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New Zealand Conferences,

1912

NORTHERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE.

The Twenty-ninth Annual Conference of the Churches of Christ, Northern District, New Zealand, opened on Thursday evening, April 4, 1912, and continued all day Friday and on Saturday evening. The attendance of brethren at all the sessions was good, the number present from the country churches being specially noticeable.

There were delegates and visitors present from the following churches:—Ponsonby-rd., Dominion-rd., Richmond, Devonport, Onehunga, Tara, Avondale, Helensville, Hoteo North, Papakura, Port Albert, Pukekohe, Warkworth, Wellsford, Te Arai, Nth. Albertland, Gordonton and Kamo.

E. Vickery, President, occupied the chair. Bro. Potter was Conference Secretary, and H. N. Bagnall was appointed reporter.

Greetings were sent to and received from sister Conferences sitting in the South, and from several individual brethren, including W. Hibbert, now at the College of the Bible, and Bro. Grinstead, now stationed at Wanganui.

The President's address was so highly appreciated that a resolution asking to have it published was unanimously carried.

Sister F. Downey, who has, for some years, had charge of the correspondence to isolated brethren, was thanked for her services, and requested to continue the work.

Since last Conference two churches, one at Devonport, the other at Pukekohe, have been established, and were admitted to the Conference; and a mission started by Bro. Urquhart and others in Dock-st. was commended, and the workers thanked and asked to continue it.

F. W. Greenwood, who for some years labored here, being on a visit to Auckland, was accorded the privileges of Conference, as were Bro. Earl, of Wellington, and Bro. and Sister Hadfield, missionaries on furlough from Bulawayo, S.A.

Reports were presented by the Home Mission, Foreign Mission, Publication, Sunday School Advisory and Conference Arrangement Committees. These showed

that in every department of church work great activity had been displayed during the past year, and great expectations awaited realisation in the present year's work.

The report from the Foreign Missionary Committees of the Dominion was particularly encouraging. There are now six European workers engaged in this work, besides a number of native teachers and helpers, and there were upwards of 40 additions notified during the year, while nearly £900 was handled by the Committee in the course of the year. This is the result of six years' effort. Bro. and Sister Hadfield, who came home on furlough a year ago, were present at the Conference. During their holiday (?) they have visited nearly every church in the Dominion, giving information and arousing the interest of the brethren to still greater efforts in this work.

J. B. Allen was elected President of Conference for the ensuing year, and the following is the personnel of the several Committees:—

Home Missions.—Bren. Dick, Turner, Vickery, F. Allen, Evans, Mushet and Moyle.

Foreign Missions.—Sisters J. Morton, Poole, Mary Vincent and Bren. J. C. Morton, J. Wedding, W. Cammell, J. C. Laing, H. Smith, J. B. Allen, and Urquhart.

Publication.—Sisters Bodle and Mason, Bren. Turner, Bagnall, Moyle, Perkins and C. Wood.

Sunday School Advisory.—Sister Bodle, Bren. Dick, Don. Bodle, L. L. Bailey, Marson, Perkins and A. Donaki.

Temperance.—Bren. F. W. Greenwood, Hansen, Bagnall, Dixon, Dewar, Moyle, and Sister Mason.

Conference Arrangements.—Bren. J. B. Allen, Hewitt, Edwards and Potter.

Bren. Matt. Bell and F. W. Greenwood were engaged as evangelists.

It was resolved to send a letter of greeting and encouragement to the workers in South Africa, embodying the following:—

"That in view of the wonderful way in which the Foreign Mission work has developed, we express our gratitude to God for the opportunity for work in South Africa, and the measure of success already obtained, and would place on record our high appreciation of the way the work has been carried on by the F.M. Committee and its representatives in South Africa."

It was resolved, "That we approve of the idea of a Dominion Church Extension Fund, and appoint a Committee to inquire concerning same."

Votes of thanks to all outgoing Committees and officers were enthusiastically carried.

The annual tea and social was held on Friday evening, from 6 to 10 p.m., in the meeting house, Ponsonby-rd. There was a large attendance at both functions, and a very enjoyable time was spent, J. C. Laing being in the chair, and speeches, songs, etc., being the items of interest.

About £100 in cash and promises from individuals was collected during the afternoon.

The Bible School Union held a rally on Saturday evening at 7.30. There was a good attendance, and Mr. Milne, Principal of the District Teacher Training, delivered a lecture to teachers on "The Best Methods of Teaching." A fruit supper was amongst the items to make this function a pleasant and satisfactory one.

The attendance on Sunday was not so large as it usually is, owing to the heavy rain which fell during the morning and at intervals throughout the day.

A picnic to Panmure in the s.s. "Onewa" on Monday brought the Conference to a conclusion. There was a good attendance. The weather was fine, and the outing was pleasant, and enjoyed by all present.

President's Address.

By E. Vickery.

In reviewing the year that has passed, we find much to be thankful for. We feel

that God has been with us and blessed us. In the various spheres of work in which all have been engaged, much good has been accomplished. It has also been a year of sowing, of steady, persistent effort; and while the ingathering has not been great, still we rejoice at what has been achieved, also in the unanimity and love which prevail among the whole brotherhood. Yet while rejoicing over these things, we realise the great loss that we have sustained in the removal to other districts of some of our most valued helpers. Our Bro. Willie Hibbert, who has entered the College of the Bible, Melbourne, to equip himself for further usefulness in the Lord's work; Bro. Grinstead, who is now laboring with the church at Wanganui, and Bro. Milton Vickery, who has returned to Wellington. The loss of their help and counsel will be greatly felt. Still, we rejoice to know that wherever they are, they will be found working to extend the cause of Christ.

But perhaps the chief feature in looking back is that our elder brethren, those whom we have for so long looked up to in the faith, those who have stood the heat and burden of the day, those who have for many years always been found faithfully at the post of duty, are now, through reason of age and bodily weakness, finding the work pressing too heavily upon them. As we thus stand, therefore, on the threshold of another year, we realise that we who have stood by them and worked under their guidance must now take the greater and the graver responsibilities upon us. The work must go forward. Duty to Christ demands it. Do not let us shirk the responsibility. Let "Forward!" be our watchword. Duty to the brotherhood, duty to the cause, and duty to the Lord Christ himself, demands your help, your counsel, and your talents.

Lift up your eyes and look around. The fields, both in the home and foreign lands, are white unto harvest. During the past year a more aggressive policy was engaged in; a foundation for several new causes in the home land has been laid; and a site for a new mission in the foreign field has been secured. Let us see to it, as we shoulder the greater responsibilities of the work, that the same aggressive policy shall be continued during the coming year.

And let us notice, too, that this growing work needs growing help. We would therefore sound forth a word of invitation to our younger brethren, to those who as yet have taken no hand in Conference matters. To such we would say, We want your help, Christ wants your help. The growing needs of the work call for your help. Come forward, therefore, and allow yourselves to be placed on the various Committees, and with determination and zeal help on the cause, counting it a joy to labor and to sacrifice, if need be; for Christ.

Evangelisation has convened this assembly. It is the one great tie that binds it. Twenty-nine years ago, it was affirmed, "This co-operation has for its object evan-

gelisation only," and experience has abundantly justified the wisdom of the affirmation. But don't let us forget that we have a double mission to perform: First, the great mission to the world, bringing them to a knowledge of the Christ; then a mission to the religious bodies around us, striving with a loving spirit to bring them into line with New Testament teaching and practice. We contend that the constitution of the Churches of Christ was not left to be determined by the needs of each generation as interpreted by some clever ecclesiastic or representative council, nor are its ordinances to be obeyed, changed or ignored simply at the whim of the individual, but were established and ordered by its divine head, and binding on his followers for all time.

While we agree to this and readily admit that we have been called together to discuss evangelism, yet the fact remains that, of late years, so much time has been taken up with the mere formal work—work which we must all admit is essential to the well-being of Conference—that the greater theme has really been crowded out. This seems to be a matter of great moment, and calling for our immediate attention. If it is found impossible to set aside a portion of the time under the existing arrangements, then another session must be added; another day set apart, when speakers might deal with the various aspects of the work for the furtherance of Christ's kingdom on the earth; dealing with such subjects as the Bible School movement and evangelisation among the young, the Home Mission work and its needs for spreading the truth, and how to better carry the light of the gospel to the many great heathen nations who yet sit in darkness. These are all great themes, but they might and could be discussed very profitably under the one comprehensive head, "Evangelisation." If this were done, then great enthusiasm would be engendered. The hearts of the brethren would be touched; new ideas might also be introduced as to better means in carrying forward the work, and the brotherhood, realising the greater need, would not hesitate to throw themselves more heartily into the work, laying their talents and money freely and willingly on the altar of service.

Reference was made to the fact that a forward move was instituted last year. We would urge that that work be taken hold of and continued this coming year, with the same aggressive spirit, first of all in the evangelisation of the home lands. Upon our success here, everything depends. Strong, healthy, vigorous churches at home mean powerful evangelisation abroad. The larger vision about which so much has been said, and rightly said, does not mean a vision that overlooks the nearer view, but embraces it. Too long have we neglected some of the promising towns and prosperous districts in this province. First of all, brethren, let us get the larger vision in respect to the land we live in; and if we look and see the vision rightly, it will cause us

to resolve that, so far as we are individually concerned, we will do our share in winning this province—this land of ours—for Christ.

But shall we stop there? As we turn to our New Testament we are impressed with the wide outlook of the Christ. It is alike the wonder and the glory of the gospel. His mission of mercy, his mission of love, overleaps all distinctions of race and breaks down all barriers of privilege. The world-wide nature is ever in his mind, and very dear to his heart.

Shall we delay then, or hasten the time when our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ shall have the whole world for his inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession—when men shall be blessed in him and all nations shall call him blessed?

Shall we help to swell that great multitude that no man can number, out of all nations, and kindreds, and peoples, and tongues, who stand before the throne and before the Lord clothed with white robes, with palms in their hands, who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, who stand before the throne of God and serve him day and night?

God grant, brethren, that our hearts may be afire to-day with such a consuming desire for winning souls that we may be moved to do great things for him; and may the desire be in every breast; and may the result be a great spiritual uplifting and consecration.

In conclusion, we desire to leave with you thoughts of the goodness of our God, of the manifold blessings that he has showered upon us, and of the great privilege he has bestowed upon us, in calling us to be his co-workers in the great work of carrying the light and love and salvation that is to be found only in Jesus to a world that needs him. Let us then—

Lift up to God the voice of praise,
Whose goodness, passing thought,
Loads every minute as it flies
With benefits unsought.

Lift up to God the voice of praise,
From whom salvation flows,
Who sent His Son, our souls to save,
From sin's unnumbered woes.

To Him who sits upon the throne,
The God whom we adore,
And to the Lamb who once was slain,
Be glory evermore.

Northern Sisters' Conference, N.Z.

The sisters held their annual Conference on Wednesday evening, April 3, in the lecture hall, Ponsonby-rd. There was a record attendance. Sister H. Downey, President, ably conducted the meeting. The various suburban churches were well represented, and responded to the roll-call. The delegates and visitors were warmly welcomed by Sister Carroll, Vice-President.

Greetings from the following country churches were read:—Woodcocks, Dome Valley, Hoteo North, Helensville, Wellsford, North Albertland, Te Arai, Hakaru and Pukekohe; these churches were all incorporated with the Conference, and the messages of encouragement proved the unity of the sisterhood throughout the province.

The various reports from the Temperance, Dorcas, Church and Hospital Visiting Committees were satisfactory, showing that the sisters in their various spheres were earnestly doing their part of the church work.

The annual report mentioned the fact that the Executive Council had during the year kept in touch with the Committees and their work and with the country and suburban churches. They had decided to in-

crease the numbers of Executive, so as to widen their spheres of labor, and lovingly pleaded with each sister to do her duty, remembering the service was for the King of kings.

The business proceedings were enlivened by the following sisters, who gave several choice musical and elocutionary items:—Sisters Rawe, Hadfield, Cammell, Reisterer and Woods. Sister Joachim also read her interesting paper, entitled, "Scatter Flowers as you Go."

A committee of ladies had decorated the hall, which gave a homely appearance, and was appreciated by Conference. Some of the younger members prepared a light supper. The thanks of the Council are extended to all who contributed to the enjoyment which was evidenced at the Conference.—J.C.M.

Church Extension Fund, and urge other Conferences to do the same.

(2) The advisability of appointing an Organising Secretary for Home Missions for the Dominion. Details in connection with this scheme were referred to the new Executive.

(3) That the President of the General Conference be made responsible to Government re legal enactment of the Marriage Laws.

(4) That the three-form church-letter book be adopted throughout New Zealand.

(B) From the N.Z. C.W.B.M., asking if, in the event of their stationing an evangelist in the Middle District, it would clash with the Middle District Conference. Decided to reply that it would not do so.

(C) From the N.Z. Sunday Observance Alliance, asking for the assistance of the Conference in securing the better observance of the Lord's day.

Resolved to co-operate, and Bren. Saunders, Mudge and Davis were appointed a Committee to confer with other committees in this matter.

It was resolved, on the motion of the President, that the Conference expresses its deep regret at the death of our late Bro. Alex. Anderson, and places on record its appreciation of his services rendered to the cause of Christ, and also of the interest shown and experienced in his will, wherein he has made financial provision for the various agencies in connection with the cause of Christ in the Dominion and in South Africa. It is worthy of mention that the late Bro. Anderson was one of the first elders and the first S.S. supt. of the Dixon-st. church, Wellington.

Middle District Conference, NEW ZEALAND.

The sixteenth annual Conference of the Churches of Christ in the above district was held in the Vivian-st. church, Wellington, on April 5, 6, and 8.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5.

After a short devotional service, led by A. J. Saunders, the President, R. B. Davis, took the chair.

The following delegates answered to the roll call:—Kilbirnie: J. Day. Lower Hut: A. Hardham. Nelson: P. Bolton and G. Verco. Palmerston North: Bro. Cairns. Richmond: H. Griffith. Spring Grove: Bren. P. Boddington and McPherson. Wanganui: H. Grinstead. Wellington: G. Day, R. Hill, A. J. Saunders, and A. V. Williams. Wellington South: S. H. Mudge, D. Campbell, and M. Vickery.

J. T. Hunter, on behalf of the Vivian-st. church, welcomed the delegates to Wellington.

The President, in his address, outlined the work of the past year, and also gave a resume of the Conference work during the past decade, and in conclusion pleaded for a deeper spiritual tone and greater effort and self-sacrifice in the future.

Bren. Saxby, of Sydney; Newton, of Waipukurau, and Griffith, of Otaki, were present, and the privileges of Conference were extended to them.

Greetings were received from the other New Zealand Conferences, and were reciprocated.

Correspondence was received from:—

(A) The Secretary of the General Conference, stating that the N.Z. Conference had adopted the following remits from the Middle District Conference:

(1) The establishment of a Dominion Church Extension Fund, and the following

Committee had been appointed to carry out this project:—Bren. Williams, Hunter, Heggie, Campbell, Day, Wellington; McDonald and Gebbie, Dunedin; and Glaister and Allen, Auckland.

Resolved, That in the event of the Board being formed, we hand over all moneys in the Middle District Fund to the Dominion C.F. Fund Board.

Resolved, That we contribute 1 per cent. of all moneys collected to the Dominion



Federal Conference Picnic at Fern Tree Gully, Victoria.

The report of the Executive Committee was read by the Secretary, Bro. Hill.

The special H.M. collection fell short of expectations, only realising £122/17/9, and thus caused the Committee much anxiety during the year.

Resolved, That the Secretary, in sending out notices for the Conference, also mention the minimum sum required, calculated upon the penny-per-week per member basis, and urge each church to contribute at least that sum.

Also resolved, That it be a recommendation to the H.M. Committee to consider the advisability of sending a man, in each of the two districts, to visit each of the churches just prior to the time of taking up the H.M. Collection.

It was also resolved to urge upon all the churches the advisability of adopting the "duplex envelope system" for taking up all church and mission collections.

The balance sheet showed the total receipts to be £350/12/1. The expenditure was £337/5/5, leaving a credit balance of £13/6/8.

There was a total of £46/4/4 in the Church Extension Fund.

Bro. Heggie was elected a trustee of this fund in place of the late Bro. Anderson.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—

President, M. Vickery.
Vice-President, G. Day.
Secretary, R. Hill, re-elected.
Treasurer, D. Campbell, re-elected.
Committee: Bren. Mudge, Williams, Heggie, Hardham.
Auditors: Bren. Hunter and Bewley.

The statistics showed a good increase for the year; this was due to the enumeration of 76 isolated members who have not previously been counted, otherwise the growth of membership shows slow progress. The total membership is now 1039.

Recommendations for future work. The Committee recommend that Palmerston North is richly deserving of the practical sympathy of the brethren. Bro. Lionel Johnston has put in twelve months' hard work, and has succeeded in giving the church a standing in the community it did not previously enjoy. The Committee urge upon the brethren throughout the Middle District the need of a building here, and would point out that the optimism and enthusiasm shown at last year's Conference have not materialised into a chapel, as was so confidently expected.

Resolved to devote special attention to this work, and to strongly recommend the claims of Palmerston North to the Dominion Church Extension Fund Board.

The thanks of the Conference were accorded to those brethren who had visited Palmerston North, at their own expense, in connection with this matter.

Bro. Johnston was re-engaged for a further term of twelve months.

Pahiatua.—Bro. F. J. Goodwin, who was placed here immediately after Conference last year, did his level best to build up and

extend the church. However, in this he did not succeed, adverse weather conditions, poor health, and decreasing population being against him.

At the end of 1911 Bro. Goodwin tendered his resignation, the same to take effect at the end of February, 1912. The Committee saw nothing for it but to accept his resignation with regret, he having been an ideal evangelist in many respects. Our best wishes for his future success go with Bro. Goodwin.

We would recommend that the incoming Committee give attention to the work at Pahiatua.

Kilbirnie.—The Committee have been unable to render the church here any assistance whatever, and would recommend that a strong effort be made to obtain a preacher for this growing district.

Petone and Lower Hutt.—Like Kilbirnie, these two fields should be supplied with a permanent man. The towns are fairly prosperous, and there are good prospects of successful work.

Resolved, That the recommendations of the Committee be adopted.

The correspondents to isolated members, Sister Lang for the South Island, and Bro. Williams for the North Island, reported that 61 members had been corresponded with during the year, and that these members had contributed £34 to the Mission funds.

The Corresponding Secretaries were thanked for their labors. Bro. Verco was elected Cor. Sec. for the South Island, and Bro. Grinstead for the North Island.

Resolved, That letters of sympathy in their sickness be sent to Bro. I. James and to Sister Pritchard.

Resolved, That in connection with our Conferences a Temperance demonstration be held, and that the Executive Committee make arrangements for such.

Resolved, That churches employing evangelists be asked to place their services at the disposal of the H.M. Committee for one month during the year.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be a nominating Committee for the ensuing year.

Resolved, That a Conference of the Home and Foreign Mission Committees be held during the year to consider the revision of the Constitution in relation to the appointment of a Conference Arrangement Committee, the closing of the books on December 31, and the best time to take up the annual collections.

It was decided that the Executive Committee issue a quarterly financial statement to each church.

A Publishing Committee, consisting of Bren. Grinstead, editor; Siddal, Johnston, Hall, Verco, and Glover, was set up to consider the practicability of publishing a paper similar to the *Auckland Christian*.

A resolution was passed protesting against compulsory military training.

It was decided to hold the next Conference at Nelson.

In the evening a Home Mission rally was held. Addresses were delivered by Bro. Grinstead, Verco, and Saunders. A collection amounting to £11/10/6 was taken up.

