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Victorian Conference, 1900.

TEMPERANCE MEETING.

On Thursday night the usual Temperance Demonstration was held in the Lygon-street Chapel. There was a large crowd, the building being nearly full. A. Millis presided. The programme might be called a surprise one, some artistes being repeatedly on the platform. Miss Nellie McClelland, Miss Marion Benson, W. G. Barker, and the Cathedral Quartette Party gave items during the evening. Short addresses were given by John Vale, Secretary of the Victorian Alliance, and W. Wilson. A collection was taken up, amounting to over £4. A good impression was made on all present.

The Annual Conference of the churches of Christ in Victoria opened its meetings on the morning of April 13th, in the Christian Chapel, Lygon-st. All day Friday there were great gatherings.

DEVOTIONAL MEETING.

Shortly after 10 o'clock, F. G. Dunn took the chair, and presided over the opening devotional services. After the singing of a few verses of "Our God, our help in ages past," W. Burgess and J. G. Shain engaged in prayer. The first chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians was read, and followed by a short address by F. G. Dunn, who spoke of the "ideal church of Christ" set forth by the Apostle Paul. Bro. Price (of Marrickville, Sydney), H. G. Harward, A. C. Rankine (Norwood, Adelaide), and W. D. Little led in prayer.

CONFERENCE.

At the conclusion of the devotional service R. C. Edwards, President of the Conference, took the chair. After singing "All people that on earth do dwell," the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The roll of representatives was then called.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters of congratulation were read from West Australia and New South Wales.

VISITORS.

Bro. Price, of Sydney, A. C. Rankine, of Norwood, and F. Pittman, of Hindmarsh, Adelaide, were present, and duly welcomed by the President. Both were invited to address the Conference, and did so in a few appropriate and well chosen words. Bro. Pittman, in the course of his address, conveyed to the Conference the congratulations of the South Australian Evangelistic Committee and the church at Hindmarsh. At a later stage H. D. Brooker, M.P., of S.A., and Sister Brooker, were welcomed to the Conference, and H. D. Brooker responded. H. G. Harward was also welcomed on his return from America, and also J. A. Palmer from Tasmania.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

R. C. Edwards said that we were now entering into a period of prosperity. Things have taken a new start in the commercial world and this prosperity had its danger. There was a possibility of being carried away by this prosperity and becoming too worldly. The apostolic injunction was, that we were not to be conformed to this world. Non-conformity was a good work. It was one of the secrets of England's greatness. Non-conformity to the world should be our watchword. We should be careful that we are not caught sleeping like some of the forces in South Africa were. In allowing ourselves to be conformed to the world we were allowing ourselves to become absorbed in its pursuits to the neglect of the interests of the church of Christ. The prevalence of this conformity accounted for the little progress that was being made. He would urge upon the brotherhood the necessity for a greater consecration to the service of Christ.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY M. W. GREEN.

At this stage of the proceedings M. W. Green requested permission to withdraw the notice of motion standing in his name. On the motion of C. W. Mitchell this was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

I. SISTERS' CONFERENCE.

As in former times, the sisters have rendered much and valuable help. Much of the work they do can not be tabulated, the money collected alone showing in this way, which amounts to £169, an increase of £43/7/- over last year, and the largest amount since 1892. All know of their zeal and energy in providing refreshments at Conference time, which we trust will be made less irksome by the vote last year, by which they have been able to provide themselves with a much needed supply of crockery and tables. For all their noble efforts on behalf of the Lord's work we have to thank them.

This clause was carried heartily and unanimously. The President read a letter from the Sisters' Conference, expressing their thanks to the Executive for donating crockery and tables.

2. FINANCES.

It will be seen that the total income has been £1155 8/9, the outlay £1039/18/4, leaving a balance to the good of £115/10/5. The year began with £71/18/8, so the balance was increased by £43/11/9.

During the year £240 was received from the trustees in the estate of the late Bro. M. Gill. It was decided not to use the whole of this amount in one year, so £40 has been absorbed during the year just closed, and £200 placed in the bank at interest, intending to use £50 a year for four years.

Apart from this the receipts have been from usual sources, and show a good increase, as will be seen from the following comparison:—

	1898.	
Church Contributions	..	£95 13 4
Individual	117 12 9
Annual Collections	..	89 0 0
		£302 6 1

	1900.	
Church Contributions	..	£135 1 6
Individual	120 5 6
Annual Collections	..	172 2 4
		£427 9 4

The most of this increase of £125/3/3 has to be put down to the Annual Collections. We are indeed grateful to the churches for the hearty response to our appeals, 69 churches taking part, as against 54 last year. There are still 20 or 30 churches which have no fellowship in this offering, but we hope that next year they too will fall into line. The various circuits, which have had the most of the services of our evangelists, have also slightly increased their contributions.

The Foreign Missionary Committee report a total income from all the colonies for the general work of £616, compared with £454/18/3 received last year.

H. Swain thought that the satisfactory increase in the finance was partly due to the employment of a preacher in connection with the city and suburban churches.

R. Lyall gave some interesting figures in reference to finances. He said that last year our contributions averaged 2/3 per head for Home Missions, this year it was 3/2. For Foreign Missions the average last year was 8½d., this year it was 11½d. In this matter our New South Wales brethren were ahead of us, as they contributed 4/2 per head for Home Missions and 1/1½d. per head Foreign Missions. On the motion of J. A. Davies, the clause was adopted.

3. STATISTICS.

The number of churches in Victoria in our statistical schedule is 96, being one more than last year.

The total membership is 5319, as against 5286, at last Conference, an increase of 33. The gains are:—by faith and baptism, 480; letter, 251; formerly immersed, 61; Restoration, 14; Total, 806. The losses are:—By letter, 269; death, 58; removal and revision of roll, 446; Total, 773. Increase, 33.

The number of Sunday Schools is 64; scholars, 5135; teachers, 467; an increase of 350 scholars, with the same number of teachers as last year. The number added to the church from the Sunday School is 192, being 98 more than last year, which must be a cause of rejoicing to Sunday School teachers.

Thos. Hagger moved the adoption of this clause, and called attention to the great number of losses by revision of roll.

4. EASTER SPECIAL SERVICES.

At last Conference a resolution was passed directing the Executive Committee to consider the advisability of holding special Sunday services in the Town Hall at Easter time. We considered the matter in Committee, and it was then decided that as the city and suburban churches would be affected by any services of the kind, it was only right to consult them on the matter. A meeting of officers of churches in city and suburbs was therefore held on 23rd January last. There was a good attendance, representing 14 churches. The following motion was proposed and seconded:—"That the Town Hall be taken on Easter Sunday, in order to hold special services for worship and proclamation of the gospel, subject to the consent of the churches." After a full discussion of the whole question, the motion was lost by 30 votes to 5. Under the circumstances we do not think it advisable to hold these services.

Bro. Brandt, in moving the adoption of this clause, expressed regret that the churches could not see their way clear to carry out this work.

5. ASSISTANCE TO AGED AND DISABLED PREACHERS.

The Committee appointed at last Conference make the following report:—We recommend the Home and Foreign Committees, to get the lives of all their workers insured, either to be drawn at death or a certain age, the amount to be not less than £200 and the premium paid not more than £10 per annum, the committees paying one half the premiums, the same to be paid so long as such worker shall remain in the employ of the Committee, the other half to be paid by the insured. We also recommend to all our churches who employ evangelists, that their lives be insured for a stated sum; that the church pays one half the premiums, and the preacher the other half. In both cases the obligation to cease at the termination of any engagement. We also recommend that in case any worker or preacher fail to pass for insurance, the committee or church pay to such worker or preacher £5 per year, provided always that they place a similar amount with it in the Savings Bank. This will provide a small amount, at all events, against a day of trouble. The recommendations we consider practicable and can be given effect to at once, while for many reasons we are unable to carry out a more elaborate scheme.

Bro. Nichols of Bendigo saw a difficulty in connection with the scheme in reference to continuing the policy after the preacher left a particular church.

J. A. Davies said the scheme propounded was the best under the circumstances. The position of our preachers was something different to that of preachers in other religious bodies, but taking everything together, the proposition submitted was about the best available.

M. W. Green pointed out that in his opinion the scheme was only applicable to young preachers, and altogether inadequate at that. For old preachers it was useless, inasmuch as insurance in their case was not practicable. He thought that some provision should be made for paying pensions to those preachers who are no longer able to carry on their work.

F. Clarey agreed with remarks of M. W. Green.

B. Huntsman thought that the scheme should be referred to the incoming Committee for reconsideration. It was evident that the Conference did not regard the scheme as workable, and it was therefore desirable that something more should be done. So far as the insurance was concerned, he did not think that the salaries paid our preachers would allow them to pay the amount required.

A. B. Maston replied to some of the criticisms urged against the scheme. It was moved by B. Huntsman and seconded by F. McClean, That the scheme submitted be referred to the incoming Committee for consideration.

W. Wilson hoped that the motion would not be carried. He thought that such a course would be useless, as no scheme could be propounded that would meet with the entire approval of the brotherhood. He thought that the scheme suggested should be accepted as an instalment of something better that might be suggested afterwards.

R. C. Edwards thought that the scheme, if it did nothing else, would assist those whose lives were already insured.

The motion moved by B. Huntsman was eventually carried.

An adjournment was then made for lunch.

The devotional exercise at 1.30 p.m. was led by M. W. Green. H. G. Browne read the scripture lesson, and made a

few suitable remarks on the words, "For me to live is Christ." Prayer was offered by A. W. Connor, C. G. Lawson, T. Brooker of Adelaide, and T. Cowley.

6. SUNDAY SCHOOL EVANGELIST.

We were directed by the last annual meeting to confer with the Sunday School Union as to the advisability of engaging a Sunday School Evangelist and to report to this meeting. The Conference took place and many expressed themselves as being favourable to such an appointment although some difficulties presented themselves. The following resolution was passed by the Joint Committees:—"That the Committee agree as to the advisability of appointing a S.S. Evangelist, but cannot see their way to recommend it at present owing to financial difficulties."

J. Tully spoke of the importance of this work and asked that the adoption of the clause be deferred till the report of the Sunday School Union should be taken, which was agreed to.

7. TRAINING COMMITTEE.

For some time past A. B. Maston, W. C. Morro, B.A., and James Johnston have been interesting themselves in assisting a few young men to educate themselves with a view to better fitting themselves as preachers of the gospel and teachers in the churches. We recommend that the Executive Committee for the time being be appointed a Training Committee to further the interests of educational work, and that such Committee be empowered to receive any moneys or bequests which may from time to time be left to further the interests of educational work amongst the churches of Christ in Victoria.

J. A. Davies explained that certain monies might possibly be left for education purposes and it was therefore desirable to have some committee empowered to receive it. On the motion of B. J. Kemp it was decided to alter the clause so as to read That the Executive and Home Missionary Committee be a Training Committee, and that the Treasurer of the Conference be empowered to give a legal receipt.

On the motion of B. Huntsman it was carried that the thanks of the Conference be given to A. B. Maston, W. C. Morro, and J. Johnston for their services in connection with assisting young men in their education.

8. THANKS.

The churches at Swanston-street and Lygon-street deserve our best thanks, the former for the use of hall in which to hold Committee meetings during the year, and the latter for use of building for holding our annual meetings in. We have also to thank Brethren Barnacle and A. R. Lyall for their kindness in auditing the various accounts, also Bren, N; Haddow and R. Lyall for so effectively looking after the musical part of our programmes. We are profoundly grateful to our Heavenly Father for all his goodness during the year. That in his mercy he has permitted us to meet together in Conference once more, and we earnestly pray that the great Head of the church may guide and bless us in our deliberations, and that much good may be done during the new year upon which we are entering. On behalf of the Executive Committee,

R. CAMPBELL EDWARDS, PRESIDENT.

M. MCLELLAN, SECRETARY.

Carried unanimously.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

That in view of our approaching Jubilee in 1903, preparatory steps be taken to celebrate the same in a manner worthy of the occasion. That a committee be appointed to draw up a scheme of celebration and submit the same for the consideration of the next Conference, and that the said committee invite suggestions and co-operation from the Conferences of sister colonies of Australasia.

The motion was moved by F. G. Dunn, and seconded by F. Ludbrook. It was supported by R. G. Cameron, W. Wilson, M.

W. Green and others, and received with great enthusiasm, and carried unanimously.

F. G. Dunn moved, That the committee consist of the Executive, Home and Foreign Mission Committees, and two representatives from the Sisters' Executive, Sunday School Union and Temperance Committee.

The following was added: That the name of C. Johnson (Corowa, N.S.W.) be added to the committee, and that the committee have power to add to its number.

By church at Wedderburn.—That this Conference recommends the churches when granting letters of transfer, that such should only be from one church to another, through their respective secretaries, and not given to the members themselves.

This was moved by E. Griffiths, and with the alteration of the insertion of the word "generally" in place of "only" was carried.

HOME MISSIONARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

FIELDS OCCUPIED.

The following fields have occupied the most of the attention of the Evangelists:—Mallee, Kaniva, Echuca, Wedderburn, Horsham, Melbourne and Suburbs and subsidies given to a few churches much in need of help.

1. MALLEE DISTRICT.

G. H. Browne has continued his labours in this circuit. It is made up of Galaquil, Galaquil East, Brim, Maidavale (near Hopetoun), Warmer West and Bangerang. The Evangelist spent his holiday preaching at Port Fairy. During the year 175 addresses have been given, and 16 additions reported by the obedience of faith.

G. H. Browne said that as this was perhaps the last time that he would represent the Mallee District, he would place before them some of the difficulties attending the work. In the first place, matters were not so prosperous as formerly, but notwithstanding this they had carried on the work nobly, and contributed as liberally as others. The difficulties were increased by the fact that a great number had left the district. They were not yet in a position to work independently, and he therefore hoped that the Conference would continue to help the brethren who had so faithfully held the fort in the past. W. White, in speaking of the district in which he lived, thanked the brethren for the support they had given them.

2. HORSHAM DISTRICT.

At the urgent request of a number of brethren in this district, A. W. Connor was removed from Kaniva to labor in this field. Some years ago the Committee had a preacher stationed here, but owing to removals and other causes it was given up. The evangelist has labored with the churches at Horsham, Polkmett, Minyip, and Dunmunkle, also several visited several times the newly-formed church at Glenorchy. Things have much improved during the year. The preacher has delivered 216 addresses, and reports 20 baptisms, one restored and one formerly immersed.

A. W. Connor said that he had been about ten months in this district and the result of the work done was shown in the report. Last year they had promised the sum of £50, but this year they had promised £77, which was satisfactory from a financial point of view. He would urge upon the Conference the importance of continuing the work in such districts as Horsham. This help should be afforded until the circuit became self-supporting. It should be our aim not only to labor for this year or next year, but for years to come.

W. G. Oram of Dunmunkle supplemented the remarks made by A. W. Connor and expressed the thanks of the whole district to Home Mission Committee, and they trusted that A. W. Connor would be sent back to them.

3. KANIVA DISTRICT.

At the beginning of the year, H. Leng took up the work in this circuit commencing one month after last Conference. He preaches at Kaniva, Serviceton, Yanac North, Carew, Lillimur, Dinyarak, Bordertown, Yanipy and other places. He has delivered 155 addresses, and reports 12 additions by primary obedience.

H. Leng said that the difficulties that G. H. Browne referred to existed also to a large extent in Kaniva. The district in which he labored was a wide one, and deserving of the sympathy and help of the brethren. He was sure that if the Conference failed them the brethren would be sadly disappointed and their hearts might fail them.

C. McCallum of North Yanac also advocated the claims of the district.

4. WEDDERBURN DISTRICT.

E. Griffiths still occupies this extensive field, travelling during the past year 4620 miles, reaching from time to time Wedderburn, Fernihurst, Yarrowalla, Benjeroop, Murrabit and Kerang East, Yando, Mumble plains and Mystic Park. Addresses delivered 96 with 18 baptisms.

E. Griffiths said that the Wedderburn district was the most extensive of all the districts, and consequently a great amount of his time was taken up in travelling. The members, too, had to travel good distances, frequently from twelve to fifteen miles, in order to attend to the "breaking of bread." It was the wish of the brethren in the district that the Conference should send up an evangelist this year.

W. C. Thurgood spoke of the good work that had been done by E. Griffiths, and trusted that he would be sent up there again.

5. ECHUCA DISTRICT.

W. Burgess commenced his labors here on May 11. The district extends from Echuca to Shepparton, Kyabram, Toolamba, Wharparilla, Cosgrove, and Runnymede East. The church at Cosgrove was organized during the year. There have been 20 additions by faith and one formerly immersed.

W. Burgess said that he commenced his work in the Echuca District in May. He was told when he went up there that his was the smallest district of them all. All he could say was that, seeing it covered 180 miles, it was quite large enough for him. There were many circumstances that made the work hard, but the worst of these were not of a spiritual character. The brethren in the Echuca district expressed the desire that a brother should not only be sent to them, but also that one should be sent to Shepparton.

Jno. Skinner spoke of the Conference of the churches that had been held in the Echuca district, and was glad to say that they were able to promise more than last year.

