

# Australian Christian.

CIRCULATING AMONGST

CHURCHES OF CHRIST

In Australian Colonies, New Zealand and Tasmania, for the Advocacy of Good and Right and Truth.

"He wrought good and right and truth before the Lord . . . with all his heart and prospered."—2 Chron. 31 : 20-21

Vol. I.—No. 15.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1898.

Subscription, 5s. per annum.

## Editorial Notes.

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

### Two Reasons Why.

There are two reasons among many others why this paper has a claim upon the support of the members of the church of Christ. 1. It contains so much in harmony with their best thoughts. Desiring the welfare of the cause of Christ, they will rejoice to read reports of its progress in this and other lands. Then too its articles, both original and selected, written by thoughtful men upon living and practical issues, will generally commend themselves to the Christian intelligence of their readers, and interest and instruct them. 2. Its writers will occasionally express sentiments that do not meet with the approval of all our readers. Scriptural truths and current events may sometimes be viewed from a standpoint to which they are not accustomed, and this very diversity adds a relish to the paper as condiments to food. It is well for us to become acquainted with different views expressed in a Christian spirit by those who are pledged to the Christianity of the New Testament. The very fact that a contributor now and then advocates something new, something opposed to our previous conclusions, is a good argument why the paper should be taken. The wisest among us have still much to learn, and the best thoughts of our best thinkers are here placed at the disposal of all.

### Romish Activity.

There can be no doubt about the energy of the Roman Catholic church, at least in all English-speaking countries. The Church of England is their favorite hunting ground, and here they are fairly successful. The *Christian of England* reports the well-known Rev. R. F. Horton, M.A., as publicly stating that "Already there are some five hundred that clergy members of the Church of England, who having been convinced that their ordination was invalid, have secured re-ordination at the hands of the Papal Legate." This was

of course done privately, but Mr. Horton is the wrong man to make such a statement without authority. But what are we to think of the honor or honesty of clergymen who receive support as clergymen of the Church of England when they are really priests of the Church of Rome? And what are we to think of the honesty of a church which takes part in such a nefarious transaction. The whole business savors of the lower regions, and is scarcely calculated to commend Romanism to the public. Fortunately statistics show that in spite of such methods, perhaps because of them, Romanism steadily loses ground.

### Lady Henry Somerset.

By the death of the lamented Frances E. Willard, the W.C.T.U. has lost its most prominent member. An able writer, a talented organiser, an eloquent speaker and a woman of superior intellectual force, she was well fitted to be a leader of the remarkable movement at whose head she was placed. Next to Miss Willard, Lady Henry Somerset of England recently held perhaps the highest place in the confidence of the organisation. But about twelve months ago Lady Henry expressed her endorsement in a modified form of the State regulation of vice among British soldiers in India. As was to be expected, this met with the strong disapproval of the W.C.T.U. and occasioned widespread regret among her co-workers, including Miss Willard. Many will be pleased to learn that her ladyship, finally convinced of her error of judgment, has frankly confessed her mistake. In a letter addressed to the Secretary of State for India, and published in the *Christian Commonwealth*, she withdraws her support from what is undoubtedly a great evil. We trust to hear shortly that Lady Henry has again taken her place in the ranks of the W.C.T.U. as a leader in the great work of social reform for which her position and talents so well qualify her.

### Christian Endeavor and Other Societies.

The *British Weekly* has been enquiring into the question as to whether C.E. Societies

are really helpful to the churches, and publishes a quantity of evidence on both sides. Without entering into the question of the advisability or otherwise of forming Christian Endeavor Societies, it must be obvious to all that where such organisations exist, or any kind of societies or classes, in connection with a church, they should all be under the supervision and amenable to the control of its officers. If it is deemed advisable to start a Sunday School, Band of Hope, Mutual Improvement Society or any other organisation, the church officers should take a kindly interest in it and should be in close touch with the leading workers of the movement. For lack of this needful supervision we have known Band of Hope and Improvement Society entertainments which were not calculated to bring credit upon the church. Nor were the leaders wholly to blame. If the church officers take no interest in them they will not be likely to study the wishes of the officers. It should be clearly understood that the officers of a church have the oversight of all movements connected with the church, and where the oversight is exercised in a kindly and sympathetic spirit there will not be much likelihood of friction.

### Salvation Army Development.

Commenting upon the recent Salvation Army Congress in Melbourne, the *Christian World* makes the following suggestive remarks: "All unconsciously, perhaps, this movement is developing features which suggest a comparison with some aspects of the Roman Catholic Church. The autocratic element, the drill and discipline, the elaborate endeavor to catch the senses, the place given to acts of mercy, the persistent exclusion of the public gaze from the details of expenditure with respect to their funds, are points of analogy that set one thinking." It is true these points set the friends of the Army outside its ranks thinking, but the most regrettable feature of this organisation is, that with all its good points, the soldiers are not encouraged to think for themselves. This would be fatal to the system. Unre-



served and implicit obedience to their fallible head is the essential condition of service. "Theirs not to make reply; theirs not to reason why." This is at once the strength and weakness of the movement, and it is not unlikely that the weakness may yet prove more powerful than the strength, and lead to the overthrow of the organisation itself.

## THE Australian Christian.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

At 528 Elizabeth St., Melbourne.

A. B. MASTON - - - Managing Editor.

All Communications should be addressed to The Austral Publishing Co., 528 Elizabeth-st., Carlton. Articles, etc., of any length intended for next issue should be in hand not later than first post on Monday. Short News Items, Coming Events, Wanted, etc., received as late as Wednesday morning. Births, Marriages and Deaths, 6d. each. Coming Events, 25 words, 6d.; each additional 25 words or fraction thereof, 6d. Wanted Advs., 1/- To insure insertion this must be paid in advance.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for any views or opinions expressed in the communications of our correspondents.

Terms.—In Victoria, 2 copies or more in one wrapper, 5/- each, post paid. Other colonies, 2 copies or more in one wrapper, 5/- each, post paid. Single subscribers in Victoria can secure their copy for 5/- by having it sent fortnightly. Single subscribers in the other colonies may secure their copy for 5/- by having it sent monthly. Or when two copies are taken in the other colonies they may be obtained for 5/- each by having them sent fortnightly. Single copy, to any part of the world, 7/-.

Printer's Copy, and correspondence pertaining to Publication, should be on separate sheets of paper from any correspondence concerning Books, Tracts, or other business in connection with the Austral Co. This will save confusion and possible delay.

Cheques must include 6d. exchange from country and 1/- from other colonies. When payment is made from other colonies in postal notes, the original cost of the note must be added in stamps for exchange. Payment of small sums in stamps will be received, but where outside of Victoria 10/- must be added for exchange.

No Notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whoever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Persons desiring the return of their manuscript, if not accepted, should send stamps. We cannot, however, even in that case, hold ourselves responsible for its return. Authors should preserve a copy.

Subscribers should be careful to give their correct post office address, and when desiring it changed be sure to mention the former address.

If you desire to please the compositor and prevent annoying mistakes, write plainly, especially names of persons and places, and on one side of the paper only.

Remember that the Publishers must be notified by letter when a subscriber wishes his paper stopped. After having received the paper with the terms published regularly until you owe for 2 or 3 years, to order it off without saying anything about the paper does not make a very favorable impression.

Cheques, P.O. Orders, etc., made payable to the Austral Publishing Co., will be right, but to prevent confusion and delay, and ensure greater safety, Cheques, P.O. Orders, etc., should be crossed and made payable to A. B. Maston.

If the above Notices are carefully observed it will conduce to the happiness of all concerned.

In doing business with our advertisers you will do us great good and yourself no harm by mentioning this paper.

the darkness into the full blaze of noon-day light without being dazzled and confused. And as the physical eye-sight cannot endure a sudden change from darkness to light, neither can the mental or spiritual. The light of revelation, therefore, has been tempered to suit man's spiritual vision. In every case the revelation has been in advance of man. It has always given him an ideal which he has had to reach forward to, and now that this revelation finds its culmination in Christ it is impossible for us to conceive of a time, when with our present surroundings, we will be able to say, "We have reached this latest ideal, and now want something better." If any one were foolish enough to claim that he had reached this ideal, he would speedily discover that it was an opinion in which no one else concurred.

The progress of revelation is largely the theme of the Epistle to the Hebrews. Its main object is to demonstrate the supremacy of Christ, and while admitting that in the previous dispensations there were good things, it contends that in the final dispensation there were those that were better. It also affords a striking illustration of the slowness of men to receive the higher truths which God has revealed. It was not easy for the Jewish mind to disassociate the temple and its services from its conception of worship or to allow its ancient teachers to be superseded by a new one. What the Jewish Christian desired was to keep the old and new together. He would have the Temple and the *Ecclesia* side by side, the Sabbath and the Lord's day as equally binding on the Christian conscience. He would take the benefit of the one great sacrifice on Calvary, but still retain the many sacrifices of the Jewish law. This tendency seemed to gain strength year by year, until there seemed to be a danger of those churches, in which the Jewish element predominated, apostatising from the faith of Christ. There were three great things connected with Christianity which were stumbling blocks to Hebrew Christians. Professor A. B. Bruce describes them as follows:—

(1) The superseding of an ancient, divinely appointed religion by what appeared to be a novelty and an innovation. The Levitical worship was of venerable antiquity, and not of man's devising, but of God's ordering; and how a system which had lasted so long and had derived its origin from heaven could ever pass away, and how it could be legitimately replaced by a religion which was of yesterday, were matters which ill-instructed Hebrew believers were at a loss to comprehend. (2) The Hebrew Christians found another stumbling block in the humiliation and sufferings of Jesus regarded as the Christ.

They were unable to reconcile the indignity of Christ's earthly experience with the dignity of his person as the Son of God and promised Messiah. They did not see the glory of the Cross. They were like the apostles in the days of their discipleship, who, having confessed their faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, were utterly confounded when they heard their Master immediately after go on to tell "how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things," and even be put to death. (3) The third stumbling block in Christianity to the mind of the Hebrews was the absence therefrom of a priesthood, and a sacrificial ritual. For that Christ was at once a priest and a sacrifice, they do not seem to have been able to comprehend, or even to imagine. Their ideas of priesthood and sacrifices were legal and technical. A priest was a man belonging to the tribe of Levi and to the family of Aaron, physically faultless, whose business it was to offer in behalf of the people the blood of bulls and goats as a sacrifice for sin. A priest without priestly robes, and visible materials of sacrifice such as oxen, sheep, and goats, was to them a shadowy, unreal being.

That these were stumbling blocks is clearly seen by the pains taken by the writer to the Hebrews to remove them out of the way. And that these things were so, seems to indicate that many Hebrews embraced Christianity without understanding the essential difference between the old and the new faith. They would have been content to be Christians without separating themselves entirely from Judaism. They would not forsake "the assembling of themselves together," neither would they neglect attendance in the synagogue. This state of things could not continue for long without protest. Neither did it. The protest came from both sides. The protest from the purely Jewish side was vigorous and effectual—they "thrust them out of the synagogues;" on the Christian side the protest was also clear and emphatic, they were to give up their dalliance with Judaism—to come out of the "camp" and take their stand outside the gate with Christ.

