F. Davies, J. C. Morton, J. C. Scott, J. C. Allan, and F. Evans.

The meeting then by resolution made the following recommendations to the new Committee.

1. That T. J. Bull be re-engaged for another twelve months.
2. That a second evangelist be engaged as far as funds will allow.
3. That the Committee act in concert with the Northern District Association in the employment of a second evangelist.
4. That the evangelist be engaged for three months in the country districts.
5. That the claims of the Whangaru District be considered as a new field for operation.

Promises of monetary assistance during the coming year resulted in an amount being promised which greatly exceeded that of all previous years and which we trust will prove a forecast of greatly increased effort and success during the coming year.

#### MAORI MISSION.

The Secretary of the Maori Missionary Committee, T. J. Bull, in reporting, said:—

“The report presented by your Committee at last Conference showed such a derangement of first plans and hopes that the door of opportunity for gospel work by us among the Maoris seemed almost closed. We regret our inability to report any appreciable opening of that door since you committed this stewardship into our hands a year ago. . . . Shortly after last Conference the following letter was written by the Secretary.”

The letter referred to was written to a Mr. Rawei, of Bay of Islands, a Maori who was immersed some years ago by Bro. Floyd at Dunedin, and who has for a long time been laboring earnestly and untiringly for, as he terms it, “The uplifting of my mother's people.” The object in writing was to ascertain if, with his assistance, an open door might not be found by which the Native race could be reached. After some little delay a reply was received, passages of which would be quoted here were it not for the fear of making this report too long. Suffice it to say that the correspondence was followed by an interview and an interesting account of the loving labors of Mr. and Mrs. Rawei, whose object is to teach and train Maori girls in

Christian truth and the modes and habits of civilised life.

The Committee were of opinion that efforts in Maori Missionary work should be continued, that the Committee should still be kept in existence and the work prosecuted as opportunity arose. The report was adopted.

The old committee was then re-elected, and consists of F. Davies, W. Vickery, T. J. Bull, J. Harrison, R. M. Cameron.

#### STATISTICS.

Statistics were collected as usual from 15 churches in the Auckland district and of these six showed an increase in membership, viz., Auckland, Hotoe North, Opotiki, Port Albert, Warkworth, and Wellsford. Four remain as last year, viz., Omanman, Pukekohe, Turua and Wayby. Five reported a decrease, viz., Helensville, North Albertland, Papakura, Tara, and Te Arai. On the whole there has been a net increase in membership in the District of 17.

#### AN ALL NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE.

A letter was read from Mr. F. Laurensen, of Wellington, secretary of Middle District Conference, conveying to us a proposal for a joint Conference of representatives from each of the centres to be held in the dawn of the new century at which arrangements could be made for a united effort for the extension of the Master's Kingdom in this colony. The following resolution was then carried, "That the Conference approve of the suggestion of a joint Conference for the purposes named and refer the matter to the Evangelist Committee to deal with as they think best.

#### SOCIAL MEETING.

The tea and social meeting formed an important part in our Conference arrangements. The sisters provided and took in hand all the details of preparation. Fully 350 sat down to tea, and were unanimous in their praise of all the good things provided. J. P. Morton presided over the social meeting, and the programme included the following items:—Chairman's address; chorus, "Whispers of Heaven"; recitation, "The Martyrdom of Policarp," Mrs. Bodle; solo, "The Lost Chord," Mrs. F. Evans; address, H. N. Bagnall; quartet, "Come unto Me"; solo, "Blind Girl to her Harp," Mrs. Hanham; chorus, "Welcome Home"; recitation, Miss Morton; duet, Mr. and Miss Marcon; address, A. Kelly; chorus, "Beautiful Dream." The meeting was brought to a close by singing a verse of the hymn, "God be with you."

#### CONFERENCE OF S.S. WORKERS.

On Saturday evening the second annual meeting of the Auckland church of Christ Sunday School Union was held, when an interesting and instructive address was given by Mr. Bull. Reports of work done in assisting the weaker schools of the District and other matters of interest were given. By special resolution the name of the Union was changed, and will henceforth be known as the Church of Christ Bible School Union. Arrangements for future work were made, and the proceedings were brought to a close by a coffee supper and a verse of the hymn, "Go labor on."

#### LORD'S DAY MEETINGS.

The hearts of all were cheered to see such well filled seats at the meeting for worship.

The building was full and a spirit of unity and love pervaded the service. Bro. Davies presided, and our venerable and much respected Bro. Laing exhorted. It was truly a time of refreshing.

In the afternoon, J. B. Allen addressed the scholars, taking for his subject, "Sunshine."