6. CITY AND SUBURBAN EVANGELIST.

Observing that there was a prospect of doing good work among the suburban churches if we had a suitable man for the work, we invited G. B. Moysey to act in the capacity of city and suburban evangelist. To this proposal he agreed. The church at Footscray requested his services, promising to contribute £1 per week to the fund. Since the beginning of August he has been laboring most of his time at Footscray, the secretary of that church reporting very much improved attendances at all meetings, and brighter prospects for the cause at that place than they have had

for years. The evangelist has also assisted other churches by holding mid-week services. Our object in making the appointment was so that churches in and around Melbourne which have no regular preachers might be assisted and the interests of the suburban churches promoted.

Additions by faith and baptism, 6.

G. B. Moysey said that before speaking of his work he desired to express the high esteem in which the missionaries engaged by the Committee were held in the circuits in which they labour. He had visited some of the fields lately and could bear personal testimony to the fact he had stated. In reference to his own work, although he did not think it was expected that he should express any opinion as to the need of his work as a city and suburban evangelist, yet he might say that he found that there was a very genuine feeling among the churches that there was ample scope for such work. He then referred to what was being done at Footscray and said that he was sure that much good had been done.

7. BARKER'S CREEK.

In December last an application was received from the church at Barker's Creek to send them, if possible, preachers for about two months. As we had not an evangelist available, we decided to ask the services of some of our city and suburban evangelists. We are pleased to say that not one of the churches which were asked refused, but all willingly gave their consent, and the preachers themselves were just as obliging. At the expiration of the first two months we were requested to still continue supplies, and even on our second application we found all equally willing. We have to thank most sincerely G. B. Moysey, T. J. Cook, T. Hagger, F. W. Greenwood, W. C. Morro, Jas. Johnson, M. Wood Green, and O. A. C. Green, also the churches at Footscray, N. Richmond, Lygon-street, Doncaster, Swanston-street and Cheltenham, for granting the preachers' services. We have also to thank those brethren who filled the places of those preachers, thus enabling them to go. The brethren at Barker's Creek have been much cheered by these visits. 20 have been added by faith and baptism, and 1 by restoration; total, 21.

W. Symes said that for some years the church at Barker's Creek had been almost at a standstill. The help afforded by the Missionary Committee, which had resulted in 22 additions, mostly from the Sunday School. He would ask the Committee to send them up a preacher for this year, and he would promise that the church would contribute the sum of 25/- per week.

T. Hagger supported the claim made by Barker's Creek.

SUMMARY.

The following is a summary of the foregoing reports: Additions by faith and baptism, 112; formerly immersed, 2; restored 2; total, 116.

8. FUTURE WORK.

The question of future fields of labor is a most important one. We do not think that any of those occupied at present are yet self-supporting and as they use all desirous of continuing the good work and prepared to contribute similar amounts as last year, we believe it would be unwise at present to withdraw evangelistic aid from any of the fields. The church at Fitzroy has entered upon an engagement with H. G. Harward. A few weeks ago they asked for a subsidy to the extent of £1 per week in order to enable them to retain Bro. Harward's services. This sum was promised up till date of Conference for their enterprise, and they deserve to be encouraged by giving them for a time the financial assistance they require. We think that the city and suburban evangelist can do a splendid work by assisting churches which cannot support preachers, and that it should be given another year's trial. The bulk of the contributions come from metropolitan churches. It is therefore fair that they should participate in the services of a preacher. Barker's Creek asks for a small subsidy, which we recommend the incoming Committee to grant. There are two fields which claim special attention, viz.,

Gippsland and the Western District. We believe that in both of these there is good work to be done, by co-operating with existing churches.

In speaking to the motion for the adoption of this clause A. B. Maston expressed the firm conviction that the time had nearly come, or quite so in most cases, when the circuits now occupied should become self-supporting. He stated it as his conviction that not one of these districts was fully doing its duty, and that the time had come when some understanding should be arrived at as to the finality of the help rendered. From the reports before the Conference he showed that the 26 churches in the 5 districts, consisting of 722 members, had raised but £373/16/2, while the Committee had to find the other £179 spent in these places, much of it being gathered from struggling churches in other parts of the colony. He stated that in his judgment the time had come when the Committee should be freed from these places, that it might send its preachers into other fields. The speaker's remarks met with some approval and much opposition, especially from representatives from the districts. Clause carried.

HOME MISSIONARY NIGHT.

The evening devoted to Home Missions was opened under the chairmanship of R. C. Edwards, and after the singing of a hymn, G. B. Moysey lead the meeting in prayer. The chairman called upon,

F. Pittman of South Australia, who said he would say something about heralds of the cross—preachers and reasoners. Our Lord spoke of sending out laborers into the vineyard—not idlers, but workers. Christ believed in using instrumentalities. In South Australia their difficulty was not in getting money, but in finding suitable laborers. What was required was men who had something to say, not those who had nothing to say—and said it. The great theme of the preacher must be the gospel—not something else. The old, old story was ever new, and it was that which must be proclaimed if any real good was to be done. The preacher must be in earnest and must not stand aloof. Men were needed of the spirit of Paul and John—men with a whole Sahara of riches. It was also needed that all disciples should be preachers of the word, for evangelists only could never convert the world. A vigorous, forward movement was needed, for vast territories lay open before us, waiting for us to enter in and take possession.

A musical selection, "Throw out the Life-line," by N. Haddow and party.

Song by Miss Mary McGregor.

Song by Mrs. Ball.

A. C. Rankine of South Australia said we gather together in Conference in the various colonies for the purpose of advancing the kingdom of God upon earth. In carrying out this purpose we desire that the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth shall be spoken. But in our endeavor to do this we find there are hindrances in the way. He did not believe that the world was growing worse, on the contrary, he believed it was better to-day than it was fifty years ago. But yet, how was it that the gospel did not make that progress that it made in the early

days of Christianity. It was not true, as some say, that our want of progress was due to the sovereignty of God. Nor was it true that the gospel was not adapted to the needs of all people. The hindrances to the gospel were not to be found in these. They were rather found in other directions. In the fact that the truth was frequently misrepresented the truth was held down in unrighteousness. In other cases the truth was hidden in ritualism—the glory of Christ was hidden by ceremonial. Again, the great onward progress of the gospel was hindered by selfishness. Christians did not give as they should. Their giving very seldom went to the extent of producing inconvenience. The cure for this was the love of Christ in the heart.

A collection was taken up amounting in cash and promises to £123/3/-

H. G. Harward said that the great problem before the church in Australia was that of Home Mission work—how to enter in and take up the new fields waiting for us on every hand. And while we might congratulate ourselves on the victories we had won, we might also remember the opportunities we had neglected. There were certain factors that entered into our work in Victoria. The

first factor was the presentation of the true faith. The apostolic injunction was "to contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints." The message was a mighty one. It contained more than we sometimes thought. Much depended on the way in which "the faith" was presented. It was not intended that this message should be hidden. In many cases it seems to be our practice to hide it in some out of the way corner. This message should be taken to the people, and it should not be expected that the people should climb over a wall to hear it. Our plea was something to be proud of, and we should never lose an opportunity in presenting it. The second factor in success was the proper utilisation of our forces. We had five thousand disciples of Christ in the colony of Victoria. Every one of these should be at work. Men and money want to be utilised to the fullest extent. Lastly, the third factor was in the wise selection of fields. In those fields in which we are now laboring, instead of taking men away, we want to send more. The western district and others required immediate attention. Taking, then, these three factors, and using them to the utmost, the result would be immense gain for Christ.

Musical selection by N. Haddow and party.

After singing and prayer the meeting came to a close.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

PRESIDENT.—J. A. Davies.

VICE-PRESIDENT.—W. C. Morro.

TREASURER.—J. A. Davies.

SECRETARY.—M. McLellan.

HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.—W. Wilson, A. B. Maston, F. G. Dunn, W. C. Thurgood, T. Hagger, J. Pittman, A. Millis.

FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE.—R. Lyall, W. C. Thurgood, W. C. Morro, F. McClean.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.—W. Wilson, J. G. Shain, T. Hagger, A. Millis, T. J. Cook, W. C. Morro, M. W. Green.

CONFERENCE SERMON.—H. G. Harward.

CONFERENCE ESSAY.—Dr. J. Cook.

A. B. Maston urged that the various colonies should have one day in which a collection should be taken up for Foreign Missions. By having different days in the various colonies the same interest could not be worked up and concentrated on the effort.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

VICTORIAN MISSION FUND.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
Balance, 1899	..	..	£71 18 8	Salaries—G. H. Browne	..	..	£143 0 0
Collection at Conference	..	..	23 4 9	A. W. Connor	..	..	117 0 0
Bequest per Trustees in Estate of late M. Gill	..	..	240 0 0	G. B. Moysey	..	..	104 0 0
Contributions from Churches	..	..	135 1 6	E. Griffiths..	..	..	104 0 0
Individual Contributions	..	..	120 5 6	H. Leng ..	..	..	95 6 8
Annual Collections	..	..	172 2 4	W. Burgess	..	..	92 13 4
Conference Fees for 1899	..	..	£17 0 0	M. McLellan	..	..	52 0 0
" " 1900	..	..	10 0 0				708 0 0
From Churches for Evangelistic Services—			27 0 0	Fixed Deposit in E.S. & A. Bank	..	..	200 0 0
Conference of Malles Churches	..	..	87 1 0	Subsidy to Geelong Church	..	..	32 10 0
Kaniva District—				" North Carlton Church	..	..	8 13 4
Kaniva	..	..	26 0 0	" Maryborough and Bet Bet District	..	..	7 10 0
Lillimur	..	..	24 0 0	Charges—Printing and Stationery..	..	..	31 4 6
Yanac North	..	..	15 0 0	Crockery	..	..	16 0 0
Carew	..	..	12 0 0	Tables, Trestles, etc.	..	..	7 6 6
Bordertown	..	..	7 10 0	Postage	..	..	10 6 6
Wedderburn District—			84 10 0	Travelling Expenses	..	..	7 5 0
Wedderburn	..	..	20 0 0	Conference Expenses	..	..	4 11 0
Mystic Park	..	..	13 18 6	Picnic Expenses	..	..	2 18 9
Fernhurst	..	..	9 0 0	Exchange	..	..	1 18 6
Kerang East	..	..	8 15 6	Bank Interest	..	..	1 0 0
Yando	..	..	8 8 4	Sundries	..	..	0 14 3
Mumble Plains	..	..	3 0 0	Balance in Bank	..	..	97 12 3
Yarrawalla	..	..	2 10 0	On Hand	..	..	17 18 2
Echuca District—			65 12 4				115 10 5
Echuca	..	..	31 10 0				
Kyabram	..	..	10 0 0				
Shepparton	..	..	8 10 0				
Ballendella	..	..	3 14 6				
Toolamba	..	..	1 1 6				
Horsham District—			54 16 0				
Dunmunkle	..	..	20 0 0				
Polkemmatt	..	..	14 0 0				
Minyip	..	..	7 0 0				
Horsham	..	..	2 10 0				
Footscray	..	..	43 10 0				
			30 6 8				
			£1155 8 9				

BEQUEST FUND.

Balance of Bequest in Estate of late M. Gill	£200 0 0	By Fixed Deposit in E.S. & A. Bank..	£200 0 0
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Melbourne, 24th March, 1900.

Audited and found correct,

J. A. DAVIES, Treasurer.

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

CHURCHES REPRESENTED (54).

ASCOT VALE—W. J. Pearl, F. Martin
 BAYSWATER—T. Clements
 BRIGHTON—A. Morrison, D. Parker
 BRIM—G. H. Browne, W. White
 BARKER'S CREEK—Wm. Symes
 BRT BET—A. Millis
 BALLARAT WEST—A. E. Hayes
 BORDERTOWN—P. D. McCallum
 BERWICK—E. Hillbrick, J. Richardson
 BRUNSWICK—Pringle, J. G. Shain
 BENDIGO—W. E. Nicholls, J. Ellis
 CARLTON, (Lygon-street)—W. C. Morro, F. Payne,
 J. McColl, Nat Haddow, James Reid
 COLAC—Abbott
 COSGROVE—Black, L. Frost
 CHELTENHAM—M. W. Green, W. Judd, R. W. Tuck
 CAREW (S.A.)—A. C. Rankine
 COLLINGWOOD—R. J. Dick, W. Wetenhall, H. Peacock
 DUNMUNKLE—W. G. Oram
 DONCASTER—F. W. Greenwood, E. Wilson, J. Smedley
 DUNOLLY—P. Beard
 ECHUCA—W. Burgess
 FOOTSCRAY—J. Davidson, H. Carter
 FITZROY—Jas. McGregor, C. W. Mitchell, H. Swain
 FERNHURST—A. B. Maston
 FITZROY NORTH—J. W. Baker, T. Gole, W. Phillips, E.
 Smedley, — Laver
 GALAQUIL—R. Langley, Chas. Howard
 GLENFERRIE—W. Finger, W. H. Bardwell, J. Edwards
 GEELONG—C. Hale
 HORSHAM—J. Smith
 KYABRAM—W. Burgess
 KANIVA—H. Leng
 LANCEFIELD—Jas. Low, E. J. W. Meyer
 LILLIMUR—R. Williams
 MELBOURNE (Swanston-street)—J. A. Davies, C. G.
 Lawson, R. Lyall
 MELBOURNE NORTH—R. G. Cameron, M. Dale, J.
 Donaldson
 MELBOURNE SOUTH—G. W. Clark, T. Smith
 MINYIP—M. McLellan
 MERRIGUM—R. Pavey
 MYSTIC PARK—F. G. Dunn
 MALVERN—L. W. Holmes, B. Huntsman
 MOOROOLBARK—Proctor, D. Langley
 MARYBOROUGH—W. D. Little, F. McClean
 NEWMARKET—John Morris, T. M. Ghent
 POLKEMMETT—A. W. Connor
 PRAHRAN—J. Pittman, J. J. Shaw, F. W. Clarey
 PORT FAIRY—P. J. Brandt
 RICHMOND NORTH—T. Hagger, E. Fisher, B. Cousins,
 M. J. Harding
 SOUTH YARRA—W. Moysey, — Wickens
 SHEPPARTON—Alex. Grant
 SURREY HILLS—W. Wilson, A. E. Varcoe
 WARRNAMBOOL—H. G. Harward
 WEDDERBURN—E. Griffiths, W. C. Thurgood
 YANDO—B. J. Kemp
 YANAC NORTH—Cecil McCallum, D. McCallum

SATURDAY'S SESSION.

Saturday's proceedings were opened by devotional exercises under the leadership of R. G. Cameron, who delivered a brief and pointed address on Consecration. A. R. Main read the 12th chapter of the Epistle to the Romans.

At the close of the devotional exercises, A. J. Davies, in the absence of the President, took the chair.

T. Gole, asked the chair on what principle subsidies were granted to churches.

The Chairman replied that various churches applied for help, and that every

case was considered entirely on its individual merits. Many applications were made, but it was impossible to grant them all.

H. Swain expressed the thanks of the Tabernacle, Eitzroy, for the help rendered to them by the Committee, and were in hopes that the help promised would not be required long.

A. C. Rankine, representing the church at Carew, stated that the church there was willing to double its contribution if another man were sent into the field; that they had promised already £12, and would give £24 if another man were sent, but expressed the opinion that they were well able to do much better.

9. CHANGE IN COMMITTEE.

In January last J. Colbourne, owing to his accepting an appointment in Sydney, resigned his position as a member of the Committee. This resignation was accepted with much regret, as our brother was an energetic worker and a wise counselor. A Millis being next highest in the voting list at last Conference, it was decided to invite him to fill vacancy. He very kindly agreed to our request, so for the past three months he has been a member of the H.M. Committee.

10. ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS.

Number of meetings held, 14. R. C. Edwards, 4; J. A. Davies, 13; M. McLellan, 14; R. Lyall, 10; G. B. Moysey, 9; W. Wilson, 8; A. B. Maston, 13; W. C. Thurgood, 13; T. Hagger, 8; J. Pittman, 13; J. Colbourne, 7; A. Millis, 3.

On behalf of the Home Missionary Committee,
 R. CAMPBELL EDWARDS, PRESIDENT.
 M. MCLELLAN, SECRETARY.

Adopted.

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

VICTORIAN.

The Chinese work is carried on in the same rooms under Bro. F. McClean's superintendency. Week-night meetings, 184, with an average of 20 scholars and 17 teachers. Sunday evening meetings (52) averaged 15 scholars and 10 teachers. Sunday afternoon meetings averaged 7 scholars and 6 teachers. Two scholars have put on the Lord Jesus in baptism. New features include one Bible Class for the converts conducted by Bro. T. J. Cook, and another, entirely in Chinese, for all scholars, conducted by Bro. S. Ah Wong. Work amongst the Chinese is now also being carried on in Sydney and Corowa, New South Wales, and in Adelaide, S.A.

Adopted.

EXECUTIVE.

1. The three colonies, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, are well linked by their Committees, who have endeavored to keep in full touch with the Queensland Committee, and with individuals and bands of workers in all parts, as well as the missionaries in the field.

2. KANAKA MISSION.—John Thompson has reported many baptisms during the year, and the total of baptisms since the beginning of the mission as 148. Some of these returned to the islands, our brother knows to be faithful and doing what they can for the Lord. At Childers a Kanaka helper is about to be engaged, by Government permission. The year has been a troublesome one, owing to the indifferent health of Mrs. Thompson. Bro. and Sis. Thompson and the Kanaka helper hope to visit South at an early date.

