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The Gospel of Optimism.

Ethelbert Davis.

We have read somewhere of a commercial traveller who found a Bible on the mantle-shelf in the room at his hotel. He opened at the book of Jeremiah, and after reading a few chapters of the "weeping prophet," he wrote on the margin, "Cheer up, Jeremiah. God isn't dead."

"Cheer up, God isn't dead," is the message that the church and the world need to-day. This old world seems to have been thrown out of gear, and is rolling on its uneven way toward some great catastrophe. One hears everywhere the loud rumblings of unrest. Judging by what we have passed through during the last few years, and from what we are passing through to-day, it would seem as if all our fairest hopes are to remain unrealised. Millions of men and women bravely made the sacrifice, and courageously faced war conditions, because they believed that it would release new potencies for human betterment. Brave-hearted optimists saw the silver lining behind the clouds of the darkest days. We were assured that the Calvary of the world was to be followed by the resurrection day of a new era. The Calvary has passed, but the new day of which we dreamed still lies in the tomb. The world to-day is in the throes of reaction and unrest. Thrones that have stood for centuries have been thrown down. Customs hoary with age are passing out. Conditions of human life have changed so much that many people have been translated into a new world. Man's beliefs have undergone a tremendous remodelling.

One has said that "the practical and industrial machinery of the nations is making the world rock from centre to circumference, and wise men are wondering whether the old planet will be able to stay in its orbit much longer." There is trouble in the political and the industrial world; there is trouble in the social and religious world. In fact, considering the world as a whole, and

reflecting on conditions in the home, and in the church, and in the State, I am prepared to say, that taking all things together, the world has never passed through more troublous times than these. In spite of that, and in spite of the wails of the "gloomsters, and groansters, and the sobsters," I am prepared to stand in the midst of it all, and write on the margin of the world's open sorrow, "Cheer up; God isn't dead."

Despair comes as a result of apprehending only half the truth. An American business man lost all the savings of years. When he reached home he said in despair, "Everything has gone." But later he found that his wife and his family and all the rich promises of God were still left to him.

Pessimism and discouragement come because we get but half the message. When Wellington won the battle of Waterloo, the news was flashed from point to point, from the coast to London. The semaphore on the roof of Winchester Cathedral began to spell out the message—W-e-l-l-i-n-g-t-o-n d-e-f-e-a-t-e-d—then suddenly the fog obscured the semaphore, and the country was

plunged into despair and gloom, as a result of the incomplete message. When the fog had lifted, the message was still being spelled out: "Wellington defeated t-h-e e-n-e-m-y." The full message banished gloom, and brought grateful joy. I have no doubt that the present world conditions are only half the message, and when God sees fit to lift the fog, we shall get the other half, and that will turn our "mourning into dancing."

I know that it is sometimes difficult, but it is our bounden duty to maintain a splendid optimism. It is only those who can stand in the present and look into the future with a calm assurance, and carry with them a radiant faith, and a divine optimism—it is only those who can save the world from the insanity of its own sorrow and unrest. Too many to-day face the shadows and then sink in despair. God bless the man who can take a steady look into the darkness, who can take half the message, and who can then say with buoyant faith, "All's well!"

If we trace God's dealings down through the ages, we find that they all turn out well. In none of his plans can we detect defeat, all are triumphant and victorious. Milleniums of experience have taught man that when it was darkest, it was then that God switched on the light.

Could any hour have ever seemed darker to the infant race than that when our first parents were placed on trial in the Garden of Eden, and failed, and as a result of that failure precipitated the whole moral order into chaos, and brought sin and suffering and death into the world? Yet it was in that hour when man failed, and when he was driven from his Eden home, to win his bread by the sweat of his brow from the ground that was cursed into bringing forth of thorns and briars, that God threw on the screen of time the promise of a Redeemer—"The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head."

Behind the Veil.

*Ever there lives within the human breast
The wish ungratified to see or hear
Something of that inviolable sphere
Where our beloved departed are at rest.
The outward world is boldly manifest—
The sun by day, the moon and stars by night,
The woods, the flowers, the fields, the birds
In flight;
But, if we further seek, 'tis bootless quest.
So I retire within my soul, apart
From show and bustle, and with Him commune
Who holds the secret dear to many a heart,
The mystic secret death revealeth soon.
The wonders of that sphere I wait a space
In peace; still giving faith and patience
pace.*

—Arthur John Lockhart.

When the flood had subsided, and Noah stepped out of the ark on to the depopulated and water-sodden earth, it did not present a very heartening prospect. But it was in the midst of this wretched loneliness and desolation that God flung his bow of promise athwart the sky, and said: "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you, and every living creature of all flesh." "While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

It is hope deferred that maketh the heart sick. Probably one of the darkest periods of human history was that period immediately preceding the advent of Christ in Bethlehem. In Israel the prophets had kept the Messianic idea before the people. Seers and philosophers in other nations had urged their disciples to look and wait for the coming of the Great Teacher. But time flew on apace, and the Teacher, the Messiah, came not. The world began to lose heart and hope, and began to sink into hopeless despair. For four hundred years no prophet's voice had broken the chilling silence. The people looked down and saw no help from beneath; they looked up, and the heavens seemed brass to their wild appealing.

Yet it was at that very hour when the tension was so great that the heart-strings were about to snap, and when the last gleam of hope was about to flicker out, that the rays of the Star of Bethlehem lit up the sky and heralded the dawning of a new and better day, and the old world renewed its youth, and hope was revived in the hearts of men.

Reflect for a moment on the crucifixion of Jesus. When Jesus came, the Sun of Righteousness, he dissipated the clouds that hung so heavily over the sorrowful old world. Its promised Redeemer had come. To Israel had come the heir to the throne, and they dreamed of the restoration of their land, and of the reign of their Prince. But one day, while Jerusalem was in an ecstasy of excitement over the words and deeds of the Prophet of Nazareth, and whilst as yet the hills of Judea were echoing the psalm of the angels, he fell into the hands of his enemies, and they condemned him to the death reserved for the most abandoned criminals. Then down came the hopes of his people, and out went the light of the world. But did you ever notice that it was when the disciples were weeping, and when they who thought it was he who should have redeemed Israel, were lamenting their fate, that there rang out the glad message of his Easter triumph? The darkness and suffering and blood of Calvary was only half the message, the open tomb and the risen Christ the completed story.

The world was passing through another

period of darkness and terror during the pre-reformation days. Yet it was when papal ignorance and intolerance were at the worst, when *Te Deums* were being sung for the massacres of St. Bartholomew, when the terrible machinery of the Inquisition was in motion, when the flames of Smithfield were licking the flesh of agonising victims—it was when the night was darkest, and when the storm was at its wildest fury, that God raised up the Reformers, and by them led the world out of the darkness into a new era of light, liberty and peace.

It is in these experiences I find my warrant for a daring optimism. In face of these facts I will hold my ship to the fiercest storm, and while riding the waves, through the blackness of the night, will sing:

"For what I cannot, He can see,
And in His care I saved shall be,
For ever blest."

Following another line, there is still cause for optimism. When we think of the attitude of the world toward Christ, and ponder how he is "by the many still neglected, and by the few enthroned," there is no need for pessimism, if we will only remember that God has said in his Word: "His dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth." And, "From the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the

Gentiles." And, "As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

The teachings and the very life of Jesus are shot through and through with the most glorious optimism. The lost coin was found, the lost sheep was brought back to the fold, the lost son came back after all his wanderings, the supper was provided with guests though the ones invited refused to come, the leaven leavened the whole lump, "the gates of hell shall not prevail." Satan was defeated in the temptation, the dead Christ was raised, and the absent Lord is coming again. There is no wail of defeat, no croak of pessimism in that. The dirge of the "weeping prophet" gives place to the jubilant song of victory. All these things are prophetic of the universal reign of love and peace and righteousness, as

"The far-off divine event
To which the whole creation moves."

It is said that the darkest hour is the hour that precedes the dawn. Who knows but that this dark hour may to the church be the hour before the dawn, and that at any moment her Bridegroom, the Prince from the Ivory Palace, may come to take her to himself? Who knows but that the world even now may be rolling out of darkness into light, and that at any moment the "Great Red Dawn" may be breaking? As we work and wait, let us pray with our faces to the East. The sun rises there.

The Heavenly Vision.

W. Rothery.

"I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision."
—Acts 26: 19.

This is part of Paul's great apologetic before Agrippa. To him had been vouchsafed a glimpse of the divine; a transcendent splendor had shone upon him at noon-day, and the glory of the Lord appeared about him. A truly momentous and epochal moment! It marked the beginning of a new career; henceforth life held for him a new and added meaning. He was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision.

Can the heavenly vision be held to-day? Yes! for the pure in heart shall see God. Wordsworth tells us that "Heaven lies near us in our infancy," and then deplures that the "shades of the prison-house begin to deepen about the growing boy." This in a sense is true. We become transformed unto the world, and its cares are often too much with us. Yet there is a glory in our common life for those who can see it. Thus Elizabeth Browning:—

"Every common bush aïre with God;
Those who seek take off their shoes;
The rest sit round and pluck blackberries."

There is a story of a man who once picked up a half-crown. Ever after he went about with bent vision towards the ground, and of him it was said, he found many

coins; but to the beauties of nature and to the glories of the heavenly vision—he was blind.

Heavenly visions and earthly duties are closely related. The Saviour drew his strength for the toilsome way from the inspiration and the communion of the heavenly moment. On the Mount of Transfiguration there might be glory, but in the valley there was sorrow and there was duty. And Christ, too, was not disobedient unto the heavenly voice.

O Lord, open thou our poor blind eyes that we may see the heavenly vision; illumine for us our common way; lighten our path, we beseech thee, O God! that we may see our duty face to face, and praise thee, Lord, for daily grace."

Immortality.

What shall we fear
Who have been raised to life?
The living live.
'Tis but the dead who die
No span of days or years
Shall count our worth—
We have been raised to life
As timeless as the Good,
Eternal as God is.

—Hugh Robert Orr.

Federal Conference.

Fred. T. Saunders.

The sessions of the eleventh Federal Conference, held in Melbourne, marked another stage of progress in the work of the Restoration movement in this Continent. Issues of great importance were discussed in an atmosphere reverent, and optimistically progressive. There was a brightness and happiness in all the meetings, and there was evidence that the bubblings of humor were not incompatible with the promptings of the Spirit.

There was a large attendance of Interstate visitors, some seventy being registered, and every State was represented. The brethren of Victoria, city and country, in large numbers took time from their regular avocations to partake in the discussions and fellowship.

The Board of Management invited a large number of brethren to a reception at the College of the Bible on Tuesday, Oct. 24. The inclemency of the weather altered the plans somewhat, but a happy company crowded the buildings. The addresses were short and crisply breezy, brethren from all parts responding to the hearty welcome from the Board, expressed by the Chairman, the Principal, the President of the Victorian Conference, and Bro. W. C. Craigie.