FOREIGN MISSION SESSION SATURDAY, 6th.

This session was presided over by Bro. Mudge.

The reports and balance sheet were adopted.

Resolved, That the Conference earnestly suggests that each church appoint an agent to collect 1/- per member toward the return fares of our Foreign missionaries, and to report to the F.M. Committee at once.

Suggested that the F.M. Committee arrange to get Furlough Fund in hand before the year in which it is required.

Correspondence from the General Secretary was referred to the F.M. Committee to deal with.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—

President, Bro. Hall; Vice-Pres., Bro. Saunders; Secretary, Bro. Mudge; Treasurer, Bro. Owen; Committee: Sisters Pritchard, McKenzie, Johnstone and Masters, and Bro. J. Day.

In the evening an F.M. rally was held. Chairman, A. J. Saunders. Subject, "Evangelisation of South Africa." "Its Urgency," L. Johnston; "God's Answer," G. D. Verco; "Our Responsibility," S. H. Mudge.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

On Sunday, April 7, the services in the city and suburban churches were taken by visiting preachers. H. Grinstead preached the Conference Sermon in Vivian-st. chapel that evening.

BIBLE SCHOOL SESSION.

On Monday, April 8, a Bible School session was held, and the Conference was brought to a close by a thanksgiving service, at which Bro. M. Vickery presided, and addresses were delivered by Bren. Saxby, Bolton, Johnston and Mudge.

We know that something in our souls is seeking for the great harmony of life, and we know that, though we cannot hear it, the harmony is there.—*W. A. White*.

Most of the grand truths of God have to be learned by trouble; they must be burned into us by the hot iron of affliction, otherwise we shall not truly receive them.—*C. H. Spurgeon*.

Great revolutions are the work rather of principles than of bayonets, and are achieved first in the moral and afterwards in the material sphere.—*Mazzini*.

Not thy gifts I seek, O God;
Not thy gifts, but thee.
What were all thy boundless store
Without thyself? What less, what more!
Not thy gifts, but thee.

South Island Conference, NEW ZEALAND.

The Twenty-seventh Annual Conference of the Churches of Christ, South Island District of New Zealand, was held at the Tabernacle, Great King-st., Dunedin, commencing Friday, April 5, 1912.

R. Gebbie presided, and representatives were present from 13 of the churches.

Greetings were received from and sent to the Conferences also being held in the Northern and Middle Districts, and to the Christian Women's Board of Missions of the Churches of Christ.

The President, in the course of his address, said there were three things the Conference should mean to them. It was a call for closer unity and co-operation, a plea on the part of the individual and churches for the better service for the Great Master, and a promise of greater victory and progress than has been attained in the past. Our plea, he said, is really Christ, but Christian union may be called our distinctive plea. We advocate Christ in such a way that we must plead for the union of all Christians on the basis of God's Word, and not only on the letter but in the spirit of his Word. Nothing will secure this like work, and we want to see that we have some definite service to which to apply our whole strength. The speaker made the distinction between conviction and persuasion. By getting into touch with God through his Holy Spirit, he said we shall get a spirit-filled life that will mean more power. It is not a question of what we can do, but what God will do for us if we will let him have free sway in our lives.

A motion of sympathy was passed to the widow and family of the late Captain J. Stewart, for many years an active member of the Church of Christ.

FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

It is with a deep sense of our gratitude to God that we submit our eighth annual report of the work entrusted to our hands during the past year.

We had anticipated a great time of missionary enthusiasm this year. We have had the pleasure of bidding farewell to our Bro. Mansill, who left Dunedin on Sunday, March 19, for Bulawayo, to assist Bro. Anderson in the work there, and thus enable Bro. Hadfield and family to return on furlough. Prior to his leaving, Bro. Mansill visited most of the churches in this district, lecturing on the work of Foreign Missions and striving to increase interest, and to awaken to a larger degree of enthusiasm the brethren in our district. With his visit and the subsequent tour of Bro. Hadfield we were most sanguine regarding the wherewithal to meet the increased expenditure with which we would be met in regard to fresh obligations in the Outer Field, principally the estab-

lishment of another Station, viz., Ingame. Our hopes were not quite as fully realised as we could have desired.

Though in the aggregate the offerings exceeded those of last year, still the annual October offering was £77 odd short of last year's offering. Of course we had previously made an appeal for the Furlough Fund in July, which, however, resulted in only £33/13/11 being raised. In this case a few of the churches could not see their way to assist, else the offering might have been larger.

Bro. Hadfield's tour of our district was arranged during the month of October, and this

where the after-meeting was held. There was a good deal of enthusiasm generated at this meeting and we were hopeful that the result would have been much larger offerings.

Two payments were received during the year from the Elborn Trust, which we are most grateful to acknowledge, and we feel that our heavenly Father has blessed us by this gift of £150, but it is all required. We are faced, brethren, with great liabilities in the future. Our work is an expensive one. The salaries received by our workers may appear to some to be large, but from reliable information the amounts are really inadequate, mere pittance, which should be increased.

We are just now confronted with the problem of raising funds for the return passages of Bro. Hadfield and family, and also of Miss Brassett, who desires to go out to the field (she is engaged to be married to Bro. Mansill), and who will be a great acquisition to the workers there. Bro. Hadfield leaves the Bluff on May 13, and to raise



South Australian Representatives and Visitors to the Federal Conference.

of course militated in a small degree against our annual offering. It was suggested that some brethren "held off" for our brother's tour, but he secured a good number of promises, and the amount received so far is £143.

The total of all the appeals made to the brethren this year reached the sum of £370, which is an increase of about £100 on last year's receipts, but we had hoped with the departure of our brother and the return of our pioneer missionary and the story of his work in the mission field that the offerings would have been a great deal more than the amount that was raised.

Your Committee arranged a welcome-home tea in the Choral Hall, Dunedin, to our Bro. and Sister Hadfield, and this proved a big success. An invitation to send a representative was extended to every church in the district. This was accepted by several, but a "banner of welcome" from each church was displayed in the Tabernacle,

the money for passages, an appeal has been made through the churches for 400 brethren to each contribute 1/- per month for three months. In this way we hope to raise our portion of the passage money of the returning missionaries without the necessity of another offering.

We desire to place on record our thanks to the evangelists who have from time to time so freely and willingly placed their services at the disposal of the Committee, and to those brethren who have given so much of their time to the furtherance of the F.M. cause, particularly our church secretaries.

We earnestly ask for a continuance of the active interest of the brethren in our South African Mission. The work is growing, and as God is blessing it greatly each year necessitates a larger provision to meet the increased obligations thus created.

May God richly bless the coming year.

J. L. STEWART WRIGHT, Sec.

J. Inglis Wright also outlined the future work, and dealt with the question of increasing the salaries of the missionaries. Promises of larger offerings from the churches were then received through delegates, a number of whom also agreed to raise funds to provide one or more donkeys for the mission station at Ingoe.

HOME MISSION COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

While the past year has been one of considerable anxiety to your Committee, it has come to a close rich in blessing and bearing messages of hope and courage, and it is with profound gratitude to God for his gracious leading that we record the work of the Committee since last Conference.

The evangelists' reports deal with the work carried on at Ashburton, Gore and Kaingata.

Particulars of these have already been given in the report submitted to Conference.

"Evangelical Messenger."—To Bro. Theo. Arnold, Editor, and Bro. Palmer, Business Manager, our thanks are due for the great amount of work involved in publishing this paper and distributing it to the churches free of charge.

Finance.—It will be noticed from the Treasurer's statement that we closed our financial year with a debit balance of £98/19/-. We refrained from making a special appeal to the churches to liquidate this amount, fearing that it would jeopardise the annual offering that is to be taken up on May 5.

In view of the fact that throughout Australasia the Home Mission offering is collected simultaneously in all our churches (this district alone excepted), we recommend that the advisability of altering the date (after this year) of our annual offering to that fixed by other churches be reconsidered.

In conclusion, we commend the work to the prayers of the brethren, that the Lord may strengthen his servants for greater activity, and that the coming year may be one of victory under the blessing of God. On behalf of the Committee,
L. C. J. SCHULENBURG, Sec.

GENERAL, EVANGELIST'S REPORT.

H. G. Harward's General Evangelist Report, from March 3 to November 6, 1911, was as follows:—

Assisted by Bro. Binnie, the Special Mission work began at Oamaru, on March 3. After conducting the opening services in connection with the new building, we continued the evangelistic work until April 12. The meetings were interesting throughout, though the visible results were not as great as we had expected. Unfortunately for the mission, Bro. Mathieson was called away by the serious illness of his brother, and consequently for the greater part of the time we were without his valuable services. Three days were spent here after the close of the Ashburton mission. Total number of addresses, 59; baptisms, 28.

The next field was Ashburton. The mission was preceded by the Conference gatherings, beginning April 13. We continued until May 28. The evangelists personally visited 600 homes. We did not succeed, however, in awakening much interest among the people. With the exception of the after-church services in the public hall on

Sunday nights, we rarely had good meetings. 55 addresses were delivered, 12 baptised, and 2 restored to fellowship.

From the beginning of the Ashburton mission until the close of our labors together, the C.W.B.M. very generously supported Bro. Binnie as my assistant.

The mission at Gore commenced on June 3, and continued until August 4. The best of preparation had been made. The church was united and hopeful. A weekly paper was published and faithfully distributed during the meetings. The measure of success gained was chiefly due to the earnest and enthusiastic labors of the resident evangelist, Bro. J. R. Clarke; he was ceaseless in his activities in the interest of the mission. 80 addresses were delivered, 45 persons made the confession (a few of these were not baptised), 3 were restored to fellowship, and 1 baptised believer added. During this and the two subsequent missions, much valuable assistance was given us by Sister Hilda Cocker, of Christchurch, who acted as organist and soloist. We are grateful to many brethren who assisted in the financial part of this mission.

We were associated with Bro. Bull and the Mataura church, from August 6 to September 4. Considering the nature of the field the meetings here were very fair. Our sojourn was too short for really effective work. 35 addresses were delivered, 12 were baptised, and one baptised believer added.

We had happy association with the Mornington church from September 10 to 27. Unfortunately for the mission, we had showers of rain most of the time. The meetings were not large, many times only members present. 20 addresses were delivered, and 4 baptised.

A mission was held with the Invercargill church from October 1 to 29. The meetings were held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall. A weekly paper was distributed. The resident evangelist, Bro. A. Batt, worked hard, but the weather was unfavorable, and the majority of the people not interested. The week-night meetings were only fair in numbers attending. 35 addresses were delivered and there were 5 baptisms.

Apart from the mission, six special addresses were delivered in various places.

Total addresses for eight months, 290.

Total additions (less several not baptised), 108.

In this report no itemised details are given of the work of Bro. Binnie. It would be impossible to say how many solos he sang, how much visiting he did, or how many times he preached. Special thanks are due to the sisters of the C.W.B.M. for so generously making it possible for me to have so valued and faithful a co-worker. We acknowledge our indebtedness, and trust their work also has profited by our united labors.

In closing this report we would express our gratitude to God for his abounding mercy and favor, and our appreciation of the fellowship and help of the brethren in the various fields where we have labored. Our only regret is that we have accomplished so little, when we had desired to do so much.

The total church membership at December 31, 1911, was 1622, an increase of 91 for the year. There were 1024 scholars in

the Bible School (including 299 Bible Class members) and 111 teachers.

It was decided that a special column be added to future statistical tables for the purpose of showing the number on the rolls of isolated members, and to give a list of names of such.

J. R. Clarke (Gore) read the Conference Essay, the subject being "New Zealand and Our Plea," or "The Holy Spirit's Work in Home Missions." The essayist reminded his hearers of the apostle's declaration, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel," and in the course of an able paper, sought to prove the truth of the statement that the church's missionary enterprises measure its progress. An imperative obligation to go beyond its own borders rested upon each church, and he emphasised the necessity of submitting to the influence of that power which worketh within them and is from above. He touched upon the fruits produced by a spirit-filled people. The spiritual necessity of the times demanded God in all their being. As had been said, the Christian life is an unanswerable argument in favor of Christ. Bro. Clarke was thanked for his paper, and it was resolved to recommend the churches to give special emphasis to the importance of personal work in soul-winning.

At 6.30 p.m., the delegates and other members of the churches sat down to tea in the Tabernacle. Following the tea, an F.M. rally was held. J. Inglis Wright presided, and the subject of Foreign Missions was then discussed from different aspects by T. J. Bull (Mataura), T. J. Melville (Mornington), J. R. Clarke (Gore), H. G. Harward (Oamaru), and R. Gebbie. The programme was interspersed with musical items, and a collection was taken up towards the expenses of the outgoing passages of Bro. F. L. Hadfield and family and Miss Brassett to Bulawayo.

On Saturday morning, after considerable discussion, the question of an official organ for Home and Foreign Missions was referred to the two Committees and the Conference Executive.

The Conference decided that next year's Home Mission offering be taken up in February, and affirmed a resolution from the General Conference to the different District Conferences recommending the establishment of a Dominion Church Extension Fund, and that a Dominion Evangelist and Organising Secretary be appointed.

It was resolved that it be an instruction to the Home Mission Committee to again secure the services of Mr. Harward at the termination of his present engagement with the Oamaru church.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—

Conference Executive.

President, T. J. Bull, Mataura.
Vice-President, J. M. Routledge, South Dunedin.

Secretary and Treasurer, J. R. Clarke, Gore.

Home Mission Committee.—C. Fleming McDonald, Chairman; J. M. Routledge, Treasurer; L. C. J. Schulenburg, Secretary; A. Roy, R. Gebbie, C. F. Sundstrum, and A. Thompson.

Foreign Mission Committee.—J. Inglis Wright, Chairman; T. J. Melville, Treasurer; J. L. S. Wright, Secretary; T. M. Turner, H. Holmes, Stanley McDonald, Mrs. T. Brown.

Next Conference will be held at Gore, and C. A. Batt will be essayist.

In the evening an H.M. rally was held, the speakers being C. F. McDonald, R. Gebbie, and H. G. Harward.

On Saturday afternoon a Bible School Conference of representatives from the Churches of Christ Bible Schools was held in the Tabernacle. C. Fleming McDonald being chairman. It was announced that during the year the first examination on "First Principles" has been conducted. C. A. Batt, of Invercargill, read a paper upon

"Difficulties of the Intermediate Department, and How to Overcome Them." An address and demonstration on work in the beginners' department was given by Mrs. H. Langford, of Christchurch. A recommendation from the General Conference as to the establishment of a Dominion Bible Schools' Union was affirmed, and it was decided to hold another examination on "First Principles" next year. It was resolved to recommend that the churches consider the necessity of providing increased funds for the proper carrying on of all the Bible Schools. On Sunday afternoon a children's demonstration in the Tabernacle was largely attended by scholars from the Dunedin and suburban Churches of Christ Bible Schools and their parents and friends. Several schools took part, and H. G. Harward delivered a fine address. On Sunday evening the Conference sermon was preached by T. J. Bull, of Maitauro, the subject being "The Holy Spirit's First Exposition of the Cross."

came independent, but put on record its appreciation of Bro. Parslow's work.

Preachers' furnished residences were urgently needed. At Gympie and Rosewood there were unfurnished preachers' residences, but at Tannymorel there was a furnished preacher's residence, and its size was 12ft. by 10ft. It cost about £25 to construct, and the brethren at Tannymorel deserved a hearty clap. We needed in most of the places visited better buildings. 48 persons had confessed Christ as Lord.

At 4 o'clock the subject of "Bible School Evangelism" was opened with a paper which had been forwarded by J. I. Mudford, and was followed with the reading of a Bible School Constitution by J. W. Parslow. The constitution was adopted, and a Bible School Executive, consisting of Bren. Quire, Skerman, Pascoe, Connington and Brooks, was appointed.

The Obituary report consisted of 13, and was received with deep silence.

At 5 o'clock the election of officers took place, and resulted as follows:—President, J. W. Parslow; Vice-President, Bro. Suchting; Secretary, A. Hutson; Treasurer, L. Gole; Assistant Secretary, J. I. Mudford; Executive Committee: Bren. George Green, F. A. Bignill, J. Swan, Wendorf, Connington, Alcorn, and Stubbin.

At 7.45 the Home Mission rally was begun. The new President was introduced, and after a few remarks, delivered an instructive and humorous address on "Immigrants and Home Missions." H. U. Rodger spoke on "The Divine Plea and Home Missions"; W. Strongman on "The Outposts of Home Mission Work," and A. W. Jinks on "The Secret of Progress." The singing of the Brisbane choir evoked appreciation.

On Saturday morning W. B. Hayes led the devotional meeting. At 10 o'clock a paper on "Literature and Our Work," was read by F. A. Bignill. A profitable discussion followed.

At 10.45 W. Waters presided, and an address on the work in the New Hebrides was given by F. J. Purdy. A vote of thanks was accorded the speaker. The Foreign Mission Committee was elected, and consisted of Bren. Suchting, Bignill, Enchelmaier, J. Swan, Bowd, G. Cane, and H. G. Blackie. The F.M. report showed that £210/12/2 had been contributed, which was 3/9 per member.

At 1.30, J. Swan led the devotional meeting. A. Hutson opened the subject of "The Bible College," with an excellent paper. A warm-hearted discussion followed. At 3 o'clock the sisters, who had been working hard and well, held their Conference.

At 7.45, Bro. Gole presided over the Foreign Mission demonstration. W. Waters spoke on "The Challenge of the Field," W. B. Hayes on "The Supreme Motive in Missions," and Bro. Purdy closed with an address that proved instructive to a degree. The choir rendered stirring selections.

Queensland Conference.

The Twenty-ninth Conference of the Associated Churches of Christ in Queensland was begun in the Ann-st. chapel, Brisbane, on April 4, with a temperance demonstration. The choir rendered a fine selection. Sister Miss E. McCorkindale's recitation evoked much appreciation, and two instructive and powerful addresses were delivered by Bro. A. Hutson (Boonah) and Mr. John Williams.

On Good Friday morning F. A. Bignill led the devotional meeting and spoke on "Love." He struck a happy key-note. T. F. Stubbin took the chair at 10 o'clock. Two new churches, Tannymorel and Albion, were heartily admitted to the Conference. New preachers, visitors and delegates were welcomed, and in response Bren. Strongman, H. U. Rodger, and T. C. Harward spoke a few words. The H.M. Committee's report was produced, and showed that progress had been made.

The afternoon session was opened with a devotional meeting, which was led by Bro. Keable. At 2 o'clock, church reports were given. Brisbane reported 25 increase in members; £35/11/6 for Foreign Missions; reduced building debt by £100; and established new cause at Albion. Albion reported 35 members, employing an evangelist, and 84 scholars in the Bible School. Boonah, 97 members, and net increase of 6. Bundamba reported building lined and ceiled, and the word faithfully preached. Eel Creek, 16 loyal members. Gympie reported young men working well, and several enquirers. Ipswich reported no numerical growth, but meetings keeping up.

Ma Ma Creek, net increase of 11, and a Bible School at Veredilla of 18 scholars opened. Maryborough reported a Y.P.S.C.E. of 29 members on the roll, but more activity was required. West Moreton Circuit churches reported good meetings and fine interest. Tannymorel reported church as healthy, and the average attendance was 99 per cent. Toowoomba reported 40 added during the year. Five Bible Schools were in existence, with 192 scholars and teachers. Bro. Stewart held a mission, and greatly uplifted the cause. An attempt was being made to reach people through teaching their children. Wooroolin reported a forward move, and one added through the State Evangelist's visit. Zillmere reported a net increase of 9.