This tendency to Judaism was stronger among the Jewish Christians of Palestine than among those of the dispersion; and stronger doubtless in Jerusalem than elsewhere in Palestine. Hence, it is thought, that the Epistle to the Hebrews was mainly intended for the mother church. For this church grew up under the shadow of the Temple, and while the Temple and its service remained it was always a centre of interest and attraction to every Jewish Christian. How far this tendency prevailed in the

## The Leader.

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

### Better Things.

#### INTRODUCTORY.

The divine scheme of redemption found in the pages of the sacred scriptures is not one that appears before us all at once as complete and perfect, but as one which is gradually unfolded until it reaches culmination. Its coming is as the dawn. In the morning of revelation we can see shafts of light on the hill tops, but it is only as the day advances that we find the world flooded with divine light. No one can come out of



Jerusalem church during the time of the apostles it is difficult to say. The main body of the church stood firmly against Judaizing teachers in the first general conference of the Christian church, but later, the Judaizing spirit seems to have again developed itself. Professor Hinsdale referring to this says:—"At the time of Paul's last visit, it was not the Judaizers only that gave Paul trouble. The description: 'They are all zealous of the Law; and they are all informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying, that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither walk after the customs,' applied to the great body of the church, who were inflamed with undying hostility." The treatment meted out to Paul does not prove that the Mother Church was controlled by the zealots, but it does prove the strong Judaic tone of the disciples in Jerusalem." As compared with others, the Judaizers were, perhaps, few in number, but their constant activity and intense bitterness are well calculated to cause us to exaggerate their numbers and importance. In any case, the situation was grave enough when the Epistle to the Hebrews was sent forth. If, as is supposed, this epistle was written very shortly before the destruction of Jerusalem, it came forth at a time when the Jewish Christians required the very clearest light to guide them through the darkness. It was a crisis in their history, which required that their faith should stand on unassailable ground and the distinction between Judaism and Christianity should be clearly set forth and defined. For at this time we are told a "shaking" was going on among all the civil and religious institutions of the nation, and the day of Jerusalem's doom was fast approaching. This letter was written during its last days, about A.D. 66, and under the shadow of impending judgment. The fire of persecution through which the Hebrew Christians were passing grew hotter and hotter. In A.D. 63 the high priest Ananias and the Sadducees persecuted them as transgressors of the law, confiscated their goods, and banished them from the Temple and its privileges. They were regarded as unclean apostates, and were cut off even from the Gentiles' outer court, and as the end drew nearer this persecution increased in force and malignity. With these things before us we can enter sympathetically upon the study of the main features of the Epistle to the Hebrews and, perhaps, be less severe in our judgment of these Hebrews in their struggles to escape from the traditions of the past and their immediate environment, into the glorious liberty of the gospel of Christ. And our judgment will, doubtless, be all the more lenient, when we remember that there are

those in this day, who without the strong temptations of these Hebrew Christians, are seeking to add to the seamless robe of Christ the cast-off rags of ancient Judaism.

## Conferences.

### Victorian.

The Annual Conference of the Churches of Christ in Victoria was held in the Christian Chapel, Lygon-street, on Friday, April 8th. The meeting was opened with devotional exercises, in which a number of brethren took part. An appropriate and stirring address was delivered by Bro. J. W. Baker of North Fitzroy, in which he urged the necessity of all God's people working for God and with God for the salvation of the world. The service formed an appropriate opening to the general work of the Conference, and helped all to enter upon their work with cheerfulness and enthusiasm.

The President, Bro. J. Pittman, then delivered his opening address, of which the following is a brief synopsis:—

He said, The object of our meeting was to advance the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, and he sincerely hoped that all that we did would have that object in view. There were one or two facts that he desired to bring under their notice, viz., the decay of some of our churches, and as a consequence our numerical decrease. There was also a falling off in contributions for Home Mission work. These things were not as they should be, considering the many advantages we enjoyed as a people. When it was remembered that we were free from sacerdotalism and every member of the church was expected to be a working member, it was strange that our increase from year to year was not much greater. He was convinced that the gospel of Christ was the one great means for the advancement and regeneration of the world. In order that the gospel might have its full effect upon mankind it was necessary that those who preached the gospel should be filled with the spirit of Christ. Christ must be more and more our ideal. Men of the world looked to us, and if they did not see that ideal reflected in us in some measure the success of the gospel would be naturally hindered. In conclusion he urged upon those present to cultivate more earnestly the habit of prayer and the grace of giving. He would also emphasise the importance of more extended and efficient evangelisation, and hoped that this year would be the brightest and best in our history.

The minutes of the previous Conference were read and confirmed.

The chairman then alluded in sympathetic terms to the loss sustained by the brotherhood in the deaths of Bro. J. E. Laing and J. Quilliam.

A hearty welcome was extended to all present, specially so to Bro. McDermott of Auckland, N.Z., who was present in the meeting.

The roll of representatives was then called as follows:

ASCOT VALE—Jno. Prior, Thompson

BORDERTOWN (S.A.)—A. W. Connor  
 BRIGHTON—A. Morrison, D. Parker  
 BRUNSWICK—W. Stephenson, — Collings  
 DEEM—G. H. Browne, H. Long  
 HALLARAY EAST—H. G. Piddis  
 BET BET—Thos. Collis  
 BENDIGO—Dr. James Cook, G. Hinton  
 BERNICE—J. Greenhill, J. Richardson  
 CHELTENHAM—Wm. Judd, W. H. Barrett, R. W. Tuck  
 COLLINGWOOD—H. Mahor, P. Conning, A. R. Main  
 CARLTON NORTH—R. B. Davis, W. P. Wyatt  
 CROYDON—Jas. Styles, A. Morris  
 CARLTON (LYGON-ST)—M. W. Green, Geo. Keith, F. McClean, W. C. Craigie, F. Payne  
 DONCASTER—D. Tully, J. Hudson, H. McDowell  
 ECHUCA—W. Barnes, F. Pittman  
 FITZROY NORTH—A. Millis, W. Phillips, — McMillan  
 FITZROY (JOHNSTON-ST)—Jas. McGregor, H. Swain  
 FOOTSCRAY—H. Hunter, J. Davidson, E. R. Ward  
 GALAQUIL—R. Langley, E. Griffiths  
 HAWTHORN—C. Edwards, W. Finger, W. H. Bardwell  
 KANIVA—A. W. Connor, H. J. Smith  
 KYARRAM—G. H. Bishop, P. Bryce  
 LILLING—A. B. Mahor, A. J. Abbott  
 MURBLE PLAIN—G. B. Moysie  
 MALVERN—B. HURSTMAN, L. W. Holmes  
 MOOROCKLEARK—E. T. Jones, J. R. Ferris  
 MELBOURNE (SWANSTON-ST)—B. J. Kemp, J. A. Davies, C. G. Lawson  
 MELBOURNE NORTH—D. McCracken, M. Dale, Jas. Adams, T. M. Ghent  
 MELBOURNE SOUTH—J. J. Franklin, C. H. Martin  
 MARYBOROUGH—W. D. Little, J. Tully  
 PARENHAM—W. Cavanagh  
 RICHMOND NORTH—E. Fisher, J. Salisbury  
 SHEPPARTON—F. G. Dees  
 SURREY HILLS—Wm. Wilson  
 ST. KILDA—J. Gardner, J. Sheehan  
 SOUTH YARRA—D. A. Lewis, E. Hammond  
 WEDDERBURN—T. Hagger, R. Twiddy, W. C. Thurgood  
 YARRAWALLA—R. Lynn  
 YANDO—M. McLellan  
 YANDO NORTH—D. McCallum, A. Grant

### CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters of congratulation were read from the church at Northam, W.A., the first Conference of churches in Western Australia, and from New South Wales.

A letter was read from Bro. J. K. Henshelwood requesting the Conference to find him employment either as a teacher or preacher.

Resolved, That a committee of five brethren be appointed to consider and report upon the memorial, the said committee to consist of Bro. Wilson, Lawson, Edwards, McCracken and McGregor.

At a later stage of the meeting the following recommendation was submitted:—"That the committee recommend that something should be done to relieve Bro. J. K. Henshelwood's needs, and would suggest systematic voluntary contributions by say 25 brethren who are able to donate 1/- per week and over. That a list of such brethren be prepared, and those present who are willing to assist be kindly urged to hand in their names to Bro. Wilson. That Bro. Henshelwood be free to give his services to any church that may require them. Such contributions may be paid either to Bro. W. Wilson or to the Conference Secretary."



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

### 1. SISTERS CONFERENCE.

It is again a pleasing duty to refer in complimentary terms to the really effective work that is being done by the Sisters Conference. They not only arrange for the annual entertainment of the Conference delegates and friends, but all the year they willingly co-operate with the Committee in assisting to raise the necessary funds to carry on evangelistic work.

The sum of £83 6s. 3d. has been collected by the sisters during the year. This amount, though not quite up to that of last year, is none the less acceptable, and is the result of much hard work on the part of our sister collectors.

The very best thanks of this Conference are due to the sisters for their untiring efforts to aid the Missionary Committee, and their indispensable help in developing the social element of these Annual Meetings.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Sisters was carried by acclamation.

### 2. STATISTICS.

The aggregate increase to church membership is rather small. This is accounted for very largely through departure from the colony of many of our members in search of employment.

The total church membership is 5210. The gains are:—By faith and baptism, 303; letter, 217; formerly immersed, 29; restored, 17; total, 566. The losses are:—By letter, 221; death, 44; removal and revision of roll, 265; total, 530. Increase, 36.

The number of schools is 63. Scholars, 4773; teachers, 455. Exactly the same number of schools as last year, an increase of 85 scholars and a decrease of 13 teachers. 94 were added to the church from the Sunday School, being 50 less than last year.

R. C. Edwards called attention to the fact that while there was an increase of scholars there was a decrease of teachers. He urged upon the Conference the necessity of giving greater attention to this matter. J. Greenhill, John Tully, and R. J. Clow made brief remarks.

### 3. FINANCES.

It will be seen by a reference to the financial statement that there is a surplus of £105 10s. 4d. in the H. M. fund account. This very pleasing state of the funds has occurred through the generous bequest of our late much esteemed Bro. Quilliam, who left £100 to the H. M. Committee to aid them in carrying on the work of evangelisation in the country districts, a work in which he always manifested great interest, financially and otherwise. It is with much thankfulness we acknowledge this bequest.

Notwithstanding the balance in hand being so satisfactory, we regret to notice a diminution in the contributions from the churches and also from individual brethren, as the following contrast with last year will show:—

	1897.	
Church Contributions ..	£124 4 9	
Individual ..	111 0 0	
Annual Collections & New Year Gifts ..	82 16 3	
	£318 1 0	
	1898.	
Church Contributions ..	£65 10 4	
Individual ..	89 10 4	
Annual Collections ..	73 10 6	
	£228 11 2	

The contributions from these sources show a decrease of £89 9s. 10d.

The penny-per-week collections show a large shrinkage, and we believe this is mainly owing to the non-appointment of collectors by many of the churches. The sisters are very willing to assist in collecting these contributions, and there is no valid reason why if £124 is collected in one year that it should suddenly sink to £65. We would therefore invite the co-operation of the church officers so as to extend the system of penny-per-week collections.

On the other hand while noticing this decrease it is pleasing to refer to the fact that the country churches which have been receiving the evangelists' services have made an increase in their contributions.

The receipts from them in 1897 were £208 7s. 3d. This year they amount to £267 16s. 1d., an increase of £59 8s. 10d.

In the Foreign Mission Fund the receipts were £304 10s. 3d.; expenditure, £294 17s. 3d.; balance in hand, £10 13s. 3d. The Kanaka Building Fund, total receipts, £668 17s.; expenditure, £258 0s. 1d.; balance in hand, £10 16s. 11d. Famine and Benevolent Fund, amount received, £69 12s. 9d.; amount expended, £69 12s. 9d.

R. Lyall pointed out that the members in Victoria gave during the past year about 9-16ths of a penny each. F. McClean moved that it be a recommendation from this Conference to the officers of the various churches that sisters be appointed to look after the penny-a-week collection. Bren. Stephenson, D. M. McCrackett, R. C. Edwards and T. Hagger spoke briefly on the motion. It was adopted. Brief remarks were made by B. Huntsman and B. J. Kemp.

A vote of thanks was passed to Bro. J. A. Davies for his valuable services and the assistance rendered by him to the Committee in relieving it from financial strain.