An "inaugural" meeting was an innovation—if only in nomenclature—in our Conferences. It was a great and inspiring meeting, and was an augur of the success of the Conference. Formal addresses of welcome to Interstate visitors were made by J. E. Thomas, who was in his usual homiletical form, and G. A. Judkins, President of the Victorian Council of Churches. Appropriate responses were made by representative brethren.

The President, Bro. A. R. Main, M.A., delivered his presidential address at this meeting. It was a dignified discussion of the theme, "Proportion and Emphasis in Religious Truth." As the address may be given to the brotherhood in due form, nothing more need be said here, than to say that it supplied a fine keyword for the Conference.

The following delegates were present from the various States:—

Victoria, quota 15.
J. McG. Abercrombie, J. E. Allan, W. B. Blake-more, B.A., W. C. Craigie, R. Ennis, L. Gole, A. E. Illingworth, H. Kingsbury, R. Lyall, T. R. Morris, A. Millis, L. C. McCallum, M.A., T. H. Scambler, B.A., Dip. Ed., J. E. Thomas, J. A. Wilkie.

South Australia, 15.
W. C. Beiler, R. S. Caldicott, J. Follitt, A. C. Garnett, M.A., H. J. Horsell, B. W. Huntsman, A. J. Ingham, O. V. Mann, W. Morrow, M.L.C., H. Nancarrow, G. P. Pittman, F. T. Saunders, N. Shill, S. J. Southgate, G. T. Walden.

New South Wales, 10.
R. P. Arnott, Dr. E. A. Bardsley, J. Clydesdale, A. T. Eaton, W. H. Hall, H. G. Harward, L. Rossell, T. E. Rofe, S. Stevens, J. Whelan.

Queensland, 6.
A. C. Rankine, T. F. Stubbin.

West Australia, 6.
A. W. Connor, W. R. Hibburt, and C. A. G. Payne.

Tasmania, 5.
P. R. Baker, P. Duff, C. Hale, W. H. Nightingale, N. J. Warmbrun.

NEXT CONFERENCE.

The place of the next Conference meetings was made the subject of an early discussion because of its bearing on the election of the officers.

A strongly worded and enthusiastically supported invitation to Perth was presented by the representatives of that State.

Finally it was resolved that the next Conference meet at Sydney, and that the Executive be instructed to consider what arrangements can be made to hold the following Conference in Perth, West Australia.

As an earnest of the desire to carry out this intention, nominations for Vice President were confined to Western Australian brethren.

PERSONNEL OF THE COLLEGE BOARD.

Bro. H. A. G. Clark, President of the Old Boys' Association, moved on notice—

"That the following words be added to the Constitution to the second clause of the section dealing with the personnel of the Board of College Management, 'And at least one of whom shall be an ex-student of the College.'"

The debate was interesting, and revealed weaknesses in the proposition in that no provision was made for the election of the special representative. The opinion was expressed that in this respect the students could at least trust their brethren to elect the Board on its merits, and any ex-student would receive just treatment in the Conference.

The vote was taken by ballot, and revealed 26 in favor of the motion and 21 against. As the Constitution requires a two-thirds majority of votes to carry a motion amending the Constitution, the motion failed to pass.



H. G. Harward,
Newly-elected Federal Conference President.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

The brethren elected the following to hold office until the next Conference:—

President: H. G. Harward
Vice-President: D. M. Wilson, West Australia.
Secretary: J. Whelan
Treasurer: T. E. Rofe
Assistant-Secretary: C. R. Hall
Acting-Executive: Dr. E. A. Bardsley, A. T. Eaton, W. H. Hall, L. Rossell.

State Executives:
Victoria.—J. McG. Abercrombie, W. C. Craigie, L. Gole, A. E. Illingworth, L. C. McCallum, M.A., J. A. Wilkie.

South Australia.—W. C. Beiler, W. Charlick, A. J. Gard, H. J. Horsell, S. J. Southgate, G. D. Wright.

West Australia.—R. W. Ewers, W. R. Hibburt, Queensland.—E. A. Arnold, F. Enchelmaier.

Tasmania.—L. A. Bowes, N. J. Warmbrun.

Federal Foreign Missionary Executive.—President, J. Warren Cosh. Secretary, G. T. Walden. Treasurer, O. V. Mann. Committee: W. Morrow, M.L.C., A. C. Garnett, M.A., A. L. Read, J. Fischer.

Preachers' Provident Fund Committee of Management.—Dr. E. A. Bardsley, W. H. Hall, J. Hunter, A. Morris, T. E. Rofe, L. Rossell, J. Stimson.

Board of Management of the College of the Bible.—W. B. Blakemore, W. C. Craigie, C. Hardie, A. E. Illingworth, R. Lyall, L. C. McCallum, A. Millis.

Hymn Book Revision Committee.—Acting Executive: W. Gale, A. E. Illingworth, R. Lyall, J. C. F. Pittman, F. T. Saunders, J. A. Wilkie. New South Wales.—J. Clydesdale, P. W. Dixon, A. Morris. South Australia.—M. W. Green, E. W. Pitman, G. T. Walden. Queensland.—G. E.

Burns, G. Cane, S. Trudgian. West Australia.—F. R. Berry, W. H. Clay, D. M. Wilson. Tasmania.—P. Duff, J. Jaap, W. H. Nightingale.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

FEDERAL EVANGELISM.

The question of evangelistic enterprise was discussed earnestly. Optimism was the keynote in this, as in every other discussion. The retiring Executive reported:—

The Executive endeavored to follow out the direction given by last Federal Conference, and rendered assistance to Tasmania, Queensland and Western Australia.

Bro. E. C. Hinrichsen and L. E. Brooker conducted three missions in Tasmania during the summer of 1920-1921, where a great work was accomplished.

At the invitation of the Executive, who had in view the double purpose of teaching and bidding up those within the church as well as winning to Jesus Christ those who had never confessed his name, Bro. H. G. Harward took up the work of Federal Evangelist, and commenced his labors in Queensland in April, 1921. In Queensland he was assisted by Bro. H. Robbins as song leader. Three missions were held in Queensland, and, though the results were not what we anticipated, yet much good was done. From Queensland, Bro. Harward went to Western Australia, conducting a mission at Norwood, Adelaide, on his way over. In the West, six months of missions were conducted, and the churches greatly encouraged.

Altogether there were 352 direct decisions from the various missions, and with few exceptions all of the converts united with the church.

Tasmania has asked for further help in that State, as they feel that they have a number of fields in which good work could be done.

We wish to put on record our sincere appreciation of the faithful and efficient work of our missionaries.

The purpose of the Executive was declared to be consolidation and confirmation of the brethren in the weaker churches rather than securing great accessions in strong churches already able to care for themselves.

Bro. H. G. Harward made a personal report of his work, which he claimed had proved two things, that the communities needed our evangelistic enterprise; and, in a larger measure, needed our plea for unity.

Appeals were made by representatives from Queensland, West Australia (who had arranged an interesting exhibit), and Tasmania for more workers in their fields.

Emphasis was laid on the necessity for more intense and constructive work in evangelism. It was said that the progress of the past decade had been far from satisfactory, and a plea was made for some more effective Federal organization of our forces.

After the adoption of the clause, Bro. J. E. Thomas moved that an appeal be made for funds to liquidate the overdraft of £89, and to provide for future activities. Given 15 minutes for the purpose, he optimistically undertook the task. Encouraged by two gifts of £100 each, he secured in cash and promises £450.

The Acting Executive was instructed to secure the co-operation of the Federal Executives in each State in securing funds for the evangelistic enterprises of the Conference.

THE KELLEMS PARTY.

The report stated that it would be possible to obtain the services of Bro. Jesse R. Kellems, of U.S.A., for a series of missions in Australia. Bro. Kellems is one of the most successful of the evangelists working with our American brotherhood.

A resolution was submitted requesting the incoming Executive to make arrangements for a visit from the Kellems party, if practicable, but after earnest consideration the decision of the Conference was against the proposal.

LEAGUE OF ROPEHOLDERS.

Satisfaction was expressed at the success attending this League, which had grown to over

any members, and had raised £140 in gifts for missions.

Among other matters dealt with by the Executive Committee in the report was the contribution made by the churches in behalf of the relief funds for the starving people of Europe. The sum of £1445/6/3 had been contributed for this purpose through the Conference, in addition to funds sent direct to organising agencies by the churches. Since the report was prepared, Bro. W. C. Craigie said he had received a further £71 10s. Miss Erskine, representing the Society of Friends, through whom the money had been sent on to Europe, attended the Conference, and personally thanked the brethren for their contribution to this fund. She spoke of the need which still existed for further assistance.

Statistics of membership are not presented to the Conference in detailed form, but figures presented showed that the membership in the Commonwealth had made a net gain of 682 in two years, and the Bible Schools had increased by 232 teachers and 554 scholars. The following States showed gains in membership: Victoria, 431; South Australia, 291; Western Australia, 127; Tasmania, 158; Losses of 269 and 56 were shown by New South Wales and Queensland respectively. The present membership in the churches was 26,033, and in the Bible Schools, 21,772 scholars and 3000 teachers.

Reference was made to the matter of securing a site in the Federal Capital for a church building. It was mentioned that about a year ago a Bible School was started there by a sister of the Sydney church, the first picnic of which was to be held on October 28. Since then schools in connection with other bodies had been opened.

The report also discussed the matters of the scheme for purchasing residences for the preachers, and for the acquisition of the Austral Publishing Company by the Federal Conference. In both cases the situation was such that no action could be recommended.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Naturally the work of the foreign field occupied a large part of the time of the Conference. A very comprehensive report was presented by the Committee. For the first time it contained an itinerary section, in which reference was made to the call from this life of Bro. W. Jansz, Chinese evangelist in Australia, and to Harold Coventry, the infant child of Bro. and Sister H. R. Coventry.

Reference was also made to the giddy changes which had taken place in the personnel of the staff of workers during the past two and a half years. Satisfaction was expressed at the prospect of an early realisation of the hopes of the Chinese brethren in Australia for a mission supported by themselves in Canton, China. All the various fields were fully reviewed.

The financial statement showed a total income for the period of £21,310/18/11, including a credit balance brought forward of £591/0/6. The present balance in hand is £734/14/7.

Bro. Walden had prepared detailed statements for each year in the period, also two special statements showing the Request Fund, to which £2590 had been contributed; and the Missionary Property Account, which showed that the brotherhood owned on the various fields property to the value of £100,000, the valuations in every case being on the conservative side. It was shown also that there was a sum of £42/10/- held as a Chinese Building Fund, Sydney.

The discussion of the report was taken by fields. The work of the China Mission was carefully considered by the Conference. The offer of the station at Ninguenfu, in conjunction with that at Hsienchow, offers a challenge to the brotherhood, but it was felt that with the present resources it would be unwise to attempt to undertake both fields. Miss Metzenthin would be leaving for China at an early date to join the forces on the station. In the proposals for the future it was stated that Bro. E. R. Killmer expected to graduate as a doctor next March, and would proceed to China.