The "Conference Sermon" was delivered by T. J. Bull in the evening to a fairly large audience, the subject, "God's names for his People" was dealt with in a clear, concise and forcible manner.

An out-door meeting was held at 8 o'clock, when Mr. O'Kelly from Thames, briefly laid the claims of Christ before the people.

#### PICNIC.

The Picnic Committee had made arrangements for a picnic to Awa Awaroa Bay, Waibeke Island. The fine steamer "Kawau" had been specially chartered for the purpose and fully 230 availed themselves of the opportunity of visiting the island. The weather was just perfect. During the afternoon the steamer proceeded to the fishing ground with those who wished for a little sport. The journey home over the moonlit waters was shortened and brightened by songs and hymns. On the whole the trip was an exceptionally pleasant one. F.E.

## Here and There.

Here a little and there a little.—Isaiah 28: 10.

#### RESCUE HOME SUNDAY, MAY 6th.

One confession on Lord's day evening last at North Richmond.

On April 8th there were three confessions at Hindmarsh, S.A.

On April 10th, at Barker's Creek, one young woman was baptised by M. W. Green.

On the first Sunday evening that C. F. Hawkins preached in Perth one lady confessed Christ.

At Oamaru, N.Z., one recently confessed Christ, and two baptised believers were received into the fellowship there.

In our Victorian Conference Report last week we accidentally omitted to state that Bro. R. Lyall was re-elected as assistant secretary.

Two young men confessed at Hawthorn on Sunday evening, and were baptised the same hour. Meetings improving every Sunday. Bro. Palmer speaking.

We are asked to remind the Melbourne Sisters' Executive of the meeting on Friday, May 4th, in the Swanston-st. lecture hall, at 3 o'clock. Important business.

J. W. Baker has been preaching for the past three months at Collingwood to improving audiences. During this time two have confessed Christ. Bro. Baker continues there another month.

We have now the largest stock of American books ever in our office. We have all the leading books from our publishing houses, and are selling more of these books than ever before.

At North Fitzroy on Sunday night last one young man confessed Christ. On May 15, the church there gives a welcome tea to M. W. Green, who commences his labors on May 20.

The Missionary Committee of W.A. want an evangelist immediately to labor in the Kalgoorlie District. Direct all letters to A. E. Illingworth, Newcastle-st., Perth, W.A.

The Sunday School Union of our churches in Victoria will hold their ordinary monthly meeting in Lygon-st., Chapel, Carlton, on Monday evening next.

In the Conference Report from the Wedderburn District it was stated that E. Griffiths had preached 96 times during the last year; it should have been 196; only one hundred out.

This week does not quite finish up the Conference Reports, but next week we hope to get into our regular running again, and the reports of other colonial Conferences will appear from time to time as they arrive.

On Sunday night P. A. Dickson preached at Petersham for D. A. Ewers, who is absent in the country for six weeks. The meeting was large and interesting. D. R. Hall took the meeting at the City Temple and had one confession.

The CHRISTIAN last week was a little late. Of this we are sorry, but it could not be helped if the report of the Conferences were to appear in that number. We thought it better to delay the paper a little than that part of the reports be held over.

The Church Directory does not appear this week, but it will be found in its accustomed place next week. We are glad that the idea is meeting with almost universal approval, so far only two churches refusing to pay the small amount asked. We hope to keep the list complete.

Bro. Thos. Mitchell and his son Herbert, of the church in Swanston-street, left on Tuesday, April 24, by P. & O. steamer Australia, for a trip to Paris Exhibition, England and Europe. On Monday night the church gave them a good-bye social, which was largely attended. We wish them a pleasant time.

L. A. Hoskins, of Roma, Q., writes:—"A good attendance at R. C. Gilmour's optical lantern lecture held at the street corner last Saturday night. Last Lord's day morning a special collection was made on behalf of the Indian famine relief fund, amounting to £16/5/6. The Lord's day school also contributed £1/4/6; total, £17/10/-. There were only 28 at the breaking of bread." April 10.

#### FOREIGN MISSION FUND.

VICTORIA.		
Church Collingwood	..	£0 15 4
NEW ZEALAND.		
J. H. Tozer, Tara, Mangawai	..	4 0 0
SOUTH AFRICA EVANGELIST FUND.		
F. M. Ludbrook, Melbourne	..	1 0 0
F. M. Ludbrook, Treas., 121 Collins-st., Melb.	R. LYALL, Sec., 39 Leveson-st., N. Melb.	