At 2.30 p.m., the President delivered a short address, in which we were urged to pass on the good we had received by accepting Christ. This was followed with an address on "State Evangelistic Work," by A. W. Jinks. Bro. Jinks stated that he had visited 23 towns and districts, and had travelled more than 8000 miles. He had come into personal touch with the evangelists, and found them hard-working and self-sacrificing. He hoped the preacherless churches would increase the salaries and rally round the men they secured. We would be sorry to lose W. Waters, of Zillmere. The thanks of the Conference were due to F. G. Dunn for publishing letters, paragraphs and reports in the "Christian" relative to the cause in Queensland. New churches had been formed at Warwick and Albion, and the church at Tannymorel be-

West Australian Conference,

1912.

The Conference in Western Australia was held from April 1 to April 8, in the Lake-st. chapel, Perth. Beautiful weather prevailed throughout, and it was the belief of many that the closing meeting saw the conclusion of a most successful Conference. The delegates returned to their fields pleased with the prospects which the new year held out to them.

TEMPERANCE MEETING.

The Conference opened with a public Temperance meeting. Mr. G. Tregear, the President of the W.A. Alliance, spoke upon "Something About New Zealand and its No-License War." He stated that in New Zealand recently over £45,000 had been contributed by the churches and business people to fight the liquor evil, while the W.A. Alliance had scarcely a pound to carry out its work. He urged the members to support the party that pledged itself to clear and unmistakable legislation upon this great question.

C. A. G. Payne, of Maylands, said that while the church set out to win converts for Jesus Christ, it was also her duty to oppose the great social evils of the day.

During the evening an interesting programme of musical and elocutionary items was carried out.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY MEETING.

On Tuesday, April 2, the Foreign Mission meeting was held. The Conference President, W. B. Blakemore, presided, and in his opening address stated that the missionary spirit in the churches was an index to the spirituality of the members. We had raised £3900 for Foreign Missions, and we could be proud of our men in the foreign field.

J. Emblen spoke on the text, "Look on the fields." To meet the growing demands of the far-off lands we needed the telescopic vision, the microscopic vision, and the world-wide vision.

H. P. Manning spoke upon the subject, "Great Incentives." Missionaries accepted the call to foreign service because of (1) the intense need of the field; (2) love for the Master, and (3) the opportunities which were increasing every year for the cause of missions to the heathen nations of the world.

BIBLE SCHOOL SESSION.

The Bible School Union meeting was held on Thursday, April 4, at 8 p.m. The President, R. W. Ewers, presided, and in a brief opening address referred with pleasure to the efforts of the churches to increase the accommodation for the scholars in the schools. It was thought that the im-

portance of the work should command a higher place in the Conference gatherings, and a resolution that a Bible School committee be appointed by the General Conference was eventually carried.

BUSINESS SESSION.

The business session of the General Conference was commenced on Good Friday morning at 10.30. The chair was taken by W. B. Blakemore, the Conference President.

A hearty welcome was extended to J. Emblen and A. J. Ingham, who had recently arrived to take up evangelistic work in the Western State.

Delegates attended from the following churches:—Brookton, Boulder, Bunbury, Collie, East Pingelly, Fremantle, Harvey, Kalgoorlie, Maida Vale, Maylands, North Perth, Northam, Perth, and Subiaco.

Greetings were received from the Federal Executive, Federal Foreign Missionary Committee, the Conferences of N.S.W., Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria; Narrogin, W.A.; G. O. Burchill and H. Wright.

The President's address was very encouraging. Bro. Blakemore said that several churches were now meeting in substantial buildings, and that from the Bible School there had come 50 per cent. of the church's membership. There was increased activity, he said, in Bible School work among the great teachers and thinkers of the age. He spoke in condemnation of much of the teaching at the present time, which came from blind leaders of the blind. The President was warmly thanked for his excellent address.

The statistical table showed 17 churches with a membership of 1346, an increase of 95 members.

There were 13 Bible Schools and 1325 scholars, an addition of 156 scholars.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The following were elected:—President, C. A. G. Payne; Vice-President, E. R. Berry; Secretary, H. J. Banks; Assistant Secretary, R. W. Ewers; Treasurer, H. Wright. Home Mission Committee. [Names not supplied.]

Foreign Mission Committee:—W. B. Blakemore (Sec.), C. A. G. Payne (treas.), E. Eaton, H. Cole, J. Emblen, E. E. Nelson, J. Jeffrey, T. Robinson, W. Alexander.

Literature Committee:—D. M. Wilson (Sec.), A. Bell, G. O. Burchill.

Church Extension Committee:—H. J. Banks, D. G. Cteretko, G. R. Preston, H. Wright.

Bible School Committee:—D. M. Wilson (president), A. A. Lightfoot (sec.), W. B. Blakemore, E. R. Berry, E. E. Nelson.

Temperance Committee:—F. E. Buckingham, K. Campbell, G. Everett, Fowler, P. W. Miller, H. Miller, P. E. Wedd.

Church Council:—A. A. Lightfoot, A. Bell, J. Rhodes, E. E. Nelson, G. Everett, J. Emblen, H. J. Banks, E. R. Berry, W. B. Blakemore, H. Wright.

The report of the Home Mission Committee mentioned the work in Brookton, Bunbury, Collie, Claremont, Kalgoorlie, Northam and Maylands. The representatives of these fields gave encouraging reports of their work, and spoke hopefully of the prospects which the new year would bring to them.

H. J. Banks opened a discussion upon the question of appointing an Organising Secretary, and the meeting carried a resolution affirming the desirability of making such an appointment.

A resolution was also carried to the effect that the Committee be asked to put into circulation a Home Mission Bulletin.

The Home Mission rally attracted a large attendance in the evening. T. H. Scambler, in speaking upon "The Abundant Life," said that if we kept in touch with Jesus Christ, the source of all life, then our lives would overflow into channels of useful service. H. J. Banks spoke upon "The Call of the Ministry." The reason for the inadequate supply of preachers could be attributed to the almost impossible demands of the modern church, the uncertainty in men's minds of what the truth really was, the opening up in recent years of fields of Christian endeavor without the seeming restraints of the ministry, and the materialism of the age. He claimed that the ministry was the noblest and most glorious calling to which a man could give himself, that in scope of opportunity and resource it stood alone. He referred to its joys, its greatness, its splendid new opportunities to-day, and called for every young man that wanted to put his life where it would count for most in the uplift of the world, to become a preacher of the gospel. The call of the day was for men of great, strong hearts, broad of vision, educated and disciplined, who would enter the stubborn fields, master the difficult problems, and set the example of true heroism and self-sacrifice.

SATURDAY'S SESSION.

The business was resumed on Saturday morning.

A motion by D. M. Wilson, That a nominating committee be appointed for the election of committees, was agreed to, and a committee of five chosen. The Foreign Mission Committee's report, which was adopted, told of the missionaries engaged in the various fields. A system of regular weekly offerings was urged upon the attention of the delegates. The Chinese Class had met regularly and there were 14 scholars and 7 teachers. The workers were

commended for their zeal and earnestness, and the secretary spoke of the great need of additions to the staff of teachers. The Temperance Committee in their report pointed to the urgent necessity of reform in our liquor laws, and the Church Building Extension Committee told of good work done since last Conference. The Literature Committee had donated eight volumes to the Public Library, and had received £129 15/8 from the sale of literature.

In the afternoon a devotional meeting was held, and brief earnest prayers were

W.A. Sisters' Conference.

In the Lake-st. chapel the lady members of the Churches of Christ met for their seventh annual Conference. The whole day was utilised by them in considering the work of the past twelve months, and forming plans for the future. The morning and afternoon sessions were devoted entirely to business, while in the evening a large gathering of a social nature took place. At 10.45 a.m., Mrs. Campbell opened the proceedings of the day with a short devotional

and papers with a large number of tracts and home comforts and delicacies had been distributed during the 243 visits which during the twelve months had been paid to the various hospitals in the metropolis and Fremantle. Mrs. M. Burchill, Supt. of the Home Mission Committee, reported that £36 had been collected by the mite box system, and urged the Conference to aim at a much larger sum next year.

Mrs. M. Gardiner, Supt. of the Foreign Mission Committee, reported £27 having been collected for this work by penny offerings. A native missionary and a Bible woman have been supported during the year in the Island of Pentecost.

Mrs. A. Donnelly, the Supt. of the Temperance work, reported great progress in this work, and a great forward movement having been experienced.

The Dorcas Committee under Mrs. E. Preston has accomplished much. Three sewing rallies have been held. One for the orphan children in India, when 200 garments were made; the other two rallies being in aid of the metropolitan hospitals and the aboriginal home.

The other reports and notices of motion having been disposed of, the election of officers for the ensuing twelve months took place, and resulted as follows:—President, Mrs. J. M. B. Robinson; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. H. J. Banks, Mrs. Emblen, Mrs. Wilson; Treasurer, Mrs. Cecil; Secretary, Mrs. Burchill.

During the evening a varied programme was submitted to a large and appreciative audience. Bro. Scambler, from Kalgoorlie, gave a stirring address on "The One Thing Needful."

Live on the Mountain-top.

The true way to conquer temptations is not to fight them in detail, but to go up into a loftier region, where there cease to be temptations. How is it that grown men do not like the sweetmeats that used to tempt them when they were children? They have outgrown them. Then outgrow the temptations of the world! How is it that there are no mosquitos or malaria on the mountain-tops? They cannot rise above the level of the swamps by the river. Go up to the mountain-top, and neither malaria nor mosquito will follow you. Dwell in a region high above the temptations which buzz and sting, which infest and slay, on the lower levels.—A. McLaren.

The best way to discipline the conscience is to bring its authority into the trifle.—J. H. Jowett.

Never try to be popular, but only to do your duty and help others to do theirs.—Thomas Hughes.

Thrift divides the prizes of life to those who deserve them.—T. T. Munger.



A Snapshot at One Tree Hill, Fern Tree Gully, Vic.
(Federal Conference Picnic.)

engaged in. Short addresses upon the "Spirit-filled Life" were delivered by H. P. Manning, T. H. Scambler, A. J. Ingham, J. Emblen, and H. J. Banks.

CONFERENCE SERMON.

There was a large attendance on Sunday afternoon, when T. H. Scambler preached the Conference Sermon, the subject being, "Broad Men at the Narrow Gate." The address was indeed inspiring and uplifting. Bro. Scambler said that the broad and narrow way represented those who rejected and those who accepted God's gracious offer of salvation. In any profession it was the broad, the great and noble man who accomplished the journey, while the narrow man, limited in intellect and contracted in sympathy, was almost always left behind. He spoke upon the temperance question, international peace, social and industrial reform, and world-wide missions. Men who lost themselves in the humanitarian calls of the day, and who sought to introduce the reign of heaven here below, walked with our Saviour upon the same narrow road.

PICNIC.

The picnic was held on Easter Monday at Crawley Park. The weather was delightful and the picnickers returned home tired but pleased with a splendid day's outing.

meeting, after which the President of the Sisters' Conference, Mrs. H. J. Banks, took the chair, when some 36 delegates, representing sixteen churches, responded to the roll call. After lunch a large attendance of the female members watched the proceedings with evident interest. The President, in her address, lightly touched on the past year's work, and exhorted the sisters to still continue, as there was a greater need for workers in the future than there had been in the past. Greetings were then read from like assemblies in N.S.W., Victoria, and South Australia. The reports of the various committees were then considered. The Conference Secretary, Mrs. E. Cecil, in presenting her annual report on the year's work, showed that the various organisations and committees had accomplished much during the last twelve months, and that all departments were in a flourishing and vigorous condition, and that the outlook for the future was of the brightest. Various suggestions were offered in the Secretary's lengthy report, and a lively interest was manifested in the discussions which followed. The Treasurer, Mrs. D. M. Wilson, reported that £117 had been collected from the female members of the various churches, and used for different purposes, leaving a credit balance of £8/12/10.

Mrs. M. Richardson, Supt. of the Hospital Committee, reported that 2826 books

Victorian Sisters' Conference.

1912.

The Twenty-seventh Sisters' Conference was held in Lygon-st. chapel on Wednesday, April 3, 1912. Mrs. J. Pittman presided.

The morning devotions were led by Mrs. G. B. Moysey.

Rules of order were read by the President.

Letters of greetings to be sent to English sisters, and Sisters Gouldthorpe and Morris.

Greetings were received from Mrs. Gouldthorpe, Mr. and Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Norfolk, Mrs. T. Mitchell, Mrs. P. A. Dickson, S.A.; W.A. Sisters, per Mrs. Little; Queensland Sisters, Mrs. Primus; S.A. Executive, Miss A. E. Manning; Sisters of Hobart church, E. Manning; Hobart Executive, A. Whitworth; Mrs. D. A. Ewers, S.A.; Mrs. A. B. Maston, N.S.W.; Dorcas Society, Balaklava, S.A.; Mrs. Weir, S.A.; Mrs. P. Pittman, Daltonganj; Miss Mary Thompson, Harda; Mrs. Strutton, Baranmati; Mrs. P. A. Davey, Japan.

Mrs. W. H. Allen was appointed essayist for 1913.

Thanks to F. G. Dunn for printing Sisters' page in "Christian."

Notices of motion by Miss Jerrems were as follows:—1. That the Associated Churches of Christ in Victoria be requested to pay one penny and upwards per head per annum for sister members, and that such sum be paid to the Treasurer of Women's Conference on or as near March 1 as possible. 2. That the Women's Conference of Associated Churches of Christ take up the work of visiting the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum.

Miss Hill, who has been our faithful Secretary for 22 years, now retires from office. It is with regret we accept her resignation. Mrs. Chown presented our sister with a purse of sovereigns, the token of our love and appreciation of splendid services rendered.

The following officers and Committees were elected:—President, Mrs. Chown; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. W. H. Allen and Mrs. Huntsman; Treasurer, Miss Jerrems; Secretary, Miss Rometsch; Asst. and Financial Secretary, Miss Huntsman. Home Mission Committee:—Supt., Mrs. Hagger; Sisters Forbes, Pittman, A. R. Lyall, Craigie, Haddow, Millis, McLellan, Quick, Huntsman. Dorcas:—Supt., Mrs. Martin; Sisters Conning, Conner, Durbridge, Hill, Kemp, Kettle, McColl, Tully, Zellus. Foreign Missions:—Supt., Mrs. Ludbrook; Sisters R. Lyall, W. A. Kemp. Hospital Visitation:—Supt., Mrs. Thurgood; Sisters Petchey, Cameron, Jerrems, Whittington, Tully, Fischer. Temperance:—Supt.,

Mrs. Manifold; Sisters Millis, Sharp, Rankine, Forbes, Ray. Prayer Meeting.—Supt., Mrs. Trinnick; Sisters Kelson, Potts, Baker, Wilson, Sharp, Kindergarten.—Supt., Miss Jerrems; Sisters Thompson, Sharp, Millis, Eastman, Tully.

Afternoon devotions were led by Mrs. Huntsman, Mrs. Ennis engaging in prayer. Solo, "Low at Thy Feet," Mrs. R. Thompson. Mrs. Chown welcomed visiting sisters. Sisters Rankine and Manifold responded. Obituary given by Mrs. R. Lyall, told of 22 sisters who had gone to their eternal rest. Short talks were given by Sister Fox, President of N.S.W. Sisters' Conference; Mrs. Stevens, S.A.; Mrs. Colville, Qld.; Miss Terrell, India. Mrs. Allen led evening devotions. Solo, "Great Lord of Life," Miss Morley. Essay, "For the Sake of Others," Miss Pittman. We were favored with an item by the ladies of Swanston-st. choir. Mrs. C. L. Thurgood and Miss Cane very kindly contributed papers. Mrs. Hocking and Madame McClelland delighted us with their beautiful solos.

Resolutions were proposed by Mrs. B. J. Kemp, and read by Miss Moysey.

Introduction of new officers, Mrs. McLellan.

Collection, £7/7/8½.

It was a pleasure to have with us the following sisters:—Miss Terrell, India; Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Andrews, Mrs. Kingsbury, Mrs. Ball, Mrs. Clydesdale, Mrs. Ashwood, Mrs. Hunter, Sydney; Mrs. C. L. Thurgood, Miss Bloor, Mrs. Weir, Mrs. Rudd, Mrs. Curtis, Mrs. Charlick, Mrs. Waldron, Adelaide; Mrs. Burrows, Mrs. Colville, Miss Stubbins, Miss Stabe, Brisbane; Mrs. Greenwood, Queensland; Mrs. Little, Perth; Mrs. Taylor, Subiaco, W.A.; Mrs. Adams, Hobart; Mrs. Leitch, Launceston; Upham, W.A.; Mrs. Oram, Swan Hill; Mrs. Dudley (2), Shepparton; Mrs. Hovey, Brim; Mrs. Spicer, Mrs. Ross, Castlemaine; Mrs. Southwick, Mrs. Heritage, Bendigo; Mrs. McLellan, Toongabbie; Mrs. Reid, Ballarat; Mrs. Rentoul, Jumbunna; Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Smith, Kerang; Mrs. Warmbrun, Mrs. Funston, Berwick; Mrs. Nightingale, Mrs. Emerson, Emerald; Mrs. Chandler, Montrose; Mrs. Christopher, Geelong; Mrs. Sheehan, Mrs. Chapman, Red Hill.

RESOLUTIONS.

Thanks:—To our Heavenly Father for his loving care and sparing mercy during the year. To the officers of Lygon-st. and Swanston-st. churches, for use of their buildings. To the Editor of the "Christian" for giving us space in paper monthly. To those who have sung for us, prepared

papers, and helped make our meetings enjoyable.

That we discourage by every means in our power the desecration of the Lord's day.

That we make it a matter of conscience not to deal with licensed grocers, or patronise restaurants or cafes which sell intoxicating drink; that as a sisterhood we aid the temperance work in all ways that we possibly can.

That as wives and mothers we encourage work among the young, especially strengthening the home-tie, and encouraging the children to commit to memory portions of Scripture.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, 1911-12.

Receipts.

Balance, March, 1910	46 5 1
Special Contributions	7 0 0
Collection at Conference, 1911	6 3 2
Contributions Account—	
Conference Expenses	1 10 6
Proceeds, Sale of Programmes	7 6 0
Proceeds, Sale of Tickets, Sisters' Tea	8 15 0
Proceeds, Sale of Tickets, Dinner and Tea, at Conference, 1911	39 7 6
	£76 10 0

Balance to Executive Account

1 14 1½

£78 4 1½

Expenditure.

Catering Expenses and cost of Provisions	£52 17 9
Sundry Expenses	2 3 1½
Rent of Independent Hall	2 0 0
Caretaker's Expenses	1 15 2
Publishing Expenses	16 13 0
Secretary's Expenses for Postage, etc.	2 14 1
	£78 4 1½

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE, 1911-12.

Collections at Executive Meetings, etc. 49 4 3
Special Collection at Miss Grimley's Meeting 0 12 0

Balance from Conference Account	£1 14 1½
Sundry Expenses, Wreaths, etc.	1 1 11
Donations	3 1 0
Donation, Miss Grimley	0 12 0
Allowance to Hospital Visitors	2 5 0
Printing and Calendars	0 13 9
	£9 7 9½

Balance, Cash in hand

0 8 5½

£9 16 1

C. JERREMS, Treasurer.
LOUIE ROMETSCH, Asst. Fin. Sec.

Audited and found correct.

March 26, 1912. R. LYALL

President's Address.

