

The Australian Christian.

Circulating amongst Churches of Christ in the Australian Commonwealth, and New Zealand.

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Subscription, 5s. per annum.

The Rise and Progress of the Austral Publishing Company.

A. B. MASTON.



AN IDEA.

THE history of the Austral Publishing Co. is the history of an idea; and that idea was born a good while ago, long before our present publishing house had anything but the merest imaginary existence. When first I came to New Zealand, now nearly twenty-two years ago, there fell into my hands a small card tract about the size of a post-card, printed on both sides, issued by "The Christian Sower Tract Fund" in Chicago. The idea at once suggested itself to me, Why not have a "Christian Sower Tract Fund" in this country? Seven years after the "Christian Sower Tract Fund" of Australasia started work. This effort proved two things to me—1. That a work of the kind was needed. Hundreds of thousands of tracts were printed and readily bought at a fair price and put into circulation, while hundreds of brethren everywhere contributed small amounts to assist in the work. A five thousand edition of "On the Rock," slightly abridged, was published. This book sells in America for 6/2; the "Christian Sower Tract Fund" sold it for 6d. A second stereotyped edition of five thousand was brought out and sold. 2. I was also convinced that a work of this kind would receive the support of the churches if run on the right lines. I had no printing press nor office of any kind, and my opportunities of advertising were few, yet the work was successful.

IF I HAD A PRINTING PRESS.

I often tried to get rid of the idea, but

over and over the question came to me, If all this work can be done in this way, what could I do if I had a printing press of my own? In my own mind many plans presented themselves, only in turn to be abandoned. I spoke to many brethren on the subject, some discouraging the idea, others giving me a careful hearing and much encouragement. One good brother, now gone to his reward, gave liberally and regularly to my tract work, but was frequently thrown into paroxysms of opposition when I would mention the idea of a publishing house; and while refusing to become a stockholder, he frequently assisted me in the earlier days of the Austral's struggles for life. His heart was in the right place, and when I think of him now it fills me with the deepest emotion.

A SMALL CLOUD.

A threat on the part of nature that I might be unfitted for preaching, the chosen work of my life, led me on my return from my first visit to America to re-consider the whole question. Besides, on that journey I gathered much information and some enthusiasm on the general question of the publication of Christian literature. Over twelve months were spent in thinking, talking and planning. During this time I made myself a general nuisance in talking to every man on the question I could get to listen to me. I gathered much information, and when finally a start was made I was fully informed on all the probable difficulties which might arise. The first actual steps were taken after I had spent eleven years in thinking the matter over and waiting for the right moment to come, so that certainly no undue haste was taken.

"IN THE BEGINNING."

On the evening of February 16th, 1891, the circular reproduced on next page was posted to some seventy-five brethren in Melbourne and suburbs, and as a result forty brethren came together on the date and in the place named. Over this meeting F. G. Dunn presided, and I laid before those present my plans. My idea was to form a limited liability company to carry on the

publishing interests of the brotherhood. This first meeting expressed in a general way its approval of the scheme submitted, but at my request no definite action was taken. I very much desired that anything which might be done should be the result of careful consideration, and after all possible aspects of the case had been fully discussed. A second meeting was held on April 21st, but owing to a great storm it was adjourned to May 5th.

FIRST RESOLUTIONS.

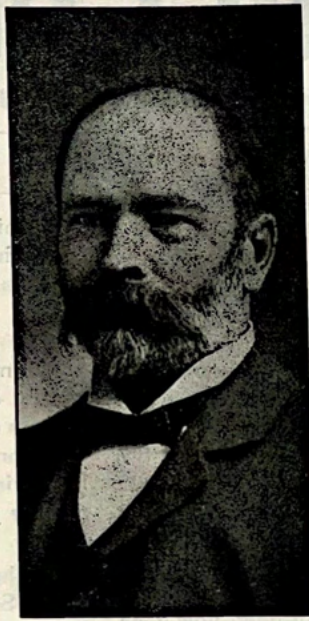
At the meeting on May 5, in the Lygon-street Schoolroom, W. C. Craigie presided. It was resolved that an effort be made to float such Company as I had named. On the suggestion of F. G. Dunn, it was decided to call the proposed Company, *The Austral Printing and Publishing Co.* The following were elected Provisional Directors: Thos. Smith, W. C. Craigie, F. G. Dunn, B. J. Kemp, Robert Lyall, James McGregor, and W. C. Thurgood, and I was appointed Secretary *pro tem.* Shortly after a prospectus was issued as a supplement to the *Standard* and *Pioneer*, and so I suppose reached nine-tenths of the brethren who would be likely to take an interest in this kind of thing. For months the fate of the enterprise trembled in the balance. From the first I did not see how the work could be successfully carried on with a smaller capital than £1500, and I hesitated to start on less. Finally, at a meeting held on November 20th, 1891, it was resolved to make a start with the stock subscribed, which finally settled down at 941 shares of one pound each. This represents the whole of the money which has ever been invested in this work.

YEARS OF STRUGGLE.

The history of the Austral Co. may some time be written; the difficulties which presented themselves during the first five years of our existence will never be fully known. I had not had the advantage of a business training, and the agony of soul caused by the financial tangle and strain can only be appreciated by those who have had the same experience. And then the difficulty of keeping in view the real objects of the Company was great. Gradually, however, the atmosphere cleared, and the sea calmed, until now it is smooth sailing compared with the first five years,



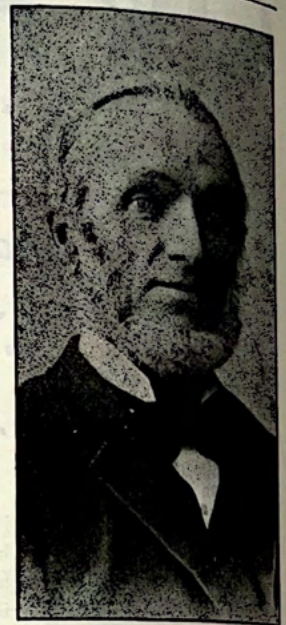
MRS. SPURR.



F. G. DUNN.



W. C. THURGOOD.



ANDREW HADDOW.

FOUR YEARS AGO.

Since the starting of the CHRISTIAN four years ago our field of usefulness has been greatly enlarged and our opportunities for doing the work originally intended have greatly increased. There is one thing for which I am now profoundly thankful; that is, that nothing we have accomplished has been the result of controversy or contention. Our victories such as they are have been those of peace. The ceasing of the two papers and the starting of the new one were by mutual consent, and with the co-operation of all concerned.

"THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN."

The starting of the new paper marked the beginning of a new era in our history, and greatly enlarged our field of usefulness. The fact that we have but one paper is not alone the secret of its success; apart from our publishing house and the present combination of interests the present paper could not be made to pay its way. Our publishing interests are combined, and thus they stand—divided they fall. The financial aspect of a single paper is not the only one. It takes a union of effort and ability to run a paper, and this we have had,

219 Station Street,
North Carlton.

February 17, 1891.

Dear Brother:

For a number of years I have been thinking of starting a Printing and Publishing Co., to be run in the interests of the Church of Christ. It seems to me that the time has now arrived to take some definite steps in the matter. I would be glad of your presence at a meeting to be held in the School Room, Lygon Street, Christian Chapel, on Friday evening next, February 20, at 8 o'clock, when I will be glad to lay my plans before you. Allow me to say, beforehand, however, that the business if started will be run on strictly business lines, and that your presence at the meeting will in no way commit you to anything which may be done.

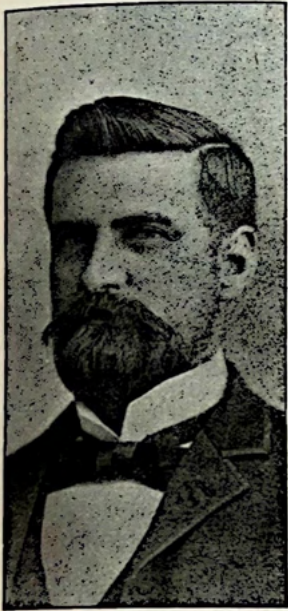
Yours truly,

A. B. MASTON.

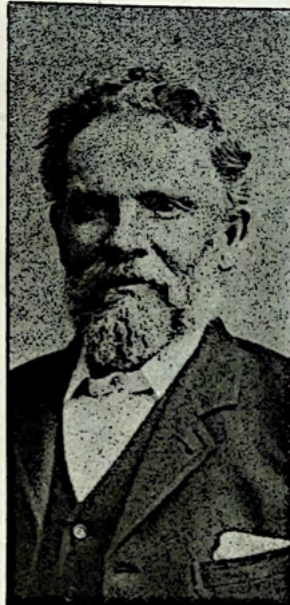
the brethren everywhere vying with each other and giving me every assistance. I have not pleased everybody, but the great rank and file of our brotherhood have testified their approval by the support which they have given the paper. I have simply acted fairly and impartially, and I have found that this course pleases most right-thinking men and women.

HEAD QUARTERS.

To say that all of my original plan has worked out would not be exactly true, but it is working out by degrees. I much desired to see a place established where the brethren of Australasia could not only get anything they wanted in the shape of our literature, but where they could get any information they desired about our churches and the cause generally, and not the least of the services rendered by the AUSTRAL has been that of a general enquiry office. The amount of work in the way of correspondence and investigation in this one direction is considerable. All the information sought has not been exactly along gospel lines, but we have never refused to give information and help when possible. One brother in a



C. W. MITCHELL.



F. JELLETT.



H. LYALL.



R. A. WRIGHT.

neighboring State was deeply anxious to get a certain breed of fowls, and while he did not know whether we were in the poultry business he thought we might help him. A two-penny stamp and five minutes' time gave him the desired information. In the course of the year hundreds of letters are received from isolated and other brethren and sisters with special religious difficulties or needs, asking perhaps for a Tract that may help them, often enclosing a few stamps or postal note to pay for same. The Tract is sent, and frequently a short letter with it, telling them to hold on and do the right. I am always glad to sell a thousand or five thousand Tracts, but I am just as pleased to send ten or twenty to some struggling brother on the back-blocks who is doing his best in God's name to preach the gospel. This, in part, is what the AUSTRAL is trying to do.

AS TO THE FUTURE.

Ten years in the history of an enterprise of this kind are not much, but give some kind of an indication of what may be done with care. One thing at least I have learned, and that is that a work of this kind cannot be unduly forced; indications must be studied and opportunities watched. This has been my policy in the past, and as far as I have any control will be in the future. The future therefore depends on circumstances. I have some plans in my mind, but am willing to wait developments. The possibilities of a work of this kind are practically boundless, and so it should gradually grow and advance with advancing years. I have great hopes for the future.

MANY THANKS.

Any success which has been achieved is

largely owing to the Directors, whose pictures and names appear on another page of this issue. From the first they have taken a real, living interest in all the affairs of the Company. Not only have they assisted with their advice, which as business and practical men has been of great assistance, but they have stood by the Company financially. Without their aid, which has been freely and cheerfully given, our work would have been greatly hampered. Personally I wish in this way to publicly thank them for what they have been to me, and for the really practical help they have rendered the Austral Co. To Bros. F. G. Dunn and D. A. Ewers for their loyal support and great help I am thankful. Without their moral support and practical help I could not have carried on the CHRISTIAN as I have. To those brethren and sisters everywhere who have helped and encouraged our work I am grateful. The willingness which brethren have shown in writing for the CHRISTIAN has been a continual pleasure to me. Our preaching brethren everywhere have loyally supported me in the work in hand. Without their constant aid and sympathy I could not have accomplished even what I have. Will they, and all others who have in any way helped me during the past ten years, accept this acknowledgment of my gratitude.

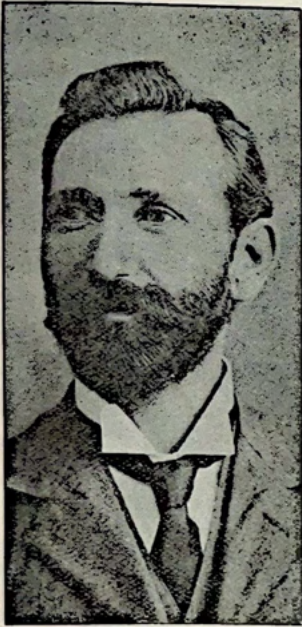
FINALLY.