In connection with the report of J. Thompson, it was resolved on the motion of J. Pittman to forward a letter of sympathy to Bro. and Sister Thompson.

3. CHINA.—This field has occupied our thoughts to a considerable extent. Correspondence culminates in advices that it would be better to start work amongst the Cantonese in Shanghai, where the American brethren have a station, rather than attempt anything with Canton as a new centre. Two have offered themselves for China. Bro. Ware may visit us when on furlough shortly, and we are expecting to learn many things.

4. INDIA.—Miss Thompson, now on furlough, has been doing a good deal of speaking in our churches and Sunday Schools, and not being in very good health, will not return to Hurda till September next. F.E. Stubbins writes very interesting and enthusiastic letters, his last telling of his labors through the year as a student of the language, as a mission-house builder, and as a school-master. Miss Pfunder, after correspondence and interviewing the Committee, is now our accepted missionary for the field. She is having six months' special hospital training in Sydney, and will (D.V.) leave with Miss Thompson later in the year. Another sister has volunteered for this field. Nathoo Lal and Shah continue at their posts, and the South Australian brethren have passed on to the joint Committees Yakhub and Bhogona, they, however, still supporting them.

The famine re-appearing, relief donations have been forwarded to Bro. Stubbins.

In connection with the work carried on in the various mission fields general approval was expressed, the following brethren taking part:—J. Pittman, B. Huntsman, A. C. Rankine, W. C. Morro, A. Grant, H. Swain, R. Clow, W. Oram, F. Pittman, F. G. Dunn, F. Ludbrook and P. J. Brandt.

Miss Thompson, missionary from India, was invited by the chairman to say a few words. In response, she referred to some interesting experiences she had undergone in connection with her work. The famine, she said, had not been quite so severe in their district as in other parts, but nevertheless it had made the work more difficult.

The letters following were included in the report, and are inserted here for the general information of our readers.—Ed.

LETTER FROM F. E. STUBBIN.

In my last letter I promised you a report of my year's work. Well, I must promise you, in the beginning, that it will not be a very long one, for two reasons. First, I do not believe in long flowery reports, but something short and to the point. You see, I like to get a deal into a nutshell and I also like to get a good deal out of it. Secondly, I have not done much to report, so for that very simple reason it will not be very lengthy.

After our Missionary Convention held on the last week of February, 1899, my year's work began. I tried to study a little, but dear Bro. Rambo had so much to do that I could not see him break down in the work. So I snatched half an hour when I could for study, and helped Bro. Rambo with his work which consisted of—let me see, what shall I say?—Well, from punishing a naughty boy up to writing a lawyer's letter to some not very law abiding customer. Yes, I really had to write two or three letters in an official way to one man who did not like to act straight until I forced him too.

On the first of April, Mrs. Rambo had to go to the hills, and so we had to be bachelor and help, comfort and cheer each other up the best way we could. I do not advise any young man to come to India single, for a bachelor's life in India, above any other country in the world, I should say, is the worst. Well, to come back to business, Bro. Rambo himself had to leave for the hills on the first of May, and so I was left a veritable bachelor indeed. Poor fellow, he was just about run down when he left, and could hardly get to the hills. Of course, his leaving the station left me in entire charge of the orphanage, which contains just about two hundred boys, as well as all the other work of the station, with the one exception, "The Zenana Work." Of course you all know that I am not allowed to peep behind the scenes there. After seven weeks' holiday Bro. Rambo came back, but had to go away again on and off for another three or four weeks on other mission business, so it left me practically in charge for three months.

That was a very heavy time for one whose hair is as grey as mine, but I came out of it all through the power of one who says, "if we trust him we shall never be confounded." The dear sister who was left in charge of the Zenana Work said, "That I had done what many a grey head had not passed through." But then it was not I, but Christ that dwelt in me, who is able to will and to do far more than we are able to ask or think. During that period of stewardship and responsibility I finished off a church building

and roofed in a workshop and put a new verandah on one wing of the orphanage. That was the building portion of my work. I also taught the boys how to burn lime by burning some 1,500 cubic feet by way of experiment.

Then we go into quite a different branch of industrial work. We have a nice large piece of ground set out for a garden, so the boys went to work and trenched and manured all that, and in the field in which we grow different kinds of grain the boys made a large tank so it could be used (or the water in it) for irrigating to a certain extent, and then they ploughed the fields. Just before the monsoons broke, the well was rather short of water so we pumped that which was left and cleaned the well out, but in pumping the water out of the well, the large force pump got out of order, so that brought another job along with it. Though the boys did nearly all the other work, this was one thing they could not do very well. So I had to build a scaffold down the well and take the whole pump to pieces and fit up a new sucker and give it new packing. This was interesting engineering both for me and the boys. They looked with all their eyes, and when I did something that they thought was wonderful they would say Wah! Wah! And when it was all finished, they thought it something wonderful that their Sahib (master) could do everything that he put his hand to. To finish my stewardship, just before Bro. Rambo came back I thought it would be nice to give the boys a lesson in tidiness and order, so I made them clean up the whole mission properly. Every loose or stray stone was picked up and carried to one great heap. Timber likewise was treated in the same manner, and when the master and mistress came back they were quite surprised and also very pleased. Through it all the boys were very good, and helped me all they could. I only had to give one boy, all that time, what you would call a real good beating. Of course there were several small trifling punishments to be measured out, but nothing worth speaking about. But the heaviest trial of them all, "which nearly gave me fever," was right in the midst of it all. One of our bright native Christians died suddenly at 8 o'clock at night about twenty minutes after his dinner, from what afterwards proved to be a case of poisoning.

That very day had been a heavy day for me; I had only just finished work when he was taken ill, and in twenty minutes he was dead, after a severe fit of convulsions. That night saw me up with the police trying to find out the culprit from among several suspected persons. I also sent a telegram to Bro. Rambo and between three and four o'clock in the morning I wrote him a full description of the whole affair. As soon as daylight came the police inquiry came with it and I had to attend that and give evidence. I also had to get a grave prepared, attend the post mortem held by the civil surgeon of the district who, I must say, was very nice indeed, and did all he could to lighten my burden, and, last of all I had to prepare the coffin with my own hands as no carpenter would make it as he was a Christian. As soon as the coffin was made, I dressed him, put him in the coffin, and hurried away to the grave, and buried him just at sunset. At the funeral service there were crowds of Hindoos, and the next day our paudit (teacher) told us how touched the people were at the way we honored Multhu, for that was his name, by giving him such a loving farewell. That night after all was over I could hardly walk from the burying ground to the Bungalow, and when I got there I had a drink of milk and went to bed. Just after it was all over Bro. and Sister Rambo returned from the hills and so I was relieved from my responsibility.

From the 1st July I determined to study the language more, so I entered into the school work with Miss Franklin and took two of her Bible classes for her besides two other classes, that gave me two hours of school-work besides the preparation time for same, which was necessary, it being in Hindee. I got alone famously till the latter part of August, when I got a telegram to go to Deoghur. During the rains their orphanage building had fallen down and they wanted me to set it right. It was not built on a rock and it fell and great was the fall thereof. It was found necessary to pull down something more than half of what had not already fallen and rebuild it. To do this it has taken my time very fully up till the end of January, 1900.

Now I have drawn plans for a large new Dormitory for the Orphanage, presented it to the Committee with contract price, and I am happy to say it was accepted and is now half way to completion, and by the time the Convention sits which is the second week in March, I expect it will be three-fourths finished,

perhaps, not quite. The building is 80 feet long by 36 feet wide with walls 15 feet high and a verandah on three sides. Dear Dr. Longdon, a new arrival in the Mission field (only arriving a few days ago), kindly laid the foundation stone for me on the 10th of February 1900, and when it was over I had to compliment her on the way she used the trowel. She is really a masterman. We had all the girls of the Orphanage present at the ceremony. Every one of the missionaries were put into a bottle and put into a small hole underneath the foundation stone specially prepared for the same, then the stone was laid fairly and squarely. The stone was one of the hardest grey granite that, I think, was ever put into a building. And now I must tell you one thing that I think the missionaries did, thoughtlessly, but was very unwise; they complimented the humble builder for the neat, tidy, and masterly manner in which he had everything arranged for the ceremony and for the general system of the work generally. For the above building I have burnt some 200,000 bricks and some 3,000 or 4,000 cubic feet of lime. In burning my own bricks I save about half and one-third in the lime.

I am sending you a picture of the brickfield. In this work there has been so many as one hundred men at work. So you may know that I have had my hands full to oversee it all. I had to try about thirty or forty masons before I could get any good ones, but now I have five good men who work like Englishmen. They work for me from love, and they pay as much respect to me as they would to the governor. They would not think of starting work in the morning without giving me their salams (good-mornings), nor would they leave work in the evening without doing the same. I can thank God that he has given me such men, and that he has given me so much love for them, that they are able to see it and return it in full measure. Like the Psalmist I can sing, "Blessed be the name of the Lord FOREVER." I have gained a victory over these people that I shall be proud of till the day of my death. Yet not I, but Christ that liveth in me. Trusting that my few feeble efforts for the extension of the Master's Kingdom in this dark land, may be a little encouragement. I pray that the Father's blessing may attend your labors as he has mine. I can truly say I never felt my inability so much, but I can also say I never felt the power of God working through me so strongly. My weakness brought forth God's greatness and power. Till I left Damoh for Baidyanath, Deoghur, I always had my Bible class among the babies of the Bazaar for two hours on a Sunday morning.

India, dear India, "we would still with thee go on," India, sad India, "open now thy door."

India, poor India, indeed is dear but oh so sad to know that there are so many millions living in absolute darkness. Farewell, brethren, my heart is full for India. With sincerest love to all members of the committee and friends.

LETTER FROM JAMES WARE, SHANGHAI.

Your kind letter of December last, containing cheque for £10, reached me safely. I thank you very sincerely for this remittance, which came just as it was needed. I must tell you to what use it has been appropriated.

Three months ago we were asked to send a little girl to the hospital. Her feet, which had been bound up two years before, had gradually become like two large ulcers. Then they turned black, and actually dropped off in their bandages. She was in a dreadful condition, and we did not think she could live through the operation of taking away the decayed bone. But she pulled through, and made quite a good recovery. When she went back to her home her parents decided they did not want such a helpless little thing about the house, and so they tried to give her away. Fearing that she would be made away with, we decided to receive the child into our Bible Woman's Home. Accordingly we had papers made out in proper legal form, conveying the child to us in perpetuity. This was to prevent the parents from claiming the child after she had been educated and selling her for evil purposes.

The little one we have named "Lai froo"—treasure arrived. She is seven years of age, bright, intelligent, and happy. We needed money for the outfit and support of this little child, and your cheque arrived just as it was needed, which is sufficient to purchase her clothes and bedding, and to support her an entire year. This is the second case of the kind we have

had brought to our notice. We intend, by the grace of God, to train her up so that she will be useful in the school.

China is in dire confusion just now. The Emperor Dowager has proclaimed another emperor, a child, in place of Kwang Hou. She has been aiming at this for years, and now that Great Britain is fully engaged in South Africa, she has taken this opportunity of carrying out her plans. What the outcome will be no one can tell, as many prominent officials have declared their intention of standing up for the rights of Kwang Hou. Rebellion seems imminent, and should a leader turn up at any of the disaffected centres, we may have another Tai ping rebellion on hand, which God forbid.

All Britishers are eagerly watching events in South Africa; and although we do not doubt what the final issue will be, we are deeply grieved at the great loss of life, and also on account of our beloved Queen. We have all been greatly cheered by the enthusiasm displayed by the colonies. The sight of such a great empire as Greater Britain united in all lands, must have had a great moral effect the world over. These troublous times have a good effect upon the church in pointing it forward to the time when the Lord shall come, and when there shall be war no more.

I thank you for your kind invitation to your beautiful land. I expect to be going home on furlough this spring. If I can manage to squeeze in a month or two I will certainly pay your churches a visit and tell them something of the work of God in this land.

LETTER FROM A. McLEAN.

Your letter of the 4th December last has been read to our Executive Committee and carefully considered. We have written to our missionaries in China with reference to the establishment of a mission in Canton. They sent W. P. Bentley to that part of China to look over the field and to report on what he saw and learned. The Advisory Committee in China believes that it would be wise to work among the Cantonese who are now in Shanghai rather than to open a new mission in the South of China. Cantonese Christians going from America or Australia back to China can not do much missionary work. Only in very rare cases is any one of that class suited to lead. Some people of Anglo-Saxon training and ability must be sent as pioneers. They must lay the foundations; they ought to be wise master-builders. There are some 30,000 Cantonese living now in Shanghai. No work is being done among them at all. The Advisory Committee believes that if any Cantonese Chinese return from America or from Australia and desire to work, the wise thing for them to do is to go to Shanghai and work there in connection with our missionaries now in that city. They should sustain the same relation to the mission that other helpers do. Our Committee believes that the brethren in Australia will agree to this suggestion. It means a large outlay to enter a new part of China. At least three missionary families should be sent, buildings must be erected, ground must be purchased, helpers of different kinds must be employed. The Committee believes that there is danger of scattering too widely. Our missionaries ought to be within supporting distance of each other. They ought to be able to meet once or twice a year in Conference and for mutual edification.

I am always glad to hear from you and to know that the pleasure of the Lord is prospering in the hands of his people under the Southern Cross. Please remember me kindly to the friends in Melbourne and in the country round about.

LETTER FROM JOHN THOMPSON.

Kanakas are right enough when they have some one to organise for them; or if there was only one tribe of men to work amongst it would be different, but here we have men from forty different tribes, who, in their heathen state, are enemies to each other. The heathen Kanaka would not listen to a Christian Kanaka if he was from a different island, but they would look up to a white missionary who would come amongst them. Since writing to you I have made all preparations to leave. I have the Kanaka engaged for the term of three years at £16 per year. I find him in food and lodging, salary to be paid every six months in the presence of the Inspector of Polynesians. I did not intend to sign the agreement with him till I came back from the South, but the inspector who applied to the government for permission for me to have him as assistant, advised me to have the agreement signed here, so that the government would give me permission to take him away as long as he was my assistant.

missionary. They will not allow a Kanaka to leave the colony of Queensland for any other purpose. I have applied to the Government for permission to take him, so that in the event of me being able to go south everything will be ready. I will forward you the agreement as soon as the inspector has had time to have a copy taken. The engagement starts from 3rd March, and his wages will be about 6/8 per week. The last employer he worked for paid him 13/- per week, and board and lodging, so that he is making a sacrifice in giving up his work to come to the mission. Having done all in my power to get someone to take my place, and Mrs. T. and myself having made it a matter of prayer, in the event of no one coming we will remain. Mrs. Thompson would not like to go away without some one who was interested in the work left in charge. Seeing that I cannot get anyone I have decided to take Mrs. Thompson with me when visiting the churches in the South of Queensland. What I would suggest to the F.M. Committee in the event of failing to find a suitable person to take charge, is to wait till the time for the S.A. Conference. By that time you may know of some young brother who wishes to go into the F.M. work, and it would be a good test of his ability. In the event of you not having anyone, I will be on the lookout for a suitable man among the churches here. A young man would be the best, as the riding and long hours would be very hard on a person advanced in years. It is very difficult to get a man suitable for mission work. The Bundaberg Mission were asking me if I could recommend some young men to them. They had been trying among all the churches for young men, but without success. They are working short-handed.

MELBOURNE CHINESE MISSION.

We have held 184 week-night meetings, with an average attendance of 20 scholars and 17 teachers. We have held 52 Sunday evening services, with an average attendance of 15 scholars and 10 teachers. The Sunday afternoon school has fallen off a little, the average being only 7 scholars and 6 teachers. As most of our teachers are engaged in the Sunday Schools of our various churches, this accounts for the decrease. We are pleased to report that we have again, through the grace and help of our Heavenly Father, been rewarded for our labours in having two more of our scholars put on Christ in his own appointed way since last Conference. We know we have done good in other ways. We sow the seed, but God alone giveth the increase. We have formed a Bible Class in our school for our converts, which is under the charge of Bro. T. J. Cook, and Bro. S. Wong conducts a Bible Class on Wednesday for any of the scholars. This is well attended, being all in Chinese. We pray God to bless us in the future as he has in the past.

B. Huntsman drew attention to the work done in Melbourne amongst the Chinese. He considered that F. McClean had done noble service in this direction and that he and his staff deserved the thanks of the brotherhood for what they had done and were contemplating to do.

F. McClean expressed his gratification at the appreciation of the brethren of the work done by himself and his colleagues.

Adopted.

5. FINANCE.—The collection in all the churches was taken up in July in every colony this year. Special appeals and envelopes were circulated, and £800 were asked for. We received £630, about 1/- a member. This is the best so far, and justified us in having spent so much more with the printer. New South Wales went from £67 last year to £82 this. Queensland from £55 to £73, New Zealand from £25 to £66, Tasmania from £5 to £12, W.A. from £5 to £12, South Australia about £120 to £132, and Victoria from £182 to £255. All of these are fine advances. Out of the 238 churches, only 73, or less than one-third, did not contribute. We plead for "a collection from every church, a gift from every member."