The good hand of our God has brought us through another stage of our journey heavenward. His love and power have been exercised toward us amid all life's continuous needs and changing scenes, and we raise afresh our thankful Ebenezer. We have not sought to achieve great things, but simply to lay hold of the work lying near, to show forth faith by works, and to obey the Lord's command to love one another. Some of our sisters have passed through sickness and suffering, but they

have realised that God was a very present help in time of trouble. From the homes of some, loved ones have been taken to rest, "till He come."

The Committees of the departments took up the work allotted to them by the Conference with a right good will. Prayer meeting, Dorcas, Hospital Visitation, Temperance, Home and Foreign Missions, all showed by their energy that, having put their hand to the plough, they had no intention of looking back. The Foreign Mission offering was a great success, showing that this Committee had done its best to make the need for the work known to the members, and we are glad to say £1100 8/8 was collected for the support of the gospel in heathen lands. The Home Mission department did all in its power to interest the members of the churches in the need for evangelising our home land, Victoria. The Supt., Mrs. E. Davies, of loving memory, set her mind on collecting £500 by October. The money was greatly needed. It was decided to hold a rally, and to help this to be a success the sisters were written to, and asked to give 2/6 before October. The time for the rally came, and there was a good attendance in the Masonic Hall, but the Master had other plans for the worker. She was not able to attend the meeting through sickness; but sending a message to the meeting, she sent with it a cheque for £10, and this proved the last time she was able to write. The Lord took her to himself, and we women mourn the loss of a sister, a friend, a co-worker, a leader. We thank God for the happy memories we have of her.

It seemed strange that, just a few weeks before Mrs. Davies was called home, our beloved Hon. President, Mrs. Thurgood, should be parted for a time from her dear husband. Our hearts go out in loving sympathy to her. We know how strong the tie was that bound them together, and every woman that knew her and our late brother realises what it means to her. Praise God, she is full of faith, and hope, believing that the Master doeth all things well.

It does not do for us to dwell upon the past. It is our duty to look forward, and while we have the time and opportunity to do our part to help on the work of the Lord. If we look backward, we shall remember our many failures, the memory of which will unfit us for future service. We must aim to be like the Apostle Paul, and press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. His life and heart were given to the Lord. He felt his own weakness, but went to Christ, the fountain-head, for strength to press on, and that fountain is open to each one of us, and we can get strength according to our need.

We realise how many privileges and incentives to work we have in the present day. The Kindergarten work in our Sunday Schools, and the Bible School itself, are on the upgrade. The year's teaching

on "First Principles" will bear fruit in the future.

The Girls' Mission Bands that have been established must make for good. The training of our young girls that they may understand the need for missionary work at home and abroad, and give them a desire to help on the work of the Lord, is a work to be commended.

The College of the Bible has its band of consecrated students who are fitting themselves for efficient service in the Master's vineyard. Already many of them are successfully preaching the gospel in various parts of Australia and foreign fields. This fact alone must be an encouragement to all who are anxious for the spread of the gospel.

We members of the Church of Christ praise God that our eyes have been opened to see the need for temperance work. We believe there is salvation for society from drink, through the total abstinence propaganda, and the Pauline doctrine of not making our brother to offend. We believe there is salvation of God for the government in universal prohibition of the liquor traffic.

We are taught that God works by means. If we put our trust in him, happy are we. He made heaven and earth. He keepeth truth for ever. We know in whom we have believed. We have a sure word of testimony, so we are encouraged to work on.

If we would be Christ-like, we must help to win souls for his kingdom. A writer has said there is a nobleness and even sacredness in work. Whatever a man, or woman, may be, there is always hope for those who earnestly work. From the heart of a worker rises the celestial force, breathed into him by the Almighty God, awakening him to all knowledge, to all nobleness.

Let us begin the year with a keynote of praise, and seek for strength for the unknown future, giving thanks for the known mercies of the past. Let us praise the Lord for all that he has done for us, and for all he has promised to do. The remembrance of these things may well increase our faith and animate our hope; and though we cannot expect that the untrodden path before us will be all sunshine, we believe that he who has helped us hitherto will never leave nor forsake us. For past mercies, for present mercies, for promised mercies, we will praise the Lord at all times. May we all be able to enter into the sentiment of the following lines:—

One day, I know, I shall stand in his presence,
Stand in the light that shall never grow dim,
Clad in the robe of my Lord's own providing,
God shall behold me, safe hidden in him.

One day I know—O the courage this brings me!
Strength for to-day—though the eyes may be dim,

All that can come shall but lead me to offer
Praise from this heart that is hidden in him.

HOME MISSIONS.

The Superintendent appointed at last Conference, the late Mrs. E. Davies, enthusiastically took up the work allotted to her, and roused others to do the same. The success that followed our sister's efforts should be a stimulus to all those who are anxious that the primitive gospel should be preached in every part of Victoria. The work is very encouraging, especially from a financial standpoint. After paying all expenses to the end of March, there is a credit balance of £171/4/1, the largest on record. This is mainly due to the splendid collection, £640. The special sisters' rally raised the sum of £172. This, with the sisters' collections and mite boxes, made a total of £394, the largest amount ever collected in one year. Since the inception of the Sisters' Conference, £4,468 has been collected, an average of £170 per year.—L. Pittman, Supt.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

It is our high privilege to present a brief report of the work of the Foreign Mission Committee. We believe the importance of this work is being more fully realised than ever before by the churches of Christ in this land. As we become seized with the great missionary spirit we withdraw our interest, our means, and the disposal of our time from the passing things of this world, devoting them all to the carrying out of our divine Master's command.

India.

Harda.—Sister Mary Thompson, ever uppermost in our thought as our first missionary to the heathen, is working on this field. She is welcomed into many of the homes (which are closed to men), where she can teach the people of Jesus and his love. Sarubai, a Bible woman, and Bro. Shah, a native evangelist, assist Miss Thompson in her labors.

Baramati.—Bro. Strutton, besides teaching and preaching, has superintended the industrial work, enlarged the work at Diksal, and is taking his share in the affairs of the town as a councillor. Bro. and Sister Watson are at Diksal, preaching the gospel and caring for the sick. Sister R. Tilley is loved by the children in Baramati. Sister E. Terrell, late worker as missionary nurse on our station, is at present in Melbourne, recuperating after a severe illness. At Baramati, six Bible women and nine native preachers are employed.

Daltonganj.—Bro. and Sister G. P. Pittman, engaged by the English Committee, have been very successful in the language study, Bro. Pittman taking second place in the examination. There is a church of 16 members, with a Bible School of 23 scholars. Sister A. D. Allen is now at Bankipore, studying the language and gaining experience in mission work.

China.

Shanghai.—Sister Rose Tonkin is our sole representative in China. She works among the factory women, girls and children, and is teaching a class of women, several of whom have decided for Christ during the past year. An interesting feature of this work is the family of orphan and neglected girls for whom Miss Tonkin is caring and endeavoring to train for future service as Bible women.

Japan.

Bro. and Sister Davey work faithfully in Tokyo. Sister Davey writes: "I have spoken before of the hindrances they experience in making a decision to enter the Christian life. They are permitted to learn to sing, or cook, and even to avail themselves of the moral and elevating influence of Christian teaching; but to avow themselves believers in and followers of Christ is quite another question." Let us ever remember the difficulties of this mission, praying that God may use our sister that ere long many of the women may yield to the Saviour in glad obedience.

New Hebrides.

Aoba.—A change of workers has taken place here owing to Bro. Purdy's ill-health. For the time being, Bro. and Sister Waters, returned missionaries from South Africa, are in charge of the station. Bro. and Sister G. Goodwin, missionaries designate for Aoba, are now relieving Bro. and Sister Filmer at Pentecost. They hope to go to Aoba and settle there.

Pentecost.—During the year 45 have been baptised into Christ. Bro. and Sister Filmer have preached the gospel to the natives, befriended them in trouble, and helped them in illness.

Chinese Work.

Chinese work in Australia is being maintained. As a result of faithful effort on the part of teachers and workers, 13 have been added to the church, making a total of 97 Chinese brethren. 130 attend educational classes.

Items of Interest.

It is interesting to note that medical treatment has been given to 17,973 cases in Harda, where Miss Thompson works.

In Diksal and Baramati, 453 cases were treated in four months.

Mrs. Zelius has again collected funds to support four Bible women.

A feature of the year's work has been the forming of six mission bands amongst the girls of our churches.

We appeal to you women to think of the women in heathen lands. Their degradation is appalling, their sufferings beyond description.—H. C. Ludbrook, Supt.

BIBLE WOMEN IN INDIA AND CHINA.

At our Conference in 1905, the claims of China were laid before us. Since that time, £15 per year has been raised for Miss Tonkin's Bible woman.

Our thoughts were turned to our new station at Baramati, and for four years we have paid the salary of a Bible woman for Mrs. Strutton. Last year we felt that more help should be given to Mary Thompson, and we were able to send on the amount needed for another Bible woman for her.

These amounts have always been paid six and twelve months in advance. Total amount collected up to date, £275/11/3; balance in hand, £23/7/1.

In looking back we think the sisters have every reason to be thankful for what they have been able to accomplish, and it should spur them on to greater usefulness in the future.—Eliza Zelius.

HOSPITAL VISITATION.

The following hospitals have been visited:—Alfred, Austin, Eye and Ear, Homoeopathic, Queen Victoria, Children's, Benevolent Asylum, Melbourne, Women's, Old Folks' Home. Have paid 266 visits, distributed 2602 books and magazines. The visitors are Sisters Petchey, Morris, Cameron, Jerrens, Tully, Way, Thurgood. We take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to those who have so generously given us flowers, fruits, books, magazines, etc., also Swanston-st. and General Dorcas Societies for garments for needy ones, and to Sister Morris and Bro. Fischer for collecting funds for Bro. Herbert, who appreciates all kindness shown him.—Elizabeth Thurgood, Supt.

PRAYER MEETING REPORTS.

PRAYER MEETING COMMITTEE.—It has been our privilege during the year to hold 14 meetings in chapel, cottage and tent, and everywhere we have been received most cordially. In each church we have found an atmosphere of prayerful devotion among the "mothers in Israel," and also the younger sisters who attend, which speaks well for the future of the church of Christ. We trust that not only have we received good, but justified the Committee's existence by scattering words of hope and encouragement as we travelled from place to place.—M. Trinnick, Supt.

NORTH FITZROY.—During the year 30 meetings have been held, with an average attendance of 17. We acknowledge God's loving kindness, and thank him for the year of peace and harmony which has existed among us. A visit from the Conference Prayer Meeting Committee was much appreciated. Sickness and death have again visited us, and we say, "Thy will be done." Needy cases have been aided, and £1/12/- was given in Christmas cheer.—M. W. Kelly.

WINDSOR.—About 30 sisters meet for praise and prayer on Monday evenings. During the year the Prayer Meeting Committee favored us with a visit. United prayer meetings have been held during the past month to ask God's blessing on the forthcoming mission.—H. Lindsay.

SWANSTON-ST.—Sisters have held 20 meetings for prayer and praise, the average attendance being 18. We have been strengthened and refreshed by this communion with our heavenly Father and with each other, and we thank God for the privilege of coming to him in prayer. A visit from the Prayer Meeting Committee in June was much appreciated.—C. Jerrens.

MIDDLE PARK.—The sisters have held 12 meetings; average attendance, 15. We were pleased to have with us at our anniversary the Prayer Meeting Committee. The meetings during the year have been better attended. Some splendid papers, readings, etc., have been given by the members. The sick and needy ones have been visited and helped.—L. R. Martin.

SOUTH YARRA.—We meet every Thursday afternoon, when a short time is spent in Bible reading and prayer. The visits of the Prayer Meeting Committee are much enjoyed, the united fellowship around the throne of grace binding us together more closely in Christian love.—A. B. Tucker.

BOX HILL.—During the year 21 meetings have been held. The visits of the Prayer Meeting Committee are much appreciated. Sisters spend their time in Bible study and prayer. All who attend take an active part in the meetings and are strengthened by waiting upon the Lord in prayer.—A. M. Smith.

MORELAND.—On March 6 the Prayer Meeting Committee visited us. Mrs. Trinnick presided over a good meeting. Papers and readings given by our visiting sisters were most helpful. Quite a number expressed their appreciation and enjoyment of the meeting.

KINDERGARTEN.

Since closing the North Melbourne Kindergarten, the Committee have been employed in introducing the Kindergarten into our Bible Schools. In schools where there is both a Kindergarten and cradle roll the latter has naturally become a part of the former, and the prospective Kinders are watched over with loving interest.

The Brighton School was the first to adopt a Kindergarten. It was organised by Miss Sharp at the end of 1900. At first the teachers had only the ordinary school furniture; but by degrees the necessary equipment, chairs, blackboards, sand-trays, etc., were obtained. A piano would be gratefully accepted from any kindly disposed giver. The staff of teachers consists of superintendent, assistant superintendent, secretary, organist, and 7 teachers. The number of Kinders on the roll is 74; average attendance, 50, and 120 babies on cradle roll. In addition to this, Sister Holland has 11 little ones in her own house.

Middle Park was next in the field, Bro. McIntosh carrying on a good work among the children.

Ascot Vale.—Miss McGregor reports 45 names on the roll, with an average attendance of 30. They have 36 chairs, a blackboard, and other requisites.

Fitzroy organised a Kindergarten in September last. This is superintended by Sister Daisy Swain, who has two helpers. They are well equipped, having the loan of the North Melbourne fixtures. The attendance has grown from 15 to 35.

Fitzroy and Brighton had Christmas boxes for the little ones in December.

Sister Allie Taylor, of Castlemaine, reports Kindergarten methods have been introduced into the primary class with good results. It secures the attention and attendance of the children. A good sand tray adds much to the successful teaching of the lesson, and gains the interest of the youngest scholars. 36 on the roll, and 28 on cradle roll.

At Bendigo Sister Trounce has this work in hand. When the Kindergarten was adopted in May, there were 20 names on the roll; now there are 60. The cradle roll numbers 45. Through the kindness of the church members and the "mothers" Sister Trounce has procured a carpet, 52 chairs (a rocker for honor chair), a blackboard, and some pictures. There are five assistants in this class.

Sister Ida Streader gives a glowing account of the Kindergarten at Golden Square. The attendance has increased threefold since August. The men of the church formed a working bee and

built a large room, and the social committee provided refreshments for the workers. They have 20 chairs, and require more, which, judging by the spirit shown, will soon be acquired.

South Melbourne Bible School is also going forward. Miss Mill and three helpers carry on the Kindergarten there. They have 25 chairs (lent by the Committee), blackboard, sand-trays, boxes of blocks, and plasticine.

Sister Herbert Morris is opening up the work at Ballarat. We hope for a good report from that place presently.

Swanston-st. Bible School commenced a Kindergarten in February, with Miss Lee as superintendent. They have 12 chairs (lent by the Committee), a piano, pictures, and a few other requisites.

Some teachers omitted the attendance, but we have at least 317 names on the Kindergarten roll, and 218 on the cradle roll. Advance, Victoria—C. Jerrens, Sec.

DORCAS REPORTS.

GENERAL DORCAS SOCIETY.—Ten meetings held during the year, commencing in May. Average attendance, 12. 64 garments made; 135 donated to needy cases, also cash donations, £18/15/-. Donations to society have been received from several sympathisers, consisting principally of worn garments. Two donations of cash have been received, one from Bro. Goudie, the other from Miss Hill. A large parcel from our friends at Berwick was thankfully received.

Receipts, £14/2/8; expenditure, £8/3/1½; balance, £5/19/7½. Goudie Fund.—Sept. 29, by cheque, £27; balance from last year, £26; total, £53. Expenditure, £43/8/9; balance in hand, £10.

BOX HILL.—Started work on April 20, 1911. Three baptismal garments made, also dresses for mission work box. Collections for the work, £6/5/3. Sisters meet every Thursday for prayer, and take home sewing. Money collected is used for material, and for church aid work.

SWANSTON-ST.—Society held 17 meetings, with average attendance of 9. A large number of sisters have taken part, and many unable to attend the meetings have shown practical sympathy by donating of their substance freely. They mourn the death of two old and tried workers in Mrs. J. A. Davies and Mrs. Walker. The list of work comprises quilts, bed jackets, and various other garments for Children's Hospital and Melbourne Benevolent Asylum. A sewing machine has been purchased and old ones repaired. Gifts of material have been received, 44 donated garments and 55 new garments distributed to Dorcas cases. Receipts—Collected from Society, £15/4/-; expenditure, £15/2/-; balance, 2/-.

BENDIGO.—From March to December 20 meetings were held, average attendance of 9. Having over £9 in hand, we were enabled to do a good deal of work in various ways. Families were helped with material, clothing, groceries and wood. Rent was paid, part of an undertaker's bill settled; and in some cases, financial assistance was given. Besides this, we had in the winter twelve pairs of blankets from the "Mayoress' Blanket Fund" to distribute. Sisters worked most enthusiastically for our Xmas Fair, with the result that we started work this year with a credit balance of over £27.

LYGON-ST.—Has held its weekly meetings during the year with an average attendance of 13. There has been a good deal of activity amongst the members in helping needy cases, working for the church, and preparing for the annual sale of work. We have made and given quilts for the College of the Bible.

SOUTH RICHMOND.—35 meetings held during the year. Average attendance, 6. Garments given away, 200; besides parcels of groceries, etc., to needy cases. The Cheltenham Society donated a parcel containing 180 garments, also a parcel of clothing, for our sale of gifts, which were much appreciated. Christmas gifts to the value of £5/15/- were also distributed. Our annual sale of gifts for Dorcas work brought in the sum of £18/10/-. We have to thank the Junior Endeavor and the young people for their help.

NORTH RICHMOND.—Many needy cases have been relieved. Wood, coal, and groceries have been given away, also parcels of clothing. Many visits to the sick have been made, and dainties taken to them. A machine has been bought, which is found very useful.

CASTLEMAINE.—The Society has been started a few months. A good machine has been purchased, and they hope in future reports to have much to tell. The meetings are held weekly.

PRESTON.—Work was started on June 21, 1911, with 21 members on the roll. It was decided to work afternoons and evenings. The average attendance the first 9 weeks was 8 in the afternoons and 7 in the evenings; afterwards dropping to 4 in the afternoon and 5 in the evenings. 21 garments were given away, and some parcels of groceries. Sick visitation has been attended to. Other work done by these sisters properly comes under the heading of church aid work.

BALLARAT.—Secretary reports that 19 meetings have been held, with an average attendance of 9. Collections made at sewing meetings amounted to £3/4/-. Garments made and given away, 31, also £1 spent in groceries, 1 pair of boots, 18 yards of material, and £2 in cash. Donations to the Society: Dorcas social collection, £2/17/-; other donations, 14/-; also donations of firewood, one quilt, and parcel of clothing.

SOUTH YARRA.—The Dorcas Class was organised on March 30, 1911. The class meets weekly on Thursday, 2 to 4 p.m., with a quarter of an hour interval for devotional exercises led by the sisters, visiting sisters being present on several occasions. We have two sewing machines, which enable us to expedite the work. Our funds are gained by voluntary contributions from the members of the church, a box being placed in the church porch for this purpose. New material and clothes have been freely given by the members, as well as parcels of left off clothing. Through rendering needed help we have gained scholars for our Sunday School. 109 new and left off clothing (garments) were given away.

MIDDLE PARK.—12 meetings, with an average attendance of 15 members. We have been kept busy and have helped needy cases as follows:—6 baskets of groceries, bread, meat, firewood, and 78 garments, etc. Receipts for year, £2/17/7½; expenditure, £1/18/0½; balance in hand, 19/7.