This latter proposal opened up a long discus-

sion. A motion was submitted to amend the report, and insert a request that we send the first medical missionary to the Australian Station in India, where such a worker has been needed for so long. The matter was felt to be too serious to be hurried, and nearly the whole of Thursday morning was devoted to the discussion, brethren earnestly differing from each other. It was a tribute to the fine spirit of the Conference, and indeed of the brotherhood, that no single unkind word was spoken. Finally, owing to information given during the debate, the motion to amend was withdrawn, and the proposals of the Committee adopted.

Some fine reports were presented to the Conference concerning this station in China from various missionaries of other Boards in China.

In the discussion of the work in India, H. R. Coventry made a suggestion that there be sent to India a brother trained in general tradesmanship to supervise the industrial work on the station. Though he had had experience as a carpenter before entering College, he felt that he would be more useful as an evangelistic missionary than working in industrial affairs.

The section dealing with the establishment of a hostel at Glen Iris for lady students preparing for foreign service called forth discussion. That over £400 was in hand for this purpose led Bro. Rofe to suggest that there was sufficient to make a start, and he offered to provide the interest at 5 per cent. for five years on a £600 loan necessary to commence operations. The offer was gratefully accepted, and a resolution, reported elsewhere, adopted asking for immediate action.

Bro. O. V. Mann, Treasurer, moved the adoption of the balance sheets, etc., and added explanations of various items, after which the report was adopted as a whole.

During the meetings of the Conference arrangements had been made for one hour each afternoon to be devoted to hearing personal messages from the missionaries who were present. These provided quite a feature of the Conference, the following workers contributing statements of the respective fields:—Wednesday: Miss Mary Thompson, Bro. G. Mackie, Mrs. H. R. Coventry, and Miss R. L. Tonkin. Thursday: Mrs. G. P. Pittman, Bro. G. P. Pittman, Miss Elsie Caldwell, while Mrs. A. C. Garnett sang sweetly a solo.

Letters of greeting were received from the missionaries on the fields, and Conference sent special greetings of affection in reply to these, including A. G. Saunders in the Philippines.

PREACHERS' PROVIDENT FUND.

The following sections of the Report of the Committee give a fair idea of what the Committee is doing. But no report could state all that is done.

1. Cash Statement of Receipts and Payments.

Omitting the repayment by the Chatswood Church of the loan of £100, and the redemption of the New South Wales Government Stock, amounting to £250, the receipts were £923/6/3. Included in this sum is the amount of £385/19/4 contributed by the Preachers to the Endowment Fund, and which belongs to the contributing Preachers. Excluding money invested, the payments amounted to £268/15/1.

2. Income Account.

After providing for relief, subsidies of 8/- in the £1 to contributors to the Endowment Fund for the years 1920 and 1921, and interest on both contributions by preachers and subsidies granted for the same years, there remains a surplus of £105/4/8, which has been carried to Capital Account.

3. Balance Sheet.

The total amount held on account of contributors to the Endowment Fund is £1229/11/4, and that sum represents the total liability of the Fund against which assets are held, totalling £1816/7/9, the surplus £586/16/5 representing accumulated funds, and becomes Capital Account.

SPECIAL FUNDS.

1. A South Australian Preachers' Special Fund. This Fund commenced the period with a credit

balance of £63/3/8. Adding contributions and interest totalling £114/16/0, the sum of £178/0/2 became available. Expenditure amounted to £136 15/0, leaving a credit of £41/4/5.

2. A Victorian Preachers' Special Fund.

This Fund has quite recently been established, the sum of £150 having been contributed for that purpose. £9/1/4 has been expended, leaving a credit balance of £141/12/8.

GENERAL.

Endowment Fund.

The number of preachers contributing to this Fund now is 28, and the amount held on their account is £229/11/4, compared with 23 and £183 0/11 respectively last Conference.

Bro. T. E. Rofe Settlement.

During the period covered by this Report, Bro. T. E. Rofe settled 1000 shares of £1 each fully paid up in the Natalite Motor Spirit Co. Ltd. on the General Fund. Until the Company becomes dividend paying, Bro. Rofe will pay interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on £1000. This gift is much appreciated, and the thanks of the Committee have already been conveyed to Bro. Rofe. The interest received so far from Bro. Rofe is included in the amount of £148/2/8, shown in the Cash Statement as received from Churches and Individuals in New South Wales. Bro. Rofe is a member of the Church at Wahroonga, N.S.W.

Bro. J. F. Ashwood Bequest.

The late Bro. Ashwood, who was for a considerable time a valued member of this Committee, bequeathed the sum of £1000 to the General Fund. This gift showed Bro. Ashwood's great esteem for the Church which he loved, and so faithfully served. This gift is also much appreciated, and when received will, with Bro. Rofe's Settlement, help to extend the usefulness of the Fund in a very marked degree. At the time of his death Bro. Ashwood was a member of the Church at Chatswood, New South Wales.

In moving the adoption of the report, W. H. Hall gave a carefully prepared speech amplifying the Committee's statement. He said that of the sum of £966/10/7 received for general purposes during the period under review, over £900 had come from two States. The Committee's funds had earned £120 in interest on investments. The sum of £244 had been granted in assistance to aged preachers, three of whom were now receiving small support. The working expenses were at a minimum, totalling only £19/4/5. There was a sum of £273 available from which to pay subsidies to the contributors to the Endowment Fund, and this was allotted as follows: Subsidies, £106; Interest on contributions, £61; Carried forward to Capital Account, £105. There are now 28 preachers contributing to the Endowment Fund, who contributed £385, making the total amount now held for contributors, including subsidies, £1229/11/4.

Preachers may contribute up to £10 per annum to this Fund, and have the amounts they contribute subsidised up to 100 per cent., interest being allowed on both contributions and subsidies at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum. The subsidies paid hitherto have not exceeded 50 per cent., for the past two years being 40 per cent. The total funds to the credit of a preacher may be withdrawn by him at the age of 65 years. On his death it will be applied by the Committee as directed by his will. From actuarial calculations it was shown that this fund will give a better return to contributors than life assurance companies can give.

The Committee is paying in assistance to the preachers before mentioned the sum of £247 per annum. It would like to do more, and really requires an income of from £400 to £500 per annum to discharge effectively its responsibilities. If all the churches in the Commonwealth would contribute on the basis of sixpence per member per annum the work could be satisfactorily performed. A Capital Fund is needed almost immediately. The present amount of £586 in this fund is not sufficient for the purpose, and at least £5000 is required, while £10,000 is desired.

The Committee is arranging for representatives

to be appointed in each State, and has appointed already Bro. A. R. Lyall for Victoria, and Bro. D. M. Wilson for West Australia.

Several brethren spoke at length on the advantages of the fund to the preachers and to the brotherhood. The preachers took the opportunity to express their appreciation of the work of busy men in caring for this fund. It was felt that this work, not a sort of private charity for the benefit of preachers, needed to be better understood by the churches as a whole. Splendid tribute was paid to the service rendered by the secretary. The report was adopted enthusiastically.

COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE.

The College Board of Management reported that the sixteenth year commenced last February with a record number of students, 59 in all, representing all the States except Tasmania, and also the Dominion of New Zealand. From the inception of the College there have been 259 students enrolled.

Owing to the departure of H. E. Knott for the United States, a vacancy occurred on the staff, which had been filled by the appointment of T. H. Scambler, B.A., Dip.Ed. Mr. A. A. Buley, M.A., is visiting teacher in Mathematics; and Mr. W. Lindsay Drill Instructor, otherwise the Faculty is the same.

The mortgages on the College properties have now been discharged, and the total indebtedness of the Institution is represented by the overdraft at the bank. Special reference was made to the legacies bequeathed by Bro. Wm. Dennett, of the Sydney church.

The Statements of the Treasurer showed receipts apart from bank balances to have been approximately £7000 for the two and a half years since last Conference. Detailed statements of the various scholarship funds, and special accounts were presented and everything was made clear by Bro. W. C. Craigie.

The discussion of the reports centred round the matter of adequate support of the institution. The question of endowment was raised, and the motion reported elsewhere adopted with enthusiasm. A suggestion was made that every member of the churches be asked to make a contribution to the fund for endowment based on a gift of a coin—chosen by themselves—for each year of their lives. Bro. Ennis reported having done some personal work on the matter before coming to Conference, and said that he had promised of £500, and hoped to get to £1000 before the Conference was closed. At the demonstration by the students on Friday evening, he made a further appeal, and a supplementary report, in which he said that he had the £1000 promised. There is a balance of £121/19/- in hand for this purpose.

In the course of the discussion Bro. Rofe said that he hoped ere long to increase the amount of the endowment of the scholarship in the name of his wife and himself to £5000.

An interesting discussion took place on the necessity of testing the students accepted for training. The responsibility of the churches in this matter was urged.

One of the happy functions of the Conference was the College Demonstration held on Friday evening. At this R. Lyall presided. This was held earlier so as to co-ordinate with the Conference, and a crowded building greeted the students. The singing of the students was much enjoyed. Bro. Scambler conducted this choir, and S. E. Riches was at the piano. A fine rendering of a scene from "Julius Caesar" was given by C. C. Dawson, W. J. Thomson, and A. G. Brown. Addresses were given by D. Wakeley, "Good News," and G. J. Andrews, "Hidden Resources," while Miss G. Metzenthin presented a farewell message on behalf of the students leaving College this year. The large number of old boys present prompted the idea that they render a special item of music, in addition to the two greetings presented by Bro. H. A. G. Clark, B.A., and W. R. Hibburt, respectively. Collection for Library Fund realised £13.

HYMNAL REVISION COMMITTEE.

The retiring Committee reported on the progress made in connection with the project, and stated that new hymns are now being sought to replace those removed. The Conference adopted the brief report, and instructed the Committee to carry on. It is hoped that considerable progress may be made in the very near future.

RESOLUTIONS.

Apart from resolutions carried with relation to departmental reports, the Conference adopted the following—

"That the Conference place on record its warm appreciation of the life-long services of Bro. T. J. Gore as an evangelist in South Australia, and send to him a special letter of greeting at this time."

"That the Conference send a message to Bro. H. E. Knott, expressing appreciation of his valued services as Secretary of the Conference, and our good wishes for his work in Eugene Bible University."

"That it be an instruction to the incoming Executive to continue the work of Federal Evangelism as far as practicable. And that in view of the splendid opportunities existing in West Australia that special consideration be given to the claims of that State."

"That the Acting Executive be recommended to secure the co-operation of the Federal Executive in each State in securing funds for the evangelistic enterprises of the Federal Conference."

"That the Conference send greetings and expressions of appreciation to Bro. W. C. Pearce, of the U.S.A., with reference to his recent visit to Australia."

"That a Committee be appointed to prepare a draft revision of the Constitution of the Federal Conference for submission to the next Conference."

"That the matter be referred to the Acting Executive for attention, and that the draft be submitted to the State Executives for consultation."

"That this Conference direct the College Board of Management and the Federal Foreign Missionary Committee to make provision for a Ladies' Hostel at the College of the Bible as early as possible."

"That this Conference recommends the Federal Foreign Missionary Committee to prayerfully and earnestly consider the question of revising the salaries of our missionaries and missionary workers."