### 4. MATRIMONIAL ADVERTISEMENTS

At last Annual Meeting we were instructed by resolution of Conference to do what we could towards the suppression of marriage newspaper advertisements, so far as members belonging to the churches of Christ were concerned. The instructions then received have been carried out. We are pleased to be able to report that there is now no preacher connected with us who is engaged in this class of business.

Adopted.

### 5. THANKS.

We have to thank the Swanston-st. and Lygon-st. churches for the use of their buildings during the year. Also the auditors (Bren. Barnacle and A. R. Lyall) for their valuable services. Above all we are profoundly grateful to the Great Ruler of the Universe for his continual care over us during the year; and our earnest prayer is that still greater work may be done for the Master in the year upon which we are now entering.

J. PITTMAN, President  
M. McLELLAN, Secretary

Adopted. The report as a whole was then adopted.

### A. B. MASTON.

At this stage the President intimated that Bro. A. B. Maston intended leaving on the morrow on a visit to the United States. He was certain that all would sympathise with Bro. Maston in the object of his visit and wish him every success.

Bro. F. G. Dunn moved and Bro. C. Edwards seconded, That this Conference wishes Bro. A. B. Maston a prosperous voyage, and earnestly prays that under God's blessing he may fully succeed in the object of his visit, and that he may return to work in our midst for many years. That he be authorised by this Conference to convey to our American brethren, wherever possible, fraternal and Christian greetings.

The motion was carried unanimously, and Bro. Maston replied in a few and appropriate words.

## HOME MISSIONARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

### 1. FIELDS OCCUPIED

At last Annual Meeting a strong recommendation was made to the effect that if possible two extra men should be placed in the field. We are pleased to say that in the providence of God we have been enabled to engage one extra man and also to provide a small subsidy to the Maryborough District. Bro. Connor succeeded Bro. Little in the Kaniva District and Bro.

Pittman is now located in the Echuca District.

The work of evangelisation is therefore now carried on in the following circuits, viz.:—Echuca, Wedderburn, Galaquil, Kaniva, and Maryborough; in the latter place by means of a subsidy. These we will more fully allude to in the order named.

### 2. ECHUCA DISTRICT.

The Echuca and Wedderburn Districts were really combined in one large district for eight months of the year, owing to our being unable to obtain the services of a suitable worker to share the district with Bro. T. Hagger. So that for eight months Bro. Hagger stuck nobly to his exceedingly large circuit. In December last we were however fortunately able to secure the services of Bro. F. Pittman, who took up the work in the Echuca portion of the circuit while Bro. Hagger has since devoted his time to the Wedderburn part. The places in this circuit at which Bren. Hagger and Pittman have labored are Shepparton, Toolamba, Merrigum, Kyabram, Runnymede East, Ballantrilla, Echuca and Wharfarilla. Bro. Pittman has been holding special Sunday evening lantern services in a public hall in Echuca, which were attended by an average of 600 persons. As a consequence the chapel has since then been barely large enough to accommodate the numbers attending. Bro. Pittman has delivered 60 addresses, and reports 1 addition by faith and baptism. With the consent of the church at North Melbourne Bro. McCrackett paid a month's visit to the churches in this district. We have to thank Bro. McCrackett and the church at North Melbourne for his services.

F. Pittman made a few remarks about the work in this district, and requested Bro. Barnes to address the meeting, which he did, telling us of some of the difficulties and encouragements with which they met. Short addresses were given by G. H. Bishop, P. Bryce, and W. Nash. G. H. Bishop mentioned that it was the intention of the church in Kyabram to stand alone during the coming year. R. Twiddy, of Wedderburn, spoke in encouraging terms of the work in that district. After a few remarks by Thos. Hagger, the clause, as well as the following, was adopted.

### 3. WEDDERBURN DISTRICT.

Although this circuit is now separate from Echuca it is still unusually large, comprising Wedderburn, Fernhurst, Yarrowalla, Myria, Borong, Yando, Leaghur, Mumble Plain, Mystic Park, Benjeroop, Narrabit and Kerang East. Bro. Hagger has labored in this circuit, visiting regularly the before mentioned places. He has delivered 296 addresses, paid 452 visits, and travelled (principally on his bicycle) 4040 miles. Number of additions: by faith and obedience, 35; formerly immersed, 1; restored, 1. Total, 37. A number of these additions were to the churches in Echuca District. Bro. Moysey (with the sanction of the church at Swanston-st.) gave a month's labor to the churches at Wedderburn, Fernhurst and Yarrowalla. We desire to thank Bro. M. and the church at Swanston-st. for the help thus rendered.

### 4. GALAQUIL OR MALLEE DISTRICT.

Bro. G. H. Browne has during the year labored in this district. The principal preaching places are Galaquil, Galaquil East, Brim, Warracknabeal, Maidavale, Kelley's Plains, Warmer West and Bangerang. Besides these Bro. Browne has also visited Horsham, Polkemmett and Port Fairy. The Mallee District has suffered considerably through removals, but there is still plenty of work to be done in developing the fields already occupied. Bro. Browne has delivered 165 addresses, and had 27 additions by faith and obedience.

G. H. Browne thanked the Conference for help extended, and promised that the circuit would give as much if not more than last year.

### 5. KANIVA DISTRICT.

Owing to the removal of Bro. Little to the Maryborough District, Kaniva was left without any evangelistic aid for two months at the beginning of the Conference year. We sent Bro. McLellan, who visited all the churches in the district. We then secured the services of Bro. A. W. Connor, formerly of Chalten-



ham, to labor in this field. He commenced in June last, and has been located there ever since. The following are the preaching stations:—Kaniva, Lillimur, Dinyarrak, Yanac North, Yearinga, Sandstern, Yanip, Bordertown, Mundalla, Carew and Buckingham. Number of addresses delivered by Bro. Connor have been 201. Additions by faith and obedience, 14.

Donald McCallum of North Yanac spoke a few words about the work being done by A. W. Connor in that part of the circuit. Robert Lyall urged that members of the Conference should assist the North Yanac Church in erecting a building for which they are now appealing. A. W. Connor, the evangelist in the district, urged the continuance of the work in this circuit.

#### 6. MARYBOROUGH DISTRICT.

At last Conference a strong appeal was received from the churches in this district for evangelistic help. Consequently Bro. Little was sent there, and for the first four months of the Conference year he continued his labors under the Committee. Since then he has been under the direction of the local brethren, and in response to a request from them we have subsidised the work to the extent of 15/- per week. This circuit consists of Maryborough, Bet Bet and Dunolly. The additions by faith and obedience have been 8, and 4 formerly immersed. Total, 12.

#### 7. SUMMARY.

The following is a summary of the foregoing reports:—Additions by faith and obedience, 85; formerly immersed, 5; restored, 1. Total, 91.

John Tully and W. D. Little urged upon the Conference the necessity of assisting the district still during the coming year.

#### 8. FUTURE WORK.

The question of what work to take up in the future is one that no doubt can best be left in the hands of the Missionary Committee appointed by the Conference, seeing that they may have fuller particulars to guide them in arriving at conclusions. And yet it is advisable that the Committee should have expressions of opinion from the members of the Conference as to what they consider is best to be done.

#### RECHUCA DISTRICT.

Up to the time of closing our reports we have not received any application for a renewal of evangelistic help to this district, nor any promises towards the support of an evangelist. Nevertheless we believe that it is the desire of the brethren to continue the work. In the event of satisfactory assurances of a financial kind being forthcoming it would be as well to follow up the work so energetically carried on by Bro. Hagger and Pittman.

#### WEDDERBURN DISTRICT.

We regret very much to have to announce that Bro. Hagger has intimated his intention of giving up all work in the country districts for the present. He has decided upon remaining in the metropolises for a time so as to have better facilities for obtaining educational advantages. The Committee has every reason to speak in commendatory terms of Bro. Hagger's services, and they are very sorry to lose them. If the brethren throughout the Wedderburn District are desirous of carrying on the work they will no doubt intimate the same. It will then be necessary to find a suitable successor to Bro. Hagger.

#### KANIVA DISTRICT.

This district has suffered very much from removals. The churches are widely separated, and unaided, would scarcely be able to hold their own, and would certainly be quite unable to undertake any aggressive work. It would therefore be unwise to withdraw help from this field at present. The local churches have promised £65 towards the funds of the Committee.

#### THE MALLEE CHURCHES.

It was thought last year that this district would soon be self-supporting, but unfortunately the failure of the crops for three years in succession (this last season being the worst of all) has left the churches unable to wholly support an evangelist. The promises are similar in amount to that of last year, viz., £80, towards the continuance of the evangelist's services.

#### MARYBOROUGH DISTRICT.

A letter has been received from the secretary on behalf of the churches in this district asking for the continuance of the subsidy that has been granted during the past eight months, viz., 15/- per week. It is stated that the local churches are unable to raise more than 30/- per week, and they point out that unless a preacher's services are continued the work accomplished during the past twelve months will to a large extent be lost.

#### OLD DISTRICTS.

By this we mean those country churches that have been established many years ago. A number of these churches are holding together under great difficulties. We think that if it were at all possible a brother ought to be constantly going among these churches, laboring a few weeks (longer or shorter as the circumstances would require) visiting and preaching. By this means much good would be accomplished, as quite a number of churches are languishing for want of help.

#### 9. ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS.

Record of attendance at Committee Meetings during the year:—Number of meetings held, 15. J. Pittman, 15; W. Wilson, 8; J. A. Davies, 15; M. McLellan, 15; R. Lyall, 11; A. B. Maston, 14; G. B. Moysey, 12; F. G. Dunn, 12; W. C. Craigie, 8; D. McCrackent, 12; B. J. Kemp, 13; W. S. Houchins, 6.

On behalf of Home Missionary Committee,

J. PITTMAN, President.

M. McLELLAN, Secretary.

The H.M. Committee's report was then adopted as a whole, the question of future work being referred to the incoming committee.

### FOREIGN MISSIONARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT (EXECUTIVE AND VICTORIAN).

We are glad to report a very busy year:—

#### VICTORIAN.

THE CHINESE WORK still prospers. Bro. F. McClean has 45 teachers and 49 scholars on the roll. At the 236 meetings held (not including the Sunday evening preaching services) the attendances aggregated 3350 and 5150 of teachers and scholars respectively, averaging 14.5 teachers and 22 scholars at each meeting. One of the Chinese has made the good confession; many more have become advanced in head and heart toward taking this step. The meetings latterly have greatly increased—at the largest, a muster of 95 in all: larger class rooms seem to be an imperative need: some slight changes in the organisation were deemed wise and were made: teachers are working harmoniously together and a fruitful year is anticipated.

#### EXECUTIVE.

1.—THE FEDERAL ARRANGEMENT continues to work well. The Executive desires to thank the N.S.W. and S.A. Committees for their pleasant co-operation, and especially the secretaries, Bro. H. D. Smith of S.A. and E. Gols of N.S.W., for unobtrusive interest.

2.—KANAKA MISSION.—(a) *John Thompson's Report* as already printed tells of 14 additions by faith and baptism, details being as follows:—Children: baptised, 6; received from other Missions, 3; losses by removal, 16; present membership, 45. Church at Dooll: baptised, 2; from other churches, 14; losses by removal, 10; present membership, 18. Church at Nockroe: baptised, 6; losses by removal, 11; from other churches, 2; present membership, 9. Bro. Thompson is of course greatly cheered by the erection in Childers of (b) *the Kanaka Chapel*. Specifications were drawn out, funds collected, and the chapel completed since last Conference resolution, and your Executive believe you have a good property that will be the centre of much useful work for the Lord. The Committee desires to express its obligations to Bro. O'Brien of Maryborough, who has advised us of the work from time to time.