#### VICTORIAN MISSION FUND.

Conference of Mallee Churches	..	£12 13 6
Church, Polkemmott	..	6 8 0
Hawthorn, per Sister Somerville	..	2 4 0
Horsham	..	0 10 0
Brunswick, Conference Fee	..	0 10 0
N. Yanac	..	0 10 0
Kaniva	..	0 10 0
Cheltenham	..	1 0 0
Prahran	..	1 0 0
Lygon-st.	..	1 0 0
Ballarat	..	1 0 0
Sister Benson	..	0 15 0
Collection at Conference	..	15 3 0
Sister E. Crowe, Footscray	..	0 5 0
A Brother, Bendigo	..	1 0 0
		£44 13 6

"Milford,"  
Church-st., Hawthorn. J. A. DAVIES, Treas.  
233 Drummond-st., Carlton. M. McLELLAN, Sec.

#### To Subscribers.

J. T. Clissold, 2/6; A. R. Benn, C. Grundy, Mrs. J. Thompson, S. Taylor, F. Block, 5/-; J. C. Whitfield, 5/6; H. McDowell, 9/-; Mrs. Gray, A. Grant, 10/-; A. E. Illingworth, 14/-; G. McCormack, 15/-; Geo. Dickens, D. Brown, 20/-; J. Routledge, 30/-; Percy Judd, 31/3; E. Jeffery, 55/-.

## MAY 6th.

If you have not already done so, make arrangements for the Collection on the above date for the

### Rescue Home

It is not a work about which much noise can be made, as it has to be done quietly, and the results cannot be published broadcast, but for all that

**A Noble Work is being done.**

If the Church of which you are a member does not take up a Collection for this work,

**SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS DIRECT.**

Don't forget the date, May 6, and the address—

**J. PITTMAN, Airlie Avenue, Armadale, Victoria.**

#### Impressions of the Victorian Conference.

Some things impressed me very favorably indeed; some did not strike me very forcibly at all, except to make my indignation rise just a little at times.

Cranks are everywhere, and the brotherhood of Victoria are not yet altogether rid of them. Let me see—a crank is that which turns something. But religious cranks generally turn things the wrong way. Crankism (excuse the word), like the hundred and one other isms in existence, is of men and not of the Word, and ought therefore to be relegated to the darkness of oblivion.

Let me, however, say that I observed a marked change for the better among the Victorian brethren in this respect. The desire seems more predominant now to advance the cause of Christ in the Colony, and to get rid of all hindrances standing in the way of the progress of the gospel. About three years ago I was present at the Conference of the Churches of Christ in Melbourne. There was nothing hardly but jarring notes of discord struck to destroy the harmony that should have existed among those whose aim, whose faith, whose hope are one.

A mechanical Christianity was too much in evidence then. It was very gratifying to note the greater spiritual tone manifested at the Conference just closed. When the former spirit was uppermost, I was heartily glad when the Conference closed. This year it was my delight to be present. I noted with disapproval the disrespect paid by some brethren to the ruling of the chair. When requested to discontinue their remarks they should have obeyed. These individuals are sticklers for obedience to first principles, and yet they have no compunction of conscience in the matter of leading the Conference into utter confusion by being disobedient to the one appointed to keep order in the meetings.

A brother when respectfully requested by the Chairman to desist from speaking and talking at random, and bringing up questions quite foreign to the point at issue, should at once quit and quietly take his seat. Any other spirit shown is the spirit of confusion and every evil work. Education is required by many on this matter.

Conference time generally brings to light some who are talkers and not doers. These air their eloquence during the annual meetings and hide themselves all the rest of the year. It amused me very much to hear on several occasions when two or three speakers would rise and address the chair, and protest solemnly against the action of the brethren, to hear some brethren exclaim, "Some people are always wanting to put the Conference right, but they do not help along the work in the interim." Now, I'm not in a position to judge whether the brethren referred to deserved the remarks or not, but this I do know, that this class is not an unknown quantity in South Australia, and I should not be surprised if there were not some in Victoria. They carry no weight, however, and their influence is nil.

The day has gone by, as far as the disciples of Christ are concerned, when for a man to teach or preach the doctrine is everything. He must himself live the doctrine if he wish others to heed his words, or the truth he preaches. Any man who does not make an honest attempt to pay his butcher, baker or grocer, or any lawful debt should not be tolerated on the platform addressing the brethren during Conference, or any other occasion.

I noticed that Melbourne has plenty of water and soap still in its midst, but it certainly seemed to me that there were one if not more of the brethren on the platform at times wildly gesticulating with hands that looked as if they seldom caught a sight of soap and water. We have always been taught to understand that "cleanliness is next to godliness." If this be so, then some

are far removed from godliness, judging from their dirty neck and hands.