CHELTENHAM.—The Society resumed work on March 16, 1911, and continued until November 30, 1911. During that period the sisters worked for the Burwood Boys' Home, the Foundling Hospital and Infants' Home, Alfred Hospital, Benevolent Asylum, Cheltenham, Balmmain-st., and local cases of need were attended to. Secondhand articles have been repaired and sent to Balmmain-st. The number of sisters who attend is not great, but those who do, work with willing hands.

BRIGHTON.—Held 35 meetings—25 sewing, 8 prayer, and 2 mothers' meetings—the two latter being splendidly attended. We have had visits from Prayer Meeting and Foreign Mission Committees. 48 garments have been made. Several needy cases have been helped both with money and clothes, one parcel sent to the Women's Hospital value £1/16/-. Two little frocks were made for the parcel for Mrs. Filmer.

HAWTHORN.—The Hawthorn sisters have worked well during the past year. In all, over 100 visits have been paid. Many useful garments have been given away, and home comforts given to the sick. One afternoon in the month has been set aside to mend garments for the Burwood Boys' Home.

CHURCH AID WORK.

In addition to Dorcas work, the sisters do a good deal of what is more properly termed church aid work. We shall give briefly some of the work done by the various societies:—

LYGON-ST.—Held a very successful sale of work during the year, when the large amount of £90 was raised. Most of this, we understand, has been devoted to helping the church. The sum of £10 has been donated towards the fund for the individual communion cups. The society has also contributed towards the fund for the support of the "Monthly Messenger."

SOUTH YARRA.—Through rendering needed help, this society has gained new scholars for the Bible School. By contributing to the Christmas tree for Junior Endeavorers, the society has also helped the school.

MIDDLE PARK.—One of the sisters in this society has acted as missionary collector, another has collected £10/0/6 for accessories needed by the church. Another has paid the amount needed for the cleaning of the church; the society has also provided a cover for the organ, and linen table cloth for Sunday morning service.

BALLARAT.—Has made 28 articles of wearing apparel, which were sold and proceeds given to building fund, realising £4/11/-.

PRESTON.—The sisters here have, through their sale of work, been enabled to contribute the sum of £30 to the church.

HAWTHORN.—The sisters have raised £46 towards a new vestry during last year. They held a very enjoyable picnic in the Botanical Gardens on March 7, and hope to start work again on Thursday, 14th, with renewed interest.

"In simple trust like theirs who heard
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow thee."

For the Sake of Others.

Essay, Read at the Victorian Sisters' Conference,
By Miss Pittman.

Every person in some degree exercises an influence over those with whom he associates. He may be entirely unconscious of it, but nevertheless it is true that he is either a help or a hindrance to his fellow-creature. He is either leading him on to higher and nobler attainments, or dragging him away from all that makes life pure and holy. We are each responsible, and God will judge us as to whether we have used that influence aright, or have abused it.

I would draw your attention first of all to the attitude of the Christian towards the world. He lives for the sake of the world. Dr. Christlieb says that "the Christian is the world's Bible, and people will read no other." How careful then it should make us, so that our lives may endure the gaze of the world's searching eye. Another writer says that "our influence never dies. It lives on for ever in the lives of others." The chief desire of every true Christian is that the world may be converted to God. No true follower of Christ will be content to sit at ease in Zion; his constant thought will be to spread abroad the news of redeeming love. When some great joy comes into our lives, we feel that we should like all those around us to participate in that joy. How much more then, when we have received the pardoning love of God into our hearts, should we desire that others might share it too!

For the sake of others. Christ pleased not himself. He even gave his life for the world. Do we realise the glorious position we occupy as Christian women? Our highest aim should be, so to live, so to walk, that the world will see in us the Christ-life, and then our influence will tell. We need a firmer grasp on eternal things, and more devotedness to his service, if we are to bring the world to Christ. No half-hearted measures will suffice; we must be wholly his. We must not try to serve two masters. Let God have all our thoughts. Our lives must be pure and holy, unspotted from the world. For the sake of others—let that thought predominate. The world is ever ready to single out the careless Christian who sees no harm in this thing or that, and it laughs—and the laugh is one of scorn. It says, Where is the difference? It sees no difference between the church and the world. Let us see to it that we avoid every appearance of evil, much less participate in it. The contrast between the child of God and the careless worldling will have to be seen before the world can be converted to him. And in a large measure we are responsible. God is looking down, and he yearns over a wicked world. He sees his own children taking part in and patronising the very things which have sent many a pure soul into the downward path. Oh! what is our influence over the gay and thoughtless throng? Are we afraid to speak out, are we afraid of offending our worldly friends, and for this reason do we partake of its ques-

tionable pleasures? Let us not be mistaken, for, by being loyal to our profession, we shall be thought a deal more of. Only the ignorant will scoff and jeer. Dear sisters, do not misunderstand me as to this matter of pleasures. We all ought to be able to discriminate between those which are known to be harmful, and those which are innocent. The point I wish to impress is this, that seeing we are followers of Christ and his commission has been laid upon every one to "go, preach the gospel to every creature," we are either by our lives doing this, or walking in direct opposition to Christ's will. There are many dear women (now at rest) whom it has been our privilege to honor and love for their works' sake. Their sweet influence over our own lives has been felt, and over the lives of many outside the fold of Christ. Though they are dead to the world, the fragrance of their saintly lives is still present with us. Yes, there is a wonderful power in godly womanhood.

Christianity is peculiarly a religion of love. How best can we put our love into practical use? We can manifest our love for Christ in our church life. Are we loyal to the church? Are we using up our energy for the cause of Jesus? "Not to be ministered unto, but to minister." This beautiful thought should permeate our whole being. Have we not all felt the joy in giving out our love, our gifts to his service? Have we not realised many a time, the truth of that verse which says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive"? The church needs our loyal support, the individual members need the sympathy and love of their brethren. The church should be the Christian's home, and we should become so attached to it, that we should long to be present at all its services. Do we give the meetings of the church first place? Do we train the children to love the house of God? Are we workers in the Bible School, and so using up that secret power within us over the young? Can we expect the children to become useful workers in the church if we do not show them the importance of assembling for worship and the study of God's Word? There is so much attraction in the world to-day that the young members have little chance of teaching along the right lines. At present it would appear that many of those growing up are given over entirely to worldly pursuits, judging by their non-attendance at the services of the church. In the future years there will be an outcry for suitable men to take part in the services, and fill the different positions assigned to them, because of the careless manner in which most of the lads are allowed to act towards God's house. Let us exert a good influence over those of tender years. The church should in some way provide sufficient healthful amusement so that the world will have no place at all.

Then, as to our methods of church work, we can all exercise a great power. Care is needed so that successful work may be accomplished. In order that perfect harmony may prevail, work needs to be well organised, just as in business and home life. Many a preacher's efforts have been crippled by the injudicious methods some people adopt in their work. Great tact is needed, otherwise we are hindering instead of helping. We need to be loyal in everything we undertake to do. Loyalty seems to be the key-note we want to strike all through.

United effort in any given work must be good. I take it that this Conference was organized in the first instance for the sole object of helping the churches to greater usefulness. Women so bandied together can do a big work. Our Conference has done splendid work in the past, but it can do even more in the future. Dr. Clarke says, "Never suffer your energies to stagnate. The old adage of too many irons in the fire conveys an admirable error. You cannot have too many, pickaxe, tongs and all. Keep all agoing." All our energies must be used in the Master's service, and we must do even more than we have done, if the church is to rise triumphant over the world. The thought has occurred to me that we might do more as a Conference if we could meet with sisters from other States. The General Conference has seen the advisability of a Federal Conference. Why should not the women have one also? By this means a union would be brought about which must be advantageous. The best thought would be obtainable, the best methods adopted, and so the work of evangelisation would be more effectual. Individual effort is good, but united forces are better. Victorian sisters, I believe, were the first to suggest a Women's Conference. They took the lead in starting one. Let us make a further move, and organise a Federal Conference. We have much to learn; our methods will bear improvement, and surely such an organisation should be able to accomplish much more good. If any doubt the advisability of such a movement, I would draw attention to the work accomplished by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. This Union commenced in a small way about 25 years ago here in Melbourne. The work spread rapidly. Other States joined in, and now the Union is a mighty force in all Australasia. Who can measure the amount of good such a band of women has been able to do? It has stood for Christianity, temperance, purity, and the sanctity of the home. Such a work must tell. It can run its own monthly journal, reporting all work being done in all the States and different centres. It can boast of a large building in the city called "The Headquarters." From this building women go forth to scatter the good seed and make the world a purer place in which to dwell. The poor fallen girl is helped, the orphan finds a friend; splendid literature is circulated all over the country, giving knowledge as to the use and abuse of alcohol, also helpful reading for the young.

Is it too glowing a vision for us to picture just such a building with the name "The Headquarters of the Church of Christ Women's Conference"—from which building a noble army of workers could be sent forth, some into the slums of our city, caring for the poor children, some acting in the capacity of city missionaries. Melbourne is badly in need of such. We send our missionaries forth to foreign fields, and rightly too, but let us not forget the heathen at our own doors. The church is responsible for these. There are thousands of heathen children growing up in Melbourne alone. They know not God. How can we reach them? The Bible Schools succeed in a measure, but even these at times are only half filled; and if there is no Bible in the State School, then what sort of characters are being moulded in the young to-day? Other churches have their district aid societies, their city mis-

sionaries. We are doing a little, but not enough. The church must not be content with its own local affairs merely; it becomes in this way too self-centred. We want to expand, and dare to do greater things.

The Conferences are growing year by year, and the women's work is destined to become a mighty force in the days to come, thanks to those who have worked so faithfully all these years. No one will deny the power of women's work. What would become of the church, the Sunday School, the Chinese Mission, without its women workers? There is a great power, let them use it to full advantage. There is so much scope in these days for usefulness; we have many advantages. Let us see that we use them well. Let us rouse ourselves for more practical work. No servant of Christ can afford to spend life's best working hours in drowsy indifference. More courage is needed. One writer has said that a great deal of talent is lost to the world for the want of a little courage. Another says that we spend our days in deliberating, and end them without coming to any resolve.

Lastly—and the most important reason of all—"for the sake of Christ."

"How can I, Lord, withhold
Life's brightest hour
From thee; or gathered gold,
Or any power?"

Why should I keep one precious thing from thee,
When thou hast given thine own dear self for me?"

Because of his great love in that he became our sacrifice; because he has redeemed us with his own precious blood, and has given us an inheritance which no one can take from us, let us determine to use every talent, every energy, every particle of influence, in his service. Loving him means serving him, and even to suffer and sacrifice if need be. He will measure our love by our service, and our lives will be made all the sweeter by the knowledge that we are doing his will.

We have Scriptural authority, for our heavenly Father did not overlook the children (Deut. 6: 7). The Lord says concerning his commands, "Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children," and Solomon has left us the well-known proverb, "Train up a child in the way he should go." Much has been said about the age that we should start the training of the child, and of course it sounds all right to say that children should learn nothing at all for the first few years, and it is certainly the easiest way for us, for the time being; but the fact remains that children have mental and moral natures which refuse to be postponed, and these begin developing early, whether we will or not, and are firmly established long before the child is three years old. The first time they understand a spoken command they begin a habit either of obedience or disobedience, just as the command is enforced or not.

A child is the most imitative creature in the world, and very early tries to talk and act just like his elders; and it is because of this inherent tendency to say and do those things which he hears others say and do, that if we early suggest faith-thoughts to the unfolding mind of the child they will assist greatly in helping to form a character of joy, confidence and courage; while, on the other hand, if we sow fear-thoughts they will distort the emotions, deform the conception, and demoralise the health and life activities of the growing child. Therefore, in view of this wonderful imitative nature, as one writer puts it, we are able to make of a child almost anything we wish—not "an angel" in the ordinary acceptation of the term, but a child who knows his place, and possesses the power of self-control.

An American doctor tells us that from two to six years of age, when the imagination is most plastic and vivid, when the imitative instinct is so unconsciously automatic, is the most effective and opportune time to initiate good habits and lay the foundation for the later development of a strong and good character.

That "baby's skies are mother's eyes," is just as true as it is poetical, so much depends on the mother or teachers. While a tired mother, wearied by her many cares and duties, may be pardoned for her occasional irritability, nevertheless the little one unconsciously partakes of her spirit. When the mother is happy, the child is happy too. So we see how very necessary it is, in the training of the young, that we should, as mothers or teachers, cultivate a quiet, happy, contented spirit. How great is our responsibility.

It is unfortunate that at this time of a child's life, when we can do practically anything we choose with him, so many who have control of the little ones fill the child's mind with unhealthy fear-thoughts. How often we hear such threats as "The bogie man will get you if you don't mind," and "The sweep is round the corner to take bad boys," made to the little folk. These efforts to frighten the young child into obedience never fail to distort the young mind, and very often derange the nervous system. Sometimes, also, we are sorry to say, this unwholesome introduction of fear-thought is even carried to our heavenly Father, and the child is told that God will not love him, and will send a bad man to take him if he is not good. What a false impression of the loving Father to give those of whom the Saviour has said, "Let them come unto

me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

How gladly we welcome the introduction of the Kindergarten into our Bible Schools. Do we realise what it means—"Kindergarten"? The child-garden, where the precious little human plants are tended in a fruitful soil of example and encouragement. By this means we are able to reach and help so many who have not the environment of a good home. In the child-garden the children are taught to look for all that is beautiful and good; they are taught the culture of reverence, which is so lacking in our young folk of this day and generation.

The nations are awaking to the value of the child life, and it is worth our while to grasp all our opportunities for work among the young and try to fit ourselves so that we may train our own and help those who would otherwise not have the training, into that healthful, happy childhood which God designed them for. The children of to-day are the citizens of the future; and if we want to have a righteous nation, we must see to it that we guard and guide the young lives aright. It is a work that pays in every way. Let fear be an unknown word to our children, and let love rule all our lives and actions. "Let us live in the glorious sunshine of strong, healthy faith-thought, and a supreme happiness will come into our lives, and we will give a legacy to the children for which they will rise up and call us blessed."

The Society of Christian Endeavor.

How the Sunday School Can Help the C.E. Society.

Topic for April 29.

Daily Readings.

By visiting the C.E. Society. Eph. 6: 21-24; Col. 4: 7-9.

Superintendent explain C.E. to S.S. Deut. 4: 5-9.

Teachers hold a C.E. Conference. Psa. 25: 1-14.

Teachers invite scholars to join C.E. Society.

John 1: 35-51.

Invite C.E. Society to visit the S.S. Num. 10: 29-32; Eccl. 11: 6.

School choir sing to C.E. Society. Psalm 95: 1-11.

Topic—One Body. 1 Cor. 12: 12-31.

Give Paul's estimate of Christian unity from Romans 14.

What does he mean by "no schism in the body"?

Why the "same care"?

The usual monthly meeting of the Council of the Victorian Churches of Christ C.E. Union will be held in the Swanston-st. lecture hall on Monday evening, May 6, at 8 p.m. Speaker, Mr. McCallum, of South Melbourne. Delegates please attend.—C. W. Timmins.

Men must decide what they will not do, and then they are able to act with vigor in what they ought to do.—*Merrills.*

Faithfulness is thine, and reverence is thine; who then can rob thee of these things? Who can hinder thee to use them if not thyself?—*Epictetus.*

Work among the Young;
or
The Training of the Children.

Paper, by Mrs. Roy Thompson, read at the Victorian Sisters' Conference.

A few years ago you would hear such an expression as this: "Oh, it is only for the children." That word "only," when we are looking to the children for the future success of our land! The best and greatest of our planning should be for the welfare and uplifting of the little ones, and we should strive to cultivate the patience, tact, and love so necessary in the work among the young. Thank God, our churches as a whole are rousing to a sense of their responsibility in regard to this work. This paper deals with the training of the little ones, and I am taking it for granted that we all realise the importance and value of the work amongst the children, and what a God-given privilege is ours when we engage in it.



New Zealand.

NELSON.—Lord's day, March 31, meeting for worship W. Bryant, Wai-iti, visitor. Bro. Page, senr., exhorted, giving a very homely and practical word of teaching with a truly spiritual ring running through it. April 7, visitor, Bro. Peebles, Rai Valley. Bible School: the afternoon's work was varied. Special singing and lesson connected with the day. Owing to Bro. Verco being absent at the Conference at Wellington, Bro. Lang occupied the platform at the gospel meeting, and at the invitation a fine young girl, a Bible Class scholar, stepped out and made the good confession. A quartette, relative to the season of the year, was rendered very sweetly during the service. Bro. Saxby gave a lecture on his travels, with the aid of lantern slides, which proved both interesting and instructive. Bro. and Sister Saxby took their departure from these shores for their homeland previous to the Conference of the Middle District, which they intended to attend.—E.M.J., April 11.

DUNEDIN.—J. Binney, who will be located for the next year at Kaitangata, was exhorter at the Tabernacle yesterday morning. One baptism last evening.—L.C.J.S., April 15.

WELLINGTON.—Our Middle District Conference is over. We were favored with fair weather. The attendance at the night meetings was not so large as it should have been. Our people miss a very great deal when they stay away from such gatherings. The Conference as a whole was encouraging; some splendid recommendations were approved, and it now remains for the local churches to put them in operation. We had a good day at Vivian-st. on Sunday. Several delegates worshipped with us, and we were pleased with the presence and helpful sermons of Bro. Verco, of Nelson, in the morning, and Bro. Grinstead, of Wanganui, in the evening. And so another year has come and gone, a new year of opportunity open before us, and gladly we enter its service, because our Master has said, "I am with you always."—A.J.S., April 12.

WELLINGTON SOUTH.—The Endeavor Society has decided to undertake the support of a native boy at Ingame, our new mission station. The Sunday School has also undertaken to support one. When the classes opened their boxes at the end of the first month, they were agreeably surprised to find they had contributed 37/6 instead of a much smaller sum which the teachers had expected. Last Sunday we had a number of Conference visitors present. Bro. Saxby presided for us, and Bro. Johnston, of Palmerston, gave the address. Bro. Verco, of Nelson, spoke to the children in the afternoon, and preached the gospel at night.—S. H. Mudge.

MORNINGTON.—T. Melville continues to proclaim the gospel at the evening services, which are fairly well attended, although there have been no confessions of late. The morning meetings are helpful, and, in spite of the fact that the attendances are not very large, it seems as if they have taken a turn for the better. On Sunday, April 7—Conference Sunday—we were pleased to have the fellowship of several visiting members from country and other churches. In the morning we were exhorted by J. M. Innes, Ashburton, whose message was appreciated by all; and in the evening J. Binney, missionary and organizer to the C.W.B.M., preached the gospel, his subject being "The Hand of Deliverance." The

Improvement Class, which meets on Friday evenings, is a source of profitable enjoyment to all who attend.—W.E.P.

Queensland.

ALBION.—The Bible School is still increasing in numbers and interest. On April 17 the writer had the joy of baptising two scholars, Mildred and Sybil Helsdon, who came out at the tent mission. On April 15, a church business meeting was held, and many important matters were dealt with. A Cottage Bible Class has been formed, and on Thursday evenings the class meets. The disciples here hope to be able to secure a block of land and erect a suitable building.—A.W.J.

MARBURG.—On April 7, through the organising ability of H. U. Rodger, the writer had the joy of preaching the gospel to a large audience. At the close an aged baptised believer responded to the invitation for baptised believers to join us and accept only the New Testament, and, after the benediction, a young man decided to come back again and be restored. It was a spirit-touching meeting. Bro. Rodger rode about a great deal to get people to attend and the way in which they responded to his invitation evinces the keen interest which he has created in the district.—A. W. Jinks.

