

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

CIRCULATING AMONGST THE
CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE AUSTRALIAN
COMMONWEALTH AND NEW ZEALAND.

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1853 * VICTORIAN JUBILEE CONFERENCE. * 1903

SISTERS' CONFERENCE.

The meeting of the sisters this year was voted the largest in their history. Next week the report of the sisters' meeting will have the right of way, when a full account will appear.

TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION.

The temperance demonstration on Thursday evening filled the Masonic Hall to overflowing, and the meeting was full of enthusiasm. Some of the addresses given we expect to publish in full, and a report of the meeting will appear next week.

On Friday morning, April 10th, the Jubilee Conference of the churches of Christ in Victoria began its meetings for the transaction of business. From the start and throughout the Conference meetings there were large numbers of brethren and sisters present.

DEVOTIONAL.

The devotional meeting commenced at 9 a.m., and was continued until 10, under the presidency of H. Swain. This was taken part in by R. Lyall, A. Lucraft, P. A. Dickson, J. Pittman, H. G. Harward and C. L. Thurgood.

An interesting Bible Study was conducted by James Johnston, the theme of the Study being "The Great Teacher."

At 10 o'clock the President, James Johnston, took the chair and opened the Conference proper with prayer.

The churches at Pitfield, Preston and Thorpdale applied for admission into the Conference, and their application was duly granted.

The Minutes of the previous Conference were read and confirmed.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Letters of congratulation were read from the churches in Tasmania, New Zealand, West Australia, South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales; Thos. Hagger and Bro. Manning, W.A., and from the Australian students now in America. The letters were

enthusiastically received, and it was resolved that they should be suitably acknowledged.

REPRESENTATIVES.

The roll of representatives was then called and the following brethren answered to their names:—

CHURCHES AND REPRESENTATIVES.

ASCOT VALE: W. Brown, F. W. Martin, T. Y. Potts.
BENDIGO: Dr. Jas. Cook, J. Southwick, R. Medland.
BERWICK: G. Fudson, J. Richardson.
BAYSWATER: T. Clemens.
BRIM: W. W. White, J. Clydesdale.
BALLARAT WEST: Wm. Barnes, Geo. King.
BRUNSWICK: W. McCance, W. Hardie.
BARKEE'S CREEK: J. Hogarth, A. E. Gartside.
BET BET: A. R. Lyall.
BORDERTOWN: W. G. Oram.
BRIGHTON: D. Parker, — Brotchie.
COSGROVE: J. C. Skinner.
CHELTENHAM: H. Mahon, W. Judd, W. Wolf.
CARLTON (Lygon-street): Jas. Johnston, M.A., W. C. Craigie, C. Hardie, W. C. Thurgood, F. Payne.
COLLINGWOOD: H. Swain, P. Conning, B. Cox.
CASTLEMAINE: A. W. Cossor, O. Owens.
CAREW: A. B. Maston.
CARLTON NORTH: T. Ghent, J. Hollole.
DONCASTER: M. Zellis sr., H. W. Crouch sr., J. Hudson.
DUNOLLY: R. C. Beard.
DANDENONG: — Rainbow.
EMERALD: S. C. Flett, T. Collis.
ECHUCA: T. H. Scambler.
FOOTSCRAY: G. Coxhead, H. Carter, J. Davidson.
FITZROY: H. D. Smith, C. W. Mitchell, Jas. McGregor.
FITZROY NORTH: J. Butler, sen., T. Gole, W. Forbes, C. L. Thurgood, Thos. Cowley.
GALAGUIE: C. R. Howard.
GEELONG: G. H. Browne, H. Christopher.
HAWTHORN: R. C. Edwards, W. Finger, W. H. Bardwell, — McCoughtry.
HORSNAM: W. Burgess.
KYARRAM: P. Bryce.
KANIVA: H. Leng, J. M. Goldsworthy.
LELLIMUR: C. Daniels.
LAKE ROWAN: M. McLellan.
MELBOURNE: F. G. Dunn, B. J. Kemp, A. Meldrum.
MEREDITH: A. McKay.
MILDURA: R. Mansell, A. Millis.

MOORUMBERRA: L. S. Blair, sen., J. Boak.
MOOROOLBARK: R. Langley, E. Badenbope.
MELBOURNE SOUTH: J. Waldron, W. H. Mill.
MELBOURNE NORTH: T. J. Cook, M. Dale, R. McCance.
MINTIP: R. Lyall.
MEREDUM: J. Robinson.
MALVERN: J. Barnacle, B. Huntsman.
MARYBOROUGH: W. D. Little, H. Banks.
NEWMARKET: F. W. Greenwood, C. Herrington.
PRESTON: W. Dickens.
PORT FAIRY: Chas. Johnson, Hugh Gray.
POCKENNETT: J. W. Baker.
PRAHRAN: — Flood, J. Alwyn, J. Pittman.
PAXENHAM: H. G. Maston.
RICHMOND NORTH: G. B. Moysey, E. Fisher, T. Darnley, J. Salisbury, J. Harding.
RICHMOND SOUTH: P. J. Pond, C. Cousins.
SOUTH YARRA: D. A. Lewis, F. Wickess.
SHEPPARTON: A. Grant.
SURREY HILLS: W. Wilson, A. E. Varcoe.
ST. KILDA: F. W. Clarye.
THORPDAL: E. Griffiths.
TARADALE: — Jackel, J. Sargeant.
TOOLAMBA: A. Gress.
WEDDERBURN: R. G. Cameron, C. McDonald.
WARMUN WEST: H. G. Harward.
WILLIAMSTOWN: E. M. Hall, — Hopkins, E. C. Kenney.
YANAC NORTH: W. C. McCallum.

WELCOME TO VISITORS.

G. T. Walden, of N.S.W.; T. J. Gore, of South Australia; Albany Bell and D. M. Wilson, of West Australia; Cope and W. R. C. Jarvis, of Tasmania; C. L. Thurgood, of the United States of America; also J. Ingram, the oldest pioneer of the cause in Victoria; and Andrew Meldrum, recently arrived from America, were invited to take seats upon the platform and were cordially welcomed to the Jubilee Conference. Each of the representatives suitably responded. Bro. Brooker, of South Australia, at a later stage congratulated the Victorian brethren on the holding of their Jubilee Conference.

On the motion of R. Lyall, seconded by C. L. Thurgood, a vote of thanks was accorded to the churches of New South Wales and West Australia for the con-

sideration shown in the changing of the dates of their Conferences in order that those who desired might visit our Jubilee.

CONFERENCE REPORTS.

Executive Committee's Report.

1. PRELIMINARY.

Our meeting together on this occasion is one of more than ordinary interest, inasmuch as in this year of our Lord 1903 we celebrate the fiftieth year of our existence as a church in the State of Victoria. It is therefore our year of Jubilee, and consequently one in which we have special reason to offer thanksgiving to the Father of all mercies for his loving kindness and gracious help throughout the years in which we have so imperfectly served him. It is also an occasion of rejoicing because our hearts are glad by reason of the many victories that have been won for Jesus, and for the bright prospects that lie before us, of still greater victories in the future. It is an occasion which previous Conferences decided was worthy of being celebrated in such a way as would bring honor to the name of Jesus and advance the cause of primitive Christianity in our land. In this respect, all has been done by the Executive that could possibly be done with the resources at its command. Chiefly, it has sought to celebrate this year of Jubilee by making it one that should stand pre-eminently above all past years in the matter of winning precious souls for Jesus. It rejoices that, to a large extent, its wishes and aspirations have been realised. It has also sought to make the gatherings incidental to the Conference itself worthy of the occasion. To do this it was needful that a building, larger than any of our chapels, should be secured. Fortunately for this purpose, the building in which we now meet was secured, and it is hoped that it will adequately meet all our requirements. For various reasons it was thought desirable that the meeting to be held in the Town Hall should be of the nature of a Service of Song given by the Sunday School children. It is right that our children should rejoice with us, and that thus early they should be impressed with the importance of the cause for which we stand. It was with great joy that your Executive heard that many visitors from the other States had signified their intention of being present with us in our Jubilee meetings. This will help us much in our rejoicing and give a Federal character to our celebrations. It depends now very largely upon the brethren attending our gatherings whether our expectations of a bright and happy period of fellowship will be realised or not. If all are filled with the true Jubilee spirit, and forgetting self seek only that which makes for peace, a happy and glorious Conference must be the result. May the Spirit of Christ abide more richly in our hearts and make us more worthy of these opportunities for service in the Master's work.

This clause was read by the President and enthusiastically adopted.

2. SISTERS' CONFERENCE.

The various agencies for good are still being carried on by our energetic sisters. The Home Missions have benefited by their exertions to the extent of £125. We are pleased to say that a great number of visitors from sister States and from the country districts have favored us with their presence, and the sisters have rendered signal service by arranging for the accommodation of the greater portion of our visitors. Sister Pittman, as secretary for the "Accommodation Committee," deserves a special word of commendation for her untiring zeal. The sisters having heard from the Mallee and Hornsham Districts that great privation existed amongst the women and children, owing to the drought, have through their Dorcas members rendered very substantial help by forwarding clothing and boots and material to both these districts. This help we know has been most gratefully appreciated.

Adopted with a vote of thanks to the sisters for their great help during the year.

3. DEATH OF JOHN A. DAVIES.

At last Conference our much esteemed Bro. J. A. Davies was elected as Treasurer for the seventh time. We are deeply sorry to say that within two months of his election he died suddenly, and so we were deprived of the valuable services of our beloved brother. An *In Memoriam* service was held in the Lygon-st. chapel, where suitable references were made

to the great loss the church has sustained, and profound sympathy expressed for Sister Davies. The following resolution was placed upon our minutes: "Inasmuch as it has pleased our heavenly Father to remove from us by death our late highly esteemed Bro. J. A. Davies, we mourn the loss of such an energetic, sympathetic and valuable worker, and desire to express the high regard with which he was held by us as a Christian and a man. We also desire to record our sympathy with and for his widow, our sister in Christ, and lovingly commend her to the tender care and mercy of our Father in heaven."