I believe that when the history of the efforts of those in this country who are striving to be simply Christians comes to be written, covering the period of the past ten years, the work of the Austral Co. will occupy an important place. I am sure of

but one thing as far as my connection with the Company is concerned, and that is that I have tried to act unselfishly in the matter. I have labored under some difficulties, but my services such as they are have been given to this great work. It is now in a position with careful management and the continued co-operation and sympathy of the brotherhood to do grander and better work in the future than ever in the past. An institution of this kind is not the work of a few years, nor even of one lifetime; it is a development, a growth, and the brethren who have encouraged the work so far with their money and sympathy have been sowing for the next generation as well as for the present. This number of the CHRISTIAN is being sent out to show to some extent what ten years have accomplished, and to encourage all to greater and more faithful efforts in the future. If so much has been accomplished in one decade, what may we not expect in a generation? This great country is in its infancy, and we should see that the present generation is kept fully informed and amply provided with the very best gospel literature, and that the foundation of a publishing house is laid deep and wide which will provide for all the demands for the growth of our great country.

CHRISTMAS.

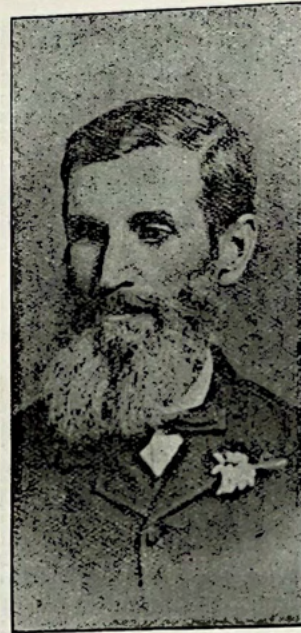
The time draws near the birth of Christ;
The moon is hid, the night is still—
A single church below the hill
Is pealing folded in the mist.
Rise, happy morn; rise, holy morn—
Draw forth the cheerful day from night;
O Father, touch the East, and light
The Light that shone when Hope was born.
—Tennyson.



R. CAMPBELL EDWARDS.



CHAS. JOHNSON.



B. HILL.



H. H. DAVIS.

WHAT OTHERS THINK.

"Can Not be Tabulated."

CONGRATULATIONS to the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. on its tenth birthday! This is now an indispensable institution. As the churches grow, they realise the value of literature. The good done by the publications of the AUSTRAL during these ten years cannot be tabulated, but neither can it be estimated. Let anyone who doubts this, try to imagine what the churches would be if the CHRISTIAN suddenly ceased to run, to say nothing of Tracts, Almanacs, Books, and miscellaneous publications. The printing is always in good taste, and up-to-date. But what would the AUSTRAL be without its brave Manager, A. B. Maston, whose organising abilities, business-like methods and tireless energy are quite remarkable, when viewed in connection with his training and gifts as a preacher, and the pathetic circumstances too well known to need mentioning. May the Lord spare to us this valued life. The least the churches can do to lessen the worries of the Manager is to be prompt in payment of subscriptions. A long and prosperous career to the AUSTRAL!

North Adelaide, S.A. PERCY PITTMAN.

"A Little Doubtful About Him."

I CONSIDER the CHRISTIAN a pronounced success. I say this the more heartily because I was, I now confess, a little uncertain when it started. I don't mean that I endorse all that appears in its pages. The only writer with whom I always agree is Bro. Ewers, and I'm a little doubtful about him at times. But I mean to say that the paper is a great improvement on its pre-

decessors, the *Pioneer* and the *Standard*. Few readers know, as I do by past experience, the amount of work and anxiety involved in bringing out a weekly paper, and the criticisms and annoyances to which an editor and publisher is subjected, and I therefore heartily congratulate our Editor on the success achieved. But apart altogether from the paper the work done by the AUSTRAL Co. more than justifies its existence. We can now obtain hundreds of thousands of Tracts at a wondrously cheap rate, and all the publications of the American brethren are within our reach. The AUSTRAL Co. must be regarded by all thoughtful disciples as one of the most potent and Christ-honoring factors in existence for moulding the thought and directing the energies of the Australasian brotherhood.

Perth, W.A.

D. A. EWERS.

"As an Hungry Man."

FOR a long time past it has been my intention to write you, and thus convey to you a knowledge of my high appreciation of the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN. Speaking for myself, I must say that to my mind it sets forth in a masterly, powerful, and scriptural way, the claims of Christ and the Apostles' doctrine according to the New Testament teaching, and treats with courtesy the anxious inquiries and different opinions of its patrons, without losing any of its prestige or forfeiting any of the fundamental principles of the truth it advocates. I also write to thank you, and congratulate you, on its improved condition of late. I look forward with pleasure to its arrival, and peruse it with as great

a relish as an hungry man does a meal. I have frequently reminded the brethren that if they want a good paper the matter rests with themselves, that if they make the thing pay by subscribing, the Editor is the right man to give us the value for our money, and I am of the same opinion still. I thank you for the many books that you have compiled and issued since the AUSTRAL has been established. I have found them very helpful in strengthening my conviction of Christianity, and deepening spiritual life. The Sunday School Leaflets issued by the AUSTRAL are greatly appreciated by the scholars. It was at my suggestion that they began to use them here. They are the right thing, and none of our schools should be without them. I will at all times, and at every opportunity, advance the claims of the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN, because I can do so with all confidence. Wishing you many happy returns of the day on having attained your tenth anniversary, and a long and prosperous career.

Invercargill, N.Z.

J. GREENHILL.

"Bottled-up Sunshine."

THE CHRISTIAN is worthy of every support from the brotherhood. In this busy age, the tongue of the paper is heard far beyond the utmost point reached by the human organ. Where one's efforts in behalf of Christ find expression in platform utterances a very limited range presents itself, and this applies even to our speakers in the front ranks. The weekly paper, however, speaks longer, and its voice is heard over the wastes of a continent. It is a far cry from Elizabeth-st., Melbourne, to



Mr. B.J. Kemp

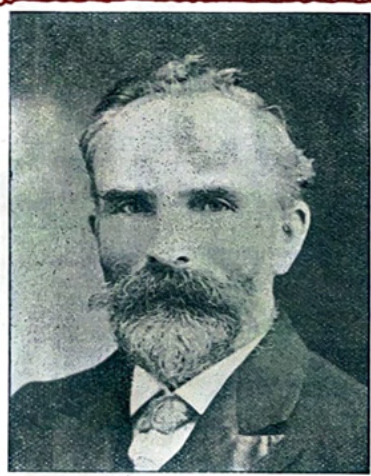


Mr. F. Gladish



Mr. C.G. Lawson

THE DIRECTORS OF



Mr. W.C. Craigie

Chairman of Directors



Mr. R. Lyall

THE AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co



Photo by G. H. Lang, Carlton.

A. B. MASTON, *Manager Austral Publishing Co.*



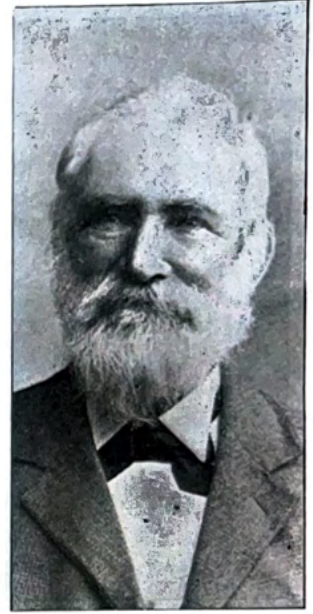
W. T. DICKENS.



F. MCCLEAN.



A. E. P. WILLIAMS.



C. A. WATT.

Western Australia, but the distance is covered, and the sound is articulated, thanks to the CHRISTIAN. Human ingenuity has learned many lessons from nature. Deep down in the bowels of the earth that resourceful and economic treasurer stored the "bottled-up sunshine," to supply the needs of future generations.

The phonograph, a child of this generation, treasures up the voices of those who pass from us, and through its instrumentality some, being dead, still speak to us. So, too, the Christian Press immortalises the flashing thoughts and heart-piercing words of God's faithful servants; it not only keeps their memories green—it sends their utterances on missions of love far, far away.

For this reason, I say, our paper should have all support, from every household. Every advantage it confers should be utilised to the uttermost; and no number containing messages to the unsaved should be robbed of its usefulness and its voice silenced by premature destruction. Every reader of the CHRISTIAN has his or her circle of friends in need of Christ, and having read the paper ourselves, it should be passed on to speak its message in other ears.

In this same connection, Mr. Editor, permit me to suggest that if any latent desire or intention exists in the direction of enlargement, space should be found in every issue for one complete gospel address. The CHRISTIAN week by week addresses the members of the church, from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific. It should in addition as regularly appeal to the unsaved over that wide area, in a definite and thoughtful address. I must close, but not without expressing my hearty congratulations for the result of ten years' labor, and praying, God bless the CHRISTIAN, God bless the Editor and staff, God bless the many readers.

Fremantle, W.A.

A. LUCRAFT.

"Fifteen Minutes of Hell."

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN in every Christian home would be a great motto for preachers and well-wishers of our great plea to set out with for next year. Carried out it would mean an increase of interest in all our church work. The value of such a paper cannot be over-estimated. It tends to destroy that narrow, local, parochial feeling which is apt to grow up in our small scattered churches. By keeping us in touch with the great needs of Christ's work IT HINDERS US FROM BECOMING SELF-CENTRED. Will Carleton, I think it is, says that to enjoy heaven a man needs to have fifteen minutes of hell. Well, just so I feel, that to properly appreciate all the assistance the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. is to us, we would need to be without it for 12 months. Every well-wisher of our plea for a restored church cannot do otherwise than pray that your work may prosper. Whether the press or the pulpit has the greatest power is a favorite theme of discussion, but whichever way it is decided, we, with such a power at our side as the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co., must be in the running.

Horsham, Vic.

A. W. CONNOR.

"About 125 Tracts are Published."

THE Printing Press is the Lord's, and for the glory of its rightful Sovereign it should be used. The promoters of the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. are to be congratulated for assisting to wrestle this power from the enemy's hands, and using it as an agency for soul-saving and God-honoring purposes.

The good work accomplished by the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. is evident to all right thinking people. Since its establishment the distinctive peculiarities of the church

of Christ have been more widely made known. The Tract List has been largely attended to. I understand that now about 125 Tracts are published; about 10 new ones being added yearly. By this means, as well as by the medium of the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN and other papers and books published, the plea with which we stand identified has been widely made known. Our representative paper just referred to is a powerful agency for good, not only in making known what we believe, but where our churches are, and what they are doing.

Our Publishing Coy. has also done good work in this connection with the American Standard Publishing Co., for through its agency many of our best American publications have been secured and disseminated, which otherwise might not have been placed within our reach. The AUSTRAL thus serves the double purpose of bringing the brethren of the Australasian States, and also of the two continents of Australia and America, into closer touch with each other.

As far as the writer can judge, the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. compares well with other printing companies. It has a well equipped and up-to-date plant and only requires the continued support of the brotherhood to ensure its future success.

Hindmarsh, S.A.

F. PITTMAN.

"Anything to Approach Them in England."

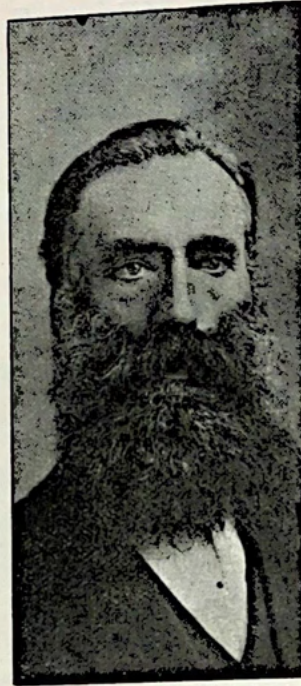
I MUST congratulate you upon your arduous and efficient labors in connection with the publication of the CHRISTIAN. Without flattery I think that you have ably edited it. I always take pleasure in perusing its pages, especially its editorial columns, which invariably contain well thought out and interesting matter calculated to provide food for all its readers. Especially have I been struck with its fidelity to the Truth, and



JAMES DEWAR.