3.—INDIA.—(a) *Miss Thompson's Report* is not to hand in time for print. Recent letters tell of 18 immersions, so the work is not at a standstill. Our sister has visited 29 villages during the year, not so many as usual on account of (b) *the Famine* demanding

so much of both time and attention. Your liberal contributions have all been forwarded, and the Famine Fund, along with the dreadful episode itself, is now numbered with the past. (c) *Bro. Skak*, toward whose support Doncaster Mission Band still contributes one half, has been attempting the work of two—doing duty for Jagannath and himself—and is of course greatly pleased with the splendid lantern sent to aid him in his work. (d) *F. E. Stabbie* has now gone to India as the second missionary sent by the churches in Australasia. Some five years ago the Conference resolved to send another worker to India—but the right one seemed not to be forthcoming: we believe the Lord was preparing him who should go. Your Committee has not sent out F. E. Stabbie without much careful investigation, and believes you will endorse their action by very hearty and unanimous support. The farewell meetings were most successful. (e) *The Christmas Box* for India was sent as usual, for once containing dolls enough to meet all demands.

4.—CHINA.—In response to an appeal from the Ware, Shanghai, China, we donated to his work the sum of £10. We believe this is the only money we by us for foreign mission work that has been sent outside Queen Victoria's dominions.

5.—OUR TREASURER has had a good time this year, with a total contribution of over £600 for all purposes. On a 12,000 membership basis, this is over 1/- per member. We sent out special envelopes to every church and believe they were of service. As the balance sheet shows, by far the largest part of this money was spent in Australian work.

6.—Honorable mention must be made of Bro. Thurgood, who has placed as heretofore the conveniences of his home at the service of the Committee; and of the editors and proprietors of the *A.C. Standard*, *A.C. Pioneer* and *A. Christian* for valuable space cheerfully afforded, without which our attempts at greater things must have failed.

7.—ATTENDANCE.—Number of meetings held, 12. Mrs. Maston, 10; Mrs. Huntsman, 10; Mrs. Ludbrook, 9; Mr. F. Pittman, 9; Mr. F. McClean, 8; Mr. R. Lyall, 10; Mr. F. Ludbrook, 12.

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

F. M. LUDBROOK, Sec.

F. M. Ludbrook read the Foreign Missionary Committee's report.

F. McClean spoke in reference to the Chinese work, and expressed his thankfulness to God for the results so far achieved, and cordially invited brethren to come and give them a helping hand.

S. Ah Wong also spoke in reference to the work, and said that the love of God and the love of Christ had converted him, and it was this love which would convert the world.

M. W. Green corroborated what the previous speakers had said.

Brethren Clow, Millis and Huntsman also addressed the meeting.

F. M. Ludbrook read some extracts from the reports of Sister Thompson and Bro. Wharton.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT—Wm. Wilson.

VICE PRESIDENT—Campbell Edwards.

TREASURER—J. A. Davies.

SECRETARY—M. McLellan.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY—Robert Lyall.

#### HOME MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

G. B. Moysey, J. Pittman, F. G. Dunn, B. J. Kemp, W. C. Craigie, W. C. Thurgood, Thos. Hagger.

#### FOREIGN MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

F. M. Ludbrook, R. Lyall, F. McClean, W. C. Thurgood, together with three sisters appointed at the Sisters' Conference, viz., Mrs. Maston, Mrs. Huntsman and Mrs. Ludbrook.

#### TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.

A. Millis, W. Wilson, W. S. Houchins, W. C. Thurgood, F. McClean, J. J. Franklyn, J. Barnacle.



CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN VICTORIA, 1898.

CHURCHES.	CHURCH ADDITIONS.				CHURCH LOSSES.		MEMBERSHIP.			SCHOOL STATISTICS.				Church Additions from Sunday School	MISSION FUNDS.			Seating Capacity of Place of Meeting	Average Attendance of Members at Meetings for Worship	Average Attendance at Preaching Services (including Services on Church Hall)				
	Members	Fresh and (Abundance)	Letter	Baptized Believers	Letter	Death	Members	Increase	Decrease	Scholars	Scholars	Teachers	Teachers		Victoria, including Annual Collections	Foreign, including Special Collections	Other							
Ascot Vale...	74	1	1		11	2	17	46	28	180	190	16	15	1	£ 0	12	6	£ 1	12	0	250	30	4	
Archerton ..	7				1			6	1						0	12	6	0	8	3	100	9		
Bairnsdale ..	9		5					14	5	16	35	4	6		0	12	6	0	8	3	200			
Ballarat East	39	2	5		2			44	3	30	35	6	6		0	18	6	0	6	9	250	75	175	
Ballarat West	128	1	0	2	1	1	18	117	11	130	127	12	10		5	0	0	3	3	3	250			
Bangerang ..	12							12																
Bendigo ..	124	20	3	2	3	1		147	23	125	125	8	8	6				5	0	0	250	70	150	
Bet Bet ..	50	1			1			30		25	35	6	6		3	19	0	1	0	0	100	30	30	
Berwick ..	90	8	2		5	1		94	4	30	60	3	4		1	17	3	4	8	9	150	40	60	
Brighton ..	63	14	6	1	3			81	18	88	80	10	12	5	8	10	9	8	1	3	150	37	75	
Brim ..	37	11			3			49	12	57	76	4	5	3	2	4	3	2	12	0	150	35	70	
Broadmeadows	17							17		18		2			0	13	9				120	15	25	
Buninyong ..	15							11		9		1			0	10	0	1	5	10				
Brunswick ..	129	10	11	1	2			149	20	150	146	14	13	5	0	10	4	0	10	3	250	50	80	
Birchip ..	10							13	3															
Benjeroop ..	8				2	1		6			33	2										4	20	
Ballandella ..	9	2						10	1	12	9	2	2	1				1	13	6	40	6	17	
Bordertown (S A.)	14				2			11													100	9	9	
Carlton, Lygon-street	483	16	15	2	12	6	3	496	13	182	150	17	15		13	19	10	4	15	0	500			
Carlton, North ..	125	2	4				87	42	33	210	210	11	12		1	0	0	0	10	7	250	30	45	
Collingwood ..	196	10	6		14	1	16	181	15	250	225	24	18		5	12	0	2	0	3	700			
Cheltenham ..	190	2	1		3			188	2	150	150	15	15	1	8	11	3	5	4	6	300	100	150	
Castlemaine ..																								
Barker's Creek, and Walmer	95	14			2	1		106	11	136	122	16	14	10	1	0	0	0	4	0	500	10	50	
Croydon ..	49							48	1	57	37	7	7		1	12	0	0	11	6				
Colac ..	11							10																
Carew, S. A. ..	34	4			2			36	2						0	7	9	0	7	6				
Doncaster ..	149							144	5	120	173	13	13		13	0	4	16	9	0	180	65		
Dunmunkle ..	20	4	5		2			27	7						3	3	0				50	15	30	
*Dunolly ..	29							29		25	25	4	4		0	8	0	0	8	0	50	30	30	
Drummond ..	69	4			10	2		61	8	21	26	3	3		3	3	6	5	13	6				
Dandenong ..	25							17	8						0	14	2	1	0	0	50	12		
Elphinstone ..	17	1			2	1		15	2												40	12		
Euroa ..	9							9		30	30	1	1		1	5	0	0	2	0	200			
Echuca ..	64	14	3	2	1	3	3	86	16	12	30	2	6		1	5	0	1	1	8	80	28	60	
Fitzroy ..	77	9	3		4			85	8	170	185	11	13	8	3	9	1	0	16	0	600	45	70	
Fitzroy, North ..	259	24	17	2	5	2	3	292	33	258	344	24	27	9	5	6	10	2	3	9	450	150	350	
Fairfield Park ..	25							25		33	33	3	3		0	9	0	14	6	6	300	44	10	
Footscray ..	110	6	3		6	1		111	1	178	182	14	15	4	0	10	6	1	12	0	20	17		
Fernhurst ..	19							20	1						0	9	0	14	6	6				
Geelong ..	64				3			62	2	30	30	6	6		1	15	0	0	13	6	120	39	40	
Gembrook ..	41	3						44	3	18	22	2	2	2	1	11	6	1	14	0	75	26		
Galaquill ..	12	2	3		1	1		16	4						1	11	3	0	12	6	65	15	20	
Hawthorn ..	128	7	9		8	10		126	6	73	62	8	6	7	29	1	0	8	2	7	250	47		
Homebush ..	7							6																
*Horsham ..	25							25		24	24	3	3								150			
Hopetoun (Maldavale)	13	4	3					20	7	15	14	2	2	3	0	4	0	0	7	0				
Kaniva ..	51	1						41	10	24	20	4	3	1	1	6	0	0	10	0	100	18	13	
Kyabram ..	50	2	2	1				40	10	16	8	2	1								50			
Kerang East ..	8	1						9	1															
*Lancefield ..	15							15		15	15	2	2		0	8	0	0	8	0	20	7	20	
Lillimur ..	45	5			13	9		28	17						0	13	0	0	18	7	250			
Mumble Plain ..	7	2	1					10	3	30	31	4	5		0	7	0	0	4	6	40	6	15	
Melbourne, Swanston-st	119	2	5		2	4	5	124	16	67	61	9	7		37	2	10	21	13	10	450			
Melbourne North ..	228	17	16					257	29	239	250	20	20	8	6	18	7	2	2	6	350	150	200	
Melbourne, South ..	89	8	7		3	11	2	92	3	199	199	10	13		2	17	9	1	18	10	200	35	55	
Maryborough ..	29	5	6		1	1		37	8	15	30	3	4		0	7	0				150	10		
Mount Clear ..	8							7	1	30	17	3	3		0	10	0	0	9	0	100	5	20	
Mooroobark ..	17				3			15	2	42	30	4	3								150	16		
Murtoa ..	24				3			21	3															
Miepool ..	2							2																
Malvern ..	47	1						40	7	58	44	10	9		4	4	8	9	2	0				
Minyip ..	6		1					7	1	7	7	3	3		0	8	6	0	11	11	100	5	30	
Mildura ..	31	1			1			23	2	14	12	2	2											
Mystic Park ..	5	3						8	3	14	12	2	2											
Murrumbidgee ..	24		6		10			20	4	30	20	4	4											
Newmarket ..	89	9			2	2		94	5	152	160	12	12	3	2	9	5	1	2	6	100	18	30	
Newstead ..	13	1	2		1	1		14		14	12	6	3		0	8	6	1	6	0	200	40	70	
Pakenham ..	27	3			1	3		26	1	16	12	3	2								80	15	24	
Prabran ..	238	7	26		3	14	2	258	20	206	205	20	20	2	2	8	0	0	12	1	350	106	120	
Port Fairy ..	26	1	4					30																



CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN VICTORIA, 1897 - Continued

large towns, and that these should form a centre from which the light of the gospel should radiate. In reference to his work at Echuca, he soon found that the chapel was too small to hold the people, and so the Temperance hall was engaged and the lantern services which had been held had proved very successful, as many as six and seven hundred people being present. He thought the work was hindered in our country churches by brethren who seemed to care more for fads than preaching Christ. Brethren itinerating the country disturbed the churches with these things. The things they advocated were of little or no value, and only hindered the progress of the gospel. He would urge the importance of greater liberality and support of the work.