The large attendances at all the meetings of the Conference were most encouraging. In fact I was agreeably surprised to see the crowds present. The speeches, addresses, reports, &c., were quite up to the average, considered from many standpoints. Some of the reports were a little gloomy and some were a trifle unfaithful. Among the latter was the Temperance Committee's report, which seemingly deserved the severe criticism it received.

There appears to be a large per centage of the Victorian brethren who are fair speakers, and I was pleased to note the attention paid by the Education Committee to the matter of providing for the instruction of those who are desirous of getting knowledge to better fit them to make known the truths of Divine Revelation in the best possible manner.

The Sisters' Conference was a real treat to me, and the crowded attendance at their evening session to listen to a splendid programme was very inspiring. The Sisters of Victoria are doing a noble work. No wonder they have won for themselves the endearing epithet, "The Dear Sisters."

The Austral Publishing Company is meeting a long felt want by the brethren in Victoria and the whole of Australasia, and it was very nice to have all the Conference business, Conference programmes, hymns, &c., placed in one's hands well and neatly printed.

But my remarks must come to a close. I was comfortably housed in the hospitable home of Bro. and Sister C. Lawson, Parkville, during Conference week, and much enjoyed their friendship and good will. Sometimes I had three or four pulling hold of my overcoat at once, each trying to persuade me to come to dinner or tea.

In a word, I must close by saying that I thanked God for the privilege of being able to be present at the Conference in Melbourne, and feel better by being there.

A. C. RANKINE.

#### N.S.W. Conference Jottings.

##### Bubonic Plague.

Area opposite City Temple quarantined on Monday, 6th inst., while Sisters' Conference was at tea.

Some excitement, and a few timid sisters hurried away home, while others did not come to the evening session.

The noise in street caused by erecting quarantine barriers, and by the crowd, interfered with success of meeting, and a general feeling of uneasiness prevailed.

The President and Secretary of General Conference hastily decided to change place of meeting and to hold Conference at Enmore. Everyone said Amen.

S.S. Cantata, "Under the Palms," which was to have been given on Tuesday night, indefinitely postponed. Scores of people went to the Temple and were disappointed.

F. M. Meeting, Thursday night, at Enmore, but rather small attendance. Brethren did not know of change. Earnest addresses by the chairman, J. Hunter, and Messrs. Colbourne, Walden, and Dickson.

Send money and promises to J. T. Hunter, 95 Elizabeth-st., Sydney.

General Conference—Fine day, fine attendance, fine interest, fine spirit.

Record meetings all day!

Record number of evangelists.

Delegates attended in larger numbers than hitherto and punctual.

Bro. Colbourne led devotional meeting, which was better attended than usual. Read Psa. 132 and Phil. 2, and struck the keynote of harmony and work.

"We that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak," text of T. Hawkins' address. Illustration—The organ advocate ought to bear with the anti-organ brother. Query: IS the pro-organist the STRONG brother? Some think he is the weak one. If so, should the anti-organist bear with them?

President, Bro. Ewers, welcomed Bros. Colbourne, Way, Pond, and Williams, and referred to Bro. Houchins settlement in colony. Five fresh laborers added during the year. Hallelujah!

New Committees start work Friday, April 20th. Send any suggestion to R. Steer, "Fernside," 25 Perry-st., Marrickville.

Wanted—300 brethren to send £1 each. Isolated brethren specially note this.

If you would like a report by post send the Secretary. It's worth reading.

President's address, "Looking backward," warmly appreciated.

All the reports encouraging except treasurer's. Ugly debit of £74. But no one complained. The good results achieved were considered to justify the expenditure. Largest income in the history of the Conference.

Woolahra warmly cheered for her plucky resolution to become self-supporting from end of last year. Raised locally for all purposes, including Building Fund, £324 since previous Conference. That means sacrifice.

Lismore lively. Way and Walker enthusiastic, 31 baptisms. All departments of work growing. Promising prospects. Conference appreciative and sympathetic. Way to remain there another year.

Marrickville quiet, but prospects brightening attendance increasing. Brethren united. Peculiar difficulties arising from the past. Moral:—Brethren should not fall out by the way. Marrickville must grow.

Merewether also looking up. A new mission point established at New Lambton with fair prospects. Past difficulties also affect this field, but are being overcome.

Rookwood fairly started on up-grade—16 baptisms, more decided, school and Band of Hope booming. Classroom to be added to chapel. Big audiences. Outlook bright.