F. A. KEMP.



THE LATE JAS. AMESS.



H. G. HARWARD.

at the same time its calm impartiality in dealing with opposing issues. I think it is a fine spirit to manifest. I admire the CHRISTIAN'S firm advocacy of the temperance movement, and I like the happy knack of interspersing with useful and sparkling stories. Taken altogether, I think that the CHRISTIAN is a paper of which the brotherhood as a whole may well feel proud, and to which all should give their support. I trust that you will go on strengthened and encouraged in the good work in which you are engaged.

I should like in closing to commend you for your Tract publications, as they are so splendidly got up. I could not find anything to approach them in England while there a short time ago.

Christchurch, N.Z.

W. CROWE.

"Fully Answered Its Purpose."

FROM the inception of the idea up to the present time, I have regarded the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. as one of the best ventures ever undertaken by the Australian brotherhood. As a vehicle for disseminating the principles with which we stand identified, it has fully answered its purpose. In my opinion, if the brethren are wise, they will give it an increasingly earnest and liberal support. A great cause must have its literature, and I know of no better means of creating and sending abroad the literature of our movement than an establishment like the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co., and a manager like A. B. MASTON.

Melbourne.

F. G. DUNN.

"Improved by Leaps and Bounds."

EVEN when compared with the leading British Christian Weeklies the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN proves itself to be

one of the best of its kind published. The quality of the paper has improved by leaps and bounds, which reflects great credit upon the management.

A copy of a recent number was shown to one of Adelaide's leading printers and publishers, and he was amazed that the churches of Christ could support such a large up-to-date journal. Strange to say, we understand that the paper supports itself. There are two things for which I am personally indebted to the CHRISTIAN. Firstly, for the leading article's tendency to keep to the old paths, and secondly, for the magnificent short poem that appears on the front page in bold type. I have been especially helped by these.

York, S.A. WM. G. LAWSON CAMPBELL.

"Under the Management of a Committee of One."

THE churches of Christ in Australasia owe an unpayable debt to the enterprise of the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. My memory does not go back to the very early days of our cause in the Colonies, my connection with the churches dating back only some eighteen years, and my knowledge of the brethren before actual association with them was very limited indeed. Though I have had nothing directly to do with the publishing enterprises of the brethren, I have some memory of past efforts. My mind goes back to the Tract Committee of the Victorian Conference, which issued a large supply, but an exceedingly limited assortment, of Tracts, but I think it can be truly said that the work of that committee never boomed. This was followed (if my memory serves me true) by the inauguration of "The Christian Sower Tract Fund," under the management of a committee of one. From this onward our Tract publishing has thrived. The C.S.T. Fund began the publication of our Annual Almanac, which continues with us

until this day, being now published by the AUSTRAL Co.

Divergence of opinion among brethren seemed for a long time to demand the publication of two magazines, each pursuing a somewhat different policy, but circulating practically in the same constituency. I always considered that with our limited constituency the existence of two periodicals was a cause of weakness in our literary and publishing efforts, and was glad when I learned that this state of things was to be ended by the *Standard* and *Pioneer* ceasing to issue, and the AUSTRAL Co. undertaking to raise from the ashes of these two the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN—a paper worthy to represent our Australian brotherhood, and possessing such diversity in unity that our so-called liberal and conservative elements would find full expression and perfect representation. It has long been our motto as a people, "In things essential, unity; in things indifferent, liberty; in all things, love." The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN, I think, illustrates this motto. May it long continue to do so!

Then the AUSTRAL publishes Books up-to-date, written by our Australian brethren. It is also the depôt for over-sea Books of value to us, but not as a rule stocked by the regular Booksellers. So one might go on dilating upon the advantages arising to us as churches by the existence in our midst of a central, up-to-date Printing and Publishing Establishment like the AUSTRAL, but time and space forbid.

Auckland, N.Z.

THOS. J. BULL.

"History is but Philosophy Teaching by Example."

IN glancing through your prospectus, submitted in last issue of the "AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN," I am certainly led to anticipate an intellectual feast of fat things during the coming year. The highly interesting and

educational character of the subjects proposed, justifies the expectation that the "A. C." for 1902 will, in itself, be a veritable library of most useful and instructive information on topics respecting the social, intellectual and spiritual requirements of our nature.

A specially gratifying feature is the promise of some articles on the subject of Christian evidence. Notwithstanding the progress of of Christian civilisation, and the many triumphs of our faith, there is still much latent and active scepticism in our land, engendered, not only by the false representations of Christianity as exhibited in the inconsistent lives of professing Christians, and by rivalry and rancour observable between various sectarian institutions; but also from the want of a more general knowledge of the invincible proofs of the verity of our ennobling religion. Bro. Morro's articles on "The Bible," and Bro. Johnston's "Proofs of God in Nature" will also prove a very important auxiliary under this head.

Another pleasing feature about your prospectus is the inclusion of some biographical sketches of some of the early reformers, and the notice to be given to the history and character of "the Restoration movement." If it be true, as the poet affirms, that

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime;
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time,

and if "history is but philosophy teaching by example," then the study of biography, and retrospection over the history of great movements intimately associated with the civil, moral and spiritual well-being of mankind, must rank amid the most profitable exercises of the mind. Especially should every disciple delight in studying the origin and progress of the great movement with which we as a brotherhood are identified. I have read with avidity and enthusiasm every piece of literature bearing on this topic that has come under my notice, and have wished, as I read, that every individual unit of our great brotherhood were engaged in the same exercise. Who can remain unmoved as they witness the heroic and self-sacrificing efforts of our immortal predecessors, in their endeavors to emancipate the human mind from the fetters imposed by human creeds and dogmatic theories, and to restore to the people of God a pure speech and an uncorrupted Christianity. To behold their mental struggles as they gradually "come to a knowledge of the truth" and conceive the design of restoring primitive Christianity to its original status, and then to see them braving the dark tempests of public opprobrium and resentment, courageously working in defiance of every ecclesiastical anathema and popish ban, hurling the thunderbolts of heaven's eternal truth into the citadels of sectarian philosophy, attacking with uncompromising vigor the foundation of every false system, disengaging the ancient gospel from the confusion and chaos of a metaphysical and scholastic theology, and anon, so thoroughly establishing the principles of the Restoration movement as to ensure their permanent and eternal prosperity—such, I say, is a study that should inspire the weakest of us with an eminent degree of confidence and courage,

enable us to rise superior to every disadvantageous circumstance, and impart a quality and aggressiveness to our movement as would command the notice of our contemporaries, and finish in the mighty triumph of our cause.

The inclusion of such matter as I have referred to will be an advance on the already good character of your paper, will make it the vehicle of much wholesome and helpful information, and should materially increase the number of your subscribers. You are deserving of the whole-hearted support of the entire Australian brotherhood. How to increase the circulation of our paper is a problem worthy of the profound consideration of the churches.

Our brethren in Youngtown, O., U.S.A., recently conceived the idea of placing the *American Christian Standard* in every Christian home in the city, and as the result of an enthusiastic canvass and systematic effort, there are now some 400 copies distributed in Youngtown every week. We can well afford to emulate something of this American progressiveness in respect to the dissemination of our literature. We must aim, not only to put our paper in every *Christian* home, but in every home of our young and rising Commonwealth. If we do not aspire to great things, how can we accomplish them? The quality and quantity of literature contemplated in your Prospectus, is certainly deserving of universal diffusion.

Bream Creek, Tas. C. M. GORDON.

"Great Blessing to Isolated Members."

IN our work in the Home Mission Field, I find the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. and the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN of great assistance, and I consider that their influence for good is greater than that of any two men in the Home Mission Field. The AUSTRAL COV. enables us to put good, pure, instructive books into the hands of our young converts, at a very low price. And I think that every church should have a good supply of such works as "Pure Gold," "Truth in Love," "Elements of the Gospel," "First Principles," and "On the Rock," to lend to any who may become interested in our plea for the restoration of primitive Christianity. The CHRISTIAN is a powerful factor for good and is eagerly looked for and read by all the subscribers in our district. It is a first-class paper, and has very much improved during the past year. Many of the articles that appear in its pages are honestly worth the subscription to the paper for the whole year, and I am sure that "our paper" will compare favorably with any religious weekly published in Australia. The amount of work that the CHRISTIAN does in swelling the contributions for Home and Foreign Missions will never be fully known, but I am sure that reading the special appeals made in its pages causes many a one to send their hand deeper into their pocket when the collection box comes round. Again, the CHRISTIAN is a great blessing to isolated members. While they are separated from the churches, and from fellowship with other Christians, by taking the paper they can keep in touch with the

work and learn how the churches are getting along. We wish the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. every success, and trust that the success achieved by it in the past may stir the brethren up to do all they can to help on this great work in the future.

Kaniva.

H. LENG.

"Braved the Battle and the Breeze."

PERMIT me to congratulate you on having reached the 10th mile post in your commercial life, and I do most heartily wish you many returns of this, your anniversary year. That the AUSTRAL has been, and still is, a decided gain to the Australian brotherhood is putting it mildly, and in the absence of a handsomely endowed College, and other agencies possessed by the large and wealthy bodies around us, we can point with pleasure and pardonable pride to the AUSTRAL as "Our" Publishing House. I trust that one of the immediate results of your special effort to commemorate the fact of having "Braved the Battle and the Breeze" for 10 eventful and useful years, will be undoubted evidences of helpfulness and appreciation on the part of the brethren you so faithfully and persistently strive to serve.

Personally, I do not think that we fully value your excellent paper, THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN. Its goodness is still more manifest when viewed in the light of its subscription list. I have no hesitancy in saying that with more sympathy, and practical assistance from the brethren, your usefulness will be greatly enhanced in the future. With every good wish, and promise of what little I can do.

Mataura, N.Z.

J. J. FRANKLYN.

"Worthy of All Praise."

I AM pleased to add my testimony to the good work done by the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. As a people we are fortunate in having a publication house of our own. It enables us to bring our literature under the notice of the people in a way we could not otherwise do. All who know anything about the power of the pen, will realise the value of the publications issued at the office from time to time. The various Tracts Pamphlets, etc., have frequently demonstrated their usefulness as aids to the evangelistic work.

The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN is worthy of all praise. Your constant endeavors to improve it have not been in vain. It would be a good thing for the churches generally, if the popular American agitation—a paper in every home—could be realised here. The CHRISTIAN is also useful for general distribution. The manner in which the great questions of the day, such as "Christian Union," and "The Baptismal Controversy" are dealt with, cannot fail to command attention, and do a vast amount of good. In travelling over large tracts of country, I have some opportunity of learning the value set upon the paper by the country brethren. Its weekly advent is eagerly looked for, and its reading apparently forms one of the regular pleasures of existence.

Echuca, Vic.

T. H. SCAMBLER.

"I Rejoice that we have such an Institution."

THE establishing of a Publishing House in connection with the brotherhood, for the issue of our special literature, marks an epoch in our history, and has no doubt resulted in much good during the ten years of its existence, by the thousands of tracts that have been published, the excellent volumes that have been issued, and the facilities afforded of obtaining, through your agency, any books published by our brethren, or by any other establishment.

There is no doubt the press has become a power in the world, either for the dissemination of good and elevating literature, or the spread of that which is evil. I rejoice that we have such an institution in connection with the current Restoration as the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co., and my sincere wish is, that such wise judgment may always guide its affairs, as to make it a truly mighty power for good in the circulation of pure literature, the opposing error, and the exhibition of the doctrines and exalted teachings of the glorious gospel of the Son of God.

North Fitzroy. M. WOOD GREEN.

"An Absolute Necessity."