C. G. LAWSON.

It is with deep regret that the Executive has to report the death of another brother in the person of C. G. Lawson. Just a few days prior to the meeting of Conference the Master called him home. He had reached the ripe age of 73, and would probably have lived longer had he not overtaken his strength in the service of his Lord. For a number of years he was a member of the Home Mission Committee, and in the year 1895 filled the office of President of the Conference. He was also one of the pioneers of the cause in this State, having become connected with the church meeting in the old Mechanics' Institute, Collins-st., in the year 1855, and was twentieth on the roll of membership of that church, and from first to last was untiring in his zeal and devotion to the cause of the Master. On many occasions he has materially assisted the Home Mission Committee in its work of consolidation by doing pastoral work in various country districts. This he did at his own charges, refusing even to take his travelling expenses. Your Committee feels that it will be difficult to find a brother to adequately fill his place, and is certain that the sense of loss felt by it will be shared by the entire brotherhood.

J. A. PALMER.

In addition to the two veterans named above we have to mourn the loss of our Bro. J. A. Palmer, the preacher of the church at Hawthorn, who died only a few weeks before the assembling of the Conference. He was a young man of great promise, full of enthusiasm and good works. The churches in Victoria will sadly miss him.

On the motion of F. G. Dunn, seconded by P. Bryce, the clauses relating to J. A. Davies, C. G. Lawson and J. A. Palmer were adopted. Bro. Dunn, in moving the resolution, spoke in fitting terms of the services rendered by our deceased brethren, after which the audience rose and sang the hymn, "Dear is the Spot Where Christians Sleep."

4. NEW TREASURER.

Upon the death of Bro. Davies it became necessary to appoint a successor. We are pleased to say that Bro. W. C. Craigie, having been unanimously elected by the Executive and Home Mission Committees, accepted the position, and has proved himself an able Treasurer. Indeed, it is very largely owing to his energy that the funds are in such a satisfactory state at the present time.

Adopted.

5. ESSAYIST.

Bro. M. Wood Green was elected as Essayist at last Conference, but owing to his removal to New Zealand he resigned the position. Bro. J. T. T. Harding was communicated with, and very kindly agreed to step into the breach and accept the responsibility of Essayist. His subject will be, "Organisation of Effort." We are much indebted to Bro. Harding for acceding to our request, at such comparatively brief notice.

Adopted.

6. AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE.

The Executive and Missionary Committees (which were appointed as a Training Committee) are pleased to report that the work outlined by Jas. Johnston at last Conference meeting was so readily supported by the young men of the brotherhood that he found it necessary to inaugurate a scheme which has for its ultimatum an institution akin to the Colleges of the Bible among the American brethren. This you Committee adopted, and so successful has been the working out of this scheme, and so numerous have become the duties connected thereto, that your Committee appointed an Administration Committee

for the college. This Committee begs to present the following, which will speak for itself:—

1. The number of students enrolled for 1902 was 68, while the number for the first term of this year is 57, 25 more than the enrolment for the first term of last year.
2. The fees for tuition amounted to £46/18/6; and after meeting expenses to date there is a balance of £33/8/5 in hand. The Conference Treasurer controls the finances.
3. The Committee found it necessary to hire the University High School premises for the adequate conduction of the college classes for 1903 at a rental of £30.
4. The Committee has been successful in securing affiliation, on equal terms, with the Texas Christian University of America, which has been ranked by the State Educational Department as a First Class Institution, and therefore her graduates are admitted *ad eundem* to the first class institutions of America. Students from the Australian College of the Bible going to America will therefore receive credit subjects for subject.
5. The Committee has also added a two year course in elementary musical training to the curriculum. The graduates from this course will receive a diploma from the Tonic Sol-fa College of London. Mr. E. W. Pittman is the instructor.
6. The efficiency of the work done in the college may be gathered from the fact that out of 68 enrolments for 1902 only 39 secured passes in either one or both terms.
7. The present student body is made up as follows: 46 first year students, 20 second year and 1 third, while 35 have enrolled for the next course. Total enrolments, 92.

Realising the importance of this work, your Committee commend it very earnestly to your support and sympathy, and recommend that the College of the Bible be under the control and management of the Administration Committee appointed by the Executive Committee.

Administration Committee. { JAS. JOHNSTON, M.A., Principal.
F. G. DUNN.
A. B. MASTON.
W. C. CRAIGIE, TREASURER.

Adopted.

7. CONGRATULATIONS.

A few months ago a letter was sent to Bro. Benj. L. Smith, Secretary of the American Christian Missionary Society, requesting him to send a brother to represent America upon the occasion of our Jubilee Conference. He replied that they had no means at their disposal to enable them to do so. However, Bro. F. D. Power, of Washington City, was appointed to prepare a letter of fraternal greeting. Bro. C. L. Thurgood was asked to represent America by the American Board, and to read the letter prepared by Bro. Power. In addition to Bro. Power's letter, a number of congratulatory letters have been received from some who were formerly associated with Victoria. Bro. C. L. Thurgood has been appointed also to read extracts from them.

C. L. Thurgood read various letters of congratulation from the following:—F. D. Power, U.S.A., H. S. Earl, U.S.A., J. W. Webb, U.S.A., A. McLean, U.S.A., H. S. Coles, England, J. J. Haley, U.S.A., G. M. Anderson, U.S.A., Cecil Armstrong, U.S.A., P. A. Davey, Japan, J. C. Dickson, U.S.A., H. Goodacre, U.S.A., A. M. Grouden, U.S.A., M. Gunn, U.S.A., B. W. Huntsman, U.S.A., H. McLellan, U.S.A., T. H. Bates, England, J. F. Floyd, U.S.A., W. S. Houchins, U.S.A., M. W. Green, N.Z., W. T. Clapham, N.Z., Chas. Watt, N.Z., Thos. Smith, U.S.A.

After the reading of these letters, F. G. Dunn said that he desired that some adequate expression should be given by the Conference of its great delight in receiving the congratulations which had been read by C. L. Thurgood. He moved—That a committee consisting of Jas. Johnston, C. L. Thurgood, A. B. Maston, M. McLellan and the

mover be appointed to prepare and forward suitable replies to each of the letters, expressing the heartfelt joy of the Conference in hearing from the old workers and those who were preparing themselves for the work. The motion was supported by A. B. Maston, T. J. Gore, J. T. T. Harding, A. Lucraft, C. L. Thurgood, C. T. Nixon, P. J. Pond and A. M. Ludbrook. The motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The editor of the CHRISTIAN intimated that by permission of the Conference these letters would be published in the near future.

8. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION.

Since the Constitution was adopted in 1881, several amendments have been made. It is considered advisable to have a number of copies of the Constitution printed embodying such amendments. Before doing so, however, it is necessary to make a few other amendments in order to bring the Constitution in accord with our present requirements. The Secretary has therefore given notice of the following amendments:—

COMMITTEES.

Committees shall be appointed in furtherance of the objects of the Association, viz:—

A Home Missionary Committee which shall be responsible to the Annual Conference, and shall duly report its proceedings thereto. The Home Missionary Committee shall consist of the Executive Committee and seven members of Conference to be elected by the Annual Meeting, and shall be charged with the duty of promoting and carrying out the objects of the Association, so far as the State of Victoria and border towns are concerned.

A Foreign Missionary Committee, which shall be appointed to further the cause of Foreign Missions; that is, with regard to missionary effort conducted in lands outside of the Australian Commonwealth, or with regard to the promotion of the gospel amongst alien races within the Commonwealth. Such Committee shall consist of nine members, four being elected by the Annual Meeting of the General Conference, and three sisters to be elected by the Sisters' Auxiliary Conference, and a Secretary and Treasurer, both to be elected by the Annual Meeting. Such Committee shall be responsible to the Annual Conference, and shall duly report its proceedings thereto.

A Temperance Committee, which shall be appointed to promote the cause of total abstinence from the use of intoxicants, by such means and efforts as may seem best to them. Such Committee shall consist of seven members to be elected by the Annual Meeting. It shall be responsible to the Annual Conference, and shall duly report its proceedings thereto.

Other Committees.—Any other Committees that may be deemed necessary to the proper carrying out of the objects of the Conference may be elected by giving five weeks' notice of the same prior to the Annual Meeting in writing to the Executive. Unless notice is given the matter cannot be discussed or dealt with by the Conference unless by the expressed consent and permission of such Annual Meeting.

All the words in italics constitute the proposed amendments.

The amendments of the Constitution were adopted with the exception of the last one, which was withdrawn for emendation.

9. FINANCES.

A reference to the Treasurer's Statement will show that the receipts are the highest yet received. We commenced the year with a determination to make the Jubilee year noted for aggressive work. Consequently the sum of £1632 has been spent in evangelistic effort. £49 has been expended on the purchase of a new tent. Considering the bad season that Victoria has passed through, the various appeals made to the brethren and sisters have been nobly responded to. We are confident that had it not been for the drought our receipts would have been considerably greater. At last Conference we determined if possible to raise £2000 for Home Missions. That total has been reached, but only by including the credit balance of last year, viz., £380, which gives the

amount actually raised as £1632. We have to thank all those who responded so well to our "Jubilee Offering" appeal, and also to the Annual Collection. From these two special efforts the sum of £597 was raised. We have at present a credit balance of £145/4/3, which is £235 less than our credit of last year.

Adopted, with Treasurer's Statement.

10. STATISTICS.

The motto adopted last year, viz., "£2000 for Home Missions and 1000 Souls for Christ," proved a great incentive during the year to strive for great things in the Master's service, and if we did not succeed in raising the £2000, we have under God's blessing succeeded in winning over 1000 souls for Christ. The total additions by faith and baptism have been 1203. The following is a record of our gains and losses during the year:—The gains are: By faith and baptism, 1203; letter, 356; formerly immersed, 74; restoration, 41; total, 1674. The losses are: By letter, 341; death, 42; removal and revision of roll, 517; total, 900. Increase, 774. The total number of churches in the State is 97, with an aggregate membership of 6550. There are 65 Sunday Schools, with 6186 scholars and 557 teachers, an increase of 2 schools, 1019 scholars and 65 teachers. 377 were added to the church from the Sunday School, being 182 more than the previous year.

On the motion of H. Swain, this clause was adopted, with the Statistical Table.

11. PRESBYTERIAN PROPOSALS FOR UNION.

In January last a letter was received from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australasia, inviting us to appoint representatives to consider the question of "a closer union of Christian churches." As the subject of Christian union is a most important one, we appointed the following brethren to act as representatives:—Jas. Johnston, M.A., F. G. Dunn, H. G. Harward, J. Pittman, J. T. T. Harding, G. B. Moysey and M. McLellan. Up to the present time no meeting has been convened.

Adopted.