Bro. Wright (Merewether) announced his connection with church owing to "On the Rock." Good for the Austral Publishing Coy.!!

F.M. proceeding rather tame. Sydney folk not very enthusiastic along this line yet. No antimission but considerable omission. However, there was a fair increase in funds. Total receipts, £89/11/1.

It was stated as a matter of fact that N.S.W. members averaged 1/3½ each for Foreign Missions and Victoria 9½d. each. But "comparisons are odious."

What about the Jubilee Convention? A South Australian said we were too slow. Primitive Christianity was established in S.A. in 1847, if not a year earlier. 1902 will be at least five years behind the times. Somebody caught napping. Cannot N.Z. put in an even earlier claim?

Record collections!—Home Mission, £90/8/11; Foreign, £24/12/8.

Another innovation! A Temperance Committee of seven appointed. This means more work and another report next year. How can we make time for it all?

President had to just rush matters through this year. Time is approaching when we must have a Saturday session.

Dr. Kingsbury on the war-path again. Specially rough on the smokers. Went straight for the Root of the matter.

A sumptuous and abundant noonday repast provided for Conference *free* by sisters! a meal fit for the Queen! Between two and three hundred of the sixpenny tea. It was really too good for sixpence. Sisters did excellent work this year, collected £57 for Home Missions and fed hundreds of hungry men. Well done, good and faithful servants.

Lively interest manifested by all, yet not a ripple to disturb the harmony.

Splendid evening meeting. Home Missions and missionaries to the front. Rivalry among the cities represented. Lismore's agent claims the title of the "Queen City of the North," whereupon the Newcastle man pleaded the claims of the "King City of the North." In view of the revival there Rookwood, the "City of the Dead," was called the "City of the Resurrection."

Some speakers are irrepresible. A ten minutes' limit was imposed at night. One orator was wound up tight and took a long time to run down. "Finally," "In conclusion," "Just one more thought," "Really the last word," "Positively only one minute more," etc., etc., etc. But it just illustrated the proverb, "Where there's a Will, there's a Way."

That unpleasant debit of £74! Bro. McIndoe faced it in the morning and advocated a collection there and then. Result £26 in cash and promises. Bro. Dickson tackled it at night, called for £5 gifts when a brother offered £10, two or three more £5 each. Then he came down to £2 10s., and next to £1 and finally 10/-, in Dutch Auction Style. Result, £40 more cleared off. Then a collection, the cash and promises of which brought the total up to £90! £24 12s. was also promised during the day for Foreign Missions, during Dickson's appeal for a "phenomenal offering." Walden entered the names and amounts, and kept telling out the total up to that moment. Quite an excitement and quite an ovation when the debt was practically wiped out. Everyone delighted and especially those who contributed.

"The finest Conference we ever had" was the unanimous verdict. Not a ripple of discord. The whole Conference settled down to steady harmonious missionary work. The president was only a figure head and had no points of order to decide, no one to rule down, and next to nothing to do. This has not always been the case in N.S.W.

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."

## Obituary.

To live is Christ; and to die is gain.—Phil. 1: 21.

JOHNSTON.—We deeply regret having to record the death of Sister Minnie Johnston, who passed into Christ's presence at her home, Glanton-st., Hindmarsh, on the 11th inst. She had a short and painful attack of peritonitis, which within one week ended in her removal from the midst of her grief-smitten household. Bro. Johnston was summoned to her bedside from Broken Hill; and Bro. J. Johnston, evangelist at Swanston-st. church, Melbourne, also

hurried over and was present when his mother died.

Sister Johnston was born at Blair Ergone, Scotland, 54 years ago. From childhood she was a member of the Free Church in Glasgow. She was married in that city 32 years ago, from whence the parents and their six children came to South Australia about 16 years ago. In 1892, her son James became a member in Robert-st. church, Hindmarsh; and in 1894, six members of the Johnston family, including the mother and father, were in one night added to the Lord. Sister Johnston, with her family, was worshipping God at Robert-st. chapel the Lord's day previous to her decease.

Our sister was an amiable, active, genuine Christian woman. She exercised a benign influence over her household and friends by her genial and transparent piety. She was a devoted wife and mother, a staunch friend, a sympathiser of the afflicted, to whom she freely gave her services. She revered her God and Saviour, and encouraged her family to be devoted to the spread of God's kingdom. Her husband says: "If every married couple lived as happily as we have done, there would be few regrets in life." After singing two of our Sister's favorite hymns, reading, and praying, a large company followed to witness her burial on Good Friday in the Adelaide Cemetery. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

Adelaide.

S.

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