"That we place on record our very great appreciation of the services of the Committee of the Preachers' Provident Fund, and particularly the devoted and efficient services of the beloved secretary, Bro. W. H. Hall."

"That this Conference affirms the desirability of a special effort being made to secure a substantial Endowment for the College of the Bible, and expresses the hope that brethren in the Commonwealth and in New Zealand will assist by this means to place the College upon a satisfactory financial footing."

"That it be an instruction to the College Faculty to consider seriously the desirability of adopting a period of testing before accepting students for training in the College of the Bible."

"That the next meetings of the Conference be held about October, 1924."

"That we convey to the Trustees of the Collins-st. Baptist Church our very best appreciation of their kindness and consideration in granting the use of their building for the use of the Conference gatherings."

"That this Conference requests the Acting Executive to consider the advisability of a Federal Home Missions organisation; and if deemed practicable and timely, that plans for such organisation be placed before the next Federal Conference."

"That we request the publication of the presidential address delivered by Bro. A. R. Main in the 'Australian Christian' at an early date, so that it may reach the whole of the brotherhood."

Also a resolution of thanks to all who had assisted in the success of the Conference. Bro. Kingsbury presented this, with a list that would take too much space to publish.

DEVOTIONAL MEETINGS.

The time may come when we will be different at Conferences, and make more of the devotional meetings. The Committee had planned splendidly for these, but again the attendances were poor. Yet it was not for good examples. Among those present at all the devotional meetings were the leaders of the Conference. Why is it that brethren do not gather to partake in the prayers of the Conference? Bro. S. Stevens, C. A. G. Payne, W. H. Nightingale and W. C. Breiler conducted the meetings in a helpful manner, and those attending felt uplifted. The poor attendances are a reflection on us as a people, and indicate a serious weakness in our work.

THE MUSIC.

It was to be expected that such a series of meetings would be marked by splendid musical ability. The congregational singing was of a high order, and it seemed—if one dare make comparison—that such exercises were more co-operative than in some other Conferences we have attended. The leaders were Bro. H. B. Robbins, W. F. Nankivell, R. Lyall—a guarantee of excellence.

The Conference Choir, organised by Bro. E. Tippett, supplied special items of real excellence which were thoroughly enjoyed.

Special mention should be made of the splendid service rendered by Miss M. E. Pittman as organist. Bro. P. W. Dixon, of Sydney, assisted at the piano at the day sessions.

CATERING.

The catering was carried out in a most efficient manner by the sisters, and those who had the privilege of partaking of the lavish provisions made were loud in praise of what was done. At the tea-tables on Thursday A. T. Eaton moved a vote of thanks to the sisters for all present. The motion was supported by A. C. Rankine, and put to the meeting by H. G. Harward. It was adopted with enthusiasm, the brethren rising and singing the grand old hymn, which Bro. Harward explained was not in Sankey's collection. "For they are very nice ladies." This was not a merely formal appreciation, it was a real expression of gratitude, the brethren feeling that the various alterations of the sisters' schedule must have caused great inconvenience, though they facilitated the business of the Conference.

INSPIRATIONAL GATHERINGS.

Two great public meetings were held in the Collins-st. Baptist Chapel. On both occasions the attendance was large. Preliminary song services were held each evening, led by H. B. Robbins.

On Wednesday evening the theme of the meeting was "The Commission at Home," the three speakers dealing with the work of Young People of Evangelism, and the Purpose of Social Service. Bro. Main presided, and special music was rendered by the Conference Choir, under Bro. Tippett. The congregational singing reached a high degree of perfection on this evening.

Bro. W. R. Hibburt said that the biggest task a man could have was to teach a class of boys in a Bible School. In the Bible School classes of the Bible School were the future deacons, elders, preachers, missionaries, etc. He asked why it was that so many boys seemed to be cut off joint with the churches to-day. He thought that we were specialising on the kinder and junior grades to the exclusion of the teen ages. Asserting that the boy without a playground was the father of the man without a job, he urged greater attention to the games of the young people on the part of the churches. He thought that we should include the mental and physical development of the young people among the sacred things of life.

Bro. A. T. Eaton, in discussing Evangelism, said that the first essential was that we should

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The Realm of the Bible School.

Conducted by W. B. Blakemore, B.A.

"Brisbane, 1922."

The event looked forward to by Endeavorers of Australasia for the past two years is now a matter of history. The Fourteenth Australasian Christian Endeavor Convention was held in Brisbane, October 5 to 12. About 700 delegates, representing all the States of the Commonwealth and New Zealand, were in attendance. A spirit of optimism and enthusiasm pervaded all the meetings of the Convention from the welcome by Queensland to the great consecration service the last night. The "Endeavor Special" train, which took the Southern delegates out of Sydney, was met at the Queensland border by representatives from Brisbane, who extended greetings and welcome on behalf of the Endeavorers of the Wonder State of the North. From that time till the last evening delegate left the State there was no question about the cordiality and sincerity of the welcome and hospitality of the Queensland people.

The Convention gatherings were held in the Baptist Tabernacle, a commodious and commanding structure, in a commanding position. A marble tablet placed on the front of the building was an object of interest to all visitors. It records the fact that the first Christian Endeavor Society in Australia was organized in the Wharf-st. Baptist Church, Brisbane, in February, 1886. Brisbane is the home of the Endeavor Movement on the Southern Continent. A young man, George Goby by name, arrived in Brisbane in a sailing vessel in that year. He visited the Wharf-st. Church and told them of the new movement for young people that had been formed in America. The result of his visit was the formation of the first society with nine members. That was thirty-six years ago. The C.E. Movement now claims 2000 members in Australia.

The six days of the Convention were crammed full of interest and inspiration from the devotional service at 9.30 a.m. to the great mass meeting in the evening.

The Australasian President, Mr. W. Morison, a business man of Newcastle, N.S.W., honored and beloved by a great host of Endeavorers, was the moving spirit back of the splendid enthusiasm that characterized the Convention. The new President, Mr. H. S. Joyce, of Melbourne, won his way into all hearts and created the impression that Mr. Morison's mantle had fallen on the right shoulders. The next Australasian Convention is

to be held in Adelaide in 1925. The messages given below voice the spirit and the hopes of the Endeavor Movement not only for Australasia, but for the world.

Message from the World's President.

(The World's Christian Endeavour Union).

My Dear Friends of the Australasian C.E. Union
I believe that the coming year of Christian Endeavor will be far more fruitful than any that have gone before. The indications that come from almost every quarter of the world are of a revived interest in the work. The World's Convention in New York indicated that in every one of its sessions. The great crowds attending, the character of the audiences, composed almost entirely of really young people, and half of them young men, the way in which every strong message was received, the enthusiasm and even hilarity of the attendance, promises more for the future of the movement than any previous gathering.

Australasia, I am sure, with God's blessing, will share in this hopeful look to the future, and I believe and pray that your Convention in 1922 will reach the high-water mark of Australasian meetings, as our Convention of 1921 went up over the top, so far as American Conventions are concerned.

Here in America we will pray for this, as you will in your great Dominions, and we will all pray that whatever preliminary discouragements may come, God reigns, and prayer actually changes things.

The reports from the missionary lands and from European countries, especially the latter, concerning the value of Christian Endeavor, in these distressful days, are most remarkable.

Joining you heartily in this world-wide circle of prayer, and praise, and service, and with cordial regards to every Endeavorer,

I am, faithfully yours,

(Signed) Francis E. Clark.

The British President's Message.

No serious-minded Christian can study international life at the present moment without realising that its evangelisation in the broad New Testament sense is its most urgent need. All the

evils that afflict national life spring from one source—the people have forgotten God. All the evils of our corporate life will pass away when the people return to God. The supreme task, and the most urgent duty of the church, and of Christian Endeavorers in particular, is to bring the people back to God. In other words, to evangelise them. I believe with all my heart in the application of the New Testament principles to public life. Jesus Christ came to save Society as well as the individual—to reconstruct society upon the basis of justice and love.

Christian Endeavor is training robust Christian citizens, who will offer determined opposition to the national vices of intemperance, gambling, impurity and social injustice of every kind. Pray God for a revival of religion in your own life, in your Society, in your church. May Christ be central in all things. Remember "My will not thine be done" turned Palestine into a desert—"Thy will not mine be done" turned the desert into Paradise, and made Gethsemane the Gate of Heaven.

With affectionate greetings, yours sincerely,
James Kelly.

The Australasian President's Message.

Dear Fellow Endeavorers,—

Your coming to this great event in the Christian Endeavor Calendar surely signifies that you are in deep earnest in regard to the welfare of the young people of the present day. We assemble to gain much of inspiration by the large meetings and the sweet fellowship, and to be the better informed on matters Christian Endeavor, and to get much of blessing at His hands; but above all it is not that we may go back to our churches and Societies better fitted to win the young people for Christ and the church? May this be the uppermost thought in our minds as the sessions proceed, so that every conference, every devotional meeting, every large gathering, by His grace, may minister to and confirm us in this great resolve. Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, may we so endeavor.

Yours in C.E. Bonds,

Wm. Morison.

"Live, and be happy in thyself, and serve
This mortal race thy kin so well that men
May bless thee as we bless thee. Live thou!
Nearer and ever nearer Him, who wrought
Not matter, nor the finite infinite,
But this main miracle, that thou art thou
With power in thine own act and on the world."
—Tennyson.



Delegates to the Fourteenth Australasian Christian Endeavor Convention, Brisbane.

(Photo.—The Regent Studios, Brisbane.)

The Family Altar.

J. C. Ferd. Pittman.

A DASTARDLY DECISION.

Such was the resolution of the arch-traitor Judas, as he deliberately walked out of the supper room into the dark night to execute his blacker designs. Men oftentimes ask, "Why did not the all-powerful One stay the traitor's hand?" Surely, to the Bible student, the answer is clear. Never does God interfere with the right he gives to men to choose good or evil: for, as Froude, in his "History of England," has reminded us, "When a man has chosen his road, he is left alone to follow it to the end."

What care we should take of the use of our own individual responsibility, lest, like Peter, we should deny our Lord, or like all of the disciples in the great crisis, we should desert him; or lest, worst of all, we should find it in our hearts to betray the very One who set his face to Jerusalem, entered the garden, and even climbed the hill of crucifixion that he might suffer shame, ignominy, and death, to secure for us eternal life.

NOVEMBER 6.

Witnessing for Christ.

Philip cometh and telleth Andrew; Andrew cometh, and Philip, and they tell Jesus.—John 12: 22.

Sadhu Sendar Singh once said, "I learned from experience that when I preached the gospel I had a certain amount of success, but when I began to bear witness, it was a far greater help to many. It is not necessary for us to analyse milk before we drink it; no more is it necessary for us to fully understand Christianity. If we have the living experience of Christ, it is enough. It is foolish for a child to wait until he understands all about water before he is given a drink of it."

Bible Reading.—John 12: 20, 23.

NOVEMBER 7.

Loving Unto the End.

Having loved his own that were in the world, he loved them unto the end.—John 13: 1.

"Oh, never is 'Loved Once'
Thy word, thou Victim-Christ, misprized friend!
Thy cross and curse may rend,
But having loved thou lovest to the end."