MT. WALKER.—On Easter Monday the church held its anniversary, and as usual we had a splendid time. We had visitors from Toowoomba, Rosewood, Rosevale, Brisbane, and surrounding districts, including Bro. Jinks, State Evangelist. Bro. Rodger, who is laboring among us at present, was first and foremost in giving us a real good time. Bro. Jinks also gave us a nice address. In the evening we had a glorious time. Splendid programme, and everything went off smoothly and pleasantly. We thank especially our Rosevale friends, who so ably and willingly assisted us. We have some splendid meetings and good interest is being manifested.—F. Hinrichsen, April 4.

WALLUMBILLA.—On April 8, the Sunday School celebrated its anniversary, under the leadership of Bro. Burnard. His earnest exhortation in the morning to the church was soul-inspiring. On the Monday following a day's picnic took place near the church, when we had the pleasure of meeting Bro. Blackie and Bro. Brown, from Roma, also Bro. and Sister Watty, from Yeulba. These contributed to the enjoyment of the evening. Bro. Blackie spoke some very reasonable words to the audience, and his singing of the Hindoo song and the Chinese gibberish, was amusing to old and young alike. During the past year the school has increased in numbers. What we want here is an active, God-fearing, soul-loving evangelist, to build up the church and gather in the harvest which is already white.—J.C.

South Australia.

TUMBY BAY.—During the last few weeks two have been received in at Butler—Bro. and Sister Humphrys, from Bews. Bro. Humphrys has since been elected to the position of secretary of the Butler church. The young man who made the good confession mentioned in last report was on Lord's day, April 7, baptised, and welcomed into the church. On April 14, a young lady was

baptised at Tumby Bay, and received in the same day. A C.E. Society has been formed at Tumby and the work is being enthusiastically taken up by the young people.—R.H., April 17.

STIRLING EAST & ALDGATE VALLEY.—On Easter Sunday the anniversary of the Stirling East Sunday School was held, when Bro. W. shire gave a short address on "The Story of the Watch," after which the prizes were distributed, and a collection was taken up for the Queen Victoria Convalescent Home, besides fruit and flowers. We are just settling down to our usual meetings again now after the mission, the efforts of which are still being felt. We regret that W. Charlick and family have removed back again to the city, as we miss them from our midst. To-day, April 14, one received into fellowship.—A.G.R.

LAMEROO.—Our mission closed last Wednesday night, April 10, when Bro. Bass baptised two who had made the good confession—one who has been a local preacher, and one the daughter of one of our members. These two, with another who was previously immersed, were received into fellowship to-day. Bro. Bass preached the gospel plainly and forcefully, and has awakened keen interest in this town, and we are looking forward to getting Bro. Griffith here with his tent in a few months' time. The church feels deeply grateful to the church at Milang for the visit of Bro. Bass. The total number of members now in the district is over twenty.—J. R. Lawrie, April 14.

PROSPECT.—Bren. Thorpe and Cosh visited the church during the writer's absence at the Conference. Their visit was much enjoyed. Bro. Cosh, Bible School visitor for the State, addressed the Bible School in the afternoon. The quarterly business meeting of the church was held on Thursday. It was decided to instal the electric light in the building. Sisters Thomas and Priest were appointed to take charge of the F.M. and H.M. interests on behalf of the Sisters' Conference. Good meetings to-day, 21st. Everyone interested in the mission to begin with S. G. Griffith about June 2. Bro. and Sister E. Fischer received by letter from Balaklava. Bro. Fischer appointed deacon.—Ira A. Paternoster.

SEMAPHORE.—The quarterly business meeting of the church was held during the week. Reports and balance sheet indicate the week to be in a satisfactory condition. Meetings to-day were fairly well attended. Bro. A. Bureau and Sister N. Dow and Farmaker were received into fellowship. We are making arrangements to have a big day for the Bible School May Day celebrations on Lord's day week.—W.J.T., April 21.

QUEENSTOWN.—Bro. Martin presided on Lord's day morning. Bro. Brooker exhorted. In the Young Men's Bible Class Mr. Lawrie gave a most interesting and instructive address on "My Impressions of South America." Aubrey Wilson preached the gospel in the evening.—A.C., April 21.

KADINA.—On March 31, we held our Bible School anniversary. Bro. Geo. Cuttriss, preacher from Mallala, conducted the three services. He gave three earnest addresses. At night we had over 500 people, including the scholars on their new platform. The singing by the scholars was splendid. Bro. Wiedenbach was the conductor, and did well in bringing the scholars on so nicely. On Good Friday we held our picnic on Bro. Gordon's grounds. This was the largest school picnic we have ever had in Kadina in connection with our people. Our school is now in a splendid condition. On Lord's day, April 14, two sisters were received by letter from Broken Hill. To-day we had our Sister Miss Gladys Cox, from the city, with us. To-night we had a good congregation, and at the close of the writer's address, Roy Raymond's mother made the good confession.—E. G. Warren, April 21.

GLENELG.—At the church meeting held Wednesday, April 17, the following resolutions were enthusiastically carried:—1. That the church heartily appreciates the services of Rev. Burdell as secretary of the church for so many years. 2.

That we regret to have to part shortly with Bro. and Sister Finlayson, who have endeared themselves to all. That the following young men recommended by the elders and deacons be elected as "helps":—C. Ferris, D. and L. Inverarity, W. Bolton, A. Hammond, A. Webb, G. Wilson, C. Gooden, R. Pittman, E. Gibson, G. Abraham, W. Wright, and J. Hargraves. Several of these young men suitably acknowledged the confidence of the church. Reports were given by the various organisations, and altogether a very profitable evening was enjoyed. Refreshments were served by the ladies.—E.W.P.

BALAKLAVA.—On Friday evening, April 19, we tendered a welcome social to Bro. and Sister Ewers, from W.A. Representatives from the following churches were present to welcome Bro. Ewers to the district:—Owen, Bro. Wilson; Alma, Bro. Gordon; Mallala, Bro. Harris; Long Plain, Bro. Cuttriss. Bro. Tuck, President of the Northern Churches of Christ Conference, occupied the chair, and in a few well-chosen remarks welcomed Bro. and Sister Ewers into our midst. Bro. W. Smith and Bro. Wark, two of the oldest members of the church, spoke words of welcome. Bro. Roediger read messages of congratulation from Bro. Day, from North Adelaide, and Bro. Taylor, of Port Pirie. Bro. Ewers responded on behalf of himself and Sister Ewers, and trusted his work would be one of great blessing. He hoped within the next few weeks to be able to visit all the homes of the members. On Sunday morning a large number of brethren were present. Bro. Tuck extended the right hand of Christian fellowship to Bro. and Sister Ewers. Bro. Ewers spoke morning and evening. We believe that Bro. Ewers' work amongst us here will be one of great blessing.—H.E.B., April 21.

HINDMARSH.—Wednesday, April 17, the quarterly business meeting of the church took place. G. Duncan presided over a good attendance. The reports from the various organisations were very satisfactory, and a tone of cheerfulness pervaded the whole of the reports. It was decided to pay another £10 off the debt on the property. A. G. Saunders having written from America cancelling his engagement, it was unanimously decided to engage H. D. Smith for 12 months from September 1 next. Bro. Smith had consented to fill in the interval from February to August, and has been doing a good, steady work. His gospel addresses are much appreciated, and his work with the Men's Bible Class is highly commended on by the members. We are very pleased to welcome back the choir from their visit to the Federal Conference, as 16 of the members went with the S.A. Choir, and some have been away for the Easter holidays. We have been without a choir for a few Sundays, and they have been missed from the services. Every member of the S.A. Choir that the writer has met speaks of the kindness and hospitality of the Victorian brethren.—J. W. Snook.

New South Wales.

BROKEN HILL (Railway Town).—T. Jones took up his duties as E. J. Tuck's assistant on Easter Sunday. He will devote the whole of his time to the work of Railway Town. Already we are able to recognise the increasing interest in our work, through his zealous labors of house to house visiting, which have resulted in an enrolment of several new Bible School scholars. We are now holding an open-air meeting every Lord's day evening before the gospel service; by this means we hope to reach many folk who are non-churchgoers. Bro. Jones gave a powerful address last Lord's day evening on "The Value of a Human Soul."—E.H.H., April 21.

INVERELL.—Yesterday we commenced, in the power of the Spirit, our mission services, with Bro. Coleman conducting. The morning service was a rich blessing, four evangelists taking part. We caught a glimpse of the Holy City as Bro. Coleman exhorted the church on Isaiah's vision of the temple. We had in fellowship with us,

throughout the day, Bro. Yates, a Baptist member from Howell. The afternoon meeting was grand. One young girl confessed her Saviour at the close. In the evening we were taxed for accommodation, a noticeable feature being the men— young and old—comprising part of the audience. We were again gladdened by hearing a boy from the Bible School stand boldly and confess his Saviour.—Geo. Brighty, April 15.

SYDNEY.—At the morning service, Bro. Bagley gave a fine address on "Lessons from the Federal Conference." Visitors present: Sister Gregg, from Footscray, Vic.; Sister Juleffe, Enmore; Bro. Sworn, London; Bro. Fox, Inverell; Bro. Holloway, Moreland, Vic.; Bro. Barnden, Brunswick, Vic.; Bro. Clark and Bro. Miller, Norwood, S.A. At the evening service Bro. Bagley spoke on "Saul and David." Church quarterly business meeting and social evening will be held on May 1.—J.C.

BELMORE.—At the meeting this morning we had the pleasure of receiving into fellowship Bro. J. Reeve, who came by letter from the church at Sydney. We also had as visitors Bro. and Sister Read, and Bro. E. G. Andrews, from the church at Enmore. G. H. Browne gave a fine discourse, and at the gospel service he presented the truth very clearly and convincingly. Bro. Browne's engagement with us will terminate shortly, and a ballot was taken of the members, which resulted in the recommendation of the officers being carried, that he be re-engaged for a further twelve months.—A.A.B., April 21.

JUNEE.—The cause at Marrar is in a very prosperous condition. The chapel has been nicely lined with fibrous plaster, and is now as cosy and bright a place as can be found in any country district. The members, though not a large number, are earnest, and their religion touches their pockets, so that the effort to provide this nice meeting place was made possible. Yesterday afternoon we witnessed the immersion of two, who were afterwards received into fellowship. They had been led to take this step through the mission just held.—T.G.M., April 22.

MOSMAN.—Splendid meetings to-day. At the morning service Bro. Filmer gave a very interesting report of the work in Pentecost Island, New Hebrides. Amongst our other visitors were Sister Craig, of Grote-st., Adelaide; Miss Elsie Gole, of North Fitzroy, Vic.; and Bro. and Sister Horsfall, of Auburn. We were glad to have Bro. Illingworth back with us again from the Federal Conference, and he delivered a fine sermon at the gospel service. On Monday last the young people of the church gave Miss Pickering a linen shower, and on Wednesday she and Bro. A. Earle were united in marriage by Bro. Illingworth, and in the evening left for their future home in Newcastle.—S.G., April 21.

ENMORE.—In common with other churches special reference was made to the wreck of the "Titanic" at yesterday's meetings. In the morning Bro. Walden spoke on some of the thoughts suggested by this fearful disaster. We had present as visitors Dr. and Miss Robertson and Miss Madge Magarey, from Grote-st., Adelaide; H. Wright, from Perth, W.A.; Bro. Farnham, from N.Z.; Mrs. Fred. Charlick, and Bro. Charlick, from Norwood, S.A.; H. J. White, from Nambucca River, N.S.W.; Mr. and Mrs. A. Button, from Paddington, and W. H. Keam, from City Temple, Sydney. In the evening Bro. Wright sang us a solo, "Be thou Faithful unto Death." It was greatly appreciated by the large congregation. At the close of the address seven came forward to confess Christ, of whom there were four young men and an older man. After the ordinary night service a meeting of the members was held to make arrangements for the Scoville mission, which begins at the Enmore Tabernacle on Wednesday, May 1. Great enthusiasm was displayed, and everything promises well for the success of the mission. Our Bible School supt. and secretary are taking a great interest in the mission. A meeting of the scholars of the school who are also members of the church has been called for next Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock to consider how best the Sunday School can help

the mission. During Bro. Walden's absence from Sydney, Arthur Webber spoke on Sunday morning, and F. T. Webber at night. Bro. Green took one Wednesday night service, and F. G. Filmer the other. The church greatly appreciated the able services of these brethren.

HAMILTON.—Bright services to-day, especially in the morning, when we had a large attendance of members. We had present, visiting brethren:—Bro. Rowles, Paddington; and Bro. J. Wright, Merewether. We also had the pleasure of receiving Bro. A. Currey, by letter, into fellowship from Scotland. We were pleased to see Sister A. Fraser present again, after a long and serious illness. Bro. More presided and Bro. Rowles gave a very earnest and helpful address on our responsibility as members. The gospel at night was preached by Bro. More. On Wednesday, our quarterly church meeting was held, and reports showed that we had just held our own. We want our members to feel that they are part of the church in every respect, body, soul and spirit financially and otherwise. We had with us Bro. E. Saxby, Taree; Bro. Hilder, Enmore. We were helped by their presence and kindly words.—W. Stow.

PADDINGTON.—The work is being conducted faithfully by J. J. Franklyn. We are having good attendances at the gospel services. Open-air meetings are being held every Friday night, and Sunday evenings before the services. Last Sunday being Conference Sunday, we had several visitors, including Thos. Hagger, who addressed the church, and T. W. Smith and wife, from Lygon-st, Vic. We had the joy of receiving by letter from Lismore Sister Mrs. Robbins and her son into our fellowship. At the gospel service we had the pleasure of having T. R. Coleman, State Evangelist, to conduct the services, to a full attendance. To-day Bro. Franklyn addressed the church commencing a series of addresses on the Book of Revelation. We spent a very interesting time together, as Bro. Franklyn delivered a well-prepared address. We had several visitors, including Bro. and Sister Marks, from Victoria, who have been present the last two Sundays, and Bro. Gould, from America. We were pleased to have W. Hickey back in the meeting after a long illness.—A. W. Shearston, April 12.

NORTH SYDNEY.—At the present time the interesting topic of "missions" is occupying our attention. Active preparations are being made for the forthcoming mission to be conducted in North Sydney by C. R. Scoville, from May 15 to 22. The largest available hall is being secured, and every effort will be made to help our brother from U.S.A., that his work in this district may be abundantly blessed. This is a matter requiring the prayerful attention of every member, for without God's help our efforts will be useless. We regret having to record the sudden death of our Bro. Lowes, in Fiji. Bro. Lowes came from Gateshead-on-Tyne, and gave promise of being one of our very useful members. He had just accepted the position of treasurer in the Bible School, but before taking up the work was sent to Fiji. His death was sudden, and we sorrow with his parents in England over the loss of a very promising and earnest brother, but our sorrow is brightened with the hope of a glad meeting again. On Sunday last A. H. Webber gave a very instructive and much appreciated address. The Adult Bible Class has received a fresh impetus, and we are glad to see a number of new members present. At the gospel meeting, Bro. Saunders delivered a splendid address. The attendances during the day were the largest we have had for some time. At the gospel service a special offering was taken up on behalf of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which is to be increased further yet.—W. J. Modral.

TAREE.—Last Sunday, April 14, we had good meetings, over 40 breaking bread. We had with us Bro. Albert Collins, from Wellington, son of one of our oldest brethren, and Sister Latimore, from the Comboyne. Bro. Edwards gave a nice exhortation from 2 Tim. 2: 3, which was much appreciated. The afternoon Bible School was addressed by Bro. Burns, on the miracles of Jesus.

We are pleased to report the improvement in health of Ivy Platt, one of the scholars, who has been laid aside for some considerable time. The evening service was taken by Bro. Burns, his subject being "The Hem of His Garment." An original solo was rendered by the evangelist, which was highly appreciated. Good attendances all day. On Wednesday, 17th inst., we had an exceptionally good meeting, and a most interesting discussion took place on the subject, "The Hope of the Church," from Eph. 4. Owing to the interest being taken in these discussions, it was resolved to commence the meetings in the future at 7.30 p.m., instead of 8. The subject for the next evening is "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism," also from Eph. 4.—W. Armstrong.

PETERSHAM.—We are glad to report progress here, activity and virility being characteristic of every department of the work. The gospel meetings are showing increased numbers and power. Though few have come forward to confess Christ with their mouth, we feel many have believed on him in the heart. At the close of T. Hagger's address on Sunday night, April 7 (Bro. Hagger was on a visit to State Conference) a young girl came forward and was baptised last night. One young girl came forward last night and was baptised. Many more are on the way to Christ. I may say in view of the fact of depreciation of lack of tract distribution in this week's "Christian," that much of the increased activity among members and added interest from outside is due to that work, the young people from the C.E. Society forming themselves into tract bands to canvass the district.—T.L., April 22.

N.S.W. BIBLE SCHOOL NOTES.

Any communication to this department to be addressed to Enos Coleman, "Inniskillen," Foster-st., Leichhardt, Sydney, N.S.W.

We are pleased to note the increase of interest in Bible School work, from the primary department to the Federal Conference. This general interest is bearing fruit in New South Wales.

Never was such enthusiasm manifested in the examination. Every school is working for a record entry, the aim not being, as in former years, the banner prize for the school, or even the certificates for the scholars, but the knowledge of the Bible. This is a purer motive, and will bring more and better results.

We are hoping for great things from the visit of Mr. Archibald, from England, the Bible School expert, in August and September. Let every teacher seize the opportunity of getting such valuable knowledge.

Mr. Archibald will speak on the three departments—the Primary (Kindergarten), Intermediate, and Senior. Watch for the announcements of the visit and secure your tickets for the whole series early.

The Bible School Committee is arranging the teachers' quarterly social early in June, when it is hoped a demonstration of Kindergarten work will be given by an expert in that department. Watch these notes for day and hour of this event. Our aim is to have every school worked upon the system of three departments, each dovetailing the other, and all supporting the church.

The Cot Fund.—We want to remind the schools supporting this work that prompt payments are absolutely necessary, as the subscriptions to the Hospital are paid quarterly in advance.

The quarter's subsidy from the schools is now overdue. Will the schools send their quarter's subscription at once to the Treasurer, S. O. Gole, or to the Secretary, W. A. Smith?—E.C.

Victoria.

FOOTSCRAY.—It is almost twelve months since our old building passed from our hands, being purchased by a local business man for the purpose of building shops on the block. Our meetings have since been held in the Masonic Hall, where good services are being held, and

fairly large attendances. We are looking forward to the near future, when we will be in our new building, which is nearing completion, the church and Sunday School being built on the American principle, and from the outside present a rather picturesque appearance. The building is capable of seating 400 people, with the school at the rear to seat another 250 should it be found necessary. The C.E. and prayer meetings are held at the different members' houses during the week, and are well attended. Bro. Rothery has charge of the Bible Class, and the Sunday evening services. Bro. More, from N.S.W., is to take up the work next month, being engaged by the church, and with our new building we trust for a forward move and a great work.—A.J.T.

POINT LONSDALE.—About 18 had a very enjoyable meeting on last Lord's day morning. J. E. Thomas, of Grote-st., Adelaide, presided. R. J. Finlayson, of Balaklava, S.A.; F. G. Dunn, F. A. Kemp, H. J. Lyall and R. Lyall, of Swanston-st., took part in the exercises.

MERBEIN.—Attendance at our gospel meetings steadily increasing. Last Sunday beat previous records, when R. G. Cameron preached on "Faith—What is It, and How do we Get It?" At present the meetings are held in the State School, but as a public hall is soon to be erected we hope to secure it for both morning and evening services.—R.G.C.