WHEN OUR Saviour ere he left the world gave to his beloved apostles the great commission, he told them what they were to preach, and where they were to go in order to preach it, but the manner of that proclamation was left to themselves. There was divine wisdom in this. Our Lord knew that there would be changes in the condition of the world, and although his truth was to be always the same—never changing—yet his disciples must proclaim those truths in accordance with the ever changing conditions by which they should be surrounded. Thus we see that in after ages the onward march of civilisation ever brought with it fresh methods, new inventions, which have all been used toward the fulfilment of the commission of Jesus Christ.

Perhaps the invention of the printing press has been the most useful agency which the intelligence of man has supplied in the dissemination of truth. Ever since the first printed Bible was published in 1516 its beneficial influence has been felt, so that to-day it stands as perhaps the greatest human agency in the spread of the gospel throughout the world. Its power has been clearly manifested in connection with the Reformation movement with which we are associated. From its very inception the plea for the restoration to primitive Christianity has been freely circulated through the agency of the press. It is to be regretted, however, that not only truth but error has been circulated freely, so that it will be evident to every right thinking person that the circulation of the truth through means of the press is in these days of false teaching and of error an absolute necessity.

It was to supply this great need that the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. was established, and its influence in the spread of truth and in contending for the faith once for all delivered to the saints must be a cause of sincere gratitude. In the publication of the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN it has supplied a great need—a paper which is of the greatest help to God's people, to bring light to those who are not his. It has a twofold object, to seek for the unity of the church of Christ upon New Testament lines, and to strive to lead those away from Christ to take the Bible as their only guide of faith and practice. The publications of the AUSTRAL Co. have likewise supplied a great need—books that present in a simple and clear manner the gospel plan of salvation as revealed in the word of God.

For what has been accomplished we cannot but be thankful to our heavenly Father, and strive to make the future even better than the past. The AUSTRAL Co. needs the co-operation of all. It is our business; let us see that it is a success. The future is before us. If it is to be crowned with success we must fully realise our own responsibility in publishing abroad the gospel of Jesus Christ not only by words but through the powerful agency of the Press. Let us be alive to this great necessity. Let us all help the AUSTRAL Co. in the accomplishment of its noble purposes. If we believe we are right—if we have confidence in our great plea—if we want to see the truth prevail—let us strive through this and every other helpful means to hasten the time when the knowledge of God shall cover the earth even as the waters cover the great deep.

Milang, S.A. J. E. THOMAS.

"The S.S. Leaflets are a Great Boon."

IT gives me very great pleasure to bear testimony to the splendid work done by the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. since its inauguration ten years ago. It has gone on steadily increasing in usefulness and power. All through there has been a continual development of new features supplying long felt wants. The S.S. Leaflets are a great boon to our Sunday Schools, and are already bearing good fruit as regards scriptural teaching. The Tract Department has now reached a very high state of perfection, representing as it does such a large and varied assortment of well-written Tracts presenting the truth from almost every conceivable standpoint; whilst the excellent paper, the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN, is doing splendid service, and thoroughly representing the brotherhood and its principles, and is of high literary merit. In all its departments I consider the AUSTRAL a grand success, a great boon to our brotherhood, and a great power in presenting our plea. I have therefore much pleasure, on behalf of the Wellington brethren, as well as on my own behalf, in thus testifying and wishing the Company and its devoted Manager every success and prosperity in the future.

Wellington, N.Z. D. M. McCrackett.

"Have Read Some Very Silly Things."

FROM about July 1886, I have been a constant reader of the *Pioneer* and the *Standard* and "THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN," and it affords me much pleasure to

state that I owe more than I can tell to those papers. I was one of those who advocated the amalgamation, and although I was sorry to see two old favourites disappear, yet I felt that an amalgamation would be for the good of the cause, spiritually, intellectually and financially, and I was pleased at the announcement that the "CHRISTIAN" would be conducted on business lines. I think that we as disciples of Christ were alive to the importance of our position, the paper would have doubled its size and subscribers long ere this.

It would be too much to say that I have been always pleased at everything I have read in its pages. I have read some very silly things in the CHRISTIAN, and often wondered wherever the cranks came from.

On the other hand some of the finest articles I have ever read have appeared in the CHRISTIAN.

I feel also compelled to say a word for the other portion of the AUSTRAL Co. The get up of the paper has been highly spoken of by men who ought to know. The printing of our leaflets for the school, tickets, tracts, and in every department the work has been to our entire satisfaction.

Maryborough, Q.

S. O'BRIEN.

"As She Would for a Love Letter."

I MOST heartily appreciate the CHRISTIAN, and believe it has an educational influence on the brotherhood, and is a successful means of spreading New Testament doctrine wherever it is received and read. I heard one sister say she looks for it as she would for a love letter. My opinion is that those who take the CHRISTIAN become strengthened by it. I think it gives us a more keen interest in the cause by telling, as nothing else could, of the success of our plea and the salvation of souls. You are doing a most difficult work well, and have the sympathy of the brotherhood. Those who complain usually are a small minority who have nothing else to do. May God bless you in your noble work; it will live after you have passed away.

Geelong.

G. H. BROWNE.

"Very Free from Fads."

I WONDER if the brethren realise the immense amount of work undertaken by Bro. Maston in the field which is his own—that is, the great labor involved in preparing, editing, and printing some millions of Tracts, which for matter and their neat appearance cannot be excelled. Long before the AUSTRAL Co. started I can remember Bro. Maston busy at this work. Our Editor is very free from fads, so it was not to air these that the work was undertaken, but simply to carry the message of truth and life to all by these silent messengers, to those who could not perhaps be reached otherwise. Often I am asked if I know how a certain person came to join the church of Christ, and am told that they came to know the truth through the Tracts. Abundant testimony can be given to this fact by the brotherhood, and with the present facilities I am sure the work is still growing, and likely to increase,

and to be of lasting good to the church. I look upon it as the most enduring work a Christian can be engaged in, and all is done so quietly, although much is accomplished. It is often discussed as to whether the pulpit or the press is the most powerful for good. It can be truly said that the press supplies a need of the present day, and can enter into the homes and places where the people meet, who likely may not go within hearing of the preacher. Therefore, the earnest endeavor to make known, through the medium of the press, the "unsearchable riches of Christ," and to confirm and build up Christians in the faith, is worthy of all commendation, and are we going to assist and encourage in this glorious work? There is one way at least in which all can help. We have one paper, the CHRISTIAN. Now, if all the brotherhood would only resolve that its circulation should be doubled, so that it would be practically found in every Christian home, I am sure Bro. Maston would be much cheered, and urged on even to greater efforts, as he would then have a much larger field, and the church would reap a rich harvest of spiritual blessings. What is it to be? Are we resolved to make the CHRISTIAN a power in the Commonwealth; each promising, God helping us, to do so, then:—

"Cast your bread upon the waters, far and wide your treasure strew,
Scatter it with willing fingers, shout for joy to see it go;

You may think it lost forever; but, as sure as God is true,

In this life and in the other it will yet return to you."
Melbourne. J. A. DAVIES.

"Outspoken and Conclusive."

I HAVE been a constant reader of the CHRISTIAN, and I have always found it a pleasure to peruse its pages, as I have always been able to find some item of interest and profit. Its Leaders have been moderate, yet outspoken and conclusive, which is a great help to those living in the country districts and who are unable to procure our works on the subject of our plea. The news "from the field" has at all times been cheering, and accounts of successes in one part of the vineyard are an incentive to fresh exertion by the workers in another; and your "correspondence" column has always been open for the legitimate discussion of important subjects bearing on the teachings of the word of God.

BALAKLAVA, S.A. J. SELWOOD.

"Certainly a Most Elaborate One."

NOTICE that you have nearly attained your tenth birthday. Will you permit me to compliment you on the progress made during those ten years. The prospectus of the CHRISTIAN for the incoming year is certainly a most elaborate one, and for variety would be difficult to excel, and the names given as future contributors should certainly be a guarantee of elevated thought, sound exposition, and practical teaching, without the dogmatism that stirs up strife, yet never fails to give light on scripture truths.

Nelson, N.Z. W. T. CLAPHAM.

"Almost a New Paper."

The arrival of the church paper is to me one of the events of the week, and I presume it is the same with all who read the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN.

I would like to bear testimony to the pleasure with which I have watched the various and many improvements made since the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. has had charge of the church paper.

The introduction of new columns, illustrations and useful information during the past four years, has brought into being almost a new paper, which in the matter of its contents and style of its whole turnout is quite equal, and is some respects superior to the church weeklies of America.

For the dissemination of our church literature the AUSTRAL is to be congratulated, and there is no doubt that the headway the cause of Christ has made in Victoria, has been in a large degree due to the existence of such an institution as the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING COMPANY. May it long continue.

Fitzroy.

T. J. COOK.

"Immediate Heaven in Obituaries."

I THINK I can safely say we have read the church papers, with much interest, close on thirty years, and at no time do we remember them being of such all-round value and interest as at present. To be without, would mean a serious blank in our churches, besides the loss of good reading matter for the outside. We have heard some complain about the outside advertisements, some, about "immediate heaven" in Obituaries. I say the Editor is not responsible for the latter, and if they would spend as much time and talent in trying to convert sinners to Christ, they would, doubtless, learn to trust him for their everlasting future.

Wanganui, N.Z. ELIZABETH WILSON.

"Two Men were Standing on a Railway Platform."

I WOULD like to record my hearty appreciation of the good work done by the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. during its ten years' life. It has justified its existence many times over, and has done excellent service in the cause of Christ. To disciples of Christ who are strangers to each other the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. on a letter or one of our publications is an introduction always. Some years ago two men were standing on a railway platform, and in the hand of one of them was the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN sent from the AUSTRAL OFFICE. The other man approached him, and a few words revealed the fact that they were brethren. As the result of that recognition the gospel has been preached there and there flourishes a church of Christ. I confess a liking to the idea of having a Publishing House of our own. It is a guarantee that our interests will be looked after, and pushed in every legitimate way.

Wedderburn.

E. GRIFFITHS.

"Cases that have Come Under My Own Notice."

THE power of the press can hardly be over estimated, and when we remember the tens of thousands of tracts, pamphlets and books, issued by the AUSTRAL from the AUSTRAL OFFICE, the good that has been accomplished simply cannot be told. Had I space I could testify of cases that have come under my notice, in which good has been done through the AUSTRAL publications. Our church paper, the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN, is a credit to the Company, a considerable help in the work, and a welcome weekly visitor to my home. We could not do without our paper. Personally I thank the brethren in this Company for what they have done, and wish them the joy of spending many more years of usefulness in the cause of our Redeemer. The Company is deserving of the support of the entire brotherhood.

North Richmond. THOS. HAGGER.

"A Felt Need has been Met."

THE AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. which has now been in existence ten years, has done a splendid work. Brethren connected with our churches in all the States, say for 20 years, can testify that a felt need has been met by the Company.

The thousands upon thousands of Tracts that have been issued and scattered broadcast, as well as booklets, and volumes of more portentous character, with the regular and nicely gotten up weekly issue of the CHRISTIAN, make us feel that it has done and is doing an invaluable and indispensable work. May it still continue to prosper, and minister still spiritual prosperity to the brotherhood.

Glenelg, S.A.

J. COLBOURNE.

"Anywhere in the World."

ALLOW me to congratulate the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING COMPANY on the success attained. Ten years ago we had two papers only fairly supported, now we have one paper well supported, having more subscribers than those of the other two put together, and it is paying its way. This alone has been worth the effort. But when we think of the number of Tracts and Books, containing original matter, that have been published in good style, and at a low price, it seems to me that the whole brotherhood should not only feel proud of our PUBLISHING COMPANY, but that we ought to rise as one man and swear allegiance and support to the AUSTRAL. Compare the book, "Visions of the Christ," with any of the books published by any Religious Publishing House in Australasia, and I am sure we shall feel proud of the success we have achieved. Compare our Sunday School Leaflets with the Leaflets published ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, and we are not a whit behind the very foremost.

These things done in the past, coupled with the work contemplated in the future, should make us have a spirit of deep thankfulness and lead us to pray that God will bless every effort being put forth by the AUSTRAL for the furtherance of his kingdom.

Doncaster.

F. W. GREENWOOD.

THE Australian Christian.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

At 528 Elizabeth St., Melbourne.

A. B. MASTON Managing Editor.

INCREASE OF PRICE.