Bible Reading.—John 13: 1, 5.

NOVEMBER 8.

"I Am... the Truth."

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life.—John 14: 6.

A Christian of long ago was once asked which Divine attribute most deeply impressed his mind. He answered, "Truth." He meditated continually on that subject; he sought truth night and day in his studies; and sometimes, in his rare moments of relaxation, while walking in his garden he was heard crying aloud, with eyes lifted to heaven and a sigh escaping from his breast, "O Truth! O Truth!"

Bible Reading.—John 14: 1, 6.

NOVEMBER 9.

Pruning the Vine.

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit, he taketh it away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he cleanseth it, that it may bear more fruit.—John 15: 2.

"Now the pruning, sharp, unsparing,
Scattered blossom, bleeding shoot;
Afterward the plenteous bearing
Of the Master's pleasant fruit."

Bible Reading.—John 15: 1, 7.

NOVEMBER 10.

"Be of Good Cheer."

In the world ye have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.—John 16: 33.

"Is the road very dreary?

Patience yet!

Rest will be sweeter if thou art a-weary.

And after night cometh the morning cheer—

Just hide a wee, and dinna fret!

"The clouds have silver linings,

Don't forget!

And though he's hidden, still the sun is shining.

Courage instead of tears and vain repining—

Just hide a wee, and dinna fret!"

Bible Reading.—John 16: 25, 33.

NOVEMBER 11.

"Out of the Frame."

Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their word; that they may be one: even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us; that the world may believe that thou didst send me.—John 17: 21.

"Dr. Robert Horton, some years ago, related this incident: 'An American father who was absent on a trip in the Far East, had a child at home above whose bed there hung the father's portrait. Every morning the child looked lovingly at it, and one day said to his mother: 'Mother, I wish father would come out from the frame.' Jesus is the portrait of our Omnipotent Saviour and Friend revealed in the Word of God. It is his plan to 'come out of the frame' and incarnate himself in our lives so that the world may believe that 'he is alive forevermore.'"

Bible Reading.—John 17: 21, 26.

NOVEMBER 12.

The Traitor.

And Judas also, who betrayed him, was standing with them.—John 18: 3.

"A great artist painted a picture of the Last Supper, selecting a young chameleon to represent Christ. Years passed before the painting was completed, when one character only, that of Judas Iscariot, was wanting. The artist noticed a man on the street who looked very melancholy, with shoulders bent forward, who consented to his request to represent Judas Iscariot. When in the studio the man began to look round as if recalling incidents of long ago. Finally he turned, and with a look half sad, yet one which told how hard it was to realise the change that had taken place, he said, 'Sir, I was in this studio twenty-five years ago. I then sat for Christ.'"

Bible Reading.—John 18: 1, 8.

PRAYER.

Merciful God, may I always use aright the intelligence thou hast given me, choosing ever the right path and the highest ideal, and being content to suffer the reproach of Christ and to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to endure the pleasures of sin for a season; willing to work or wait, rejoice or suffer, to be exalted or abased, so long as from hill-top or vale I can get a glimpse of Calvary, and have immortal life, health, and peace through Jesus my Saviour. Amen.

FEDERAL CONFERENCE.

Continued from page 706.

know the truth ourselves. The second that we should tell others the truth. This could be done by the services of preachers, literature, tent missions, organisation, and by personal evangelism. His address was filled with practical suggestions, and was one of the best during the Conference.

Bro. W. Morrow, M.L.C., dealt with the social side of our work for Christ. He pleaded for balance in our work, and said that the church should guard against the danger, real, of being side-tracked from her great mission into a dead alley of social and political reform. They at best were only fragmentary, and could never be fundamental reforms. Law cannot cure. It may prevent my hitting, but not my hating my neighbor.

On Thursday the theme dealt with the work of the Commission Abroad, and the theme was wholly missionary.

Bro. Main introduced the incoming President, Bro. H. G. Harward, who said that he considered that the greatest task ahead was the development of a Federal evangelistic conscience. Some singing was contributed by a choir made up of the preachers present, while two very beautiful solos were sung by Mrs. Mitchell.

The words of the Great Commission were repeated by missionaries present in the vernacular of the following: Hindi, Shanghai, Yunnan, New Hebrides, and Marathi. The congregations then rose and repeated the passage in English.

A feature of this meeting was the presentation to Miss Mary Thompson of a love gift from the brotherhood. Some twenty people stood as having been present at the farewell meeting when Miss Thompson went out first over thirty years ago. G. T. Walden spoke of the love in which Miss Thompson was held, and handed her a cheque for £155, which had been subscribed in shilling gifts. J. I. Mudford also handed to Miss Thompson a framed copy of the front cover of the last F.M. special issue of the "Australian Christian," which carried her photograph. Miss Thompson, who was quite overcome, thanked the brethren for their great kindness and interest. On rising she was greeted by the audience standing spontaneously.

An offering was taken for the work overseas, and resulted in cash and promises, £141/17/6.

Addresses dealing with the work on the various fields were given by H. R. Coventry, who spoke of the enlargement in India; Mrs. Lamm Black, who gave interesting information of the work in the New Hebrides; and by A. C. Garnett, M.A., of China's Needs. All three addresses were of a fine standard of excellence.

Bro. Coventry mentioned that in the seven years since he went to India, the staff on the field had increased by 100 per cent., and the mission property had increased in value from £100 to £700 and there was an urgent need for more workers. He considered that the next five years would be crucial to the work of Christian missions in India.

Mrs. Black spoke of the faithfulness of the New Hebrideans, and also narrated some amusing incidents in the work.

Bro. Garnett told of what China had done for the world, and its contributions to industrial science, and then told of the darkness of their religious life, and said that conditions there were a challenge to the best in the churches at home. He said that the Chinese were not prepared to tolerate the introduction to their land of the ancient quarrels of the churches in the home land, and wanted a united church.

CONCLUSION.

There had been some doubts expressed as to the wisdom of calling the Conference at a time apart from a State Conference, but the experiment was abundantly justified in the event. The attention of the brethren was focussed on the Federal issues, and there was no clashing of interests. The absence of other responsibilities, at their own State Conference duties, enabled a larger number of brethren to assemble. Consequently the Conference marked a distinct step forward in the history of our work in this land. The future Conferences can only grow in importance, and the result will be a broader outlook for the brethren as a whole.

We would suggest that, the wisdom of the separate Conference being justified, the brethren planning the gathering for 1924 should plan for more days for business. Everything was disposed of satisfactorily on this occasion mainly owing to the tactful handling by the President. But as the business will only grow in volume and import, it would be conducive to proper emphasis and proportion if more time were allowed in future for discussion.

The harmony of the Conference was noted on all sides. Every one helped to help each other and the cause of the Lord. The leadership of the Spirit was apparent, and the witness to the presence of Christ in the hearts of the brethren real.

Here and There.

Churches throughout New Zealand will take the annual College Offering on Sunday, Dec. 3.

There were ten additions in the eight days' mission conducted at Bunbury (W.A.) by Bro. D. R. Sirling.

R. W. Manning telegraphs: "Tumby Bay anniversary yesterday (Sunday): good meetings; nine decisions."

The Organiser of the College of the Bible is planning to visit Tasmanian churches in November and December.

The secretary of the church at Erskineville, N.S.W., now is W. E. Jeffreys, "Warrane," 53 Walkin-st., Newtown, Sydney.

Church treasurers who have not already forwarded College Offering are particularly requested to do so as early as possible. Send to Reg. Ewins, Glen Iris, Victoria.

The Victorian Home Mission Organiser writes: "Members throughout Victoria are asked to prepare for the Home Mission offering on Dec. 3. Help to raise at least £1500 in order to cope with the growing demand of our aggressive work. We feel sure that church officers and preachers will do all in their power to help."

A Conference on the Fundamental Truths of Christianity has been arranged to be held in the Melbourne Town Hall on Dec. 4, 5, and 6. The Archbishop of Melbourne and Professor Renouf have agreed to give the opening addresses. Professor Wilkin, Dr. W. H. Fitchett, and others, will also be taking part. Fuller information will be supplied later.

The Victorian F.M. Committee is arranging a welcome-farewell missionary meeting to be held in Swanston-st. chapel on Friday, Nov. 10, at 8 p.m. Opportunity will be taken to welcome home from India Bro. and Sister R. Coventry and Bro. and Sister G. P. Pittman, and to say farewell to Sisters M. Thompson, E. Caldwell, and G. Metcalf. It is hoped that members will make a special effort to fill the chapel, and thus do honor to our incoming and outgoing missionaries. Representative speakers, and responses by our F.M. workers.

The Hinrichsen-Brooker mission at West Vale, Vic. has resulted in 15 confessions to date. Last Lord's day morning four were received into the fellowship of the church. At the gospel service, which was held in the Paramount picture theatre, Bro. Hinrichsen delivered a powerful address on "Christian Unity," which was most attentively listened to by about 600 people; good results must accrue therefrom. At the conclusion one young woman made the good confession. The services will terminate next Lord's day, and further additions are expected.

After fifteen years' service Bro. J. Crawford has resigned his position as secretary of the church at City Temple, Sydney. Deep regret was expressed by the officers when Bro. Crawford was compelled through family reasons to relinquish the position. It was decided to place on record their keen appreciation of the faithful services rendered by him as secretary of the church during the past fifteen years. The church is fortunate in securing the services of Bro. J. Warner to succeed Bro. Crawford. Communications should in future be addressed to J. Warner, "The Rest," 15 Wardell-road, Petersham.

Bro. and Sister G. P. Pittman arrived at Fremantle, W.A., on the R.M.S. "Narkunda," on Oct. 19. They were met at the wharf by Bro. Egan, chairman of the W.A. F.M. Committee, and other brethren, and motored to Perth by Bro. and Sister D. M. Wilson. Some fifty members, representing all the metropolitan churches, met the returning missionaries at morning tea in Lake-st. chapel. Our brother and sister touched all hearts by their words. The Subiaco sisters entertained them at lunch. During the afternoon they were escorted to the boat by several brethren and sisters, and soon after 5 p.m. they sailed for East. Their brief visit did the West Australian brethren good.

The address of Bro. J. Whelan, newly-elected Federal Conference Secretary, for the next two or three weeks will be "Glenowan," Alma-road, Camberwell, then as usual at Robinson-st., Chatswood, N.S.W.

At Mulgoa, N.S.W., in the home of Bro. and Sister Fancourt, visitors are always welcome for the simple observance of the Lord's Supper. It is splendid thus to see resident members true to their Lord, although isolated from other brethren. This loyalty gives visitors an opportunity for fellowship otherwise impossible. During the last two Sundays Bro. and Sister A. J. Fisher, while on holidays, enjoyed this fellowship in the home of Bro. Fancourt.

The Women's Auxiliary Conference of West Australia is planning a Home Missionary tea for Tuesday, November 14, at Lake-st., Perth. At the public meeting after tea, Mrs. Robinson, President of the Women's Conference, will be in the chair. Bro. D. M. Wilson will briefly welcome Bro. and Sister Hibbert back to their work in West Australia, and Home Missionary addresses will be given by Bro. Thos. Hagger and W. R. Hibbert. Several of the church choirs will assist with the musical part of the programme.