In India we have spent £264, in Queensland £145, in China £10, in Japan £10, and for Victorian Chinese work £33.

An amount of £40 will be noticed to the credit of our Bequest Fund. This was received with thanks per trustees of estate of the late Bro. Matthew Gill, and is being held over *pro tem*.

Our credit balance should not mislead you. It is largely bespoken as passage money to India for two, and for Bro. Thompson and party when travelling.

For the information of all the colonies we append the names of the churches contributing with the amounts received. In the case of South Australia, we print the financial statement of their Committee as supplied by them. It will be seen that South Australia, in addition to its federal expenditure, supports Bro. Strutten in India.

6. THANKS are due to the Mission Bands and Auxiliaries for valued support, to Bro. McClean and staff for their work among the Chinese, to preachers, Sunday School teachers, and prayer-meeting leaders for missionary addresses, to Bro. A. McLean (U.S.A.) for the *Missionary Intelligencer*, to the editor of *A. Christian* for space freely given, and to Bro. Thurgood for the use of his rooms for Committee purposes.

ATTENDANCE.—Committee meetings held, 12. Mrs. Maston 12, Mrs. Huntsman 9, Mrs. Ludbrook 9, F. McClean 11, W. C. Morro 11, R. Lyall 12, W. C. Thurgood 12, F. M. Ludbrook 12.
Melbourne. F. M. LUDBROOK, Sec.

CONTRIBUTED TO FOREIGN MISSION FUND. NEW SOUTH WALES.

Churches—			
Enmore ..	£30	18	5
Sydney ..	18	9	8
Woollahra ..	6	19	0
Petersham ..	3	5	0
Marrickville ..	4	6	3
Manning River ..	4	0	0
Bungawalbyn ..	1	18	0
Rookwood ..	1	12	0
Prospect ..	1	10	0
Moree ..	1	0	0
Merewether ..	0	11	0
Willow Tree ..	0	5	0
June ..	1	0	0
Individual ..	75	14	4
Sunday Schools—	2	15	6
Enmore ..	2	12	2
Sydney ..	1	4	3
	3	16	5

£82 6 3

NEW ZEALAND.

Churches—			
Port Albert ..	£1	14	6
Collingwood ..	0	6	0
East Oxford ..	0	10	0
Turua ..	3	0	0
Tiniwald ..	1	0	0
Papakura ..	2	10	0
Glorit ..	2	12	0
Gisborne ..	1	5	0
Mataura ..	1	17	6
Warkworth ..	3	0	0
Oamaru ..	5	0	0
Tara ..	5	15	0
Ross ..	1	0	0
Takaka ..	0	11	0
Hoteo North ..	1	0	0
Greymouth ..	0	10	0
Davenport ..	0	14	0
Stanley Brook ..	0	15	0
Kaitangata ..	2	19	6
Pahiatua ..	1	10	0
Wellsford ..	1	4	0
Te Arai ..	0	12	0
Dunedin ..	2	5	0
Invercargill ..	0	3	0
Individual ..	41	13	0
Sunday Schools—	10	14	7
Oamaru ..	9	0	0
Wanganui ..	3	10	0
North East Valley, Dunedin ..	0	14	2
	13	4	2

£65 11 9

QUEENSLAND.

Churches—			
Gympie ..	£3	4	9
Kanaka Brethren, Childers ..	16	8	0
Ma Ma Creek ..	5	0	6
Maryborough ..	4	18	6
Eel Creek ..	1	9	0
Bundamba ..	0	12	6
Zillmere ..	2	0	0
Lillimur ..	1	11	0
Mt. Walker ..	4	1	3
Brisbane ..	0	3	0
Mooloolah ..	1	0	0
Boonah ..	1	0	0

Roma ..	10	6	0
Zongebay ..	0	15	11
Charters Towers ..	2	16	0
Rosevale ..	5	10	0
Spring Creek ..	1	0	0
Vernor ..	2	19	0
Thornton ..	0	12	0
Greenmount ..	0	8	0
Rosewood ..	2	10	0
Toowoomba ..	1	0	0

Individual Contributions ..	68	5	5
Collection Conference Rosewood ..	1	0	0
Sunday Schools—	2	2	0
Gympie ..	0	8	0
Roma ..	1	10	5
	1	18	5

£73 5 10

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Received from the South Australian Committee, a/c. 1898-9 ..	£24	0	0
Do. do. 1899-1900 ..	80	0	0
Other Contributions from Churches and Members received direct ..	1	11	9
	£105	11	9

TASMANIA.

Churches—			
Launceston ..	1	10	4
Latrobe ..	2	16	6
Queenstown ..	1	5	6
Impression Bay ..	2	5	0
Bream Creek ..	4	3	6
	£12	0	10

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Churches—			
Harvey ..	£1	11	6
Kalgoorlie ..	2	0	0
Fremantle ..	2	17	9
Coolgardie ..	4	0	0
Perth ..	1	5	0
Subiaco ..	0	10	0
	£12	4	3

VICTORIA.

Churches—			
Ascot Vale ..	£1	8	2
Archerton ..	0	5	0
Bairnsdale ..	0	17	0
Ballarat East ..	1	0	0
Ballarat West ..	5	16	3
Bangerang ..	1	4	0
Bayswater ..	0	12	6
Bendigo ..	11	11	6
Broadmeadows ..	0	10	0
Bet Bet ..	4	3	0
Berwick ..	4	2	3
Brighton ..	5	5	0
Brim ..	2	15	9
Brunswick ..	2	5	0
Ballandella ..	1	0	0
Birchip (Walmer W.) ..	2	6	0
Carlton (Lygon-st.) ..	7	4	7
Carlton North ..	1	5	5
Castlemaine ..	0	12	0
Cheltenham ..	6	0	2
Collingwood ..	3	6	3
Colac ..	0	6	3
Croydon ..	0	9	6
Drummond ..	1	5	10
Doncaster ..	16	0	0
Dunolly ..	2	10	9
Dunmunkle ..	3	10	0
Dandenong ..	1	0	0
Emerald ..	1	5	0
Echuca ..	0	13	0
Fitzroy Tab. ..	4	10	6
Fitzroy North ..	7	6	3
Footscray ..	0	15	0
Fernihurst ..	4	13	6
Galaquil ..	2	11	3
Geelong ..	1	18	3
Glenferrie ..	9	11	5
Hopetown ..	0	9	0
Horsham ..	0	6	9
Kaniva ..	1	7	6
Kyabram ..	1	4	6
Lake Rowan ..	1	4	0
Kerang E. ..	2	13	6
Lancefield ..	0	5	9
Lillimur ..	1	1	2
Melbourne (Swanston-st.) ..	36	2	10
Melbourne, South ..	2	6	0
Melbourne, North ..	2	7	6

Maryborough ..	..	1 11 4	Polkemmett ..	..	2 0 0	Yanac North ..	..	1 6 0
Murrumbidgee ..	..	2 10 0	Richmond, North	..	4 0 6	Warragul ..	..	0 5 0
Minyip ..	..	0 17 0	Runnymede East	..	0 5 0			
Merrigum ..	..	0 8 6	St. Kilda ..	..	1 9 6	Sundry Contributions from Members	..	220 3 7
Malvern ..	..	5 8 9	Shepparton ..	..	1 13 0	Collection at Victorian Conference, 1899..	..	16 2 6
Mt. Clear ..	..	0 13 6	South Yarra ..	..	2 11 9	Sunday Schools—		14 17 2
Moorebark ..	..	0 17 6	Surrey Hills ..	..	1 17 6	Shepparton ..	..	0 15 0
Mildura ..	..	2 12 0	Toolamba ..	..	1 0 0	Surrey Hills ..	..	2 0 0
Mystic Park ..	..	1 11 0	Warrnambool ..	..	1 12 9	Ballarat West..	..	0 15 0
Mumble Plains	..	0 4 0	Wedderburn ..	..	4 15 4	Warrnambool..	..	0 7 0
Newstead ..	..	1 10 0	Williamstown ..	..	0 19 0			3 17 0
Pakenham ..	..	2 6 0	Warracknabeal	..	2 12 0			£255 0 3
Port Fairy ..	..	1 0 0	Yarrowalla ..	..	1 0 0			

FOREIGN MISSION FUND.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1899-00.

RECEIPTS			EXPENDITURE		
Balance on 31st March, 1899	..	£8 17 1	India—		
Proceeds Sale of Photos F. E. Stubbin	..	1 2 0	Miss Thompson—		
<i>New South Wales—</i>			Balance Travelling Expenses from India	..	£10 0 0
Contributions from Churches ..	..	£75 14 4	Balance Travelling Expenses in the Colonies	..	6 3 5
Sundry Contributions from Members	..	2 15 6	Salary while on Furlough to March 31, 1900	..	52 0 0
Contributions from Sunday Schools	..	3 16 5	Bro. F. E. Stubbin—		
		82 6 3	Salary to March 31, 1900 ..	..	104 0 0
<i>New Zealand—</i>			Bro. Shah—		
Contributions from Churches ..	..	41 13 1	Salary to March 31, 1900 (half salary provided by		
Sundry Contributions from Members	..	10 14 6	Doncaster Mission Band, Victoria	..	25 0 0
Contributions from Sunday Schools	..	13 4 2	Bro. Nathoo Lal—		
		65 11 9	Salary to March 31, 1900 ..	..	25 0 0
<i>Queensland—</i>			Yakub Masi—		
Contributions from Churches ..	..	68 5 5	(Salary provided by Grote-st. F.M. Socy., S.A.)	..	15 0 0
Sundry Contributions from Members	..	1 0 0	Bhogona—		
Contributions from Sunday Schools	..	1 18 5	(Salary provided by Norwood F.M. Socy., S.A.)	..	5 0 0
Collection Conference at Rosewood	..	2 2 0	Exchange on Drafts	..	2 3 8
		73 5 10	Benevolent Fund—		
<i>South Australia—</i>			Amount Remitted to India for Benevolent Work	..	20 0 0
Contributions from Churches and Sunday Schools					264 7 1
forwarded per S.A. Committee (particulars of			<i>China—</i> Amount Forwarded to Bro. James Ware, Shanghai	..	10 0 0
further receipts and expenditure given in another			<i>Japan—</i> Amount Forwarded to Bro. R. L. Pruett	..	10 0 0
Report)—			<i>Queensland—</i>		
On Account of 1898-99	..	24 0 0	John Thompson—Salary to March 31, 1900	..	132 0 0
On Account of 1899-00	..	80 0 0	Bonus ..	..	10 0 0
Other Contributions from Churches Received Direct	..	1 11 9	Benevolent Fund ..	..	3 0 0
		105 11 9			145 0 0
<i>Tasmania—</i>			<i>Victoria—</i>		
Contributions from Churches ..	..	12 0 10	Chinese Mission—Rent to March 31, 1900	..	33 0 0
<i>Victoria—</i>			Expended for Books ..	..	0 16 6
Contributions from Churches ..	..	220 3 7			33 16 6
Sundry Contributions from Members	..	16 2 6	<i>Charges—</i>		
Collection at Victorian Conference, 1899 ..	..	14 17 2	Printing and Stationery	..	20 1 0
Contributions from Sunday Schools	..	3 17 0	Postage, Exchange, etc.	..	12 17 5
		255 0 3	Bank Interest	..	0 2 10
<i>Western Australia—</i>					33 1 3
Contributions from Churches ..	..	12 4 3	<i>Travelling Expenses—</i>		
		£616 0 0	Sister Miss Pfrunder, Sydney to Melbourne and Return	..	5 10 0
			Balance on Hand ..	..	114 5 2
					£616 0 0

BEQUEST FUND.

Amount received per Trustees	Balance on Hand ..	£40 0 0
Will of late Bro Matthew		
Gill ..	..	£40 0 0

KANAKA BUILDING FUND.

Balance from March 31, 1899..	£16 8 11	Balance on Hand ..	£16 8 11
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ROBERT LYALL, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,
Melbourne, 24th March, 1900.J. BARNACLE, A.S.A.A., Eng. } Auditors.
A. R. LYALL.

S.A. KANAKA FUND.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
Balance Last Year	..	£1 14 11	Remitted to Melbourne Committee, Part Salary John Thompson	..	£15 0 0
Transfer from Foreign Mission Fund	..	5 6 8	Postage ..	..	0 1 0
Church, Stirling East ..	..	1 11 3	Balance on Hand	..	3 11 3
North Adelaide..	..	4 6 0			
Balakovla ..	..	1 15 0			
Point Sturt ..	..	1 8 3			
North Adelaide Workers' Meeting	..	2 10 2			
		£18 12 3			£18 12 3

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MISSIONARY
COMMITTEE FROM 1st JULY, 1899, to MARCH 9th, 1900.
GENERAL FUND

[illegible]

The Foreign Mission Committee's report and balance sheet were adopted.

SOUTH AFRICA.

F. W. Greenwood moved, That it be a recommendation to the Foreign Missionary Committee to consider the advisability of taking up work in South Africa. This was seconded by T. Hagger and carried unanimously.

The devotional exercises on Saturday afternoon were under the leadership of T. J. Cook. The Bible reading was attended to by F. Clarey, and the Chairman gave a brief address on Sunday School Work.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

T. Gole read a paper on "The Lord's Day School Evangelist."

The essay was received with approval, and was spoken to by the following brethren :—
F. Pittman, J. Tully, F. W. Clarey, F. M. Ludbrook, D. A. Lewis, H. G. Harward, W. C. Thurgood, C. W. Mitchell, F. McClean, F. W. Greenwood, and W. J. Pearl.

On the motion of J. Tully, it was resolved That this Conference recommend the Missionary Committee to look out for a suitable Sunday School evangelist.

QUESTION BOX.

A number of questions relating to Sunday Schools were handed in and replied to by T. J. Cook.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

Though still somewhat hampered financially, we have done a considerable amount of good work, even though all of our expectations have not been fully realised. Our meetings have been well attended by the delegates and officers from those schools which generally manifest an interest in our work, whilst many and frequent have been the enquiries from our country brethren, showing that they are keenly interested in all that goes on amongst us.

On the 22nd of May last we held our Annual Demonstration and Distribution of Prizes. The examination held last year was a well contested one, and a heavy interest in the preparations of the lessons was noted. In connection with the examinations for this year, we had the papers of questions prepared by the brethren in Sydney, through our N.S.W. Union.

During the early portion of the year our Union discussed with the N.S.W. Union the problem of an examination upon "First Principles," which, however, we found to be more than our united effort could do to have ready for this year's work, though, as far as we know, the lessons are all in course of preparation by various brethren requisitioned to prepare same, and we expect to undertake this subject next year.

In October last the United choirs of our Sunday Schools rendered the sacred cantata "Under the Palms," led by E. W. Pittman, and this effort resulted in a small credit balance, being the first that has done so for many years past. Our finances this year have assumed a much more healthy tone than has been the case for a very considerable time, owing in great measure to the indefatigable efforts of our treasurer, B. J. Kemp, and though we are not by any means out of difficulties, still we are hopeful that in a short time we shall be able to issue a satisfactory balance-sheet. Those who support us, have done so liberally, but our needs are worthy the consideration of many friends around us, who may be able to assist us financially though they may not be able to do so with their time and attention. The work of visitation on behalf of the Union, has been systematically and thoroughly carried out by Mrs. Hall, and the various Schools belonging to the Union have been favored with frequent visits from her in her official capacity. As usual, we held our annual picnic on the 9th of last November. A very fair number of friends enjoyed a pleasant day at the Royal Horticultural Societies gardens.

In August of last year the brethren at Lygon Street kindly granted the use of their building to the Union for the purpose of holding its monthly meetings there, for which the best thanks of the Union are due. This has been a boon to us, as it has allowed us to continue meeting upon the last Monday of each month. During the year just past, our Sister Union in South Australia requested us to prepare the question papers for their late annual examinations, and W. C. Morro, F. G. Dunn, J. Pittman, J. Barnacle and M. McLellan kindly undertook this work and carried it through on our behalf. We have been in communication with our friends in Brisbane, Queensland, re our forthcoming examinations, and are assisting them in holding an examination at their end of our continent, and thus widening the sphere of our usefulness. We have now 28 schools in connection with our Union, a very fair proportion of which take a very lively interest in all that we do, and we have been pleased to welcome to our number the names of the schools at Ballarat West, Warrnambool, Prahran, and at North Carlton during the past year.

and at North Carlton during the past year.
For the Sunday School Union of Churches of Christ
in Victoria

in Victoria
T. J. COOK, PRESIDENT.
JOHN S. McINTOSH, Secretary.
Adopted. MRS. JOHN S. McINTOSH, Ass. Sec.

CONFERENCE ESSAY.

W. C. Morro read the Conference Essay, Subject, "System in Relation to Evangelisation." A number of brethren took part in the discussion that followed and it was unanimously agreed that the essayist had done his work in a most masterly manner.

On the motion of J. Pittman it was resolved that the thanks of the Conference be given to Bro. W. C. Morro for the essay which he had delivered.

[This Essay will be published next week.
—ED.]