12. PICTORIAL HISTORY.

At one of the first meetings of the Jubilee Celebrations Committee Bro. A. B. Maston was requested to prepare a Jubilee History, not only of Victoria, but of all the States and the colony of New Zealand. Our brother undertook the work, only stipulating that as a Conference we should do all we could to further the sale of the book when it was finished. This we promised to do. The book is now completed, and is certainly worthy of a place in the home of every member of the church of Christ. We understand that a large number have already been applied for, and we are sure that the merits of the book will ensure a ready sale for the remainder.

On the motion of F. G. Dunn, seconded by R. Lyall, and supported by F. McClean and J. Johnston, it was resolved that the best thanks of the Conference be given to A. B. Maston for producing so valuable a book as the "Pictorial Jubilee History."

13. THANKS.

In September last a special thanksgiving service was held in the Swanston-st. chapel to express our thanks to God for the great success that attended the city and suburban special missionary efforts that were made during last winter.

We devoutly praise God for his manifold blessings during the past fifty years of our history. We are grateful for the manifestations of his divine favor during the past twelve months, and hope and pray that the numbers added to the church may be the prelude of many more precious souls won for Christ in the years to come.

Quite a number of sub-committees were appointed this year to make the necessary arrangements for the expected larger meetings than usual. To all the members of these Committees we express our hearty thanks; also to the churches at Swanston-st. and Lygon-st. for the use of their buildings; to the auditors, Bren. J. Barnacle, A. R. Lyall and C. Hardie; to the brethren and sisters who by their generous hospitality have made it possible to entertain the numerous and esteemed visitors who are honoring us

with their presence, and who we are glad to welcome to this our Jubilee Conference.

In conclusion, we think a very special vote of thanks should be passed to the churches in New South Wales and West Australia for so kindly arranging to change the date of their Conferences so that visitors might be able to give us a welcome visit.

JAS. JOHNSTON, M.A., President.
M. McLELLAN, Secretary.

Adopted.

Hymn Book Account.

RECEIPTS.	
Amount in Savings Bank, 1902	£43 11 5
Bank Interest	1 1 6
	£44 12 11

EXPENDITURE.	
Balance in Savings Bank ..	£44 12 11
	£44 12 11

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

Melb. 20/3/03.

Bequest Fund.

RECEIPTS.	
1902—Balance at Deposit in E. S. & A. Bank	£228 28 3
Interest	6 18 0
	£235 16 3

EXPENDITURE.	
Amount Transferred to General Fund ..	£50 0 0
Fixed Deposits in E.S. & A. Bank ..	185 16 3
	£235 16 3

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

Melb. 17/3/03.

Tent Fund.

RECEIPTS.	
Balance, 1902	£21 3 3
"R." Millicent	1 0 0
A Friend	1 0 0
Balance Owing to General Fund ..	28 8 9
	£51 12 0

EXPENDITURE.	
Tent Repairs	£2 12 0
New Tent	49 0 0
	£51 12 0

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

Melb. 17/3/03.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 12.30 p.m. the Conference adjourned till 1.30 for lunch. At 1.30 the meeting was opened with a devotional and song service, led by A. W. Connor and E. W. Pittman. At the afternoon session the large Masonic Hall was crowded to the doors, and the meeting was most inspiring. The whole of the afternoon was given over to the printed reports of work in the country and the verbal reports of the country evangelists.

Home Missionary Committee's Report.

The following is an abbreviated account of the work done during the year by the various evangelists in the field:—

1. H. G. HARWARD AND E. W. PITTMAN.
H. G. Harward commenced his labors as State Evangelist on April 9th, 1902, and E. W. Pittman

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

VICTORIAN MISSION FUND.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
Balance, 1901	£380 14 1	Salaries— H. G. Harward	£253 6 8
Collection at Conference, 1902	29 17 2	R. G. Cameron	196 0 0
Transferred from Bequest Fund	50 0 0	Expenses	8 0 0
Annual Collections	311 1 6	H. Leng	196 0 0
Contributions from Churches	177 7 6	G. H. Browne	196 0 0
Individual Contributions	151 19 4	A. W. Connor	196 0 0
Conference Fees	30 0 0	Expenses	4 0 0
Transferred from Tent Fund a/c	23 3 3	J. Clydesdale	133 16 8
Jubilee Offerings	196 14 11	Expenses	8 0 0
From Churches for Evangelistic Services—		W. Burgess	117 0 0
<i>Kaniva District—</i>		T. H. Scambler	117 0 0
Lillimur	£37 0 0	J. H. Stevens	104 0 4
Kaniva	35 0 0	E. W. Pittman	75 16 8
Carew	30 0 0	W. G. Oram	68 0 0
Yanac N.	16 10 0	E. Griffiths	68 5 0
Bordertown	6 15 0	M. McLellan	51 0 0
Mitchie	4 15 0		
Special (Towards Extra Evangelist)	28 10 0	New Tent	16 10 0
Conference of Mallee Churches	158 10 0	Jubilee Expenses, Rents, Printing, etc.	49 0 0
<i>Geelong & Meredith District—</i>		Printing and Stationery	67 18 0
Meredith	44 15 0	Special Suburban Missions	51 19 6
Geelong	27 4 6	Subsidy to Newmarket	12 4 6
<i>Horsham District—</i>		Postage	12 0 0
Horsham	18 5 0	Conference and Picnic Expenses	7 2 0
Polkemmett	16 17 6	Exchange and Cheque Books	5 7 1
Minyip	7 15 0	Tent Repairs	3 0 0
Dunmunkle	6 2 0	Sundries	12 0 0
<i>Barker's Creek & Castlemaine District—</i>		Balance in Bank	£140 18 9
Barker's Creek	75 5 0	Cash on Hand	4 5 6
Castlemaine	36 0 0		
<i>Echuca District—</i>			
Shepparton	16 0 0		
Echuca	15 0 0		
Kyabram	15 0 0		
Cogrove	12 10 0		
Baliendella	7 10 6		
Toolamba	9 0 0		
Merrigum	4 0 0		
<i>Wedderburn District—</i>			
Wedderburn	35 1 0		
Kerang East	9 16 0		
Murrabit	9 6 0		
Bet Bet	8 17 4		
Mystic Park	5 10 6		
Mumble Plain	3 14 6		
Fernhurst	3 2 9		
Church at Malvern	35 0 0		
	£2002 1 4		145 4 1

Melbourne, March 17th.

W. C. CRAIGIE, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct

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

was appointed as Singing Evangelist from September 1st, 1902, and since that date he has co-operated with Bro. Harward in all his evangelistic services. The year's report is as follows:—Places visited: Maryborough (tent), Collingwood (tent), Footscray (mission hall and chapel), North Melbourne (chapel), Brim (chapel), Maryborough (Town Hall), Horsham (tent), Wedderburn (tent), North Fitzroy (chapel), Preston (tent), and Echuca (tent). Total number of addresses, 383. Additions by faith and baptism, 236: formerly immersed, 6; restored, 5. Thankofferings to the extent of £35/0/6 have been received from some of the churches with which Bro. Harward has labored, and £18 have been raised for local work and benevolent purposes.

H. G. Harward, speaking on behalf of E. W. Pittman and himself, said that he desired to thank God for all his mercies and for the privilege of being entrusted with the great work they had in hand. He also entered into some details regarding the work of the tent mission, and referred very highly to assistance rendered by Bro. Pittman. The educational value of the mission, he contended, was very great in the churches themselves. The result of the mission for the year expressed in numbers was 270 added to the church.

2. G. H. BROWNE

Has continued his labors in the Geelong and Meredith District. A new chapel was opened at Meredith during the year. Preaching places: Meredith, Geelong and Beremboke. Addresses given, 140. Baptisms, 21; and 1 added who had been formerly immersed.

G. H. Browne gave a short sketch of the history of the church at Geelong, and referred to the ups and downs of its life as a church. He believed that the prospects for the future were good. The church at Meredith, though young, was full of life and energy. More of the members would have been present at the Conference had circumstances permitted. He also referred to the prospects at Colac, and urged the Conference to help the brethren there. Bro. McKay, of Meredith, conveyed to the Conference the hearty thanks of the church for the help rendered to them through the Home Mission Committee.

3. A. W. CONNOR

Is located in the Barker's Creek and Castlemaine District. Early in the Conference year, Bro. Hagger held a tent mission, which resulted in 28 being added to the church. Since May, Bro. Connor has labored in this field, confining his attention mainly to the two churches. During the year he has conducted 179

gospel meetings and Bible Classes, and addressed the church 53 times. The additions have been 20 by faith and baptism and 2 restorations, giving a total of 40 for the district.

A. W. Connor said that the need of the district in which he was laboring was co-operation. The churches at Barker's Creek and Castlemaine were working unitedly, and it was hoped that the other churches in adjoining towns would by-and-by be brought into the co-operation. He urged that if these churches were united in one circuit and worked together good results would be secured.

Bro. Hogarth supported what Bro. Connor had said, and could assure the Conference that Bro. Connor was the right man in the right place, and hoped that he would be sent back for another year.

4. R. G. CAMERON

Commenced work at Wedderburn on the last Lord's day of May, 1902. He immediately made a tour of what may now be called the old Wedderburn Circuit. Owing, however, to the severe drought by which the entire district was devastated, he recommended the Committee to abandon (at least for the present) the whole of the district south of Wedderburn, and to

form a new circuit comprising the churches at Wedderburn, Dunolly and Bet Bet. This recommendation was approved of by the Committee, and the new arrangement entered upon from 1st January, 1903. Brethren Harward and Pittman conducted a successful tent mission at Wedderburn, resulting in 30 additions. The church is now erecting a more commodious meeting house. Summary of work done during the year is as follows:—Addresses delivered, 140; additions by faith and immersion, 23; formerly immersed, 1; restored, 2.

R. G. Cameron referred to the district as it was constituted when he first went there, and the reasons which made it advisable to make a change. Speaking of the Tent Mission conducted in Wedderburn, he could bear testimony to the splendid work that had been done and the favorable impressions that Bro. Harward had made upon the community. One of the results of that Mission was the determination to proceed at once with the building of a new chapel. He also made reference to the work at Bet Bet and Dunolly, and believed that the prospects in both places were very hopeful. He advocated the breaking up of new ground in some of the surrounding towns, especially emphasising the claims of St. Arnaud.

5. W. BURGESS

At the beginning of the Conference year labored with the churches in the Mallee Circuit; was transferred to the Horsham Circuit at the end of May, 1902. The churches in this district are Horsham, Polkenmett, Moinyip and Dunmunkle. The event of the year was the tent mission at Horsham, conducted by Brea. Harward and Pittman, resulting in 23 additions. Besides these there were 21 additions by faith and baptism. Temperance meetings, 4; pledges, 35. Number of addresses delivered, 210.