G. P. Pittman writes: "I shall be glad if you will allow me a little space to express the gratitude of myself and my wife for the kindness shown to us by the West Australian brethren. If we had been your own missionaries we could not have had a heartier reception. A number of the brethren and sisters got up at daybreak or earlier and came from Perth and other places to the wharf. Bro. and Sister Wilson drove us in their car to Perth, enabling us to see the beauty of the river and park and seashore. The Lake-st. sisters provided us with breakfast, and at the subsequent meeting we had the joy of renewing many old-time friendships, and were refreshed in soul and body. The Subiaco sisters regaled us with a sumptuous lunch. We returned to the boat laden with lovely flowers, the envy of all on board. The love and thoughtfulness of the West Australian brethren helped us on our way, and enabled us to realise that we had come home to the land of loyal hearts and liberal hands. With greetings to your good self and all your readers.—Yours fraternally, G. P. Pittman. Melbourne, Oct. 25, '22."

PERSONALITIES OF THE CONFERENCE.

By "Linconna."

There was no suggestion of personal talk, but some reference may be made to the character of the personnel of the Conference.

More than one comment was made on the number of large men among the preachers and delegates. We certainly have some men of big physique in the brotherhood.

The foremost personality in the Conference was the President. Dignity rests easily upon him. He was always courteous, calm, and in control. Difficulties in the interpretation of the Constitution, and points of debate, came up, and were all settled promptly, and in such good spirit and humor that none thought of challenging any rulings. Much of the success of the Conference was due to his tact and urbane kindness. He discharged the functions of his office to its honor. His "remark or two" expedited business.

The gem of the Conference was the short speech by Bro. Blakemore on the question of international evangelism. His word was most fittingly expressed and helped to maintain the happy spirit of the Conference. Bro. Blakemore was distinctly a "personality" of the gatherings.

No Conference at which he is present can fail to take note of J. E. Thomas. He is both large and conspicuous. His good humor, and transparent sincerity, gain him the affection of his brethren. His readiness to retrace steps taken if shown

on a wrong line helped a critical decision. His "explanations" and "homiletics" were distinct features and appreciated. "I am a South Australian-Victorian—an all-round man."

Another big man came with a big call for big reinforcements for a big State. A. C. Rankine was seen and heard with pleasure. "Pay your debts—help Queensland."

Naturally with Foreign Missions so prominent in the discussions, the Federal Secretary was a personality. Calm and genial, he had the right word for the right time—and seems to be fitting his office. Statesman is the word that describes the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

A reference was made to the photographs on the lecture hall walls. A brother explained that one contained a picture of Bro. G. B. Moysey "and other New Testament worthies" who were present at the first Federal Conference. Bro. G. B. Moysey was distinctly a personality of the Conference. Hardly heard at all, it was good to have him there as a link with the past.

The missionary group provided interesting personalities at the Conference. Not previously has so large a number of the expeditionary forces graced a Conference. The effect of the College was manifest among them.

All the missionaries would agree that the chief mention should be given to Sister Miss Mary Thompson. What an honor it was to honor her. "Whatever mistakes have been made during the past thirty years in missionary administration, no mistake was made in sending out Miss Thompson," said G. T. Walden. And so say all of us.

Another personality was the brother who said that "Vice" had been connected to his Federal associations for two and a half years. The new President, H. G. Harward, is one who richly deserves the honor, and will discharge its obligations worthily. In labors abundant, his appearance belies his years. He seems to defy time's efforts to age him.

The "man from sunset," live and energetic, impressed himself on Conference. No one attending the Conference missed the appeal, "Think West, see West, help West." His feet set in a large place, W. R. Hibbert is destined to do a big job for the Lord.

"The desirability, practicability, necessity" of many things were urged on Conference after R. Lyall started it. It is like him to start things. And the brotherhood likes the things he starts, and himself the more for starting them. Essentially brotherly, his brethren esteem the Chairman of the Board of Management, and delight in his good works. Especially his habit of spending as he goes along.

There were some big gifts during the Conference. It is good to see brethren provoked to good works in this way. Provoking of that sort must please the Lord. Bro. T. E. Rofe, Dr. E. A. Bardsley, L. Russell, J. Bardsley, are a grand quartette, but they were not alone in the business, but they were personalities.

Another unobtrusive personality, but one whose presence and service were appreciated by all, was the Secretary, Les. C. McCallum had done most of his work behind the scenes, but it was well done. The ground work done is hard to estimate, yet easily accepted. The happy smile, and open-faced optimism, of the Secretary make him popular indeed.

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Foreign Missions.

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The Work at Shrigonda.

Mrs. Watson has written us a most interesting letter about the work in India. She says—

We had Bro. Killey at Shrigonda for a few days. He seems the right sort, and should make a good worker when he gets the language. We are glad to have Miss Jones with us. She will be a help in the work, as I cannot always go out with the women, and they do better if some of us are with them. We walked to a village three miles away one afternoon, but only found twelve people. During the influenza some years ago, nearly all the folks in that village died from the disease, and it really looked like a deserted village, houses falling down everywhere, but the idols everywhere were very much in evidence. We had a nice talk with the few people we met. The little Mungs children come every Sunday to Sunday School. One day, as we passed their houses, they were playing about, and when they saw us, they ran and perched themselves on the wall which surrounds the children's idol, and began to sing with all their lung power. "Jesus is the true Saviour." We hope and pray that they may always be ready to sing the praise of Jesus before the idols.

Our little Florence attends kindergarten here in the morning, and is getting quite proficient in the Marathi language. Miss Jones thinks it is too bad that she cannot learn it as quickly. She came in the other day repeating 1st Corinthians 1 and 2, in Marathi. Miss Cameron has plenty to do with her "sons," and they are a credit to her. We are hoping to have the girls over here in a month or so.

To-day we visited a Brahmin home, and the women made us a cup of tea. First they had to send out and borrow two cups and saucers. The tea was made in a brass vessel, then poured into the cups. The cups were not what we should call clean, for the dirt was thick around the handles, and the outside of the cups. We fondly hoped that the inside was not in the same condition. I tried to cheer Miss Jones by telling her that the dirt was of so long standing that it would not easily come off. The tea was very sweet. The people in this house are very friendly, because some months ago one of them was very ill, and the Sahib Watson was called in, after their doctor in the village had done his best and given up the case. They say the Sahib Watson saved her life, and now we can go and see them at any time, and they are willing to listen to the Gospel story. We visited another home on the way back, and the people there gave us some "loncher" (lemon preserve with a lot of hot things). This was for the Sahib, they know he enjoys this. I cannot say the rest of us do.

May the work in the homeland be richly blessed is the prayer of yours sincerely,—Helen M. Watson.

Word from Yunnanfu, China.

Bro. Anderson in a recent letter from China writes—

"Many wild stories are being told of some of the other provinces. Our home papers report of missionaries being ill-treated, and many of them being killed. We have not heard anything of it here, and most of us think that it certainly is not true. Some of them have been in danger, but the details have been very much exaggerated. Letters received by us from home recently ask if we have been in danger from the war that has been taking place in and around Peking, but our brethren must understand that China is a big place, and we are nearly as far from the fighting as they are. Others, too, have the idea that Dr. Shelton was brought into Yunnanfu after he was mortally wounded, and the impression given is that we were in the same danger as he was. Pos-

sibly we have been in danger, but I do not think that the brethren ought to think we were exposed to the same danger as Dr. Shelton exposed himself. I wish you could reassure the folks at home that at the present time we are in no more danger than is the ordinary run out here. There is always some danger here, but we do not want to magnify it. When we are travelling, of course it might be different, but we will always aim to have a good escort if it can be arranged."

Bro. and Sister Anderson are at the present time enjoying their first little holiday at a health resort, a short distance from Yunnanfu.

Bombay, India, Council of Missions have just concluded their annual meetings, and very important business was transacted. Miss Laurel Redman was the representative of our Field Council at this conference.

On November 5, "Children's Day" will be observed in many of our Australian Bible Schools. Those unable to have the service next Sunday are urged to arrange a suitable date and give the children an opportunity of presenting their offerings.

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1922

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OBITUARY.

JOHNSON.—Miss Florence Elizabeth Johnson, a very consecrated and faithful worker in the Lygon-st. church, was called home on Sept. 21, at the age of 33 years. Our sister has been almost all her life connected with the Sunday School and church, and from the age of 12 years she has been a member of the church. It was her great joy to do all she could for her Master wherever she had opportunity for service. In the Christian Endeavor Society she has been one of the most devoted workers for many years, and she will be greatly missed by those who have learned to love her there. She has been for some years superintendent of the Junior Endeavor Society, and many of the young have been pointed to Jesus through her Christlike teaching and influence. She had a beautiful voice that she delighted to use for Jesus. She was a member of the choir, and in Lygon-st.



The late Miss F. E. Johnson.

wherever she was asked to assist in other services she always had great joy in singing for her Lord. In the home and in business she was a great comfort and help to her widowed mother, and a very dear friend to all that knew her in the family circle. It was most touching to hear how all classes of the community in which she lived enquired about her during her last illness, and how many joined in the prayer that she might be spared to us. But God has a right to the fairest flowers, and we know our sister's death will be for His glory. There was a great crowd of many hundred people on Sept. 21, when we laid her body reverently away in the Coburg Cemetery. Bro. Horace Kingsbury assisted the writer at the graveside, and paid a loving tribute to her memory. The memorial service on Sept. 21 was largely attended, and showed the esteem in which our sister was held. To the widow mother, brother and sister, and all the dear ones that mourn, we extend our sincere sympathy. We join with them in sorrow for one who in life was beautiful in her service for Jesus, and whose influence will always be with us. May the blessing of God be upon the bereaved, and may we all be drawn nearer to Him by this sad experience. We shall meet our sister in that land where sorrow never comes, and where we shall together serve Him who in life we have served together.

God knows the way. He holds the key.
He guides us with unerring hand—
Sometime with tearless eyes we'll see—
Yes, there, up there, we'll understand.

—J. E. Thomas, Carlton, Vic.

N.S.W. Sisters' Auxiliary Conference.

The usual monthly meeting of the Executive was held at City Temple, Sydney, on Oct. 6; a fair number of delegates present. Apologies from Mrs. Plummer and Mrs. A. Morris, President, Mrs. Arnot, presided. Minutes were read, roll called, and apologies received. Sister Farr was welcomed back after illness.

Correspondence included a letter from Mr. Fisher, asking Committee to remember in prayer the special work in connection with Temperance Sunday. Decided to make the next committee meeting, Nov. 3, a special one, and get a good speaker to give an address on Prohibition. Mrs. Fell has kindly consented to fill the position, and sisters from all the churches and all those interested are cordially invited to be present at City Temple on Nov. 3, at 3 p.m.

A proposition that Mrs. A. Morris be appointed treasurer was carried, subject to her approval.

A donation of £1 was received from a sister at Blackheath, for a mission in India.