HYMN BOOK ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.			
Balance, 1899	..	..	£ 38 4 8
Books ..	..	..	3 15 0
Bank Interest to June 30, 1899	..	..	0 6 6
			£ 42 6 2
EXPENDITURE.			
Insurance on Stereos	..	..	£ 0 5 0
Publishing ..	..	..	0 3 9
Postage ..	..	..	0 2 6
Balance, Deposited in Saving Bank	..	..	41 14 11
			£ 42 6 2

Audited and found correct,

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

F. G. DUNN } Joint
M. McLELLAN } Treasurers. 24/3/00.

VOTES OF THANKS.

Votes of thanks were passed to the President, R. C. Edwards, and Vice-President, J. A. Davies, for presiding; the sisters for the very pleasant way they had catered for the material wants of the Conference; the brethren from the neighboring colonies for the cheer and help they had brought into our Conferences; Robert Lyall and Nat Haddow for leading the Song Service which had added so much to the enjoyment of the meetings, and all others who in any way had helped to make our gatherings such a great success; the officers and members of the Lygon-street church for the use of their building.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN VICTORIA, 1900.

FOREIGN MISSION NIGHT.

CHURCHES.	CHURCH ADDITIONS.					CHURCH LOSSES.			MEMBER-SHIP.			SCHOOL STATISTICS.				Church Additions from Sunday School	MISSION FUNDS.				Seating Capacity of Place of Meeting	Average Attendance of Members at Meetings for Worship	Average Attendance at Preaching Services	Isolated Brethren on Church Roll	
	Members	Faith and Obedience	Letter	Baptized Believers	Restoration	Letter.	Death	Removal & Roll revision	Members	Increase	Decrease	Scholars	Scholars	Teachers	Teachers		Victoria, including Annual Collections	Foreign, including Special Collections.	Foreign, including Special Collections.						
Ascot Vale..	1899	41	7	3		3	2		1900	5		1899	1900	1899	1900	1	2	3	1	8	2	250	30		
Archerton ..	4						2		46		2								0	5	0	100	10	8	
Bairnsdale ..	24					6			18		6	33	33	4	3		1	8	0	1	0	200	30	90	
Ballarat East ..	53	3	1				12		44		9	80	88	6	8		1	8	0	1	0	250	65	100	
Ballarat West ..	117	12	4			3	18		112		5	108	120	13	13	3	3	12	3	5	16	3			
Bangerang ..	14								14								0	11	6	1	4	0			
Bendigo ..	174	28	9	3		9	2	12	191	17		130	150	10	12		13	10	11	11	6	400	70	300	
Bet Bet ..	57	1					2		56		1	41	41	6	5		7	15	6	4	3	100	40		
Berwick ..	96	5	2			6	1		95		1	45	54	4	4	5	4	10	0	4	2	150	50	60	
Brighton ..	90	6	1	1		1	12		84	0	6	110	110	12	13	2	8	12	6	5	5	150	37	75	
Brim ..	56	4	1			15	2	3	41		15	70	50	6	6	1	2	12	9	2	15	150	31		
Broommeadows ..	17								15		2						0	10	0			120			
*Buninyong ..	11								11								1	0	0						
Brunswick ..	136	43	19			9	4	14	171	35		150	216	13	15	30	4	2	0	2	5	250	85	220	
Birchip ..	13					13					13						2	0	0	1	6	0			
Benjeroop ..	6								6													60			
Ballandella ..	6								6			11	11	2	2				1	0	0				
Bayswater ..	17			1					17			20	30	4	3		0	15	9	0	12	6	100	14	13
Bordertown (S. A.) ..	14								13		1						0	6	0				50		
Barker's Creek ..	69	22			2	3	2		86	17		88	86	12	11	17	3	1	6			120	30	75	
Carlton, Lygon-street ..	471	10	14	7		14	4	124	360		III	180	188	16	17		18	4	0	7	4	7	500	150	250
Carlton, North ..	52	11	2			12	1		52			140	140	11	11		4	10	7	1	5	5	250		
Collingwood ..	175	12	4			16	2	19	154	21		279	250	21	18	9	2	9	0	3	6	3	500	105	200
Cheltenham ..	197	7	5			7			202	5		150	150	10	10	4	13	12	6	0	2	2	300	120	150
Castlemaine ..	36	1				1	2		32	4		38		2			0	16	0	0	12	0	150	18	12
Cosgrove ..	7	10							17	17							1	0	0						
Croydon ..	22	7	1	2					32	10		48	48	4	6	6	1	2	9	0	9	6	100		
Colac ..	16					1	1	3	11		5						1	2	0	0	6	3	20		
Carew, S. A. ..	38	4				1	1	2	38				25	3			1	0	9				80	20	50
Doncaster ..	150	4							154	4		184	180	12	12	3	27	19	6	16	0	0	200		
Dunmunkle ..	28	9							32	4							3	5	0	3	10	0	100	20	40
Dunolly ..	30	2							32	2		20	22	2	3		1	4	6	2	10	9	50	25	35
*Drummond ..	60								60			24	24	3	3		1	11	6	1	5	10			
*Dandenong ..	17								17								2	10	0	1	0	0			
Daylesford ..	6	2							7	7							0	5	0						
*Elphinstone ..	15								15																
Emerald ..	35	1				2			27	8		20	30	2	2	1	2	2	0	1	5	0	75		
Euroa ..	8	1							9	1		30	30	1	1		1	0	0						
Echuca ..	70	4	1			4	2		69		1	26	20	4	3		1	10	6	0	13	0	80		
Fitzroy ..	96	22	12			2			121	25		190	190	13	15	11	18	17	0	4	10	6	500	70	110
Fitzroy, North ..	278	37	9	2		19	4	18	285	7		355	386	27	27	8	15	6	1	7	6	3	600		
Fairfield Park ..	20	4							30	10		24	40	2	3	4									
Footscray ..	119	9	4			4	3		99	20		198	201	16	16	3	4	14	3	0	15	0	350	53	200
Fernihurst ..	19								18								1	17	6	4	13	6			
Geelong ..	54	4	2			9			51	3		26	28	5	4	1	2	3	0	1	11	3	120	25	30
Galaquil ..	45					1	1		43								1	15	0	2	11	3			
Glenferrie ..	120	5	8			1	9	16	108	12		85	81	5	6	1	47	6	1	9	11	5	250	30	60
Glenorchy ..									8	8															
Homebush ..	4								4																
Horsham ..	22	2							24	2		24	20	3	3		1	11	3	0	6	9	120	10	35
Hopetoun (Maidavale) ..	15	1							10		5						0	10	0	0	9	0			
Kaniva ..	42	4	7			4			49	7		26	33	3	4	1	1	15	0	1	7	6	120	20	30
Kyabram ..	35					2			33	2							1	10	6	1	4	6			
Kerang East ..	10	1							10								2	2	0				20		
Lancefield ..	15	7				4	2		12	3		15	15	2	2										
Lillimur ..	32	1	3						33	1							1	0	0	0	5	9	100	12	
Mumble Plains ..	10								10														250		
Melb'rne, Swanston-st ..	120	24	24			4			140	20		36	36	4	4	20	88	3	8	36	2	10	450	105	
Melbourne North ..	271	7	5			11	4		269	2		230	220	21	19	5	2	14	6	2	7	6	350	125	150
Melbourne, South ..	108	5	6			6	2		112	4		199	199	13	13		1	1	9	2	6	0	200	40	60
Maryborough ..	63	3	1			4	1		53	10		56	56	8	8		1	0	6	1	11	4	150	15	
Mount Clear ..	7								7			17	19	3	2		0	14	0	0	13	6	100	5	
Mooroolbark ..	16	1	3			1	2		17	1		20	24	2	2		0	16	3	0	17	6	35	11	19
Murtoa ..	21								5	16							0	10	0						
Miepoll ..	2								2																
Malvern ..	43	10	6			1			49	6		40	67	10	10	7	4	5	5	3	8	9			
Minyip ..	7	1	1			1			8	1		11	14	2	2	1	0	12	0	0	17	0	200	6	15
Mildura ..	20					3			17	3							0	5	0	2	12	0			
Mystic Park ..	4	2	1						7	3															

desired was to help on the work of the Master.

H. G. Harward said that the great mission of the church was the evangelisation of the world. The great commission was one that was given without any intention of its being recalled. This commission was not given exclusively to the apostles, but to the entire church. The church was the divine organisation for the conveyance of the gospel; and it was through the church's faithfulness in carrying out the commission that the conquering Christ overcame the empires of the old world. The ancient church was ready to respond to the Macedonian cry; and as we as a people claimed to be like the church of the early days, the idea of a world-wide evangelisation ought to appeal to us with irresistible force. Our plea was for the restoration of the church in primitive times. He believed that this did not mean simply putting baptism in the front place, but in restoring the commission as a whole. The position we occupied was a high one, and as such it demanded that we should ask ourselves, What do we more than others? This high position of ours demanded that we should be a missionary people, and, if we were, we should find it true in our experience, as in the experience of the church in America, that missionary success abroad meant missionary success at home.

Musical selection by J. Moy Ling and party.

A. C. Rankine said that F. Pittman and himself were deputed to convey the greetings of the South Australian Foreign Missionary Committee to the kindred Committee of Victoria. He noticed that his address preceded the collection. He judged from this that the Victorian Committee regarded him as a good beggar. He did not know whether he merited this distinction. Anyhow, he would be very glad if he were successful in moving the audience to give liberally to the help of Foreign Mission work. The great lesson we all had to learn was, that all the world is kin. They were our kin who dwelt in foreign lands equally with those who were of our own country. Our obligation to those of a different color was as imperative as our obligation to those of our own. And whilst it was true that we were not responsible for the conversion of the world, it was true that we were responsible for its evangelisation. The people who dwelt in darkness wanted light, and it was the duty of those who possessed it to take it to those who had it not. Doubtless much had been done, but how much more remained to be done. The teeming millions of India, of China, of Japan, of Siam, of Africa were scarcely yet touched. He would urge the brotherhood to give liberally so that the great work they had in hand might be done more extensively and more successfully.

Prior to the collection being taken up, F. M. Ludbrook said that he desired to express the obligation they all felt under to the visitors from South Australia for the help they

CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN VICTORIA, 1900.—Continued.

CHURCHES.	CHURCH ADDITIONS.					CHURCH LOSSES.		MEMBERSHIP.			SCHOOL STATISTICS.				Church Additions from Sunday School	MISSION FUNDS.				Seating Capacity of Place of Meeting	Average Attendance of Members at Meetings for Worship	Average Attendance at Preaching Services	Isolated Brethren on Church Roll	
	Members	Faith and Obedience	Letter	Baptized Believers	Restoration	Letter.	Death	Removal & Roll revised	Members	Increase	Decrease	Scholars	Scholars	Teachers		Teachers	Victoria, including Annual Collections		Foreign, including Special Collections.					
																	£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.
South Yarra	1899 55	6	13		1	2	1		1900 72	17		1899 73	1900 73	9	10	3	£ 7 14 8	£ 2 11 9	120	48	71	6		
St. Kilda ..	56		4	1		3	3		55		1	52	52	7	7		1 18 10	1 9 6	100					
Surrey Hills	40	1	4			5			40			27	25	5	4		5 3 0	1 17 6	150	28	50			
Toolamba	7								7			35	30	3	3		1 0 0	1 0 0						
Taradale ..	16	8			1		1	4	20	4		22	21	2	3	2			120					
Traral'g'n & Toongab'e	5							5			5													
Warner West	13		10			1			22	9							1 0 0							
*Warragul..	14								14			20	20	3	3		0 5 0							
Warrnambool	47	2				3	11		35		12	24	18	5	4	1	1 7 0	1 12 9	250	15		13		
Wandin Yallock	2						2				2													
Warracknabeal	9								9								0 3 6	2 12 0						
Wedderburn	102	12	2			3	1		112	10		75	58	9	8	6	6 17 2	4 15 4	80	50	50	8		
Williamstown	28						1		27		1						1 2 0	0 19 0		11				
Wonthaggi N.	6	2				2			6			57	40	4	4									
Yarrawalla	6	3					1		8	2							0 12 6	1 0 0						
Yanac North	30	9		1		1			39	9		39	38	5	4	8	1 5 0	1 6 0	100	20		5		
Yando ..	8								8								1 0 0							
Totals	5286	480	251	61	14	269	58	446	5319	369	336	4785	5135	467	467	192			10832	1965	3021	145		

* These Churches entered same as last year, no official returns having been received.
Increase in Church Membership, 33. Increase in S. S. Scholars, 350.
Amounts acknowledged as received from Churches include all contributions, whether received from Churches or individual members of Churches, but not including amounts contributed by Country Churches as per arrangement for evangelists' services. For these latter amounts see Financial Statement.

had rendered to the Conference during its sittings, also to Sister Henshaw for the beautiful banner she had given them.

The collection in cash and promises amounted to £69 4s. 4d.

Solo by Mrs. McClelland.

Solo by J. Moy Ling.

Miss Mary Thompson, of India, said that India was a most interesting study to Britishers. It had a wonderful past. Its literature, its buildings, and its riches were renowned throughout the world. Yet, notwithstanding its great past, its morality was, perhaps, of the lowest. The natives in the higher lands were better than those who lived in the plains. In both classes the effects of their religion was seen in the absence of pity, and illustrated the proverb that "the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel." Their religion was a mixture of superstition and cruelty. This was abundantly evidenced during the time of the famine. Those who went about India had plenty of opportunities of witnessing the great superstition of these people. They saw men who regarded the mutilation of the body as an evidence of piety. When one saw all this, it made one almost feel hopeless of doing great things in India. Yet, there were not wanting evidences that Christianity was making itself felt. In many instances good results were not only seen in their better morality, but also in their improved physical condition. It was also noticeable that many of the children of India were being brought up under better conditions, and were getting a fair knowledge of the Bible. In conclusion, she hoped that the brethren would attempt and do great things for Christ.

Solo by W. Hing.

Musical selection by the Malvern Mission Band.

Prayer by E. Bagley and the benediction brought the meeting to a close.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

In presenting this, our annual report, we wish to place on record our united thanks to our heavenly Father for the preservation bestowed upon us throughout the past year. Owing to each member of the Committee being actively engaged in assisting in other departments of Christian work they have not done as much as they would like during the year. However, something has been done. Our annual demonstration was a decided success, representatives of all the Temperance Societies in Melbourne taking part in the gathering. Bro. Nat Haddow had full charge of the musical arrangements, which were rendered to the full satisfaction of an appreciative audience. Saturday night meetings were held in Stanton-street, conducted by Bro. Mahon. To all who assisted in these gatherings we return our sincere thanks, especially the officers of the churches. Meetings were held in Richmond, North Melbourne, and Brunswick during the year. We are also glad to report that a Band of Hope Union was formed during the year, entitled the North Suburban, and the Bands of Hope connected with churches of Christ in the district united with this Union.

Bro. Mahon has been holding the position of President and Bro. Millis vice-president of the Union during the year. Through the influence of Bro. Millis a grand public demonstration was held in the Wesleyan chapel, Brunswick-st., the children marching through the streets headed by a brass band. Good work has been done by the Committee assisting other societies, representatives speaking at the Melbourne Total Abstinence Society meetings, also the W.C.T.U. Our Secretary visited Maryborough and Bet Bet and reported the result of his visit in the CHRISTIAN. At Maryborough there is a strong Band of Hope. At Bet Bet our Bro. Anderson converts the grape juice into wine instead of fire-water, thus setting a grand example to those around him. Bro. Mahon has also spent three months at Ballarat. Here also he reports having found a strong Temperance sentiment. The young people having formed themselves into a Temperance Society called the Dawson Street Church of Christ Temperance Society, with Bro. J. Reid as leader. During our Secretary's stay he spoke every Saturday night in the open-air. We are also glad to report that more Temperance literature has been distributed during the past year than hitherto. Our work has been a labor of love and we wish to give God the glory. Thanking all who assisted us, we remain, On behalf of the Committee,

A. MILLIS, PRESIDENT.

H. MAHON, SECRETARY

BALANCE SHEET.

YEAR ENDING 24TH MARCH, 1900.

RECEIPTS.

To Balance	£11 3 0
" Collection Annual Demonstration ..	6 0 0
" Collection Richmond	0 12 6
	£17 15 6

EXPENDITURE.

By Expenses Annual Demonstration ..	£3 11 0
" Donation Victorian Alliance ..	1 0 0
" Slides for Saturday Night Meetings ..	1 0 0
" Travelling Expenses	0 13 5
" Sundries, Postage, etc.	0 17 3
" Cash in Hand	10 13 10
	£17 15 6

Audited and found correct.

J. BARNACLE, A.S.A.A., Eng. } Auditors.
24/3/00. A. R. LYALL

W. Wilson spoke to the above report and proposed, That the representatives of the church of Christ in Conference assembled urge upon the Government the necessity of carrying out the present Licensing Act in its entirety. They view with alarm any proposal to introduce limited Sunday closing; sincerely believing that the wish of the people is becoming stronger than ever in favor of more stringent regulation of the liquor traffic as conducing to order and good citizenship. This was seconded by A. Millis and carried.