W. Burgess spoke of the distress which had been caused by the drought in his district, and wished to express his thanks for the help which had been rendered by the Dorcas Societies in connection with the Sisters' Conference. He could not speak too highly of the work done by the tent mission in Horsham. It was a glorious time, and twenty-three had been added to the church.

J. Pittman said he had visited by invitation the Horsham Conference, and he had been commissioned to plead the cause of the brethren there. The special circumstances of their case should be taken into account, and a preacher again sent to them.

6. H. LENG AND W. G. ORAM

Are both stationed in the Kasia District, and have visited and preached at the following places during the year:—Kasia, Lillimur, South Lillimur, Bill's Gully, Yanac, Lawes, Bunyip, Dinyarrak, Border Town and Wamboony. The local brethren purchased a tent, and this tent has been used to conduct several missions. Bro. T. Hagger held two special missions at Border Town with most encouraging results. Brea. Harward and Mahon have also given good help during the year. Number of addresses delivered between the two evangelists, 321. 12 temperance meetings have been held, and over 100 pledges taken. 68 baptisms, 6 restorations, and 1 added who had been previously baptised.

H. Leng, in referring to the work in the West Wimmera, said that the Lord had done great things for them. Very briefly he reviewed what had been accomplished in the district during the past few years. They had been successful in their undertakings because they had prayed and worked and co-operated together. The mission conducted by T. Hagger was most successful and encouraging. They had now a tent of their own, which they were using with the best results. He thanked the city churches for

the help they had rendered them, especially in sending to them such men as T. Hagger and H. Mahon.

W. G. Oram spoke of the possibility of getting a third man in the field, and gave high praise to Bro. Leng for the work he had done. He regarded the future of the district as being full of promise.

J. M. Goldsworthy said that he could substantiate all that had been said by Brea. Leng and Oram.

7. T. H. SCAMBLER

Has continued his labors in the Echuca Circuit since last Conference. Meetings have been held in Echuca, Echuca Village Settlement, Cooma, Wharparilla, Balleendella, Shepparton, Cosgrove, Kyabram, Toolamba and Runnymede East. Number of meetings held, 203. Number of additions, 17. On February 22nd Brea. Harward and Pittman began a tent mission at Echuca. Large crowds have been congregating nightly to hear the preaching, and at the time of writing 7 had decided for Christ. We regret to say that we are losing the services of Bro. Scambler, as soon after Conference he leaves for West Australia, where he has entered upon an engagement with the W.A. Committee. We wish him every success in his new field.

T. H. Scambler said the brethren came down to the Conference with great joy because of the success which had attended the work of the tent mission. The results of the mission had been 38 additions, but these additions did not convey an idea of all the good that had been done. As he intended taking up work in West Australia, he hoped that the Conference would send up a brother at once to carry on the work which had been inaugurated by Brethren Harward and Pittman in their tent mission.

J. C. Skinner said that he was pleased to be allowed to say a few words, and would express the regret which they all felt that T. H. Scambler was leaving them, and hoped that the Committee would soon send them another man.

8. J. CLYDESDALE

Has been located in the "Mallee" Circuit since the 22nd April last year. He reports that for the last eight months the "Mallee" has been in a state of collapse owing to the drought. Consequently a great number of men had to leave the district. This to a large extent hindered the progress of the work. In August Bro. Harward gave a two weeks' visit, strengthening the cause at Brim, stimulating and cheering the brethren; two were added by faith and obedience. Meetings are held at Warmur West, Maldavale, Galaquill and Brim. Number of addresses, 118. Total additions for the circuit: 8 by faith and obedience, and 1 formerly immersed.

J. Clydesdale said that during the first three months of his sojourn the work went on splendidly, but afterwards, during the drought, things were reversed and were fearfully bad. They, however, looked forward with hope to the future. The visit of Bro. Harward had done much good and had assisted materially in breaking down prejudice. He would say in conclusion that he regarded the Mallee brethren as the biggest-hearted brethren in the State.

W. White also spoke of the distressful times which had existed in the district, but was still hopeful of better things. They hoped that the Conference would not desert them in their time of need, but would send back Bro. Clydesdale to labor with them.

9. J. H. STEVENS

Commenced his labors at Malvern on the 18th May. Since then he has on an average delivered three addresses a week and conducted a three weeks'

special mission. Twenty-five have been added by faith and immersion, and 5 restored to the fellowship of the church. His engagement with the Committee terminated at the end of March, and we understand he has engaged with the church at Hawthorn, where we wish him every success in his service for the Master.

J. H. Stevens said he found that the work at Malvern was attended with certain difficulties which he endeavored to remove. He thought the best way to make things move in the right direction was to promote the study of God's Word and encourage the growth of spirituality. A special mission was conducted, which was attended with good results.

10. E. GRIFFITHS

Continued to labor with the Committee up to 31st October, when he resigned. Up to that date he had been two months in the Wedderburn Circuit and five months in the Thorpdale District (Gippsland). Visits paid, 180; addresses delivered, 100; additions by faith and baptism, 12; formerly immersed, 2.

Adopted.

11. SUMMARY.

The following is a summary of the foregoing reports:—Additions by faith and baptism, 429; formerly immersed, 12; restored, 20. Total, 461.

12. SPECIAL SUBURBAN MISSIONS.

During last winter a series of gospel missions were held under the auspices of the Committee. These were held at Williamstown, South Melbourne, Prahran and Footscray. The preachers conducting them were Brea. Johnston, Meekison, Hagger, Palmer, Pittman, Harward, Mahon. The song leaders were Brea. F. M. Ludbrook, R. Lyall and T. J. Cook. Much good was accomplished by these meetings in the gathering of precious souls and building up the church.

13. RESIGNATION OF T. H. HAGGER.

Bro. T. H. Hagger having gone to West Australia resigned his position on the Committee. It was so near Conference that it was not deemed necessary to fill his place. The Committee regret very much at losing his services for Victoria, and hope he will soon return again. He proved himself to be an indefatigable worker, and has in many ways proved of great help towards the promotion of the cause in this State.

Adopted.

14. FUTURE WORK.

With regard to the work in the immediate future, the Committee think that the tent work has proved such a success that it should be continued. The churches in the fields at present occupied are desirous of a continuance of the help hitherto given to them. Some of them are increasing their financial promises for the coming year, while others which have suffered from the drought hesitate to pledge themselves to a definite sum, but are prepared to do the very best they possibly can, hoping for better times to come. It seems to the Committee that those who have thus suffered should not be deserted in their time of need, but that the gospel flag should still be kept flying. The splendid responses made during the past year inspire the Committee with the hope that none of the fields will need be abandoned, and that the new Committee will be enabled to "go forward," confident in the righteousness of our great plea and trusting in the hearty co-operation of the brethren.

H. G. Harward spoke of the future tent mission work, and urged that new fields be entered into, and he would ask the prayers of the brethren that they might be able to go into new fields and win fresh victories for Christ.

15. ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS.

Number of meetings held, 17. Jas. Johnston, 15; A. Millis, 17; J. A. Davies (deceased), 3; W. C. Craigie, 11; M. McLellan, 17; R. Lyall, 15; T. Hagger (resigned), 9; F. G. Dunn, 16; A. B. Maxton, 17; T. J. Cook, 15; W. C. Thurgood, 15; R. C. Edwards, 12; J. W. Baker, 14; C. L. Thurgood, 2.

On behalf of the Home Missionary Committee,

JAS. JOHNSTON, M.A., President.
M. McLELLAN, Secretary.

21/3/1903.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN VICTORIA, 1903.