Miss Hall gave a short report of her work for Temperance. It was decided to print dodgers to advertise the meeting for next month, also receipt books for collectors and others who receive money.

A representative will be elected on the Bible School Committee in place of the late Mrs. Morrison.

Quarterly prayer meeting will be arranged at next meeting.

A suggestion that £1 be donated to the Ryde Home for Incurables, from Executive, to be confirmed by Committee. Business session closed with prayer by Mrs. Ashwood.

At devotional Mrs. Bull conducted a short memorial service for the late beloved treasurer, Mrs. Morrison, who was called home on Sept. 25. A suitable hymn was sung, then Mrs. Whelan led in a beautiful prayer. Mrs. Bull read a poem entitled "My Pilgrim Days are Over." Several sisters spoke of the loving service Sister Morrison had given to the work she loved so much, dating from 28 years ago. Miss Marshman also sent a beautiful letter, which was read, giving a loving testimony and kindly reference to her life.

Mrs. Bull gave a short address on "The Second Coming of Christ, the Christian's Hope." The Glory Song, and prayer by Mrs. Fox, closed the meeting.—Mrs. E. Morris, Recording Secretary.

PAGAN PATRIOTISM.

By Mr. H. R. Urquhart, M.A.

(Author of "Men and Marbles").

A pamphlet reviewing the unique case of Mr. A. W. Page, M.Sc., late of the Christchurch Boys' High School, dismissed from the ranks of the Teaching Profession of N.Z. because he found himself unable to take the Oath of Allegiance unless safeguarded by the proviso, "So long as such undertaking continues not to conflict with what I consider my duty to God."

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News of the Churches.

Queensland.

Good meetings continue to be held at Corndale and Beale. Splendid interest in being shown in Bro. Mason's addresses. We congratulate our young Sister Gladys Perrett, of Boon, on attaining the A.T.C.L. at recent State Musical Examinations.

On Oct. 15, at South End, Toowoomba, 31 broke bread. Bro. Adcock spoke. Four visitors, including Sister Finch, of Brisbane. Sister Coleman, senior, is passing through a trying time. Bible School had four new scholars, totalling 33 on roll. Open-air work is well in hand. Gospel meeting well attended. Bro. Stitt spoke. Oct. 2, Bro. Sawdon exhorted. One young man rededicated his life at gospel meeting. Bro. A. Coleman spoke on "The Voice of Silence." Bro. Stitt is visiting the South for a fortnight.

In the absence of Bro. A. C. Rankine, who was representing Queensland at the Federal Conference, Bro. E. Davis, of Albion, exhorted the Brisbane church on Oct. 22. Bro. Stuart Trudgian delivered the gospel message to a good audience. On the evening of Oct. 16 Bro. and Sister Davis, who are leaving Queensland shortly, were the guests of the Young People's Society at a social. Advantage was taken of his presence by the Young Men's Training Class to make Mr. Davis a presentation of a gold mounted fountain-pen.

West Australia.

At Bassendean on Oct. 15 Bro. Cameron was the speaker. At night a young man confessed Christ. He with three others was baptised. On the 22nd Bro. W. H. Clay gave a helpful address. Bro. Sealy extended the land of fellowship to five, one by letter being the wife of the young man who confessed on Oct. 15. At night Bro. A. Miller, of Subiaco, conducted the gospel service, Bro. Cameron being at Brookton conducting a mission. The young folk have had three weeks' self-denial, and raised about £2/10/-. The Dorcas sisters have had a sale of works and gifts; these sisters have been the means of raising over £100 off the chapel debt.

On Oct. 16 Maylands church held the first quarterly social, a good number being present. The various committees furnished reports. The church is sorry to report that a most faithful and devoted sister in the person of Mrs. Raymond is leaving for the Eastern States. The members gave her a present of a small Bible. Bro. Stirling has returned from Bunbury, where he had a good victory, ten souls being won for Christ. On Oct. 22, 65 broke bread in the morning service, at which Bro. Stirling spoke. He preached in the evening; 120 were present. One young man made the good confession, and one young girl was baptised. Sister Mrs. Masters has been in very indifferent health for some time. Bible School is going along splendidly, under direction of Bro. Henry, sept. All departments are training for the Scripture examinations.

Subiaco Bible School concluded its anniversary services on Oct. 15 and 16. On Lord's day afternoon some 300 children sang with pleasing effect some effective pieces. The Beginners' Department, under Miss Elsie Evan, and with the aid of a large sand-tray, gave a demonstration. The Beginners' Department, with its 12 teachers under Miss Evan's guiding, is excellently organised and controlled. Great help was given by an orchestra of 16 performers. On Monday evening the annual tea meeting was well attended. The programme later submitted was an excellent one. All items were well received. The school is now in the 25th year of its work. 1898 saw the school with three teachers and 22 scholars; to-day some 40 teachers and officers attend to over 300 scholars. If accommodation permitted the school could be doubled. Oct. 22, a nice meeting around the table, when Bro. Robt. Fawers gave a helpful address. Bro. Clay had charge of the evening service. His address was appreciated. During

the anniversary services, the church was pleased to have fellowship with Bro. and Sister Waddell, of Norwood, S.A., and Bro. Watson, of North Fitzroy.

Victoria.

Bro. and Sister Coventry, from India, are visiting Berwick. Bro. Coventry addressed the church on Oct. 29. Bro. Butler and Hughes, of the Bible College, have visited and delivered addresses. These were appreciated.

The presence of several Conference visitors was much enjoyed at Malvern-Caulfield on Sunday, and the addresses of W. R. Hibbert in the morning, and R. P. Arnott in the evening—when there was one confession—were very helpful.

At Moreland, bright, helpful services were held on Oct. 29. Several from Sydney, visitors to Federal Conference, were welcomed. In the morning Bro. Bardsley presided, and Bro. Stevens delivered an inspiring address. At the gospel service Bro. Eaton delivered a fine gospel address.

At Cheltenham on Sunday Bro. T. R. Morris conducted a remembrance service to the late T. B. Fischer. Visitors and speakers were Bro. Fischer's sister (missionary Mrs. Black), R. Lyall, G. T. Walden, and others. The service was very helpful and impressive. Other meetings were smaller than usual. P. R. Baker addressed each one splendidly.

At Middle Park Bro. A. T. Eaton, of Sydney, exhorted last Sunday morning, and was greatly enjoyed. Two young ladies who were baptised the Sunday before were received into fellowship. Electric light was off in the evening, and candles were used. Preceding the gospel message, three young women were baptised, and at the close of Bro. Brooke's address one young man confessed Christ.

At Hampton S.S. anniversary services on Sunday Bro. and Sister G. P. Pittman and Miss Mary Thompson were visitors. Bro. Tinkler spoke in the morning, when two young men were welcomed to fellowship. Bro. Wakeley gave special addresses afternoon and evening, when the scholars rendered choruses and received prizes. Thirty who had gained maximum attendance marks were awarded special prizes.

At Brighton good congregations braved the storm on Sunday, and had the pleasure of hearing uplifting messages from inter-state visitors to the Federal Conference. Bro. Stimson, of Sydney, addressed the church on "Christian Graces," and Bro. H. J. Horsell, Organising Secretary of the S.A. Conference, gave a fine address on the subject, "A Refuge of Lies," from Isaiah 28. Sister Mrs. Black, returned missionary from the New Hebrides, was also a welcome visitor.

Last Lord's day stormy weather interfered with attendances at Swanston-st. Several Federal Conference visitors contributed to a most enjoyable meeting. Amongst others were Bro. Crossman, of Sydney, Bro. Shill, of Norwood, Sisters Mrs. and Miss Chaplin, of Bridgewater, S.A., Bro. Graham, of Hindmarsh, Sister Tomkin, of Grote-st., Adelaide; also Bro. Walden, who gave a beautiful address. In the evening Bro. Dr. Bardsley and Geo. Morton, of Enmore, Bro. Stubbin and daughter, from Queensland, also Sister Mrs. Jarvis, of Hôbart, were present. Bro. Kingsbury preached an excellent sermon.

Colac church held a sale of gifts on October 19; over £25 will accrue to church building fund. On Oct. 29 the Bible School anniversary was begun. The presence of Bro. Blakemore, his morning and afternoon addresses, and his splendid gospel message at the evening service, were all much appreciated. Monday's anniversary meeting is to be followed by a "school of methods" on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. A good block of land has been secured, other preparations are in hand, and cottage prayer meetings have begun in connection with the Hinrichsen-Brooker mission, expected to commence early in November.

At Lygon-st. on Sunday among the Conference visitors were Bro. Stubbin and daughter, Qld., and H. J. Horsell and son, S.A. Bro. Horsell in the morning gave a nice address, and at night Stuart Stevens, of Paddington, N.S.W., spoke upon "The Gospel in a Nutshell" to an interested audience.

During the past few weeks meetings at North Richmond have been very helpful. On Oct. 22 many inter-state visitors were present. Bro. Hibbert, of W.A., gave a helpful exhortation. Oct. 29 was the 32nd anniversary of the church, which was commemorated by a "Back to Coppin-st." Sunday. Considering weather conditions, the meetings were very good. Bro. T. H. Scambler spoke in the morning, and Bro. G. T. Walden gave a splendid gospel address. The church extends sympathy to Sister Mrs. Brett in the loss of her beloved husband.

New South Wales.

At Chatswood on Oct. 29, Bro. Plummer addressed the church on "The Lord's Prayer." Several visitors present, including Bro. Morris, from Ballarat, Vic. Prayer service, 13 present. At the gospel service Bro. Welber gave a fine address from John 12: 32; fair attendance.

At Lismore on Nov. 22, Bro. W. Atkin in charge, Bro. M. Hancock was present after a long period of severe sickness. At night Bro. P. J. Pond preached on "Conscription or Conversion—Which?" The Sisters' Missionary Society at its monthly meeting had an instructive talk from the local Presbyterian minister on mission work among the aborigines. Sister Mrs. Houlden was in charge of the devotional, Sisters P. J. Pond and J. P. F. Walker also taking part.

Dumbleton on Oct. 29, at the Junior Endeavor, had a full attendance of members, when Sister Olive Binns, President of the Seniors, addressed the meeting on the Brisbane Convention. Bro. Stow, Miss Binns and Miss G. Boulton represented the Endeavor at that Convention. 29 broke bread. At the gospel meeting four young ladies who had previously made the good confession, and had been earnest helpers in the work, were baptised. It is intended to hold prayer meetings in preparation for Bro. Harward's mission, November 5 to November 17. The church earnestly request the prayers of the brethren.

Broken Hill reports that death has claimed one of the consistent Christian members in Sister Hall, one of the foundation members of Wolfram-st. church, who made the confession on the opening day in 1899, when Bro. Jas. E. Thomas was the preacher. To the bereaved family the sincere sympathy of the church is lovingly extended. The Junior C.E. Society has grown from 9 to 43. Bro. A. Hall is leader. On Oct. 22 four young sisters were baptised. Thursday evening meetings are very interesting and instructive. Bro. Blackburn is giving a series of addresses on the second coming of Christ, with chart. The Bible School picnic was held at Silverton on Oct. 21. An in memoriam service was held on Sunday, Oct. 22. Bro. Blackburn was the speaker, and there was a good congregation.