Up to the present time the **CHRISTIAN** has been paying its way at the very low price of 5/-, but there has been nothing to spare. Owing, however, to the advance in wages, the price of paper and ink, and in almost everything going to make a periodical, we have concluded, after very careful consideration, to increase the price to 6/-. The conditions of the printing trade in Melbourne have completely changed during the past few months, so that it was a question of reducing the size and character of the paper or slightly increasing the price. We desire to go forward, and believe that most of our readers are in sympathy with us in this matter, and that they will not object to helping us to the extent of **ONE PENNY PER MONTH**. We ask our friends to remember that this is not a question of increased profit, but an increase in the cost of production over which we have no control and that can not be met in any other way. We sincerely trust that none of our present subscribers will leave us, and that they will do all in their power to assist us in the future as in the past. The price of the **CHRISTIAN** for 1902 will be 6/-, posted under same conditions as last year, while the single weekly subscription will remain the same—7/-. New postal regulations in the Commonwealth are pending, but these will be announced in due time.

The Leader.

Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths.—Jeremiah 6: 16.

A Decade of Publishing.

The present issue of the **CHRISTIAN** is intended to celebrate the tenth birthday of the **AUSTRAL PUBLISHING CO.** From this it will be gathered that the existence of that institution for that number of years is regarded as a fact of more than ordinary importance. Well, so it is, and not without reason. The inauguration of the Company was in itself a very important step in the history of the churches of Christ in Australasia, but its successful and useful career during the past decade affords sufficient proof that its value was not overestimated. It is one thing to conceive an important idea; it is quite another to bring that idea

into practical operation and make it serve the purpose for which it was originally intended. Fortunately, in the present case the theoretical conception of a great idea has been carried out with the best results. Of course, it is not meant by the expression "great idea" that the **AUSTRAL PUBLISHING CO.** has assumed very large proportions as a trading concern—that, indeed, was not the primary object of its being called into being. A trading concern having for its object the mere making of money was not an idea that found any favor in the minds of those who assisted in giving it a start. Naturally it was desired and expected that it would be a self-supporting institution, and it was hoped that it would be sufficiently successful from a financial standpoint as to allow of its operations being expanded. Taking into account the amount of capital subscribed—something under a thousand pounds—it may be said to have done wonderfully well, even from a financial standpoint. Those who know anything about the business of printing and publishing know very well that a thousand pounds is a capital that does not allow of very extensive business operations. That amount of money, even if all of it were invested in machinery and type, means a very limited output. And the fact that the Manager and Directors have always managed to show a small annual profit speaks very well for the way in which the concern has been conducted. Certainly it seems to us that the Manager and Directors could make very profitable use of more capital than they have, which if obtained would enable them to carry out more largely and successfully the main object for which the Company was started.

Leaving out of view the financial aspect of the question, we may now consider what important function the **AUSTRAL CO.** fills in regard to the work which the churches of Christ in Australasia have in hand. First of all it is necessary to have before us the position and aims of these churches, so that we can better understand in what sense a publishing company can be a useful auxiliary. These churches, it may be said, have a clear and distinct propaganda to place before the community. What this propaganda is, is not clearly understood, and may even be said not to be known by the great body of the people in Australasia. It involves issues which we believe to be of vital importance to the well-being of the religious community. It is so far-reaching in its effects that we frequently speak of it as a Reformation or Restoration. If it is really all this, and we believe it is, it must be very evident that no legitimate agency for its propagation can be neglected. It is very little use our using

high-sounding words, if we are not attempting deeds that bear some resemblance to them. If we have a Reformation in hand we must not speak and act as if we were dealing with some trivial matter, but must manifest the true spirit of reformers, and dare all things to gain the desired end. As reformers ourselves we study the history of previous Reformations, and find that standing side by side with the living voice is the printing press—the two mightiest forces the world knows of in making known the truth and in effecting permanent reforms. In the great Protestant Reformation these two had their representatives in Luther on the one hand and Erasmus and Melancthon on the other. The first of these shook the world with his voice, but a world that had been largely prepared to hear that voice by the printed pages sent out by the latter. The writings of Erasmus were in many points precursors to the Reformation, while those of Melancthon helped and gave completeness to the work of Luther. Thus the voice in man and the pen in the printed page awakened forces which broke against superstition and brought it heavily to the ground. And if we in our day expect our plea for Christianity as it was at the first to succeed, we must not only use the living voice but the printed page as well, and both to a much larger extent than we have previously done. We urge just now for wider and more liberal use of the press, so that this great agency for the preparation of the reception of the truth may exert its influence to the greatest possible extent.

How far the **AUSTRAL PUBLISHING CO.** has assisted in the work of the present Reformation no man can tell. That in the various publications which it has sent forth it has done a great work, goes without saying. That work cannot be estimated by tabulated results. Evidences of present good accomplished have been borne witness to times without number, but who can tell of the preparatory work which has been done, and is now being done, by the thousands of publications concerning New Testament truth which have been scattered throughout the land?—publications which without the aid of the **AUSTRAL COMPANY** would only have gone out in tens instead of thousands. Take up the neatly printed list of Books and Tracts issued by the Company, and let it speak for itself. Under what other circumstances could a valuable little book like "On the Rock," with its 194 pages of closely printed matter, be sold for 6d., and 14,000 copies be published and distributed? Or those other books, "The Gospel Preacher," "Pure Gold," "Truth in Love," "Elements of the Gospel," etc.? Is it not safe to say

that the majority of these would not have seen the light in this country, or if they had it would have been under conditions that would have made their circulation extremely limited? We have before us just now the "Life of Alexander Campbell," by Grafton, one of the later productions of the AUSTRAL COMPANY. It is neatly bound in cloth and illustrated, and is sold at 1/6. It is really a fine specimen of the printers' art, but what is more to the purpose, it is a valuable condensed account of the early struggles and triumphs of the present Reformation. We mention it here especially because we can cordially recommend it as an appropriate book to present to young converts—and old ones too for that matter. It also affords an example of the benefits conferred by the AUSTRAL COMPANY, that such a book should be obtained for 1/6 when the American edition is one dollar. Perhaps the best work done by the AUSTRAL COMPANY was the placing of our periodical literature on a satisfactory financial basis. The chequered histories of the *Standard* and *Pioneer*, with their constant appeals for monetary assistance, were anything but pleasant reading. The combination of these two journals under the CHRISTIAN was certainly a move in the right direction, and to a large extent was the salvation of our periodical literature. Besides being a really good object-lesson in unity, the result has been satisfactory in the production of a weekly journal of such a character as would not have been possible under other circumstances.

Many other things might easily be said in praise of the good work done by the AUSTRAL Co., but enough has been said to indicate its value and importance as an auxiliary to the work in which the churches of Christ are engaged. Its inauguration certainly was an important event in the history of the disciples. Its continued and successful progress will be an indication that the movement with which we are identified is on the upgrade. It is therefore an institution which is worthy of the hearty support of the entire brotherhood. To a large extent it is essential to our well-being as a community, and to our taking any prominent position in the religious world. A great movement requires a great literature, and before a great literature can come into existence it must have the means of developing itself. The beginnings of literature require to be fostered and encouraged, and these are functions that a publishing house of our own can discharge in an eminently satisfactory way. May the next decade of our history be abundantly fruitful in the production and distribution of our literature, and commensurate with this the progress and development of the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Editorial Notes.

In fundamentals, Unity; in incidentals, Liberty;
in all things, Love.

Good News from Japan.

Japan missionaries are rejoicing over an extraordinary revival in that country. For the last few years the progress has been somewhat slow. A special *kiobashi-ku* mission commencing on May 12 lasted 50 days, and over 5000 gave in their names as desirous of becoming Christians. The C.M.S. *Japan Quarterly* says that this mission "started a wave of evangelistic work all over the country, the like of which has never been seen in Japan before, and which we believe God will use to gather in tens of thousands into his church and kingdom." E. S. Booth, missionary of Yokohama, writes: "Wonderful things are being done daily. Missionaries meet one another and say, It is wonderful, wonderful; I cannot understand it. Thank God we don't have to understand it. Our eyes have seen and our ears have heard; and the things we have seen and heard we bear witness to. God the Holy Ghost is moving upon the hearts of the Japanese in a marvellous way. The oldest missionaries have never seen anything like it in the history of Protestant missions in this country." For many years the missionaries have been at work, much of which was not calculated to produce immediate results. But the sapping and the mining are now beginning to tell, and it would appear that the strong ancient walls of heathenism are at last commencing to totter. It may be that the evangelisation of Japan is nearer than the most sanguine have hitherto thought possible.

Christianity Still Advancing.

Is Christianity advancing? It certainly is in heathen countries, but how about the home lands? The *Courier Journal*, of Louisville, has been compiling statistics of religious progress. "The growth of the population of the United States in one hundred years was about thirteen-fold, but the church membership has increased almost four times as fast as the rapidly growing population." It is not difficult to ascertain the number of church members, but we cannot calculate growth in spiritual life. "Yet, there are certain considerations which will throw much light upon the matter. The figures tell a wonderful story of development in missions, education, and benevolence. A hundred years ago a half-million dollars would probably cover everything raised for these purposes. Now the churches of America spend annually over twenty-eight millions on hospitals, orphanages, and other benevolence; five and a half millions for foreign missions, and an equal or greater sum for home missions." The following is a summary of expenditure of American churches:—"Maintenance of all churches, \$137,563,200; education and literature, \$32,728,000; hospitals and orphanages, \$28,300,000; improvements and missions, \$42,000,000; miscellaneous, \$45,466,100." Total, \$287,057,300 (£57,411,460). According to the same papers, "the annual expenditure for the churches and benevolent work of the world is estimated at \$1,009,369,494" (£201,873,898). A yearly expenditure of

over two hundred million pounds sterling really looks as though Christianity was still advancing. The *Outlook* well says:—"Is not this an eloquent expression of Christian faith and service?"

Our Home Missions.

While we rejoice to know that Christianity in the home lands is developing a spirit of liberality among the denominations generally—a presumptive evidence that the teaching of Christ is gaining ground—yet there is much room for growth. The pure religion of Christ is largely obscured by the traditions of men. Those known as Christians only, and among whom this paper circulates, believe they are nearer the primitive position than others, and that they have a mission to present the ancient gospel, unadulterated with human philosophies, speculations, and accretions, for the acceptance of this world. This being so, it follows that if they realise their responsibilities they will contribute largely for the extension of the truth. In fact, we cannot consistently claim to occupy the New Testament platform unless we are noted for our missionary zeal and self-denial. The primitive Christians were alive to their privileges in this direction. Home missionary work is no less important than foreign. It is significant that it occupied the premier position in the commission of the Saviour. His disciples were to go into all the world, but were to begin at Jerusalem—at home—and then to extend to Judæa, and on through Samaria to the ends of the earth. Our home land has the first claim on our sympathies and our purses. On the first Lord's day in January a contribution for Home Missions will be taken up in a number of our churches. The response to the appeal of the Committees should be enthusiastic and substantial. It should indicate that we have imbibed the spirit of the early church and are earnest in the matter. If the disciples of Christ are to become a powerful people in the future history of our growing Commonwealth they must labor and give now. Congregationalists and Episcopalians gained a footing in the United States before the Baptists and Methodists. But the latter bodies were more aggressive from the very first, and the result is that they number four or five millions of communicants each, while neither of the former has three-quarters of a million. If we are an aggressively missionary people we must rapidly grow. This was the secret of success in apostolic days, and any plea for primitive Christianity which ignores or neglects the cultivation of missionary zeal is essentially defective, and must end in failure. But we have not so learned Christ.

✠ ✠ The Literature of the ✠ ✠ Reformation.