DUNOLLY.—One confession here. On Sunday evening a promising young lady came forward at the conclusion of the service and was immersed on Monday night.—J.B., April 16.

HAMPTON.—The mission at Hampton being run with help from the East Suburban Co-operation and others started off splendidly on Sunday night, over 130 being present. R. Ennis, of Lygon-st., Carlton, preached, and the choir from South Yarra led the singing. P. J. Pond, of Prahran, took up his work as missionary on Monday night. The churches of the Co-operation are supplying a choir each night. Bro. Tinkler and local workers are toiling and praying earnestly to firmly establish the cause in this new centre. The prayers of the brotherhood are asked for.—P.J.P.

EMERALD.—Fine meetings on Lord's day, when we had amongst our visitors Sister Page, North Richmond; Bro. Westmore, Lilydale; Bro. and Sister Woods, Blackburn; and Bro. and Sister J. G. Barrett. Bro. Barrett gave us a fine exhortation on Gal. 6: 14. Bro. Combridge spoke to a nice gathering at night. We regret that our brother could not accept a further engagement with us. As he is taking up the work at Murrumbidgee next Lord's day, he closes his work here, when we expect another student from the College of the Bible to follow up the work.—W. Bolduan, April 22.

DONCASTER.—On Monday, the 15th inst., a social was held for the twofold purpose of making a presentation to Bro. and Sister McDowell and Sister Ruby Petty; the former have been in membership with us for nearly 30 years. Bro. Frank Smedley, on behalf of the church, in a few well-chosen words, made the presentation of a beautiful marble clock to Bro. and Sister McDowell, Bro. McDowell suitably responding. Bro. J. Tully, the superintendent, on behalf of the S.S. and teachers, presented Sister Ruby Petty, one of the teachers, on the eve of her marriage, with a handsome rose bowl, her intended husband suitably responding.—Geo. T. Petty.

NORTH RICHMOND.—We are having fine attendances at our meetings. Have had the pleasure of fellowship with many visiting brethren during the past weeks. Since last report one has been added by obedience. We also rejoiced to witness another accept Christ at the close of last Sunday night's service.—C. Anderson.

BALLARAT.—We had several visitors with us on Lord's day, among whom were Bro. Mansell, from Mildura, and Sister Glendinning, from Nth. Carlton, late of Ballarat. Bro. Mansell exhorted and Bro. E. Stanley Tape preached in the evening on "Simon the Cyrene—a Character Sketch." Splendid discourse. Fine attendances at both meetings.—A.E.P., April 22.

HAWTHORN.—Meetings were good yesterday. The church is actively co-operating in the simultaneous mission in the district. A. M. Laidbrook, of Adelaide, was present last night, and took part in the meeting. We were also glad of the presence of Bro. Pearcey and sons, of Blackburn.—A. C. Rankine, April 22.

FITZROY.—We have had several visitors with us during Conference. Bro. Cuttriss, of S.A., exhorted the church on April 14. Bro. Combridge gave a suitable address the previous Sunday. Bro. Clydesdale, of N.S.W., presiding. Last Lord's day J. Whelan gave an impressive address on the prodigal son, and took the confession of two ladies from the Bible School (sons of members of the church).—J.H.H.

BAYSWATER.—Lord's day, April 14, we again had fine meetings. In the morning three were received into fellowship, and a very nice address was given by Bro. Hibbert, of the College of the Bible. In the evening we had a fine discourse from Bro. Noble, and one confession. Lord's day, 21st, fine meeting in the morning; one received into fellowship. Sister Hilda Lawrie, a member of the S.A. Choir, met with us. In the evening we had a nice meeting and a baptism. The meeting was full of interest, rendered more so by the singing of two beautiful solos by Sister Hilda Lawrie, of Henley Beach, S.A. The church intends having a social in a few weeks' time, when we hope to have a profitable time together.—E.L.

COLAC.—Since last report we have been having good meetings. Bro. Chandler and Williamson arrived home from Conference brimful of inspiration to push on the work here. Last Lord's day evening Bro. Chandler gave an effective address entitled, "A Message from the Titanic." The reading lesson was Psalm 107. One young lady of the Bible Class made the good confession at the close of the meeting. Visitors, Bro. and Sister Gray, from Port Fairy.—E.S., April 22.

DANDENONG.—Two were received into fellowship last Lord's day, who were baptised the previous Lord's day. Bro. Hugh Gray, a welcome visitor, gave us one of his good old-time addresses. Bro. Larsen spoke in the evening. This afternoon and evening the Bible School anniversary services were held. Bro. Larsen being the speaker. Sister Ella Hart, from Lygon-st., and Elsie Vears, from South Yarra, were the violinists, and Bro. Jones and Bro. Shurman, of Dandenong, baritone and cornet players; Sister Tattersall, organist, and Bro. A. Crisp, conductor. Bro. Pearl and Sister Crooke, from Collingwood, ably assisted in the singing. The children sang very well. The chapel was packed at night. The church has renewed its engagement with Bro. Larsen for another half year's term.—J.P.

PRAHRAN.—Two hundred present in Adult Class of Bible School yesterday, shattering all previous records of classes in Victoria. It was the last day in a three months' competition. The blue and the white sides had both worked strenuously in a neck and neck race, and each made a giant effort to gain the victory. "Jupiter Pluvius" checked the ardor of many, but shortly before 2 o'clock the crowds of adults, ranging in age from 16 to 90 years, began to pour in. Religious beliefs all the way from Seventh Day Adventists to Roman Catholic were represented. Twenty suburban centres were drawn from. The lesson for study was Acts 8: 25-40, "The Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch." Considering our church membership is only 80, our achievement is the more remarkable. The story of how we did it is an exciting one.—P. J. Pond.

GEELONG.—Another Conference has come and gone, and with it the commencement of the third year of Gifford Gordon's ministry in Geelong. The future is very bright. One of the greatest drawbacks has been the lack of accommodation for our school; this has now been overcome, for this week our hall and class room at the rear of the church will be completed. A Kindergarten Bible Class is to be organised, and the Kindergarten system introduced, which will be a great improvement in this most important department of church work—the Bible School. The

young ladies have formed a club to assist the church in its various departments, and various committees have been formed, and we hope to hear of good work being accomplished by them. We have been pleased to have with us the last two weeks Bro. F. Thomas, of S.A., who is at present studying at the Melbourne University, and his addresses have been greatly appreciated. Last Sunday evening a most impressive service was held. Gifford Gordon took charge of the first part, and expressed sympathy with those who had suffered with the recent sad shipping disaster. The congregation with bowed heads sang the first verse of "Nearer, My God, to Thee," and G. Gordon led in prayer. Mr. F. Thomas then gave a fine address on "The Soul's Warfare," and the service was much enjoyed by a good congregation.—E. Brownbill.

Tasmania.

LAUNCESTON.—Our mission has ended with great success. We held it in the hope of bringing people into touch with our meetings. Many strangers came to hear the gospel. One evening was spent in controversy with the S.D. Adventists, when there was a large gathering. We are glad of this opportunity of discovering them and preventing their getting in touch with the weaker members. The Conference following was a splendid success, both from the point of view of members and spiritual tone. Its value to the church here cannot be overestimated. On Sunday night last the evangelist preached on "The Disappointed Christ," and two young people—Helen Duff and Charles Tyson—stepped out and confessed Christ. We trust that the reaping time is here.—A.P.W.

HOBART.—On April 16, the Mutual Improvement Class held a basket social in honor of Bro. Warmbrun, on his retiring as secretary. The class presented Bro. Warmbrun with a handsome Bible in appreciation of his splendid services.—J. C. Woolley.

God in Nature.

The universe, open to the gaze to-day, looks as it did a thousand years ago; and the morning hymn of Milton does but tell the beauty with which our own familiar sun dressed the earliest fields and gardens of the worlds. We see what all our fathers saw. And if we cannot find God in your house and mine, upon the roadside or the margin of the sea; in the bursting seed or opening flower; in the day-duty and the night-musing; in the genial laugh and the secret grief; in the possession of life, ever entering afresh, and solemnly passing by and dropping off, I do not think we should discern him any more on the grass of Eden, or beneath the moonlight of Gethsemane.—Dr. Martineau.

The Reformer.

Joshua commends himself to us as an excellent type of reformer, in that he didn't allow any shouting or crowing over victory before the work was done. The people had to trumpet and march six days, and part of the seventh, before they were allowed to shout. When we go to smash cities, we shout before the real fighting has begun. We are learning that campaigns and majorities don't smash cities; we have got to buckle down to that six days' everlasting grind of educating public opinion, of saddling responsibility on individual voters, of training up the boys and the in-

migrant, before we dare to shout, "Victory!" Shout when "the Lord hath given you the city." He isn't going to give it to men who think that reforming a city is a picnic. When Christian men will work harder to win in golf or tennis than to win their ward for righteousness and decency, no Jerichos will be won.—J. F. Cowan.

Christ's Yoke.

To the heavy-laden Christ did not promise repose and idleness, but a yoke; that is to say, more work, but of a different kind. There are two kinds of rest. I have stood by the doctor's side when he chloroformed a patient, and I have seen the strained and nervous body relax as the mind lost its grip on its surroundings. That is one kind of rest or relief, the rest of sleep and forgetfulness. I have also seen a tired workman revived, not by sleep, but by food, refreshment. That, too, is rest. And this is the rest that Christ promises—not idleness, sleep, dreams, but refreshment, new vigor and life, and eagerness to accomplish worthy tasks. Is life wearisome? Are you blue? Take Christ's yoke of service upon you and go out to help your suffering brothers and you will find rest unto your souls.—R. P. Anderson.

Making Christ Known.

Carlyle used to say, "To teach religion is the first thing needful, and also the last thing is to find a man that has religion." When a man is full of religion, that is to say, of Jesus Christ, he will spill over. This is what Paul meant when he said, "The love of Christ constraineth me." He could not keep silent. He was filled with a passionate desire to make men know Jesus. Dr. William J. Chichester, who received 5000 people into his church, 2000 of them in response to his own preaching, was asked what he counted the great ambition of his ministry. "O," he replied instantly, "to make men know Jesus Christ." This, then, is why we want to go forward; in order to make Christ known. All our steps fail if they do not help to lead others into personal touch with Christ.—R. P. Anderson.

Faithfulness is not a single virtue or a separate trait. Where it is found at all, it runs through the whole character, as blood runs through the body.

Here and There

This issue of the "Christian" contains eight extra pages.

The address of A. A. Ley, secretary of the Footscray church, is now 189 Barkly-st.

J. W. Parslow, of Toowoomba, Qld., wires:—"Twenty-three decisions last Sunday, making fifty for eight weeks. Half from Bible Schools."

The pictures in this number of the "Christian" are from photos taken by W. C. Craigie, who is always willing to help the "Christian" in this direction.

Last Sunday night at the Lygon-st. church, there were eight confessions and one restoration. Bro. Horace Kingsbury preaching on the loss of the "Titanic."

The Victorian Sisters' Conference Executive will meet in the lecture hall, Swanston-st., on Friday, May 3, at 3 p.m. Will representatives please take notice?

S. G. Griffith is now in a tent mission at Port Pirie, which commenced last Sunday. He is planned to commence a mission at Prospect on the first Lord's day in June.

The Austral Publishing Co. has received a fresh supply of Rotherham's "Studies in the Psalms." This splendid volume has been well received by British scholarship.

The largest representation to the Federal Conference came from South Australia. The photo of the group speaks for itself, both as to the quality and quantity of the representation.

H. G. Payne is now Organising Secretary of the N.S.W. Home Mission Committee. All communications for the Committee should be addressed to him at Pretoria Parade, Hornsby, N.S.W.

In the names of the F.M. Committee of the Victorian State Conference the following were inadvertently omitted:—Secretary, F. M. Ludbrook; Treasurer, R. Lyall; Org. Secretary, T. B. Fischer.

W. A. Strongman, who is laboring at Tyalgum, N.S.W., wires us that at the auction sale of land on the 23rd inst., the church secured a chapel site in the Main-st. We congratulate Bro. Strongman and the brethren at Tyalgum.

Geo. T. Petty writes:—"On Easter Sunday the hearts of the brethren at Doncaster were cheered by a visit from two of their old evangelists, Bro. Ewers and H. D. Smith, of S.A., speaking morning and evening, but their stay was all too short."

C. R. Scoville is expected to arrive at the end of April, and will be in Sydney during the month of May; Brisbane in June; Melbourne in July; Adelaide in August, and West Australia in September. These dates have been arranged so as not to conflict with the Chapman-Alexander missions.

We regret to hear of the death of Professor Charles Louis Loos, of the Kentucky University. He was one of the honored trio of that University—Loos, Grubbs and McGarvey. Of that trio only Professor Grubbs remains. Those of our preachers who studied under him speak of him in terms of loving respect.

The Southern Cross of April 17 gives a good notice of our Conference meetings. One of its paragraphs reads as follows:—"The atmosphere of the meetings of Conference was infectious, and a stranger who found himself in any of the gatherings felt that here was a community in good earnest to develop methods of spreading the kingdom of Christ among the Australian populations, both in city and country districts."

Victorian Bible School Union.—The first meeting of the General Committee for the year 1912-1913 will be held in the Christian chapel, Swanston-st., new hall, on Monday, April 29, at 8 p.m. All delegates are requested to attend. Business important. Secretaries of suburban and country schools are asked to send in the names of their representatives (2) to the undersigned on or before the above mentioned date, so that same may be registered.—J. Y. Potts, 94 Parade, Ascot Vale.

Instead of the projected garden party in connection with the Victorian Sisters' Conference, a very enjoyable meeting was held in Swanston-st. lecture hall on the 9th inst. Mrs. Pittman presided. Recitations by Mr. Saunders, Miss Jermy, pianoforte and vocal solos by Mrs. Roy Thompson, Miss Pittman, Miss L. Kemp; reading by Mrs. Main; talks from Mrs. Thurgood and Mrs. Filmer, made the time pass all too quickly. Dainty refreshments and social intercourse, with a number of two-minute impromptu speeches from visiting sisters, brought the afternoon to a close.

W. I. Ewers received a church welcome at Balaklava, S.A., on the 19th inst., and commenced his work last Lord's day with excellent prospects.

H. D. Smith, who was invited to take up the work at Hindmarsh until next August, has accepted an invitation to extend the engagement until August of next year.

The South Australian H.M. Committee has some excellent garden seats to dispose of cheaply. Just the thing for verandahs and gardens, artistic and comfortable. Any who wish them should apply at once to J. Fischer, of Alwyn Fischer and Sons, Pirie-st., Adelaide, or O'Connell-st., North Adelaide.

An all-day meeting for the deepening of the spiritual life was held in Grote-st., Adelaide, on Good Friday. The general topic was the progressive revelation of God, and the speeches dealt with the patriarchal or starlight age, the Mosaic or moonlight period, and the Christian or sunlight dispensation. The addresses and interest were good.

H. Picton, one of our pioneer members and preachers, and one of the ablest defenders of "the faith once for all delivered to the saints," passed away on Sunday last and was buried in the Waverley Cemetery, N.S.W., on Monday afternoon. Bro. Walden conducted the service at the grave. Bro. Picton did a great work as an advocate of the faith against all forms of error. He was specially successful in counteracting infidelity, and some years ago the prominent Christian leaders of Sydney presented him with an illuminated address expressing their appreciation of the great help that Bro. Picton had rendered to the churches of Sydney in his successful attacks on the strongholds of infidelity. Bro. Picton was also one of the best informed men on the errors of Christadelphianism, Mormonism, and Seventh Day Adventism, and combated these people on every occasion. Right up to the end of his life he was conducting meetings on Newtown Bridge, and the Sydney Domain, advocating New Testament Christianity, free from all adulteration. Bro. Picton's death was unexpected to many of his friends. He was ill for a very little while, but died in harness. Up to almost the last he was conducting services, and was greatly interested in his personal work among the people of Sydney. The one word that might be said of him was that he was a "warrior." He very seldom sheathed his sword, and many an opponent of the truth has suffered defeat from his skilful handling of the sword of the Spirit.

The Conferences are over, and the brethren have returned to their homes. Judging by the reports, it would appear that they have all been largely attended and enthusiastic. Nor has the result been merely enthusiasm, for substantial gains are reported. Promises of financial aid were freely made in all the States, notably in New South Wales, where over £460 was collected in cash and promises for Home Missions alone. The Federal Conference in Melbourne was, of course, the chief attraction. So far as Home Missions are concerned, this organisation has up to the present done but little, leaving this work to the individual States. It may be that in time the evangelistic work in the weaker States, in border towns, in the territories of Northern Australia and Papua, or in the Federal capital, will receive practical attention and funds be forthcoming for aggressive work on a scale commensurate with the importance of the plea we urge and the people represented. But in other respects the Federal Conference has more than justified its existence. It has brought into being our vigorous College of the Bible, our Federal Foreign Mission Committee, our Aged Preachers' Fund, our Federal Home Mission Day, and other developments of a progressive type. Now that the representatives have returned to their homes from all these Conferences, and the excitement has died away, it remains for us all to settle down to steady work, that our Conference ideals may materialise into practical realities.

From figures supplied at the Federal Conference we learn that there are in the Australian

Commonwealth, members of Churches of Christ associated for evangelistic work as follows:—Victoria, 7856; S.A., 5395; N.S.W., 4009; W.A., 1348; Queensland, 1103; Tasmania, 525; Total, 20,234. To these must be added 614 converts from Hebraism in Aoba and 306 in Pentecost, New Hebraism, making a total of 21,154. The net increases for the past year were: Victoria, 18; S.A., 344; N.S.W., 126; and W.A., 95. Total, 583. In the islands of Aoba and Pentecost, 101 were also added. The Bible School statistics are as follows:—Victoria, 7296 scholars; S.A., 3802; N.S.W., 2806; W.A., 1323; Queensland, 841; Tasmania, 362. Total, 16,410. This is not a good showing but the encouraging feature is the rapid growth of the schools. The increases in the four States of which we have the figures are: Victoria, 445; S.A., 583; N.S.W., 336; and W.A., 156. Total, 1520. The supported preachers are distributed over the States as follows: Victoria, 40; S.A., 28; N.S.W., 23; W.A., 7; Queensland, 7; Tasmania, 1; New Hebrides, 3. Total, 109. The church membership for New Zealand is, in round numbers, 3,500, which will make the total membership for Australasia, 24,348.

QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE JOTTINGS.

We need to reflect the glory of Christ.—F. A. Bignill.

We needed power, or stored-up energy.—H. U. Rodger.

Those people right out back are good.—W. A. Strongman.

The Boonah church report can be taken as read.—T. F. Stubbin.

We are going to turn out preachers at Tanny.—T. C. Harward.

When the church gets right with God, finances will be all right.—W. B. Hayes.

The churches need more harmony, a clearer and expanded vision, focussed faith, and the cultivation of deepening desire to extend the Lord's work.—A. W. Jinks.

WEST AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE JOTTINGS.

The meeting for the deepening of spiritual life was impressive and inspiring.

The Conference was marked by optimism, enthusiasm, and reasonableness throughout.

The net gain to the churches exactly equalled the number added by faith and baptism—95.

The H.M. reports were enthusiastic, and hopeful, and the future is bright as the promises of God.

T. H. Scambler said the family altar was being superseded by picture shows and yellow-back novels.

By Mr. Tregear's recital of events in the recent campaign in N.Z., we were all aroused—we trust to action.

The President's address sounded the keynote in its commanding call to wider outlook and more aggressive service.

The Sisters' Conference took its cue from the President, Mrs. Banks, and was calm, dignified, orderly and business-like.