H. Swain spoke criticising the report, saying that nothing had been done.

F. McClean said that at least some little work had been accomplished.

Victorian Sisters' Conference

The Fifteenth Annual Conference was held in Lygon-street chapel, Wednesday, April 11th, Mrs. A. B. Maston (Acting-President) presiding. After devotional exercises Mrs. P. Ludbrook gave a warm welcome greeting to the sisters, which was responded to by Mrs. Elliott (Sydney), Hawley (Gippsland), Whitfield (Adelaide) and Anderson (Bealiba). Minutes of Conference 1899, and correspondence (which included an apology from Mrs. Christopher, and greeting from Mrs. John Thompson) were read by the Secretary.

Treasurer's report, read by Mrs. Ludbrook, showed £3 11s. 4³d. credit balance.

Victorian Mission Fund report, read by Mrs. Kemp, told that the sisters have collected £169 this year, being the largest sum since 1892, and £43 more than last year. During the past 14 years the sisters have collected £1949 being an average of £139 per year.

Obituary report was read by Mrs. McLellan showing that 27 of our sisters have entered into rest since last Conference.

Sunday School report prepared and read by our aged Sister Schofield told of 5,135 scholars in the schools with 467 teachers. The additions for schools being 198.

Miss Bean sang very sweetly "The Children's Home."

The Dorcas report was read by Mrs. J. Pittman and Prayer Meeting by Mrs. Chown, Temperance by Mrs. Millis and Hospital Visitation by Mrs. Lee.

We had the following visiting sisters with us Mrs. Franklin (Ballarat), Mrs. and Miss

Whitfield, Mrs. F. Pittman (Adelaide), Miss Ahgan, Mrs. Houchins (Corowa), Harrison (Dunolly), Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. Bowe (Colac); Mrs. and Miss McCullough (Warrnambool); Mrs. Connor (Horsham); Miss Dudley, Mrs. Ray (Shepparton); Mrs. Hawley (Gippsland); Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. and Miss Elliott, Miss Leek (Sydney); Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Prior (Tasmania); Mrs. Branley (Montaggi); Mrs. Harward (America). We were also pleased to have Sisters Cameron (North Melbourne), Johnston (Swanston-st) and Greenwood (Doncaster) with us.

Miss Thompson gave an interesting address on the "Women of India," after which Miss McGregor sang "Tears."

Mrs. Ludbrook having engaged in prayer, the election of officers took place. Mrs. R. B. Davis, Mrs. McIntosh and Mrs. E. Dickson were appointed scrutineers.

Essayist for next year, Mrs. F. M. Ludbrook.

A very hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the Executive of Home Missionary Committee.

The meeting closed, and adjourned for tea. There were present 270 sisters during the afternoon.

The Evening Session commenced promptly at 7.30, Mrs. Chown leading in prayer and Mrs. Moysey reading scripture.

Roll-call was answered by the following churches, in some cases a verse of a hymn being sung: Ascot Vale, Brunswick, Brighton, Carlton, Collingwood, Cheltenham, Doncaster, North Fitzroy, Fitzroy Tabernacle, Footscray, Hawthorn, Malvern, North Melbourne, Swanston-st. (including N. Carlton), Murrumbidgee, Newmarket, Prahran, Richmond, Surrey Hills, St. Kilda, South Yarra, Williamstown, Colac.

Intercolonial greetings from N.S.W. were read by Mrs. Morrison, and English Sisters' greetings by Secretary.

Mrs. Huntsman introduced Foreign Missions with a very interesting report, and Misses Ahgan and Thompson gave addresses, after which Mrs. McClelland sang "Angels Ever Bright and Fair."

The Hon. President's annual address was read by Mrs. Pittman, and Miss Benson sang "Gift of Rest." The essay, "Progress of Woman's Work During the Present Century," read by Miss McCullough. Mission Band Report, Miss Huntsman, after which Miss Lawson recited "Go, Tell My Brethren," and Mrs. Harward gave her paper on "Methods of Work."

The following officers were introduced by Mrs. Morro:—Acting President, Mrs. P. Ludbrook; Vice-Presidents: Mrs. Maston, Mrs. Pittman, Mrs. Huntsman, Mrs. Moysey; Treasurer: Mrs. B. J. Kemp.

The following resolutions were proposed by Mrs. Morro, and the meeting closed by singing "Hail, Sweetest, Dearest Tie that Binds," and Benediction." Collection, £5 8s. 4d.

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas we have been through the year that is now passed the recipients of God's blessings, and he has granted to us life, and has permitted us in Christian love to come together again, therefore by the Sisters' Conference of the Associated Churches of Christ of Victoria be it

Resolved—That we show our deep felt gratitude to our Heavenly Father for his loving care and protection by devoting all our energy to help forward any good and noble work, and that by united effort we shall endeavor to advance the cause of Christ everywhere and in every possible way.

Resolved—That we send greetings to the English Sisters' Conference and to the American Christian Woman's Board of Missions.

Resolved—Seeing the great increase of cigarette smoking, and knowing the injury it does to our youth, we earnestly advise parents, guardians, and teachers, to be very faithful in pointing out the evil consequences of this very dangerous practice.

Resolved—That the thanks of this Conference be extended to the officers of the Swanston-street church for the use of their lecture-hall for our monthly meetings.

Resolved—That we likewise extend our thanks to all the sisters who have contributed items to our programme, and to all who have in any way assisted in making our Conference a success.

EXECUTIVE REPORT.

Madam President, Dear Sisters,—During the past year we have held 12 meetings, with a total attendance of 417, the average being 34.9, the largest attendance since we have been an Executive. Only 3 sisters have distinguished themselves by attending every meeting—Sisters Maston, Ludbrook sr., and Brown; 4 missed one meeting, and 13 two.

The following committees were appointed during the year:—Home Mission, Foreign Mission, Temperance, Sunday School, Prayer-meeting, Dorcas, and Hospital Visitation. All have worked well, as you will hear from the superintendents' reports. The Home Mission Fund credits the sisters with largest amount since 1892, viz., £169, £43/7/- more than last year. Home Missionary meetings have been held at Fitzroy Tabernacle, Ascot Vale, North Melbourne, and Newmarket. At each place the church officers expressed thanks, and hoped we would come again. Two missionary drawing-room meetings have been held at North Fitzroy, and a temperance meeting at North Carlton. Our prayer and praise meeting was held the first Friday in the New Year, when a very profitable hour was spent.

The brethren's Executive, in response to a request made last year, have generously provided us with a supply of crockery and tables for Conference use, and the Sisters' Executive have purchased tablecloths and spoons.

We have not had many opportunities of hearing Miss Thompson, but hope to have that pleasure during the next few months.

A number of our Executive took an active part in the Sale of Work for the Burwood Boys' Home.

The Executive has remained unbroken by death, but we lost by removal Sister McCrackett. An opportunity was taken to have a farewell cup of tea, and give her a small token of our love.

Quite a number of sisters from Sydney have visited the meetings, viz., Sisters Baker, Smith, Ewers, Hunter, Bagley, and Kingsbury; also Sisters Dudley of Shepparton, Dickens of Bendigo, and Stone of Warrnambool.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT,

CONFERENCE, 1899.

INCOME.

Balance from year ending March, 1899	..	£2	18	8½
Collection, Sisters' Conference, 1899	..	5	18	10
Tickets, Friday and Saturday..	..	17	4	5½
To Goods sold ..	..	0	3	3
To Dinner and Tea Fund ..	..	7	9	0½
		£33	14	3½

EXPENDITURE.

To Goods catered for ..	..	£18	5	8
Secretary's Account, 1898-99 ..	..	1	8	10
Printing Reports, &c. ..	..	5	14	0
Sundries ..	..	0	17	11½
Rent of Hall ..	..	1	7	0
Caretaker ..	..	0	15	0
		£28	8	5½

Balance in hand ..	..	5	5	10
		£33	14	3½

EXECUTIVE STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1900.

INCOME.

Balance from Conference, 1899	..	£5	5	10
Collections, Sisters' Executive	..	4	17	0½
		£10	2	10½

EXPENDITURE.

Donations ..	..	4	19	6
Sundries ..	..	1	12	0
		6	11	6

Balance in hand ..	..	3	11	4½
		£10	2	10½

Audited and found correct.
April 10th, 1900.

ROBERT LYALL.

H. LUDBROOK, Treas.

L. COLLINS, Fin. Sec.

ACTING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Dear Sisters,—Time is passing so rapidly that we can scarcely realise that another year is numbered with the past. We are in God's good providence once again gathered in Annual Conference. These meetings bring most forcibly to our minds Phœbe Carey's beautiful poem—

"One sweetly solemn thought
Comes to me o'er and o'er—
I am nearer my home to-day
Than I ever have been before."

One of the chief joys of our Conference is the meeting, greeting and loving fellowship we have with one another. We come together to take a look backward at what has been done, to receive strength and encouragement, and thus be able with renewed energy to do more and better work than in the past. God has designed us all for some position of usefulness, some in one direction, others in another. It has always been our aim to cultivate a missionary spirit, and to encourage missionary effort. We are neither for Home or Foreign Missions alone, but take Christ's view, and look upon the field as the world. We have urged a regular and systematic giving. If every follower of Christ would give a penny per week to each fund there would be a constant stream flowing into the Lord's treasury. When our rulers called for volunteers to serve their country, how readily that call was obeyed! How freely was the Patriotic Fund responded to, not only by the wealthy who gave of their abundance, but also largely by those who toil early and late for daily bread. Loyalty to the flag that protects them is right, but the commands of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords should be more willingly obeyed. Those who are for the Lord and his truth ought to be diligent in their work. Paul was willing to

suffer the loss of all things, and counted them of no value in comparison to winning the "well done" from his Master. We are redeemed, not with corruptible things, as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Jesus. Well may he say, "Go, work in my vineyard." No blame can be attached to those who stood idle "because no man hath hired them," for they gladly accepted the first work offered them. With so many calls for workers, and opportunities for service, what can our answer be when we stand idle. Charles Sheldon says: "There never was an age when there was so little time for play as now; there never was a time when it was so great a sin to be selfish as now. All through the New Testament we are enjoined to give for the furtherance of God's work. Let us offer ourselves for God's service, giving influence, work and zeal untiring, finding our deepest joy in doing God's will. Let us serve as Jesus served, tenderly and lovingly leading the erring into the ways of truth and right. We could not close without kindly mention of our honored President, Mrs. Thurgood, and appreciation of her message from month to month and address sent to each Conference. We rejoice in her usefulness in the Master's vineyard, and pray she may long be spared to the work that is so dear to her heart. This Conference year will see the close of this marvellous century. May the love of Christ constrain us to go forward with kindly words and earnest prayers to do good to all as we have opportunity.

M. MASTON.

HOSPITAL VISITATION.

It gives us great pleasure to report that visitation has been carried on energetically by a number of sisters during the year. The following places have been visited: Homœopathic, Melbourne, Alfred, Austin and private Hospitals; Deaf and Dumb, and Blind Institutions; also Benevolent Asylum and the Convalescent Home. This has been a pleasure and profit to ourselves, as well as to the sick ones. Literature given away during the year: *Spectator*, 62; *Sunbeam*, 86; *Southern Cross*, 108; *AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN*, 262; *Tracts*, 224; *Advocate*, 70; *Record*, 76; *Christian Herald*, 25; *Sunshine*, 25; Pictorial Texts, 424.

DORCAS VISITING COMMITTEE.

The Committee have visited Ascot Vale, Swanston Street, Lygon Street and Prahran. We regret that other duties prevented our doing more in this direction, but hope in the future one meeting in each month will be arranged. Sisters let us give the best of life in the Master's name for the good of others. Lend a hand to every one who needs. Be ready to serve at any cost, those who require our service. We are in this world to be useful. God wants us to carry his gifts and blessings to others. If we fail as his messengers we miss our mission.

L. PITTMAN, SUPT.

DORCAS.

Ascot Vale.—God has greatly blessed us through the year. We have 20 members on the roll, average 8. Have purchased a machine, and given away 17 garments.

MARIE PETERS, Sec.

Brighton.—This year we report fewer meetings but more work done. The sisters

willingly taking home sewing to help forward the work. Shirts have been made for Burwood Boys' Home, and several families assisted. We have made garments for mothers who were able to buy material, and sold at cost price to people who felt unable to buy readymade clothing at ordinary price.

H. C. LUDBROOK, Sec.

Brunswick.—Meetings held every Tuesday, average attendance 5. Have held 33 meetings, given away 13 garments, 3 pairs of socks, also a hand machine; made 3 gowns for church, material being provided. Have had a present of sewing machine from one of our sisters. Balance from last year, 16½; collection, and garments sold, £2/13/3½. Material bought, and goods given away, £2/2/3. In hand, £1/7/2.

M. J. COLLINGS, Pres.

M. W. DICKENS, Sec.

Ballarat.—Have held 21 meetings, average attendance 8. Given away 68 garments, 25 parcels of clothing, also boots, butter, groceries, coal and wood. Collections at meetings, £1/16/6; donations received, £9/7/5; articles sold, 17/-; previous balance, £3/2/7. Expenditure—Money given away, £7/2/9; spent for material, £4/3/10. Balance in hand, £3/17/8.

Prahran.—Forty-eight meetings have been held, with an average attendance of 3. Have made 27 garments for Homœopathic Hospital, the ladies' aid committee finding the material. Sent 24 articles to sale for Burwood Boys' Home, and a small parcel to Rescue Home. Have given 71 garments to deserving persons, also parcel of groceries. 111 garments have been sold, and money used for buying material. Money collected, £3/10/9; articles sold, £7/8/6; balance in hand, 7/3½.

J. BRYAN, Sec.

South Melbourne.—A Dorcas was started on 1st February, and meetings have been held each Thursday since. There are thirteen members. Average attendance eight.

ANNIE DOWNES, Sec.

South Yarra.—The interest keeps up in our meetings. Average attendance seven. Distributed amongst poor of district 70 articles of clothing, three parcels of sundries. We gave up one quarter to making articles for Burwood Boys' Home.

Swanston Street.—Ten meetings have been held with an average attendance of five. Forty-nine garments have been made. One hundred and six yards of material were sent to Society and made up as follows: eleven dresses, two suits of clothes, six pinafores, five shirts, one jacket, the remainder being undergarments. £14s. collected, 18/6 spent on material. Thanking sisters who have helped us during the year.

E. H. MCGREGOR, Sec.

E. LYALL, President.

Lygon Street.—Report a very successful year. The afternoon class membership was 20, with an average of 12. The evening class numbers 27 average 14. During the year Sister McLellan voluntarily resigned her position as President to give place to Sister Morro. Vice-Presidents, Sisters McLellan and Grinrod. Received during year by donations, sales, and goods in hand £100. Disbursements: To poor, £2 10s.; Material £35; To officers towards Building Fund £51. Have distributed several parcels

of clothing, and parcel of dolls and toys to Childrens' Hospital. M. J. DICKSON, Sec.

North Fitzroy.—Have had a prosperous year. Meetings well attended, averaging twenty members. In October a Sale of work was held which realised £50. Expenses were paid, a little reserved to buy material with, and £42 forwarded to the Building Fund of the church. Almost every sister in the church gave material or some work towards this. All are working well and harmoniously together. E. SOUTER, Sec.

Hobart.—The past year has been prosperous. We have increased in number, and have accomplished much work. We have held 44 meetings, average 15. There are 47 names on roll. 16 new members have joined since last year. Income, £19 18s. 9d. Expenditure, £16 4s. 5d. Visiting Committee have carried on work most successfully. Have sent a parcel of clothing to refugees at Durban, South Africa, as well as garments to the needy, firewood to the poor, and money to those in distress.

MRS. SMITH, Pres.
E. SPEAKMAN, Sec.

SISTERS' PRAYER MEETING.

Malvern.—Our Prayer Meeting continues to be held the fourth Thursday in each month at the residence of Mrs. Huntsman. Attendance during the first half of the year was very good, but latterly there has been much room for improvement!! May the Lord revive his work.

E. ROBINSON.

Footscray.—We have to report having held our meeting week by week for another year. Though few in number, God has blessed us, and we have proved that those who wait upon the Lord do renew their strength; and so, with renewed hope and trust in God the Father, we enter upon another year, feeling sure that even greater blessings will be ours, for he has said, "If ye ask anything in my name I will do it."

South Yarra.—On April 15th a Sisters' Prayer Meeting was formed. We decided to meet fortnightly, and have done so since that date. We average nine sisters at each meeting. The first meeting in the new year was a united one, and a very delightful time we had.

M. LEE, Sec.

Prahran.—The attendance has been fully maintained, and interest been sustained through the year. No losses by death, though much illness. Still, we pray that if it should be God's will, they may be fully restored. Our venerable Sister Betheridge is still living, though unable to attend, and is patiently awaiting the Master's call. The future outlook is bright, and Sister Pittman takes an active part. The object of the class is as follows:—1st. Works of charity. 2nd. Works of mercy. 3rd. Works of love.

AGNES GEDDES.

AN INTERESTING REPORT.

The First Sisters' Conference.