CHURCHES.	CHURCH ADDITIONS.				CHURCH LOSSES.		MEMBERSHIP.			SCHOOL STATISTICS.				MISSION FUNDS.		Singing Capacity of Pews of Meeting.	Average Attendance of Members at Meetings for Week.	Average Attendance at Preaching Services.	Involuntary Discharges from Church Roll.	
	Members.	Fresh and Old-time.	Letter.	Returned Believers.	Letter.	Death.	Members.	Increase.	Decrease.	Scholars.	Scholars.	Teachers.	Teachers.	Voluntary Annual Collections.	Foreign, including Special Collections.					
Surrey Hills	1897						1897			1897	1898	1897	1898	£ s. d.	£ s. d.					
Swan Reach	58	3				21	40	18		45	25	6	5		2 15 6	150	25	30		
Toolamba	12	1	2		1	1	13	1		30	3	3		0 17 0						
*Taradale	26						26			18	18	2	2		0 13 0		6	20	3	
*Traralgon & Toongah	14						14			20	20	3	3			120				
*Warragul	14						14			31	28	5	5							
Warramboul	35	2			1		37	1		2	2			1 8 3	0 10 9	200	30	35		
Wandin Yallock	2						2													
Warracknabeal	11	2	1			3	11								1 4 9	100	8			
Wedderburn	106	7	2	3		3	114	8		70	79	7	6	9 4 0	1 10 2	100	15		14	
Williamstown	39						39									250	15		3	
Yarrawalla	7					1	7			33	3									
Yanac North	24	6					30	6		3	3	3	3	0 12 0	1 3 0					
Yando	10				1		9	1						1 9 6			8	18		
Totals	5174	303	317	29	17	221	44	265	5210	314	275	653	4773	466	453	94	11410	1885	2450	184

\* These Churches entered same as last year, no official returns having been received. Increase in Church Membership, 28. Increase in S. S. Scholars, 51. Decrease in S. S. Teachers, 23. Amounts acknowledged as received from Churches include all contributions, whether received from Churches or individual members of Churches, but not including amounts contributed by Country Churches at per arrangement for evangelists' services. For these latter amounts see Financial Statement.

**COLLECTION.**  
A collection was taken up amounting to £51 8s. 3d. in cash and promises.

Members of the Swanston-st. choir gave a musical selection.

Bro. A. W. Connor spoke of the difficulties attending his work and how nobly in some cases the brethren met and overcame them. His district covered about 80 miles and there were no large towns in it. Bro. McCallum, who addressed the meeting that afternoon and whose few words were well received, was one who did good service and rendered great assistance in the work. The largest town in the district was Nhill, and some of the brethren thought that a start should be made there, but this was a matter that required careful consideration. In conclusion he would say that in order to successful work we should have a greater knowledge of a personal Christ and be filled with the conviction that our work is God's work.

The meeting came to a close by singing "God be with you till we meet again."

SATURDAY.

The delegates assembled shortly after 10 o'clock a.m., and after devotional exercises, the business of the Conference was proceeded with.

**HYMN BOOK PUBLISHING COMMITTEE.**

It is now ten years since the present Hymn Book was first published. During that period the total number of books disposed of has been 10,897. These have been disposed of in all the Australasian colonies. We regret to say that we have lost one of our fellow Committeemen by death, viz., our late esteemed Bro. J. E. Laing. It will therefore be necessary to appoint some one to fill his place.

A proposition has been made by the Austral Publishing Co. to take over the publication of the Hymn Book. While we could not agree to the proposal submitted by them, we think that the following suggested agreement will commend itself to the Conference—

- 1st. That the Hymn Book Committee does not part with its interest in the Hymn Book.
- 2nd. That the Committee, however, agrees to give to the Austral Publishing Co. the right to publish the book for a period of five (5) years, for which privilege the Austral Publishing Co. agrees to bring out a new edition as explained hereafter in clause 3.

3rd. That during the said period of five years the Austral Publishing Co. be entitled to all profits arising from the sale of the Hymn Book.

4th. That in the event of no arrangement being made at or before the expiration of the period of five years, this agreement may be terminated at any time after the said expiration by twelve months' notice on either side.

5th. That during the currency of the said five years the Austral Publishing Co. shall reprint the Hymn Book from new type and provide stereos of the same without cost to the Committee. Such stereos, together with the moulds from which they were cast shall be the property of the Committee free of cost.

6th. That the paper and the binding of the Hymn Book shall be equal to those already in use, and the prices for the respective kinds shall not be increased.

7th. That no alteration of any kind whatsoever shall be made in regard to the Hymn Book without the written consent of the Hymn Book Committee.

8th. That, in the event of this agreement terminating by effluxion of time or by proper notice on either side, all books or printed sheets of the Hymn Book shall be handed over to the Committee at cost price, the stereos and moulds being both handed over without any charge being made for the same.

Appended will be found a statement of assets and liabilities, also a statement of receipts and expenditure.

F. G. DUNN, } Publishing  
HUGH WM. SINCLAIR, } Committee  
M. McLELLAN, Sec.

Melbourne, 28/3/98.

**ASSETS.**

Books in Stock	..	..	£25 8 9
Book Debts	..	..	10 12 3
Cash on Hand	..	..	5 15 8
			£41 16 8

**LIABILITIES.**

Nil

**HYMN BOOK ACCOUNT.**

**RECEIPTS.**

Balance, 1897	..	..	£0 16 1
Books	..	..	85 14 10
Carriage	..	..	1 7 6
			£87 18 5

**EXPENDITURE.**

Binding a/c	..	..	£45 5 1
Printing a/c	..	..	25 15 0
Publishing	..	..	4 6 6
Postage	..	..	2 6 6
Advertising	..	..	2 10 0

Carriage	..	..	1 3 8
Insurance	..	..	0 9 0
Exchange	..	..	0 7 0
Balance in Bank	..	..	5 15 8
			£87 18 5

Audited and found correct,  
J. BARNACLE, A.S.A.A., ENG }  
A. R. LYALL } Auditors.

Melbourne, 18th March, 1898.

The report of the Hymn Book Committee was considered, and on the motion of Bro. F. G. Dunn the report was adopted, and the proposal in reference to the Austral Co. agreed to. The opinion was also expressed that the arrangement with the Austral Co. might be continued after the expiration of the five years unless there were any serious reasons to the contrary.

Bro. Dunn stated that it was the intention of the Hymn Book Committee, when the assets were realised, to place the proceeds in the Savings Bank as a reserve fund in case of need.

Bro. J. Pittman was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Hymn Book Committee.

On the motion of Bro. Mahon a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the Hymn Book Committee for their services.

**TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.**

It is with much pleasure that we intimate that the work for the year has made fair progress, especially financially.

Public meetings have been held in the following churches, viz.:—Lygon-st., Carlton (2); Dorcas-st., South Melbourne; Swanston-st.; Ascot Vale; Stanton-st., Collingwood; and two in the Malles District, viz., Brim and Galaquil.

The meeting held in Lygon-st. chapel on April 13 proved a gigantic success, several societies competing for a prize banner which was presented by the Committee for the highest percentage of attendance and the best exercise rendered during the evening. North Carlton Society succeeded in carrying off the prize, North Melbourne running them so close that we deemed it advisable to award a second prize of half-a-guinea.

A Temperance Mission Meeting was held at Lygon-st. on April 19; at the close of this meeting ten pledges were taken.



Mrs. Harrison Lee gave a very interesting and instructive lecture in Swanston-st. entitled "Celebrities I Have Met," one pledge being taken at this meeting.

At Collingwood Bro. M. Wood Green gave a splendid address, about one hundred being present. At the close ten pledges were taken.

The lantern was introduced at South Melbourne, Brim and Galaxil. These two country districts were visited by Bros. F. Pittman and Everett. They reported finding both towns very enthusiastic on the Temperance question, especially at Galaxil, where they visited the Band of Hope, and the programme set before them was of such a character that it could hardly be surpassed by many of our town societies.

It was the intention of the Committee to hold considerably more meetings, but this was prevented by the prolonged illness of the Secretary.

The Bands of Hope generally are in good working order. Special mention may be made of North Fitzroy, North Carlton, and North Melbourne.

We beg to thank the officers of the various churches who have so kindly lent their buildings and valuable assistance during the past year; also the press for keeping the Temperance question well before the brethren.

ATTENDANCES OF COMMITTEE.

Nine meetings have been held. J. Barnacle, 7; W. Collins, 7; F. Pittman, 6 (out of town); A. Millis, 5; W. S. Honchina, 5; Wm. Wilson, 3 (out of town); Geo. Everett, 9.

A. MILLIS, President.  
GEO. EVERETT, Secy. and Treas.

BALANCE SHEET.

YEAR ENDING MARCH 8, 1898.

RECEIPTS.

To Balance from Previous Year	..	£ 1 16 3
.. Collections at Meetings	..	.. 9 16 9
.. Donations	..	.. 0 10 0
		£ 11 3 2

EXPENDITURE.

By Lantern Expenses	..	£ 1 6 0
.. Printing, Postage, &c.	..	.. 4 14 0
.. Presentations to Bands of Hope	..	.. 1 11 6
.. Donation	..	.. 1 0 0
.. Balance in Hand	..	.. 3 11 8
		£ 12 3 2

Audited and found correct,

J. BARNACLE, A.I.A.V.

GEO. EVERETT, Secy. and Treas.

In the absence of the secretary Bro. A. Millis read the report and moved its adoption. Brethren Swain, McClean, Payne, McCrackett, F. Pittman, W. Wilson and others spoke to the motion.

On the motion of Bro. F. Pittman, seconded by Bro. A. Morris, it was resolved— "That the Conference of Associated Churches of Christ in Victoria wishes to record its earnest protest against the proposed action of the Government in providing a sum of money for the erection of central wine cellars. As representing a substantial section of the ratepayers who object to the use of their money for the subsidising of a traffic which by reason of the very small amount spent by it in the avenues of labor should need no subsidising; and moreover regarding the traffic as most injurious to the community, and it should therefore not obtain a preference over other important industries.

Further resolved, That a copy of the resolution be sent to the proper authorities.

Resolved, That owing to the scarcity of funds to carry on Temperance work, a collection be taken up on the occasion of the Conference Sermon on Lord's day afternoon for the purpose of assisting in the promotion of Temperance work.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION REPORT.

In presenting this brief report of our work during the past year, we do so with mingled feelings, for

while the work of the Union betokens progress in the right direction, we have sustained a heavy loss in the removal by death of our late esteemed Secretary, Bro. James Wiseman, a man in whom was the spirit of the Master, a friend in whom we trusted, and one whose labors amongst us were as thorough as they were abundant. We deeply regret his loss, and can only lovingly commend those whom he has left behind to the Father's special care.

CANTATA.—During the Conference last year the united Sunday Schools choir rendered the cantata, "Victories of Judah," assisted by Sister Nellie McClelland, under the leadership of Bro. Ernest Pittman. The evening proved an enjoyable one to a large gathering, which taxed to its utmost the capacity of Lygon-st. chapel.

SOCIAL EVENINGS.—The Union has arranged two or three meetings of a social character during the session, in order to bring our teachers together in social intercourse.

EXAMINATIONS.—The annual examinations were well contested on last occasion, the attendance keeping up to that of previous years. During the year correspondence has passed between the Union in N.S.W. and ourselves in connection with examination matters, with the result that for our next examinations our brethren in Sydney have undertaken the work of preparing and examining the papers. We trust the innovation will prove of value.

ANNUAL PICNIC.—On 9th November last the Union held its annual picnic on the grounds of the "Royal Horticultural Society" at Burnley, where a most enjoyable day was spent by a large gathering of friends.

VISITATION.—Some time ago the Union made special arrangements with Sister Hall, to visit Sunday Schools in and around Melbourne on their behalf, with most satisfactory results, the work being done in a thorough manner, and the reports and suggestions handed in to the Union, from month to month being full of interest and exceedingly helpful to members generally.

NEED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS.—A reference to statistical columns this year shows an increase of scholars and decrease in number of teachers, while the number added to the church from the Sunday School is only 94, or 50 less than last year. We would impress upon members of the church the need for workers in this most fruitful field of labor for the Master. Some schools need assistance sorely, and a duty lies upon those who have the ability and opportunity to take this matter up promptly.