CHURCHES.	CHURCH ADDITIONS.				CHURCH LOSSES.		MEMBERSHIP.			SCHOOL STATISTICS.				Church Additions from Sunday School	MISSION FUNDS.			Seating Capacity of Place of Meeting	Average Attendance of Members at Meetings for Worship	Average Attendance at Preaching Services	Income from Church Roll		
	Members	Falls and Objections	Letters	Baptisms	Deaths	Removals & Roll reversals	Members	Increase	Decrease	Scholars	Scolars	Teachers	Teachers		V.M. Inc. Annual Collections	Foreign, Inc. Special Collections	Total						
																						1902	1903
Ascot Vale..	47	53	13		5	3	105	58		192	195	16	19	18	2	3	15	9	250	75	140	1	
*Archerbon	2													1	0	0	0	0	100	6			
Bairnsdale..	12													0	10	6	0	12	200	25	80		
*Ballarat East	43									40	40	5	5	7	0	6	3	0	150	65	100	14	
Ballarat West	133	4	13		6	3	139	6		115	120	14	24	7	15	6	9	17	350	120	350	12	
Bendigo ..	259	59	6	5	18	135	307	48		230	300	14	24	12	15	6	4	2	700	40	35		
Bet Bet ..	55	12	2	1			70	15		43	48	5	7	8	8	1	7	0	200	70	100	11	
Berwick ..	90	18	5		5	1	107	17		43	52	3	3	20	0	6	8	5	150	40	85	5	
Brighton ..	99	7	4		14	16	79	6	20	120	120	14	15	1	3	6	3	15	180	17		5	
Brim ..	24	5	4		2	1	30	6		37	25	5	4	1	0	0							
*Broadmeadows	9						9							1	0	0							
*Buninyong	11						11																
Brunswick ..	189	18	17		9	1	214	25		225	203	13	16	3	16	9	1	9	280	95	220	15	
*Benjeroop	6						6							0	11	6	0	8	60	5	12		
Ballandella	4	1	1				6			6	5	2	2	0	11	6	0	8	100	16	25		
Baywater	21	2		1			24	3		25	13	2	2	3	9	0	1	6	80	18	60	2	
Bordertown (S. A.)	17	22	2	1		1	43	26						3	12	0							
Barker's Creek	95	5			8	1	91		4	117	109	11	11	4	2	3	2	5	120	45	60		
Carlton, Lygon-street	421	30	19		24	546	402	19		204	345	17	18	70	6	4	8	16	600	180	450		
Carlton, North	52	16	5		2	33	39	13		140	140	11	11	0	16	2			250	30	70		
Collingwood	137	52	14	3	6	115	184	47		230	272	18	23	9	3	7	6	9	550	120	250	2	
Cheltenham	194	3			3	1	193		1	150	150	16	16	2	16	6	4	7	300	100	200		
Castlemaine	29	33	9		3	13	56	27		28	62	3	6	3	16	0	1	11	6				
Cogrove	19	1					20	1						2	4	0	18	3	150	9	45		
Croydon ..	34				1	3	30		4	51	61	4	4	2	0	3	0	16	100				
Colac	14	4			1	3	14			9				1	4	3	0	5	200	12		2	
Carew, S. A.	53	4	3		2	7	51		2	37	53	3	4	2	0	10			80			4	
Doncaster ..	179	3	1		8	1	174	5		175	170	12	11	13	1	7	34	19	200				
Dunmunkle	27	2				9	20		7	28	28	3	3	0	10	0			100				
Dunolly ..	28	6	1			1	34	6		22	22	4	4	0	10	0			80	25	4		
Drummond	49	4				2	53	4		30	28	4	4	8	6	2	8	0	60	20	30		
*Dandenong	6						6							2	10	0	1	0					
Daylesford	11					1	10	1						0	5	0	0	10					
*Elphi stone	15						15							0	5	0	0	10					
Emeran	66	4	5		1	9	67	1		26	37	2	2	3	6	6	1	14	75				
Echuca ..	60	6	2		9	9	52	10		18	21	2	2	1	1	6	1	2	80	20	30	26	
Fitroy ..	196	16	18	3	12	115	205	9		190	257	18	20	16	8	9	8	1	500	110	200	9	
Fitroy, North	312	67	15	8	16	243	342	30		138	388	39	31	51	13	10	7	5	450	160	375	16	
Fairfield Park	41						41			45	29	2	2	0	5	0							
Footscray ..	95	21	4		1	2	109	14		196	160	16	14	6	0	9	1	13	350	66	175		
Fernhill	15						15																
Geelong ..	69	10	5	2	4	37	45	24		30	56	4	6	4	3	0	1	8	100	28	44	6	
Galaquil ..	35	2			2	1	34		1					0	12	3	2	0	60	12	20	8	
Hawthorn ..	209	42	22		11	115	246	37		115	135	14	15	63	4	6	11	6	250	100	225	8	
Homebush	3						3							3	10	0							
Horsham	26	28	1	1	3	5	49	23		32	44	4	5	7	11	3	2	16	120	18	40	2	
*Hopetoun	8						8																
Kaniva ..	52	19	9				81	29		38	37	3	3	9	16	9	4	0	120	35	45	9	
Kyabram ..	32	4					36	4		20	23	0	2	1	5	6	1	5	80	20	20	8	
Kerang East	12	2	1			1	14	2						0	10	0	2	5	20	7		1	
Lancefield	13						13																
Lillimar ..	32	13			2	2	43	11						3	18	7	1	7	100	30	40		
Lake Rowan	13						13							4	0	6	5	11	6	10			
*Mumble Plains	10						10																
Melb'rne, Swanston-st	168	14	19		18	24	177	9		90	95	10	15	193	13	149	6	11	450	120	200		
Melbourne North	205	70	9		12	2	271	66		220	260	20	19	20	10	0	1	10	300	100	200	7	
Melbourne, South	115	9	7		8	128	94	22		220	230	10	13	1	10	0	2	16	250	51	120		
Maryborough	62	81	2	1	3	8	103	41		64	105	7	9	13	3	3	2	11	144	56	75	3	
Mount Clear	6						6		1	10	18	1	1	0	12	0	0	9	100	3			
Mooroolbark	18	1					18			31	24	3	3						30	8	6		
Murtoa ..	5						5																
Mispoll .. (town)	2						2																
Maldavale (nr. Hope)	10						10							1	3	6	0	13	100	8	25		
Malvern ..	61	25	3		5	3	77	16		66	80	10	9	10	17	8	5	12	150				
Minyip ..	9						9			22	22	3	4	1	3	6	0	18	7	80	5	12	1
Mildara ..	22	4				1	25	3						8	10	0	2	10	25	15			
*Mystic Park	7						7			11	11	3	3	0	12	6	1	12	6				
Murrumbidgee	31	7					30	5		15	25	3	4	1	10	0			100	20	21	6	
Merrigom	10	1					10												20	6			
Meredith	37	8					42	5		30	38	3	4	7	6	0	4	7	120	30	60	7	
Mitchie ..	22	1					22			31	3	3	6	1	0	0	0	10	30	9			
Newmarket	100	16	12		8	36																	

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN VICTORIA, 1903.—Continued.

Churches.	CHURCH ADDITIONS.				CHURCH LOSSES.		MEMBERSHIP.			SCHOOL STATISTICS.				MISSION FUNDS.				Seating Capacity of Pulpit.	Average Attendance of Members at Meetings for Worship.	Average Attendance at Preaching Services.	Annual Receipts on Church Roll.
	Members	From and Obsecration	Leaver	Repatriated	Deaths	Resignations	Members	Increase	Decrease	Scholars	Scholars	Teachers	Teachers	Local Additions from Former School	Victoria, including Annual Collections	Foreign, including Special Collections	Seating Capacity of Pulpit				
*Red Hill ..	1902	6					1903	6			1902	1903	1902/1903		0	0					
Rensynede East ..		5						8	3						2	0					
Shepparton ..		21	3					24	3		27	36	3	3	3	0	0		60	17	
South Yarra ..		67	0	3	1	3		72	5	2	61	64	10	10	2	2	0	150	44	39	
St. Kilda ..		64	8	5				66	2		56	59	7	7	4	0	0	60	20	2	
Surrey Hills ..		46	22	1				64	18		38	24	5	5		11	17	150	40	60	
Toolamba ..		16	1					12		4	30	3			0	2	9	40	10		
Taradale ..		20	4					21	1		25	26	3	4		0	11	200	15	20	
Thorpdale ..			1	6				7	7						3	5	0				
*Warmur West ..		44						44			12	12	1	1	1	3	6	50	20	30	
*Warragul ..		14						14			20	20	3	3	0	8	6				
Warrnambool ..		28	1	2	3			34	6		17	26	4	4	2	8	6				
Wedderburn ..		104	43	8	2	1	5	4	149	45	61	78	9	9	27	10	3	90	75	85	
Williamstown ..		13	32	6	2	5		104	94		157			14	15	12	0	300	65	300	
Wonthaggi N. ..		6					6				44		4								
Yarravalla ..		8					5	3			5						0	10	0		
Yanac North ..		40					9	1	2	28	12	30	18	4	2					11	
Yando ..		13					2	11			2						0	4	0		
Totals ..		5776	1208	356	74	41	341	42	517	6550	963	189	5167	6186	492	557	377	11309	2942	5374	758

* These Churches entered same as last year, no official returns having been received.
 Amounts acknowledged as received from Churches include all contributions, whether received from Churches or individual members of Churches.
 Increase in Church Membership, 774. Increase in S. S. Scholars, 109. Increase in S. S. Teachers, 65.

the soil has been only scratched as it were, and deep down there is room for abundant harvest. The fields of Victoria are fertile. Immense difficulties in the way of sectarianism have to be overcome. If the soil is good, the seed of the primitive gospel is good also; it is first-grade—pure and unadulterated. The seed is the plea we profess to love. But to have a harvest the seed must be sown. Sowers are wanted. The wonder is that so much has been accomplished with the few men in the field. Our city congregations must supply not only the men but also the means to conquer new fields. Motto for this year: "Expansion! Home Missions to the front! 1500 souls for Christ, and £2000 to evangelise the State in this our Jubilee year."

At the close of Bro. Harward's address a collection of cash and promises was taken up, which amounted to £216 1/7.

Our old and tried friend, G. B. Moysey, though coming late on the programme, gave a fine address on "The Spirit of Our Movement." Amongst other things he stated that the object of our movement is not to reform, but to restore to its simplicity and power the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is a spirit throbbing within the body of the church at the present moment indicative of life. This is the spirit of advancement; holy consecration and denunciation of every form of evil. In the Great Commission the word "Go" implied aggression. That commission was the marching orders of the church. Emphatically the early disciples were aggressive. The heroes of all the reformations were surely aggressive in their policy, else these reforms would never have reached fulfilment.

Viewed from all parts of the compass Australia at the present moment presents a field white unto harvest, and in this field must be sown the seed of holy aggressiveness. There is as much need to-day for the plea as seventy years ago. We must steer clear of all forms of sectarianism and follow the apostolic Christianity. The report listened to to-day of the home missionaries augurs well of a great success within sight of the churches of Christ throughout this State. The results of last year should fill us with gratitude, and nerve us to put forth greater efforts this year. The land is open to us on every hand. Put the men in the field, and let the people hear what our plea is—the story of primitive Christianity in its simplicity—and we will find the minds of intelligence will turn to the light as a flower expands to the rising sun. We are in the front. Let us keep there; and we shall yet see this noble State won for primitive Christianity.

The meeting closed with singing, amidst the general rejoicing of all present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

- PRESIDENT.—A. Millis.
- VICE PRESIDENT.—Dr. Jas. Cook.
- TREASURER.—W. C. Craige.
- SECRETARY.—M. McLellan.
- ASST. SECRETARY.—Robert Lyall.
- HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.—Jas. Johnston, G. B. Moysey, T. J. Cook, A. B. Maston, F. G. Dunn, W. C. Thurgood, F. W. Greenwood.
- CONFERENCE SERMON.—Andrew Meldrum.
- CONFERENCE ESSAY.—G. B. Moysey.
- FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE.—Secretary, F. M. Ludbrook; Treasurer, Robert Lyall; Committee, H. D. Smith, G. B. Moysey, W. C. Thurgood, J. Pittman, Mrs. Maston, Mrs. Huntsman, Mrs. Cbrown.
- TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.—F. W. Greenwood, H. Mahon, T. J. Cook, A. Millis, J. Pittman, W. C. Thurgood, Andrew Meldrum.

SATURDAY'S SESSION.

At 9 a.m. on Saturday the proceedings of the day were commenced with devotional exercises conducted by J. H. Stevens. A most interesting Bible Study on "The Great Apostle" was conducted by James Johnston, President of the Conference. The outlines of this Study were printed and distributed among the brethren, and form a splendid epitome of the life of Paul.

The most of Saturday morning was spent in unfinished business, and the discussion of subjects of special interest to the cause in general.

A devotional meeting was conducted at 1.30 by A. J. Saunders.

Sunday School Union Report.

On behalf of the Union, we have to lay before the Conference the following epitome of work done during the past year:—

Five additional schools have joined the Union, making a total of 34 on our roll.

Our finances have been carefully watched, and after meeting all liabilities to date we have a small balance in hand. As, however, our heaviest expenditure—that for prizes in connection with the annual examination—has yet to be met, if any of the brethren are willing to assist us we shall be glad for them to do so.