A Sisters' Conference (the first we believe ever held in Australia) took place at Buninyong in connection with the Evangelistic Union. The meeting opened with prayer and the reading of Epistle of John 2:2-6, after which Sister Thurgood was elected President and Sister E. A. Porter, Secretary. Essays on the following subjects were read:

Dorcas Societies, Sisters' Prayer Meeting, Visiting Committees, Mothers' Meetings, Missionary Meetings, Teachers' Meetings and Young People's Societies. These were contributed by sisters from Geelong, the President adding earnest and practical suggestions to each subject. It was decided to hold sisters' prayer meetings at Buninyong, the first meeting to be conducted by Sister Edith Heap. It was also moved, seconded, and carried, that the Sisters' Conference be permanent, and we hope to look into all the dear sisters faces this time next year at the Annual Conference. It was also decided to give the President power to hold Conferences wherever needed or desired. All joined in the hymn, "Toiling On," after which Sister Anderson touched all our hearts by an earnest, sympathetic prayer. Although it was stormy and disagreeable weather without, the sunshine of Christian love within made our hearts glad, and we hope the germ for future usefulness already started may develop into a rich fruitage for the Master. After a most profitable and enjoyable service, the meeting adjourned.

February, 1884. E. A. PORTER, Sec.

MALVERN MISSION BAND.

Our meetings have been well attended during the year, seventeen names being on the roll, and five hon. members, with an average attendance of 13. The meetings have been very enjoyable. Several evenings were spent on Bible subjects, one on Temperance, and two on the Lives of Missionaries. Each member takes a turn in conducting the meetings, which creates greater interest. The half-yearly meeting was well attended 46 being present. Addresses were delivered by Bren. Houchins and Ludbrook. The anniversary was held last December when when Bro. Johnston delivered an address to a good meeting. During the year we have collected £4 for the Kanaka Mission. Though our efforts are small we continue to press on, for "we must work the works of him that sent us while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work."

J. E. HUNTSMAN, Sec.

MRS. THURGOOD'S LETTER.

"Not to be ministered unto, but to minister."

"Not to be ministered unto,
Softly the watchword sing;
Give us the joy of service,
Jesus, our Saviour, King."

Beloved Sisters,—We are not sending you an annual address to-day, but a "love letter" that shall touch every heart in our loyal sisterhood with its affectionate appreciation of the past, and its loving longing to be with you, in spirit, at this Conference Session.

In the sister's part of all our local Conventions we are leaving out the long essays, and finely-written papers, to introduce short practical talks on some given subject by several sisters. Far instance, we are preparing a "round table" for one District Convention to be held in May, that we hope will be exceedingly interesting and instructive. One sister will be asked to very briefly give a few points on the present work in India—its medical staff, the famine district, needs, etc. Another, a few thoughts on the work and workers in Jamaica. Next, Mexico and the

new missionaries entering Monterey this month, January, 1900, will be brought before us. Again, our Bible Chair work at the University of Virginia will be explained and discussed, also "Calcutta for Christ," or, why we should enter the large cities of India. And best of all, someone will sound out the watchword for 1900—"100,000 women, and \$130,000." Thus the special work of the year will be kept in view, and pressed home to every heart. The Young Ladies' Missionary circle of Central at their last meeting took upon themselves the names of our missionaries in India, so as to be able to personate them and the work they are doing, each month at the meetings through the year; thus keeping the place and workers ever in mind. Of course their president took Miss Ehrenberg of Australia to represent, as a link in the chain of sympathy that unites us to the sunny South Land.

You remember we suggested for '99 that our sisters in Australia have a special offering of two hundred pounds, and five hundred women enlisted in some phase of their beautiful work, also a superintendent of young people's work on the Executive. The Burwood Boys' Home was also commended to your sympathy and attention by the Acting President. Have all of these been considered, and acted upon? Recently I heard of a visit being made to a sister of the church who had plenty of this world's goods, but kept it all to be used upon self. Our sisters in America are leaving, not only small gifts, but bountiful ones, for the Lord's work. During the past few months. Sister Margaret Oliver, of Pittsburgh, has given \$5000 to the American Missionary Society. Sister Watters of Allegheny has given \$5000 each, to the C.W.B.M., to the American Missionary Society, and to the Foreign Society; and just this week our beloved Sister Elizabeth Mills has given \$10,000 to missionary work at home and abroad. This sister went with us to the great Jubilee Convention in Cincinnati, and when she saw the magnitude of the work her heart was touched to make this generous offering.

Should not an appeal be made at this Conference to sisters who have abundant means to break the "alabaster box" at the Master's feet, lest they may be denied the privilege? Bro. Burford's gift at Indianapolis will be long remembered. The outcome of every Conference should be an increased enthusiasm for humanity, manifested in mighty gifts of person and purse—many willing workers eager to serve as well as to give. "Not to be ministered unto but to minister." "OTHERS" the motto—out of self into Christ. May God be with us all this new year of grace, enabling us to carry out his will on earth as it is done by the angels in heaven.

"Here is our task, so little, yet so great:—

To keep the ear ajar for voice of God;
The eye alert for sign of messenger
From near or far, that brings his high command;
To keep the hand to toil, the feet to haste,
The voice to echo loyally his own,
The heart to throb swift answer to his will:—
All this, and more To lift the stricken up;
On grievous wounds to pour the oil and wine;
To heal where hurt is sorest, to bow down
And lift the fallen, and to lead the blind;

To answer every plaint of human pain
And strengthen e'en the little ones of God.
Ah, glorious work! worthy the queenliest soul;
This is ministry!"

Your loving Sister Worker,

ANTOINETTE K. THURGOOD.

1931 Fifth-av., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Progress of Woman's Work During the Present Century.

By MISS McCULLOUGH.

As we consider our subject to-day, we cannot help feeling certain that when the history of the 19th century comes to be written, the progress of woman's work will be one of its most striking and important facts. Progress there certainly has been, for, by the records of the past, we know it used to be thought a pity to educate woman, as it unfitted her for domestic life—and the term "a working woman," usually implied a factory hand, seamstress, or charwoman; but, thanks to the pioneers who, in spite of jeers, scorn and contempt, proved woman has a mind and intelligence, that former erroneous idea has been for ever "shelved." Has she lost anything through this change in her position? Nay, verily, but, through communion with others, has gained enlarged sympathies and a deeper knowledge of the wants of the great human family. The fact of woman thus coming to the front is a theme talked over in every circle of life—some, speaking in praiseworthy tones—others, that her place is essentially in pursuit of household and domestic duties. To all the answer comes from the lives of the noble women who settled the question by stepping into the breach and thus adding a new glory not only to labor, but also to the religion of Jesus Christ, by the fineness and dignity with which it is invested when embodied in the female character. As the women pass in panoramic view before us, we will see that in each instance their work had a small beginning, but it kept going and growing. Unheeding the disapproval, at times, of relatives and friends, they ever looked to him who is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart, knowing that, though others misunderstood a fellow-being who ministered personally to woman's best Friend, yet he understood, and, above all the discontented murmurings and adverse comments, sounded the comforting and gracious words, "She hath done what she could." Here is our marching order. Let us then cast aside everything that would hamper us, and present ourselves wholly to Jesus—vessels meet for the Master's use—then with lives pervaded by the sweet perfume of the Rose of Sharon from woman's work shall ever arise an odor of consecrated service—for God—for home and for humanity.

Not long ago, the name of Florence Nightingale went ringing round the world. Here we have a child of wealthy parents, not content to live an aimless life, cradled in the lap of luxury, while her tender heart ached for the sufferings of others. So from being a deeply interested hospital visitor we find her entering an institute to be trained for a nurse. Ten years after her life work opened up before her. War had been declared with

Russia; the hospitals were crowded, and the death rate from disease appalling. Miss Nightingale offered her services and soon left for Scutari with a band of nurses. The recording angel will tell of the good she did and the lives she helped to save. For our purpose we have only to contrast the violent opposition this heroine had to encounter with the demand for and eagerness of nurses to go and alleviate the sufferings of the sick and wounded in the present crisis in South Africa, and we have a practical view of the advancement of this phase of woman's work.

In Elizabeth Fry we have another example. She began by gathering a few children in her father's house and teaching them good lessons. Although, after her marriage, her hands were full of domestic duties, consequent on the up-bringing of a large family, she yet found time for many errands of mercy. Hearing of the pitiable condition of the prisoners in Newgate, she resolved to visit them, and, though considered a dangerous experiment, went into that part of the prison where 150 of the worst of her own sex were confined. Here her early instruction of children stood her in good stead, as it enabled her to tell the "old old story" so simply to these unfortunates that their minds were able to grasp it, and their hearts were melted with the glad news of a Saviour's love. In 1816 she became a systematic visitor of the prison. She established a school inside its walls, found work for idle hands of the women, and formed a committee of ladies to take a personal interest in them, thus instead of riot and squalor, which were the accompaniments of idleness, order, decency, and neatness now reigned. This good woman died at Ramsgate in 1845, and was mourned by a nation. As a tribute to her memory the "Elizabeth Fry Refuge" was erected, to provide a home for and supply relief to discharged female prisoners.

A sincere Christian philanthropist was Miss Caroline Marsh, one who spent every leisure hour in visiting the poor and the sick. Thus she entered the open door of her enlarged sphere of usefulness. Calling at one of the cottages where she had previously been to see an invalid, the door was half opened by a rough young fellow, who proved to be one of the 200 navvies who had come to the place. It was Sunday evening. Many were congregated at the house, so she asked had any been to church. Receiving a negative answer, she then related what she had listened to only that morning, and disabused the men's minds of the thought of our angry God, by the truth that God is love. She asked them to join her in prayer, and there she knelt and prayed with those rough men around her hushed and gentle as little children. Encouraged by their attention she hired two rooms and established a Bible class on Sunday and two week-day evenings. When their work was finished many of the navvies left their village true followers of King Jesus, and to-day their descendants rise up to bless the name of Caroline Marsh.

Nearer home we hear of Caroline Chisholm the emigrant's friend, whose thoughts were first turned to emigration by the stories of an old soldier, to whom her father had given shelter. After her marriage she went with her husband to India, but his ill health forced her removal to Australia. Here Mrs.

Chisholm's sympathies for the emigrants were fully aroused. She formed a Committee of ladies in Sydney, but the opposition to their work was most severe. It was feared the colony would sink in estimation if the evils the emigrants were exposed to became known. Mrs. Chisholm sought an interview with the governor and by dint of great perseverance obtained a room in a government building for an "Emigrant's Home." Here she watched over the emigrants, and obtained situations for them all. During seven years she comfortably settled eleven thousand emigrants.

A noble woman is Miss Agnes Weston—the sailor's friend; of a modest and retiring disposition, averse to advertising herself, but whose good deeds have won for her a world-wide reputation for philanthropy. She spent a very quiet girlhood at Bath, where she taught a Sunday School, and was thus led into her present work. One of her scholars was going to India as a soldier, and asked his teacher to write to him. She did so, and on the voyage he showed the letter to the steward, who said "he would give anything to get a letter like that sometimes." In his reply the soldier told Miss Weston of the sailor's desire, and her kind heart prompted her to write to him also. From this small beginning has grown a mighty organisation. At Devonport is a cosy and comfortable home called "The Sailor's Rest," with sleeping accommodation for four hundred men. It is conducted on strictly temperance lines; and it is said to be greatly owing to this one woman's efforts that one out of every six men in the Royal Navy is now a total abstainer. She is always allowed to hold meetings on any man-of-war, and her little magazine *Ashore and Afloat* is franked officially and finds its way to every port. So gigantic is her work that in one year twenty tons weight of printed matter was sent out by her from Portsmouth. The Queen herself conferred the title of "Royal" on the "Sailor's Rest," this being the first time that the title had been officially bestowed on a teetotal establishment.

Woman's mind, in Christian lands, has for years been bent on elevating her dark-skinned sisters to the position which under Christ's law of love she herself holds. For this purpose missionaries of the cross have gone forth. We will cite one case, that of Miss Jane Wakefield Adam, who for nineteen years has been quietly working in India. In 1886 she entered Deaghur, where there was neither European nor native missionary—not even one native Christian. Anything but encouragement greeted her. She was told by a highly educated native that, owing to the number and influence of the priests, no zenana work would be practicable there. With an unbounded trust in God she made an attempt, using fancy needlework as an allurements for them to open their doors. The effort was abundantly blessed, and in 1894 there were not less than seventeen zenanas open. Finding the inmates of the large prisons willing to receive instruction, she commenced a reading class amongst them. They were making progress, when, one day the magistrate entered and told her such work was against the prison rules. As she was not allowed to enter it occurred to her she might speak to the men through the

iron gates; so the keepers oft-times collected the prisoners and placed them within good hearing distance, while all listened to the good news of salvation. She has had free access to the hospital to read or speak with the patients. Her life has indeed been a living echo of her Master's, and she has had the joy both of sowing and reaping for his harvest home.

Miss Adams did not go out connected with any society, as she then did not know of any she could faithfully represent, her work being supported by friends in answer to prayer. However, she was led by reading some tracts to unite with the members of the church of Christ at Bilaspur, India, about December, 1893. She feels confident that God has thus in his own good time, opened up a way so that the work in Deaghur may be carried on after she has gone to her rest. So we might go on and relate about Frances Willard, Frances Ridley Havergal, and scores of others, who made the most of their opportunities, but enough has been said to prove the correctness of the statement that "progress has been made," and to show that woman has not deteriorated in usefulness through taking an intelligent grasp of her position in the reformation of the world, thus hastening the return of the Lord. In thus contemplating the lives of those whose work led them along the public highway of life, we must be struck with the fact that there was not a female Quixote amongst them—not one who sought a new and startling sphere of activity, but each recognised the too often sadly forgotten truth that the most important duties are those nearest to hand. It is just here at this "parting of the ways" that her detractors say woman neglects her duty, and goes abroad seeking work while fields within reach are white unto harvest; that she asks beseechingly for higher service and leaves unaccomplished the many lowly tasks surrounding her. Sisters, let us be careful and deserve such a stigma as little as did any of those whose footprints in the sands of time we have just been following. Such bright examples are given to show the possibilities of which she is capable, and to inspire woman to greater efforts; there are others, obscure themselves, but whose works truly may be called great, and though we do not read of them in the histories of this world yet their names are surely written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Of such was Sarah Hosmer, a poor woman who lived in an attic and worked with her needle. On six different occasions she saved sufficient to educate a native preacher, with the result that when she entered into rest six were left laboring in the dark countries of the East. In the CHRISTIAN of March 22nd, 1900, we read of Sister Elizabeth Barrett of Hindmarsh, S.A.; how faithfully she performs her labor of love, and helps the Foreign Missionary Committee in that place. He who taught the value of little things will surely mete out the fullest meed of reward to such humble, trusting service.

Right down through the century we see women have been steadily employing their time and talents to try and leave the world better than they found it. The present is ours. Are we using it to advantage? True, much has been done, but more remains to be accomplished, and, while admiring others,

let us not fall into lethargic indifference, and lose sight of our own individual responsibility; we may not screen ourselves behind their successfully finished labors, but must realise, even as they, that each is a part of God's great plan, with a duty to fulfil, the reward for which faithfully or otherwise accomplished, will be bestowed when he comes whose reward is with him, to give every one according as her work shall be. But just here let me say that, living as we do in an age of large opportunities we are just too apt to have too many irons in the fire to do anything well. We do not want our work to be a mechanical round performed from a sense of duty; but let it be an offering of loving service, having a definite aim in view and the mathematical definition of a straight line—the shortest distance between two given points—practically applied.

Some of us get discouraged because our sphere is apparently so small. Do not let us hold back our mite on this account, for we do not know where our influence ends. Besides, it is the faithful servant, whether over much or little, who receives the commendation.

Our doubts are traitors,
And make us lose the good we oft might win
By fearing to attempt.

Let us then put them behind, link our marching order with Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, realise our exalted position as laborers together with God, then, as we have opportunity, do good unto all, especially unto those who are of the household of faith.

The daily round, the common task
Will furnish all we need to ask,
Room to deny ourselves—a road
To lead us daily nearer God.

Many might voice this sentiment and would they wish it otherwise? The wise man of old estimated the price of the virtuous woman as being far above rubies. A woman who shines brightly amid the every day surroundings of her own home is surely one of the very best reflectors of the light borrowed from the Lord Jesus Christ. An American statesman, John Randolph, used to say, "I should have been an atheist had it not been for one recollection, and that was memory of the time when my departed mother used to take my little hand in hers and cause me on my knees to say 'Our Father, who art in heaven.'" Such instances are numberless, proving the truth of the saying, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." There are many unattained heights. Not one of us may claim to have reached perfection, but we each know that if every opportunity to work for Jesus' sake is seized, or whether the faculty, of seeing the "open door" presented daily, is becoming blinded by disuse. If we have not done so, let us make a beginning now, and, forgetting the things which are behind, press forward, and we will be astonished at the many before unnoticed ways for serving him which will constantly present themselves to us. We sometimes ask for strength that we may be emptied of self and filled with all the fulness of Christ Jesus.