F. G. DUNN.

Almost anything that appears in print in the way of reading matter, is regarded by many people as coming under the head of literature. Literary critics, however, do not share this view, but are extremely conservative in regard to what they would admit as worthy of being thus described. The discussion of this question, though of interest to the few, is not likely to be attractive to

the many, and the settlement of the question may safely be left in the hands of those who feel themselves competent to speak with authority. Individually, I am quite content to accept Carlyle's definition, and say that "Literature is the thought of thinking souls." This definition has the merit of appropriately expressing what I mean by the Literature of the Reformation. It is the thought of the most gifted of our brethren transferred to the printed page—what they have thought about the Bible and its teaching, and their desire to see the truth as it is in Jesus reproduced in all fidelity in the teaching and practice of our own day. And surely one of the marks of pure literature is fidelity to truth. Alike in literature and art we demand this. Even fiction itself must have its foundations in truth, or it is rejected as worthless. And what is there in the realm of thought higher than the religion of Jesus Christ, and about which the demand is more imperious that the truth and nothing but the truth shall be spoken and written? Of what value is beauty of style and elegance of diction if the truth be wanting? Renan's *Life of Jesus* is fascinating in its way, but it can never take a front place in literature because of the element of falseness that pervades it. The standpoint of men must be high when they treat of lofty things—Renan never got high enough or near enough to the truth to save him from writing of Jesus as a hero of a French romance. And if our writers have made it their supreme aim to express the truth they have at least succeeded in observing one of the cardinal principles of pure literature.

There can be little doubt that our writers have had before them a very high ideal, and that, to a very large extent, they have realised it. This ideal was to present to the public a more perfect picture of New Testament Christianity than could, as a rule, be found in existing religious literature. To do this, they proposed to take as their model the culmination of religious thought as expressed in the teaching of Jesus Christ. The New Testament, as containing this teaching, they regarded as the supreme book of all the ages, and, therefore, the source of their inspiration and the final and authoritative expression of religious truth. No other book was allowed to stand on the same level, no matter how well it might be accredited by ecclesiastical authority. Other religious literature might have its value, but its value was estimated by its approximation to the divine standard. In this respect the work done by our literature may be regarded as of primary importance, for it is no small thing to have assisted in causing the current of religious thought to run in proper channels. Into what strange and mysterious channels religious thought has wandered is easily ascertainable from the countless theological works of the past, whose numerical strength was only matched by their diversity of teaching. To effect a change here, and bring back a better state of things, has been the aim and is the work attempted by the literature of the Reformation. If exception should be taken to the use of the word Reformation in connection with the work of the disciples of Christ, it should be remembered that no other religious community has adopted the same propaganda,

and that the needed reforms, which they advocated nearly a century ago, and which they insisted were essential to a restoration of Christianity as it was at the first, are only now being slowly and reluctantly admitted as necessary—theoretically, at any rate.

The birthplace of this literature is America, and here it has flourished to quite a remarkable extent. In other lands where primitive Christianity has found a home there is no literature of any consequence. In Great Britain, where more might have been expected, the development of the literary spirit has been to a large extent neglected. The only works of note that I can recall are Milner's "Messiah's Ministry" and Rotherham's "New Testament Literally Translated." How far the *Christian Commonwealth*—a weekly religious newspaper projected by Bren. Coop and Moore—has realised the purpose intended we are unable to say. As far as practical results are concerned, it does not appear to have materially assisted in helping on the movement in Great Britain. The *Bible Advocate*, a less pretentious journal, has been more useful in this direction, for the reason that it occupies more distinctive ground. In Australasia the condition of things has been against the creation of a body of literature. Such efforts as have been made have found expression in journalistic attempts of which the *CHRISTIAN* is the outcome. In other directions it has been found necessary to depend upon America for supplies. And the supply from this quarter has been abundant and of good quality. It would take up too much space to review the American Literature of the Reformation, but a glance at the catalogue of one of the leading Publishing Houses would show that there has been a great deal of literary activity in that country in connection with the production of Christian Literature. In biography, there stands out most conspicuously Richardson's *Memoirs of Alexander Campbell*, of which no higher praise can be given than that it does justice to the subject of which it treats. As makers of Commentaries our American authors have achieved considerable success, notably so in McGarvey's *Commentary on the Acts*, which is a production that will compare favorably with many other more widely known Commentaries of the older world. In devotional literature, there could be nothing finer than Errett's *Evenings with the Bible*. Taken all together it may be said that the literature of the movement in America has been worthy of the cause with which it is identified, and to it that movement owes much of its success.

A potent factor in the development of literature is a high standard of education with the necessary facilities for obtaining it. Whatever eminence our American brethren have reached in the walks of literature has been due to their educational enthusiasm. And in this Commonwealth, if any great work is to be done in the production of a high class of literature, it must be through fostering and encouraging the educational idea. The educational attempts made so far have only been spasmodic and immature, and have never risen to the dignity of the thing. Some day, and that soon, it is to be hoped, we will take hold of this question and deal with it in the spirit which it demands and deserves.

Christmas in Funny Land.

The Funny Land chimneys are all
So large and exceedingly tall,
That Santa Claus shook
In his boots when he took
A look at the distance to fall.
So he altered his plan
Like a wise little man,
And didn't climb chimneys at all.
But in doors of every degree
He planted a curious tree;
And now every year,
When Christmas is near,
The fruit is a wonder to see.
There are dollies, and trolleys, and rows
Of silky and satiny clothes;
And candles, and strings
Of tinsel, and rings
For the fingers, and bells for the toes.
There are serpents, and sugary hearts,
And soldiers, and crim-on-tarts,
While bicycles grow
On the branches below,
With waggons and wobbly carts.
There are ducks that you squeeze and they squawk,
And green polly parrots that talk,
And filberts and figs,
And cotton pigs
That you pull by a string and they walk.
On the Christmas Eve children go out
To the Santa Claus tree with a shout,
And put baskets below
Where the very things grow
That they couldn't be happy without.
Then Santa Claus comes in the night,
When there isn't a person in sight,
And chuckles with glee
As he climbs every tree
And shakes it with all of his might.
Things rattle, and rustle, and flop,
And loosen, and tumble and drop,
Till the children awake
With the noise that they make,
And the baskets are full to the top.
Just think of the wide-open eyes
Of children awaiting surprise;
They tumble, and twist,
And sit up, and insist
That the sun has forgotten to rise.
Then all when the windows are grey
Run out in their bedtime array,
And the frolic begins;
They would like to be twins,
To double the joys of the day.

—ALBERT W. SMITH.

South Australian Home Missions.

ANNUAL COLLECTION,
January 5th, 1902.

Evangelists and Evangelisation.

WM. G. LAWSON CAMPBELL.

"Do the work of an evangelist, fulfil thy ministry."
2 Tim. 4: 5.

THE duty of an evangelist, or proclaimer of good news, is of a very varying character. It is the purpose of this paper to give expression to only a few of the many thoughts which present themselves in connection with this extensive subject.

The work of the church of God is found to be of a two-fold nature: (1) To make disciples; (2) to teach those disciples all things



♥ ♥ ♥ SOME OF OUR OWN PUBLICATIONS. ♥ ♥ ♥

commanded by Jesus. It is generally understood, in the light of God's word, to be the evangelist's work to make disciples, and this we feel to be right.

It is generally understood to be the duty of the church, and particularly of its overseers, to attend to the edification of those disciples. We believe this to be right also. But, in the wide evangelistic field, can this be rigidly adhered to? In church and evangelistic work hitherto has this been rigidly adhered to? In the labors of Timothy at Ephesus, was this rigidly adhered to? Our answer to these questions must be in the negative.

1. The Apostle Paul, in 2 Tim., 4th chap., forecasts the infidelity that would creep into the church, and after its description, exhorts Timothy, the evangelist, in verse 5, "But be thou sober in all things." Again, in verse 2, "Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching" (R.V.) We gather from these that the work of exhortation and teaching was not to be confined exclusively to the elders.

2. Paul, in addressing the Ephesian elders at Miletus, says: "Wherefore, watch ye, remembering that by the space of three years I ceased not to admonish every one night and day with tears" (R.V.)

For the two following considerations the inelastic method is not found to be effective:

Firstly, those churches not blessed with elders capable of exhorting them, cannot be expected to be contented with this incapacity. An elder educationally unfitted, or lacking in biblical knowledge, is not acceptable in public service to the church.

Secondly, the evangelist, by virtue of giving his whole energies to matters spiritual, can reasonably be expected to be well qualified for the duty of exhortation. He it is who has a firm grasp of all essential questions, and through greater platform experience can present them in a more effective manner.

R. Milligan, in his "Scheme of Redemption," aptly deals with this very thought. I am aware that just at this point it will be urged by some as an objection that this interferes with the rights and prerogatives of the elders. But such an objection always reminds me of the petty disputes which the apostles themselves had in their infancy as to which of them should be the greatest. It is founded upon the false assumption that there are to be lords of different ranks and orders over God's heritage. But nothing of this kind is known or recognised in the New Testament. The ruling principle of the kingdom of heaven is love. And from this it follows that the man who is greatest in authority, and endowed with the greatest gifts, is also the greatest servant. So long then as this principle prevails, so long can there be no conflict of rights, privileges, and prerogatives among the followers of Christ.

What evangelist, however, under the influence of this principle, would ever think of interfering with the regular instruction and discipline of a well-ordered and well-instructed congregation? And on the other hand, what elder, influenced by the law of love, would not most willingly and anxiously avail himself of all the assistance that he could get from any and every evangelist that would in

any way serve to edify the body of Christ, or any member of it?

But if these considerations bear materially upon the ordinary work of individual churches, how much more in connection with home mission work? Evangelists from the large cities very often undertake evangelistic labor in country towns and districts, where the plea of the churches of Christ is practically unknown, and how necessary it is that the exponents of that plea should be conversant with all matters of church policy. Do we not often hear the statement that there are some preachers totally unfit for some branches of the work?

Why should the churches of Christ be contented with one-sided preachers? We find some elders of that character, but is there a law bidding the evangelists emulate them?

A home missionary is often called upon for months at a time to be a mission-church evangelist, elder, deacon, secretary, treasurer, and general executive officer, and we should be quite confident that our representatives are capable of meeting these demands.

Neither can we forget that the missionary represents the church of Christ in that district. He should be able to bear critical scrutiny, and thus satisfy the people that there is something in us after all.

Sisters' Department.

The Lord gave the word: the women that publish it are a great host.—Psalms 68: 11 (R.V.)

"The love of Christ constraineth us."

Victorian President—Mrs. J. A. Davies,
"Milford," Church-st., Hawthorn.
Treasurer—Mrs. Walker, Evelina-rd., Toorak.
Secretary—Miss Hill, Blenheim-st., Bal-
aclava.

Asst. Sec.—Miss Rometsch.
Financial Sec.—Mrs. B. J. Kemp.

"'Tis sweet to think, when morning lights the skies
And to the daily task from sleep we rise,
That, with the tender light of breaking morn,
God's love to us on angel wings is borne:
To think that, wheresoe'er the footstep strays,
He gives his angels charge o'er all our ways."

EXECUTIVE.

The meeting of December 5th was under the presidency of Mrs. Maston. Sisters P. Ludbrook and Clapham having engaged in prayer, minutes and correspondence were dealt with. It was resolved to give £1 to Rescue Home, and to hold a prayer and praise meeting first Friday in January, 1902.

A meeting was held at Brighton during the month under the auspices of the Sisters' Executive. The superintendents of Sunday School, Home Mission, Prayer Meeting and Foreign Mission each pleaded for her department of work. Mrs. J. A. Davies presided, and gave a very helpful paper. A Band of Hope has been started at Balmains-st., and some of our white ribboners successfully canvassed to oppose a wine license being granted in Bridge-rd., Richmond.

Additions to S.S.—Footscray, 1; South Melbourne, 7; Brunswick, 1; Prahran, 1; Tabernacle, 2. Next Executive Meeting,

February 7th, 1902. We were very pleased to welcome to our meeting Sisters Clapham, (N.Z.), A. E. Illingworth (W.A.), and P. Ludbrook.

SISTERS' PRAYER MEETINGS.

We are pleased to report that a sisters' prayer meeting was commenced at South Melbourne on November 12th. There were thirteen sisters present, and we had a very pleasant and profitable time together. We have attended four meetings at Nth. Fitzroy this month. A. C. CHOWN.

DORCAS.