INCOME.—Our income has been small, and we appeal to brethren to remember our requirements financially.

RETIREMENT OF PRESIDENT.—Our esteemed Bro. Ferd Pittman, who filled the position of President of the Union during the early portion of the year, resigned on his accepting an engagement with the Missionary Committee to labor in the Echuca District, and, though we regret the alteration amongst our officers, we feel that he retains a lively interest in our work.

There are now 27 schools in connection with the Union. We trust with confidence that the labors in which we have been engaged for the Master who said "Suffer the little ones to come unto me" will not have been in vain, but that, in the days to come, many now in our schools will become valiant soldiers of the cross.

B. J. KEWF, Vice-President.

J. S. MCINTOSH, Secretary.

K. M. ENDERBY, Asst. Sec.

Sister M. Hall read a paper on "Sunday School Visiting," which was well received.

Bro. M. W. Green read a paper on "The Sunday School and its Management" of a most instructive and profitable character.

Bro. F. McClean moved, That this Conference, seeing the importance of Sunday School work, requests the evangelists to give special prominence to Sunday School work during the current year. Carried.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. M. W. Green for his essay on Sunday School work.

CONDOLENCE.

It was resolved "That, as during the year many of our brethren have suffered bereavement of those near and dear to them,

this Conference places on record its sense of sympathy with all who have thus suffered."

ART UNIONS.

Moved by Bro. W. Wilson and seconded by Bro. F. G. Dunn—"That the Associated Churches of Christ in Victoria in Conference assembled do hereby protest against the continued practice of holding art unions in connection with the galas held by various Friendly Societies. They view with alarm the selling of tickets in the public streets of the city by old and young, as being a direct fostering of the gambling spirit and so being inimical to the good morals of the community. They urge for the suppression of the practice, by amendment of the law if such be necessary." Carried unanimously.

CONFERENCE ESSAY.

Bro. H. Mahon read his essay on "The Apostolic Church: Its Doctrine and Discipline." The essay was well written and listened to with great attention by all present.

The following brethren spoke to the essay: Morrison, Stephenson, Brandt, Bardwell, Parker, Wilson, McClean, Dunn, Grant, Lawson, Henshelwood, Millis, Park.

After these brethren had spoken, Bro. Mahon replied.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to Bro. Mahon for his excellent essay.

CHURCH BUILDING DEBTS.

Bro. Cleary moved that a committee consisting of Bros. Stephenson, Somerville, and the mover, obtain information on the subject and submit to next Conference.

NEXT CONFERENCE.

Resolved that the meetings of the next Conference be held in the Christians' chapel, Lygon-st. (with the consent of the officers).

VOTES OF THANKS.

Votes of thanks were given to Lygon-st. officers, to the president (Bro. Pittman), and to the Sisters' Executive.

FOREIGN MISSION MEETING.

The Foreign Missionary Committee's meeting was held at 7.30 on Saturday evening, Bro. Pittman presiding. After opening hymn Bro. R. Lyall led in prayer. An address was delivered by Bro. Pittman, in which he pointed out that at the present time the world was rapidly being opened up so as to make evangelisation possible.

Bro. F. M. Ludbrook read letters from Bros. G. L. Wharton and Shah and Sister Mary Thompson, India.

Solo by Bro. Sydney Pittman.

Mr. Hallam, a missionary returned from India, said he had been in Jamaica, and had worked with the Disciples there for five years and had found that the pleasantest time of his life. Though he had not united with the Disciples, his views were quite in accord with theirs. He paid a visit to India to see his father, and called at Hurda and saw Mr. Wharton and thought that the work was very promising. He specially desired to advocate the claims of Fiji as a mission field. Fiji lay right at our own doors and had special claims upon our attention.

Dialogue by Malvern Mission Band.



Bro. S. Ah Wong said the Chinese Mission had requested him to represent them on this occasion. He heard that some people said Christianity was not intended for the Chinese. He was sorry for these people and hoped that they would soon learn to know the word of God better. There was a feeling against the Chinese in this colony, but he was proud to say that he was not ashamed of his countrymen. He regretted very much that some of his brethren in Christ spoke against the Chinese. He thought that the Chinese both in industry and morals would compare favorably with Europeans. He thought that the reason why China had gone back was because it had not the Bible. After giving some interesting facts in reference to China and its worship, he expressed a hope that a missionary would be sent to his country.

Action song, "The Stocking Menders," by Swanston-street Sunday School.

At this stage the collection was taken up, amounting in cash and promises to £17 19s. 6d. Song, W. Ah Hing.

Sister A. B. Maston read a paper on "The Churches of Christ Missionary Work in All the World." This was of a most interesting character, and will in all probability appear in the columns of the CHRISTIAN.

Letter of greeting. Bro. F. G. Dunn moved, seconded by Bro. G. B. Moysey seconded, and it was carried by acclamation, that the following letter be sent to our brethren in Foreign Mission fields:—

"The Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria in meeting assembled desire to convey to the brethren and sisters laboring in the mission fields of China, India and Japan and the Kanakas of Queensland, their hearty and fraternal greetings. Though separated widely from each other, the brethren in Victoria feel that there is a real though unseen

### VICTORIAN MISSION FUND.

RECEIPTS.	
Balance ..	£33 3 4
Collection at Conference ..	16 11 4
Contributions from Churches ..	65 10 4
Bequest from the late Bro. Quilliam ..	100 0 0
Individual Contributions ..	89 10 4
Annual Collections ..	73 10 0
Conference Fees ..	73 10 0
From Churches for Evangelistic Services—	
Conference of Muller Churches ..	74 19 7
Maryborough and Bet Bet District ..	16 1 6
Ethiopia and Wedderburn District—	
Wedderburn ..	22 10 0
Echuca ..	21 0 0
Fernhurst ..	15 0 0
Kyabram ..	11 0 0
Ballendella ..	8 0 0
Shepparton ..	7 10 0
Kerang East ..	6 2 0
Yando ..	5 0 0
Mumble Plain ..	4 0 0
Toolamba ..	3 0 0
Yarrowalla ..	2 10 0
Mystic Park ..	2 3 0
Steel's Gully ..	1 0 0
<b>Kaniva District—</b>	<b>108 15 0</b>
Kaniva ..	20 0 0
Carew ..	13 0 0
Yanac North ..	9 0 0
Lillimur ..	20 0 0
Bordertown ..	6 0 0
	<b>68 0 0</b>
	<b>£699 11 11</b>

Melbourne, 18th March, 1898.

Audited and found correct.

EXPENDITURE.	
Salaries—	
G. H. Browne ..	£ 131 6 8
Thos. Hagger ..	104 0 0
A. W. Connor ..	81 10 0
M. McLellan ..	59 10 0
F. Pittman ..	47 13 4
W. D. Little ..	43 6 8
Subsidy to Maryborough and Bet Bet District ..	470 6 8
Travelling Expenses ..	25 10 0
Printing and Stationery ..	19 3 3
Postage ..	15 17 0
Conference Expenses ..	10 5 0
Picnic Expenses ..	3 9 6
Exchange ..	2 9 5
Sundries ..	1 5 9
Balance in Bank ..	5 9 0
	<b>105 16 4</b>

JOHN A. DAVIES, Treasurer.

£699 11 11

J. BARNACLE, A.S.A.A., Eng. | A. R. LYALL, Auditors.

### FOREIGN MISSION FUND.

RECEIPTS.	
Balance from 1896-7 ..	£0 7 5½
1.—Victoria	
Collection Conference, 1897 ..	£6 15 0
Churches & Individual Contributions ..	132 5 11½
From Mission Bands at Doncaster ..	14 0 0
Malvern ..	5 11 0
	<b>158 11 11½</b>
2.—New South Wales	
Churches & Individual Contributions per N.S.W. Committee ..	£59 10 1
Direct Contributions ..	7 18 0
	<b>67 8 1</b>
3.—South Australia	
Churches & Individual Contributions per S.A. Committee ..	£63 0 0
Direct Contributions ..	0 7 0
	<b>63 7 0</b>
4.—Queensland	
Churches & Individual Contributions ..	29 16 11
5.—New Zealand	
Churches & Individual Contributions ..	25 17 3
6.—Tasmania	
Churches & Individual Contributions ..	7 4 0
7.—Western Australia	
Churches & Individual Contributions ..	3 11 0
	<b>£354 3 8</b>

ROBERT LYALL, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct.

EXPENDITURE.	
India—	
Miss Thompson	
3 Quarters Salary to 31 Mar '98 ..	£90 0 0
Cost of Bank Drafts ..	1 5 5
Cost of Sending Xmas Box ..	2 0 0
Bro. Shab	
7 Months Salary to 31 Mar '98 ..	14 0 0
Cost of Lantern ..	4 9 2
Bro. r. E. Stabbie	
Travelling Expenses to India and Part Salary ..	43 0 0
	<b>150 14 7</b>
China—	
Donation to Mission Building at Shanghai, per Bro. James Ware ..	10 0 0
Queensland—	
Kanaka Mission, Childers	
Salary Jno. Thompson 12 months to 31 Mar '98 ..	£120 0 0
Kanaka Mission, Maryborough	
Contribution in the hands of Bro. S. O'Brien ..	12 0 0
	<b>132 0 0</b>
Melbourne—	
Chinese Mission	
Rent of Schoolrooms, 51 weeks @ 12/6 ..	31 17 0
Charges—	
Printing ..	£5 15 0
Postage, Stationery, &c. ..	0 18 10
Bank Exchanges ..	0 19 6
Bank Interest ..	0 5 0
	<b>13 18 4</b>
Balance on Hand ..	9 13 3
	<b>£354 3 8</b>

J. BARNACLE, A.S.A.A., Eng. | A. R. LYALL, Auditors.

### KANAKA BUILDING FUND.

RECEIPTS.	
From Churches & Individual Contributions as Under:	
Victoria ..	£113 2 9
South Australia ..	83 15 3
Queensland ..	23 17 6
New South Wales ..	15 17 0
Western Australia ..	15 0 0
New Zealand ..	9 14 6
Missionaries at Hurda, India ..	7 10 0
	<b>268 17 0</b>
	<b>£268 17 0</b>

ROBERT LYALL, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct.

EXPENDITURE.	
Payments on account of New Building ..	£250 0 0
Cost of Bank Drafts ..	2 5 7
Bank Exchanges ..	0 4 6
Printing and Postage ..	5 10 0
	<b>258 0 1</b>
Balance on Hand ..	10 16 11
	<b>£268 17 0</b>

J. BARNACLE, A.S.A.A., Eng. | A. R. LYALL, Auditors.



## FAMINE AND BENEVOLENT FUND.

bond binding Australia and India together, and that bond is the everlasting love of Jesus. They rejoice that divine love has filled the hearts of so many to go forth into foreign lands and make known the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. They would express to their co-workers their deepest sympathy for them in their work, and in the many trials which they have to go through, and pray most earnestly that the heavenly Father may keep and sustain them through it all, and earnestly hope that the sowing of the seed will by-and-bye reap a rich and abundant harvest.

RECEIPTS.	
Balance from 1896-7 ..	£0 6 8½
From Churches & Individual Contributions as under—	
New South Wales ..	16 18 0
Victoria ..	14 4 8½
New Zealand ..	13 19 4
Queensland ..	9 5 10
South Australia (Note—S.A. sent £54 direct) ..	2 0 0
Western Australia ..	2 0 0
	58 7 10½
From Sunday Schools—	
New Zealand ..	£6 2 0
Victoria ..	3 7 6
Queensland ..	0 17 4
New South Wales ..	0 1 4
	10 8 2
From Christian Endeavor Society—	
Enmore, N.S.W. ..	0 10 0
	£69 12 9

ROBERT LYALL, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct.