Have we ever paused to think of the result of this filling, "that Christ may dwell in our

hearts by faith; that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth and length, and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that we might be filled with all the fulness of God." With such an impelling power urging us onward and upward, there would then be no sentimentalism about our work, but an earnestness of purpose, with divine assistance, to gather up every fragment of time, and let not one moment pass unimproved. I have heard it said that Miss Thompson, our missionary in India, did her early work for the Master thus, spending her time, in the neighborhood in which she lived, performing "little deeds of kindness, little acts of love." Faithful in the smaller things, she is now laboring in a larger field and has had the privilege of gathering many Indian gems to sparkle in the Saviour's diadem. Recently I read there are 10,000 Chinese in the Sunday Schools of the United States. It was the consecrated labor of Miss Robinson in the Sunday School that brought the first, Jew Hawk, to Christ. When such splendid results from small beginnings come within our own ken let us never be discouraged nor call any work trivial. It has been said "the Lord has many fine farms from which he receives but little rent"—there is much to do, but the laborers are few. Let us then see that we each share the responsibility of the work, even as we hope to participate in the joy of the great "harvest home"; and instead of the telling rebuke, "Ye are my bones, and my flesh, wherefore then are ye the last to bring back the king?" hear the blessed words, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

We may appropriately close this essay with

THE MASTER'S QUESTIONS.

Have ye looked for sheep in the desert,
For those who have missed their way?
Have ye been in the wild waste places
Where the lost and wandering stray?
Have ye trodden the lonely highway,
The foul and the darksome street?
It may be ye'd see in the gloaming
The print of my wounded feet.

Have ye folded home to your bosom
The trembling, neglected lamb,
And taught to the little lost one
The sound of the Shepherd's name?
Have ye searched for the poor and needy,
With no clothing, no home, no bread?
The Son of Man was among them—
He had nowhere to lay his head.

Have ye carried the living water
To the parched and thirsty soul?
Have ye said to the sick and wounded,
"Christ Jesus makes thee whole?"
Have ye told my fainting children
Of the strength of the Father's hand?
Have ye guided the tottering footsteps
To the shore of the golden land?
Have ye stood by the sad and weary,
To smooth the pillow of death,
To comfort the sorrow-stricken,
And strengthen the feeble faith?
And have ye felt, when the glory
Has streamed through the open door,
And flitted across the shadows,
That I had been there before?

Have ye wept with the broken-hearted
In their agony of woe?
Ye might hear me whispering beside you,
"Tis the pathway I often go!"
My brethren, my friends, my disciples,
Can ye dare to follow me?
Then, wherever the Master dwelleth,
There shall the servant be.

West Moreton Conference, Q.

The third annual Conference of the Combined Country Churches of Christ in West Moreton was held at Mt. Walker on Good Friday, the 13th April, commencing at 10 a.m. Mr. W. Watkins, J.P., President, occupied the chair.

After devotional exercise, the President gave a hearty welcome to the visiting delegates. Nine churches were represented, each church being represented by one or more delegates. Our motto, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity," was illustrative of the day's proceedings.

Mr. John Thompson, President of the Brisbane Conference Committee, approached the Executive of the West Moreton Conference prior to date with a view of uniting forces. Memoranda re the proposed union were exchanged during the day with greetings and received with joyous acclamations and thanks to God. A deputation of three members from each Conference was appointed to decide the final issue.

We have no evangelist's report to submit. Bro. John Paradine is expected to take up the work here shortly, and we pray that his efforts may be crowned with success.

The financial report was encouraging, showing receipts including 5/- balance from the half-yearly meeting; £7/16/7 sisters' penny-per-week collections, for which we here beg to tender our most grateful thanks; Home Mission, previously acknowledged, £23/0/3. We beg to acknowledge with thanks the further contributions to above fund:—F. Süchting, £1; F. Adermann, £1. This leaves a cash balance of £33/1/10.

An excellent programme was submitted in the evening, the chapel being packed to overflowing. Bro. Watkins occupied the chair. Short practical speeches were delivered by Bren. Watkins, Henrichsen, Süchting, A. McGregor, Simpson and J. Paradine, intermingled with first-class instrumental and vocal music by the Marburg choir and others.

Taken as a whole the Conference just closed has been most successful. All the delegates and visiting brethren returned to their respective homes with hearts cheered and strengthened.

Victorian Conference Notes.

Bro. Oram told an Original Story at the Conference. We were much refreshed.

Enthusiasm was the order of the Conference. Will it be the order all the year round? Why not?

Cantata good, good, VERY GOOD! Who will say that song is not a mighty power in God's church?

Miss Abgan, of Corowa, gave a nice talk at the Sisters' Meeting on Wednesday. She has a clear voice with a distinct pronunciation.

Bro. Price, A. C. Rankine, F. Pittman gave fine addresses in response to their welcome by the chairman.

The address of the F.M. secretary was short and sweet, but it was to the point. We were sorry it was so short.

Miss Nellie McClelland placed the Conference under many obligations by her singing during most of the meetings.

The attendance at all the meetings of the Conference this year was larger than ever before. This is a good sign.

One brother said that "we, who love the Lord Jesus Christ, should above all others take interest in temperance work."

The discussion over the assistance to aged preachers was sometimes breezy, but on the whole good-natured. It is a big question.

Thos. H. Brooker, M.L.A., of S.A., gave a nice little speech which made everybody laugh and put us all in a good humor.

F. M. Ludbrook actually got off two original yarns. We think he must have made them himself, they seemed so new and crisp.

The talk which F. G. Dunn gave at the opening of the Church, was a splendid summary of that subject, and made a fine impression.

Who went to the picnic Easter Monday? One preacher went out, and all he could see were two boys, a man, and—a boiler.

The music given us by Mr. Moyling and his party was certainly lively, and called forth a hearty cry for more, which was gladly given.

The new crockery of the dear sisters made a fine display; but not only did they have crockery but lots to eat. God bless the sisters.

The collections and promises at both the Home and Foreign Mission nights were pleasing to all, being quite an advance on last year.

Bro. Abgan, of Corowa, for a young man and a young speaker, gave a fine address at the Foreign Mission meeting on Saturday night.

We were pleased to see our old friend John Skinner at the Conference, and to know that he takes such a living interest in the work of the church.

F. G. Dunn's address in moving his motion re the Jubilee Convention was most heartily received, and the resolution was enthusiastically carried.

H. G. Harward, the new preacher at the Tabernacle, Fitzroy, made a most favorable impression on all at the Conference meetings when he spoke.

A. C. Rankine and H. G. Harward gave most powerful addresses at the F.M. meeting on Saturday night. We are much indebted to them for this service.

All were pleased to see and welcome Bro. Alf. Morris, who is now resident in Sydney. He rendered valuable help in the rendering of the Cantata on Easter Monday night.

An organ would have been lost in the singing at the Conference. R. Lyall led, and everybody seemed to want to sing, and they sang with all their hearts. This is as it ought to be.

The singing during the business sessions of the Conference was a special feature. A hymn sheet had been provided consisting of some of the best hymns from our own hymnbook.

If each disciple saved one soul during the coming year, there would then be ten thousand in Victoria pleading for the religion of the New Testament. Is this an impossibility? If it is, then is Christ's religion a failure!

We are under great obligations to our visiting brethren, A. C. Rankine, F. Pittman, and T. H. Brooker, of S.A. for much interest which they added to our Conference meetings.

The Malvern Mission Band is doing much good work in their local church to cultivate the missionary spirit as well as to do some real mission work. They gave two good items on F.M. night.

It must be remembered that the balance sheet of the South Australian Foreign Mission Committee is for a little over eight months only, and does not represent the contributions of a whole year.

There were a lot of babies at the Sisters' Conference, but on the whole they behaved themselves well. A baby which would not behave itself at such an orderly meeting ought to be taken out and spanked.

We are afraid we made rather free use of our visitors from South Australia, but we could not help it very well. A lot of our Victorian brethren must pay them back by attending the S.A. Conference in September.

Miss Mary Thompson told us of a brother whom she met, who said he was very much interested in her work and that he had read with much interest her letters, and then closed by asking her what part of Africa she was working in!

At the Friday evening meeting J. Pittman read out the names of those whom death had called away during the year. After the reading of the list the audience rose and sang "Asleep in Jesus, Blessed Sleep!" and J. Pittman engaged in prayer.

We are under very great obligations to F. G. Dunn for the great help he afforded us in preparing our very excellent report of the Conference. Bro. Dunn has the happy faculty of gathering up the most prominent points in a meeting and writing them down.

All much regretted the absence of James Johnston from the Conference. On Monday he was called to Adelaide to see his mother who died on Thursday. Bro. Johnston returned to the city on Sunday morning. A vote of sympathy was passed at the Friday's meeting.

The Conference Sermon was largely attended, and Bro. Hagger acquitted himself well. We are glad to see our young preachers coming to the front. Nothing in the Conference gave us more real pleasure than the sight and sound of the voices of these young men. God bless the young preachers!

The Sisters' Conference was splendid. Of course they never have breezes in their meetings. A number of the brethren turned up about tea time and remained to the after meeting, which was large and orderly. The essay by Miss McCullough was a fine production, and the paper by Mrs. Harward was good. The latter will appear in our columns soon.

Some very good and eloquent addresses were delivered at the Conference, but it seemed to us that some of the speakers had rather a poor idea of the brotherhood with which they are connected. Statements and comparisons were made which, as a rule, were not to our advantage. We submit that it is not right to hold the whole church responsible for the words of a few cranks.

The Cantata, David the Shepherd Boy was a great success in every way. There was an immense crowd, the house being full long before the hour. Bro. Nat Haddow and his choir rendered the Cantata in a most efficient manner. During the interval, the President of the Conference, J. A. Davies, on behalf of the Home, Foreign, and Temperance Committees, presented Bro. Haddow with a handsome clock in recognition of his services in this way.

A brother who takes a deep interest in Conference matters, and is by no means a "silent member," is

deeply interested in the welfare and whereabouts of the "lost sheep of the house of Israel." Apparently under the impression that the wise men who write the Conference essays are just the persons to furnish information as to the missing sheep referred to, he generally asks them a question or two. "What is to become of the lost sheep of the house of Israel?" he queried of Bro. Mahon, two years ago, at the close of his essay on Church Discipline. "Oh, you need not trouble yourself about them," responded the essayist; "let them alone, and they'll come home, and bring their tails behind them." The roar of laughter that greeted the unexpected quotation from the literature of "Little Bo-peep" must certainly have digested the last remnants of the Conference delegates dinner, but furious shakings of the head and gesticulations with a bony fore-finger, indicated that the answer, though lucid, was deemed by the querist unsatisfactory. The problem of the lost sheep was allowed to remain quiescent for two whole years, but when on Saturday afternoon Bro. Morro read his essay on Evangelisation the man in quest of knowledge saw his opportunity, and addressing the essayist, he enquired, "Why don't you go and preach the gospel to the lost sheep of the house of Israel?" "My answer to that question is this," said Bro. Morro, "Seeing that ye judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, lo, I have turned to the Gentiles." One of the most *apropos* utterances of the session was greeted with universal applause.

Here and There.

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

RESCUE HOME SUNDAY, MAY 6th.

J. A. Palmer's address is "Dunkeld," Wakefield-st., Glenferrie.

A. M. Ludbrook's address now is 66 Archer-st., North Adelaide.

One baptism and two confessions last Sunday evening at Dawson Street, Ballarat.

One confession at North Richmond last Lord's day evening, and one the previous Thursday.

Two Homes—Rescue and Preventive: 25 inmates in all at present; £6 a week needed; £30 in arrears.

If you do not see your reports in this week's paper, remember that the Conferences have the right-of-way.

The paper read by Mrs. Harward was unavoidably crowded out of this issue, but will appear in due course.

We have received an interesting letter from Bro. Selby which we hope to publish next week or the week after.

We plead for a collection in every church on RESCUE HOME SUNDAY. Let every Christian give a little.

We are glad to hear that Bro. A. T. Magarey continues slowly to improve, though still confined to his room.

C. R. Howard is still preaching at Surrey Hills, and at the close of the meeting on Sunday night one confessed Christ.

At Bendigo on Sunday night last, Dr. Cook preached as usual, and at the close three confessed Christ, two of them afterwards being immersed.

PITY THE FALLEN! Save young, friendless girls from going astray! Follow "IN HIS STEPS." Give liberally on RESCUE HOME SUNDAY, MAY 6th.

We hear that the S. A. Committee hope to commence operations in the Moonta district by sending one or two evangelists there next month. We hope and pray that the effort may be crowned with success.

G. D'Neal is spending a few weeks at Willamstown, S.A. Good meetings and one confession. Bro. D'Nesi keeps things moving. Four week-night meetings last week.

Notwithstanding the plague in Sydney the church in Campbell-street seems to be on the move. Two baptisms are recorded for last week, one of them being a Chinese, the fruit of the mission there.

The meeting held by C. R. Scoville in the Central church, Pittsburg where C. L. Thurgood preaches, closed with 235 additions; this was in four weeks. There is now a membership in that church of over 600.

Three more received into North Fitzroy last Sunday morning by letter. In the evening A. C. Rankine gave a fine exposition of the text, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

We call special attention to the advertisement of the Home Mission Committee of W.A., who are in need of an evangelist for the Kalgoorlie district. There are forty thousand people in that district. They want this man at once.

B.O. Thomas Mitchell and his son Herbert of the church in Swanston-street leave next week for an extended business and pleasure trip in Europe. We express the hope that they may have a pleasant time and a safe return to their home in due course.

Bro. Ewers is spending a few weeks at the hospitable home of Bro. W. Winter, Inglewood Forest, Moree, N.S.W., to whose care letters addressed will reach him. He has been troubled with asthma a little of lath, and hence is taking a change from the humid air of Sydney. Should the trouble be renewed on his return he will seek some other field of labor.

The most or all of next week's paper will be taken up with Conference matter. The N.S.W. Conference will be reported in full. It arrived rather late for this week, or at least for all of it to go in, so we thought it better to hold it over till next week, when it will appear in the one issue. We make no apology for thus occupying our space, as all who are interested in the progress of the church will want to read them.

The S.S. anniversary at Brunswick, in the Town Hall, on April 1st and 4th, was a great success. F. M. Ludbrook spoke in the afternoon to a great crowd. J. G. Shain spoke at night to a house crammed full. April 4th, W. C. Thurgood presided over a great meeting of young and old. J. H. Barnden, the superintendent of the school, led the singing. A reference to the Conference returns will show that Brunswick leads in the number of additions from the school.

In a private letter from C. A. Moore he says:—"For the last three months nearly we have been in a meeting at College-st. Bro. T. B. Larimore is doing the preaching. He certainly has the power to hold on without much in the way of additions. We have preaching twice daily and three times on Sunday. We are going to continue the meeting two weeks more, and that will be twelve weeks that the meeting has been running. About 25 were added by baptism, and 20 by letter and restored."

The marriage of Bro. Sam Wong to Sister Miss Jack took place in Lygon-st. chapel last night, W. C. Morro and J. Pittman officiating. At the ceremony in the chapel at 7 o'clock, there was a large assembly, consisting mostly of those who know Bro. Wong and love him because of his sustained interest in the work of evangelising his countrymen who live in Melpourne. Many of his Chinese friends were present. After the ceremony in the chapel, upwards of one hundred invited guests sat down to the wedding breakfast in the schoolroom, which was efficiently catered for by Bro. A. Hagger of South Yarra. Many nice gifts were presented to, and a lot of kind things said about, and

hopes expressed for, the future of the happy couple. About 10 o'clock the very pleasant gathering broke up. We are sure that all the CHRISTIAN readers, especially those who are interested in Foreign Mission work in Melbourne, will join us in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Wong a long and happy life. Bro. and Sister Joseph Pittman acted as host and hostess.

Coming Events.

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

JUNE 3 and 5.—North Melbourne Sunday School Anniversary Services. Secretaries please notice date when arranging Anniversaries. Watch this column for further Announcement.

Acknowledgments.

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

PETERSHAM CHURCH BUILDING FUND.

Since last report the following amounts have been thankfully received:—J. Hunter, Enmore, £5; D. A. Ewers, Petersham, £5; C. F. Field, Petersham, £3; P. A. Dickson, Sydney, £3; Bro. Hammill, Enmore, £3; F. Newby, Sydney, £2; W. Winter, Moree, £1; Mrs. James, Petersham, £1; S. Denford, Petersham, £1; Mrs. Owen, Petersham, £1. Total up to date, £231/13/6. In order to pay for land and cover all expenses we require about £37 more. Will those willing to help in this greatly needed work kindly be prompt.

April 14.

D. A. EWERS,
Hon. Sec. Building Com.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR HOME MISSIONS.

Church Wild Horse Plains ..	£0 4 0
" Kermod Street ..	5 17 7
" Dalkey ..	1 7 0
" Balaklava ..	2 10 0
" Norwood ..	7 10 0
	£17 8 7
J. Greenshields ..	£1 0 0
Bro. Messener ..	10 0 0
Williamstown Missionary Society ..	1 13 0
Church Milang ..	0 15 0
	£13 8 0

PLYMTON.

W. T. MANNING, Treas.

WANTED KNOWN.

C. F. D. NIXON terminates his engagement with the church in Maryborough, Queensland, April 25th, and will thereafter be available for engagement as an evangelist in one of the Southern Colonies or New Zealand. After two years' labor in the trying Northern climate, he and his family are seeking a cooler one in which to recruit. Address communications to Ellena-street, Maryborough, Queensland.

The church in HOBART, Tasmania, is in need of an Evangelist, and invites applications, to be made to the Secretary, H. E. Poultney, Liverpool-st., Hobart.

The Missionary Committee of W.A. want an evangelist immediately to labor in the Kalgoorlie District. Direct all letters to A. E. Illingworth, Newcastle-st., Perth, W.A.

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