At the general meeting held in Lygon-st. over one hundred garments were made. At the last meeting there were eighteen present. On November 27th the workers and committee visited Miss Hartnett's Home. We gave tea to about fifty mothers and several children, had a short devotional service, and gave each a parcel and a scripture text. It would have done you good to see with what joy and gratitude they were received. Many eyes filled with tears. One mother received a special parcel; she was quite overcome with gratitude.

The Burwood Boys' rally was held as usual, and a large number of garments were repaired and some new ones made.

A. MOYSEY, Supt.

A Genesis of Churches and Preachers.

ALLEN WILSON.

In the early part of last century two families left England for New Zealand. Each unconscious of the existence of the other, they settled in the wilderness about eight miles apart. Before leaving the old country, the story of primitive Christianity had found its way into each family, and the Christ had found a way into each heart.

Because they were to become pioneers in a new and strange land, they did not leave their religion behind them. Instead of being assimilated by the wilderness, and adding to its wildness, they both took their Christianity with them, and became a new force in the midst of wild and evil tendencies.

In each home the Lord's death was remembered each Lord's day. That a man in the wilderness should be so religious as to gather his own family around the Lord's table excited no little curiosity, and occasioned no little comment. Slowly the news travelled until they heard of each other. Welcome news! Someone else in the vast wilderness loved Christ! Visits were made, and arrangements completed for a meeting together. On alternate Sundays the families travelled the wilderness path eight miles, that together they might break the loaf. Others were invited. They came. Soon one of these men began to explain this and other parts of the Scripture. Soon a number were obedient and a church was formed.

As the new generation ripened into manhood and womanhood, the neighborhood broadened, and the church grew so rapidly that another was organised.

About this time a son of one and a daughter

of the other formed a tie that bound together in a new way the pioneer families of the aith. By-and-bye the young husband began to preach. In a few years two other churches were organised. To this family a son was given—S. G. Griffith. Young Griffith grew in the faith of his forefathers. Early in life he gave his heart to Christ, and soon after decided to preach the Word. But gold did not grow on trees in New Zealand, and this young maker of a new country did not find it in plenty. With British grit he set out to earn it. This he did by hard work on a dairy farm. In 1893 he landed in Lexington, Ky., possessed of nothing save a determination to secure an education. This he did, supporting himself meantime by canvassing and preaching, as occasion offered. In 1895 he married Miss Rose Hopkins, of Monterey, Ky. Their union God has honored with two children.

Bro. Griffith labored for two years in Ohio. On Nov. 1, 1900, he became pastor of the Second Christian Church in Cedar Rapids, Ia. During his ministry the church has more than doubled its membership. Bro. Griffith is a sturdy, energetic preacher of the gospel. Under his ministry the church will continue to prosper.

[Concerning the brother mentioned above, one of our Australian students now in America writes us:—"Knowing your desire to see students return to their native land, I desire to call attention to Bro. S. G. Griffith of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He is a N.Z. man, and is a most beloved and successful preacher, of more than ordinary ability, just in the prime of life. During the past nine months he doubled the membership of the West Side Church, and holds a warm place in the affection of the people. He would return to Australia or New Zealand if anything like a fair invitation was given him, and would reflect much credit on the cause he represents. He is married, has two children, and was educated in Lexington University. If you are desirous of his return, why not put a little note in the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN?]

Our West Australian Letter.

D. A. EWERS.

I have just been reading the bill of fare the Editor of our paper has published for next year. The menu is very appetising, and suited for all digestions. The younger ones can enjoy the lighter food, while for those of full age the strong meat is provided, and we may take our choice from "Australian Stories" to "Unfulfilled Prophecies," and study from the master mind of Paul right down to "The Intellectual Status of the Australian Aborigines." It is to be hoped that the enterprise of the energetic and original minded Editor will meet with an encouraging response. A little persistent canvassing, not only by the regular agents but also by each of the subscribers, should add 1000 names to the subscription list for 1902.

It is a simple fact that there are whole families connected with the churches in which the CHRISTIAN is never read. Some of my readers may doubt this, but I can solemnly assure them it is true. There are

church members who care so little about the cause they are connected with that they never read what is being done. The New Testament Christians were built of different material. When Paul and Barnabas spread the news of gospel progress "they caused a great joy unto all the brethren," but quite a number of our modern Christians take no interest in the reports of conversions published every week in our paper. With great spirit they sing "I love thy church, O God," but they don't really mean it. When a man tells his wife that he loves her and evinces no interest in her doings or welfare I form my own private estimate of the quantity and quality of his affection. For the news alone the paper is worth more than the subscription charged. But it contains also the best thought of our clearest thinkers, and with it before us we know what our brethren are talking about, and are kept in touch with the intellect and spiritual power of the whole brotherhood. But I fear it is not much good writing all this, as the very people it is meant for are those who don't read the paper.

In political matters we have had a change of ministry. I don't exactly know why and no one else seems to understand. The present ministry were in a minority from the start, but the opposition was not a united body, and until lately did not see its way clear to turn the ministry out. However, they have now done so, and after five months of service the cabinet has been dissolved. The speeches on the want of confidence motion were with but few exceptions marred by offensive personalities, but one of the most dignified and effective addresses was that by the Treasurer, F. Illingworth. But the outs wanted to go in, and so the ins had to go out. To an outsider that appears to be about all there was of it.

From The Field.

The field is the world.—Matthew 13: 38.

Victoria.

LYGON-STREET, CARLTON.—Our meetings are well attended, and we have occasional additions to the church. It is with profound regret we have to announce the contemplated departure of W. C. Morro from our midst. When the church received intimation from him that he wished to be relieved about April or May next, we were much grieved, and used every persuasion possible to induce him to remain, but he stated that family duties require his return to America. The church, at a business meeting, passed a unanimous vote of those present requesting him to re-consider, but he could not do so. It was, therefore, with much reluctance, agreed to his going about the time stated. The church, hearing that James Johnston would be available, have made him an offer, which he has accepted. The time of his commencement has not yet been settled.

G. A. DICKENS.

Queensland.

BOONAH.—Since last report, the writer has held three well attended meetings at the house of Bro. W. Alcorn, senior, at Coochin. At 4 p.m. I had the

pleasure of addressing a fine crowd at the creek side, prior to immersing Miss Emily Green. Bro. W. G. Alcorn will take up the work here for four weeks from next Lord's Day. Boonah church held a business meeting on the 17th November, when several important matters were attended to. The statement of receipts and expenditure in connection with the new chapel was presented by T. F. Stubbin, and showed that the land, building, and furniture cost £195, and of this amount, £106 had been contributed by local brethren. S. Gray, of Milbong, generously donated £2 to the fund, and also presented the church with a fine lot of tables and forms, exactly suitable for tea meetings. The debit balance amounts to £43. Bro. Stubbin had paid all the bills as they came in, consequently the balance mentioned is owing to him. The church decided to apply for admission to the West Moreton combination of churches.

Dec. 4.

JOHN PARADINE.

MT. WALKER.—Last night a young married woman confessed Christ. She was baptised to-day in the presence of a few faithful and obedient spectators

Dec. 5.

W. G. ALCORN.

ROSEWOOD.—The writer yesterday baptised a young man. The Baptist brethren kindly allowed the use of their baptistery.

Dec. 3.

W. G. ALCORN.

New Zealand.

MAORI MISSION.—Bro. Greenwood, who is engaged by the Maori Mission committee, Auckland, New Zealand, has sent in his report. Bro. Greenwood is at present located at Helensville, where he is studying the Maori language, under a very able Maori scholar. He is making good progress. Just at present the Maori Land Court is being held at Helensville, so that Maories are gathered there from all parts, and our brother has thus many an opportunity of speaking and discussing with them. The committee are very much in need of funds to carry on this grand work. The quarterly collection from Auckland of £8 11s. 6d., together with a small balance in the bank, is only sufficient to carry them over another two months. We appeal to the brotherhood of Australasia to sustain us, so that the work may be carried on successfully to the glory of our Master.

ERNEST VICKERY, Sec.

MORNINGTON.—Last Lord's Day evening, F. L. Hadfield preaching, four made the good confession at the close. They were three lads and a girl, a scholar of a denominational church. They were baptised at South Dunedin chapel on Wednesday evening. Tonight, Bro. Smith preaching, three more came forward, two young men who had been attending the meetings for some time past, and another young girl. Seven in so short a time are a valuable addition to a church with a membership of less than forty.

Dec. 1.

M.G.

KAITANGATA.—A trouble which has existed here for the past five years has been settled, and to-day four of our brethren and sisters were again in fellowship with us. We are hoping to see two or three more back shortly. Our meeting this morning was the largest since Bro. Turner's arrival here. The collection was a record one. Our gospel service to-night was well attended, the chapel being nearly full.

Nov. 24.

EDWIN ROGERS.

MORNINGTON.—Last night, at the close of Bro. Smith's address, another young man came forward and made the good confession. We rejoice greatly at the success which has lately attended the preaching of the gospel here.

Dec. 9.

M.G.

N.E. VALLEY.—We had our annual Sunday School picnic on November 11th, when there were about eighty scholars and a goodly number of parents and visitors present. All sorts of out-door amusements were gone into with zest, and all were made happy.

J. F. GARRETT.

South Australia.

HINDMARSH.—There were three welcomed into the fellowship of the church at our meeting for worship yesterday morning, all from other churches by letter. In the evening a young man made the good confession. We hope this young man will come ultimately to fill the place of his late father, Elder E. W. Palmer, who entered into his rest last year, after many years' valuable service.

Dec. 9.

A.G.

KERMODE-STREET, NORTH ADELAIDE.—Our hearts have again been rejoiced by seeing one more obey his Lord in the ordinance of believers' baptism, and on December 15 he was admitted a member of the church of the living God. This was the result of the special gospel services, held at Prospect.

D. c. 16.

V.B.T.

HINDMARSH.—At the gospel meeting last night, Bro. Pittman preached on "The New Covenant." At the close, two—a young maiden and a young man—came forward, confessing their Saviour.

Dec. 16.

A.G.

UNLEY.—Our services at Park-street are being very well maintained. Two have lately been received by letter. Our mission church at Cottonville held its anniversary on November 17th. We had fine meetings, afternoon and evening. On November 18th the anniversary tea was held. This meeting was crowded. The brethren here at Cottonville have, by their individual efforts, put up a vestry, which answers well for school purposes. The Lord will bless the "moonlight" labor of the good brethren.

Dec. 16.

T.J.G.

UNLEY.—The Park-street young ladies' mission band held their first social and sale of work on December 5th. They started working on June 27th. T. J. Gore took the chair, and Miss McGregor and Master Claude Charlick gave very suitable recitations, and Miss Nellie Stanton gave a song which was much appreciated. The refreshments were then served, and everyone had an opportunity of buying the goods for sale. We are pleased to report that the sum realised was £10, so we will be able to undertake the support of a native boy in India, as we wished to do.

ENDORA GORE, Sec.

New South Wales.

LISMORE.—It is about six months since we sent a report of the work done here. Our united efforts have resulted in eighteen being added by faith and obedience; three restored, and one received from the Baptists, making twenty-two in all. Certainly, the outlook was never more promising from every point of view. On the 27th November we held a re-union meeting for all who have been immersed during the last few years, and even before that. We had a very encouraging gathering, and during the meeting baptismal cards were given to those present.

W. J. WAY,

ROOKWOOD.—On Thursday, December 5th, we held a social to welcome Bro. and Sister T. B. Fischer. Bro. Fischer is engaged to take up evangelistic work in our own district and Cauley Vale. The social was a great success, evangelists from city and suburbs attending to give a hearty welcome to our new arrival. Bro. Morro, from Melbourne, was also present, and

gave a short address, containing some good injunctions to Christians. Bro. Walden congratulated the church on receiving Bro. Fischer. Bro. Bagley and Bro. McIndoe (who presided) also addressed the meeting. Bro. Fischer's earnest address was very much appreciated. Sisters from Enmore church kindly supplied the musical portion of the programme, which was very much enjoyed. Bro. D. R. Hall, M.L.A., added to the enjoyment and edification of those present by reciting.

M. ANDREWS.

West Australia.