EXPENDITURE.	
Drafts Sent to India for Famine Relief ..	£65 10 0
Cost of Bank Drafts ..	0 7 9
Amount Sent to Bro. John Thompson for Benevolent Work amongst Kanakas ..	65 17 9
	3 13 0
	£69 12 9

J. BARNACLE, A.S.A.A., Eng.—  
A. R. LYALL, } AUDITORS.

To their brethren who have been gathered into the church the brethren in Victoria also send greetings, and rejoice in the glorious truth that in Christ Jesus all the world is kin. They pray that one and all may fight the good fight of faith and lay hold of eternal life.

"To our Australian workers in India—Miss Thompson and Bro. Stubbin—and Bro. John Thompson in Queensland, we desire specially to send our Christian love and heartiest wishes for their success in labor."

Sister McGregor of South Australia gave a recitation entitled "Is it Nothing to You?"

Bro. Franklyn said that at that late hour he would not detain the meeting with any lengthy remarks; he would rather prefer that the meeting should go away with the missionary spirit already engendered. He would just urge that we all be more largely moved by the love of Christ, and remember Calvary and what Calvary cost.

Bro. C. Gill of Doncaster gave a recitation "What Lack I Yet?"

After a hymn and benediction the meeting terminated.

## CONFERENCE SERMON.

On Lord's day afternoon at 3 Bro. M. Wood Green preached the Conference Sermon, his subject being "The Great Purpose of Life." There was a very large audience, who listened attentively to an excellent sermon.

## THE PICNIC.

This was held at the Horticultural Society's Grounds near Picnic Station, and the day being fine about 600 brethren and sisters spent a pleasant time together; and so the Conference of 1898 was brought to a close, all admitting that it was one of the finest that has been held for some years.

## Victorian Sisters.

The thirteenth Annual Conference was held at Lygon-street on Wednesday, April 6th. Acting President Mrs. Maston presided and led devotional exercises. Minutes of last year's meeting were read and confirmed, and correspondence was received.

Mrs. McCrackett gave welcome greeting,

and Miss Petchey responded on behalf of visiting sisters.

Treasurer's report was read by Mrs. Walker; Victorian Mission by Mrs. Pittman; and Obituary by Miss Rometsch. The latter showed 17 sisters have entered into rest during the year, a great many being aged ones.

Mrs. Schofield read the Sunday School report, from which we learn 100 scholars have joined church during the year. Mrs. Hall gave a comprehensive Visitor's report. Dorcas work was reported by Mrs. G. B. Moysey, and Prayer Meetings by Mrs. Chown. Mrs. McCrackett gave the Temperance report. Hospital Visitation showed Sisters Thurgood, Walker, Holdsworth, and Hill had visited Melbourne, Homœopathic and Alfred Hospitals during the year, and Sisters McCrackett, Greenwood and Russell the Benevolent Asylum. The Deaf and Dumb and Blind Asylums have also been regularly visited.

The following visitors were introduced:—Mrs. A. Milne, Miss Alison McGregor (Hindmarsh, S.A.), Mrs. Coomber (Petersham, N.S.W.), Mrs. Symes (Barker's Creek), Mrs. Tomkins (Benalla), Mrs. Reid (Ballarat), Mrs. Cameron (Queensland), Mrs. Meyer (Gembrook), Miss Pattison (Fernhurst), Mrs. Brome (Adelaide, S.A.).

Resolved to have Conference Reports printed at a cost of £3. Mrs. J. A. Davies was unanimously elected to write essay for Conference 1899. After prayer by Mrs. Milne, the meeting adjourned for tea.

The evening session opened with an informal song service. Devotional exercises were led by Mrs. Huntsman. Roll call was answered by twenty churches, over 300 sisters being present. Greetings were received from Hobart, England, New South Wales and Northam W.A. sisters. Mrs. F. M. Ludbrook read a paper entitled "The Children for Christ," after which Mrs. Maston gave the Acting President's address. Miss Cox's essay "The Tendencies of the Times" dealt largely with the growth of scepticism, and was well written. Mrs. Ludbrook senr. read an interesting F.M. report and Miss Huntsman the Mission Band reports. Hobart and Collingwood Endeavor Societies sent reports. Solos were sung by Mrs. Mitchelhill, Miss A. Brough and Miss M. McGregor; duet, Misses Moy-

sey; and a recitation was given by Miss Edwards. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Acting President, Mrs. Ludbrook senr.; vice-presidents, Mrs. Maston, Huntsman, Pittman and Hall; treasurer, Mrs. Walker; secretaries, Misses Hill and Dewar. The following resolutions were proposed by Mrs. Pittman and carried:—

Resolved—That we send greetings to English and American Sisters' Conferences.

Knowing the great need of evangelistic work in Victoria, we as a sisterhood determine to do all in our power to help on the work by our prayers and by systematic giving to the Home Mission Fund.

That this Conference send grateful thanks to the officers of Swanston-st. for the use of the lecture hall every month; to Lygon-st. for use of chapel for Sisters' Conference; and to the officers of Prahran, North Melbourne and Collingwood for the privilege of using their chapels for missionary meetings.

That we thank all sisters who have contributed items during this Conference, and those who prepared our tea.

That we recognise by a standing vote the kindly references which have always been tendered by the General Conference to the Sisters' Executive.

Resolved—That we urge those who conduct Bands of Hope to see that scientific Temperance instruction be energetically carried out, and that we be careful in all our meetings to discountenance anything like theatrical performances, believing such to be inconsistent with our Christian principles, and dangerous to our young people.

## EXECUTIVE REPORT.

Madam President, Dear Sisters,—Our Heavenly Father has permitted us once more to assemble in Conference. We give him thanks for his goodness to us during the past year. The Executive has been unbroken by death, and we have worked in harmony and love. Our Vice-presidents have taken turns to preside at the monthly meetings, of which we have held twelve; an average attendance of 28 present at each meeting; six sisters have not missed one meeting; seven missed only one, and five have missed two.

Committee Work.—From reports to be read you will learn how the work has progressed. The Sisters' collections for the Home Mission Fund have not been as large as usual. So many extra calls have been made, in-



fectious Diseases Hospital, Bush Fires Relief, &c., to which many of our churches responded; besides our own churches and Sunday-schools take all our spare funds.

**Foreign Mission Committee.**—Our sisters have regularly attended the committee meetings. The secretary says there could not have been three better representatives than Sisters Ludbrook senr., Maston and Huntsman. Temperance, Sunday School, Sisters' Prayer Meeting, Dorcas Work, and Hospital Visitation have all been carried on. Greetings were sent by Sister Mrs. King to the English Sisters' Annual Meeting, and to the Adelaide Sisterhood by Mrs. Maston.

We have lost a faithful worker by the removal of Sister Kemp to West Australia. The brethren are holding a conference there. We hope to hear of the Sisters doing likewise in the near future. The Executive met to say good-bye to Mrs. Kemp and her daughters. Mrs. Maston presented our sister with a small token of remembrance.

We held two "prayer and praise" meetings during the year, and three missionary meetings. The sisters have given donations to F. G. Dunn's Testimonial Fund and the Rescue Home, as well as sent a small box of jam to Miss Thompson. Letters have been received from Mrs. Christopher, Miss Thompson, Mrs. A. Kemp, Mrs. John Thompson, also Mrs. Thurgood's monthly letter. We have had as visitors Mrs. Bell, Perth; Mrs. Wardley, Brisbane; Mrs. Dunn and Miss Ker, Sydney. The editors of *A.C. Standard* and *Pioneer* kindly allowed us space in their respective papers, until they were merged into the *AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN*, the editor of which continues to grant us a place fortnightly for reports and selected articles, for which kindness we tender sincere thanks. Thanks are also due to the officers of Swanston-st. for allowing the use of lecture hall monthly, to the officers of Lygon-st. for their building to hold our Conference meetings, and Bro. R. Lyall for auditing the accounts.

Respectfully submitted,

EMMA E. HILL | Hon.  
LIZZIE M. DEWAR | Secretaries

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, CONFERENCE, 1898.

INCOME.

Balance from year 1896-7 .. ..	£ 4 4 1
To dinner and tea fund .. ..	5 14 9
Collection Sisters' Conference, 1897 ..	4 18 6
Tickets—Friday .. ..	10 7 9
Saturday .. ..	5 7 6
To goods sold .. ..	0 15 0
	£ 31 7 7

EXPENDITURE.

To goods catered for .. ..	18 9 7½
Secretary's account, 1896-97 .. ..	2 1 10
Printing reports, etc. .. ..	5 5 0
Credit balance in hand .. ..	5 11 1½
	£ 31 7 7

EXECUTIVE, 1897-98.

INCOME.

Balance from Conference, 1897 .. ..	5 11 1½
Collections, Sisters' Executive .. ..	3 7 8½
	£ 8 18 10

EXPENDITURE.

To Sunday School Visitation (Mrs. Hall) ..	1 2 6
Donations .. ..	5 2 7
Sundries .. ..	0 5 3
Credit balance in hand .. ..	2 8 6
	£ 8 18 10

Audited and found correct.  
R. LYALL, 6/4/98.

A. WALKER, Treas.  
L. DEWAR, F. Sec.

S.S. REPORT.

Most of the reports to hand are encouraging. Some, however, are not very bright. We read that some of the schools are languishing for the necessary help needed. The majority of our members do not seem to realise the great importance of this work. From statistics quoted we learn that scholars number about 4,000, teachers nearly 400; from 37 schools there have been 100 additions. One of the general questions of the day is "Will it pay?" We may apply that question here, and answer "Yes." We cannot estimate the value of the harvest which has been garnered in even this last year.

C. SCHOFIELD, Supt.

S.S. VISITATION.

In a circuit of about 27 schools, 36 visits have been paid. Am pleased to report a great deal of faithful work done amongst the children, and would here take the opportunity of thanking the superintendents and teachers for the kindly courtesy shown on these occasions.

(To be continued next week.)

Sunday School.

Then were there brought unto him little children.  
—Matthew 19: 13

LESSON FOR APRIL 24TH.

"A LESSON ON FORGIVENESS."  
MATT. 18: 21-35

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven."  
—Luke 6: 37.

The Master's instructions regarding the treatment of a brother's offences furnished much food for thought for Peter, who could well see that much forbearance was enjoined, and wanted to know just how much. In a fuller revelation of the principles of the doctrine of Christ, we may wonder why he got no farther than "Until seven times?" When we learn the teaching of the Rabbis, however, who said: "Forgive a first offence, forgive a second, a third; punish the fourth," we see how great an advance Peter had made. Yet it must have been a wonderful revelation to be told: Not seven, but seventy times seven. The idea was not that we are to keep count, and when a brother gets to the four hundred and ninety-first offence come down on him with violence enough to punish all the preceding four hundred and ninety; the number of times of forgiveness is bounded only by the number of injuries. Prof. Schaff well says: "Love is not to be limited by the multiplication table."

This query gave an opportunity for a parable. On reckoning day, the servant of a certain king was in default ten thousand talents. If we regard these talents as only of cents, the debt would amount to two or three millions sterling, which sum he could not pay. In harmony with oriental custom, even in the case of high officials, it was ordered that he, wife, family and property, should be sold to furnish money for payment. Against such a fate he pleaded; in abject supplication sought a fate he pleaded; and begged for life, be prostrated himself, and begged for life, and wife, and children: Have patience; I will pay thee all. The fact that he made such an offer, in the light of the magnitude of his debt, precludes the idea of such a mental as might sometimes be imagined.

Doubtless he was an officer of rank, as a governor or noble who farmed the taxes. And his lord forgave him.