The arrangements which were in progress at the last Conference between the Union and the Conference Temperance Committee for the holding of periodical temperance competitions among the scholars and younger teachers in our schools have been completed. The competitions are under the management of a committee, including three representatives apiece from the two bodies, with a chairman not a member of either. The prospectus has been circulated among the schools. The first competition will take place in May, and thenceforward they will be continued from month to month till the close of the year.

"The World's Temperance Sunday," November 23rd, 1902, was made the occasion for special temperance services in nearly all our schools; and although many failed to send in returns, twelve of the schools reported having taken 212 pledges.

327 scholars and teachers competed at the examination held last year. Of these, 17 gained prizes, 81 certificates of merit, and 86 certificates. The Carlton (Lygon-st.) school headed the prize list; Footscray, Fitzroy Tabernacle, Swanston-st. and South Yarra following in the order named, with only two points between the four of them.

The prizes and awards were presented to the successful competitors in June last by Bro. H. D. Smith. The examination this year has commanded 537 entries, being 21 in excess of last year.

We have to thank some of our South Australian brethren for again acting as our board of examiners.

The quarterly conferences of officers, teachers and elder scholars have been conducted regularly, and have been fairly well attended, although there is room for improvement in this respect. Several papers on topics of an interesting nature have been brought forward and well discussed.

Our city and suburban schools have been visited once, and the second round of visitation is in progress and will be completed in the course of the present month (April). Generally, the schools have been found in a very fair state of efficiency, while it is with pleasure we have to record the marked improvement in the order, discipline and attention apparent in several, that has taken place during the last year.

As we cannot visit our country schools, our Secretary has kept in touch with them by frequent correspondence; while, as opportunity offered, some of our brethren have called in and reported on one and another, when visiting the respective districts in which they are situated.

We are glad to find that the system of marking advocated by the Union, and embodied in the "Austral Uniform Mark Register" compiled by our Secretary on his first taking office, has come into almost universal use in our schools; and we would suggest the expediency of those who have not already done so falling into line with the others in this respect.

Our usual social gatherings have been held. The picnic at Darling, the demonstration on the distribution of prizes and that held in November were all well supported by our brethren, and we thank them for their presence on these occasions.

We have also to tender our thanks to the Swanston-street and Lygon-street churches for the use of their buildings, and to the editor of *The Australian Christian* for the prominence he has in various ways given to our work, and to very many others, old and young, for the valuable assistance they have given us at our quarterly conferences and on other occasions.

Twenty-four of our schools provided us with 36 delegates, who with the 6 members of the Executive and 6 of the Elective Committees, comprise the General Committee. Of these 48 the average attendance at our monthly meeting has been over 35. The largest attendances have been 42, 41 and 40, though on all occasions the majority of our schools have been represented by one or other of their delegates.

Knowing the many calls that have been made on their pockets during the past year, the Union has sedulously refrained from making any special appeal to the brethren for financial aid, but has tried to do the best it could with the limited funds at its disposal. As will be seen, however, we are striking out in some directions we have not hitherto attempted. There is other work we could take up had we the means at our disposal, and we therefore commend the operations of the Union to the notice of the brethren at large, and ask for their generous support. Above all, we would exhort the churches to take a greater interest in, and give better support to, their schools than the majority have done in the past. Few of the latter seem to get any material help from the churches with which they are associated, but as a rule are left to rub along as best they can; and in very many cases the worker has to pay for the privilege of being allowed to work, while the church generally, and non-workers in particular, render little or no systematic help at all.

And so, while thanking the good Father for his blessing on our efforts in the past, we go forward with a full and lively hope that he will similarly guide and bless us in the days that are to come.

F. W. MARTIN, President.
C. W. MITCHELL, Vice-President.
B. J. KEMP, Treasurer,
THOS. GOLE, Hon. Sec. and Visitor.
LUCIE CLARKE, Assn. Secretary.

At this stage the chair was taken by F. W. Martin, president of the Sunday School Union. P. A. Dickson led in prayer. The various visitors from the other States were invited to seats upon the platform. A letter of congratulation was read from the Sunday School Union of New South Wales.

On the motion of Thos. Gole, seconded by C. W. Mitchell, the report of the Sunday School Union was adopted.

The following brethren addressed the Conference on the subject of Sunday School Work:—T. J. Gore, Albany Bell, P. A. Dickson, W. J. Grinstead, D. A. Lewis, D. M. Wilson, P. Pittman, G. T. Walden and C. A. Rofe.

CONFERENCE ESSAY.

Shortly after 3 o'clock John T. T. Harding read his Conference Essay on "Organisation of Effort," which was listened to with great attention during the fifty minutes taken in its delivery, and was spoken to by the following brethren:—P. J. Brandt, J. Pittman, A. B. Maston, C. T. Nixon, A. Lucraft, R. Harkness, Albany Bell, A. Millis, T. J. Gore, D. R. Hall. On the motion of F. G. Dunn, seconded by W. Wilson, a vote of thanks was presented to the Essayist for his valuable effort, after which the Essayist briefly replied to his critics. This Essay will appear in full in due time in the CHRISTIAN.

Temperance Committee's Report.

Our thanksgiving for a successful year's work is due to the Master we love for putting us into this branch of the ministry, and we herewith submit our report:—

At the preliminary meeting the following officers were appointed:—President, A. Millis; Vice President, J. Pittman; Press Correspondent, T. Hagger; Secretary and Treasurer, T. J. Cook. Nat Haddow was invited to take charge of the musical part of all programmes, and to our delight he willingly accepted the work. The quartette party has been a great draw at all our demonstrations, and the success of the year has been in a large measure due to their musical ability. Towards the close of our term of office we lost the services of two of our committee—T. Hagger resigning through removing to West Australia, and J. A. Palmer resigning through continued ill-health, which shortly after proved fatal. We have missed the services of our two brethren very much, but as the year was almost through no fresh appointments were made to fill their positions.

The arrangements for the S.S.U. Temperance Literary Competitions, which were being considered when the last annual report was submitted, have been brought to a successful issue by a sub-committee consisting of three representatives from the S.S.U. and three from this committee. The schools of the Union have been divided into four locality groups, and the first of these will hold a competition on 26th May, to be followed by the other three at short intervals, each group to hold two competitions annually. Prizes for these will consist of silver medals. Once a year silver medalists are eligible to compete at a gold medal competition. The sub-committee, of which T. Gole is Secretary, has done its work well. Prospectuses have been sent out to schools, and we look with interest for the results of the competitions in the form of a strongly and rapidly growing prohibition sentiment in our schools.

We have held four lantern demonstrations and secured 79 pledges thereby. Footscray, Brunswick, South Richmond and Malvern were the places visited. The Temperance Budget of information issued by the Victorian Alliance was an excellent production this year, and no less than 100 were distributed by this committee to preachers and teachers, who were urged to make a special effort on the World's Temperance Sunday.

Having had brought before our notice the remarkable growth of cigarette smoking among the youth of this State, and the serious evils resulting, a letter was sent to all Sunday Schools urging the formation of Anti-cigarette Leagues. As an instance of the growth of the habit in Victoria the following item from the Minister of Customs is interesting:—"Victoria.—Duty collected in 1896 was on 152,556 lbs.; duty collected in 1901 was on 309,646 lbs."

To assist the temperance movement at Port Melbourne, the Committee offered to defray the cost of hiring a room in which to conduct meetings for boys. C. H. Martin has been in charge of the work, and reports an average attendance of 60 well-behaved boys weekly.

Bands of Hope have been re-organised at North Richmond, Fairfield and Collingwood. Our home missionaries are to be credited again with much valuable work and many pledges. H. G. Harward reports successful demonstrations at Footscray, Maryborough, Horsham and Preston. Bendigo also reports two meetings and several pledges.

The Committee has long felt the want of a suitable pledge card, for its work, and an offer of a prize for best design from any member of our churches for advertised. Some 18 designs were received, but no decision has yet been arrived at.

The increase of anti-alcohol sentiment during our term of office has been noticeable in several directions, and because this Committee has personally helped in some of these we mention them:—(a) The success of local option polls at North Melbourne and Ballarat; (b) successful opposition to renewal of night licenses by Melbourne Licensing Inspector; (c) the conference on liquor traffic control between Trades Hall Council, the churches and the Victorian Alliance; (d) the issue of new Wall Sheet No. 3 by the Education Department and the Alliance; (e) the proposed organised opposition of brewers and licensed victuallers.

We have held meetings at the following places, and the pledges obtained are attached:—Ascot Vale, 20; North Melbourne, 16; Footscray, 18; Brunswick, 40; South Richmond, 12; Malvern, 9; Williamstown, 15; Doncaster, 4; Prahran, 20; Burnley, 11; Merredith, 20; Bendigo, 8; Brim, 18. Assistance has also been given at Malvern Temperance Council, Christian Endeavor meetings, lodges and the Victorian Alliance. We would like to mention with appreciation the good work done by our Sisters' Conference Temperance Committee.

The total number of pledges recorded is 335. Our hearty thanks are due to the *Australian Christian* and *Alliance Record* for their valuable aid in publishing our items of news and reports, to the church officers for the use of their chapels and schools, and to all speakers and singers who helped so much in the programmes.

We leave our work now for our Father's blessing, trusting it will prosper more and more, and that the time may soon come when Christians in our State will see the need of using the power they have, and that they will unite to slay the traffic in alcohol.

Your Committee has held 11 meetings, with the following attendances:—A. Millis, 9; J. Pittman, 11; H. Mahon, 6; C. H. Martin, 10; T. Hagger (resigned), 4; J. A. Palmer (resigned), 2; T. J. Cook, 11.

The annual balance sheet is appended.

A. MILLIS, President.
J. PITTMAN, Vice Pres.
T. J. COOK, Secretary.

BALANCE SHEET, 1902-1903.

RECEIPTS.	
Balance from 1901-1902	£5 6 1
Conference Collections	5 9 7
Collections at Demonstrations—	
Ascot Vale	2 1 5
North Melbourne	0 15 4
Footscray	1 0 2
Brunswick	1 0 0
South Richmond	1 10
Malvern	0 17 2
Williamstown	0 18 0
Doncaster	3 0 0
Prahran	0 10 0
Burnley	0 5 10
Port Melbourne	0 12 3
Cheltenham	1 7 0
Sale of Photos	0 8 0
	£44 0 8
EXPENDITURE.	
Advertising	£7 6 0
Hire of Halls	1 15 0
Travelling	5 6 9
Literature	1 5 3
Photos	1 10 0
Lantern Supply	1 15 6
Postage	1 4 3
Temperance Competitions	2 10 4
	23 8 1
Balance in Hand	0 12 0
	£44 0 8
Audited and found correct.	
G. W. MITCHELL } Auditors.	
A. R. LYALL }	
Melbourne, March 19th, 1903.	