A. J. Ingham made his bow to the State at the meetings on Good Friday. We all like him. He is to preach at North Perth.

The President said that he had never seen a preacher more loved by his people than is Bro. Manning by the people in his circuit.

The meetings increased in attendance and power, and the last gathering—that on Sunday afternoon at the Conference Sermon—was the largest of all.

G. Fitzgerald comes to us from the College of the Bible, and while still studying, goes over the week-end to the Bunbury church. He is the cap-

able forerunner of the many students from the College of the Bible who are coming to W.A.

Great emphasis was placed on the error of the assisted churches in withdrawing their contributions during periods in which the Committee is unable to supply them with an evangelist. The habit is injurious to the State work, and ruinous to the churches.

C. R. SCOVILLE'S FIXTURES FOR SYDNEY.

May 1, Reception in vestibule of Town Hall, Sydney.

May 1 to 7, Mission at Enmore Tabernacle.

May 8 to 14, Mission at Paddington.

May 15 to 21, Mission at North Sydney.

May 22 to 30, Mission at City Temple.

The Australian Christian.

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 FEDERAL EVANGELISTIC FUND.

Victoria: Montrose, 4/-; Footscray, 10/6; Lillimur, 3/10; Ascot Vale, 10/-; Cheltenham, 4/-; total, £2/8/4. Queensland: Woooloolin, 8/-; Roma, 4/-; Rosnah, 10/-; total, £1/18/-. South Australia: Unley, £2/2/-; Prospect, 6/8; total, £2/8/8. New South Wales: Auburn, 10/-. Tasmania: Nubeena, 8/4. Total, £7/13/4.

From this on, will all churches kindly send money for this fund to W. C. Craigie, 263 Little Collins-st., Melbourne.

N.S.W. HOME MISSION FUND.

To April 13. From churches on account of their preachers: Rookwood, to March 17, £8/2/6; Canley Vale, to February 24, £3; Merewether, to March 23, £6. From churches, per collectors: Enmore, £4/7/2; Auburn, 9/11. Mission Thank-offering: Marrar, £3. Conference Contributions: Lilyville, 10/-; Rookwood, 10/-; Belmont, 10/-; Merewether, 10/-; Taree, 10/-; Individual Contributions: J. Francis, Goulburn, 5/-; Sister Dawson, Parramatta, 2/6. Conference Offering, £11 14/-; Sundries, £1/10/3.

45 Park-st., Sydney. Chas. J. Lea, Treas.

COMING EVENTS.

APRIL 28, 30, & MAY 5.—North Richmond Bible School Anniversary, April 28, 30, and May 5. Tuesday, 30th, silver coin admission; all welcome. Come and encourage the children and teachers.

APRIL 29.—Musical Society. Next rehearsal, Saturday, 29th inst., at Swanston-st.—C. H. Mitchell.

MAY 12 & 14—HAWTHORN Bible School Anniversary. T. J. Cook, from Bendigo, will be with us.

Sisters' Department.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The Executive met April 4. Mrs. Dumbrell leading the devotions.

Additions to church from Sunday School:—Grote-st., 1.

Correspondence.—Letters were received from Mrs. Pascoe, of the Kersbrook church, and Mrs. H. Goldsworthy, of the Milang church.

Obituary Report.—(Mrs. Dumbrell). The following sisters had been called home during February and March:—Sister Cotton and Sister Horne, of the Grote-st. church, and Sister Mudge, of North Adelaide.

Treasurer's Report.—Home Mission receipts for March, £12/3/11; in hand, £29/2/-; total, £41 5/11. Foreign Missions, £6/12/25½; in hand, £15 15/1½; total, £22/7/4. General Fund, Collection, 18/2; in hand, £3/1/7½; postage, 5/-; total, £3 14/9½.—A. E. Messent.

Foreign Missions.—(Miss Norman.) During the month an interesting letter was received from Sister Tilley, Baramati, which was read at the meeting. A request had come from an isolated family in membership with us for a mite box, which was gladly sent. The J.C.E. Society at York is supplying material to be made into garments for Pentecost by the Dorcas Society—a good example of capital and labor uniting. The Committee have distributed about 200 mite boxes, and have only about one dozen left, which they will be glad to give to any who would like one. Goods for the box to be sent to Pentecost will be thankfully received by the superintendent of this Committee at Park-st., Woodville. Amounts as follows:—A deceased sister's mite box, 2d.; mothers' meeting at Grote-st., 1/6½; Norwood, J.C.E. mite box, 5/6½; Norwood, 2/-; Unley, 16/-; Grote-st., 16/-; York, 5/-; Croydon, 15/8; Mr. L. Weeks' mite box, 11/2; Semaphore, 5/-; Mrs. Geo. Mauger, mite box, 3/-; total, £4/11/1.

Home Missions.—Amounts: Stirling East, £2 1/3; mite box, 3½d.; Semaphore, 5/-; Mile End, 17/10; Queenstown, £1/9/11; Maylands, £1/11/5; York, 6/-; total, £6/13/8½.

Leader for next devotional meeting, Miss Wayland.

A. E. Manning, Secretary.

The National Convention, U.S.A.

Linley Gordon, of Louisville, U.S.A., writes:—

The National Convention of the Disciples of Christ will be held October 15 to 22. This city is to do the entertaining. Will you please announce the date in your columns?

This Convention is going to supersede all others of the past. It will be greater in many respects than the Centennial. It will not be as "big" in the matter of numbers, but it is possible to make a thing too "big."

The success of the Convention depends on three things, numbers, entertainment and programme. The first requirement is easily met. It is impossible to keep our people away from the Annual Convention. The National Convention of the Episcopal Church meets once in three years, and the Conference of the Methodist Church meets

once in four years. It would seem that such a custom of two such great religious bodies would influence our people. Not so, however. They meet every year. They fly like flocks of black-birds to the Convention city. They spend scores of thousands of dollars and consume weeks and months of time that they may gather for one week of stimulus and inspiration. Already I learn of thousands who are coming from our own State, from Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, Tennessee, and other States. From all over the world they are coming—from England, from China, from Africa. Some may come from Australia. We hope so. We invite you. It will strengthen the bonds between the American and the Australian churches. It will enlarge the vision. Send some of your young preachers across; come yourself, you are young.

We have a great city in which to entertain you. Well equipped in the way of transportation; magnificent hotel service. Louisville has a population of 240,000. It is quite close to Lexington, Mammoth Cave, and other popular places. We have 6500 members in Louisville.

The Convention Programme is unusually good this year. Such princes as E. L. Powell, R. A. Long, A. McLean, S. J. Corey, A. E. Corey, Royal J. Dye, F. J. Spencer, Ainslee and others. A. E. Corey is Dean of the University of Nanking. He has a most remarkable message on "The Changing China." It is worth all the time and money you would spend in coming from Australia to hear it. Corey is a prophet. His message of late, in Louisville, scoured our very souls.

We have formed a Convention Club in Louisville. It is made up of all interested in the forthcoming event. It meets monthly. It is a splendid way of stimulating and interesting the local field.

A National Convention in the United States is really ten conventions in one—the American Christian Missionary Society, Foreign Christian Missionary Society, Christian Women's Board of Missions, Board of Ministerial Relief, National Board of Christian Evangelists, Board of Church Extension, National Benevolent Association, American Temperance Board, National Board of Christian Endeavor, and the Council of Christian Union.

Multitudes of congregations will be present. Come over and mingle with your American comrades, Bro. Dunn.

The "Australian Christian" arrives on schedule every mail. It is a delight to my soul. Through it I can keep in touch with the movement of the entire body as it exists in the homeland. It widens my heart. Send it on always. I circulate it.

C. R. Scoville.

In a few days this great evangelist will be in Australia. Roughly outlined, his programme covers missions in Sydney in May; Brisbane, June; Melbourne, July; Adelaide, August, and Perth, September or October. This, however, is subject to modification to suit his arrangements. We need scarcely point out that the success of his visit will depend largely on the preparations made and heartiness thrown into the work by the brethren. Bro. Scoville has been the honored instrument in leading tens of thousands to decision

for Christ. His last mission, as already announced, resulted in 1400 accessions in a town in Oklahoma. Unlike many of the great united missions, the converts in those held by Mr. Scoville are nearly all baptised and at once added to the churches. They do not simply sign a card or hold up their hands in token of a desire for salvation, but openly confess their faith in Christ and are united with his people. This ensures pastoral oversight at least to a large extent, and hence the work is more permanent and reliable. With the blessing of God and the hearty co-operation of the brethren, a mighty impetus should be given to the cause of primitive Christianity in the cities named, and the churches in the States as a whole will reap material benefit. Bro. Scoville can be assured of a most hearty reception by the brethren of Australia.

The Titanic.

The loss of the Titanic simply staggers the imagination. The midnight darkness, the awful crash, the icy cold, the heroism of many and the cowardice of others, the pathetic partings of husbands and wives, and parents and children, the revolver shots and heartrending shrieks, the captain's suicide, the crowding of the boats, the general confusion, the roar of the machinery, the final plunge as the stern rose in the air, and the piteous cries of the drowning, all unite to present a scene of indescribable awfulness. From the more or less conflicting accounts of this most colossal marine disaster on record, a few facts stand out with clearness. Among these are the inability of all the resources of modern science and mechanism to prevent disaster, the weakness of the strongest inventions of men when confronted with the forces of nature, the powerlessness of the millionaire's wealth in the presence of death, the essential oneness of plutocrat and peasant in the final conflict, and the calm display of heroic bravery and self-sacrifice in accordance with the best traditions of our race. Full investigations may reveal how far the catastrophe was due to neglect, and it is possible that even this huge calamity may ultimately prove a blessing by ensuring the adoption of greater precautions to minimize the dangers of ocean travel.

God wants work of us. He is working. He offers his power to us if we will work with him. Greater deeds than have ever been done do not wait upon his willingness, but upon our obedience.—R. E. Speer.

SILVER STAR STARCH

THE BEST
IN THE WORLD.

In the Realm of the Bible School.

Instead of the usual article this week, we have to present the following selected paragraphs—comments and illustrations—bearing on the lessons.

POVERTY AND RICHES.

Sunday School Lesson for May 5, Luke 6: 20-26;
16: 19-31.

The blessed poor.

If we think of the words as spoken to the disciples generally, A. B. Bruce's explanation is interesting. He says that Jesus was the poor man's friend, that he would say to the children of want and sorrow, Blessedness is possible even for you; there is a kingdom of God, lift up your thoughts to it, and it shall be well with you. But as Luke introduces the words, they are addressed to the twelve disciples particularly, and Jesus certainly did not mean to have them taken without qualification; every one that is poor, hungry, or sorrowful is not blessed any more than in the woes that follow every one who is rich, satisfied, joyful is accursed. The disciples were poor in the sense that they were ready to learn of him, poor in spirit as Matthew's version has it; they were hungry for righteousness; they knew spiritual sorrow; and it is these characteristics of members of the kingdom that Jesus calls blessed, just as Matthew's version explicitly states.—*Tarbell*.

Poverty and riches.

In the parable of Dives and Lazarus, Dives is not condemned because he is rich, but because he did not use his riches to help his brother man in need. Lazarus desired to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table, but the rich man, in his selfish ease, did not trouble himself about the poor beggar. Dives' sin was not in being rich, but in not using his riches aright.

Throughout all the words of Jesus on the subject of wealth, three thoughts are constant: (1) riches are a good but a lesser good, they receive their worth from their use; (2) riches are a great responsibility, a trust for whose use the owner is accountable to God, they must be shared; (3) riches are a great temptation, they tend to make their possessor think himself superior to his fellows, to keep him out of the kingdom of God.

A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth: this is the word of Jesus which he utters over and over in various ways. Earthly riches perish, to be rich toward God is the only wealth of real value. Listen to his words: Take heed, and beware of covetousness. The cares and deceitfulness of riches choke the word. What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also.

Scripture or miracle to produce faith?

Of Dives' prayer that one from Hades be sent to earth to warn his brothers, D. L. Moody says: "It would have been better if he had had a missionary spirit before he got to hell!" Dives' request is equivalent to a bold and impudent criticism of the Almighty. "It implies that he has scarcely had a fair chance. If God had warned him sufficiently, he would have escaped this place of torment."—*International Critical Commentary*.

What answer is made to this implied criticism? That in the lives and words of Moses and the prophets they already had a sufficient knowledge of their duty and warning of the result if they did not obey God. If they closed their ears to these revelations and exhortations, they would not believe, though one rose from the dead. "If there is nothing in the present circumstances of our life, or in the opportunities which we have enjoyed, to make us realise our duty, then most likely in no circumstances and in no opportunities shall we find anything that will."—*Wm. T. Wilson*. "No sight can ever create faith; for sights are things seen, and faith deals only with things unseen."—*Herba Stretton*.

Illustrations. The Pharisees were always asking Christ for "signs," and the more signs he gave, the less they believed. "Did you ever read of a boy who stood on a muddy road, and who promised God that he would be a Christian if there and then God would dry up the puddles? He thought he would become Christ's if he got a miracle. Jesus here tells us that is a great mistake. The man who is not persuaded by the gospel will never be persuaded by a ghost."—*G. H. Morrison*.

Saul was not made a better man when Samuel rose from the dead to warn him. Herod thought that John the Baptist had risen from the dead, but the belief did not change his life. In a few days the real Lazarus was to return from the grave, but the only effect it produced on these cruel Pharisees was that they sought to send him back there.—*Peloubet*.

THE LAW OF LOVE.

Sunday School Lesson for May 12, Luke 6: 27-38; Romans 13: 8-10.

The Golden Rule.

"The Golden Rule" (v. 31), says Peloubet, "is so called because it is supreme among religious maxims as gold is supreme among metals. This rule had been stated negatively before. Thus it is written in the Talmud that a Gentile came to Rabbi Shammai and asked that the Law might be explained to him in the time that he could stand on one foot. The rabbi lifted his staff and drove the inquirer from his presence. He then went to the rival Rabbi Hillel, who at once replied, 'Do not to thy neighbor what is hateful to thyself; that is the whole Law.' The Gentile became a proselyte."—*R. F. Horton*. Confucius gave the precept in the same negative form; "Do not to others what you would not have them do

to you." Christ was the first to give it a wide and positive application. "It is a little bundle of truth, which every man can put into his bosom and easily carry about with him."—*Luther*.

The Golden Rule requires the putting of oneself in the other's place. As ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them, is one of Christ's many statements that are to be observed in the spirit rather than in the exact letter. We do not serve others best by doing for them just what we wish with our circumstances and desires would wish done to us, but by doing for them just what we think would be best for ourselves were we in their circumstances and actuated by their desires. The physician should do for his patient what he would have done to himself were he in that patient's place; the employer should treat his employee as he himself would wish to be treated were he in the employee's place. The principle involves more trouble than the mere doing of a kindness to another; it requires thought, the effort of putting ourselves in that other's place to find out what would be the best for that one in his position. And the higher the demand that we make for our own best, truest good, the less danger will there be of our doing a thoughtlessly kind deed for another that is not for his highest good. If a beggar asks to be fed and clothed that he may himself live in idleness, we shall fulfil Christ's Golden Rule as well as his rule of giving to him that asks by furnishing that beggar with the means of earning his own food and clothing.—*Tarbell*.

"Love your enemies."

Note that we are not told to love their sin and ugliness, but *them*. George Macdonald gives three reasons: (1) God loves his enemies, and "the divine energy is at work in man, to render at length man's doing divine as his nature is." (2) "Our enemies are of one nature with us, even the divine nature. Shall this divine thing have no recognition from us?" (3) We cannot even be just to our enemies if we hate them or are indifferent to them. "Love is the law of our condition, without which we can no more render justice than a man can keep a straight line walking in the dark."—*Peloubet*.

A few poor Cherokee women, who had been converted to Christianity, formed themselves into a society for the propagation of the gospel which was now so dear to them. The produce of the first year was about ten dollars, and the question was, To what immediate object should this be applied. At length a poor woman proposed that it should be given to promote the circulation of the gospel in the Osage nation; "For," said she, "the Master has told us to love and do good to our enemies, and I believe the Osages are the greatest enemies the Cherokees have."

According to President Hopkins, in *Law of Love and Love as Law*, there are three elements in love. (1) Desire for, awakened by a perception of worth as distinguished from worthiness. (2) Attraction toward, delight in, the object of love. (3) A rational choice to do him good and seek his welfare, so strong that we are willing to make sacrifices for him. In loving enemies, the emphasis is on the latter element. We cannot always delight in the character of our enemy, but we can choose to do him good, and delight to do it. It is the same love with which God loves sinners, even the worst of them.

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By J. B. Rotherham.

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Obituary.

PYE.—George Henry Pye, of Nelson, N.Z., came into our district only a few weeks ago, on a visit. During his first fortnight here he placed himself in touch with the church, and then was stricken down with an affection of the heart, which culminated in his release from this life early on April 4. During his illness he bore his pain with indomitable courage, and died praising his Saviour. The burden of his thought was "Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." It was a privilege to stand by him and see his faith, and witness his victory over the fear of death. Over a week before his death he called the writer to his bedside, and dictated the following, which he desired published after his call home. He said then, "Brother, I shall see no more sunsets—for there is no night there." "A Statement to the World:—After fifty years of Christian life, unworthy in every respect, the Master has given me the promise, and assurance, in these last days, that abiding faithful unto death, I shall receive the crown of life which fadeth not away. I make this statement in view of the fact that I shall soon meet him face to face: 'I shall be satisfied when I awake, with thy likeness' (Psalm 17: 15). (Signed) Geo. H. Pye." We laid his body to rest in the Waverley Cemetery, on Thursday afternoon, to await the coming of him who maketh all things new.—Fred. T. Saunders, North Sydney, N.S.W.

VICTORIAN MISSION FUND.

Churches—Wilkur, £2; Castlemaine, £10; French Island, 10/-; Warrnambool, £5; Maryborough and Bet Bet, £32/12/6; Melbourne South, £10/2/6; Terang, £4; South Yarra, per Misses Blake and Crook, £2/6/10; Drummond, £5/17/3; Williamstown, £2/5/9. Conference Fees—Geelong, £1; Carlton North, 10/-; Prahran, 10/-; Newmarket, £1; Bet Bet, 10/-; Melbourne South, 10/-; Shepparton, 10/-; Warrnambool, 10/-; Harcourt, 10/-; Wamboony, 10/-; Berwick, 10/-; Lygon-st., £1; St. Kilda, 10/-; Surrey Hills, 10/-; Ballarat, £1; Williamstown, £1; Gordon, 10/-; Warragul, 10/-; Preston, 10/-; Bro. Darnley, £1/1/-; Bro. Farnham, 10/-.

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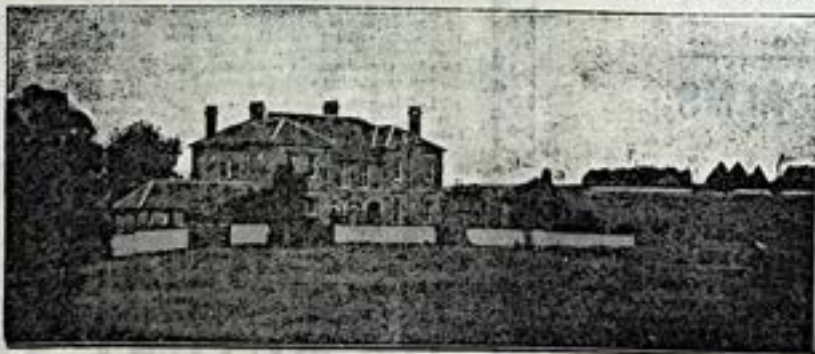
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