On Oct. 8, Merewether church held its anniversary and flower service. Bro. Harward exhorted the church, and in the afternoon addressed the school. Musical items were also beautifully rendered by the children. At night Bro. Harward gave a stirring address to a full gospel meeting. On Tuesday night following, public tea and service were held. The secretary's report showed satisfactory progress, considering the distressful times in which the northern districts were passing through. Bro. Harward gave another address, and evangelist Bro. Martin also spoke. Bro. Wright, elder, presided, and musical items were rendered by choir. On Oct. 15, Bro. Smith exhorted, and at night all members attended to give Bro. Martin a good send-off for his first mission now being held in Newcastle. On Oct. 22 Bro. Mercer spoke in the morning and at Bible School in the afternoon. At night his theme was "The Reconciling Power of the Gospel."

At Paddington, on Lord's day, Oct. 22, the three young people previously baptised—Bro. and Sister Hilberd, and Bro. Lawrence—were received into fellowship. Bro. Stevens preached morning and evening. On Lord's day, Oct. 29, Bro. Short is addressed the church. Visitors included Bro. Faucourt, from Mulgoa. Bro. W. Avenell preached in the evening.

South Australia.

God meetings at Port Pirie on Oct. 22. Bro. Shipway's address in the evening was, "The Massacre of Christian Armenia." A collection was taken up for the relief fund, which amounted to over £4. The sisters' sale of works was held on Oct. 25 and was the most successful yet held.

At Cottonville on Oct. 22 three were received into membership. Two members of the Bible Class confessed Christ at gospel service. Five additions to Bible School. On Oct. 29 one was received into membership. Splendid address by Bro. Southgate. Another addition to Bible Class. Bro. Ross Manning preached in the evening.

At Prospect a lad and lassie made the confession at the Bible School, two men and a woman at the evening meeting, after which a baptismal service was held. This was one of the brightest meetings held for some time. The Bible School picnic was held on Saturday, Oct. 28. Bro. Graham gave an address on "Baptism" last Sunday evening.

At Murray Bridge on Sunday morning Bro. Warhurst exchanged pulpits with Mr. Erskine, Presbyterian Church, who gave a fine address. On Sunday night, after Bro. Warhurst's instructive address, a young lady made the good confession. The attendances at both services were fair. The young people are working hard at the tennis court, and hope to have it completed soon.

At Crofton, the work goes steadily. Sunday School attendance, 202. Six certificates gained from nine entries in State Examinations. Bro. R. Flint is still bed-ridden. Sister A. Barltrop was recently married to Mr. Ivett, of Rosewater. Sister R. Howard and Bro. R. Segnit, B.A., B.Sc., are also recently married. Bro. Geo. W. Bateup and Sister A. A. Gilbert were recently married, and are now living in Tourak. The work generally is in very good heart.

Last Sunday morning at Gawler the two who made the good confession the previous Sunday were baptised and welcomed to fellowship. Meetings were good, and at the gospel service another young man made the good confession. He was baptised on Sunday morning, and extended the right hand of fellowship. Attendances at all meetings are good. The prospects for the Bible School and the work among the young people continue to be most encouraging. Third anniversary will be celebrated on Nov. 5.

The Moonta Mines have again ceased working, owing to a fresh dispute. Two weeks ago every one was jubilant at the prospect, now disappointment reigns. During Bro. Oram's term of just two years at Moonta, the mines have only worked about seven months. Despite this, the church has just completed a renovation of the inside of the church building at a cost of £160. The attendance on Oct. 29 was good. Three new scholars at the Bible School, and the best attendance and collection for some months.

Wallaroo Sisters' Executive attended a nice meeting at Moonta last Thursday. Tuesday evening Mrs. E. G. Warren gave a helpful address to the Senior C.E., and on Thursday evening the evangelist gave a spiritual talk on "Abide in Christ." Saturday evening the officers held an important meeting. On Sunday morning Bro. Hage presided over a good meeting, and welcomed Nurse Tankerville, a much-loved member of the church. Gospel school and kindergarten in the afternoon. In the evening Bro. E. G. Warren preached on "Christ's Call to Service." Miss Nankerville sang a solo very sweetly.

At Blaklava large meetings and splendid interest have marked the progress of the spring campaign. On Oct. 23 the first of a series of brotherhood meetings was held, about 40 men attending. Bro. W. C. Brooker gave a helpful talk.

It was decided to hold these meetings monthly. At meetings on Oct. 29 there were large attendances. One received by letter from Gawler. At the gospel service Bro. Ewers's subject was especially for men, between 20 and 30 men forming the choir. Bro. G. H. Lange, having sold his property, will shortly be leaving with his family to reside in Adelaide. Dorcas sisters are making garments for India.

St. Morris mission closed on Oct. 22. Weather played heavily against the work during the first few weeks. Last week attendances and interest improved splendidly. Five took their stand for the Master, four of whom were baptised on Sunday evening. Splendid attendances on Sunday. In the evening 13 young people from the Bible School made the confession in the tent. It was a difficult task for Bro. Beiler to enter the mission without having had a resident preacher on full-time service to prepare the way and assist the work. The church itself has gained much spiritual benefit from the discourses delivered. The Bible School is preparing for the anniversary services on Nov. 19.

At Norwood the annual business meeting was held last Wednesday, when an election of six deacons took place, Bren Taylor, Johnson, Lawrie, Bowes, W. Crowhurst and Jessup being chosen. Bren Parker and Collins, who have served the church faithfully, the latter as secretary, did not seek re-election. A Bible was presented to Bro. Collins for services rendered, and words of appreciation were also expressed concerning the long and faithful services of Bro. T. Johnson as church treasurer. It was decided to discontinue the Sunday evening offering for a period of at least six months, also that a quarterly meeting of the church be held for the purpose of talking over plans for the work. During the past year over £1000 passed through the church funds. A house has been purchased by the church for the preacher. On Oct. 29, two previously baptised were welcomed, together with Sisters Miss Gully and Nurse Wright, from Christchurch, N.Z.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(The Editor is not responsible for the views of his correspondents.)

THE FEDERAL CONFERENCE.

To "The Australian Christian"

The experiment of having the Federal Conference apart from the State meetings proved a decided success, and will probably be the rule for the future. But a further experiment should be attempted of extending the time for the Conference meetings. The two days allowed was totally inadequate for the proper consideration of the different phases of Federal work. On Wednesday afternoon we began to speculate whether the business would be completed by Thursday evening. And considering the importance of such big items as Foreign Missions, the College of the Bible, and the Provident Fund, one day was altogether insufficient for their proper presentation. While all must admit the fairness and faithfulness of the President in the discharge of his duties, yet there was a feeling of hurry, that time was an important consideration, and if one wished to help the Conference he would do well to say as little as possible. This is not for the best interests of our Federal work, especially as we meet at long intervals.

Extending the time of the Conference would give an opportunity for united meetings of the State Committees, which would be most valuable. An attempt was made, after the College reception, to have a meeting of the Federal and State Foreign Mission Committees. Several items were down for consideration, all of them important, but only the first could receive any notice. Brethren came to express their views on what they believed were vital matters, but for lack of time remained silent. By bringing the committees together for a free and frank discussion, a better understanding would be created which would lead to a more united work.

There should also be more inspirational addresses. The national and world-wide subjects under review offer splendid scope for strong and inspiring messages, which might fire the brotherhood with a new passion for evangelism and missionary enterprise. It is with no lack of appreciation for all that is good in our Conference meetings, if we add, that they can be improved in their inspirational character.

The extension of the time would also mean a larger programme, which would find a place for most timely themes, such as "The Modern Bible School," "Social Reform," "Out-door Evangelism," "Rural and City Church Problems," all of which challenge our earnest and best thought.

I feel confident that the brethren who are willing to spend much time and money in coming from distant States would be very willing to give more than two days to the work of the Federal Conference. We have moved forward in giving it a place of its own; let us move still further and make it even more worth while.

Malvern, Vic., Oct. 30, 1922.—B. W. Huntsman.

COMING EVENTS.

NOVEMBER 5 (Lord's day)—Swanston-st. Church, 57th Anniversary and Home-coming Day. Former members and friends very cordially welcome to and invited to spend the day with the church. Special addresses.

NOVEMBER 10 (Friday)—Swanston-st. Chapel, 8 p.m. Welcome—Farewell Missionary Meeting, to welcome home Bro. and Sister R. Coventry and Bro. and Sister G. P. Pittman, from India, and to say good-bye to Sisters M. Thompson, E. Caldicott, and G. Metzenthin. Representative speakers. Responses by our missionaries. All members are urged to attend and join in extending a welcome and a loving farewell to our beloved F.M. workers. Fill Swanston-st. chapel.

NOVEMBER 12—£500 for Happy Children and a Sober Nation. Great offering in N.S.W. Churches and all auxiliaries.

NOVEMBER 14—Churches of Christ Cricket Association. Grand Moonlight Bay Trip, on November 14, 1922. Anzac Memorial Band on board. Tickets, 2/- each, obtainable from Club secretaries or on the pier.

NOVEMBER 25—Hampton Hall, Sale of Work, conducted by Church of Christ Ladies' Guild, opened by T. Bagley at 3 p.m. Visitors heartily welcome.

NOVEMBER 27—Annual Demonstration and Distribution of Prizes in Lygon-st. chapel, at 7.45 p.m. Splendid programme of items by representatives of fifteen city and suburban schools. Under auspices of Victorian Bible School and Young People's Department.



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Forward Movement.—(a) Promises Paid—H. Buick, £2/12/-; G. A. Jessup, 7/- (41/4/-); A. J. Stowan, £2; H. L. Vawser, £3; A. W. Garland, £3; F. Collins, £1; J. Dabb, £2/10/-; A. Cousins, 5/-; J. Henley, £3. (b) Thankofferings—Barmera, £1/13/8; Winkie, £3/10/10; Berri, £6/10/2. Duplex Envelopes.—Prospect, £2/14/7; Mile End, £3/10/2; Port Pirie, £2/12/1; Gawler, 16/9; Croydon, £1/7/-; North Adelaide, 4/6; Balaklava, £10.

Donations.—B. C. Black, £5; R. De Houghton, £1/6/5; Mallala Box, 8/6; J. Barr, £5; T. G. Storer, £5; R.T., 1/3; Estate late A. T. Magarey, £3/3/-; Sisters' Conference, £75/8/-.

"Living Link"—C.E. Union, £4.
Refunds—Mallala Church, £2/4; Gawler Church, £1/4/-; Goolwa Church, 13/3.

Conference Receipts.—Sale Programmes, £10 14/-; Adjustments, Church Extension Committee, £2/10/-; S.S. Department, £4/13/-.

Subsidies from Churches.—Walleroo, £8; Gawler, £8; Broken Hill, £10/2/6; Railwaytown, £5 10/-; Berri, £15/15/-; Murray Bridge, £14; Naracoorte, £10/5/-; Port Pirie, £19; Moonta, £18; Barmera, £6.

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