T. J. Cook read the Temperance Committee's Report, and moved its adoption. The following brethren spoke to the motion, expressing pleasure at the work done by the

Committee: H. Swain, F. M. Ludbrook, W. C. Thurgood, H. Leng.
 Bro. Southwick made reference to the valuable assistance rendered by Nat. Haddow and his choir. His words of appreciation were endorsed by the Conference.

PROHIBITION.

Resolved on the motion of T. J. Cook, seconded by A. Millis—That this Jubilee Conference affirms the principle of prohibition as the only way of effectively dealing with the evils of the alcoholic drink traffic in our beloved State, and would urge all our members to do all in their power to bring about prohibition of the liquor traffic.

This was spoken to by J. Pittman, R. Harkness (S.A.), W. H. Bardwell.

Foreign Missionary Committee's Report.

1. FEDERATION.

The F. M. Committee of Western Australia has during the year come into the Federation. Bro. Ewers reports this young committee as vigorous. It has sent more than its quota—£75 for the year—and we are told to expect £100 next year. There are now four committees in the Federation.

Adopted.

2. VICTORIA.

The Chinese Mission meetings have been held throughout the year in the Lygon-st. schoolroom. Bro. F. McClean, the Hon. Superintendent, reports the interest well maintained—the teachers earnest, and the scholars diligent—a splendid spirit pervading the whole work. Number of meetings held, 163; average attendance—teachers, 22, scholars, 28.

Bro. S. Wong, now of Sydney, reports the Chinese work there, in charge of Bro. Newby, as prospering. Two were recently added to the saved.

Sister Mary Agnes in August last completed her 12 months' hospital training. She then became known to the brethren in S. A. in Conference and among the churches. More recently she has been laboring under our direction in Melbourne at the Chinese Mission, and amongst the Chinese women and children. She is also studying the language under Bro. H. Pang. She is doing a good and growing work. She says:—"I am now fairly in the midst of my work, and if I wanted to I have no time to think about the great disappointment in not having the honor of being Christ's messenger to China, for, after all, I feel that I am doing the same good work here in Melbourne. This work is a great responsibility, for I know that these precious souls have been given into my charge, but if I discharge my duties faithfully, out of divine love, for my heavenly Master, and with an intense longing to win these Chinese for his kingdom, I feel sure my labors will not be in vain. I have now seven women pupils, and ten dear little children of all ages between three and eleven. It is perfectly delightful to teach them. They will leave their seats and get close to me in a circle, leaning on my lap, with their sweet innocent faces looking up into mine; they take in every word, and some of them ask the very strangest questions. I mean to spend a great deal of my time in preparing the lesson and hunting up stories to illustrate it. But sometimes these little folks will get like other children—they are so full of life—and cannot pay attention. It needs a heart full of love and patience to deal with them. I am beginning to understand their language a little now, and I pick it up as I go in and out among the women and children, and I find it a great help to me. I often think how nice it would be if I had a knowledge of the language. I feel sure there would not be much difficulty in winning them then. Sometimes it is so hard for them to understand, but I mean to master it before long. Now that the annual demonstration is over we are settling to work with renewed vigor. The Sunday afternoon class is very enjoyable; sometimes I have as many as six of the advanced scholars. I use one of them as an interpreter generally. My interest in the work grows deeper as the days go by, and I have found a sweet peace in trying to please my Master such as I never conceived of. I know I

have a great deal to learn, and I am sometimes amazed at the patience of my blessed Master and Teacher. But we labor on knowing that his eye is ever upon us, and no-er all that we do and is well pleased."

F. McClan spoke of the work carried on by the Chinese Mission and said that though they had no conversions to report they had been helpful to the Chinese in other directions.

3. INDIA.

Sister Miss Mary Thompson, our pioneer missionary, steadily works amongst the masses in and around Hurda. She mainly teaches in the villages, accompanied from place to place by Sarubal, who is supported by the Victorian sisters. There have been 5 additions at Hurda for the year; at Bilaspur, 41; at Pendra Road (under C.W.B.M.), 36—in all over 200 for India during the year. Miss Thompson writes: "Your fellow-laborers in India rejoice with you in the success which has attended the preaching of the gospel during the last year, and we know you will rejoice with us that we have had more additions than usual this year. The great majority have been from our orphanages, but we have had quite a number from the villages, and others seem almost ready to confess Christ. My own work since last Convention has been principally amongst the women in and around Hurda. Quite a number of them have asked to be taught, and they enjoy the visits of myself and the Bible women. I have held thirty-three meetings for the Christian women. Our Sunday Schools keep much about the same. Old boys who have left the district occasionally come back to visit their relatives, and come to see us, sometimes bringing their friends to school with them. One Sunday there were too many to get in the room, and we had to take some outside and have a meeting with them. Twice during the year I have been with others to *mlar*, where we spent three days each time, holding a number of meetings and speaking to thousands. Many of these were from villages we had visited at various times, and we were glad to have another opportunity of meeting them. We also have opportunities of meeting people from the villages just outside our compound. They bring in their produce to sell here, and often stay over night. Several times we have had services with them. We are thankful to be permitted to keep on in this work, and trust that the coming year may see even greater results."

Bro. Shaah is still preaching the Word. He reaches over 50 villages, and his lantern work is much in evidence wherever he goes. Bro. Shaah also doctors the bodies of the people to the best of his ability. He is our most valued native agent, and in appreciation of his services his salary has been raised to £40 per annum. He is now regularly reporting to us.

Bro. and Sister Stubbins seem to be giving large attention to the orphanage children. £5 will entirely support one child for twelve months. In this year Bro. Stubbins has baptised 31 of the girls. By the splendid photos to hand they are seen to be girls in their teens, intelligent, and in the years to come surely will be an influence for good in India. They are commended to our prayers. Slides for the lantern have been forwarded to Bro. Stubbins, and more to follow have been purchased.

Masarambai gave an address under our auspices in Melbourne on the work in India that proved to be well attended and deeply interesting.

Adopted.

4. CHINA.

Sister Miss Tonkin is advancing in her studies. The language is very difficult; even missionaries of many years' standing still employ a teacher. Sister Tonkin is now able to be a little helpful in a general way. A good deal of correspondence has passed as to other volunteers who have offered for this field. The American Board prefers for the future that all candidates shall be college graduates. At Shanghai 40, and in all China 93, were added. Membership now in Shanghai totals 163, and in all China 643, an increase of 88 for the year.

Adopted.

5. JAPAN.

Bro. Dasey now corresponds regularly. He says:—"I have four classes a week and a Sunday School in which I teach. I preach frequently in our churches in Tokyo. In two weeks I take an extended trip into the country. Of course I, like all others, must study the language every day. I am making progress now

in the study of Chinese characters. We need 5000 characters to read newspapers and books readily. Few foreigners can do it. However, I shall write at length later on. I was glad to hear from you. I hope you will have a real helpful Convention, and that the cause in Australia may advance with leaps and bounds, in a way unknown before. You may expect a monthly letter from me in the future. I have not been in Australia for eleven years, and as now letters become more and more frequent my desire to visit the land of my birth is of course increasing." He is also sending occasional sketches of Japanese life for publication. We were glad to be able to send Bro. Cunningham a donation for his work, he being well championed by Bro. and Sister C. L. Thurgood in our Committee meeting. Membership at Tokyo—with three times the population of Sydney or Melbourne—last year 259; added, 106; present roll, 329; net increase, 70. In all Japan, 179 baptisms in the year. Total members, 842; scholars, 990.

Adopted.

6. SOUTH AFRICA.

Some little correspondence has passed between your committee and the English brethren, and it is expected that the latter will shortly send one or more preachers into the field, the way having been made financially plain.

Adopted.

7. KANAKA MISSION.

The report is more encouraging this year, and this notwithstanding the decreasing islander population, which will be practically extinct in Queensland by 1906. Baptisms, 24. Present membership—Children, 24; Gregory, 23; Baupil, 11. Total 58, as against 42 last year. About 160 souls attend the missions.

Bro. John Thompson is now about to visit the islands with a view to the future. Previously, when on the eve of departure, he was compelled to desist owing to the severe accident to his little daughter. Taby Man Con returned to his home, Pentecost Island, last April and has built a school-house. He is doing missionary work to the best of his ability, and is anxiously awaiting the arrival of Bro. Thompson. Bro. Thompson reports:—"In presenting our tenth annual report of our work among the Kanakas we have to thank our heavenly Father for his protecting care during the past two years. The last three years our district suffered from the severest drought ever known here, which caused great distress amongst our Kanaka brethren, and had it not been for the generosity of the S. S. teachers and scholars at Kermode-street and Prospect, S. A., who forwarded the sum of £17/17/6; the scholars and teachers at Dunedin, £4; Foreign Mission Committee, £3/10/-; Dr. Jos. Verco, £7/10/-; and grant from Queensland Government, £28/7/3; many of our Kanaka brethren and sisters would have been destitute of food and clothing. The cane crops were a total failure; this caused many to leave for their islands, and others left for the north. My Kanaka assistant Taby Man Con returned to his native island of Pentecost last April, where he commenced mission work in his native village. He has built a school there, also a house for me to live in. All the people in his village have sent me an urgent request to come and settle amongst them, but up to the present I have not been able to reach the island. Our losses during the year were heavy through removals, but the Kanaka brethren who have remained have done their best to reach their heathen countrymen, also taking their turn in visiting the Gregory River, an out station 12 miles from Childers, on Lord's day—holding three meetings there—many of them having to walk the 24 miles on Christmas Day. Twenty-four were baptised—6 from the church at Childers, 8 from the Gregory and 10 from the Baupil Mountains. Those who came from the Baupil Mountains were the result of a Kanaka brother's labors who works there. On Boxing Day we had our annual picnic, when all present thoroughly enjoyed themselves."

Adopted.

8. VOLUNTEERS.

The Committee has dealt by correspondence or personal interview with eight brethren and sisters desirous of serving the Master in the regions beyond. This is the largest number of applicants in any one year.

Adopted.