There is another picture given. That same man, so freely forgiven his debt, himself was the creditor of a fellow-servant. The language would almost have us think of him as going right out and seeking for his debtor, who owed him a hundred pence. This could only have been about a millionth part of the sum he himself had owed his lord; but perchance to him it appeared as much. His identity of ratios in such cases may have been learned thus: As are three million pounds owed by me, so are three pounds owed to me! He laid hold on him, took him by the throat, as if to throttle him, and demanded his money. The very same request was made by the debtor as he himself had made: Patience; I will pay. But he would not; instead, until he should pay his debt, he cast him into prison, the most effective preventative of payment he could have devised. But his lord heard of this, and came, and was wroth, and handed him over, not only to prison, but to the tormentors, till all was paid; and his chances of earning three millions there were meagre indeed.

Was not that servant a rascal? A loss of dignity, would it not be, to have that held up to view as our portrait! Then let us beware lest we who have been the recipients of inestimable favor and pardon should hale our brethren to judgment for some slight offence which we have magnified into the unpardonable. It would be a fearful thing if we were imprisoned till we paid all! Yet "so shall also my heavenly Father do unto you, if ye forgive not every one his brother from your hearts." The prayer for forgiveness, as Jesus taught it, uttered in an unforgetting spirit, becomes a plea for unforgetfulness. Of the injunction to forgive an offending brother, we have the converse—to be reconciled to an offended brother, as a prerequisite to acceptable worship—in Matt. 5: 23, 24. Compare also Matt. 5: 25, 26 with 18: 34, 35. It is well to get a general view at one sitting of all that is implied in an acceptable offering of the petition, "Forgive us our debts."

From The Field.

The field is the world.—Matthew 13: 38

Victoria.

**EDUCA.**—During F. Pittman's absence in Melbourne, we have had Bro. Jennings of North Fitzroy with us. Bro. Jennings addressed the church two Lord's Day mornings, preached the gospel twice, and visited a number of the members. His visit has been much appreciated by the church, and we hope to see him again. W.A.K.

**WEDDERBURN.**—Bro. Hagger has terminated his labors in this circuit for the present. He spent Lord's day March 26th and April 3rd with the church here, preaching to good audiences. On Monday evening March 27th a farewell social was held, when a very enjoyable time was spent in singing, reciting, etc. Addresses were delivered by the chairman, Bro. T. Twiddy, and Bro. Duckett, Treble and Petteril. Bro. Treble on behalf of the congregation presented Bro. Hagger with a black morocco tourist case, in



one of the pockets of which several sovereigns were placed as a token of the high esteem which they had of our brother. Bro. Hagger suitably responded, and urged the brethren to do all they could to advance the cause of New Testament Christianity. The singing "God be with you," and partaking of refreshments brought the meeting to a close. J. TREBLE.

LILLIMUR.—On March 20th, Bro. Connor gave us an earnest discourse. One decided for Christ, and another was almost persuaded. The immersion of the one was fixed to take place on the following Wednesday week, when we had the joy of seeing them both (two young men) come forward and confess Christ, and be baptised into his name. B. J. L.

### South Australia.

NORWOOD.—Yesterday was a very wet day. We praised God for all the splendid rains which fell. They mean so much to our colony just now. The meetings were not so large, but in the evening two made the good confession, one being from the advanced class in the Sunday-school.

April 4. A. C. RANKINE.

UNLEY.—Since Bro. Gore came to Unley, we have received by letter 14, and by faith and obedience 1, making an increase of 15. The meetings both morning and evening are excellent, and the Wednesday evening prayer meeting is very good.

Sunday, March 27th, the Sunday School anniversary. Bro. Gore addressed the church in the morning. In the afternoon the scholars gave a Service of Song entitled "Deacon Weeks," under the leadership of Mr. Pettit and Miss Marion Baker, organist. The leading parts were taken by Misses A. Williams, A. Bills, E. Mueller, Adams, L. Baker, M. Humphries, and Messrs. Simpson, J. Storer, J. P. Jones, B. Pettit, and Mrs. King. Mr. Rogers read the connective reading in excellent form. The present number of scholars is 263, with an average attendance of 160, and the number of teachers so with an average attendance of 18. Bro. Gore spent Sunday, April 3, at the mission chapel, Cottonville, speaking morning and evening and visiting the school, numbering over 100 scholars, in the afternoon. Bro. L. Johnson and R. Burns conducted the services at Park-st.

March 30. T. G. STOKER.

### Here and There.

Here a little and there a little.—Isaiah 25: 10.

There was one confession at Hawthorn last Sunday evening.

One confession at Murrumbidgee last Sunday evening, Bro. Collis preaching.

Good meetings were held at Perth, morning and evening (3rd). Three came forward at gospel service, Bro. Scott preaching.

The Victorian Conference meetings were, from beginning to end, a pronounced success. The utmost harmony characterised the proceedings.

Although the CHRISTIAN contains four additional pages this week, we are obliged to hold over part of the Victorian Sisters' Conference and other interesting matter.

N.S.W. Conference Secretary's address is—R. Steer, 80 Stanmore-road, Stanmore, Sydney. Treas. address—W. Benson, c/o Edwards, tea merchants, George-street, Sydney, N.S.W.

At the close of Bro. Green's address last Sunday evening, at Lygoe-street, three persons made the good

confession, one man and two women, one of the latter being close upon eighty years of age.

The following are the officers of the N.S.W. Sisters' Conference, elected 4th April, 1898:—President, Sister Ewers; Vice-Presidents, Sisters Ker and Lee; Treas., Sister G. Bagley; Financial Secretary, Sister J. Hunter; Secretary, Sister T. Smith.

Very great regret was manifested at the Conference owing to the departure of Bro. Maston for America. Quite a number went to the train to say good-bye. Many more would have done so had they not been detained by their duty at the meeting. We expect to have him with us again in a few months.

From an American paper we learn that Bro. Hugh McLellan has had a very narrow escape, having been in a railway accident. An engine and tender went crashing into the carriage in which he was seated. Fortunately no life was lost. He suffered from bruises and shock. The Railway Company gave him £50 for damages sustained.

It will be seen by a reference to the report of Victorian Conference that resolutions were carried condemning the proposed erection of wine cellars. Also against the many art unions that are held by Friendly Societies. There can be no doubt that these latter should be suppressed, as they tend to develop the gambling spirit, already, alas! only too prevalent in Victoria.

"ON THE ROCK"—This book is now in its third Australian edition, and a fourth is now in the hands of the binder. More than 10,000 have been sold, and still the cry is for more. It is a story, "a story of souls whose pathway began in darkness, but brightened to the perfect day." There are 194 pages. Neat paper, 6d.; cloth, 1/-, post free. Send for a copy for your next door neighbor.

We regret very much to hear that the brethren at Glenelg are most reluctantly compelled to do without the services of an evangelist for a time. Our esteemed Bro. J. Colbourne will shortly be available for engagement with any of our colonial churches. His address is Sussex-st., Glenelg, S.A. A member of the church at that place writes:—"The church in this place exceedingly regrets having to part with him and his services, and the company of his esteemed wife and family. They each and all are greatly endeared to us by their faithful work and loving character."

RESCUE HOME SUNDAY, MAY 1ST.—We again respectfully ask the churches of Australasia to take up a collection for our Rescue work. Since the year commenced (Feb. 1st) our income has fallen far below our expenses. We are now £28 to the bad. This is partly due to heavy expenses of printing reports, etc. The Homes shelter and provide for twenty inmates. They must be fed, clothed and properly cared for. The work of rescue is going on: every week girls are being saved from the terrible consequences of sin as well as from the sin itself. Will the churches please come to our help in this work, and the Lord will bless them.—JOS. & L. PITTMAN, Armadale.

In addition to the various meetings mentioned in our Victorian Conference report this issue, a Temperance Mission meeting was held on Tuesday evening, 5th inst., A. Millis presiding. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. James Munro and M. W. Green, singing by members of the Collingwood choir, and a recitation by Miss Walker. On Thursday evening the 7th a cantata entitled "Shiloh" was rendered by a united choir under the auspices of the S.S.U., assisted by Sisters Nellie McClelland, Mary McGregor, M. Benson and Abercrombie, and Brea. F. M. Ludbrook and H. Haines. Bro. Ernest Pitman was the conductor, and he deserves much praise for the able manner in which the cantata was rendered.

### Acknowledgments.

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.—Haggai 2: 8.

#### FOREIGN MISSION FUND.

A Brother, Dunmunkle, £2; Sister Williamson, 10/-; *Kanaka Chapel Fund*—Chinese Brethren, £5; Mrs. Hart, Lygon-street, £1; B. J. Kemp, £5; *James Watt, Shanghai Appeal*—Church Kysbream, per Bro. Bishop, £2 14/6; Church Hawthorn, per Bro. Finger, £2 13/7.

146 Queensberry-st.,  
Nth. Melbourne,  
121 Collins-st.,  
Melbourne.

ROBERT LYALL,  
Treasurer,  
F. M. LUDBROOK,  
Secretary.

#### A.C. STANDARD SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED

W. Wilson, C. S. Rogers, Mrs. Roseman, P. J. Clarke, E. A. Stubbs, J. Aylwin jr., 5/-; J. Russell, F. Smedley, J. M. Cooke, 10/-; T. Dickson, 7/6; H. Beasley, 1/-; Mrs. W. A. Davis, 4/2; W. Rees, 15/-.

328 Elizabeth-st.,  
Melbourne.

M. McLELLAN, Liquidator  
for A. Standard Co.

#### PIONEER SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Received to date—Inspector Lowe, 8/-; W. Cabin, 10/-; W. Phillips, 12/-; J. Greenshields, 6/-.

#### To Subscribers.

D. A. Lewis, 1/3; R. Young (Q), 1/9; W. G. Pappin, 4/-; R. Harkness, A. K. Paros, 3/9; Miss Roberts, A. C. Wilmshurst, A. Clissold, Mrs. Slaught-ter, R. Harkness, D. Williamson, Mrs. E. Smith, W. Bolduan, D. Parker (for Mrs. Willshire), Jas. Greenshields, G. Lee, Mrs. J. J. Gibbs, 5/-; Mrs. Reid, Mrs. Lupton, C. B. Smyth, C. A. Watt, Miss Francis, W. Rees, J. M. Cooke, 7/-; Inspector Lowe, W. Hunter, J. T. Russell, W. Copeland, J. Sharp, 10/-; F. H. Jones, 2/6; G. C. Williams, Mrs. Eacott, 2/-; G. Duckett, 6/3; R. Langley, 11/3; G. H. Browne, H. G. Maston, 7/6; J. McGregor (N.S.W.), 7/3; W. H. Wright, 20/-; F. J. Clarke, J. W. McCallum, 25/-; J. Aylwin jr., 21/3; D. Purvis, 10/6; S. Keable, 30/-; E. Rodgers, 15/-; T. Darsley, 16/6; P. J. Pond, 26/9; J. Rothery, 40/-; L. Broad, 65/-; E. P. Hillbrich, 80/-; W. Pricor, 30/-.

#### An Appeal.

At the Conference of Victorian churches held recently a memorial was presented by Bro. J. K. Henshelwood, appealing for assistance from the brotherhood in the form of preaching employment. The memorial was referred to a committee of brethren, whose recommendation was adopted by Conference, (for resolution referred to see page 119). I, therefore, appeal to the humanity of the brotherhood to join in an effort to provide the small weekly sum suggested. This will partially supply the needs of an old preacher in his declining years. Will any brother or sister willing to assist in this deserving case kindly send donations, either in lump sum or stated amount per week, to either the Conference secretary (Bro. M. McLellan) or myself.

Mont Albert, Melbourne.

WM WILSON.

TAKEN BY MISTAKE, Foreign Missionary Meeting, Lygon-street chapel, Saturday evening (5th April), UMBRELLA. Owner can have same by applying to Caretaker, Lygon-street chapel, who will also take charge of exchanged Umbrella, Black Moira Silk, Long Slender Handle, Silver Top. Any travelling expenses paid.