FREMANTLE.—Since last report two have confessed Christ and have been baptised. Bro. Lucraft is still conducting the gospel services.

Dec. 9.

J.H.G.

Here and There.

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

Two decisions at North Richmond last Lord's day evening.

One confession at Maryborough, Queensland, on December 8th.

Two decisions at the Tabernacle since the close of the tent mission.

Bro. Wm. Winter recently immersed Mrs. John Taylor at Inglewood Forest.

Mrs. L. Rossell, "Logie Almond," Granville, is now secretary of the N.S.W. Sisters' Conference.

R. G. Cameron preached at Drummond again last Sunday, when a married woman made the good confession.

Please note.—N.S.W. Sisters' Executive will meet in the City Temple, after the praise and prayer meeting, on Wednesday, January 8th.

Will all our readers kindly remember that January 5th, 1902, is the date of the Home Mission collection in Victoria, South Australia, and other States.

The social and rescue sale of work has been postponed till February. The gifts of any brother or sister wishing to help will be received and acknowledged by Mrs. Lee, Marrickville, N.S.W.

Owing to our special numbers for the last two issues, some of our regular departments have been crowded out, amongst other things the continued story. But all will appear in the first issue in the new year.

Mrs. Moses, reading the greetings from the Australian sisters at the recent great convention at Minneapolis, said: "Our Mrs. Thurgood is still the honorary president of the Sisters' Conference in Victoria."

An important notice of change in the price of the CHRISTIAN appears at the top of the leader column, page 600 of printed matter this issue. These changes have been caused by the Federal Tariff and the Wages Board.

Praise and prayer meeting, arranged by sisters' conference committee, New South Wales, will be held at City Temple on Wednesday, January 8th, commencing at 3 o'clock. An interesting meeting and a good attendance are expected.

At the top of the first few pages of this issue appear the pictures of some of the original shareholders in the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co. There are about eighty shareholders altogether, but photos of others were not obtainable. H. G. Harward is not a shareholder, but we give him a place here as one of our helpers.

Next week being Christmas, the CHRISTIAN will not be published. This week, however, is a double number, not exactly Christmas matter, but it must take its place. The next number of the CHRISTIAN will be published on January 2nd, 1902.

Brother Hagger started his preparation classes on the 13th inst., and will continue them every Friday evening in the vestry of the North Richmond chapel, juniors at 7, seniors at 8. All from other schools desirous of attending them will be welcomed.

A brother wants to know if it is a fact that any of our churches take up collections for church work. We are afraid that some of them come perilously near it, but this is only done in a few cases, and then it is for S.S. picnics and prizes, which, in the judgment of these good people, do not constitute church work.

C. of C. S.S.U. of Victoria examination, 1902.—Will school officers and teachers take notice that the questions will be confined to the first twelve lessons on the prospectus, ending with but including that on "Temperance," March 23rd, on which one question will be set in each division.—THOS GOLE, Hon. Sec.

We call special attention to the following. Anyone wanting further information, address this office:—"If ever you hear of a man or youth who wants employment, I have an opening for an honest and trustworthy one in a small butchering business. I require someone to go out with the cart, and handle horses. The work is very light. The wages are 15/- per week and a good home."

The following is a fair sample of many letters we receive:—"Just a word for the CHRISTIAN: We are glad you are printing a story, and hope you will next year, as the children like it and read it. We would not be without the CHRISTIAN for anything, as we live so far away from the meetings and do not go very often; we see the news in it, and would hear little but for that."

VISIONS OF THE CHRIST! What a charming title for a book! The name arrests attention. Several of Christ's miracles, a few of his parables, and others of his discourses are the themes treated. There are thirty-eight masterly articles, comprising the best thoughts from eighteen brethren, whose names are a sufficient guarantee as to the sterling worth of the book. Its value is still further enhanced by the many illustrations which adorn its pages. Every home of the disciples should possess at least three copies, one to keep, one to lend, and one to give away. Let this book have a record sale.—G. MANIFOLD.

The following is from Bro. Jos. Fraser, now on his way back to Australia:—"We have spent a very pleasant two years among the churches in Scotland. In Armadale, my native town, we found the church in a very quiet state, with a membership of 27, and without a Sunday School. We left it with 76 on the roll. We got a new building, and with the vigor and enthusiasm of the brotherhood, souls were saved, and we started a Lord's Day School, which numbers 198. Our brother McKie visited us on three occasions, and on one occasion spoke of the good work carried on in Queensland under the preaching of John Thompson."

A. Glastonbury writes:—"Some weeks ago I purchased the beautiful book, VISIONS OF THE CHRIST, as a presentation to one of our most prominent citizens on his seventy-eighth birthday. I have received a most gracious acknowledgment of the present with some very appreciative remarks as to its intrinsic value to one of God's children who is fast entering his eternal rest. What better thing can God's children have in the golden sunset of life than frequent visions of the Christ? These we certainly shall have if he has been our loved, choice companion

through our earthly journey, for hath he not said, 'I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.'

S.S.U. Vic. Examination, 1902.—With regard to central preparation classes, Bro. Morro writes me:—"If they wish it, and you can get a sufficient number, I will, during the quarter (January 1st to March 31st) conduct a training class for teachers. I will give them as conscientious and faithful teaching as I can. I will give them the assistance necessary to enable them to conduct training classes in their own schools, among the scholars, and I believe this will be fruitful of more good." If formed, the class will meet at Lygon-street Chapel, Tuesday evenings at 8. Any teacher desirous of joining, send me name and address before Saturday, December 28th. Thos. Gole, hon. sec., 41 Rowe-street, North Fitzroy.

A large number of the Tabernacle members paid a surprise visit to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Watt, for the purpose of offering their warm congratulations to them on the occasion of their silver wedding. During the evening Mr. Thomas Rodger, one of the elders, in a few well-chosen remarks, presented the couple, in the name of the party, with a handsome silver cake basket, suitably inscribed. Mr. Watt, the evangelist of the church, who was taken completely by surprise, thanked the donors for their gift, and for the kindly sentiments and good wishes which accompanied it. After refreshments, liberally supplied by the visitors, had been served round, an enjoyable evening was spent, amongst other items two songs being admirably rendered by Miss Agnes Hislop.—*Otago Daily Times, N.Z.*

A good brother, in sending his subscription for 1902, enclosed a P.O.O. for £1, saying, "the balance to be devoted to a fund for the purchase of a cutting machine for your worthy paper." We thank this brother for being so thoughtful and tasty, and are happy to inform him that we already have the cutting machine, but we need a man to use it. We are hoping for the time when the paper will stand this extra strain, as we are quite aware it will much improve its appearance. Our readers will notice that this week's paper is trimmed, and if they knew the extra strain placed on the Editorial department, they would duly appreciate it. The same brother referred to above says:—"Should I ever discover a payable gold-field, I shall (D.V.) send you something more substantial." We trust that his day of fortune may soon dawn.

We received the following too late for classification: "There is no denying the fact that the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING Co has been a wonderful factor under the blessing of God in disseminating New Testament truth throughout Australasia during the past ten years. It was well that this Publishing House started on its mission. The brotherhood, I am sure, is stronger to-day because of its influence, and personally I am thankful to God for the work it has done and is doing. In a very important sense it is a bond which unites all our churches in the various States. We would feel at a loss to be without it. Often have I been encouraged in my work for God in reading in its pages the triumphs of the gospel of redeeming love, and ever and anon its articles have been deeply instructive to me. The warmest thanks of the brotherhood are due to those who are at the head of this Company."—A. C. RANKINE, Norwood, S.A.

A brother whom we highly esteem and love in the Lord, writes to us complaining of how the churches treat their preachers. Certainly, this brother has dropped across some odd lots, because we have been

in this country now for twenty-two years, and we have seen but little of this kind of thing. It is true that there may be some of our churches who don't know how to treat their preachers, and it is barely possible that some of our preachers don't know how to treat their churches, but we don't feel inclined to condemn all the churches or all the preachers on that account. Our good brother draws a very unfavorable comparison just in this neighbourhood between American and Colonial churches. Now, we know something about American churches, and know for a fact that they are not a bit better mannered than the Colonial article. He says that preachers here are accounted as "chattels" and "hirelings." We used to hear this last word twenty-five years ago in America descriptive of the preacher, but we have no recollection of having heard it in this country; we rather guess we haven't got that far along. This brother thinks that this may be the reason that Bro. Hales has left us; not because he differs from us as to the fundamentals of the church, but because he will not have the humiliating restrictions among the Baptists he has had in Wellington. Now, we spent four mighty happy years with the church in Wellington, and during all that time had the glorious privilege of preaching the gospel and attending to our own business, and we enjoyed it immensely. We guess the facts are that Bro. Hales is a Baptist, and always has been a Baptist, and has simply gone to the place where he belongs. Imagine a man who has ever seen the glorious light of the simple plan of salvation going back to the mysticism of Baptist theology just because he could not have all his own way! The whole situation is too awful to think of, so we are inclined to take the most charitable view—that Bro. Hales is going back to his own.



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To the Lord's Work. Please remember that our

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Coming Events.

Observe the time of their coming.—Jeremiah 8:7.

JAN. 3, 1902.—A Prayer and Praise Meeting will (D.V.) be held by Sisters' Executive in the Swanston-st. Lecture Hall, 3 o'clock, to which ALL SISTERS are heartily welcome.

VICTORIAN MISSION FUND.	
Church, Barker's Creek	£15 0 0
Lillimur	7 0 0
Kaniva	6 0 0
Meredith	6 0 0
Horsham	6 10 0
Geelong	6 0 0
A. Grant	1 0 0
Toolamba, per Sister E. R. Anderson ..	2 0 0
Sisters, Prahran	0 13 0
Ascot Vale, per Sister Martin ..	0 10 9
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Church, Pukekohe	0 5 0
Church, Auckland (quarterly contribution)	8 11 6

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TENT FUND.

Mr. E. L. Dickson	£0 5 0
Mr. Crichton	0 10 0
Mr. Fisher (additional)	0 5 0

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H. A. Overend, 1/6; L. Broad, H. Christopher, 3/-; A. R. Benn, 3/6; Mr. Knights, 3/9; F. G. Merrett, H. G. Maston, Miss Rose Foster, 5/-; Mrs. Haddow (W.A.), Thos. Geraghty, Mrs. Wiseman, H. Templeman, G. Templeman, R. Mahaffy, Mrs. O'Hara, Mrs. Cox, Mrs. J. Taylor, W. Winter, 7/-; T. B. Hunter, 7/6; D. A. Lewis, 9/-; Mrs. Dudley, W. Pricor, 15/-; D. Parker, 17/-; A. Johnson, 18/-; T. Warnecke, Jos. Townshend, A. Cowper, 20/-; H. C. Rodd, 25/-; P. Judd, 32/8; Jas. Leach, 65/-; W. H. Keam, £7/4/3.

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE.

I wish to express through the columns of the CHRISTIAN my sincere thanks and appreciation for the many letters of sympathy which I have received on the occasion of the death of my mother. Many of these letters were not exclusive in their sympathy, but included the family of which I form a part. The large number of letters make it impossible to answer them all, so I take this way of expressing the hearty appreciation of the sympathy so freely shown to us in this our time of bereavement. P. A. DICKSON.

WANTED.

Applications are invited for the position of evangelist of the Petersham church. Salary, £3/10/- per week. The church moves into its new building on January 1st, 1902. The neighborhood is a new one, and the prospects are bright for a good work. Bro. Ewers can speak of the church in favorable terms. Applications to be sent at once to E. J. Hilde, Farr-st., Rockdale, N.S.W.

Wanted—an EVANGELIST to labor with the Fremantle church. A splendid field. Applicants please state salary required, etc. Address, J. H. Gibson, sec., 258 Sewell-st., E. Fremantle.

The church in Auckland requires the services of a suitable Evangelist, and invites applications through F. Evans, Crummer-road, Grey Lynn, Auckland.

EXPERIENCED EVANGELIST wanted, to labor with South Australian Evangelistic Committee. Write to Secretary, P. Pittman, 34 Gover-st., Nth. Adelaide.

DRINK FRY'S COCOA IT IS THE BEST.