9. SECRETARIAL.

Your Committee has asked that Conference shall appoint two Secretaries and a Treasurer, in addition

assembled delegates from the States of New South Wales, South Australia, West Australia and Tasmania, send hearty Christian greetings to the students from Australia now in Kentucky University, U.S.A., who are preparing themselves for the glorious work of proclaiming the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We wish them all success in their studies, and express the hope that, when our young brethren are ready to return, our churches in the Commonwealth will send them hearty invitations to come back and labor amongst them.

The business sessions of the Conference closed by a hearty vote of thanks to the President, Jas. Johnston, for the very able manner in which he had presided over the meetings, Nat Haddow for the assistance rendered in the singing, F. Payne for the work done in connection with the audience in seating, arranging ball and decorations, and all others for helping to make the meetings the great success they had proven.

FOREIGN MISSION NIGHT.

Long before the time of commencement the hall was crowded in all its parts. Jas. Johnston presided.

F. M. Ludbrook asked that the missionaries be remembered in prayers during the coming year, and also the children in the orphanages. He congratulated the chairman on the position he occupied as President of the Conference, and the able manner in which he discharged his duties. The Committee were glad to get H. D. Smith, who is an enthusiastic worker, and great things were expected from him. He read an amusing letter from Bro. Hunter in China, giving some experiences of his work medically among the Chinese.

P. A. Dickson, of Sydney, spoke on "The Imperative Claims of Mission Lands." He said that meetings such as these had a great influence on the future, not only in Victoria, but throughout Australia. The influences of the meetings here will long bear fruit, and will live with many while life shall last. Foreign missions will soon be a thing of the past, owing to the quick methods of transport and the telegraph. Till such time comes, it behoves the church to keep awake to the needs of others. There was first the claim of absolute need. Learning at the present day was a means to happiness. Why deny that to those of other nations, especially the learning revealing the story of the gospel? We have the ability to meet this need. Ignorance of the methods will not be accepted by God as an excuse for not doing something. The ability lies in the truth of the living God. We have the men and the means. We number 15,000 throughout Australasia. A contribution of 1d. per week from every member would mean £3000 for Foreign Missions. It is an imperative claim on this generation of Christians just as much as it was on those of the first disciples to whom was delivered the Great Commission.

Miss Abgan, who is working amongst the Chinese women and children of Melbourne, spoke a few words. She thanked the meeting for the privilege of being allowed to speak on the occasion of the great jubilee

Conference. She gave a description of her work among the Chinese. Although no direct results have followed her teaching she has great hopes of the future. Her work among the Chinese women is most encouraging. One feature of the Chinese Christians is very hopeful—when once a knowledge of the truth comes to them they do their utmost to spread it amongst their countrymen. How great the need of China! The people are all willing to learn. Everyone can do something to help the matter forward. She asked for the prayers of Christians on behalf of the work.

Wren J. Gristead gave an address on "Money and Missions," but as we intend to print it in full nothing more need now be said of it. During the evening there was a Scripture reading by one of the members of the Chinese Class, and singing by the Lygon-street Quartette Party and Mrs. B. Ball.

Victorian Conference Notes.

"Call John" was a great favorite at the Temperance meeting.

Nat Haddow and his friends rendered good service at all the meetings.

P. A. Dickson delivered a splendid address at the Foreign Mission meeting.

T. J. Gore made a fine speech at the opening meeting on Friday morning.

The discussion on the report of the Temperance Committee was varied and lively.

Mrs. Roy Thompson rendered very valuable help throughout the Conference meetings.

W. G. Oram, the second man in the Kaniva district, made an interesting little speech.

The work of the Temperance Committee during the year was very highly spoken of.

The reply of John T. T. Harding to the critics of his Essay was short, sharp and clear.

We were never so greatly impressed with the invaluable services of our friends who sing.

Dr. Syd. Verco, of Adelaide, S.A., looked in on the Conference a few times while in Melbourne.

The sermon of F. W. Greenwood was a great effort and was profitable to all who heard it.

Mrs. C. L. Thurgood said:—"Information brings inspiration, and inspiration brings realisation."

T. H. Brooker, M.P., of South Australia, made a neat little speech at the Friday afternoon meeting.

The great Endeavor Demonstration in the Masonic Hall on Easter Monday evening was full of enthusiasm.

T. J. Gore, of S.A., in speaking to the Essay, not only made a good speech but coined a new word, "intraneous."

The roll-call and the responses of the various societies at the Endeavor meeting were a very interesting feature.

Dr. Cook clearly stated that drink had a tendency to make people fat, but that all fat people were not so through drink.

The solo of Bro. Henry Wright on Sunday afternoon at the preaching of the Conference sermon was highly appreciated.

The story of the drought in the Mallee as told by W. W. White was deeply pathetic and moved the Conference profoundly.

Everybody was glad to see Bro. D. M. Wilson, an old Victorian, present at the Conference, and to hear his grand little speech.

A. Millis, President of the Temperance Committee, received a very hearty reception at the Temperance Demonstration on Thursday.

The Bible Readings conducted by Jas. Johnston on Friday and Saturday mornings were very helpful, and added much to the spiritual side of the meetings.

The "late" Endeavor Society in a certain church at the great meeting in the Masonic Hall gave its response in the text, "Let us go on unto perfection!"

Senator Barrett said that, in the matter of the world's competition, the nation that produced the highest type of men and women would win in the race.

The remarks of F. G. Dunn, and the adoption of the clauses relating to the death of J. A. Davies, C. G. Lawson and J. A. Palmer, were deeply solemn and impressive.

Just how F. M. Ludbrook kept track of all his different pieces of paper, on which the notes of his address at the Foreign Mission meeting were written, puzzled us profoundly.

It was announced at the C.E. meeting that Mrs. C. L. Thurgood was the mother of Christian Endeavor Societies in Australasia, she having organised the first society in any church in Australasia.

W. J. Gristead said in his address at the Foreign Mission meeting that a chicken in looking for a stone for its gizzard did not know the difference between a bit of crystal and a nugget of gold.

We heard a preaching brother say he never had a public welcome to any church, but that he sneaked into the place where he now labors. A bystander said he was right if he did not sneak out.

Bro. Hogarth, of Castlemaine District, in announcing the fact that the churches in his district asked that A. W. Connor be sent back, stated that they had conferred this honor upon him for the first time.

At the S.S. Union hour on Saturday afternoon interesting little addresses were given by T. J. Gore, Albany Bell, P. A. Dickson, W. J. Gristead, D. M. Wilson, Percy Pittman, Geo. T. Walden and C. A. Rofe.

A. C. Rankine said that one of the functions of the Endeavor Society was to teach people how to open their mouths. We could not but hope that they would give some people a few lessons on how to shut their mouths.

H. Leng told a new yarn, illustrating the necessity of working and praying. Two little boys were very late for school, so one of them suggested that they kneel down and pray, but the other insisted that they run and pray as they ran.

Here and There.

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

Two confessions at Kalgoorlie, W.A., March 25th.

Please observe! May 3rd is RESCUE HOME SUNDAY.

At Canley Vale, N.S.W., an elderly lady from the Baptists has united with the church.

Jao and Sister Hindle, of Enmore, N.S.W., attended the Hobart church on April 5th. Bro. Hindle spoke both morning and evening.

Rescue Home Sunday, May 3rd. NO FUNDS IN HAND!

One confession at Mornington (N.Z.) on 4th April, T. M. Turner preaching.

NOTE 1—N.S.W. Sunday School Union Examination, Saturday, April 18th, 3 to 5 p.m.

N.S.W. Sunday School Union Secretary's address is—R. Steer, 25 Ferry-street, Marrickville.

Seven confessions to date at the tent mission at Stirling East (S.A.) The tent goes to Willunga next.

Four immersions and four confessions at Rookwood, N.S.W., last Sunday evening. Very large attendance.

RESCUE HOME SUNDAY, May 3rd. Let there be a collection in every church. Let all give a little.

Received for Sister Fleming:—Sister Ludbrook, senr., from the church at Papakura, Auckland, New Zealand, £3/5/-, and from Bro. Patison, Fernhurst, £1.

On Tuesday, 7th inst., a warm welcome was given by the Hawthorn church to J. H. Stevens, their new preacher. The meetings are starting out well, every available space in the chapel and vestry being occupied last Lord's day evening.

A. W. Connor addressed the church at Cheltenham last Sunday, and T. J. Gore of Adelaide in the evening, when a lad, a son of Bro. Herbert Le Page, made the good confession. Next Lord's day and Wednesday week, April 22nd, the church anniversary. Brethren everywhere invited.

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The South Australian brethren were anxious to know whether their newly purchased tent was waterproof. The wet weather at Stirling East has tested this, and though the water runs peacefully in the gutter around, there is very little seen inside—a few drops here and there just to keep people from getting too excited. We are very strong on the water question, but we don't want people that come to get it on them. No one need fear this of the tent.

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Welcome Home to Bro. and Sister H. H. Strutton, from India, Robert-street, Hindmarsh, S.A., Wednesday, 22nd April. Public tea at 6 p.m. to 7.30. Price, 6d. Public meeting at 7.30. Short, bright addresses, with special music and singing. Greetings from Missionary Associates. S.A. brethren please visit and help us in our welcome home.
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BIRTH.

BURROWS.—On April 12th, at 61 Dryburgh-st., North Melbourne, the wife of W. W. Burrows, of a son.

IN MEMORIAM.

In loving memory of our dearly loved daughters, Elizabeth Jane (Lizzie), who departed this life at Nhill, Victoria, April 13th, 1901, and Ann Nightingale (Annie), at Brim, Victoria, January 25th, 1898.

Sleep on, beloved, sleep and take thy rest;
Lay down thy head upon thy Saviour's breast;
We love thee well, but Jesus loves thee best—
Good-night! Good-night!

—Inserted by their loving parents, brothers and sister, W. M., H. W., O., S. A. CLIPSTONE.

HILL.—In loving memory of Benjamin Hill, who died 17th April, 1902.

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So live that you each year may be,
While time glides swiftly by,
A little farther from the earth,
And nearer to the sky.

—Sunbeam.

Let Us Give Thanks.

For beauty in this world of ours,
For verdant groves and lovely flowers,
For song of birds, for hum of bees,
For the refreshing summer breeze,
For hill and plain, for stream and wood,
For the great ocean's mighty flood,—
In everything give thanks!

For the sweet sleep which comes with night,
For the returning morning's light,
For the bright sun that shines on high,
For the stars glittering in the sky,
For these and everything we see,
O Lord! our hearts we lift to thee—
For everything give thanks!

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